



GANNAWARRA  
Shire Council



# SPORT & RECREATION STRATEGY

2019-29



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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gannawarra Shire has a diverse range of sport and recreation facilities including formal and informal reserves, sports grounds, aquatic facilities and parks.

These recreational reserves and facilities represent the social heart of each town across the Shire, with recognised health and economic benefits flowing to communities.

Council has invested significantly into the development of a suite of plans over a number of years. These plans articulate Council's vision for recreation reserves and facilities that contribute to the lifestyle choices of residents and attract visitors to the region.

These existing plans, when viewed collectively, have provided a 'road map' for targeted investment and effort.

**The purpose of this Sport and Recreation Strategy is to consolidate the strategic direction to better facilitate long-term planning and development of sport and recreation opportunities across the Shire.**

Through the development of this Sport and Recreation Strategy, it has become evident that nature-based and passive recreational opportunities like walking, using a playground or visiting a park are just as important to our communities as structured sports like football and netball.

While Council recognises the importance of structured sport to the social fabric of communities, there is a significant focus within this Strategy on passive and nature-based recreation whilst also recognising opportunities for infrastructure improvements and developments to facilities across the Shire.

This focus on passive and nature-based recreation moves recreation outside of the traditional township boundaries and into our magnificent natural environment. Focused investment on improving accessibility to our vast natural environment, along waterways, lakes and bushland is therefore a focus of this Strategy.

The Strategy also recognises that all members of our community should have access to the social and health benefits of participating in sport and recreation and improving opportunities for participation is a priority.



## 2 INTRODUCTION

Sport and recreation plays an important part in community life within the Shire.

Community groups and clubs play a vital role in supporting the development, maintenance and sustainability of community sport and recreation assets through the dedicated efforts of volunteers.

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### **The high level of volunteering in sport and recreation contributes to strong ownership, self-determination and resilience of communities across the Gannawarra Shire.**

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Council highly values these partnerships and will continue to support collaboration to assist in the delivery of a range of recreation opportunities for Shire residents.

Council recognises the importance of structured sport to the social fabric of communities in terms of providing important opportunities for physical activity, social connections and inclusion.

It is, however, becoming increasingly difficult for small communities to maintain sporting facilities to the standards required while also maintaining viable sporting clubs through membership numbers and players.

This Strategy encourages communities to consolidate facilities and invest in multi-purpose facilities that support wider use of formal sport and recreation facilities across the Shire. It also encourages investment into environmentally friendly initiatives that reduce running costs such as solar, shade and water savings, to ensure sustainability and viability into the future.

This strategy also recognises that sport and recreation extends beyond formal facilities and maintained reserves. Across Gannawarra Shire there is an increasing recognition that passive and nature-based activities significantly contribute to the recreation activities enjoyed by community members.

Nature-based recreation opportunities particularly contribute to tourism opportunities and improving facilities to make our extensive nature-based assets more accessible is a priority moving forward.

Nature-based adventure sports are also becoming a significant tourism product for the Shire. This includes boating and water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding and mountain biking.

**Sport and recreation extends beyond formal facilities and maintained reserves.**

### **Definitions**

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The following definitions of 'sport' and 'active recreation' have been agreed to by all Australian State/Territory and Federal Governments within the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework:

'Sport' is defined as: A human activity involving physical exertion and skill as the primary focus of the activity, with elements of competition where rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisations and is generally recognised as a sport.

'Active recreation' is defined as activities engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment with the primary activity requiring physical exertion, and the primary focus on human activity.

# 3 BENEFITS TO HEALTH OF SPORT AND RECREATION



Participating in regular physical activity is integral to health outcomes. It reduces levels of overweight and obesity and chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

Being physically active increases life expectancy and leads to improved overall mental health by reducing levels of stress, anxiety and depression.

It increases positive self-image, confidence and development of physical skills as well as fitness levels.

Sport and active recreation brings people together and builds community cohesion, both within and between communities.

It connects people to their communities, healthcare, education, training and economic opportunities.

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**Sport and recreation contributes significantly to physical and mental health and wellbeing outcomes for individuals and communities.**

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# 4 ABOUT GANNAWARRA

## OUR LANDSCAPE

Gannawarra is a region loaded with natural features, rivers, lakes, wetlands and forests. It is the perfect lifestyle choice and destination for relaxing on the riverbank, water skiing with friends or just soaking up the ambience walking through the majestic red gum forests.

Bordering the Murray River in Northern Victoria, Gannawarra Shire is three hours from Melbourne by road and around one hour from the neighbouring larger centres of Swan Hill, Echuca and Bendigo.

Gannawarra Shire has two main towns: Kerang (population 3,893) and Cohuna (population 2,428).

Rural townships are Koondrook (population 991), Leitchville (population 558), Quambatook (population 249) as well as Lalbert, Murrabit, Macorna, Mystic Park and Lake Charm, each with a population of less than 250.

The Shire covers 3,735 square kilometres of land.

**Boasting the Murray River and Gunbower Creek, lakes and extensive system of waterways and forests, nature-based adventure sports are emerging as a tourism product for the Gannawarra Shire.**



## OUR POPULATION

Gannawarra Shire had an estimated population at the last Census in 2016 of 10,549 people with 49.8 per cent male and 50.2 per cent female.

The Shire has an ageing population with the median age as at the 2016 Census being 49. This compares to the Australian median age of 38 years.

 **10,549\***  
\*(Censusdata.abs.gov.au, 2016)

**49.8% MALE**

**50.2% FEMALE**

**MEDIAN AGE 49**

**Prioritising physical activity opportunities that promote positive ageing presents an opportunity for Gannawarra Shire.**

There is a significant drop in the proportion of residents aged between 20 to 29 years and a gradual increase in the percentage of the population from 30 to 69 years.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 1.9% of the population (165 people) with the median age being 20.

The decrease in the population of young people aged 20 to 44 is most likely due to education, training and employment opportunities not available within the Shire.

**An opportunity exists for the Shire to invest into sport and recreation opportunities to attract young adults and families.**

# 5 COUNCIL'S ROLE IN SPORT AND RECREATION



Council has historically had a strong focus on supporting a core suite of recreation facilities and infrastructure in each town across the Shire.

Communities are being asked more and more to consider their priorities to guide their, and Council's, overall resource allocation in order to address a key challenge, for both Council and individual communities, of effective and sustainable asset maintenance and renewal.

The demand for additional facilities for existing structured sports across the Shire is anticipated to remain comparatively low.

The main focus will continue to be ongoing maintenance and improvements to existing assets to take full advantage of usage, increase female participation and access for all abilities, maintaining safety, increasing sustainability and meeting current user expectations.

Council's role can be summarised as the following:

- Facilitating the planning and renewal of facilities, services and opportunities to address identified (current and future) community needs.
- Supporting the provision and development of facilities, services and programs to meet the needs of the current and future community.
- Working in partnership with other levels of government (including neighbouring councils), schools, clubs and community groups to ensure that facilities, programs and services meet the diverse needs of the community.
- Supporting sporting clubs, groups and communities to help themselves by assisting capacity building and community driven initiatives.
- Supporting appropriate commercial operators to provide facilities and services in response to market driven demands.
- Advocating to other levels of government and relevant stakeholders regarding issues and opportunities that are likely to impact on physical activity and leisure opportunities in the Shire.
- Providing information to the community regarding the range of leisure opportunities available to residents, including promotion of the health and wellbeing benefits of participation in physical activity.

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**Council's role in sport and recreation is more than just infrastructure development and maintenance.**

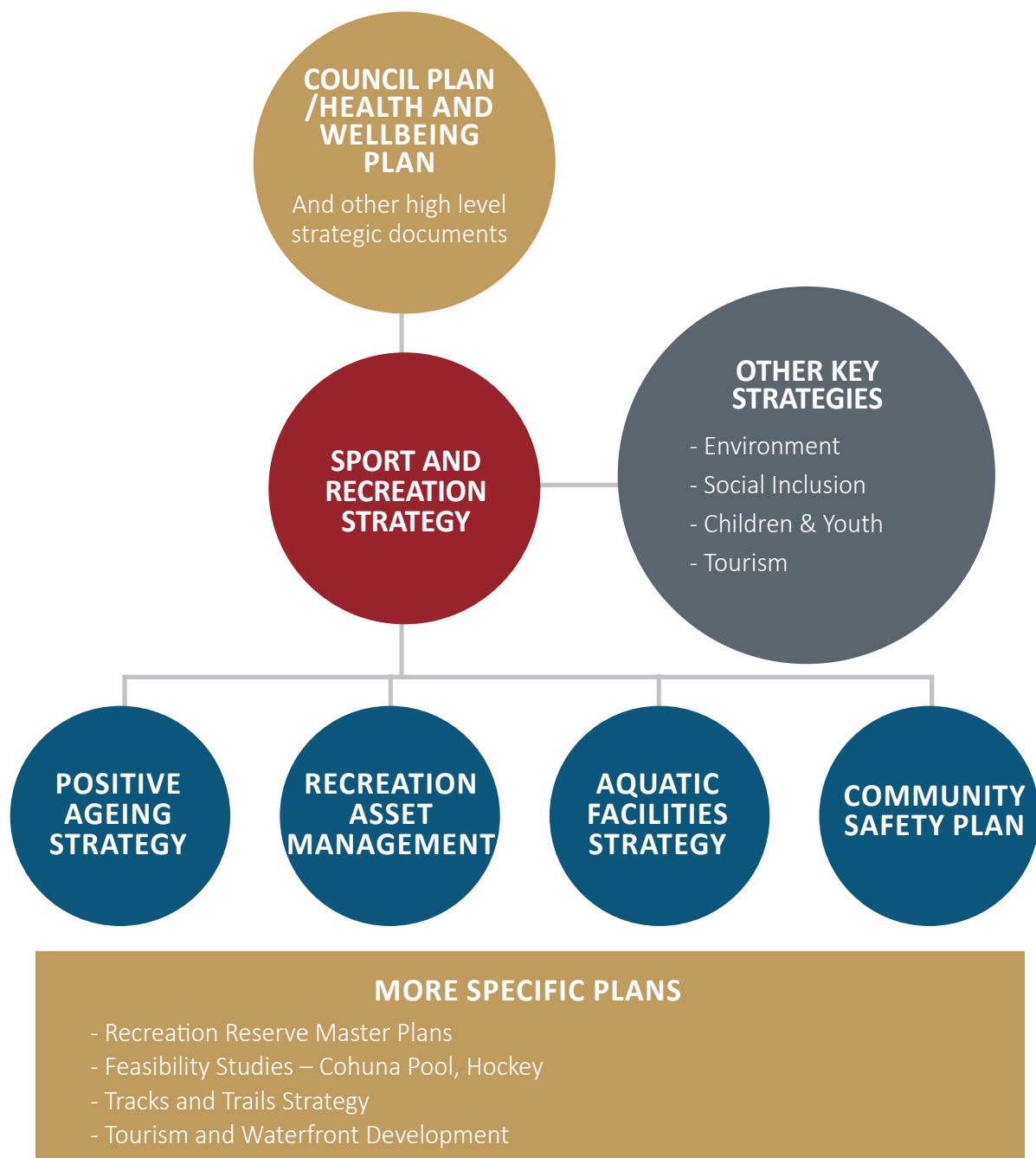
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# 6 REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS

This Sport and Recreation Strategy will act as an overarching strategic document providing the vision, principles and objectives to guide Council when planning initiatives in sport and recreation to meet community needs.

The relationship between the Sport and Recreation Strategy and other plans is highlighted in the image below.

**The strategies sitting under the Sport and Recreation Strategy capture further detail on both formal or organised sport and passive recreation across the Shire:**





## THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF OTHER EXISTING PLANS AND STRATEGIES RELEVANT TO SPORT AND RECREATION ACROSS THE SHIRE:

### STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN (GANNAWARRA 2025)

Revitalising Gannawarra's towns into vibrant places in one of five strategic platforms. The strategy suggests investing in master plans for built environments and streetscapes, as well as ensuring health and wellness services that match demographic needs. The other relevant strategy platform is embracing environmental sustainability by various means such as restoring wetlands and developing environmental remediation and tourism opportunities.

### COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

The Council Plan 2017 to 2021 (which includes the statutory Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) articulates some of the high level aspirations of Council and the community. The Strong Healthy Communities priority area in the Council Plan consists of the following priority actions:

- Seek funding to improve and develop infrastructure that encourages physical and leisure activities
- Develop a framework to guide Council decision making and support community access to sport and recreation funding opportunities
- Increase and support female participation in sport across the Shire
- Advocate for free access to sport and recreation opportunities for disadvantaged children
- Develop a plan to make playgrounds across the shire all-abilities accessible
- Increase support for people with a disability to access physical and leisure activities

Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, Council is required to work in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies to address the strategic priorities of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

At a local level, Council works in a formal partnership with Northern District Community Health, Kerang District Health, Cohuna District

Hospital, Victoria Police, Mallee District Aboriginal Service, Mallee Family Care, with support from the Southern Mallee Primary Care Partnership. This partnership group, known as Gannawarra Local Agency Meeting (GLAM), has determined a number of preventative health priorities. Of relevance to this Sport and Recreation Strategy are the priority areas of Active Living as well as Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing. In working towards these identified health priorities, a specific focus is on:

- Aboriginal health
- Vulnerable children and young people
- Gender equity

At least 23% of the total capital works expenditure over the life of the Council Plan 2017-2021 will be put to recreational facilities, parks and open spaces, mostly in the form of asset renewal, new asset expenditure and asset upgrade expenditure.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2012 - 2025

Includes community concerns about whether cultural and recreational opportunities are adequate. The plan suggests the need to encourage non-sport activities to engage young people. There are goals within this document that align with this Sport and Recreation Strategy such as:

- Support people in making safer/ healthier choices
- Link people to places by providing a great range of inclusive, safe and fun activities
- Promote 'access for all' principles

## EARLY YEARS PLAN

For ages 0-8 years, libraries and playgrounds were both seen as important, however, walking/bike paths were seen as most important and in need of the most improvement. Priorities: improved facilities such as

toilets at playgrounds, road crossings and footpaths, particularly to schools.

## RECREATION ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011

Provides a comprehensive look at all recreation assets and offers strategies for prioritisation. This Plan has considered all recreation assets, but focuses on those that are Council owned and operated.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH STRATEGY 2016 - 2020

For ages 9 – 18, priorities lie with building on the development of community gyms or parks/outdoor spaces with exercise equipment, advocating for improved access to health and wellbeing supports for children, young people and their families. Emphasis is placed on sport

facilities, swimming pools, parks and playgrounds.

## SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY 2019-2023

Reducing barriers for groups most at risk of being excluded from our community, promoting connectivity and accessibility across the Shire for all community members to fulfil their potential as equal citizens. This includes people with a disability, those who are culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD), Indigenous, and who identify as LGBTIQ, young people, older people and community members facing socio-economic disadvantage.



## POSITIVE AGEING STRATEGY 2016-2020

Two of the key domains of community living that help older people are outdoor spaces and buildings. Reviewing the walkability of towns was a priority. This strategy notes the importance of design and amenity of public areas to facilitate high levels of community engagement. It is also important that the programs on offer through such facilities are relevant to the interests and needs of older people.

## POOLS STRATEGIC PLAN 2009

According to this document, providing one extra indoor pool within the Shire is a long-term aspirational goal. Health and fitness gyms are also beneficial for the community but are beyond the resources of the community. A new Aquatics Facilities Strategy will be developed for the Gannawarra Shire in 2019.

## SYNTHETIC HOCKEY FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY 2009

Drought was a key issue for Council in considering the priorities and provision of sport and recreation facilities in the Shire in 2009. In response to this issue, Council investigated the feasibility of developing a multi-use synthetic turf playing field at Kerang Technical High School adjacent to McLeod Oval. Results from this study indicated the preferred option for a new hockey field in Kerang should be one hybrid synthetic turf field to be constructed adjacent to McLeod Oval at Kerang Technical High School and the levee bank.

## RAIL TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY 2014

The Kerang to Koondrook Tramway (approximately 22km between Kerang-Koondrook) has strong historical significance to the region and offers a number of opportunities for interpretive information and education. Furthermore, the historical role of connecting communities and providing an important transport link are no less diminished in the current day context, it is just the mode and purpose of transport that has changed.

The proposal to establish a Rail Trail utilising the former Tramway route is aimed at two key target audiences, specifically local residents for use as a recreational trail for walking, cycling and connecting townships, as well as tourists and visitors to the region, again as a recreation trail that offers historical interpretation and connection between the townships and other trails in the region. This trail is included in the Murray River Adventure Trail plan.

## COHUNA SWIMMING POOL OPTIONS STUDY 2014

The current pool complex is in an attractive natural environment, but is structurally unsound. In order to ensure the long term viability of a swimming pool facility in Cohuna, it will be important to quantify both the current and potential demand for the service and to design and provide a facility which is both proportionate to this demand and of a quality consistent with community expectations. The study concluded that a cost benefit analysis will need to be undertaken to assess the relative

merits of identified options – including the refurbishment/remodelling of the existing pool complex or the construction of a new facility at an alternative location.

Council has engaged a professional consultant and is currently undertaking community consultation and investigating options for an enhanced facility at the Cohuna pool site.

## GANNAWARRA STRATEGIC TOURISM PLAN 2015-2020

The strengths of tourism in the Shire are the wealth of nature based tourism experiences across the many waterways and forests. Fishing, camping, passive recreation and water sports remain the mainstay of visitation. Emerging opportunities are evolving in adventure tourism with mountain biking, canoeing and orienteering. The Murray River, Gunbower Forest and Kerang lakes are the key environmental assets providing the base for nature based tourism.

Gannawarra Shire is seeking to attract a growing target market of the 18 – 45 age group that has a young family, is environmentally aware, enjoys quality food and wine and participates in outdoor recreation such as canoeing, bushwalking and mountain biking. These markets are also demanding higher quality, authentic experiences that connect with local culture, heritage and the natural world.

## TRACKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY PLAN 2005

The Gannawarra Tracks and Trails Strategy identifies the existing network of tracks and trails within the Shire, outlines the opportunities for strategic development of new networks and provides advice for their ongoing management and promotion. The strategy identifies 40 trail opportunities. Generally most of the identified trail opportunities emphasise upon waterways. Some trails have been developed. The Trails Strategy covers trails for a range of recreational users, primarily walking, jogging, road cycling and mountain biking, but also horse riding, canoeing and kayaking, throughout the Shire and at a range of abilities and experience levels. Upgrading signage to the trails and along the trails to allow visitors easier access of the trail network is also considered within the Strategy.

## DRAFT GANNAWARRA WATERFRONT MASTERPLANS 2018

This Masterplan aims to assist Council to assess how to better utilise the natural environment of the Kerang Lakes (Kangaroo Lake and Lake Charm), Murray River precinct at Koondrook and the Gunbower Creek precinct in Cohuna to maximise their tourism, recreation, commercial and residential opportunities.

This Background and Concept Plan Discussion Paper is the first report prepared for the project and is the culmination of community and stakeholder consultation, background research and market analysis to inform the preparation of concept plans for each of the waterfront precincts.

This report is intended to enable discussion on the opportunities and projects identified for each of the waterfront precincts in the concept

plan to enable these to be refined into masterplans in a Draft Masterplan Report in the next stage of the project.

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**Council has a large number of plans that detail specific sport and recreation opportunities across the Gannawarra Shire. These plans have been used to inform the strategic direction of this Sport and Recreation Strategy.**

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# 7 WHAT OUR COMMUNITY TOLD US?

In developing this Sport and Recreation Strategy, a three phase community consultation process occurred:

**PHASE ONE** targeted key stakeholders throughout the Shire. As the key stakeholders tended to be major users of recreational facilities within the Shire, this phase was seen as a preliminary observation of the usage and condition of recreation facility assets.

Face to face meetings were held with 30 of the 55 major users of sports and recreation facilities in the Shire and a short survey was completed. The feedback obtained in the Phase One survey was used to shape the questionnaire in Phase Two.

**PHASE TWO** involved open community consultation via an online survey that was accessible from 14 July to 21 August 2017. A total of 236 responses were received from a broad spectrum of respondents and, of those who responded, 89% were residents of Gannawarra Shire and 10% being tourists or visitors who use recreational facilities in Gannawarra. The remaining 1% (3 responses) did not fit into either category and were disqualified from the survey.

**PHASE THREE** involved a secondary consultation phase seeking feedback on the draft strategy and implementation plan. Council officers met with sport and recreation organisations and also communicated via email and phone.

Refer to Appendix 1 for details

Our community told us that the top 12 recreational activities they enjoy, in priority order, are:

1	Walking on designated walking trails	7	Fishing
2	Walking in a township	8	Australian Rules Football
3	Visiting a park	9	Bushwalking
4	Swimming in a pool	10	Swimming in a natural waterway
5	Using a playground	11	Running
6	Netball	12	Cycling/Bike riding

There were, however, emerging opportunities for participation identified including hockey and soccer. Supporting the community to develop sound business cases for facilities that improve participation in these emerging sports will continue.

A new Swimming Pool for Cohuna was also raised as a potential project. A separate Aquatics Strategy to be developed will help to explore the place and role aquatic facilities play in our community and what management structures might look like in the future.



## 8 WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE TELL US?

Less than a third of Australians get enough physical activity to benefit their health.

This can lead to increased risks of chronic disease and mental ill health, and has been estimated to cost the Australian economy a total of \$13.8 billion each year.

Increasing participation in physical activity has health, social and economic benefits. As well as the health gains to be made by preventing chronic disease, the benefits of physical activity include promoting mental wellbeing and social connections, increasing productivity, and positive changes to the environments that we live and play in.

**Key findings from the latest VicHealth Indicators Survey (2015) were:**

- Sport participation is highest among young children
- Sport participation rates drop significantly during adolescence
- Sport participation rates among females are half of those among males



### ABORIGINAL HEALTH

In relation to Aboriginal health, Aboriginal people living in Victoria have a life expectancy 10 years lower than non-Aboriginal people. The burden of chronic disease and illness is far higher in the Aboriginal population than non-Aboriginal. 62% of 5–12 year olds identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander meet guidelines for sufficient physical activity but only 26% of children in Years 5, 8 and 11 meet the guidelines (Department of Education and Training 2015). 61% of adults identifying of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are overweight or obese, 35% are overweight and 26% are obese (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2013).

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**Providing opportunities for culturally appropriate participation and inclusion in sport and recreation activities, both structured and non-structured, for Aboriginal people is a priority.**

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## FEMALE PARTICIPATION

Gannawarra Shire is an ageing community and the evidence indicates that physical activity decreases with age (though not uniformly) with a clear turning point identified in the late teen years, particularly amongst females.

Many young women face a number of additional barriers not experienced by young men. In response to this public health issue the Australian Government (through the Department of Health) has developed the 'Girls make your move' campaign. The campaign aims to establish sport and physical activity as a natural part of young women's lives.

In 2014 the Victorian Government conducted an Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation. This resulted in the release of A Five Year Game Plan for Victoria in 2015. The report outlines a vision for the future, where women and girls in all roles in sport and active recreation are the norm, and where females and males have the same choices and opportunities to lead and to participate. The inquiry has resulted in a number of new State Government programs and funding to support improvement initiatives, including establishment of the Female Friendly Facilities Fund.

## EXERCISE OF CHOICE

The VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015 showed that walking for exercise, fitness or recreation remains the most popular physical activity of choice for Victorian adults (regardless of gender) with a regular participation rate approaching one quarter of the population (i.e. 24.3%).

When combined with jogging/running (7.8%), almost one third (32.1%) of all Victorian adults either walk, jog or run for exercise, fitness or recreation.

The evidence supports our own community feedback, that the most popular physical activities are dominated by informal recreation as opposed to club based sports participation.

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**32.1% of all Victorian adults either walk, jog or run for exercise, fitness or recreation.**

**The most popular physical activities are dominated by informal recreation as opposed to club based sports participation.**

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# 9 WHAT DOES THE PHYSICAL HEALTH OF OUR POPULATION LOOK LIKE?

## The latest VicHealth Indicators Survey (2015) shows that:

- A significantly larger proportion of Gannawarra residents aged over 18 years engaged in no physical activity during the week compared to the Victorian average (26.2% compared to 18.9% for Victoria).
- A similar proportion of Gannawarra residents engaged in physical activity four or more days per week compared with the Victorian estimate (38.0% compared to 41.3% for Victoria).
- A lower percentage of Gannawarra adults participated in organised physical activity compared to Victorians (20.8% compared to 28.7% for Victoria).
- A higher proportion of Gannawarra adults participated in activities organised by a sports club or association compared to Victorians (14.6% compared to 9.8% for Victoria).
- 64.6% participated in non-organised physical activity compared to 70.5% for Victoria.
- The three most popular non-organised physical activities reported in the survey were walking (50.6%) jogging or running (10.6%) and cycling (6.9%).

## The Australian Early Childhood Census (AEDC 2018) showed that:

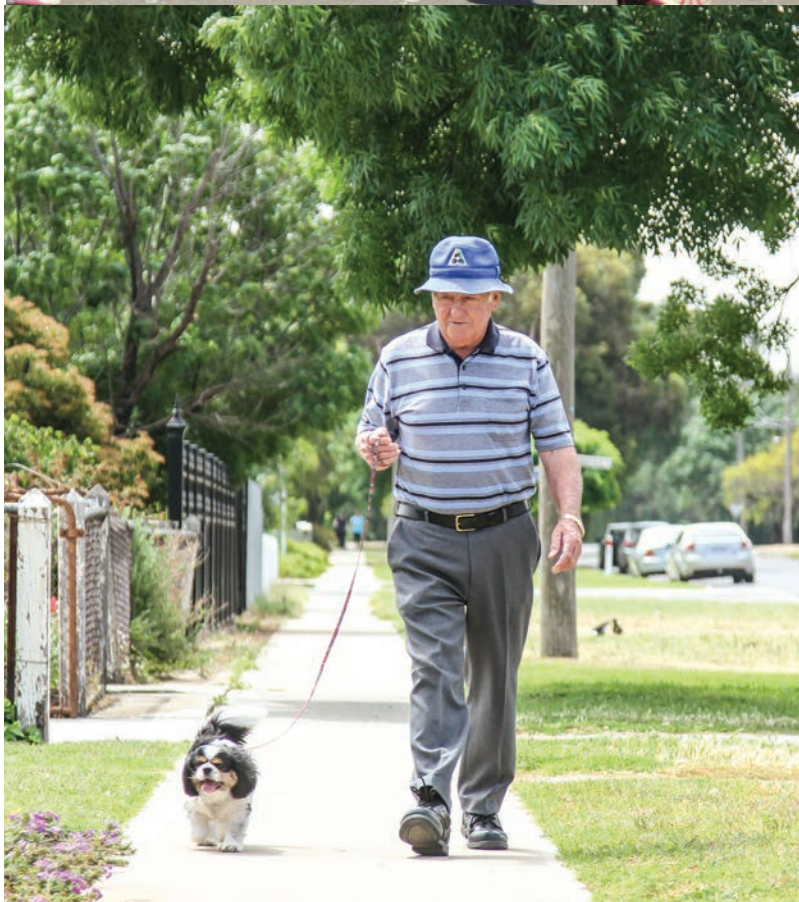
- 5.2% of children starting school in Gannawarra in 2018 were considered vulnerable in the physical health and wellbeing domain. This is an assessment of a child's physical readiness for the school day, physical independence and gross and fine motor skills.

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**Not all children across Gannawarra are enjoying the benefits of regular physical activity to assist their growth and development.**

**The three most popular physical activities for Gannawarra adults are walking, jogging and cycling.**

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# 10 KEY CONSIDERATIONS AND TRENDS

The Australian Sports Commission released a paper titled **The Future of Australian Sport, Megatrends shaping the sport sector over coming decades in April 2013. The paper identified six megatrends that are likely to shape the sport sector over the next 30 years:**

1. **A Perfect Fit:** A rise in personalised sport and fitness activities for individual health and fitness.
2. **From Extreme to Mainstream:** The rise of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports- particularly popular with younger generations.
3. **More Than Sport:** Increasing recognition (by Government and stakeholders) of the broader benefits of sport, including mental and physical health and community wellbeing.
4. **Everybody's Game:** Evidence of Australians embracing sport participation into old age.
5. **New Wealth, New Talent:** On an international scale, population and income growth, particularly within Asia, will create tougher competition and new business opportunities for Australians.
6. **Tracksuits to Business Suits:** Emergence of new market pressures and business models, resulting in pressure for community sport organisations to adopt more formal corporate structures and governance systems. The cost of participating in sport is also on the rise.

Industry trends also reflect an emerging desire for social outcomes rather than formal competition sports. Some examples relevant to Gannawarra are 20:20/Big Bash cricket, twilight/night tennis competitions and veterans/ masters competitions.

There is a growing range of programs designed to support participation of women and girls, including in traditional male activities like Australian Rules Football and cricket.

Peak sporting bodies are increasing opportunities for introductory programs aimed at junior development and recruitment. Auskick, Milo in2 Cricket and Net-Set-Go Netball are examples.

Declining volunteerism and increasing professionalism is a trend impacting formal sports clubs seeking to gain a competitive advantage. These factors impact on the capacity of clubs to provide participation opportunities for their own community members.

It is becoming more common for facilities to be designed to meet a variety of different needs and uses that are multi-purpose and adaptive over time. Netball courts established for tennis and basketball are examples.

Co-location and sharing of facilities is becoming more common for small communities who would have traditionally maintained a range of separate facilities individual to each sport. It is expected that this will continue as funding becomes more competitive and to maintain the viability and sustainability of communities into the future. There is also a necessary trend towards water, shade and energy conservation initiatives, both in terms of environmental awareness and cost savings.

In relation to nature-based tourism, the 2016 Nature-Based Outdoor Economy Report commissioned by Sport and Recreation Victoria revealed that nature-based outdoor activities contribute more to Victoria's economy than the AFL. Hiking in a national park, retreating into the forest for a yoga class, camping under the night sky- there are many activities that feed into Victoria's nature-based outdoor economy, (Vic Uni 16 May 2018). The trend for nature-based outdoor recreation activities is expected to increase in the future.

**Based on demographic and participation trends, the main considerations for Gannawarra Shire over the next ten years can be expected to be as follows:**

- Continued interest in participation in passive recreation
- Continued increase in structured sports participation in some towns compared to stagnation or decrease in other towns
- Continued ageing population
- Reduction of resources and increasing funding competitiveness
- Expectation of recreation activities being inclusive for all abilities

# 11 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

## This Sport and Recreation Strategy has a number of planning implications for Council:

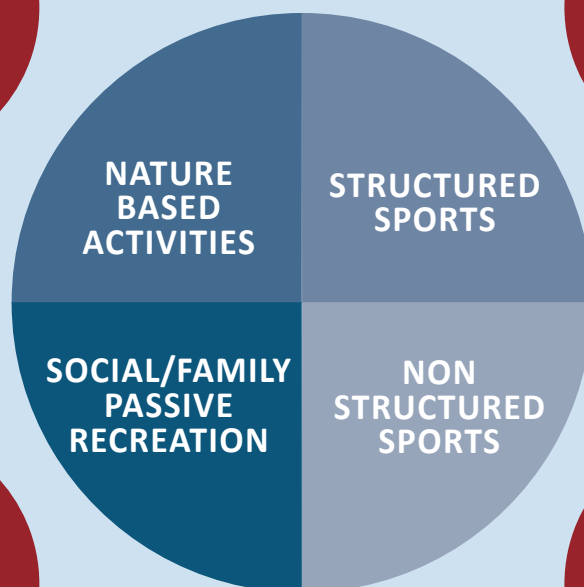
- Considering opportunities that enhance informal recreation participation for those activities the community particularly enjoy including walking, cycling and running. This reinforces the importance of quality walking paths, trails and accessible open space facilities and programs.
- Supporting non-organised physical activities that help facilitate increased physical activity participation by the community, in particular by girls, women and older age groups. Opportunities to support walking, jogging and cycling should be considered a priority however improving ease of access to waterways for canoeing and boating should also be considered a priority.
- Greater consideration will need to be given to initiatives that support participation in formal sport and club based physical activities by women and girls.
- Encouraging the use of parks and open space by personal trainers in recognition of the health benefits of regular physical activity participation.
- Supporting pre-school and other early childhood environments to support increased access and opportunities for active play.
- Maximising opportunities for multi-use through asset management planning and master-planning.
- Considering opportunities to support multi-use social gathering spaces and incorporating environmental sustainability in design, development and operation when planning refurbished facilities.
- Facility development or improvement to consider Universal Design principles, including female friendly design.
- Assessing walkability to key destinations such as recreation reserves, shopping precincts, libraries, schools and early childhood facilities.
- Ensuring all-abilities access to sport and recreation facilities and programs and supporting a culture of inclusiveness to sport and recreation opportunities.
- Considering the efficiency of how assets and reserves are funded and the need for Council to prioritise assets that have a wide reach (without overlapping the catchment of a similar facility), and provide assets within district level facilities enabling efficiencies to be generated from critical mass.
- For recreation facilities that have stagnating or declining participation rates, Council should consider the funding available for these assets and if expenditure would, in fact, increase participation or membership rates.



# 12 KEY FOCUS AREAS

Based on community feedback and existing Shire strategies, the focus has been narrowed down to the improvement of recreation facilities in four Key Focus Areas:

1. Structured sports
2. Non-structured sports
3. Social / family passive recreation
4. Nature based activities



Key Recreation Focus Areas for  
Gannawarra Shire Council

# 13 INVESTMENT PRIORITISATION METHODOLOGY

The prioritisation methodology below builds on the Shire's Recreation Asset Management Plan rationale and the existing suite of Council Plans to establish service levels.

## RECREATION ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN: STRATEGIES TO MAINTAIN SERVICE LEVELS

- 1. Settlement:**
  - Where the asset is located (e.g. what tier is the town it is located in?) Refer to Appendix 2 for definitions of Tier towns
  - Requirement for multiple recreation assets
  - Critical mass – self-sustaining creating further growth
- 2. Catchment:**
  - Local, district or regional
- 3. Functions:**
  - Recreation functions e.g. play, visual amenity, relaxation, contemplation, escape, social/family recreation, sport, off-road trail, water based recreation, building forecourt/civic gathering, memorial park, wayside stop
  - Multi-use (of facility/asset)
- 4. Landscape:**
  - Diverse range of landscape e.g. turf and natural vegetation

For the purpose of Council investment, the methodology of prioritisation should consider the following additional steps, which serve as considerations beyond service level rationale:

## COUNCIL INVESTMENT PRIORITISATION METHODOLOGY

- 1. Direct Patronage:**
  - Maintaining service levels or renewing assets that fall under direct ownership and operation by the Council, followed by assets that are owned and operated by others
- 2. Community Preference:**
  - Based on community feedback of recreational activities in which they are involved
- 3. Community Suggestions:**
  - Based on community feedback around recreational facilities



# 14 IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMELINES



This Sport and Recreation Strategy is an informing strategy for the next ten years which will form part of the suite of Council strategic planning documents.

The priority projects identified in the Implementation Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis, with a new Strategy and Implementation Plan to be prepared in 2029.

The outcomes of the Sport and Recreation Strategy will be assessed by Council in the four year review of key documentation, along with other high level strategies such as the Council Plan.

This approach provides a reliable way of measuring performance and to ensure that the programs and projects are relevant and are able to access funding.

# 15 STATE AND FEDERAL STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This Sport and Recreation Strategy has considered recreation strategies and directions from State and Federal level by referring to the following frameworks and programs:

## STATE AND FEDERAL TRENDS THAT ALIGN WITH LOCAL STRATEGIES

	FEDERAL	STATE
<b>Relevant Strategic Frameworks and Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active 2020 Strategic Plan</li> <li>- National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework 2011</li> <li>- Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure (TDDI) Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active Victoria 2017 – 2021</li> <li>- Victoria’s Trails Strategy 2014 – 2024</li> <li>- Victoria’s Cycling Strategy 2013–2023</li> </ul>
<b>Key Trends Aligning With Local Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting the creation and use of multi-sport and recreation community facilities which enable the sharing of resources and generate efficiencies in management and accessibility</li> <li>- Coordinating portfolios of tourism, education, planning, sport and recreation</li> <li>- Ensuring better integration and coordination of non-government provided sport and recreation assets and infrastructure with government provided assets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting demand</li> <li>- Broader and more inclusive participation</li> <li>- Additional focus on passive recreation</li> <li>- Build system resilience and capacity</li> <li>- Connect investment in events, high performance and infrastructure</li> <li>- Work together for shared outcomes</li> </ul>

At a federal government level, the Active 2020 Strategic Plan for Sport and Active Recreation contains a key strategic priority to maximise sporting infrastructure. Commonwealth funding for sport and recreation facilities may be available through the Department of Infrastructure.

At a state government level, in the Active Victoria 2017 – 2021 strategic framework, promoting inclusivity across all gender, race, culture and ability is important, with an additional focus on active or passive recreation (i.e. leisure time, non-competitive, physical activity). There are several funding streams available for community sport and infrastructure, including the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, which includes the Female Friendly Facilities Program, to build and upgrade women’s change rooms and facilities.

Funding for waterfront and trails development could also be sought from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as well as the federal government’s Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure program.

## 16 PARTNERSHIPS

Council will work in partnership with the community to achieve their sport and recreation goals and aspirations. In doing so, Council will seek to develop closer partnerships with federal and state government, peak sporting bodies and other organisations to deliver the priority actions within this Sport and Recreation Strategy.

# 17 STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Based on the community feedback and the alignment with Council's existing strategies, a number of strategic projects have been identified for each of the nine identified communities across the Gannawarra Shire for progression over the next decade.

Each project will require assessment and prioritisation as well as additional information, project concepts and costings to support proposals proceeding.

**In line with the sport and recreation priority actions from the Council Plan 2017-2021 and state-wide priorities, the high level priorities focused on are the following:**

1. Multi-use facilities – to support a range of activities - this may include consolidation of facilities
2. Energy Saving initiatives – particularly water, shade and solar
3. Improving opportunities for participation- particularly for disadvantaged children and youth, females, those with disabilities, the elderly and our Aboriginal community members
4. Improved opportunities for walking and cycling
5. Waterfront development- improved access to waterways

# 18 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The 10 year implementation plan included in this Sport and Recreation Strategy has been developed from a review of Council existing strategies and documents and from consultation with our community. It takes into account identified projects as well as new and emerging opportunities.

The implementation plan details projects that have been identified as priorities by communities across the Gannawarra Shire. While some of these projects are not necessarily the responsibility of Council, we understand that these projects are important to our community and where possible partnerships will be formed to support these projects as appropriate.

Twenty three priority projects have been assessed as being projects that Council will lead as it implements this Sport and Recreation Strategy over the 10 year period. These projects include environmental improvements that create increased opportunities for our community and visitors to be active and healthy such as walking and cycling connections, activating public open spaces and swimming pools, and increasing accessibility to Gannawarra's vast natural environment. The implementation plan also includes improved availability of information on sport and recreation opportunities across the community and puts in place mechanisms for Council to better communicate and partner with sport and recreation focused community organisations.

The implementation plan provides Council with guidance and direction for achieving the vision of sport and recreation across the Gannawarra Shire of Active places, active people using evidence based planning principles:

- Community support
- Accessible and inclusive
- Sustainable
- Cost effective
- Health and wellbeing
- Equitable
- Safe





GANNAWARRA  
*Shire Council*



**SPORT &  
RECREATION  
STRATEGY**  
*2019-29*

# **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**



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# INTRODUCTION

The aim of the 10-year implementation plan is to prioritise the initiatives identified within Gannawarra Shire's Sport and Recreation Strategy 2019-2029, using existing community consultation data; some additional research; a workshop with key Council staff; and information contained within existing Council strategies and documents to justify any recommendations made.

Gannawarra  
Shire Council  
Plan  
2017-2021

Sport and  
Recreation  
Strategy  
2018-2028

Sport and  
Recreation  
Implementation  
Plan

Other plans  
and strategies

## PROCESS OF DEVELOPING PROJECT PRIORITIES

The first stage of developing the Implementation Plan involved collation of all relevant recommendations contained within the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2019-29, as well as relevant recommendations provided in the following documents:

- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Major Pipeline Projects
- Asset Management Strategy 2016

- Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2020
- Children and Youth Strategy 2016-2020
- Recreation Reserve Master Plans Report 2010
- Early Years Plan 2015-2018
- Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023
- Gannawarra 2025 (2010)
- Waterfront Master Plans

A workshop was then held with relevant Council staff who were given the opportunity to provide additional information about each action identified. Discussion then took place to identify whether or not the proposed project:

- Is a high priority, or essential
- Is a medium priority, or nice to have, but only if there are sufficient resources available
- The responsibility of another organisation to lead
- Already underway or completed.

# VISION AND PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The vision of sport and recreation in Gannawarra Shire is **Active Gannawarra**

*Active places, active people*

The planning principles developed to support the vision are:

## PLANNING PRINCIPLE

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Wherever possible, we will encourage community involvement in our programs, services and facilities as a means to create greater ownership of our sport and recreation opportunities. Community support may include organisation of events or contribution of in-kind support to manage a sports facility, etc.

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We will ensure that all of the programs, services and facilities provided or facilitated by Gannawarra Shire Council promote and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to maintain and improve their health and wellbeing (physical, mental and social).

### ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE

We will ensure that all facilities are accessible as possible for people of all ages and abilities, using Universal Design Principles, Disability Discrimination Act and other relevant standards and legislation to guide facility design. We will also promote inclusiveness so that facilities, programs and services are welcoming and available to everyone, regardless of age, ability, gender, socio-economic status and cultural background. We will commit to reducing barriers to participation (e.g. cost and inappropriate times) and will encourage other service providers to do the same.

### EQUITABLE

We will ensure that our programs, services or facilities are distributed equitably across the municipality, in accordance with town and population size.

### SUSTAINABLE

We will ensure that any facilities under Council control are designed to be as sustainable as possible, using Environmentally Sustainable Design guidelines. Where possible, materials will be sourced locally and Australian made. Recycled materials will be utilised where appropriate.

### SAFE

We will ensure that any facilities under Council control are developed according to Australian Standards and any other safety related regulations and are inspected and maintained on a regular basis to ensure ongoing safety. We will also ensure that any programs or services we offer have been thoroughly assessed for potential safety risks and measures to eliminate or minimise or reduce these potential risks are implemented.

### COST EFFECTIVE

We will ensure that any initiatives proposed are developed in a cost-effective manner and take into consideration operating costs and whole of life costs.

# PROJECTS UNDERWAY OR COMPLETED



Since the Sport and Recreation Strategy was written, a number of projects have commenced or are complete. These include:

- Construction of new female friendly change facilities at Riverside Park Recreation Reserve, Kerang for female footballers and netballers
- Construction of pedestrian access to Gunbower Island Forest, Koondrook
- Cohuna Recreation Reserve Facade Development – will be linked to the waterfront development
- Implement all stages of the Koondrook Nature Based Tourism (NBT) Hub Plan
- Support the development of a Lalbert Recreation Reserve Master Plan
- Support towards the implementation of the Macorna Recreation Reserve Master Plan – female friendly facilities upgrade
- Development of new cricket training nets in Cohuna and Leitchville

# ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**In addition to classifying proposed projects, workshop attendees also identified some broader issues that need to be addressed, including:**

## **Clubs and organisations**

- How to best work with clubs and enhance their sustainability.
- How to ensure that they address issues such as gender equality.
- Need for discussions around which facilities are utilised once a football / netball / cricket club merger occurs

## **Positive ageing**

- How to work with existing organisations or programs that service older adults, e.g. U3A, Senior Citizens and community meals to encourage them to build more physical activity into their programs

## **Promotion**

- What is Council's role in relation to promoting physical activities provided by clubs and other organisations?

## **Walking and cycling**

- Seek ways to continue to promote active transport and ensure that safe routes to schools continue to be identified and developed.
- Map and promote existing trail / path networks.
- Improve connectivity of paths / trails

## **Off leash dog parks**

- Explore opportunities to develop off leash dog parks and dog social walking groups

## **Staff resources**

- Seek further funding to increase staff resources to assist with planning, club support and provision of grant information to the community

## **Equity**

- Ensure that there is an equitable distribution of facilities across the municipality in accordance with town and population size

# HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS

The following projects have been identified as high priority or essential, based on initial recommendations from the Sport and Recreation Strategy. This project list was developed following the consultation and engagement of community and other key stakeholders and through an initial application of the Investment Prioritisation Methodology. Costs are indicative only and are based on 2018/19 cost estimations. The majority of these projects will require external funding. Some projects will not occur in the year planned if resources have not been secured that year, or if other factors impact timelines. The projects are not listed in order of priority.

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:

No	Recommendation	Source	Demonstrated need / community support	Benefits	Planning principle alignment	What happens if we don't do it	Resources – cost, whole of life cost, staff time	Responsibility	Priority / shovel readiness / timescale
A	Improve walking and cycling connections to and from schools, children's services and playgrounds	Sport and Recreation Strategy Footpath asset management plan Early Years Plan 2015-2018	Aligns with local and state policies such as Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans	Improves health and wellbeing of local residents Encourages active transport use and less reliance on cars	Health and wellbeing Safe	Children may be less active and less healthy	Part of capital works – ongoing	Council	Ongoing This is an ongoing program to improve walking and cycling opportunities
B	Kangaroo Lake (north end) Recreational and Power Boating Development (planning and development stage)	Sport and Recreation Strategy Major Pipeline Projects	This is a Regional Growth Fund priority Strong support from potential users	Support community events, sporting events and liveability	Health and wellbeing	Recreational and power boat operators may choose to take part in their activities elsewhere, thereby limiting potential economic benefits to the region	Council has allocated \$200k. A further \$250k is needed	Council	2019-2020 Design and costing stage is currently being undertaken
C	Improve playground behind Leitchville Pre-school	Sport and Recreation Strategy Early Years Plan 2015-2018	Playground is located on Council owned land Improve outdoor space available to young children and the community	The Leitchville community will have access to one much higher quality play space	Community support Health and wellbeing	Play value in existing play spaces will continue to diminish	\$50k	Council	2019-2020 Included in capital works budget
D	Kerang Regional Park, including Town and Back Swamp and Levee Bank, upgrades to walking, cycling and canoe trails. Improved accessibility, lighting, signage, BBQ, picnic table and benches (Kerang)	Sport and Recreation Strategy Kerang community profile (Council Plan) - community aspiration	Fishing jetties Canoe launches Some canoe launches already exist Kerang Landcare Group	Encourage multi-use Increase perception of safety Provides variety of passive recreation spaces Tourism attraction	Health and Wellbeing	Local residents may have a limited range, and limited access to, recreational opportunities	\$220k would need to be allocated in future years to develop accessible infrastructure to enable walking, cycling and canoe links to the Loddon River	Council	2019-2020 planning works will occur
E	A walking and cycling trail connecting Atkinson Park, Riverside Park, Back Swamp Reserve and Levee Bank (Kerang)	Sport and Recreation Strategy	Walking track does exist already	Connects a range of sport and recreation facilities via active transport	Health and Wellbeing	Limits opportunities for communities to be connected	\$200k would be needed in future years to develop connecting trails	Council	2019-2020 planning works will occur

No	Recommendation	Source	Demonstrated need / community support	Benefits	Planning principle alignment	What happens if we don't do it	Resources – cost, whole of life cost, staff time	Responsibility	Priority / shovel readiness / timescale
F	Cohuna Skate Park Upgrade (Cohuna)	Sport and Recreation Strategy Early Years Plan 2015-2018	There is community desire for this public space to be modernised and activated	Young people in Cohuna will have access to a recreational facility where they can skate or ride scooters or BMX bikes	Health and wellbeing	The existing facility will become less attractive to local young people and therefore less utilised	\$60k has been allocated in 2019, with an additional \$0.5m required in 2021	Council	2019-2021 Concept plans and allocation for this project is confirmed
G	Cohuna Apex Park and Cohuna Garden Park – construct an all abilities playground and supporting infrastructure	Sport and Recreation Strategy Included in waterfront master plan document Council Plan 2017-2021 Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023 Early Years Plan 2015-2018	Strong community support. Included in the capital works plan	Connects the reserve to the town Considered together as a combined hub for recreation Will enable people of all ages and abilities to play together in Cohuna	Health and wellbeing Accessible and inclusive	Children with accessibility issues will have limited opportunities to play outdoors in public spaces with their peers	Playground is estimated to cost \$0.5m to replace	Council Cohuna Apex Club	2021-2022 Equipment is scheduled to be replaced in 3-5 years No planning undertaken as yet
H	Redevelopment of the Old Memorial Hall precinct into an all abilities playground (Koondrook)	Council Plan 2017-2021 Sport and Recreation strategy Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023 Early Years Plan 2015-2018 Koondrook community plan	Strong community support Included in the capital works plan	Will enable people of all ages and abilities to play together in Koondrook	Health and Wellbeing Accessible and inclusive	Children with accessibility issues will have limited opportunities to play outdoors in public spaces with their peers	\$300k	Council	2020-2021
I	Upgrade Atkinson Park Kerang	Council Plan 2017-2021 Sport and Recreation strategy Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023 Early Years Plan 2015-2018	Community support Included in the capital works plan	Will enable people of all ages and abilities to play together in Kerang	Health and Wellbeing Accessible and inclusive	Park use may be limited due to equipment becoming aged and outdated	\$500k	Council	2023-2024
J	Cohuna to Koondrook Forest Trail	Major Projects Pipeline Murray River Adventure Trail Council Plan 2017-2021	Strong community support for this project Project aligns with economic development and tourism priorities	Improves existing trails to enable further development of Gannawarra's Nature Based Tourism products Connects towns via the Gunbower Forest Provides additional informal recreation facilities for local people	Health and wellbeing	The Shire may miss out on potential income from trail users who live outside the Shire Local residents may only have a limited range of recreational opportunities	Council has allocated \$200k. A further \$200k is needed to complete the project	Council	2019-2021 This project is currently being considered but requires further detailed planning, design and consultation

No	Recommendation	Source	Demonstrated need / community support	Benefits	Planning principle alignment	What happens if we don't do it	Resources – cost, whole of life cost, staff time	Responsibility	Priority / shovel readiness / timescale
<b>K</b>	Koondrook Waterfront Connections Project (planning and development stage)	Sport and Recreation Strategy Major Pipeline Projects Waterfront master plan Council Plan 2017-2021	Strong community support for the project The project is identified in a number of different strategies and plans	Will build on the current community and commercial investments Will better link Arbutnot Sawmill, Koondrook Wharf, Goods Shed Restaurant, Koondrook CBD, Nature Based Tourism Hub and the tracks and trails through Gunbower Forest to Cohuna Will provide new roadway and pedestrian access along the waterfront between the Wharf and the Nature Based Tourism Hub	Community support	Limits the potential for Koondrook to become a tourism destination Limits opportunities for local people to use the waterfront for informal recreational purposes	Council has allocated \$225k. A further \$225k has been received	Council	2020-2022 The project scope has been developed and the final design and linkages will be completed prior to commencement of the works
<b>L</b>	Cohuna Aquatic Centre – redevelop outdoor pool precinct	Sport and Recreation Strategy Major Pipeline Projects Report Early Years Plan 2015-2018	Existing facility is in poor condition and needs to be upgraded to continue to service the local community effectively	Enables further development of the Gunbower Creek Waterfront Will support investment in new accommodation and tourism Will transform the Cohuna waterfront Will improve liveability	Health and wellbeing Safe	The structural integrity of the pool may fail	Total Project Estimate \$8-10m. Funding model not yet determined	Council	Project is listed in the Towards 2025 strategic projects plan
<b>M</b>	Kangaroo Lake West Recreational access redevelopment waterfront redevelopment	Sport and Recreation Strategy Major Pipeline Projects	Waterfront development is supported by local residents and potential user groups	May encourage increased demand for residential development around the lake Will help to increase visitor numbers / length of stay in the region	Health and wellbeing	Kangaroo Lake may not grow as a potential place to live The Shire may miss out on potential visitor expenditure	Council has allocated \$75k. A further \$200k is needed	Council	2022-2025 In concept stage
<b>N</b>	Enhance facilities at Miss Keats picnic park on the Murray River at Murrabit	Council Plan 2017-2021 Major Pipeline Projects. Murray River Adventure Trail	Improves access to the Murray River Tourism and event opportunities	Improving the amenity of a key access point to the Murray River Connection to the Koondrook Wharf Starting point of the annual Murray River Canoe Marathon and the Murrabit Cod Challenge	Community support	Recreational boat operators, RV campers and event operators may choose to take their activities elsewhere, thereby limiting potential economic benefits to the region	Council has allocated \$20k	Council Parks Victoria Community-based groups	2019/20



No	Recommendation	Source	Demonstrated need / community support	Benefits	Planning principle alignment	What happens if we don't do it	Resources – cost, whole of life cost, staff time	Responsibility	Priority / shovel readiness / timescale
O	Sustainable Recreational Water for Quambatook	Sport and Recreation Strategy	Supported by the Building Better Regions fund	Ensure a permanent body of recreation water is maintained in the Avoca River	Community support Equitable	Locals and potential visitors to the area may be inclined to participate in water-based activities in other locations, thereby limiting economic impact locally	Council has allocated \$100k  A further \$350k is needed  There may be some ongoing costs which need to be considered	Council	2020-2021.
P	Work with communities to roll out the Re-spark the Park program (designed to improve and increase use of local parks)	Project Management Group discussion Children and Youth Strategy	This program has worked particularly well in other parts of the Shire	This program empowers the community to help design their local environment, to make better social connections and to achieve health and wellbeing outcomes through their increased usage of parks	Community support	Park use may be limited Social interactions may be limited  Health and wellbeing outcomes may not be achieved	Some program funds may be required	Council Local communities Regional Arts Victoria	2019-2021  No planning has been undertaken as yet

## PROGRAMS

No	Recommendation	Source	Demonstrated need / community support	Benefits	Planning principle alignment	What happens if we don't do it	Resources – cost, whole of life cost, staff time	Responsibility	Priority / shovel readiness / timescale
A	Conduct programs, purchase equipment and develop appropriate supporting infrastructure to better activate public open spaces and swimming pools throughout the Shire	Project Management Group discussion Children and Youth Strategy Council Plan 2017-2021 Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023 Early Years Plan 2015-2018 Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2020	These initiatives help to justify Council's cost in providing facilities and will help to increase health, wellbeing and social connections	Increase usage of public open spaces and swimming pools in the Shire  Increase health, wellbeing and social connections of local residents	Health and wellbeing	Facilities under-utilised Health, wellbeing and social connections may be less than desired	Program costs and basic infrastructure costs: \$20K annually	Council Community-based groups  Private sector	Ongoing  No planning has been undertaken yet, but initiatives could be developed in 2019
B	Instigate or facilitate programs to encourage more local residents to be more active, e.g. add a walk to the social meals event held in local towns. (Shire-wide)  Active games and activities for older people.	Project Management Group discussion Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2020	Council Plan/ Health and Wellbeing Plan recognised the importance of walking	Improved health and wellbeing of local residents  Improved social connections	Health and wellbeing	Some people in the community are at risk of social isolation and poor health	Some program funds	Council Community-based groups Neighbourhood Houses GLAM agencies	Ongoing  Nothing has been planned as yet, but programs could feasibly be held in 2019

## RESOURCING

No	Recommendation	Source	Demonstrated need / community support	Benefits	Planning principle alignment	What happens if we don't do it	Resources – cost, whole of life cost, staff time	Responsibility	Priority / shovel readiness / timescale
A	Update Council's website and other communication tools to ensure that information about both formal and informal sport and recreation activities, facilities and events is made available and updated on a regular basis. Ensure that the website is widely publicised as the 'go to' location for sport and recreation information in the Shire	Project Management Group discussion Council Plan 2017-2021 Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2020 Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023	Lack of information is frequently cited as a reason for non-participation in physical activity	The community is likely to be more aware of existing sport and recreation opportunities available	Accessible and inclusive	Lack of awareness of opportunities will remain and potentially lack of participation in physical activities	Staff time	Council	Ongoing No planning has been undertaken yet, but actions could occur in 2019
B	Conduct an annual workshop with sport and recreation clubs and organisations to provide information about relevant topics and to seek feedback on their needs / key issues (Shire-wide)	Project Management Group discussion Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023	A formal workshop each year will help to ensure that all clubs receive the same information and that their needs are being heard	Council will be more familiar with the needs and strategic directions of clubs Club will be more familiar with Council processes and issues such as grants Will potentially improve the relationship between Council and clubs	Community support	Council may be unaware of issues impacting clubs Clubs may not be aware of support or information that is available	Staff time	Council Sport and recreation clubs and organisations Mallee Sports Assembly	Ongoing Nothing has been planned as yet
C	Seek additional funding to increase the hours available for sport and recreation planning and to provide support to clubs and organisations.	Project Management Group discussion	The sport and recreation officer is a 1.0EFT position, however this includes the supervision of Council pools which equates to 0.5EFT There is a gap in the Shire (both internally and externally) in terms of being able to provide support and information regarding grants – additional staffing hours could support this.	Clubs and organisations are likely to be more sustainable and viable The community is likely to access more grants Sufficient time will be made available to plan, implement and evaluate sport and recreation initiatives in the Shire There will be more and better-quality opportunities for the community to improve their health and wellbeing	Community support	Clubs may not be as viable as they potentially could be Potentially less projects funded in the community Sport and recreation grants from government agencies may not be easily accessed Potentially limited new or improved sport and recreation options in the community	\$30k plus on-costs	Council	2019- 2020 No planning has been undertaken as yet. Expected that this could potentially be funded in the financial year

## PLANNING

No	Recommendation	Source	Demonstrated need / community support	Benefits	Planning principle alignment	What happens if we don't do it	Resources – cost, whole of life cost, staff time	Responsibility	Priority / shovel readiness / timescale
A	Explore opportunities to enhance open spaces through the use of new technology when upgrading, e.g. outdoor exercise bikes that charge mobile phones, modular pump parks, etc. (Shire-wide)	Project Management Group discussion	Lack of access to equipment in open spaces is cited as a reason for non-participation in physical activity	New technology is particularly attractive to younger people and may encourage greater usage of local facilities	Health and wellbeing	There may be limited sport and recreation facilities that appeal to younger people	Will be dependent on initiatives	Council	Ongoing No planning has been undertaken as yet
B	Kangaroo Lake (north end) Recreational and Power Boating Development (planning and development stage)	Sport and Recreation Strategy Major Pipeline Projects	This is a Regional Growth Fund priority Strong support from potential users	Support community events, sporting events and liveability	Health and wellbeing	Recreational and power boat operators may choose to take part in their activities elsewhere, thereby limiting potential economic benefits to the region	Council has allocated \$200k. A further \$250k is needed	Council	2019-2020 Design and costing stage is currently being undertaken
C	Prepare a sport and recreation gender strategy / program to explore ways to increase female participation in the Shire, e.g. instigate 'This Girl Can' program; Rural challenge (Women's Health Loddon Mallee); etc	Project Management Group discussion Council Plan 2017-2021	Council Plan/ Health and Wellbeing Plan recognised the importance of gender equality	Ensuring gender equality is considered when developing programs or infrastructure improvements for sport and recreation	Accessible and inclusive	Risk not being appealing to State and Federal funding programs for new developments	Staff time and some program costs – approx. \$10k	Council Mallee Sports Assembly Women's Health Loddon Mallee VicHealth GLAM agencies	2019-2020 Planning not yet undertaken
D	Review the synthetic hockey feasibility study 2009 (Kerang)	Sport and Recreation Strategy Synthetic Hockey Facility Feasibility Study 2009	This proposed development was raised as part of a multi-use facility proposal in Kerang	Will determine whether or not a synthetic hockey field is required	Health and wellbeing	Talented local players will travel to other locations, e.g. Bendigo to play on synthetic surfaces	\$20k	Council and Loddon Murray Hockey Club	2020-2021 Funds need to be sought to undertake the review
E	Kerang Multi-Purpose Centre - catering for a broad range of community activities and linking to the swimming pool for a range of health and fitness activities	Major Pipeline Projects document 2019/20 Sir John Gorton Precinct Plan Councillor priority	Project is listed in the Towards 2025 strategic projects plan Project is at the broad concept stage. Current project estimate \$2.8m Funding sources not yet known	Strengthen the local community and economy Attract new residents Improve liveability	Community Support	Community and Council events will be held in facilities not fit for purpose Opportunities would be limited to be able to maximise on a range of community events	\$65k has been allocated in 2019-2020 for investigating function, design, features and location. Additional funding would need to be sought for future potential infrastructure works	Council	2019-2020 Budget allocation for investigation purposes has been allocated

No	Recommendation	Source	Demonstrated need / community support	Benefits	Planning principle alignment	What happens if we don't do it	Resources – cost, whole of life cost, staff time	Responsibility	Priority / shovel readiness / timescale
F	Develop a shire-wide municipal walking and cycling strategy	Project Management Group discussion Children and Youth Strategy Council Plan 2017-2021 Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023 Early Years Plan 2015-2018 Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2020	There is a need for trails to be mapped – both for local use and for visitors to the area and to improve connectivity and identify areas of accessibility	A walking and cycling strategy will enable Council to strategically develop paths / trails to link communities and to attract visitors Council will be able to map and promote trails to both local residents and visitors	Health and wellbeing Safe	Trails may be under-utilised due to insufficient knowledge of their existence The Shire may potentially miss out on income from visitors to the region if they are unaware of the trail offerings	\$50k	Council	2020-2021 Will need to develop a brief and apply for funding
G	Development of an Aquatic Strategy for Gannawarra, including accessibility audits at Kerang Exercise Pool as well as Kerang and Cohuna outdoor pools	Sport and Recreation Strategy Social Inclusion Plan 2019-2023 Positive Ageing Strategy 2016-2020	Broader planning Strong community support for a hoist in the Kerang Exercise Pool Demonstrated need for improving accessibility into outdoor swimming pools	To identify the role aquatic facilities play and what management structures might look like in the future Improves accessibility to the pool for people in wheelchairs Approximately 5,000 people use the Kerang Exercise Pool each year	Health and wellbeing Accessible and inclusive	Limits opportunities for communities to access aquatic facilities Access for people in wheelchairs to aquatic facilities will not exist in the Shire. Instead they will need to access the pool in Swan Hill	\$30k for development of aquatic strategy and implementation plan is required \$10-\$15k required for hoist	Council	2020-2021 More planning needs to be undertaken

# MEDIUM PRIORITY PROJECTS

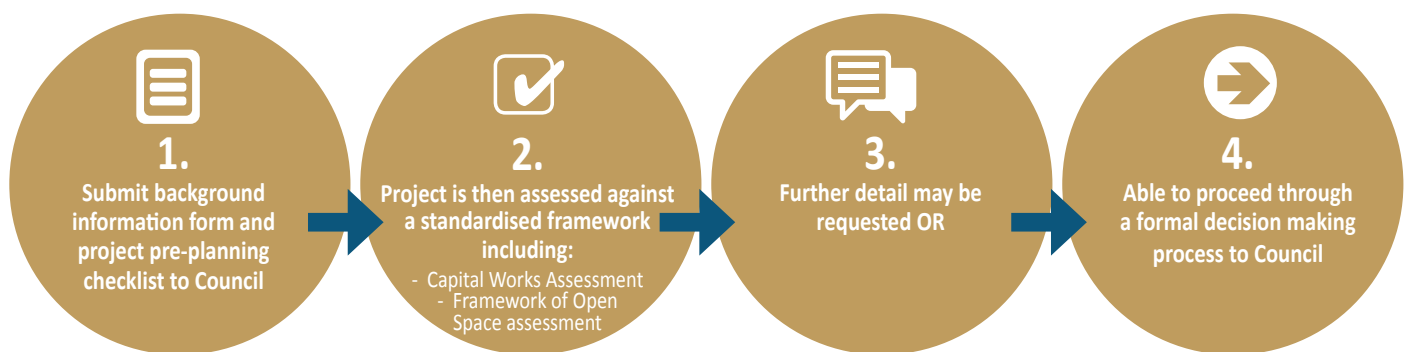
The following projects have been considered by the Project Management Group as a medium priority, or 'nice to have' if sufficient resources are available. The projects are not listed in order of priority

NO	RECOMMENDATION	SOURCE	DEMONSTRATED NEED / COMMUNITY SUPPORT	BENEFITS
<b>A</b>	Cohuna Ski Run River Reserve (Cohuna)	Sport and Recreation Strategy Tourism strategy	Relevant to the Major pipelines project	Boost multi-purpose use at this site and encourage additional tourism Natural and scenic break away from the more landscaped parks closer to town
<b>B</b>	Investigate opportunities for a skate park or modular pump park at Leitchville	Sport and Recreation Strategy Community profile	The community has expressed a desire for skate facilities	Provides additional informal recreation opportunities for young people
<b>C</b>	Further improvements and enhancements to the Leitchville Swimming Pool Complex	Sport and Recreation Strategy	Owned by Council- Section 86 committee More information is needed regarding any other works Budgeted for in Capital Works program	Improves the aquatic facility located in Leitchville and encourages the local community and visitors to utilise the facility
<b>D</b>	Levee Bank Walking Trail (Quambatook)	Sport and Recreation Strategy Community plan	The community has expressed desire for additional walking opportunities around Quambatook	Will link Quambatook township to Weir
<b>E</b>	Constructing a 22km rail trail between Kerang and Koondrook as part of the Murray River Adventure Trail	Sport and Recreation Strategy Murray Regional Tourism strategic plan	Project aligns with economic development and tourism priorities Local walking/cycling groups	Improves health and wellbeing opportunities and enables further development of Gannawarra's Nature Based Tourism products

# OTHER PROJECTS

There were a number of actions and projects identified in the Sport and Recreation Strategy that were recognised as important for the local community, however, these actions are not considered core responsibilities of Gannawarra Shire as they may be located on Crown Land (over which the Shire has very little influence) or may be the role of the private sector or other community based organisations. It is recommended that wherever possible, Gannawarra Shire partners with the organisations leading these projects and provides support in the form of advice, letters of support and potentially in-kind or financial resources if available and appropriate.

## TO ENABLE PROJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR COUNCIL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED



## THESE ACTIONS AND PROJECTS INCLUDE:

PROJECT	LEAD	COUNCIL SUPPORTING ROLE	KEY PARTNERSHIPS	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
<b>KERANG</b>				
<b>Establish a parkrun program in Kerang</b>	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with community lead to identify suitable route and undertake minor works required to register with parkrun Australia</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> <li>Recommend Council's Community Grants Program as a possible start-up funding source</li> </ul>	parkrun Australia	
<b>Activation of parks in Kerang through events and festivals</b>	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitating partnerships to activate public spaces</li> </ul>		Council Plan
<b>Establish a fitness gym in Kerang</b>	Commercial operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support through Council's economic development unit</li> </ul>		
<b>Junior football/netball pavilion development at Riverside Park Recreation Reserve</b>	Kerang Junior Football Club Kerang FNC Schools Other potential user groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Netball Victoria AFL Vic Riverside Park Trustees DELWP (land owner)	Riverside Park Sports Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan – high)
<b>Sports ground lighting upgrade (match standard) at Riverside Park recreation reserve</b>	Kerang Junior Football Club Kerang FNC Cricket Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV AFL Vic Riverside Park Trustees DELWP (land owner)	Riverside Park Sports Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan – high)
<b>Air conditioning upgrade in the Kerang indoor Stadium</b>	Kerang Amateur Basketball Association Kerang Badminton Association Kerang Indoor Netball Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Riverside Park Trustees DELWP (land owner)	Riverside Park Sports Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan – high)

PROJECT	LEAD	COUNCIL SUPPORTING ROLE	KEY PARTNERSHIPS	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
<b>Sports ground resurface at Riverside Park Recreation Reserve</b>	Kerang Junior Football Club Kerang FNC Cricket Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Riverside Park Trustees DELWP (land owner)	Riverside Park Sports Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan – high)
<b>Install a playground at Riverside Park Recreation Reserve</b>	Kerang FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate funding applications to external sources</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>	User groups Riverside Park Trustees DELWP (land owner)	Riverside Park Sports Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan – high)
<b>Upgrade pavilion at Wandella Recreation Reserve using environmentally sustainable materials and practices</b>	Wandella FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Wandella Recreation Reserve Committee of Management DELWP (land owner)	Wandella Recreation Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan – high)
<b>Female friendly change-rooms for netball and umpires</b>	Wandella FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Netball Victoria Wandella Recreation Reserve Committee of Management DELWP (land owner)	
<b>Lighting upgrades at Wandella Recreation Reserve, including oval lighting to training standard and security lighting around the pavilion</b>	Wandella FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Wandella Recreation Reserve Committee of Management DELWP (land owner)	Wandella Recreation Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan – medium)
<b>Development of a bike trail from Kerang to Lake Charm. The trail would follow Loddon, then across to Reedy Lake, Middle Lake, Third Reedy then to Lake Charm</b>	Loddon Murray Cycling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider as part of the development of a Municipal Walking and Cycling Strategy</li> </ul>	VicRoads Goulburn Murray Water North Central Catchment Management Authority Bicycle Victoria	Waterfront Masterplan
<b>COHUNA</b>				
<b>Installation of an electronic scoreboard at the Cohuna Recreation Reserve</b>	Cohuna FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the investigation of external funding sources</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> <li>Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>		
<b>Upgrade of entrance to the Cohuna Recreation Reserve</b>	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with community and user groups to develop concept designs, detailed plans and funding sources</li> <li>Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>	User Groups	Waterfront Masterplan
<b>Netball court resurfacing and possible realignment to meet Netball Victoria standards</b>	Cohuna FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> <li>Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>	SRV Netball Victoria	
<b>Development of a new multi-use space on the second oval at Cohuna Recreation Reserve that includes female friendly change rooms and toilets</b>	Nondies Cricket Club Cohuna United Cricket Club Cohuna Little Aths Cohuna FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> <li>Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>	SRV Cricket Victoria AFL Vic	

PROJECT	LEAD	COUNCIL SUPPORTING ROLE	KEY PARTNERSHIPS	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
<b>KOONDROOK</b>				
<b>Refurbish clubrooms at the Koondrook Recreation Reserve</b>	Koondrook Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the investigation of external funding sources</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>	User Groups DELWP (land owner)	Gannawarra Shire Recreation Reserves Masterplan
<b>KERANG LAKES</b>				
<b>Exercise stations around the Lake Charm fauna and flora loop</b>	Lakes Development Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the investigation of external funding sources</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>		Waterfront Masterplan 2018 Pick My Project submission
<b>MURRABIT</b>				
<b>Develop a Murrabit Recreation Reserve Masterplan</b>	Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend Council's Community Grants Program as a possible funding source</li> </ul>	User Groups DELWP (land owner)	
<b>Murrabit Market Site Improvements</b>	Murrabit Advancement Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate external funding opportunities</li> <li>Council is land owner</li> </ul>	User groups	Community Profile/Council Plan 2018 Pick My Project submission
<b>Playground maintenance at Murrabit Lions Park</b>	Murrabit & District Lions Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support annual maintenance of community playground and park</li> </ul>	Murrabit Advancement Association (land owner)	Community Profile/Council Plan
<b>Female Friendly Facilities at Murrabit Recreation Reserve</b>	Murrabit Football Netball Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Netball Victoria AFL VIC Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee of Management DELWP (land owner)	
<b>Rainwater tanks for Murrabit Recreation Reserve</b>	Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the investigation of external funding opportunities</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>	User Groups DELWP (land owner)	
<b>Solar panels for Murrabit Recreation Reserve</b>	Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the investigation of external funding opportunities</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>	User Groups DELWP (land owner)	
<b>Playground at Murrabit Recreation Reserve</b>	Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide softfall for community playground as requested</li> </ul>	User Groups DELWP (land owner)	
<b>Lighting at Murrabit Tennis Courts</b>	Murrabit Tennis Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Tennis Victoria Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee of Management DELWP (land owner)	
<b>Upgrades to Murrabit Golf Clubrooms</b>	Murrabit Golf Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the investigation of external funding opportunities</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>	SRV Golf Victoria DELWP (land owner)	
<b>Establish a trail between Murrabit and Koondrook through Guttrum and Benwell Forests</b>	Murray Regional Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act on a conduit between Murray Regional Tourism and community</li> </ul>	Parks Victoria (land owner)	Community Profile/Council Plan



PROJECT	LEAD	COUNCIL SUPPORTING ROLE	KEY PARTNERSHIPS	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
<b>Create a sealed bike/walking track between Murrabit township and Murray River</b>	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider as part of the development of a Municipal Walking and Cycling Strategy</li> </ul>	VicRoads	Community Profile/Council Plan
<b>LEITCHVILLE</b>				
<b>Upgrade of lighting on oval at Leitchville Recreation Reserve to training standard</b>	LG FNC LG Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the investigation of external funding sources</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> <li>Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>	SRV AFL Vic Emergency Management Victoria (Neighbourhood Safer Place) DELWP	Leitchville Gunbower FNC Strategic Plan
<b>Netball Court development at Leitchville Recreation Reserve</b>	LG FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management.</li> <li>Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>	SRV Netball Victoria	Leitchville Gunbower FNC Strategic Plan
<b>Female Friendly facilities to cater for football, netball, women's cricket and umpires at the Leitchville Recreation Reserve</b>	LG FNC LG Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> <li>Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>	SRV AFL Vic Netball Victoria	Leitchville Gunbower FNC Strategic Plan
<b>Develop a Leitchville Recreation Reserve Masterplan/Strategic Plan</b>	Leitchville Recreation Reserve Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend Council's Community Grants Program as a possible funding source</li> <li>Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>	User Groups	
<b>LALBERT</b>				
<b>Undertake environmental works and install solar panels at Lalbert Golf Club</b>	Lalbert Golf Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the investigation of external funding opportunities</li> <li>Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>		Community Profile/Council Plan
<b>QUAMBATOOK</b>				
<b>Stage two of the clubroom extensions/upgrades at the Quambatook Recreation Reserve clubrooms</b>	Quambatook FNC Quambatook Golf Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	User Groups	Quambatook Recreation Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan- high)
<b>Football lighting and electrical upgrade</b>	Quambatook FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV AFL Vic Quambatook Public Park and Recreation Ground Trust (land owner)	Quambatook Recreation Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan- high)
<b>Netball court development – construct an additional netball court which is also line marked for tennis.</b>	Quambatook FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>Fund holder</li> <li>Project management</li> </ul>	SRV Netball Victoria Tennis Victoria Quambatook Public Park and Recreation Ground Trust (land owner)	Quambatook Recreation Reserve Masterplan (Action Plan- medium)
<b>Activate the Quambatook Skate Park</b>	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate partnerships to activate the skate park</li> </ul>	NDCH/FreeZa	Community Profile/Council Plan

PROJECT	LEAD	COUNCIL SUPPORTING ROLE	KEY PARTNERSHIPS	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
<b>Upgrade and develop new infrastructure in Quambatook at the following facilities:</b> - Bowling Club - Golf Club - Tractor Pull Complex - Swimming Pool - Fishing Club - Men's Shed - Tennis Club Precinct development	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the investigation of external funding sources</li> <li>• Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>	User Groups	Community Profile/Council Plan
<b>MACORNA</b>				
<b>Development/refurbishment of away football changerooms</b>	Macorna FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>• Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>• Fund holder</li> <li>• Project management</li> </ul>	SRV AFL Vic DELWP (land owner)	Community Profile/Council Plan
<b>Lighting upgrade to match standard on football oval</b>	Macorna FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>• Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>• Fund holder</li> <li>• Project management.</li> <li>• Council is DELWP appointed Committee of Management</li> </ul>	SRV Netball Victoria	Community Profile/Council Plan
<b>Development of running track that includes gym equipment and landscaping</b>	Macorna FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the investigation of external funding sources</li> <li>• Letter in support of funding applications to external sources</li> </ul>	VicRoads	2018 Pick My Project submission
<b>Netball court repairs and maintenance</b>	Macorna FNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support towards grant application to SRV</li> <li>• Dollar for dollar funding contribution</li> <li>• Fund holder</li> <li>• Project management</li> </ul>	Netball Vic	

# APPENDIX 1

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SURVEY DATA

### WHAT WE DID

#### Phase 1 – targeted stakeholder engagement

Targeted key stakeholders in face to face meetings. As the major users of all recreational facilities within the Shire this phase was seen as an initial assessment of the usage and condition of assets.

From the 55 organisations contacted, face to face meetings were held with 35 of these organisations (see list below). The remaining 20 were contacted and either no longer in existence, did not return our call or had an incorrect number.

#### Participants in Phase One of the engagement process

- Barham Koondrook Cricket Club
- Cohuna Lawn Tennis Club
- Cohuna Swim Club
- Cohuna United Cricket Club
- Gannawarra Tennis Club
- Kerang Amateur Basketball Association
- Kerang Badminton Club
- Kerang Bowling Club
- Kerang Clay Target Club
- Kerang Fairley Cricket Club
- Kerang FNC
- Kerang Golf and Bowls Club
- Kerang Lawn Tennis Club
- Kerang Swim Club
- Koondrook Karate Club
- Lake Charm Tennis Club
- Lake Meran Tennis Club
- Leitchville Community Sporting Complex
- Leitchville-Gunbower FNC
- Loddon Murray Hockey Club
- Macorna FNC
- Mallee Eagles FNC
- Murrabit FNC
- Nondescripts Cricket Club
- Quambatook FNC
- Wandella FNC
- Water Aerobics

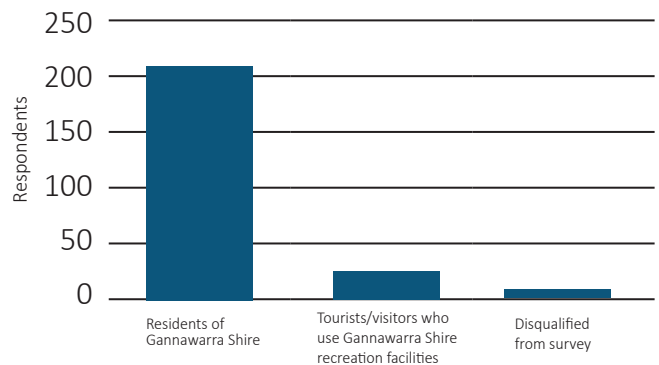
#### Phase 2- on-line survey

The survey questions were a reflection of Phase 1 and also picked up on and explored any themes within Phase 1.

The survey was interested in the opinion of residents of Gannawarra Shire, as well as tourists or visitors who use recreational facilities in the shire.

### WHO RESPONDED?

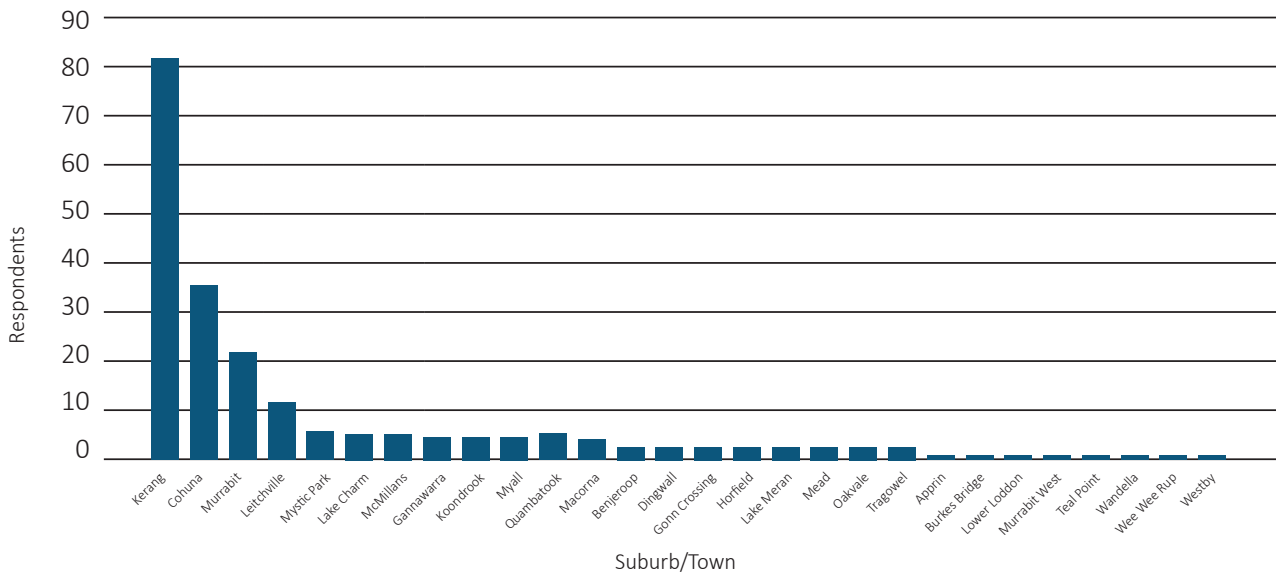
In total, there were 236 responses to the Phase 2 survey which was open from 14 July to 21 August 2017. Of those who responded, 89% of respondents were residents of Gannawarra Shire and 10% being tourists or visitors who use recreational facilities in Gannawarra. The remaining 1% (3 responses) did not fit into either category and were disqualified from the survey (refer below graph)



**OVERALL, KEY STAKEHOLDERS RATED COUNCIL'S CURRENT STANCE ON RECREATIONAL FACILITIES BETWEEN FAIR TO GOOD.**

# APPENDIX 1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SURVEY DATA

Of the 233 qualified responses, 70% of respondents were in the 25 to 54 years old category. 65% were Female, 33% were Male, and the rest identified as Other. Out of the respondents who reside within Gannawarra Shire, 39% were from Kerang, 17% were from Cohuna, 11% were from Murrabit and 5% were from Leitchville (see below graph).



## USAGE

99% of respondents said ‘Yes’ when asked if they use any recreation facilities within Gannawarra Shire. Of these users, 37% were affiliated with just one recreation club or organization and 23% were affiliated with two or more clubs.

The 1% (3 respondents) who said ‘No’ when asked if they use any recreation facilities within Gannawarra Shire stated that they use recreation facilities elsewhere and have other commitments that take priority. However, they expressed interest in using recreation facilities within the shire in the future, possibly participating in gym/fitness centre, swimming in a pool, walking in a township and using a heated exercise pool.

**ACCESS FOR ALL ABILITIES FOR RECREATION FACILITIES WERE RATED FAIR TO GOOD OVERALL WHERE SURVEY RESPONSES WERE PROVIDED.**

**FEMALE-INCLUSIVENESS OF RECREATION FACILITIES NEED IMPROVEMENTS TO ENSURE INCREASED PARTICIPATION, PARTICULARLY FOR FEMALE CHANGE ROOMS.**

## PHASE 3 – FEEDBACK ON DRAFT STRATEGY

Council officers met with 14 sport and recreation organisations over the period of public submission between 21 March – 3 April 2019

### Participants in Phase Three of the engagement process

- Wandella FNC
- Kerang FNC
- Murrabit FNC
- Macorna FNC
- Loddon Murray Hockey Club
- Cohuna Tennis Club
- Cohuna Kangas FNC
- Nondies Cricket Club
- Cohuna Swim Club
- Cohuna Little Aths
- Leitchville/Gunbower FNC
- Leitchville Complex Committee
- Leitchville Tennis Club
- Leitchville Cricket Club
- Loddon Murray Cycling Club

Direct contact was also made/attempted to be made to all clubs and groups who were part of the initial Phase 1 consultation round in 2017. Some of these groups spoke to Council officers via phone. Others have not been back in touch.

In addition, contact was made with 76 clubs/organisations whom Council has email addresses for.

Council received 19 submissions to the Strategy during the feedback period.

# APPENDIX 2

## FRAMEWORK OF OPEN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

In order to ensure appropriate and equitable distribution of recreation facilities and open spaces throughout the municipality, a minimum level of facility provision guide has been developed (based on the current situation and open to be reviewed). This table also provides a guide for future provision, in terms of what could or should realistically be provided in towns of various sizes to encourage physical activity participation. The information in this table has been specifically developed for the Shire, taking into consideration:

- provision and benchmarking of facilities in similar-sized towns in rural Victoria
- the types of activities that currently occur (or may feasibly occur in the future given feedback from local residents and examining statewide participation trends)
- climatic conditions
- population growth
- existing facility provision within the catchment (including neighbouring towns and municipalities).

### Note that:

- Some towns may already exceed the infrastructure level identified for a town of its size. In this situation, Council will continue to provide the same level of service that exists, but when the infrastructure is due for replacement, Council may at its discretion choose not to replace the infrastructure
- Association or competition sport conducted in a community may create an override of the minimum specifications, e.g. two netball courts required for netball competitions associated with the local Football / Netball league
- Community groups or other organisations such as schools may choose to construct and maintain additional facilities at their own cost. Where communities wish to develop infrastructure outside the level suggested in this guide and where there is an expectation that Council will take on responsibility for the infrastructure, it is a requirement that initiatives are subjected to a fully informed feasibility study (which demonstrates demand, need and sustainability) and whole of life costs are clearly understood,
- This table is simply a guide. Actual needs of towns vary considerably depending on the demographics of the town, proximity to other facilities in other towns, specific participation trends, availability of coaches / instructors for certain activities, transport availability, costs, etc.

This table lists the level of facility development that Gannawarra Shire recommends. It is as follows:

FACILITIES – MAY INCLUDE	TIER 1 TOWN (> 1500 PEOPLE), E.G. KERANG, COHUNA	TIER 2 TOWN (500 - 1000 PEOPLE) E.G. KOONDRUCK	TIER 3 TOWN (200 – 500 PEOPLE), E.G. MURRABIT, LEITCHVILLE, QUAMBATOOK	TIER 4 TOWN (<200 PEOPLE), ALL OTHERS TOWNS
Sports oval and change / social facilities (this may be over-riden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – developed to a reasonably high level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines.	Yes – developed to a medium level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines.	May be provided, but will be only developed to a basic level. Facility provision needs to be guided by relevant publications including building regulations, DDA and other documents such as AFL Preferred Facilities Guidelines.	May be provided, but will be only developed to a basic level.

# APPENDIX 2

## FRAMEWORK OF OPEN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

FACILITIES – MAY INCLUDE	TIER 1 TOWN (> 1500 PEOPLE), E.G. KERANG, COHUNA	TIER 2 TOWN (500 - 1000 PEOPLE) E.G. KOONDROOK	TIER 3 TOWN (200 – 500 PEOPLE), E.G. MURRABIT, LEITCHVILLE, QUAMBATOOK	TIER 4 TOWN (<200 PEOPLE), ALL OTHERS TOWNS
Netball court and change facilities (this may be over-ridden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – one to two courts at each recreation reserve, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change facilities provided.	Yes – one to two courts at each recreation reserve, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change rooms provided.	One court may be provided, preferably line marked for tennis too. Change rooms may be provided.	One court may be provided, preferably line marked for tennis too.
Tennis court (this may be over-ridden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – up to six courts with lights suitable for municipal-level and local competitions, social use and practice.	Yes – up to two tennis courts suitable for local competitions, social use and practice. May have lights.	At least one tennis court for social use or practice. No lights.	Possibly one tennis court for social use or practice. No lights.
Bowling green (this may be over-ridden by association or competition sport demands)	Yes – one facility per town. May have a synthetic surface, but only if feasible.	May be provided, but generally lawn.	May be provided, but generally lawn.	Generally not provided.
Croquet green (this may be over-ridden by association or competition sport demands)	Possibly one croquet green.	Generally not provided.	Not provided.	Not provided.
Golf course	Possibly one golf course with irrigated putting greens.	Possibly one golf course, but only sand scrape courses. No new facilities will be constructed.	Generally not provided	Not provided
Multi-purpose playing field, e.g. soccer	Possibly one multi-purpose playing facility, but could be provided by a school. Needs a reasonably good playing surface.	May be provided, but only to a basic level – possibly at a school.	Generally not provided	Not provided.
Clay target / rifle shooting facilities	Possibly one facility to be provided..	May be provided.	May be provided.	Not provided.
Horse racing tracks	Possibly one facility to be provided	Not provided.	Not provided.	Not provided.

# APPENDIX 2

## FRAMEWORK OF OPEN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

FACILITIES – MAY INCLUDE	TIER 1 TOWN (> 1500 PEOPLE), E.G. KERANG, COHUNA	TIER 2 TOWN (500 - 1000 PEOPLE) E.G. KOONDROOK	TIER 3 TOWN (200 – 500 PEOPLE), E.G. MURRABIT, LEITCHVILLE, QUAMBATOOK	TIER 4 TOWN (<200 PEOPLE), ALL OTHERS TOWNS
Park with BBQ, public toilet and picnic facilities	Yes – several local level parks to be provided, but evenly spaced throughout the town. Minimum of 0.5 hectares. Maybe one regional level park- minimum of 2 hectares, which should have an accessible toilet and one to two BBQs.	Yes – at least one local level park to be provided, preferably in a central location so that it is accessible to all. Should have an accessible toilet and one to two BBQ. Minimum of 0.5 hectares.	Yes – one local level park provided to a basic level. If public toilets (including an accessible one) and BBQ are provided at a recreation reserve in town, they will not be duplicated in the park (and vice versa). Minimum of 0.5 hectares.	Possibly one park provided to a basic level. If public toilets (including an accessible one) and BBQ are provided at a recreation reserve in town, they will not be duplicated in the park (and vice versa). Minimum of 0.5 hectares.
Playground with open space for ball games	Yes – several playgrounds to be provided (depending on the geographic size of each town), but evenly spaced throughout the town. One playground should be developed to a municipal or regional level.	Yes – a local level playground should be provided within parks and also at the recreation reserve	Yes – a local level playground should be provided within a park or at the recreation reserve.	Possibly a local level playground provided within a park or at the recreation reserve.
Footpaths	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town, but preferably both sides. New footpaths in the town to be constructed to a width suitable for shared usage. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network.	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town, but preferably both sides. New footpaths in the town to be constructed to a width suitable for shared usage. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network.	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town. Seats to be placed in key locations and at regular intervals (500m apart). Footpaths on all street frontages around schools connected to the township footpath network.	Footpaths to be provided on at least one side of each street in town.

# APPENDIX 2

## FRAMEWORK OF OPEN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

FACILITIES – MAY INCLUDE	TIER 1 TOWN (> 1500 PEOPLE), E.G. KERANG, COHUNA	TIER 2 TOWN (500 - 1000 PEOPLE) E.G. KOONDROOK	TIER 3 TOWN (200 – 500 PEOPLE), E.G. MURRABIT, LEITCHVILLE, QUAMBATOOK	TIER 4 TOWN (<200 PEOPLE), ALL OTHERS TOWNS
Walking / cycling trails	One or more off road recreational trails that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 5km in length, but may be much longer and may connect to other towns. Trails will feature interpretive signage, seats, etc.	One off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 5km in length. Will feature seats and may feature interpretive signage.	One off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc at least 2km in length.	Possibly one off road recreational trail that provides opportunities for walking and cycling near a creek, river, recreation reserve, bushland, etc.
Commuter route for cyclists	A clearly identified east- west and north- south route comprising of on road lanes for cycling commuters. There may also be some marked on-road cycling lanes around schools.	A clearly identified east- west and north- south route comprising of on road lanes for cycling commuters. There may also be some marked on-road cycling lanes around schools.	None	None
Swimming pool	One 25m – 50m outdoor pool with toddler pool could be provided in a central location. Consideration could be given to the development of a small hydrotherapy pool, but only in partnership with other organisations.	Possibly one 12m-25m pool with toddler pool could be provided in a central location, but only if it already exists. No new pools to be constructed in towns of this size.	Access to a pool within approximately 20 minutes drive from homes if possible.	Access to a pool within approximately 20 minutes drive from homes if possible.
Skate parks / BMX / pump park / bike skills area	One skate park or modular pump track to be provided in a central location.	Possibly one small skate park or modular pump track may be provided in a central location subject to demand and distance from other skate parks.	Not provided	Not provided



# APPENDIX 2

## FRAMEWORK OF OPEN SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

FACILITIES – MAY INCLUDE	TIER 1 TOWN (> 1500 PEOPLE), E.G. KERANG, COHUNA	TIER 2 TOWN (500 - 1000 PEOPLE) E.G. KOONDROOK	TIER 3 TOWN (200 – 500 PEOPLE), E.G. MURRABIT, LEITCHVILLE, QUAMBATOOK	TIER 4 TOWN (<200 PEOPLE), ALL OTHERS TOWNS
Bike skills area / pump park / BMX track	One bike skills / pump park / BMX track to be provided.	Possibly one small bike skills / pump park / BMX track to be provided subject to demand.	Not provided	Not provided
Lakes / creeks / rivers	Possibly a fishing pontoon or platform will be developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town.	Possibly a fishing pontoon will be developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town.	Possibly a fishing pontoon will be developed to enhance lakes / creeks / rivers in or close to the town particularly in towns with no swimming pools.	Not provided
Informal recreation facilities, e.g. outdoor fitness equipment, down ball area, rebound wall, basketball half court, outdoor table tennis, etc.	Yes – a number of informal recreation facilities to be developed dependent upon community needs and available resources.	One to two informal recreational facilities may be provided in each town – dependent upon community need and available resources.	One informal recreational facility may be provided in each town – dependent upon community needs and available resources.	One informal recreational facility may be provided in each town.

# APPENDIX 3

## CAPITAL WORKS ASSESSMENT TOOL

The following capital works assessment tool has been developed to determine whether or not Gannawarra Shire Council should support a specific capital work development, upgrade or renewal, or to prioritise different capital works initiatives against each other. A from 0-3 is given against each criteria and multiplied by the weighting amount to produce a total score.

CRITERIA / SCORE	0	1	2	3	WEIGHT	TOTAL SCORE	COMMENTS
Alignment with planning	Initiative is not supported by any plans, policies or strategies.	Initiative has limited support by local plans, policies and strategies.	Initiative is well supported by local plans, policies and strategies.	Initiative is very well supported by local plans, policies and strategies.	3		
Community benefit and demonstrated need	There are no clear benefits to the community and the need for the initiative has not been demonstrated.	There are limited benefits to the community and a limited amount of need demonstrated for the initiative.	The benefits of the initiative to the community are clear and the need is clearly demonstrated for the initiative.	The benefits of the initiative to the community are very clear and the need for the initiative is very clearly demonstrated.	3		
Increases participation in physical activity and contributes to health and wellbeing	The initiative will not increase physical activity participation.	The initiative may increase physical activity participation.	The initiative is likely to increase physical activity participation.	The initiative is highly likely to increase physical activity participation.	3		
Financially viable to develop, operate and maintain	The initiative is likely to be beyond the community's resources to develop, operate and maintain.	There may be some doubt regarding the community's ability to source the financial resources required to develop, operate and maintain the initiative.	It is likely that the community will have sufficient resources to develop, operate and maintain the initiative.	It is clear that the community has the financial resource capacity to develop, operate and maintain the initiative.	3		
Increases accessibility for people of all abilities	The initiative will not increase accessibility for people of all abilities.	The initiative may increase accessibility for people of all abilities.	The initiative is likely to increase accessibility for people of all abilities.	The initiative is highly likely to increase accessibility for people of all abilities.	3		
Enhances / protects township character	The initiative does not enhance or protect the township character.	The initiative provides a minimal amount of enhancement or protection to the township character.	The initiative is likely to enhance or protect the township character.	The initiative will definitely enhance or protect the township character.	2		

CRITERIA / SCORE	0	1	2	3	WEIGHT	TOTAL SCORE	COMMENTS
Minimises environmental impact	The initiative is likely to have a negative impact on the environment.	The initiative may have a minimal impact on the environment.	The initiative is unlikely to have a negative impact on the environment.	The initiative will not have a negative impact on the environment.	2		
Provides greater diversity of opportunities	The initiative is not likely to provide a greater diversity of physical activity opportunities.	The initiative may provide a greater diversity of physical activity opportunities.	The initiative likely to provide a greater diversity of physical activity opportunities.	The initiative will definitely provide a greater diversity of physical activity opportunities.	2		
Promotes liveability of the local area	The initiative is not likely to increase the liveability of the local area.	The initiative may increase the liveability of the local area.	The initiative is likely to increase the liveability of the local area.	The initiative is highly likely to increase the liveability of the local area.	2		
Creates opportunities for social interactions	The initiative is unlikely to create opportunities for social interactions.	The initiative may create opportunities for social interactions.	The initiative is likely to create opportunities for social interactions.	The initiative is highly likely to create opportunities for social interactions.	2		
Enhances club / organisation sustainability	The initiative is unlikely to contribute to club / organisation sustainability.	The initiative may contribute to club / organisation sustainability.	The initiative is likely to contribute to club / organisation sustainability.	The initiative is highly likely to contribute to club / organisation sustainability.	2		
Addresses safety / regulations / best practice	The initiative has not addressed safety regulations or adhered to best practice.	The initiative may not have addressed all safety regulations or adhered to best practice.	The initiative has addressed all safety regulations and has considered best practice.	The initiative has thoroughly addressed all safety regulations and adhered to best practice.	2		
Supported by a club / organisation that has developed and implemented relevant policies (e.g. gender equity, healthy eating, etc) and plans and is well governed.	The club / organisation supporting the initiative has not developed and implemented relevant policies and plans and is not well governed.	The club / organisation supporting the initiative may have developed and implemented some relevant policies and plans and is reasonably well governed.	The club / organisation supporting the initiative has developed and implemented some relevant policies and plans and is well governed.	The club / organisation supporting the initiative has developed and implemented a range of relevant policies and plans and is very well governed.	2		
<b>TOTAL</b>							

# APPENDIX 4

## GANNAWARRA CLUB/GROUP BACKGROUND INFORMATION FORM

Club/Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person completing this form: Name and contact number/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Memberships (if applicable):

- Juniors:
- Seniors:
- Other (please specify):

Primary location: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary location (if applicable, please specify how often each location is used and what for): \_\_\_\_\_

Has your club completed a "Club Health Check" in the past two years? YES  NO

<https://www.qlbs.com.au/aschealthcheck/assessment/aschealthcheck>

What do you believe is working well for your club/group? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you believe are major challenges for your club/group? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your club/group have a strategic plan / master plan? YES  NO

What are the top priorities for your club/group for the next 2 – 5 years\*?

(e.g. Upgrade to lighting, female friendly facilities, umpire facilities, play spaces)? \_\_\_\_\_

Has your club/group taken steps to develop your project further?

(e.g. concept plans, quotes, letters of support, clubs financial capacity to support it, sponsorship etc?).

(Further details can be provided on the following page)

# APPENDIX 4

## PROJECT PRE-PLANNING CHECKLIST

This information will assist Council officers to assess your projects against key selection criteria for funding opportunities.

Name of your proposed project	
Describe what your project aims to do or achieve and why it is needed.	
Who will this project benefit (age, gender, location, multicultural background, etc)?	
How many people will benefit from this project?	
Where will your project take place?	
Who is the landowner? And do you have permission from the landowner for your project, i.e. letter of support?	
When do you expect the project to start and end?	
Does your club have a strategic plan? If so, is this project identified in your strategic plan?	
Has your club developed plans for the project (e.g. concept plans, business case, etc)?	
Do you have one or more quotes for this project? If so, how much is it expected to cost?	
Is your club/community group able to make a financial commitment to this project? If so, how much? What evidence do you have to show that this amount is available (e.g. bank statements)?	
Do you intend to provide any in-kind support to the project (e.g. voluntary labour, equipment, services, goods, etc)? If so, what?	
Do you have any letters of support from other organisations, e.g. State Sporting Associations, regional associations, schools, other community organisations etc?	

If you have more than one priority project, please complete separate forms for each project



## CONTACT COUNCIL

### MAIN OFFICE - KERANG

Patchell Plaza  
47 Victoria Street  
Kerang VIC 3579

T. (03) 5450 9333

F. (03) 5450 3023

Office hours: Monday to Friday

8.30am – 5pm

### COHUNA OFFICE

23–25 King Edward Street  
Cohuna VIC 3568

T. (03) 5456 5222

F. (03) 5456 2173

Office hours: Monday to Friday

10am – 4pm

Postal address for all correspondence:

PO Box 287

Kerang VIC 3579

E: [council@gannawarra.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@gannawarra.vic.gov.au)

W: [www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au](http://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au)

[www.facebook.com/gannawarra](https://www.facebook.com/gannawarra)

[www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire](https://www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire)

[www.youtube.com/GannawarraShire](https://www.youtube.com/GannawarraShire)