

TOOWOOMBA REGION SPORT ACTIVE RECREATION AND HEALTHY LIVING PLAN



SARHL TOOWOOMBA OVERVIEW

Toowoomba Regional Council has a commitment to the health of residents as evident by many strategic actions outlined in the corporate plan.

The Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Plan will build on the previous work and reports and will assist to guide Council actions in supporting sport, active recreation and healthy living across the Toowoomba Region in the short to medium term through to 2026.

Scope of the project includes:

- « Sport
- « Active Recreation and Healthy Living
- « Nature Based Recreation
- « Regional Skate / Scooter / Bike
- « Velodrome needs assessment
- « Rock Climbing, Bouldering and Abseiling

The scope of this project does not include aquatics or active transport (cycling or walking for transport) as there are existing strategies in place that provide direction and recommendations for these areas.

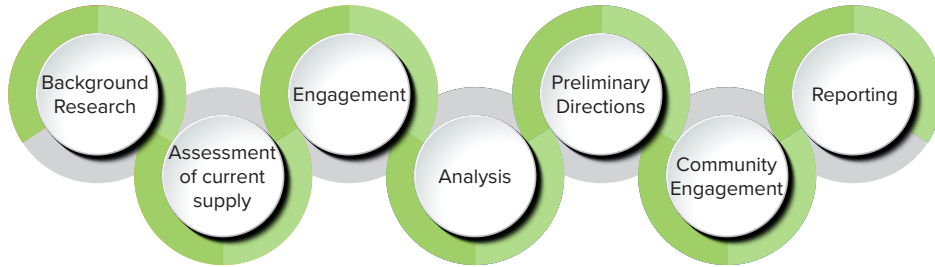


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METHODOLOGY



PLANNING CONTEXT



CONSULTATION

As part of the preparation of the draft Plan the following engagement has been undertaken:

- « Community Survey (almost 1,000 Responses)
- « Community Workshops (including Townships)
- « Focus Group Workshops
- « School Workshops
- « Interagency Interviews
- « Council Officer Workshops
- « Darling Downs Schools Sport
- « Sports Clubs Surveys & Telephone Interviews
- « Intercept surveys (parks, skateparks)
- « Council Youth Leaders Survey
- « Disability Advisory Committee Meeting

WHO IS TOOWOOMBA REGION?

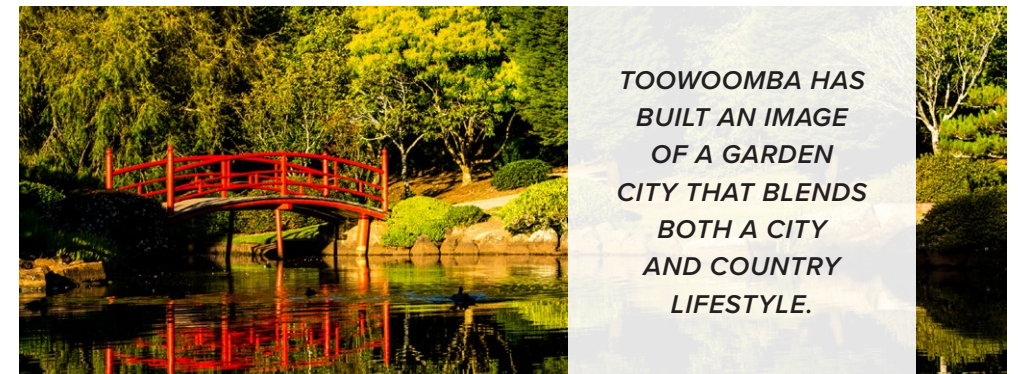
ESTIMATED POPULATION **167,657**

The Toowoomba region has an estimated population of 167,657 in 2018, with the most heavily populated areas around Toowoomba city, Highfields, Darling Heights, Wilsonton and Toowoomba West (refer to Map 1).

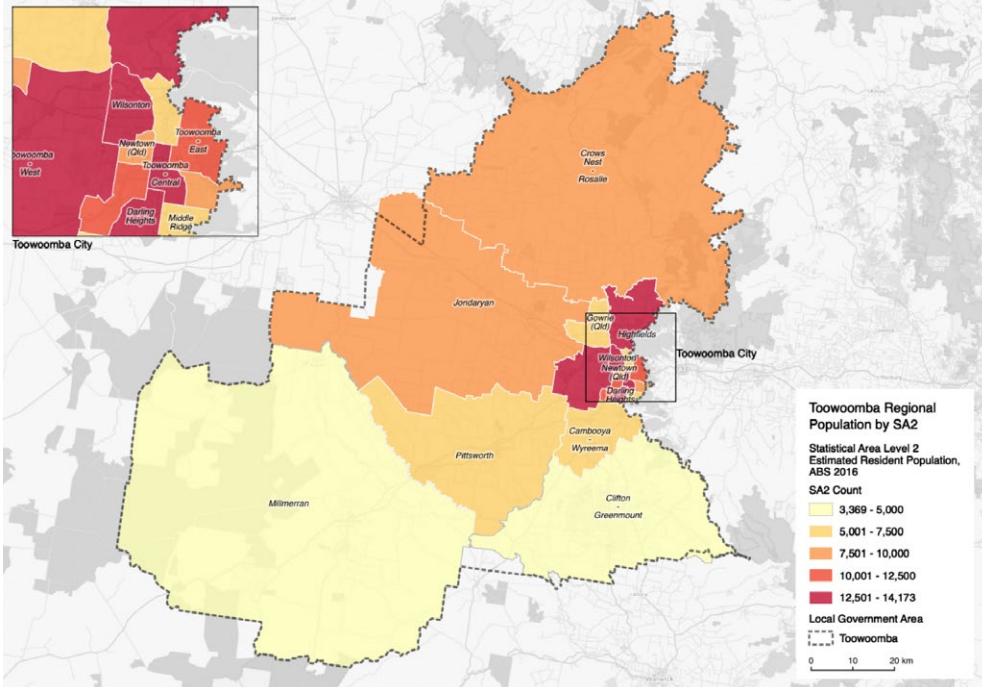
¹ Profile Id

Toowoomba region includes the urban centres of Toowoomba and several regional centres, including Oakey, Pittsworth, Millmerran, Crows Nest, Clifton, Greenmount and Yarraman.

The Toowoomba region is located in South East Queensland, approximately 125km west of Brisbane.



Map 1: Breakdown of Toowoomba population as at 2016



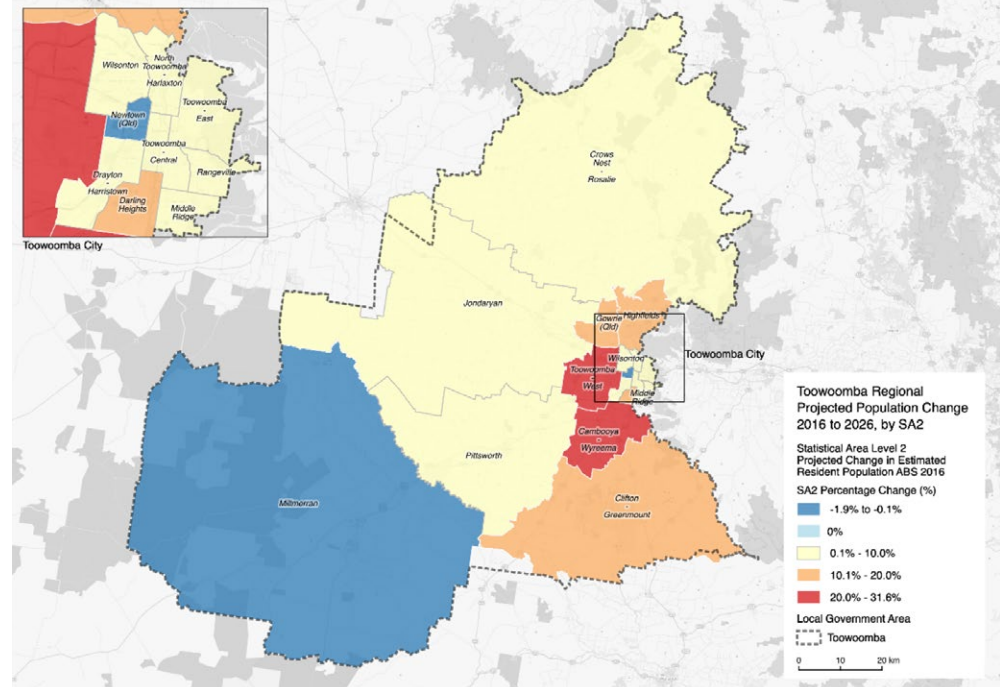
« The Toowoomba region has an estimated population of 167,657 in 2018, with the most heavily populated areas around Toowoomba city, Highfields, Darling Heights, Wilsonton and Toowoomba West.



Most heavily populated areas

- « Toowoomba City
- « Highfields
- « Darling Heights
- « Wilsonton
- « Toowoomba West

Map 2: Expected change of population in Toowoomba by 2026²



« The Toowoomba region is expected to grow to 179,030 by 2026, with the strongest growth rates estimated to be in Toowoomba West, Cambooya and Wyreema localities.



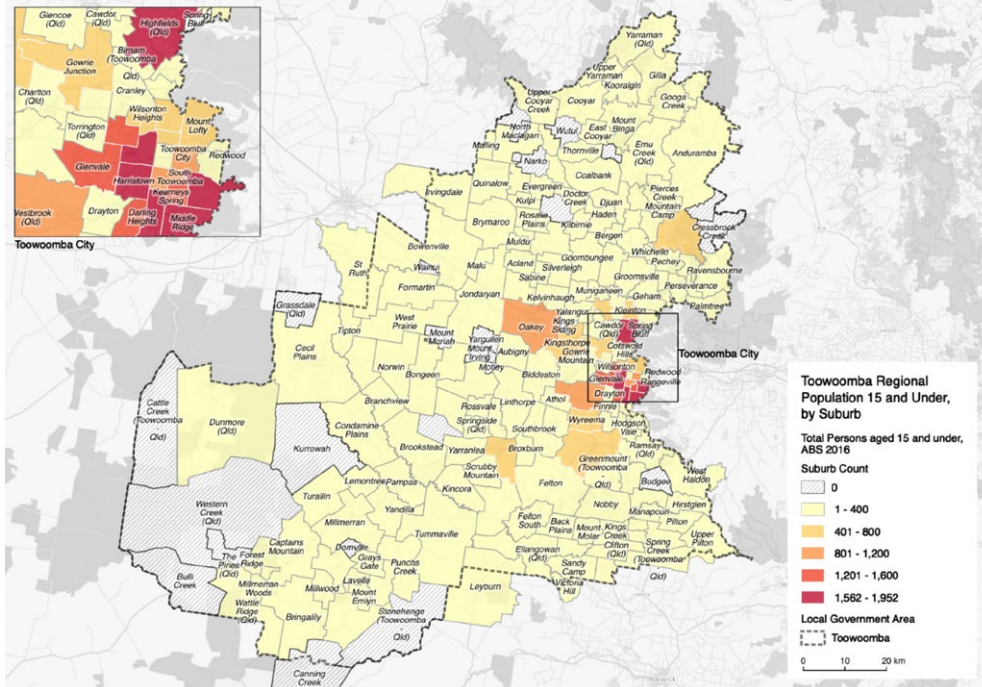
Strongest growth rates

- « Toowoomba West
- « Cambooya
- « Wyreema

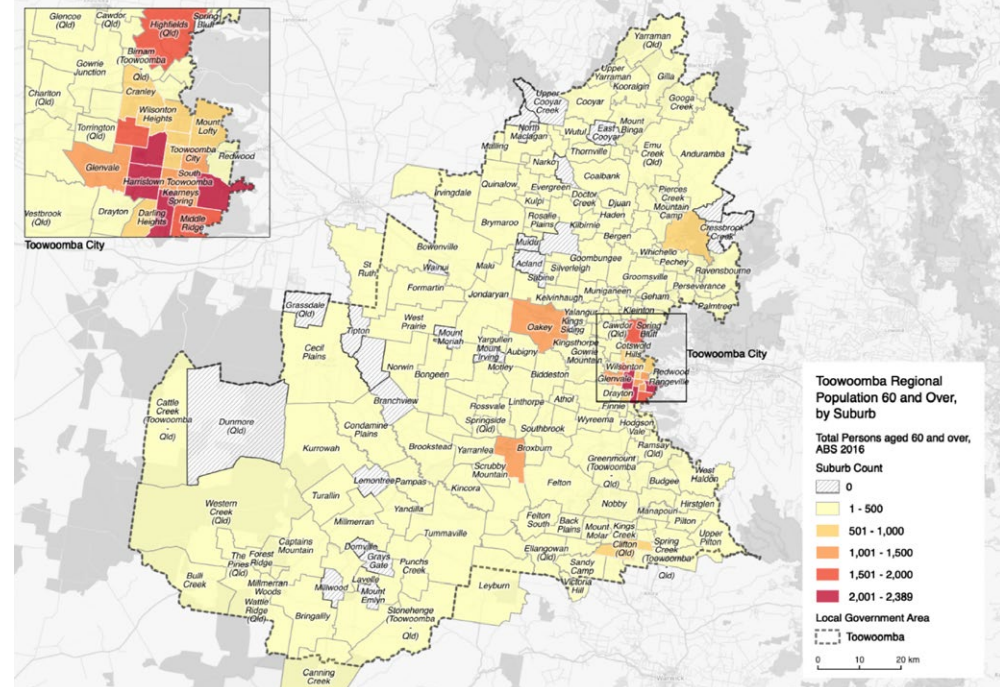
¹ Profile Id

² Queensland Government population projections, 2018 edition (Medium Series)

Map 3: Toowoomba population people aged 16 and over



Map 4: Toowoomba population persons aged 60 and over



- « The Toowoomba region has a median age of 38 which is slightly lower than regional QLD (39) and slightly higher than QLD (37).
- « The Toowoomba region has a higher proportion of the population aged between 0 and 15 (20.3%) compared with regional QLD (19.3%) and Queensland (19.4%).

- « The Toowoomba region has a higher proportion of the population aged 60 and over (23.6%) compared with regional QLD (22.9%) and Queensland (20.7%).
- « In particular, some areas around Toowoomba City have the highest number of the population aged 15 and under including Harristown, Middle Ridge and Highfields.
- « The areas with the highest number of the population aged 60 and over include, Harristown, Newtown and Rangeville.



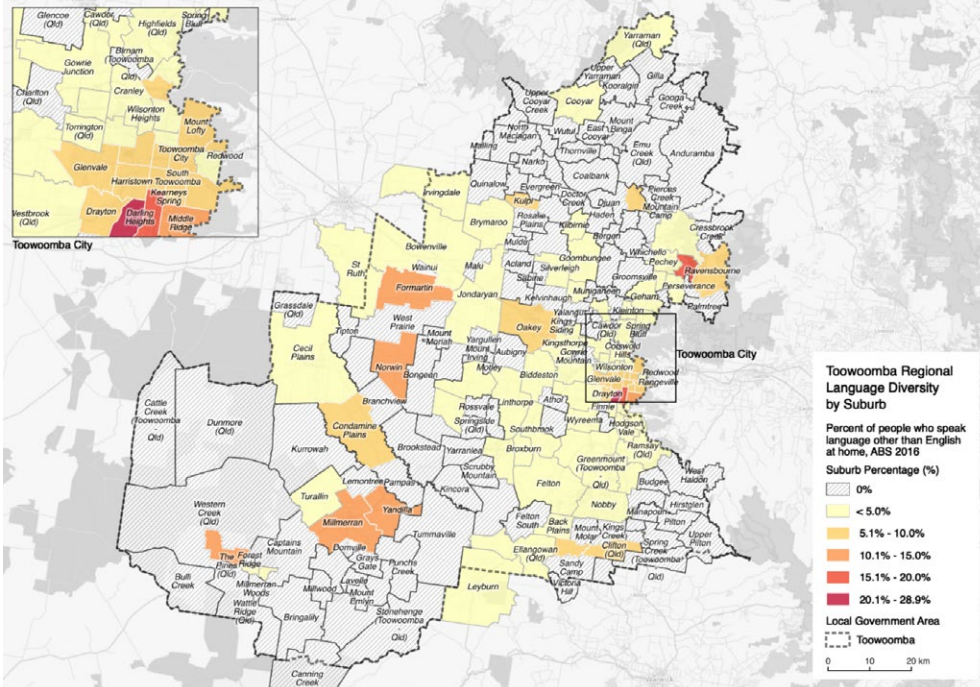
MEDIAN AGE

TOowoomba
38

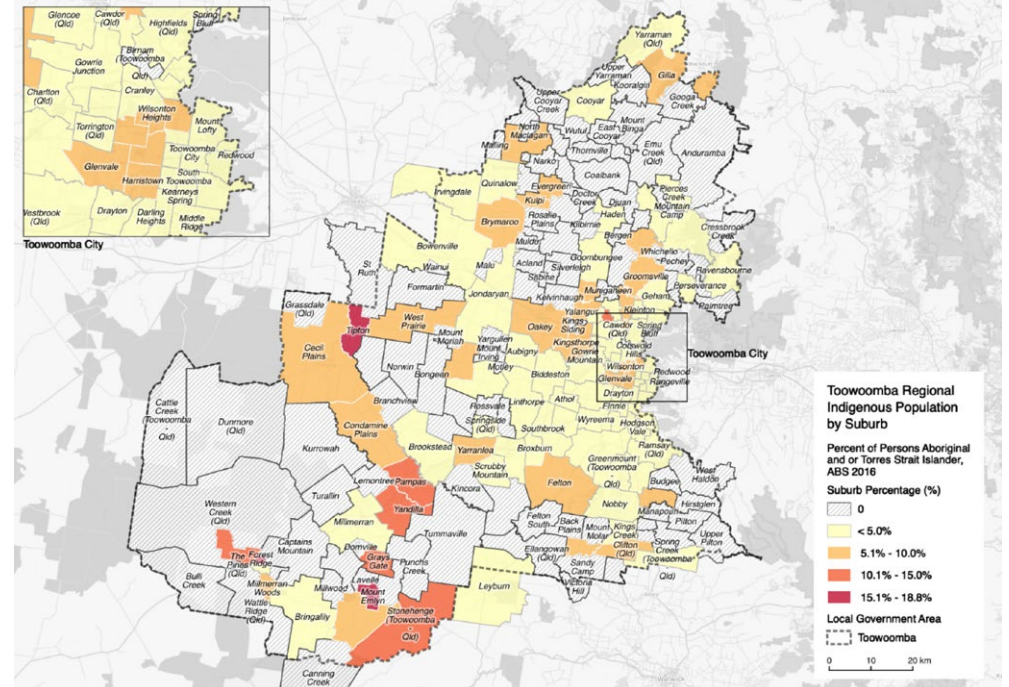
REGIONAL QLD
39

QLD
37

Map 5: Percentage of people who speak language other than English at home



Map 6: Indigenous population by suburb



- « The Toowoomba region has a lower proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home (6.5%) compared to regional QLD (7.9%).
- « The areas of Darling Heights (29%) and Kearneys Spring (18.8%) have the highest proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home in Toowoomba region.

- « The Toowoomba region has a lower proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (4.0%) compared with regional QLD 5.4% and is consistent with Queensland as a whole (4.0%).
- « Areas of Mount Emlyn (18.75%) and Tipton (17.9%) have the highest percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

PEOPLE WHO SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME

TOOWOOMBA

6.5%

REGIONAL QLD

7.9%

Highest proportion

- « Darling Heights
- « Kearneys Spring

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION

TOOWOOMBA

4.0%

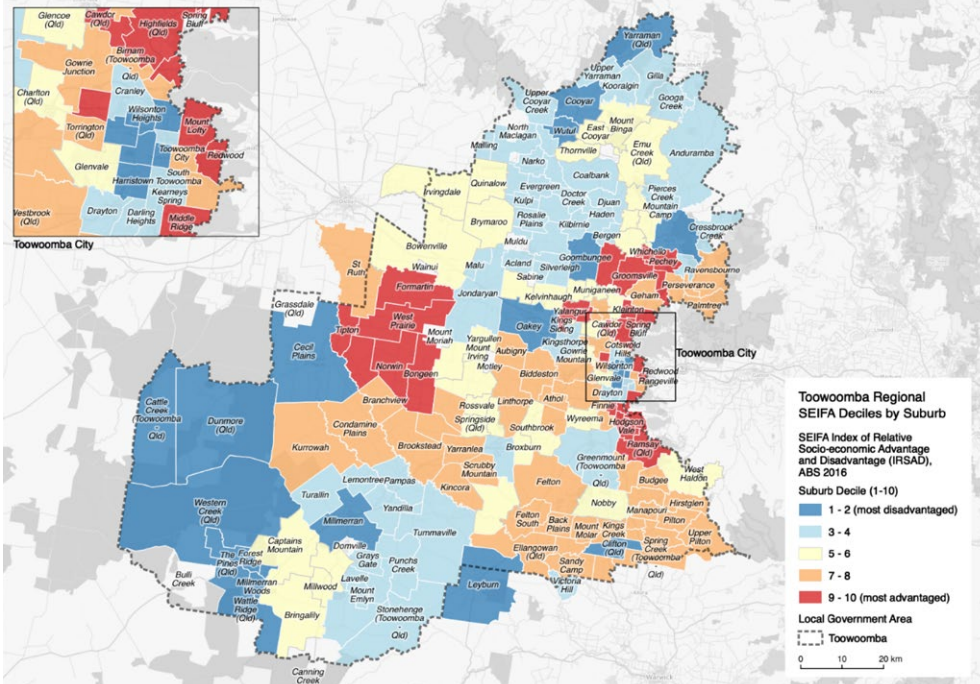
REGIONAL QLD

5.4%

QLD

4.0%

Map 7: SEIFA index of Toowoomba by suburb



- ◀ The Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) index measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of characteristics including income, educational attainment and high unemployment. A higher SEIFA score means a lower level of disadvantage. The SEIFA for Toowoomba is 989 which is more disadvantaged than Queensland at 996, but slightly more than Regional Queensland at 981.
- ◀ When looking at some of the particular areas it shows high levels of disadvantage with Wilsonton 922.7, Harristown 918.0, Newtown 916.8, Harlaxton 907.4, Toowoomba City 890.5 and Wilsonton Heights 870.7 all have a SEIFA index that is in the 15% most disadvantaged or under in Australia.
- ◀ A number of regional townships are also some of the more disadvantaged with Goombungee (966.2), Clifton (953.5), Millmerran - Cecil Plains (940.2), Yarraman (906.9), Oakley (899.3)



27%

Couples with children is 27% compared with 26% for regional QLD and 29% for Queensland, this has decreased 1.7% since 2011



25%

Higher proportion of lone person households at 25% compared with regional QLD (23%) and Queensland (22%)



6.7%

Low unemployment rate of 6.7% compared with regional QLD at 7.8% and Queensland at 7.6%

11%

Older couples without children is 11%, the same as regional QLD and higher than QLD at 10%, this has increased 0.7% since 2011

17%

Low proportion of medium and high-density housing at 17% compared with regional QLD at 23% and Queensland at 24%, this has however increased 2.4% since 2011

\$1265

= median weekly household income. Similar to regional QLD at \$1259 but lower than Queensland at \$1392

\$354

= weekly mortgage repayment. Less than regional QLD \$387 and Queensland \$406

\$281

= median weekly rent. Lower than regional QLD at \$306 and Queensland \$335



1%

Only 1% estimated to take public transport to work compared with 2% regional QLD and 7% for Queensland



12%

Lower proportion of residents born overseas at 12% compared with 17% for regional QLD and 22% for Queensland

RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE (SEIFA) INDEX

TOOWOOMBA
989

REGIONAL QLD
981

QLD
996

SPORT, ACTIVE RECREATION AND HEALTHY LIVING IN TOOWOOMBA



Over 7,700 ha of open space in Toowoomba



59 sports reserves providing a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities for the region



Over 150 parks in the region including 24 dog off leash areas, 12 outdoor gyms



20 skate and BMX facilities



61 outdoor court facilities, 15 indoor court locations and 39 tennis court locations,



36 nature-based recreation parks with over 50 walking trails across the region



1 outdoor velodrome and 1 cycling criterium track



Approximately 634km of shared pathways, 56kms of bicycle lanes for cycling as well as numerous mountain bike trails



A number of private facilities (including gyms) that provide opportunities for physical activity and healthy living



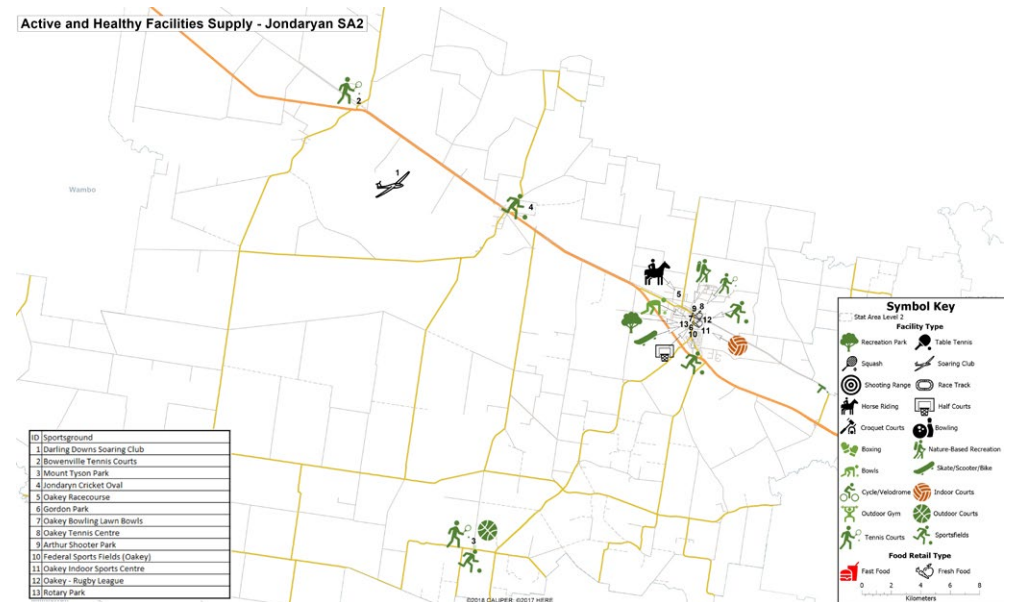
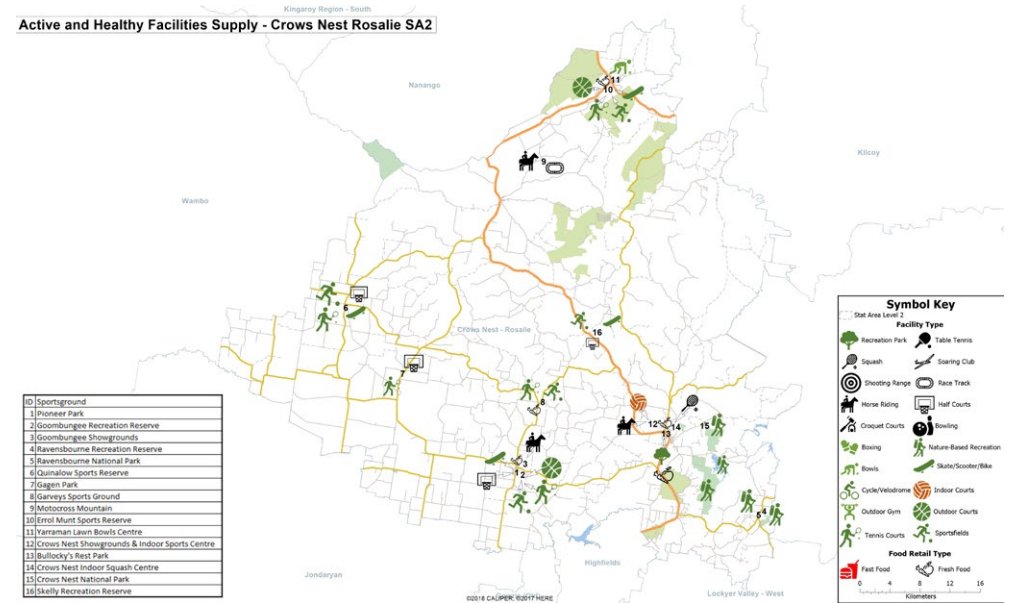
3 Community Gardens



The CHANGE Project provides free and low-cost activities to encourage everyone to lead a healthy and active lifestyle including programs for wellbeing

- « Yoga & Meditation
- « Bush Care Groups
- « Group Fitness
- « Parkrun
- « Seniors Activities
- « Walking Groups
- « Mum & Bub Fitness
- « Kids Fitness

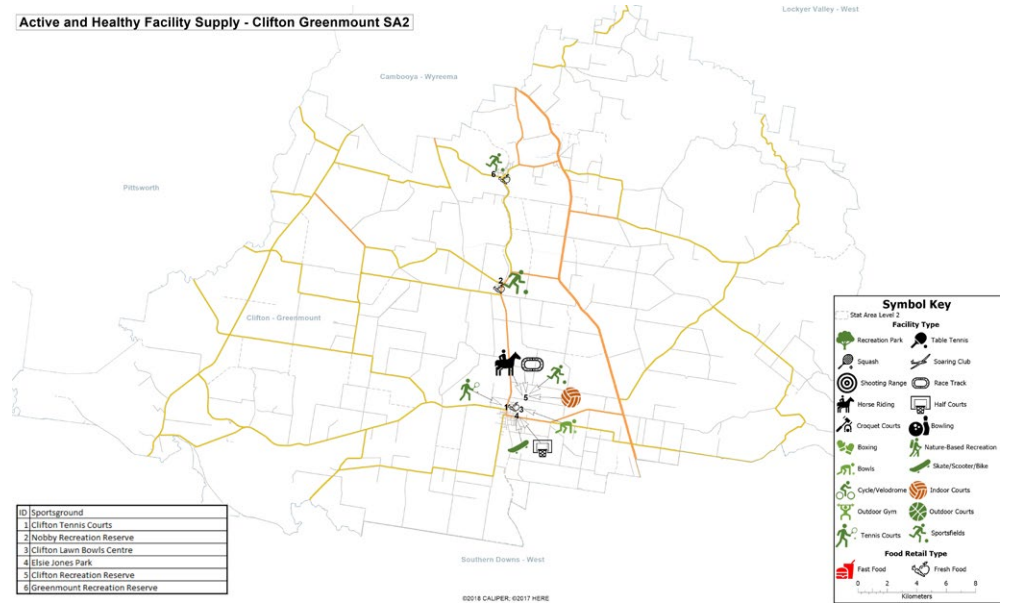
The following mapping outlines the locations of these facilities across the Toowoomba Region.



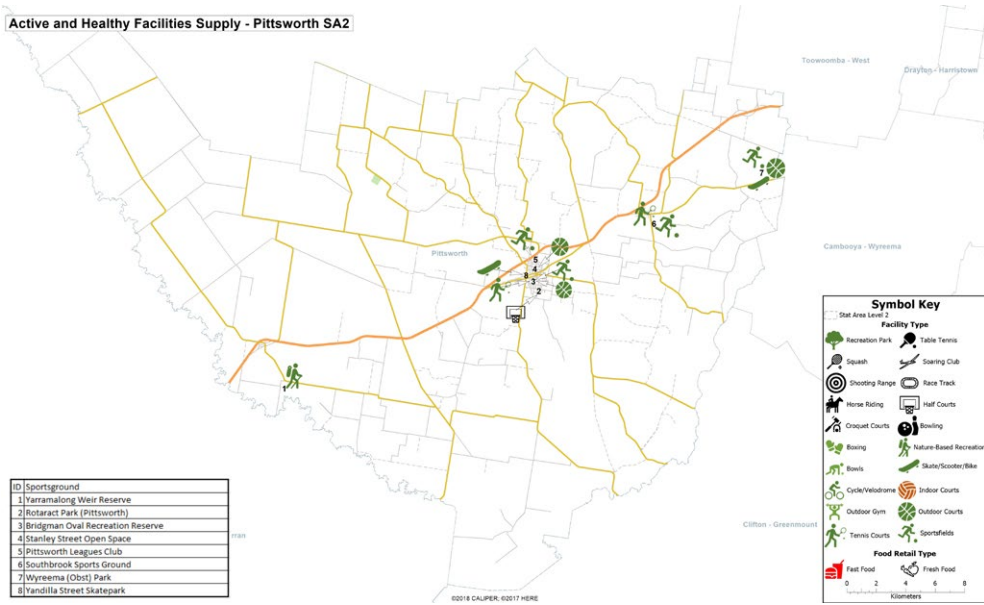
Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Millmerran SA2



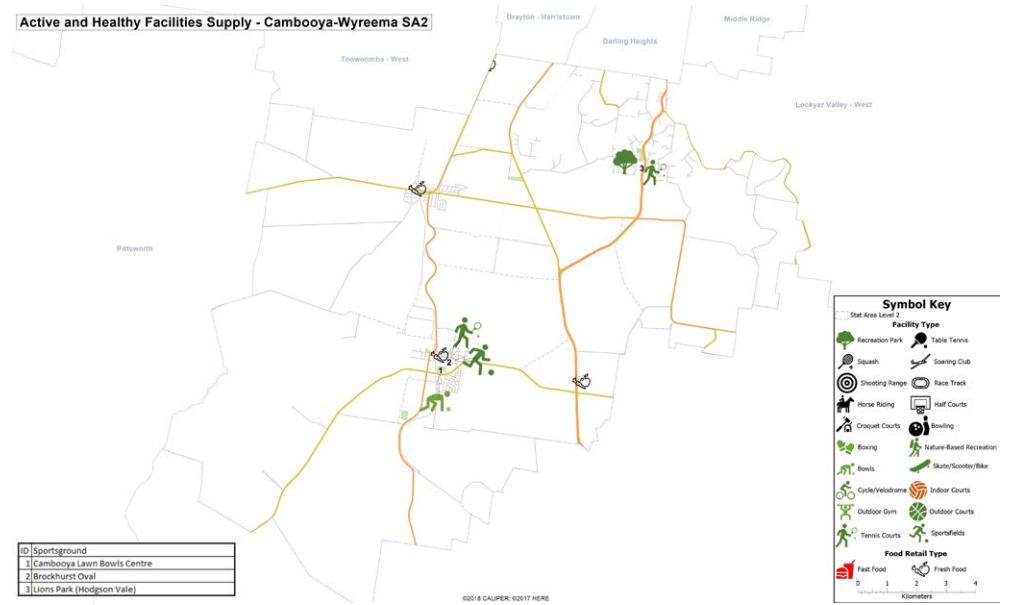
Active and Healthy Facility Supply - Clifton Greenmount SA2



Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Pittsworth SA2



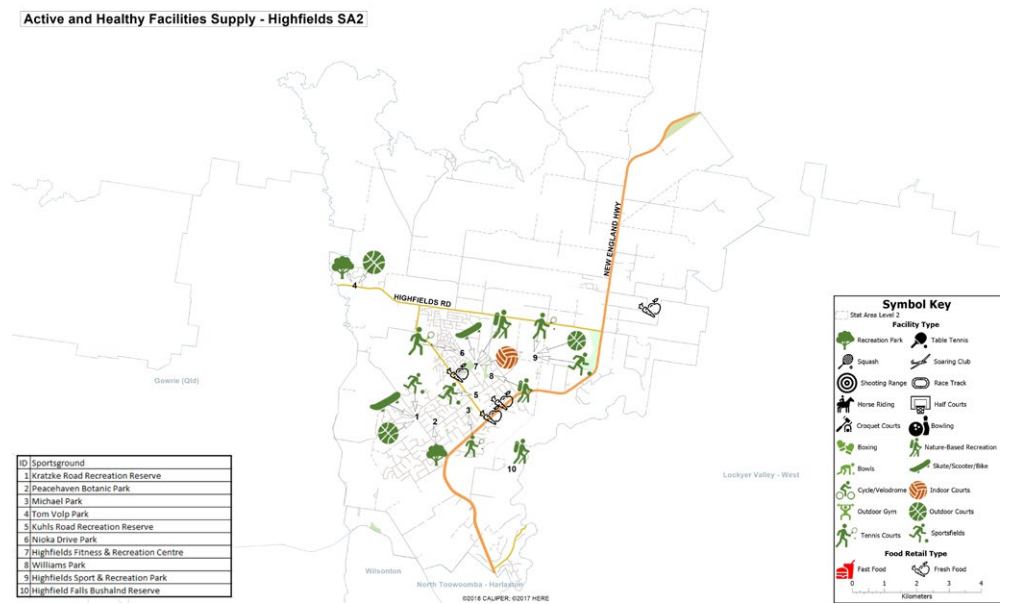
Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Cambooya-Wyreema SA2



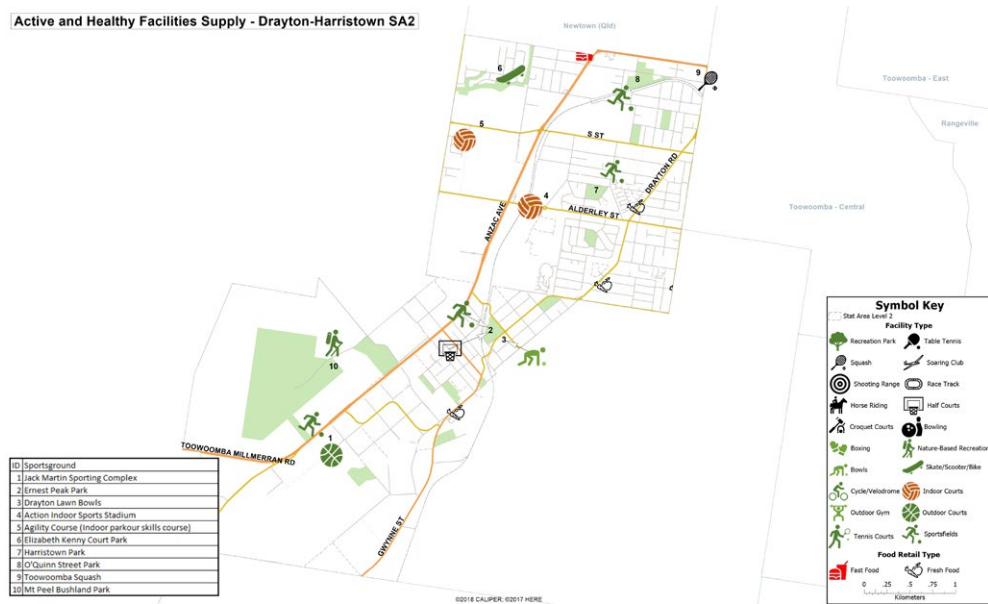
Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Darling Heights SA2



Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Highfields SA2



Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Drayton-Harristown SA2



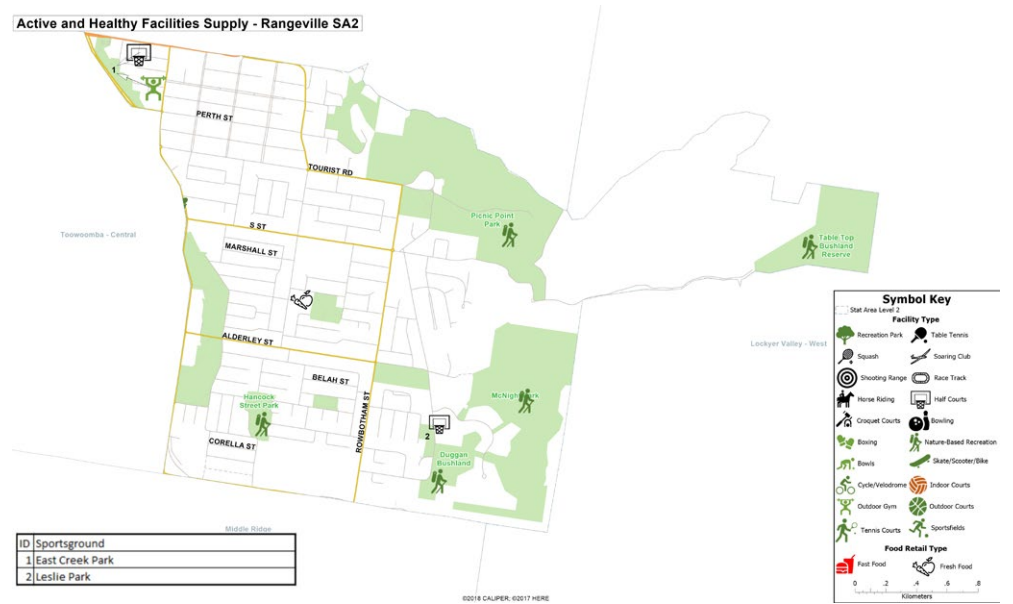
Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Middle Ridge SA2



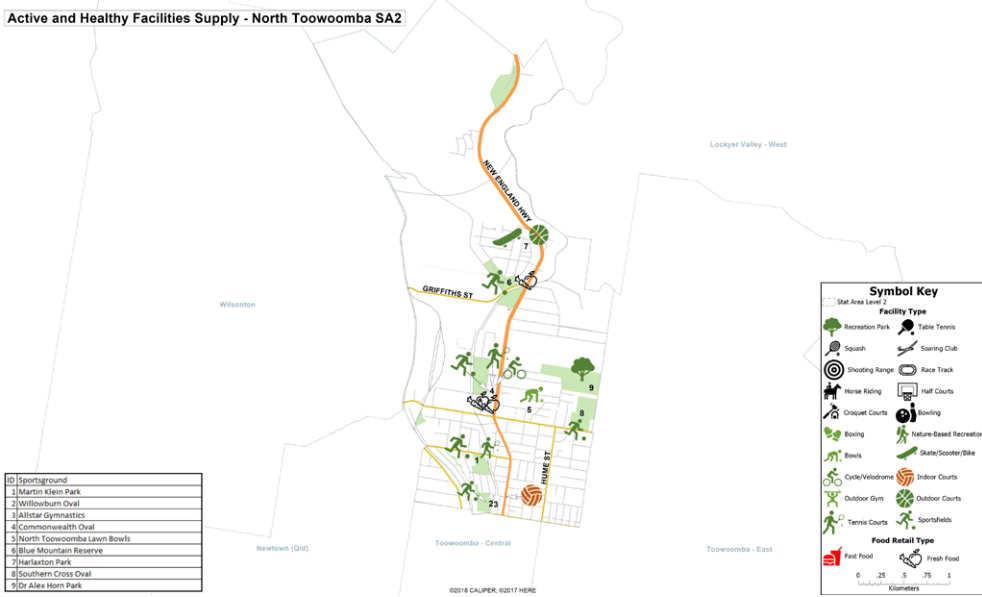
Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Newtown SA2



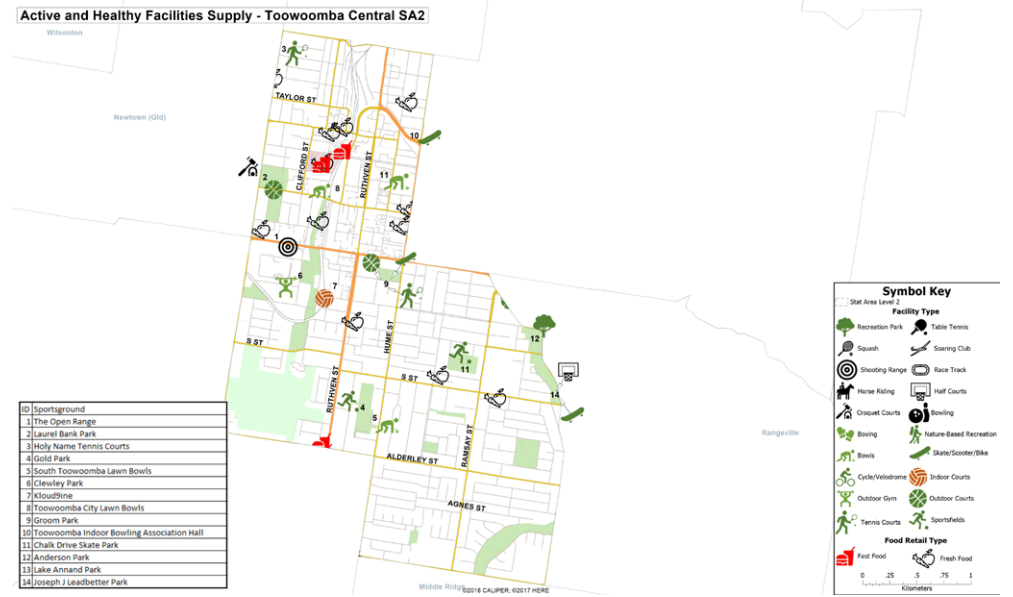
Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Rangeville SA2



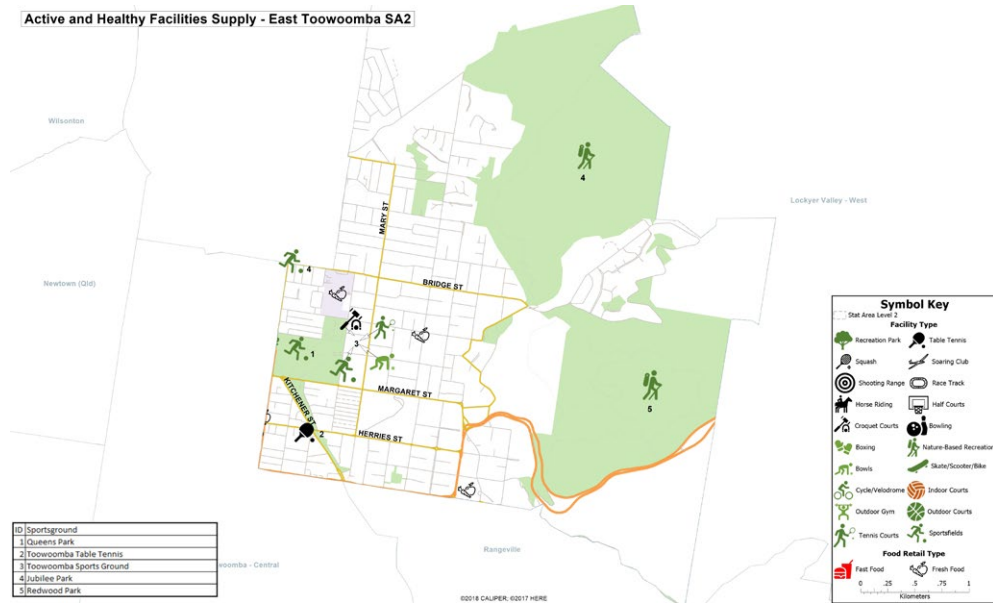
Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - North Toowoomba SA2



Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Toowoomba Central SA2



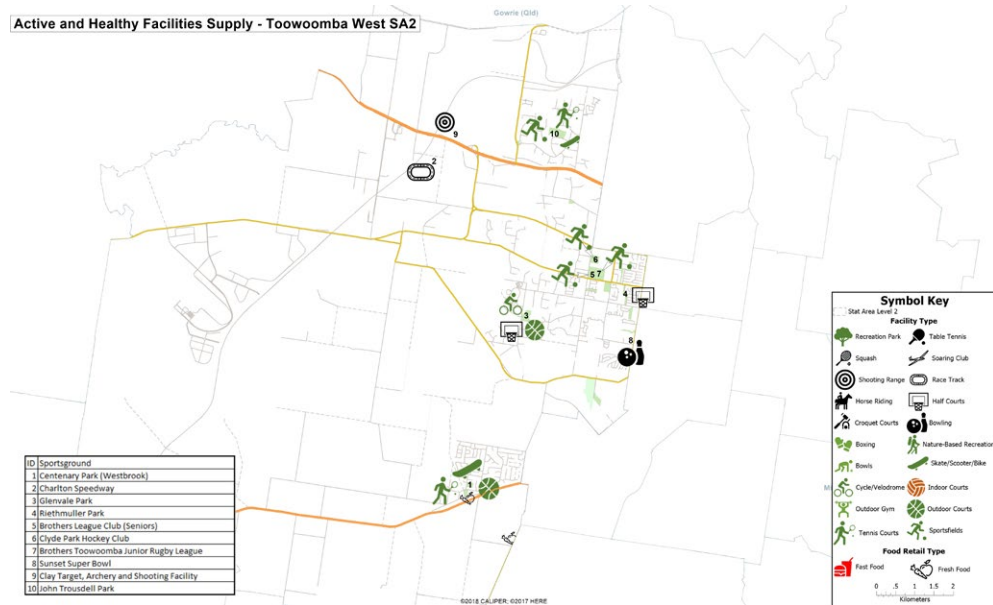
Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - East Toowoomba SA2



Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Wilsonton SA2



Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Toowoomba West SA2



TOOWOOMBA REGION ACTIVATE SURVEY

A recent survey of residents was undertaken to understand current levels of physical activity, most popular activities as well as barriers to participation.



Top 3 activities people want to try or do more of

- Bushwalking / hiking
- Camping
- Walking in a park

Top 3 initiatives that would help people lead healthy and active lifestyles

- Free / low cost facilities
- Footpaths and shared walk / cycle paths
- Fresh and healthy food outlets

Top barriers to participation

- Sport: no options to participate casually in low cost, social and beginner friendly activities
- Active recreation: personal / road safety
- Nature based activities: not being aware of facilities / opportunities

Top 3 forms of active recreation

	Walking around the neighbourhood	Cycling around the neighbourhood	Walking in a park
Adults	1	3	2
Adolescents	1	3	2
Children	1	2	3

Top 3 sports

	Running	Cycling	Swimming	Touch football	Soccer / football
Adults	1	2	3		
Adolescents			1	2	3
Children	3		1		2

Top 3 nature-based activities

- Bushwalking / hiking
- Camping
- Picnicking

Adult males (21%) were almost twice as likely to drink sugary drinks daily compared to adult females (12%)

70% or more of respondents reported experiencing indicators of positive mental wellbeing 'all of the time', or 'often' during the past 2 weeks

Adolescents were less likely to meet the healthy eating guidelines compared to adults and children

More adult males (67%) consumed fast food / takeaway weekly compared to adult females (56%)

Health Behaviours	Children	Adolescents	Adults
Meeting physical activity guidelines	57.4% ¹	37.9% ¹	37.5%
Meeting vegetable consumption guidelines	23%	18%	30%
Meeting fruit consumption guidelines	67.5%	51.5%	53.5%
Sugary drinks consumption (daily)	10%	13%	16.5%
Fast food / takeaway consumption (weekly)	54.5%	55.5%	61.5%

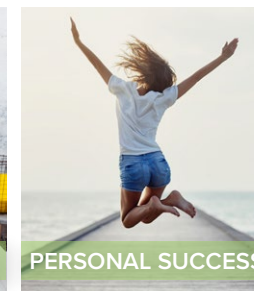
Information recorded from the Activate Survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and hence may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodology. Self-reported surveys can be subject to 'socially desirable responding bias', whereby some respondents may have provided responses they felt were expected, rather than those that accurately reflected their own situation.

¹ Based on Darling Downs data from the Preventive Health Survey 2018 (Queensland Health, 2019)

WHY IS THE SARHL NEEDED?

The benefits of sport, active recreation and healthy living are well documented and include:

- « Promotes social cohesion and inclusion
- « Provides work/ life balance
- « Promotes volunteering
- « Improves mental health
- « Can alleviate symptoms of depression
- « Eases pressure on the health system
- « Fitter children achieve better academic results
- « Children who play sport stay at school longer
- « Sense of belonging
- « Significant cardiovascular and metabolic health benefits in older people
- « Control weight and combat chronic health conditions
- « Encourages the celebration of personal successes
- « Contributes to Social Capital
- « Economic growth through investment, employment, major events and tourism
- « Teaches vital lifelong personal qualities of character, resilience and teamwork
- « Sporting teams can be the heartbeat of local communities.



THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SPORT, ACTIVE RECREATION AND HEALTHY LIVING

PROVIDER

- « Land and facilities for sport and recreation
- « Sport and recreation programs and services
- « Management and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities and services
- « Financial support to sport and recreation organisations

FACILITATOR

- « Connections between community and sport and recreation clubs and providers
- « Partnerships and strategic alliances with agencies and service providers
- « Facilitation of positive and inclusive relationships
- « Organisational development and capacity building of sport and recreation clubs
- « Participation opportunities

ADVOCATE

- « Leadership role
- « Seeks support from other agencies (eg government) to address a sport and recreation need
- « Promoting the sport and recreation interests to decision makers and influencers
- « Promotion of the benefits of physical activity and healthy eating and mental wellbeing

PLANNER

- « Strategic sport and recreation planning
- « Specific planning - facility master planning, feasibility studies, management planning, planning scheme
- « Creating environments and structures that support participation in sport and recreation

REGULATOR

- « Monitoring and enforcing (local laws etc)
- « Contract management, leasing and licensing
- « Permits to external providers (eg commercial operators)



The Toowoomba Region continues to score poorly when it comes to health statistics. Health data indicates that there are high levels of overweight and obese residents in the Toowoomba region and only just over half the population are achieving sufficient levels of physical activity to gain a health benefit¹.

This is despite Toowoomba Regional Council investing in active and healthy living. Through its award-winning CHANGE Project, it provides a range of low-cost activities to encourage residents of the Toowoomba Region to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

Physical inactivity and unhealthy eating will create an unsustainable health burden in the near future. However, programs, such as the CHANGE Project are only part of the solution. The design and layout of where we live, work and play also plays a vital role.

Investing now in creating an environment that supports active and healthy living, that is, our parks, sport and recreation areas and movement networks, will promote health, wellbeing and liveability and ensure more productive economies in the future.

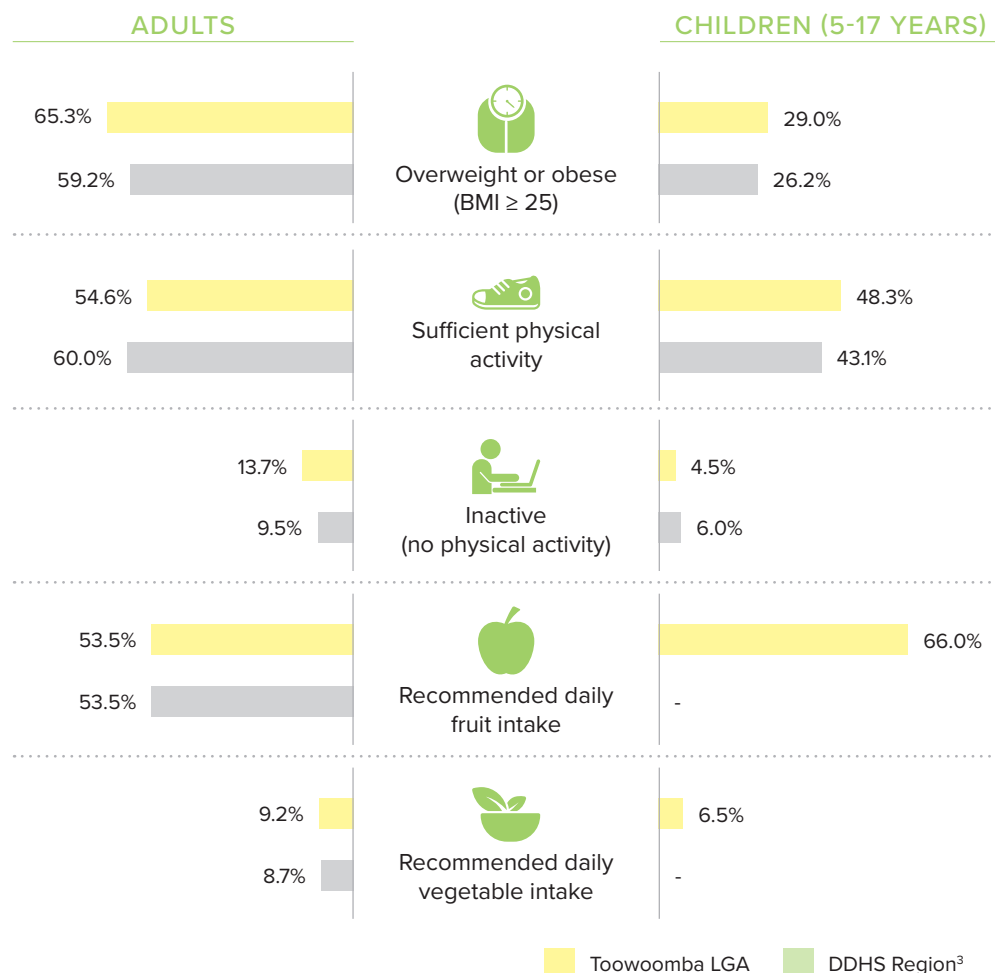
¹ Queensland Health. *The Health of Queenslanders 2018. Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland.* Queensland Government, Brisbane 2018.



EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

The 2017/18 Population Health Survey² estimated that in the Toowoomba LGA **65.3% of adults were overweight or obese** and only half undertook sufficient physical activity. This is on par with levels for the Darling Downs Health Service Region as a whole, but represents higher levels of overweight/ obesity than Queensland as a whole and lower levels of sufficient physical activity.

2017/18 Population Health Survey

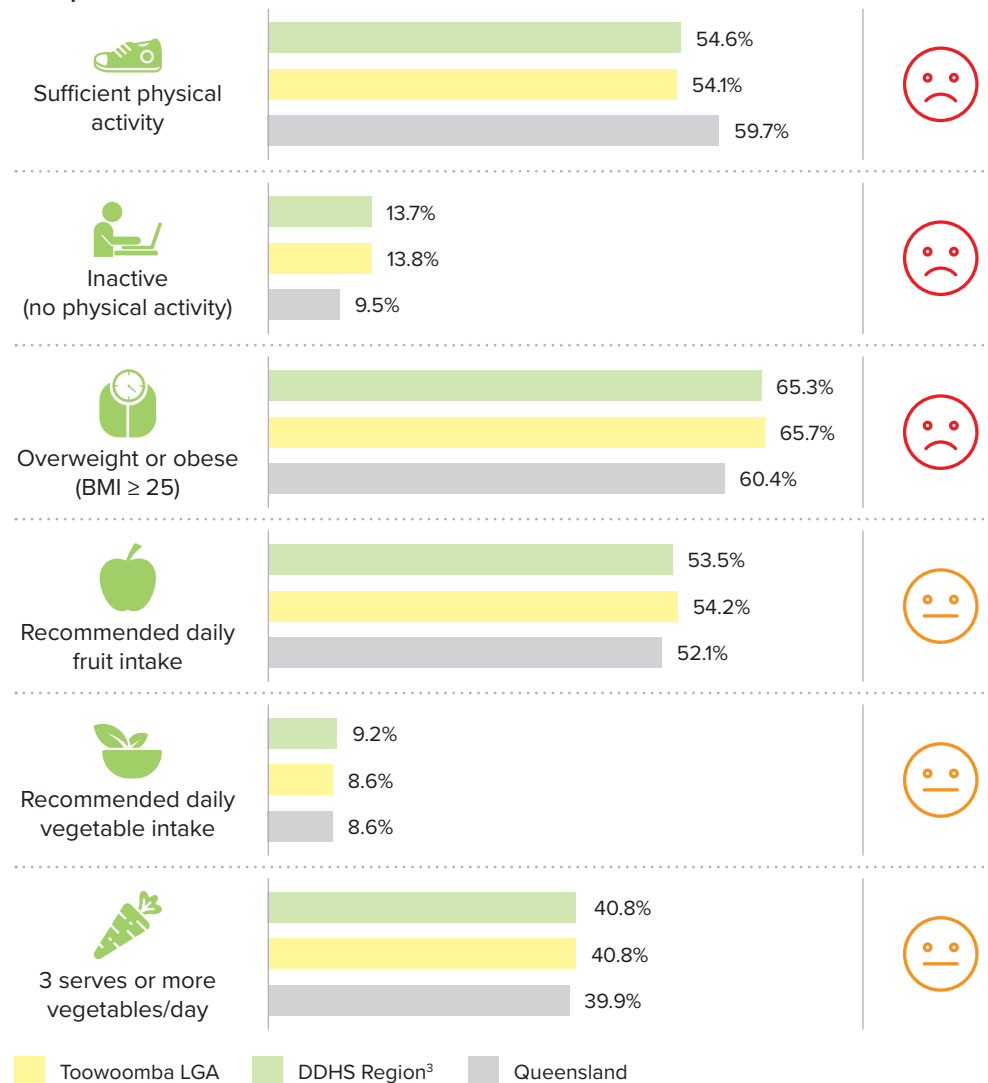


² Queensland Government. Queensland survey analytic system (QSAS), <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/phsurvey>

³ Data for children is not available at the LGA level.

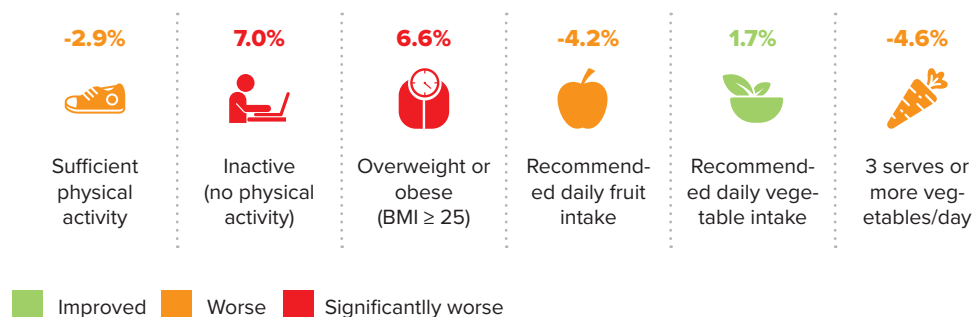
Data comparison of Adult Preventative Health Indicators² for the Toowoomba LGA, the Darling Downs Health Service Region and Queensland for adults aged 18 to 75 years shows that the Toowoomba Region is worse than Queensland in three of the six indicators.

Comparison of Adult Preventative Health Indicators



Comparison of data over a four-year period between 2013/14 and 2017/18 shows that the Toowoomba LGA is worse or significantly worse in five of the six health indicators than four years ago.

Change in healthy living indicators between 2013-14 to 2017-18 in Toowoomba LGA



Analysis of hospital admissions data, SEIFA data and physical activity data from the Chief Health Officers Report, 2018 enables identification of target locations/ suburbs (SA2s) for healthy and active interventions.

	Median Hospital Admissions 2017/18	
	at least 2 times the median for all Toowoomba SA2s combined	at least 1.5 times the median for all Toowoomba SA2s combined
Coronary Heart Disease	« Newtown « Wilsonton	« Drayton – Harristown
Type 2 Diabetes	« Newtown « Wilsonton « Drayton-Harristown « Jondaryan (Oakey) « Toowoomba-Central	« Toowoomba-West « Clifton-Greenmount
Depression	« Rangeville « Newtown « Wilsonton	« Toowoomba-Central
Colon Cancer	« Highfields « Newtown	« Wilsonton « Drayton-Harristown
Breast Cancer	« Newtown « Wilsonton	« Highfields
Falls	« Newtown	« Wilsonton

High socio-economic disadvantage (within state decile 1-3)

- « Wilsonton
- « Newtown
- « Drayton – Harristown
- « Nth T'mba – Harlaxton
- « Crows Nest – Rosalie
- « Jondaryan (Oakey)
- « Darling Heights
- « Toowoomba Central
- « Millmerran
- « Clifton – Greenmount

High socio-economic disadvantage AND hospital admissions at least 1.5 times the median for all Toowoomba SA2s in at least 2 medical conditions

- « Newtown
- « Wilsonton
- « Drayton-Harristown
- « Toowoomba-Central

SA2s within a PHA with high rates of 'low or no exercise' AND with high socio-economic disadvantage OR hospital admissions at least 1.5 times the median in at least 1 medical condition

- « Crows Nest – Rosalie
- « Jondaryan (Oakey)
- « Darling Heights
- « Newtown
- « Nth T'mba – Harlaxton
- « Wilsonton
- « Millmerran
- « Clifton-Greenmount



Priority 1 Target SA2s

Newtown
Wilsonton



Priority 2 Target SA2s

Drayton-Harristown
Toowoomba Central



Priority 3 Target SA2s

Crows Nest – Rosalie
Jondaryan (Oakey)
Darling Heights
North Toowoomba – Harlaxton
Millmerran
Clifton – Greenmount

In Queensland since 2008 there has been an increase in the number of adults that are significantly active, although recent years have seen slower increases.

The Queensland Health report attributes increased walking as a contributor to the improved physical activity levels.

Physical inactivity accounts for:

7.5%

of all deaths in Queensland in 2016

2.3%

of the disability burden in Queensland in 2011.

\$672M

in health sector costs nationally and \$1,135 million in production losses (workforce, household productivity and leisure time).

\$134M

in health sector costs and \$361 million production loss in Queensland.

The National Heart Foundation of Australia has recently released its third edition of the Blueprint for an Active Australia. Some key evidence cited in this report includes:

- « Heart disease remains the single leading cause of death in Australia.
- « Physical activity can significantly reduce heart disease risk and the burden of a range of other chronic diseases, as well as improve mental health.
- « **“Nearly 6 in 10 adults, 3 quarters of seniors and over 8 in 10 children and young people are not active enough for good heart health. This ranks Australia among the world’s most inactive nations.”**

Significant amounts of research in recent years has provided insight into the importance of planning for active and healthy communities. Key considerations include:

- « The importance of addressing and planning for socially disadvantaged people, typically measured by low income, low levels of education, low occupational status or those living in socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- « The importance of addressing and planning for specific population groups that are more likely to be inactive or engage in poor eating habits. These include minority ethnic or cultural backgrounds, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and people living in remote localities.
- « The importance of the local environment in providing opportunities to incorporate activity into daily lifestyles through walkability and accessible transport options.
- « The availability of green spaces, including parks and streetscapes, that are safe, accessible walkable and inviting.
- « Environments that support participation in sport and recreation across the lifespan, from early childhood through to old age.

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

Australia’s Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines⁴ and the Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines recommend:

Physical Activity Recommendations

ADULTS

(18 to 64 years)

- « Doing any physical activity is better than doing none. Start by doing some, and gradually build up to the recommended amount.”
- « 150 to 300 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week, **or**
- « 75 to 150 minutes of vigorous intensity physical activity each week
- « Be active on most, preferably all, days every week.
- « Muscle strengthening activities on at least 2 days each week.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

(5-17 years)

- « 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day involving mainly aerobic activities.
- « Several hours of light physical activities.
- « Vigorous and bone and muscle strengthening activities at least 3 days per week.

YOUNG CHILDREN

(birth to 5 years)

- « Infants to 1 year – interactive floor-based play / 30 minutes of tummy time.
- « Toddlers (1-2 years) – 180 minutes a day doing a variety of energetic activities.
- « Pre-schoolers (3 – 5 years) – 180 minutes a day doing a variety of activities in which 60 minutes is energetic play.

OLDER ADULTS

(65 years +)

- « 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on most, preferably all, days.
- « Be active every day in as many ways as possible and include activities for fitness, strength, balance and flexibility.

⁴ Department of Health, 2019. Australia’s Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines and the Australian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines (<https://www.health.gov.au>)

The Australian Dietary Guidelines⁵ are as follows:

GUIDELINE 1



To achieve and maintain a healthy weight, be physical active and choose amounts of nutritious food and drinks to meet your energy needs.

- Children and adolescents should eat sufficient nutritious foods to grow and develop normally, should be physically active every day and their growth should be checked regularly.
- Older people should eat nutritious foods and keep physically active to help maintain muscle strength and a healthy weight.

GUIDELINE 2



Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods from these five food groups every day:

- Plenty of vegetables of different types and colours, and legumes/beans
- Fruit
- Grain (cereal) foods, mostly wholegrain and/or high cereal fibre varieties, such as breads, cereals, rice, pasta, noodles, polenta, couscous, oats, quinoa and barley
- Lean meats and poultry, fish, eggs, tofu, nuts and seeds, and legumes/beans
- Milk, yoghurt, cheese and/or their alternatives, mostly reduced fat
- Drink plenty of water.

GUIDELINE 3



Limit foods containing saturated fat, added salt, added sugars and alcohol.

- Limit intake of foods high in saturated fat
 - Replace high fat foods which contain predominately saturated fats with foods which contain predominately polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats
 - Low fat diets are not suitable for children under the age of 2 years.
- Limit intake of foods and drinks containing added salt
 - Read labels to choose lower sodium options among similar foods.
 - Do not add salt to foods in cooking or at the table.
- Limit intake of foods and drinks containing added sugars such as confectionary, sugar-sweetened soft drinks and cordials, fruit drinks, vitamin waters, energy and sports drinks.
- If you choose to drink alcohol, limit intake. For women who are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding, not drinking alcohol is the safest option.

GUIDELINE 4



Encourage, support and promote breastfeeding.

GUIDELINE 5



Care for your food; prepare and store it safely.



985 surveys completed

90.8% enjoy walking, cycling or fitness activities
82.4% enjoy sport
71.5% enjoy nature-based activities

Bushwalking is one of the top two most popular activities across all age groups and genders

Top 3 activities people want to try or do more of

- Bushwalking / hiking
- Camping
- Walking in a park

Top 3 initiatives that would help people lead healthy and active lifestyles

- Free / low cost facilities
- Footpaths and shared walk / cycle paths
- Fresh and healthy food outlets

Top barriers to participation

- Sport: no options to participate casually in low cost, social and beginner friendly activities
- Active recreation: personal / road safety
- Nature based activities: not being aware of facilities / opportunities

Top 3 forms of active recreation

	Walking around the neighbourhood	Cycling around the neighbourhood	Walking in a park
Adults	1	3	2
Adolescents	1	3	2
Children	1	2	3

Top 3 sports

	Running	Cycling	Swimming	Touch football	Soccer / football
Adults	1	2	3		
Adolescents			1	2	3
Children	3		1		2

Health Behaviours	Children	Adolescents	Adults
Meeting physical activity guidelines	57.4% ¹	37.9% ¹	37.5%
Meeting vegetable consumption guidelines	23%	18%	30%
Meeting fruit consumption guidelines	67.5%	51.5%	53.5%
Sugary drinks consumption (daily)	10%	13%	16.5%
Fast food / takeaway consumption (weekly)	54.5%	55.5%	61.5%

Information recorded from the Activate Survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and hence may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodology. Self-reported surveys can be subject to 'socially desirable responding bias', whereby some respondents may have provided responses they felt were expected, rather than those that accurately reflected their own situation.

¹ Based on Darling Downs data from the Preventive Health Survey 2018 (Queensland Health, 2019)

Top 3 nature-based activities

For children, adolescents and adults

- Bushwalking / hiking
- Camping
- Picnicking

Adolescents were less likely to meet the healthy eating guidelines compared to adults and children

Adult males (21%) were almost twice as likely to drink sugary drinks daily compared to adult females (12%)

More adult males (67%) consumed fast food / takeaway weekly compared to adult females (56%)

70% or more of respondents reported experiencing indicators of positive mental wellbeing 'all of the time', or 'often' during the past 2 weeks

⁵ National Health and Medical Research Council, Department of Health and Ageing, 2013. "Eat For Health" Australian Dietary Guidelines. Commonwealth of Australia. (<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>)

PLANNING FOR AN ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Active and healthy living requires a co-ordinated inter-agency approach engaging a range of government and private sector partners. Notwithstanding this, Local Government is ideally placed to provide leadership in creating communities for active and healthy living and in turn, generate benefits for individuals, the community and government.

Council can ensure its commitment to active and healthy living is demonstrated and implemented through a range of planning and operational mechanisms including corporate and operational planning, community planning, planning scheme tools and local laws and policies. A high level assessment of Toowoomba Regional Council's mechanisms indicates that:

- « Council demonstrates a clear commitment to active and healthy living through a range of strategic actions contributing to “active and healthy” outcomes in its Corporate Plan. This covers provision of open space and sport and recreation facilities, programs and partnerships and strategic planning and policy development.
- « Council's Planning Scheme currently includes provision for active transport and standards for provision of open space.
- « Council currently has funding programs to support sport and recreation organisations.
- « Council generally has good data to enable analysis of the active and healthy environment (e.g. pathways, open space, community facilities etc.).
- « Council acts on its commitment to active and healthy living by engaging in best practice initiatives, such as the *International Walk 21 Charter*.

Holistic active and healthy planning in the local government context involves much more than program provision and delivery to effectuate behaviour change. It also requires an understanding and development of the influential policy/ regulatory, social and built environments that enable behaviour change to occur.

The National Heart Foundation Healthy Active by Design resource³ identifies eight design features of a community that influence the ability of people to live active and healthy lifestyles. These include:



Utilising *Healthy Active by Design* as a **support resource**, a “high level” assessment was undertaken of:

- « Built infrastructure and facilities that support active and healthy living;
- « Movement networks;
- « Parks and Open Space;
- « Urban design;
- « Food supply.

The assessment was undertaken on an individual township basis for major rural townships within the Region and at an SA2 level for the main Toowoomba area. Information has been recorded in “**Active & Healthy Communities Profiles**”.

³ Heart Foundation. *Healthy Active by Design* (<http://www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au>)



KEY THEMES ACROSS THE TOOWOOMBA REGION

Some common themes emerged throughout the research across the region:

- « The provision, connectivity and maintenance of pathways is a common issue throughout the region.
- « Parks and open spaces are highly valued by the community. Small enhancements to parks would improve their functionality, safety and appeal.
- « Supply of facilities for sport and recreation across the region is generally good. Activation of these spaces is a key challenge, particularly for smaller rural communities that face difficulties in engaging local volunteers and young people.
- « A key challenge is in ensuring facilities, parks and spaces that support active and healthy living remain accessible and inviting to all sectors of the community.
- « The region has a strong sporting culture, but a large proportion of the population is unable to access formal sporting opportunities due to socio-economic factors.
- « Information and communication with the community about facilities and opportunities is critical. There are gaps in knowledge about what facilities and spaces are available, accessibility of facilities and what programs are available. Information is currently not reaching all audiences.
- « There is a vast array of programs and services that support active and healthy living. The challenge lies in ensuring that these programs and services are targeting the right audiences in the right areas of the region and are low-cost, pay-as-you-go, beginner-friendly and provide social, as opposed to competitive, sporting opportunities.
- « There is an extensive amount of knowledge, commitment and passion throughout the professional sector both within Council and externally, however there is strong evidence that internal and external departments, agencies and practitioners are working in isolation. A collaborative and wholistic interagency approach that includes the not-for-profit sector, government agencies and commercial stakeholders is critical to achieving a vision for an active and healthy community.
- « Some preliminary “hotspots” have emerged. These are areas with poorer connectivity of the movement network and parks network, higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage, easier access to fast food clusters, higher incidence of medical conditions and higher proportion of new Australians or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Preliminary Hotspot Areas

- « Oakey
- « Wilsonton
- « Newtown
- « Drayton-Harristown
- « North Toowoomba - Harlaxton
- « Crows Nest
- « Toowoomba Central
- « Darling Heights
- « Millmerran
- « Clifton



ACTIVE AND HEALTHY FRAMEWORK FOR THE TOOWOOMBA REGION

The Toowoomba Regional Council's Active and Healthy Communities vision is:

“A region of active and healthy communities and residents”

We will achieve this vision by focusing on a number of Strategic Goals and Objectives



An active and healthy communities planning framework

- « Enhancing our commitment to active and healthy communities through effective policy and planning mechanisms.
- « Establishing a regional approach to planning for active and healthy communities.
- « Establishing a collaborative and partnership approach to active and healthy living within Council and in partnership with external agencies.



An environment that supports active and healthy lifestyles

- « Provide a network of walking and cycling pathways, bike lanes and trails to encourage and facilitate access to walking and cycling.
- « Ensure access to a range of facilities that support and provide opportunities to be physically active.
- « Provide an accessible, inviting and safe open space network that meets requirements of a diverse range of physical and social activities.



Programs and services that increase physical activity levels

- « Support a range of sustainable and engaging physical activity programs that reach intended target participants across all of the region's communities.
- « Engage with key partners to increase participation in physical activity programs and services.



A well informed, aware and involved community

- « Promote an “active and healthy” image and increase awareness of active and healthy opportunities.
- « Support local communities, schools and clubs to strengthen active and healthy opportunities.



A commitment to healthy eating

- « Promote a consistent healthy eating message across Council facilities and events.
- « Develop partnerships to promote and improve access to healthy eating food choices.



A commitment to implementation of the SARHL Plan

- « Ensure mechanisms are in place to implement the Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Plan.

USING THE PLANNING SCHEME TO CREATE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The Planning Scheme is a key tool for local government in supporting healthy and active lifestyles. Through the development of Strategic Outcomes and Planning Scheme Codes, Council is able to plan for and regulate the use and development of land to ensure it supports the community in leading active and healthy lifestyles.

Active Healthy Communities⁴ resource provides a number of recommended planning scheme inclusions, including Strategic Outcomes and planning scheme provision codes that assist in achieving the objectives of active, healthy communities, specifically in the key areas of physical activity and healthy eating. The table below provides a brief summary of the recommended inclusions; statements regarding the Toowoomba Regional Planning Scheme and whether or not it adequately addresses the recommended content; and recommended actions for consideration.

Recommended Planning Scheme Content	Does the TRC Planning Scheme include this, or include a suitable alternative?
<p>Strategic outcomes that promote physical activity The guidelines provide suggested Strategic Outcomes for Community Identity and Diversity of Access and Mobility. The recommended content is included in the TRC Planning Scheme</p> <p>Recommended Action: Retain the current provisions in the Planning Scheme</p>	<p>The recommended content is included in the TRC Planning Scheme</p>
<p>Active transport infrastructure code – End of Trip Facilities The guidelines provide a recommended code, which has the following purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « To ensure developments provide appropriate end of trip facilities for cyclists and walkers to support an efficient, safe, secure and sustainable transport system. These guidelines may be applied to new development, material change of use or building work for an existing building.</p> <p>Recommended Action: Consider amending the wording of the Transport, Access and Parking Code as follows: <i>“The purpose of the Transport, Access and Parking Code is to ensure development makes appropriate provision for transport, access, parking, servicing and end of trip facilities for cyclists and walkers to meet the needs of development and facilitate and support, as far as practicable, an efficient, safe, secure and sustainable transport system.”</i> Include a Performance Outcome and Acceptable Outcome related to End of Trip Facilities that is in accordance with the Queensland Development Code MP4.1.</p>	<p>The TRC Planning Scheme contains a Transport, Access and Parking Code. The purpose of this code makes mention of “end of trip facilities” however there is no provision in the Assessment benchmarks for end of trip facilities, bicycle parking etc.</p>

Recommended Planning Scheme Content	Does the TRC Planning Scheme include this, or include a suitable alternative?
<p>Desired Standards of Service – Public parks, pedestrian and bicycle facilities The guidelines recommend a Desired Standard of Service for consideration.</p>	<p>Council's Open Space Strategy and associated DSS provide good standards to support active and healthy living. Some inclusions suggested in the guidelines are not included in Council's DSS. These include:</p> <p>Public Parks – Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Within 200m of collector road or higher « Within 100m of bicycle network. <p>Public Parks Ancillary Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Disabled compliant drinking fountains « Shade <p>Walking and Bicycle Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « requires a completed cycle network plan with hierarchy of routes, prioritised routes, designated timing, cost of construction and current value of each link in the network. « include the cost of ancillary facilities and end of trip facilities. <p>Walking and bicycle facilities – Minimum widths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « footpaths 1.5m on every street <p>Walking and bicycle facilities – Support features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « bicycle parking « shade trees « crossing facilities « bridges and culverts « lighting « regulatory, direction and information signage « line marking « seating « drink fountains
<p>Recommended Actions: Consider updating the DSS to include the following: Access to local parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Within 200m of collector road or higher « Within 100m of bicycle network Local Park furniture, consider adding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Drinking fountains to be disabled compliant. « Shade – consider natural shade or small structures over play and picnic nodes. Walking and Bicycle Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Recommended completion of cycle network plan </p>	<p>Walking and Bicycle Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Increase Distributor footpath standard to 1.5m minimum « Increase Distributor cycle path standard to 1.5m minimum <p>Walking and Bicycle Facilities – Support features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Bicycle parking « Shade trees « Crossing facilities « Bridges and culverts « Lighting « Regulatory, directional and information signage « Linemarking « Seating « Drink fountains

⁴ Heart Foundation. Active Healthy Communities Online Resource. www.activehealthycommunities.com.au

Recommended Planning Scheme Content	Does the TRC Planning Scheme include this, or include a suitable alternative?
<p>Strategic Outcomes that promote healthy eating The guidelines provide suggested Strategic Outcomes for Community Identity and Diversity</p>	<p>There is currently no provision in the TRC Planning Scheme to support healthy eating.</p>

Recommended Action:

Consider including the following Strategic Outcomes in Community Identity and Diversity:

1. *“A healthier community through increased access to healthy eating and food choices, baby-care facilities and increased opportunities for sustainable food initiatives such as:

 - community gardens
 - farmer’s markets and fresh produce markets
 - home food production
 - food co-operatives
 - ecologically sustainable farming practices, for example organic, as well as low water and low carbon emission practices
 - city farms
 - protection of good agricultural land.*
2. *Limit access to fast food and unhealthy food through land use planning, including signage regulation.*
3. *Support community actions and farming practices that are sustainable, provide environmental education opportunities, reduce food miles and reduce the local carbon footprint (Note: Food miles is a term which refers to the distance food is transported from the place of production to reaching the consumer. It is one dimension used in assessing the environmental impact of food).*

Recommended Planning Scheme Content	Does the TRC Planning Scheme include this, or include a suitable alternative?
<p>Breastfeeding and baby-care facilities code The guidelines suggest a recommended code insert or planning scheme policy applicable to new development or modified developments that are required to provide amenities under the Building Code of Australia.</p>	<p>The TRC Planning Scheme currently has no provision for breastfeeding and baby-care facilities.</p>

Recommended Action:

Consider inserting the following information into an existing land use code or as a planning scheme policy:

1. *The purpose of the Breastfeeding and baby-care facilities code is to develop a network of breastfeeding and baby-care facilities that is of adequate design, size and is appropriately equipped.*
2. *The purpose of the code will be achieved through the overall outcome:

 - « The inclusion of appropriate breastfeeding and baby care facilities in new development or modified developments that are required to provide public amenities under the Building Code of Australia.*

Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes
<p>PO1 New developments or modified developments that provide public amenities also include a baby-care or parent-care facility that is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Of adequate size and design; and 2. Convenient and private; and 3. Comfortable and safe; and 4. Appropriately equipped; and 5. Easy to find. 	<p>AO1.1 The facility has a minimum dimension of 12m2; AND</p> <p>AO1.2 The facility is easily accessed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the footpath or main circulation area (such as foyer or food court); and 2. Via a manual self-opening door; and 3. With the assistance of signage and markings; AND <p>AO1.3 The facility includes the design features as per the Breastfeeding and Baby Care Facility Planning Scheme Policy (see following).</p> <p>Planning Scheme Policy – Design Features for Breastfeeding Baby Care Facilities As a minimum, breastfeeding and baby care facilities shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilities for hand washing and washing of equipment; and 2. Hand drying facilities; and 3. Moveable or comfortable chairs; and 4. Pram circulation; and 5. Easy access to toilet; and 6. Power points; and 7. Waste disposal; and 8. No advertising of artificial formula or toddler follow-on formula. <p><i>In addition to the above, the facilities may also provide one or more of the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access for carers who need to care for infants without interfering with the privacy of breastfeeding women; 2. Food preparation area separate to nappy change area, with bottle warming facilities; 3. Provision of cleansing wipes for cleaning baby change table; 4. Microwave; 5. A minimum door entry size of one metre; 6. Nappy disposal unit; 7. Hot water thermostat regulator on taps; 8. Change bench within arms reach of taps so baby can remain attended; 9. Dispenser machine to buy disposal nappies; 10. Dispenser machine for paper cups; 11. Toddler toilet with low mirror, low wash basin with automatic cut off taps, no automatic had during facilities and a door able to be pushed open from the inside.

Recommended Planning Scheme Content	Does the TRC Planning Scheme include this, or include a suitable alternative?
<p>Community supported local food systems and community supported agriculture residential unit developments code</p> <p>The guidelines provide the following code inserts for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Residential unit developments code insert « Retirement villages code insert 	<p>The TRC Planning Scheme currently does not enable support for local food systems and community supported agriculture.</p>

Recommended Action:	
Consider including the following codes in the Planning Scheme:	
<i>Residential unit developments code</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The purpose of this code is to promote the provision and use of communal garden areas and edible landscapes in residential unit developments. 2. The purpose of the code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes; 3. The provision of open space that can be used as a communal garden. 	
Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes
<p>PO1 Residents have access to a common open space area, which has the potential to be developed as communal food garden or edible landscape.</p>	<p>AO1.1 A minimum of 35% of the site is landscaped with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas of deep planting; and 2. At least one communal recreational feature (such as a swimming pool or tennis court); and 3. An area with raised garden beds, at least 700mm off the ground with a solid edge of at least 150mm suitable for food planting, with a minimum of 0.25m² per unit, with a maximum depth of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.25m where the beds can be accessed from three or four sides; or 1m where beds can be accessed from one or two sides; AND <p>AO1.2 Water connections within 10m of garden bed/s; OR</p> <p>AO1.3 Sufficient capacity is retained within the building design to enable communal garden areas to be redeveloped as a community garden when desired.</p>
<p>PO2 Access to at least one common open space area is suitable for wheelchairs and other mobility aids.</p>	<p>AO2.1 No acceptable measures specified.</p>

Recommended Planning Scheme Content	Does the TRC Planning Scheme include this, or include a suitable alternative?
<i>Retirement Villages Code</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The purpose of this code is to promote the design of retirement villages to create supportive environments for physical activity and healthy eating; 2. The purpose of the code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes; 3. The provision of open space that can be used as a communal garden. 	
Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes
<p>PO1 The retirement village provides residents with a range of on-site services and facilities.</p>	<p>AO1.1 The retirement village incorporates a range of ancillary services and facilities, suited to the function of the facility and the needs of residents, such as lounge areas, library/ reading room, TV games/ recreation room, pharmacy, meeting space/s, hairdresser and convenience store, communal food gardens.</p>
<p>PO2 Access to at least one common open space area is suitable for wheelchairs and other mobility aids.</p>	<p>AO2.1 The area of the garden beds are a minimum of 0.5m² per unit, with a maximum depth of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2m where the beds can be accessed from at least three sides; or 2. 1m where the beds can be accessed from one or two sides; AND <p>AO2.2 The garden bed/s are raised a minimum of 700mm from the ground with a solid edge of at least 150mm; AND</p> <p>AO2.3 The garden beds are located within 300m of any unit; AND</p> <p>AO2.4 Water connections within 10m of garden bed/s; OR</p> <p>AO2.5 Sufficient capacity is retained within the building design to enable communal garden areas to be redeveloped as a community garden in the future.</p>
<p>PO3 Site planting of the retirement village aids orientation, way-finding and movement.</p>	<p>AO3.1 The site plan and circulation pattern is easy to identify, remember and explain to visitors with clear unit addresses within the conventional system of streets, entries; AND</p> <p>AO3.2 Unit design provides a clear and consistent distinction between the front and back doors of the units; AND</p> <p>AO3.3 Natural and built landmarks and other 'cues' – such as colour and decorative planting – give identity to different parts of a large site; AND</p> <p>AO3.4 A clear, interpretive, illuminated sign and site map is provided at the main site entry, at a scale suitable to the surrounding neighbourhood.</p>
<p>PO4 Access to a least one common open space area is suitable for wheelchairs and other mobility aids.</p>	<p>AO4.1 No acceptable measures specified.</p>
<p>PO5 Retirement/ aged care villages are designed with development addressing the public streets and not provided in a gated street format.</p>	<p>AO5.1 No acceptable measures specified</p>

Recommended Planning Scheme Content	Does the TRC Planning Scheme include this, or include a suitable alternative?
<p>Signage and advertising devices code The guidelines provide a suggested code modified from the Noosa Plan Advertising and Devices Code to regulate the location and size of advertising devices in relation to unhealthy food.</p>	<p>The TRC Planning Scheme currently contains a comprehensive advertising devices code, however this does not contain performance outcomes or acceptable outcomes regulating signage related to unhealthy food.</p>
<p>Recommended Action: Consider adding the following performance outcome and acceptable outcome to the Signage and Advertising Device Code:</p>	
Performance Outcomes	Acceptable Outcomes
<p>PO10 Signage and advertising devices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not promote fast food or unhealthy eating options; and 2. Are located away from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « public transport interchanges; and « educational establishments. 	<p>PO10.1 Signage and advertising devices that promote food are located a minimum of 400m from**:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child care centres, educational establishments (being a primary school or high school), playgrounds, sporting facilities; and 2. A public transport interchange; and <p>PO10.2 Advertising of food is not located on bus stops and street furniture**.</p> <p>** Due to the difficulties in defining fast food or unhealthy food, the acceptable measure for this performance criteria refers to all food and beverage advertising. Should an applicant want to place advertising within the identified locations, the applicant will be required to demonstrate that the signage meets the acceptable measure – which makes reference to fast food and unhealthy eating.</p>

THE MERITS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community gardens have become increasingly popular both in Australia and internationally as a means of engaging communities in growing food for personal use. Community gardens are defined as:

“places where people come together to grow fresh food, to learn, relax and make new friends.”⁵

Research indicates that the benefits of community gardening are extensive and include social, economic and environmental benefits. Some of these include:

<div style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center;"> SOCIAL </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Providing an opportunity for participation in physical activity and therefore improving health and wellbeing; « Increasing social cohesion and connectedness by providing opportunities for interaction between a wide range of individuals from a variety of age groups, ethnic groups, religious groups, cultural groups; « Sharing of knowledge and skills between individuals and groups in the community; « Fostering enjoyment of the outdoors and enabling development of new friendships; « Mental health benefits related to improved social connection, participation in outdoor activities, enabling relaxation and learning and creating and personal and psychological fulfilment. 	<div style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center;"> ECONOMIC </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Fostering food and economic security by providing access to locally grown foods that in turn reduces household food costs. « Providing local enterprise opportunities to sell produce (e.g. farmer’s markets, food co-operatives and food exchanges);
	<div style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center;"> ENVIRONMENTAL </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Activation of underutilised open spaces and improving the aesthetics of local landscapes; « Increasing reuse of organic waste, promoting recycling and sustainable farming practices; « Storing carbon and reducing fossil fuel use; « Supporting environmental education and increasing eco-literacy;

⁵ Australian City Farms & Community Gardens Network. www.communitygarden.org.au

Essentially, community gardens create a sense of place and identity and over time, the benefits of working together results in development of a strong sense of community. Furthermore, research shows that a sense of community fosters a safer and more constructive environment. A study of nine public housing estates found that community food gardening was an effective strategy in reducing the incidence of crime in local communities⁶.

Community gardens can be developed on land owned by local government, schools, churches and state land and generally are either shared gardens where gardeners work together on the whole garden and share the produce; or allotment gardens where each gardener has their own plot; or a combination of the two approaches. Well managed community gardens that are supported by an active and engaged community and backed by a strong policy context can provide a wealth of social and health benefits to communities.

It is critical that community gardens are inclusive spaces that enable people from diverse backgrounds to participate in healthy food production. They should be welcoming of all members of the community, have equitable access and encourage a sense of belonging, safety and support⁷.

It is recommended that Council develop a Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines as part of an overall Food Strategy for the region. This should include:

- « Vision and policy context
- « Community garden models, considering:
 - types of community gardens
 - design principles
 - management approaches
 - tenure
- « Roles and responsibilities of Council, community groups/ lessees, participants
- « Potential locations for community gardens
- « Site selection criteria

Further information on community gardens and examples of community gardens policies, strategies and management approaches by other local governments can be found at the following locations:

Local Government/ Agency	Resource	Web Link
Australian City Farms & Community Gardens Network	Various resources	https://communitygarden.org.au/
ACT Government	Guide to Community Gardens in the ACT: Policy and Site Selection Criteria	https://www.planning.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/898443/Guide_to_Community_Gardens_in_the_ACT_-_ACCESS.pdf
Logan City Council	Community Garden Toolkit including Application Forms and Management Plan	https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/community-support/community-development/community-gardens
Redland City Council	Community Gardens Strategy	www.redland.qld.gov.au
Cairns City Council	Community Gardens Guidelines	www.cairns.qld.gov.au
Brisbane City Council	Brisbane Community Garden Guide	www.brisbane.qld.gov.au
Food Fairness Illawarra	Various resources	https://foodfairnessillawarra.org.au/



⁶ Dr Bruce Judd & Dr Rob Samuels, AHURI UNSW-EWS Research Centre. Cited in Sydney Food Fairness Alliance Discussion Sheet.

⁷ ACT Government (2016). Guide to Community Gardens in the ACT: Policy and Site Selection Criteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Active & Healthy Leadership & Collaboration	
Recommendations	Rationale
Ensure Council's Corporate Plan continues to support a commitment to active and healthy living.	The success of this planning will ultimately depend on the support mechanisms in place to ensure implementation. Many strategic actions outlined in Council's Corporate Plan support active and healthy living and continued commitment is essential. There is evidence throughout Council of departments operating in "silos". It will be essential to the success of the plan to ensure that all Council departments are collaborating to achieve active and healthy outcomes.
Establish mechanisms to ensure active and healthy living is embedded into and considered across all Council departments.	
Continue to develop and strengthen an internal SARHL Working Group with representatives across a range of Council departments to ensure cross-Council collaboration and support.	
Create strategic alliances with other government and non-government agencies to provide high level leadership and support for the SARHL Plan.	

Planning and Policies for Active and Healthy Living	
Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Utilise Council's Planning Scheme to support active and healthy living. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Including a Signage and Advertising Device Code and Location Code to limit access to and promotion of energy-dense and nutrition-poor foods. « Amending the wording of the Transport, Access and Parking Code to ensure developments provide appropriate end of trip facilities for cyclists and walkers to support an efficient, safe, secure and sustainable transport system. « Updating the Desired Standards of Service - Public parks, pedestrian and bicycle facilities to better support active and healthy living. Key considerations for inclusion are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to local parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within 200m of collector road or higher - Within 100m of bicycle network Local Park furniture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drinking fountains to be disabled compliant. - Shade – consider natural shade or small structures over play and picnic nodes. Walking and Bicycle Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase Distributor footpath standard to 1.5m minimum - Increase Distributor cycle path standard to 1.5m minimum Walking and Bicycle Facilities – Support features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bicycle parking - Shade trees - Crossing facilities - Bridges and culverts - Regulatory, directional and information signage. - Lighting - Linemarking - Seating - Drink fountains « Including Strategic Outcomes that promote healthy eating into the "Strategic Outcomes for Community Identity and Diversity". « Including a Breastfeeding and baby-care facilities code and planning scheme policy applicable to new development of modified developments that are required to provide amenities under the Building Code of Australia. « Including a residential unit development code insert and a retirement villages code insert to ensure space is provided in medium to high density residential developments for establishment of a community garden. « A design Reconfiguring a Lot (RaL) code/ policy for ensuring new developments/ significant upgrades are supportive of active and healthy living. 	<p>The Planning Scheme is Council's core tool to facilitate desired environmental outcomes that support active and healthy living. The Heart Foundation, through its "active healthy communities" resource recommends development of codes that ensure planning schemes support healthy people and places.</p> <p>The Queensland Government's RaL Code can be incorporated into Planning Schemes to assist in ensuring attractive, accessible and safe communities based on good urban design principles.</p>

Planning and Policies for Active and Healthy Living	
Recommendations	Rationale
Develop a 'guide to creating healthy and active communities' for developers.	New developments provide the ideal opportunity to ensure planning for healthy and active communities occurs at the outset. Providing guidance to developers will support and enhance their inclusion of active and healthy mechanisms.
Develop (and require application of) a fit-for-purpose health impact assessment (HIA) tool for new places, projects, programs and policies to ensure positive (or at least neutral) effect on community health and wellbeing.	A HIA at the early stages of planning will help to ensure that active and healthy considerations are considered in early decision-making. Depending on the nature of the project, the HIA should be undertaken through a collaborative approach involving relevant internal and external stakeholders/ agencies, preferably through recommended interagency networks.
In collaboration with key active and healthy partners/ stakeholders (e.g. PHN, Qld Health, USQ) develop a full set of active and healthy community indicators to be used to source data at a minimum of SA2 level and to map and measure performance over time and identify priority areas for improvement. These indicators should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Be consistent with Australian Institute of Health and Welfare indicators to ensure the ability to compare data at state and national levels. « Include, as a minimum: health status indicators and determinants of health indicators (e.g. socio-economic factors, environmental factors, behavioural factors etc.). « Be assessed initially to create a benchmark for the Toowoomba region and repeated every four years (preferably to coincide with the AIHW's national biennial assessment years). 	Some data on active and healthy indicators exists, however the availability of data is inconsistent, making it impossible to measure and compare data with confidence. Determination of meaningful data and collection at a minimum of SA2 level (or preferably lower) will enable active and healthy stakeholders to measure and track progress of interventions based on solid evidence and identify priority areas for future intervention.
Develop a Food Policy/ Strategy to provide a vision and framework and guide decision making in relation to food supply, food access and food security across the Toowoomba region.	Access to fresh, nutritious food is an important contributor to general health and active and healthy communities. Development of a Food Strategy will enable Council to strengthen its commitment to food security and to work proactively with key stakeholders to identify and implement strategies to achieve sustainable food provision that contributes to an active and healthy community.
As part of, or subsequent to, the development of the Food Strategy, develop a policy and guidelines on community gardens within the Toowoomba region.	Well designed, planned and managed community gardens provide a wealth of social and health benefits. A Community Gardens policy and guidelines will help to contribute the long-term viability of community gardens.

Programs and Services that Enhance Active and Healthy Lifestyles	
Recommendations	Rationale
Continue to provide programs that aim to increase participation in physical activity, and improve healthy eating and positive mental wellbeing. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Seeking funding and/ or sponsorship and providing additional resources to continue to provide programs and to expand the programs on offer. « Ensuring programs target priority population groups and locations identified through the SARHL research. « Expanding the suite of programs on offer (subject to resource and funding availability) to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Partnering with sporting clubs to deliver regular, low-cost, pay-as-you-go, beginner-friendly, social sporting opportunities; – Online healthy eating programs (e.g. school holiday nutrition workshops and cooking lessons; learn-to-grow fruit and vegetable initiatives, trial Healthy Plates initiative in partnership with PHN and Qld Health etc. – Programs targeted at enhancing positive mental wellbeing. These should focus on providing opportunities for social interaction, encouraging physical activity outdoors and interventions that link physical activity with social supports, develop skills and relationships and enhance self esteem. 	Research indicates that local and community-based programs and initiatives are key interventions in improving physical activity levels. Free/ low cost programs for target populations are a key approach in getting people active and healthy. Ideally, programs should target priority areas and priority population groups and facilitate change towards long term sustainable participation. Programs can be one-off activities/ events targeted at specific populations and in specific areas to get them started and to raise awareness of spaces and facilities for physical activity. Longer term sustainability can be achieved through establishing partnerships with existing providers. Toowoomba Regional Council's CHANGE program is an excellent initiative that addresses the one-off and more sustainable programming models. In consideration of Council's limited available budget to support CHANGE project programs, it is imperative, if increased physical activity levels are to be achieved over the longer term, that programs offered target specific priority population groups and localities and that links are provided to local providers.
Continue to deliver accessible and sustainable programs in partnership with local providers across the region via the CHANGE Project to facilitate Use programs as a stimulus for regular sustainable participation by facilitating and links to club/ private providers.	
Continue to advocate for and facilitate provision of programs to high priority active and healthy populations and suburbs by engaging with external providers via the CHANGE Project. Continue to provide incentives (i.e. free/ subsidised venue hire and promotional support in return for low-cost regular classes) to external providers delivering CHANGE Project activities and providing incentives to deliver programs in these areas. For example, reduced hire fees for Council facilities if a provider targets a high priority area.	
Consider establishing (and seek funding, sponsorship and resources to establish), a rewards program for Toowoomba Region residents that provides incentive to commence participation in active and healthy programs. For example, rewards may include free sessions or discounted fees once participants reach a certain number of sessions, yearly prize draws for participants that complete a certain amount of sessions etc.	



An Environment that Supports Active and Healthy Lifestyles

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Ensure sport and recreation facilities across the region are accessible and functional, providing a range of opportunities to be physically active for the whole community (refer to SARHL Plan - Sports Facilities).</p>	<p>Facilities that provide physical activity opportunities are important in creating an environment that supports active and healthy lifestyles. They provide opportunities for the community to engage in organised activities as well as providing opportunities for social interaction and contributing to a sense of place, which can further facilitate active and healthy lifestyles.</p>
<p>Continue to implement the Open Space Strategy and continue to provide and embellish an accessible, inviting and safe park and open space network that meets the requirements of a diverse range of physical and social activities and is connected and accessible . Parks and open spaces should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Include embellishments that support active living, such as landscaping, park furniture (seats, drinking fountains) and lighting. « Be well maintained. « Be distributed equitably across neighbourhoods. « Be easily accessible via walking, cycling or public transport. « Provide for multiple uses and activities. « Provide for better integration of sport, recreation parks, bushland parks and natural areas. 	<p>Research shows that parks “build healthy communities by creating stable neighbourhoods and strengthening community development...they offer opportunities for recreation to at-risk and low-income children, youth and families who might not be able to afford them elsewhere...and provide places in neighbourhoods where people can experience a sense of community.”</p> <p>Council's existing open space strategy recognises the physical and psychological wellbeing benefits of open space provision, and through a number of nominated functions, goals and objectives, demonstrates a strong focus on active and healthy living.</p>

An Environment that Supports Active and Healthy Lifestyles	
Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Provide or advocate for provision of a connected, safe, functional and attractive network of walking and cycling pathways, bike lanes and trails to encourage and facilitate walking and cycling for active transport and recreation . This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Off-road pedestrian and cycle routes. « Connectivity to local destinations, such as parks, shops, schools, community facilities. « Support infrastructure such as lighting, way-finding signage, end-of-trip facilities, water bubblers with bottle fillers and trees for shade. « Inclusion of active transport infrastructure as trunk infrastructure in the Transport Network in the Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) in its own right. « Undertaking specific modelling for the active transport network. « Identification of key active transport corridors and development of a land acquisition strategy. « Planning for movement and place. 	<p>Walking and cycling was a common theme throughout the research for the SARHL Plan. The Heart Foundation Active Healthy Communities resource notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Good urban design and land use at a street level (such as improved lighting, ease and safety of street crossings, pathway connectivity, presence of traffic calming structures, aesthetic enhancements) increase physical activity levels by 35%. « Good urban design and land use at the community scale can increase physical activity levels by 161%. <p>While Toowoomba has a reasonable supply of well connected walk and cycle pathways, a regional approach for planning to improve the connectivity and functionality of the network is required.</p>
<p>Develop a regional walking and cycling strategy that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Analysis of the existing walking and cycling situation within the Toowoomba region « Consideration of walking and cycling trends and community needs « Network planning that includes route hierarchies and priority actions (i.e. whole of region and township focus) and is consistent with the 2016 DTMR Principal Cycle Network Plan « Pedestrian and cycle facility treatment guidelines « Network mapping « Investigation into the potential to develop ‘bike share’ and ‘scooter share’ schemes in Toowoomba. This should include analysis of the built environment to determine suitability for such a scheme and recommended improvements to develop the environment to support such schemes. 	

An Environment that Supports Active and Healthy Lifestyles	
Recommendations	Rationale
<p>As part of the Food Policy/ Strategy (refer to Planning and Policies for Active and Healthy Living) create environments that are supportive of healthy eating. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « GIS mapping of all healthy and unhealthy food options so that data may be easily overlaid with demographic and health data to continue to identify priority areas for intervention. « Ensuring access to fresh water in all public spaces via drinking bubbler and bottle fillers. « Policies requiring community activities and events to provide healthy food options. « Working with sporting clubs and community groups to ensure provision of healthy food options through their canteens. « Supporting initiatives that involve producing, sharing and swapping fresh produce. « Supporting establishment of community gardens in schools and public places. « Working with local food outlets, such as restaurants and cafes to improve the availability and identification of healthy food options on their menus. « Consider incentive programs to attract fresh food providers such as supermarkets and grocery stores to neighbourhoods that are underserved in terms of fresh food supply. 	<p>Research suggests that local government are well positioned to stimulate positive change in food environments in communities and have a strong impact on people’s health and wellbeing. Through strategic leadership, local governments can play a role in both increasing access to healthy foods and reducing access to unhealthy foods.</p>
<p>Ensure through relevant planning strategies, such as the Open Space Strategy and the Street and Park Tree Policy, that priority is given to creating environments that provide quality, user-friendly and diverse green spaces to enable people to easily be active and therefore support active living and positive mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>Research shows that access to quality green space has a positive impact on mental health, particularly in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas.</p>

A Well Informed, Aware and Involved Community	
Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Provide additional resources to develop an awareness raising/ marketing plan for active and healthy initiatives to ensure a consistent active and healthy image across facilities, programs and services; consistent messages and broad reach.</p>	<p>A key issue that emerged consistently through the research was the lack of awareness of physical activity opportunities and the lack of information about what is available. In addition to information about opportunities, there is also a need to reinforce active and healthy social marketing messages to improve knowledge and understanding of the National Guidelines related to physical activity and healthy eating. Information needs to take multiple forms including, online social media promotion, improved signage at facilities and spaces, promotional resources, and ‘human’ knowledge to facilitate word of mouth.</p>
<p>Ensure adequate informative and directional signage to facilities and spaces that offer active and healthy opportunities.</p>	
<p>Create an Active and healthy online platform (with link from Council’s homepage) that provides detailed information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Maps and brochures showing walk cycle, bushwalking and mountain biking networks « Nature based recreation parks « Sports, adventure and health & fitness facilities « Clubs, associations, relevant external agencies and provider details « Recreation parks, including description of accessibility provisions « Regular and accessible active and healthy programs. 	
<p>Explore opportunities to develop an Active and Healthy App that provides information about facilities, programs and services that support active and healthy living in the Toowoomba Region (as outlined above) and enables tracking of active and healthy participation. Link to the proposed rewards program for Toowoomba Region residents that provides incentive to participate in active and healthy programs.</p>	



Region-Wide Recommendations	
Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Undertake active and healthy assessments and create regional profiles for the remaining regional townships now undertaken in the initial development of this plan.</p>	<p>The development of this plan included the main Toowoomba CBD and a number of key regional townships as identified by Council staff. In order to ensure an inclusive, regional approach, those townships not assessed should be addressed over time as funding and resources permit.</p>
<p>Continue to undertake extensive education, promotion and awareness raising strategies and increase the reach of marketing and promotion to ensure greater awareness of opportunities for participation in active and healthy initiatives.</p> <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Development of an awareness raising plan; « Identification and use of ‘champions’ within local communities to promote opportunities by ‘word of mouth’; « Use of online tools including but not limited to popular (and ‘trendy’) social media sites that reach all ages. This should include Instagram and Facebook as a minimum; Council’s website; Local community online group platforms and websites (e.g. local community facebook pages etc.) « Use of traditional media tools including print, radio, television and maildrops. « The use of local “ambassadors” (i.e. successful local sportspeople, community leaders, identities) with a passion for active and healthy lifestyles to participate in and promote opportunities. 	<p>“Not aware of local opportunities” was consistently raised in the Activate Survey as a key barrier to participation. In addition, localised consultation and research for this project indicated that many people are not aware of the opportunities available to them, or where to seek information.</p> <p>Council provides a range of excellent information and promotional material, however there is a need to ensure greater reach of this material through diverse promotional avenues.</p>

Region-Wide Recommendations	
Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity and safety of the movement network throughout the region by ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Completion of priority/ obvious gaps in the existing network; « Connections are provided to all key community destinations including parks, sportsfields, schools, shops and community facilities; « Lighting of all pathways, particularly those traversing open space; « Implementation of a regular program of pathway maintenance. « Provision of support facilities at key locations, including seating, water bubblers, and end of trip facilities. « Provision of natural shade along the network. 	<p>The movement network is a critical component of an active and healthy environment. It is important that movement networks are accessible, connected, safe and cohesive.</p> <p>Safe, dedicated and inviting walking and cycling paths improves the walkability of communities, encourages increased participation in walking (and cycling) and also helps to create increased interest in walking groups. This in turn increases physical activity, encourages more people to be active and helps to create more socially cohesive communities, reduce social isolation and improve physical and mental health outcomes.</p>
<p>Ensure facilities and spaces are maintained to a functional standard and are appealing and accessible to all. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Ensuring minimum standards of embellishments are provided at all parks in accordance with Council’s Open Space Strategy. « Ensuring provision of shade, pathway connections, seating, shade and bubblers at all parks. « Ensuring access for older people and people with disabilities. « Providing lighting along pathways and at key nodes within parks and open space corridors. « Providing natural shade or shade over playground facilities. « Ensuring landscaping enables adequate surveillance. 	<p>The Toowoomba region has a good supply of active and healthy places and spaces. Ensuring these are well maintained, well embellished, attractive and inviting will provide greater incentive for residents to use the spaces for a variety of sporting, recreational or social activities, which will in turn provide numerous social and health benefits.</p>

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



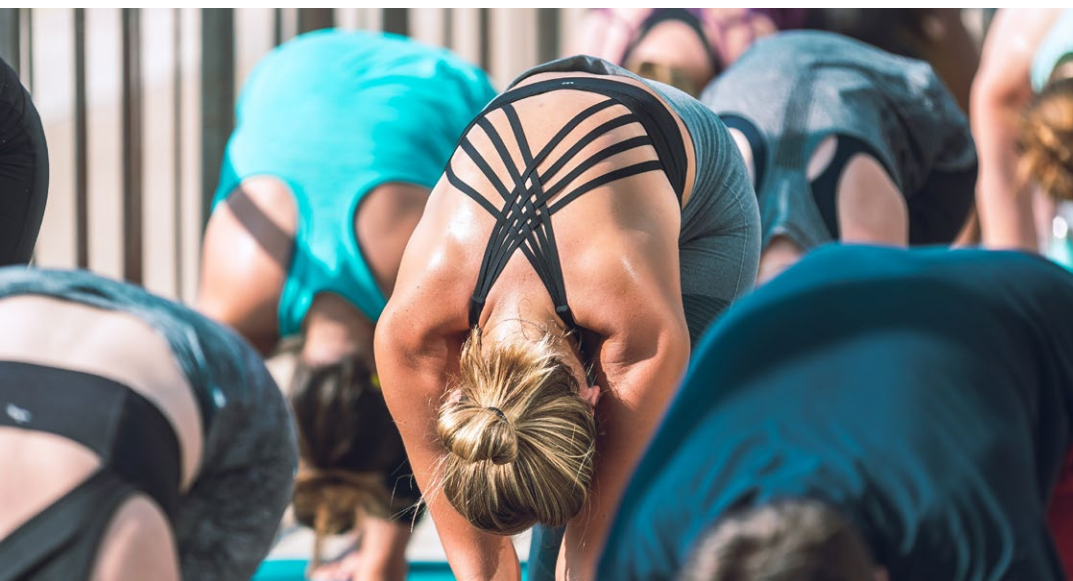
Low Priority SA2

Local Health Data¹

- « 24% of children aged 2 to 17 years were overweight or obese.
- « 70% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese.
- « 70% of people aged over 18 years undertook no or low exercise in the past week.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A relatively youthful population with high proportions of couple families with children.
- « Higher proportions of young people aged under 15 years (24.9%) and lower proportions of older people aged over 65 (12.9%).
- « Low levels of socio-economic disadvantage.
- « High growth area (Cambooya-Wyreema SA2), with significant growth expected across all age groups except 20-29 year olds.



	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS State Suburb, 2016)³</p>	1,584	0.99% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	35 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 24.9% 15-24 year olds: 11.2% 65 years and over: 12.9%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	4.2%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	15.0%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	16.1%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	44.3%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	995	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² Source: ABS

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census QuickStats, State Suburbs. Released 23/10/2017. www.abs.gov.au

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Generally appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Some gaps in path and cycle routes to destinations.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity, however the sports field (cricket) is split by an informal road thereby limiting useability.
- « Facilities at Lucy Park provide good potential for future use, however the location lacks appeal and natural shade.
- « Use of destinations may be increased through additional activities, particularly for families.

Community Facilities

- « Mix of sport and recreation facilities that support activity living.
- « Community facilities and destinations within Cambooya are applicable to its small, rural profile and are within walking distance of the majority of the population.
- « Good co-location of sporting facilities.

Programs and Services

- « The CHANGE Program offers weekly bootcamp activities.
- « Formal sport activities evidently limited to pony club. Bowls club has recently closed. There may be potential for future use of the facility.
- « Limited information about programs and activities.

Sense of Place

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township, although some parks lack aesthetic appeal.
- « Some heritage of place evident.

Urban Design

- « Predominantly grid pattern in main population areas.

Movement Network

- « Good supply of good quality pathways along key leading to key destinations.
- « Some minor gaps in the pathway network.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « No crossings at the school or other destinations.
- « Most pathways are appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Public Open Space

- « Satisfactory supply of open space for a rural township with a mix of natural, formal and informal open spaces. There is potential for increased activation of open spaces and some improvements to park infrastructure would enhance functionality.
- « Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « Limited natural shade at some parks (e.g. Lucy Street park).
- « Main sporting oval appears un-used. Adjacent equine facilities well-used. Informal road through sports field limits useability.
- « Dog exercise park is not used due to its location and the risk of snakes.

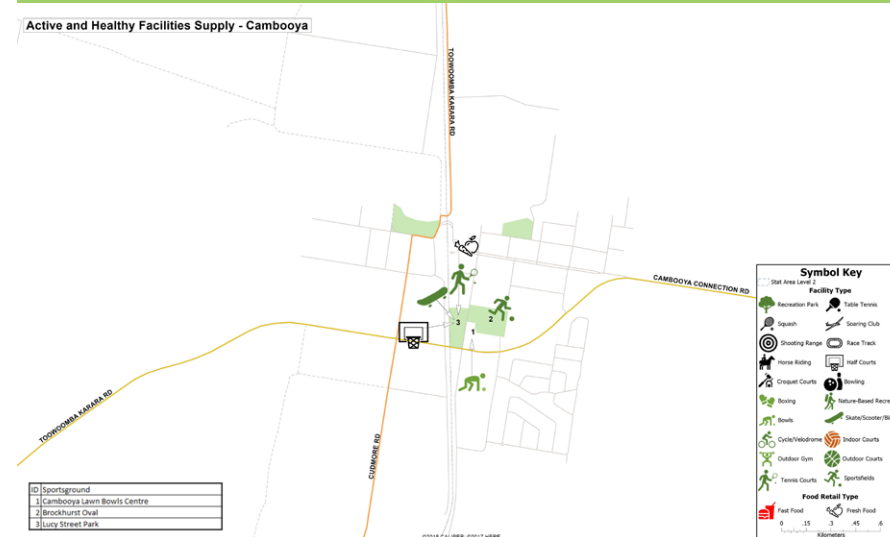
Housing Diversity

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through food store located in town. Green grocer located approximately 5km from town on the New England Highway - not within 400m-800m walking distance.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Cambooya

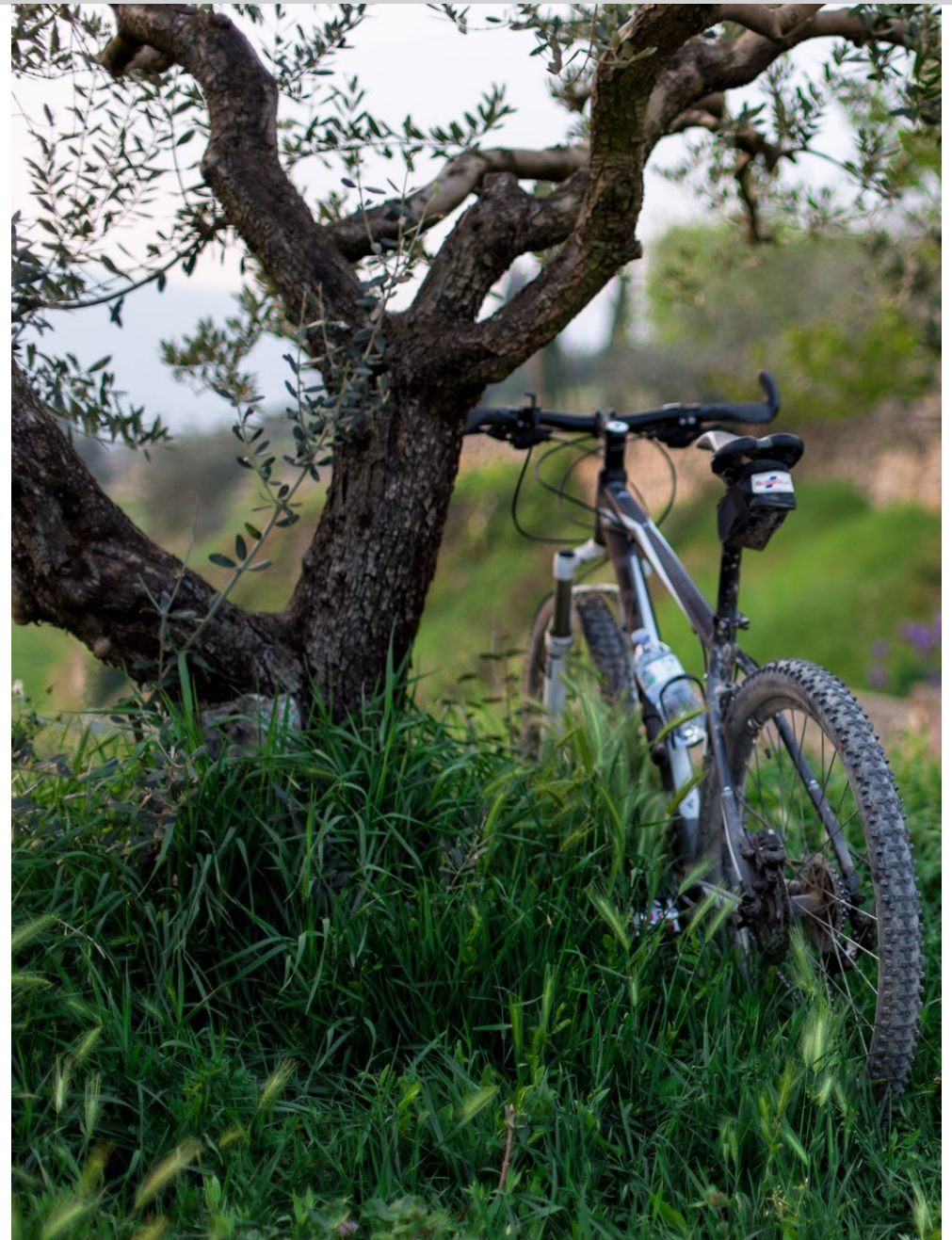
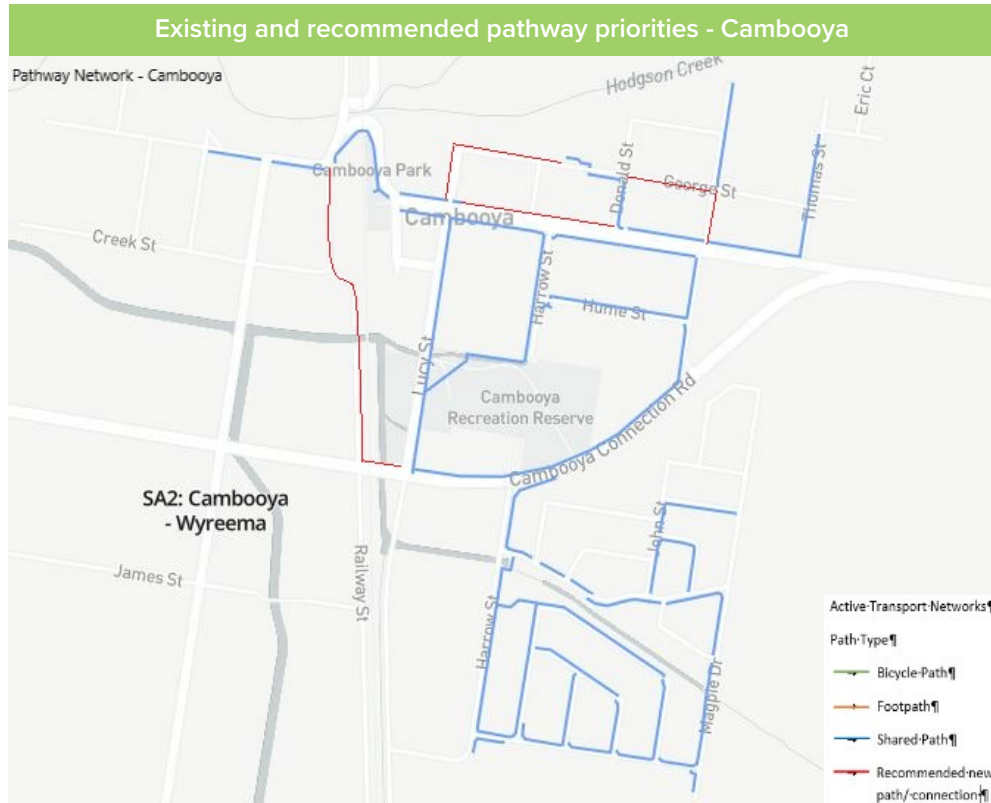


RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Continue to upgrade and maintain infrastructure in parks and open spaces to a functional standard to ensure they are safe and appealing to local residents. Key priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Enhancing natural shade throughout parks, particularly the Lucy Street parkland. « Providing seating and water bubblers in parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The availability and proximity of recreation facilities has been associated with greater physical activity among adults, adolescents and children⁴. Cambooya is fortunate to be a small, walk-friendly community where the majority of parks and community facilities are within walking distance for residents. Ensuring these facilities are maintained to an adequate standard, are inviting and accessible will ensure usage.
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network, but completing missing links and exploring potential for additional recreational pathways. Some priority considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « John Street, between Thomas Street and George Street. « The northern side of Eton Street between Donald Street and Lucy Street. « George Street between John Street and Lucy Street, including linking to the pathway in Patterson Park. « Investigating the potential to extend the pathway from the northern end of Railway Street, south along Railway Street to Cambooya Connection Road and connecting to the existing pathways on Cambooya Connection Road and Lucy Street, providing access to the skatepark. « Investigate the potential of developing a trail along Hodgson Creek. <p>Ensure the movement network has shade through provision of street trees and support facilities such as seating and water where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The pathway network is well established, however there are some obvious missing links and potential opportunities to expand the network to create a longer “circuit” opportunity. Completing unfinished linkages and providing additional pathways to provide better connections to community facilities and destinations will improve the walkability of the community. « Pathways could consist of a combination of concrete pathways, connecting the town centre and key facilities, and natural trail-style paths to facilitate additional opportunities.

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Target programming to children and families, including programs specifically aimed at children and those aimed at engaging the whole family.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Cambooya has a youthful profile with large proportions of families. Activities targeted at children to encourage physical activity and healthy eating at a young age will support their healthy development and assist in fostering healthy habits from a young age. « Parents are critical in encouraging healthy eating and physical activity in their children. Given the large proportion of families, programs that engage the whole family are recommended.
<p>Consider establishing a partnership with the local school to develop a “walk/ cycle to school” program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Schools provide an excellent avenue and leadership to influence children and their families and promote active and healthy messages. Furthermore, Children who live within 800m of their school are more likely to walk or cycle to school. Cambooya is evidently a safe and walkable community, with a number of pathways providing easy access to the school. A program that encourages and rewards children for walking/ cycling to school on all or most days of the week would have significant benefits for the community.
<p>Advocate for the development of partnerships between the local school and local community groups (e.g. church groups, CWA etc.) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Establish a community garden in Cambooya; and « Conduct healthy eating classes for school children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Research shows that fostering healthy eating through growing and preparing food from a young age helps to establish lifelong healthy habits. Furthermore, intergenerational programs have become popular in fostering relationships between children and older people, which can have significant social and mental health benefits.
<p>Consider relocating the dog park to a more user-friendly location.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Feedback from Council officers is that the current dog exercise park is not well used and is impacted by frequent sightings of snakes.

⁴ Heart Foundation. *Healthy Active by Design* (www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au)



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



Priority 3 Target SA2

Local Health Data¹

- « 26% of children aged 2 to 17 years were overweight or obese.
- « 71% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese.
- « 79% of people aged over 18 years undertook no or low exercise in the past week.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « An older population with almost one third of the population aged over 65 years (28.9%).
- « High proportions of people with disability (10.3%)².
- « A socio-economically disadvantaged community, with the SEIFA index in the 1st decile and high proportions of low income households.
- « Limited population growth with the majority of growth occurring in the age cohorts over 70 years of age.



	Population Data ³	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS State Suburb, 2016)⁴</p>	1,456	0.91% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	49 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 18.8% 15-24 year olds: 8.7% 65 years and over: 28.9%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	5.4%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	21.3%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	34.9%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	33.8%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	897	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² From ABS data on people needing assistance with core activities (i.e. people with a profound or severe disability)

³ Source: ABS

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census QuickStats, State Suburbs. Released 23/10/2017. www.abs.gov.au

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT



Destinations

- « Generally appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Some minor gaps in path and cycle routes to destinations and potential for better/ extended access to north and south.
- « Good, diverse supply of facilities and design is generally conducive to the activity.
- « Some lighting at sportsfields and tennis courts to facilitate night time usage.
- « Town centre is generally attractive with shaded streets and parks. Potential for enhanced shade.



Housing Diversity

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.



Community Facilities

- « Mix of sport and recreation facilities that support activity living.
- « Community facilities and destinations within Clifton are applicable to its small, rural profile and are within walking distance of the majority of the population.
- « Good co-location of sporting facilities.



Programs and Services

- « Formal sport clubs and activities.
- « Limited information about programs and activities.



Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through food store located in town.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.



Movement Network

- « Generally a good pathway network with many new paths.
- « Some minor gaps and opportunities for better connection of northern and southern residential areas to the town centre.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Crossings at primary schools and in town centre.
- « Newer pathways are appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.



Public Open Space

- « Satisfactory supply of open space for a rural township providing a range of formal, informal and natural options.
- « Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « Reasonable supply of natural shade relevant to park usage.
- « What appears to be a new park development on Cemetery Road (Bethnal Park) has opportunity for further embellishment.



Sense of Place

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Heritage of place not obvious.



Urban Design

- « Predominantly traditional grid pattern in main population areas.
- « Split by rail line through the centre.

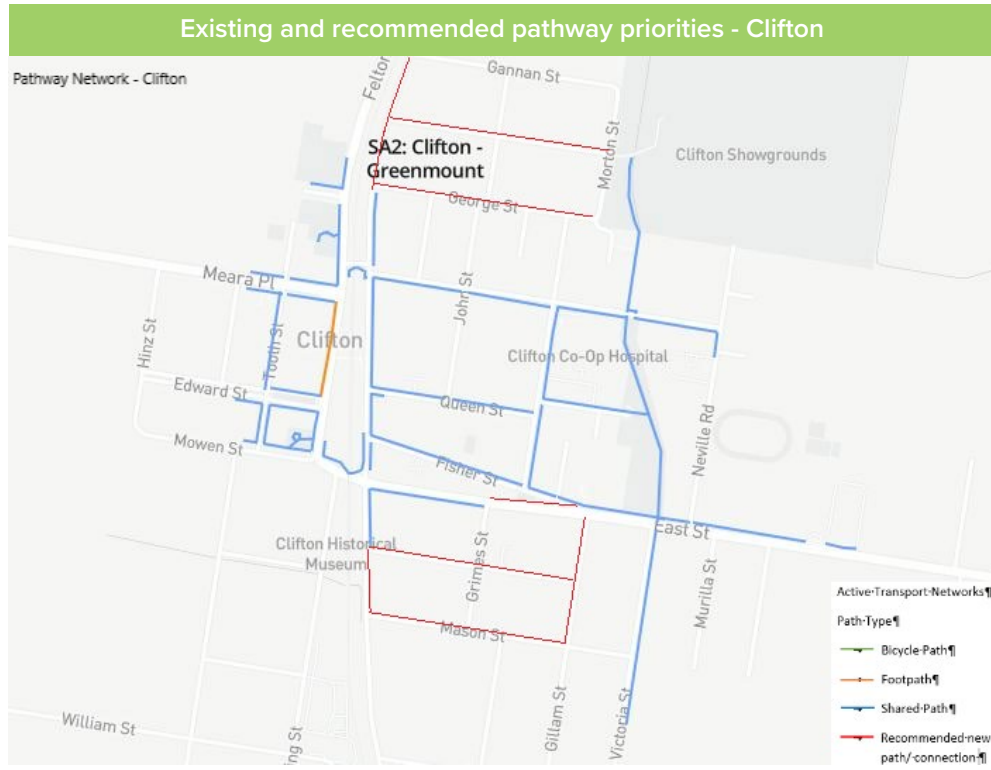


RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Continue to upgrade and maintain infrastructure in parks and open spaces to a functional standard to ensure they are safe, accessible and appealing to local residents, including older people and people with disabilities. Key priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Provision of shade, water and seating at existing parks. « Continued development and embellishment of Bethnal Green Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The availability and proximity of recreation facilities has been associated with greater physical activity among adults, adolescents and children⁵. Clifton has a well established pathway network and the majority of parks and community facilities are within walking distance for residents. Ensuring these facilities are maintained to an adequate standard, are inviting and accessible will ensure usage.
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network, particularly from the north and south residential areas. Some priority considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Completing the missing link between the path on the western end of East Street and where it meets Fisher Street. « Extending the pathway along Clark street to Gannon Street. « Providing pathways along George Street and Davenport Street, linking to the Showgrounds. « Providing pathways connecting the residential areas between Mason Street and East Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The pathway network is well established, however there are some obvious missing links and potential opportunities to expand the network to provide better access from the north and the south of the community. « Pathways could consist of a combination of concrete pathways, connecting the town centre and key facilities, and natural trail-style paths to facilitate additional opportunities.
<p>Ensure the movement network has shade through provision of street trees and support facilities such as seating and water where possible.</p>	
<p>Facilitate partnerships with community sport and recreation providers to ensure a range of programs and services continue to be offered, with priority being on low cost, low impact programs targeting older adults and people with disabilities. This should include exploring opportunities to partner with community service agencies supporting older adults and people with disabilities in developing these programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « There are a number of active sport and recreation clubs in Clifton. « There are larger proportions of older people and people with disabilities in Clifton. « Low cost, low impact programs for older adults and people with disabilities are proven to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Conduct activities at Elsie Jones Park to encourage family and community use of the skatepark and half-court facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The Clifton community has an active population of families and younger people. Previous activities held at the skatepark have been well attended, indicating that there is local need and support for engaging activities for children and young people. Such activities will encourage increased use of the facilities in the future.
<p>Explore opportunities to activate the Clifton Recreation Reserve for large group/ community events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Clifton has an involved community, with an excellent range of facilities, services and programs. The Clifton Community Growth Action Plan noted the potential to increase group use of the Clifton Recreation Reserve. Such an initiative would support community engagement in active and healthy living.
<p>Investigate opportunities to establish Parkrun utilising the Clifton Recreation Reserve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Parkrun is a highly successful and inclusive community-based intervention that promotes physical activity, celebrates achievement, develops improved social support networks, utilises natural settings, and engages participants and volunteers.
<p>Consider establishing a partnership with the local school to develop a “walk/ cycle to school” program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Schools provide an excellent avenue and leadership to influence children and their families and promote active and healthy messages. Furthermore, Children who live within 800m of their school are more likely to walk or cycle to school. Clifton has a well established pathway network providing safe access to schools. A program that encourages and rewards children for walking/ cycling to school on all or most days of the week would have significant benefits for the community.
<p>Advocate for the development of partnerships between the local schools and local community groups (e.g. church groups, CWA etc.) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Establish a community garden in Clifton; and « Conduct healthy eating classes for school children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Research shows that fostering healthy eating through growing and preparing food from a young age helps to establish lifelong healthy habits. Furthermore, intergenerational programs have become popular in fostering relationships between children and older people, which can have significant social and mental health benefits.

⁵ Heart Foundation. *Healthy Active by Design* (www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au)



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



Priority 3 Target SA2

Local Health Data¹

- « 27% of children aged 2 to 17 years were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese.
- « 79% of people aged over 18 years undertook no or low exercise in the past week.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A significantly older population with over one third of the population aged over 65 years (34.3%).
- « Large proportions of people with a disability (10.7%)².
- « Lower proportions of families and children and young people.
- « A socio-economically disadvantaged community, with the SEIFA index in the 1st decile and high proportions of low income households.
- « Limited population growth with the majority of growth occurring in the age cohorts over 65 years of age.
- « Projections indicate declines in younger age groups between 2016 and 2026.



	Population Data ³	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS State Suburb, 2016)⁴</p>	2,160	1.34% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	52 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 18.6% 15-24 year olds: 7.3% 65 years and over: 34.3%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	2.5%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	16.1%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	36.2%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	30.4%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	913	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² From ABS data on people needing assistance with core activities (i.e. people with a profound or severe disability)

³ Source: ABS

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census QuickStats, State Suburbs. Released 23/10/2017. www.abs.gov.au

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Generally appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Fragmentation in path and cycle routes to destinations.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity.
- « Potential to increase usage of the Skelley Recreation Reserve and improve appeal and perceived safety.
- « Town centre is attractive. Lighting would enhance useability and perceived safety of Centenary Park.

Community Facilities

- « Mix of sport and recreation facilities that support activity living, with the main hub being at the showgrounds.
- « The indoor sports centre is currently under-utilised. Opening hours are not favourable.
- « Well appointed facilities for skate/ scooter/ bike at the Skelley Recreation Reserve, but potentially underutilised due to community perception. Cricket field is not used.
- « Community facilities and destinations within Crows Nest are applicable to its small, rural profile and are within walking distance of the majority of the population.
- « Good co-location of sporting facilities.

Programs and Services

- « The CHANGE Program offers group fitness, gentle exercise and seniors activities.
- « Walking group.
- « Formal sport activities are limited. Indoor centre provides activities, however hours are limited.
- « Lack of awareness about program and activity opportunities.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through a food store located in town.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.
- « Community interest in establishing a community garden.

Movement Network

- « Good pathway access to the Showgrounds and within the town centre.
- « Some gaps in the network, particularly to the school and Skelley Recreation Reserve.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Most pathways are appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.
- « Toowoomba Regional Trails Network Strategy provides for linkages to nearby nature-based destinations.

Housing Diversity

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.

Public Open Space

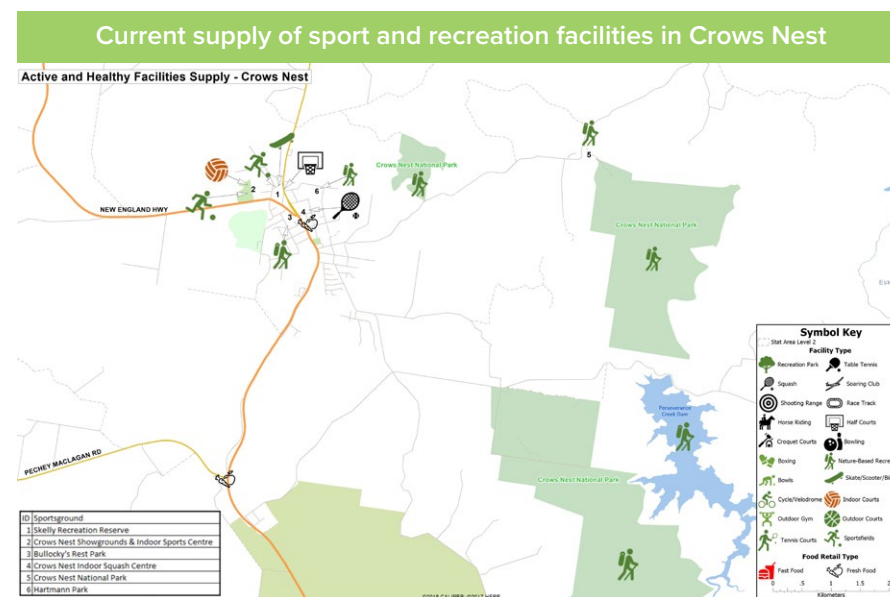
- « Satisfactory supply of open space for a rural township with a mix of natural, formal and informal open spaces. There is potential for increased activation of open spaces and some improvements to park infrastructure would enhance functionality.
- « Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « No formal sporting opportunities at sports fields.
- « Access to nearby nature-based resources provide opportunities for enhanced usage, particularly trail links to lakes.

Sense of Place

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Good heritage of place evident at several parks.

Urban Design

- « Predominantly grid pattern in main population areas.

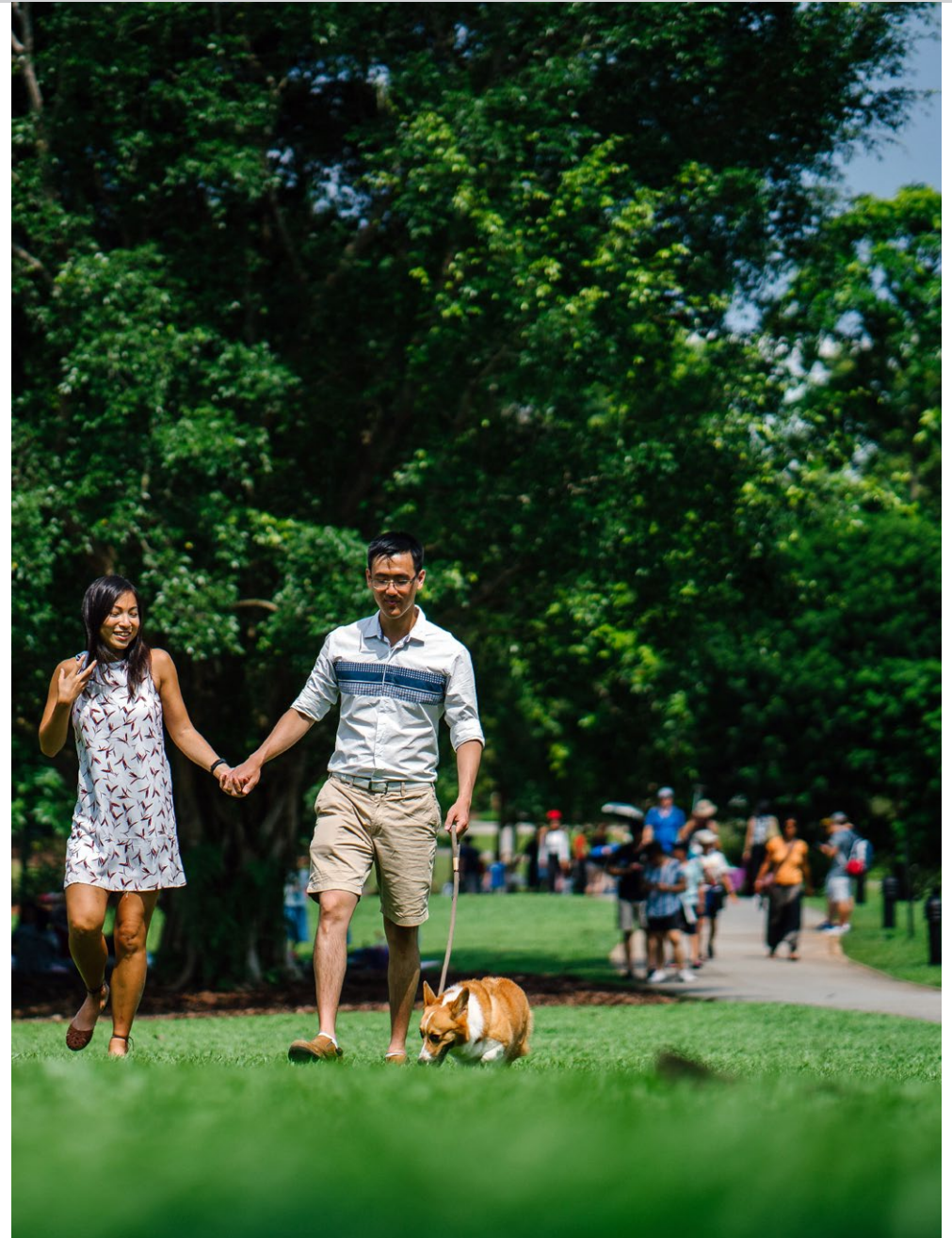


RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Continue to upgrade and maintain infrastructure in parks and open spaces to a functional standard to ensure they are safe and appealing to local residents. Key priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Enhancing natural shade at the Skelly Recreation Reserve. « Providing seating, shelter, picnic facilities and water bubblers at the Skelly Recreation Reserve. « Investigating opportunities to develop a network of pathways and landscaping/ community gardens at Skelly Recreation Reserve. « Improving lighting of Centenary Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The availability and proximity of recreation facilities has been associated with greater physical activity among adults, adolescents and children⁵. Crows Nest has a good network of open space serving a variety of purposes. Ensuring these spaces remain functional and safe through will encourage greater community usage. « Two priorities raised during consultation were lighting in Centenary Park and “activation” of the Skelley Recreation Reserve to enhance its appeal and usage and counteract perceived safety concerns for parents of children utilising the skate and bmx facilities.
<p>Ensure sport and recreation facilities, particularly the indoor sports centre are accessible and functional. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Facilitating 24-hour access to the gymnasium through a swipe card system (or similar) « Increasing opening hours to include mornings to accommodate older adults « Subject to demand, increasing the number of days per week that the centre is open. « Continuing to partner with program providers to provide programs at the centre during the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The indoor recreation centre is an excellent facility that provides a range of popular programs for the community. However, there are issues with access to the sports centre due to restrictions on operating hours. This was a strong need raised during community consultation.
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network, by completing missing links and exploring potential for additional recreational pathways. Some priority considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Completing the pathway along the New England Highway on the northern side of town to connect with William Street. « Completing the connection along Pierce Creek Road from William Street to the Skelly Recreation Reserve. « Pathway along Recreation Terrace. « Pathway along Grace and Albert Streets to extend along the front and side of the school. « Pathway along John Street. « Esk Street. <p>Ensure the movement network has shade through provision of street trees and support facilities such as seating and water where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The pathway network is well established, however there are some obvious missing links and potential opportunities to improve connectivity to key destinations, particularly the school and town centre. Completing unfinished linkages and providing additional pathways to provide better connections to community facilities and destinations will improve the walkability of the community. « Pathways could consist of a combination of concrete pathways, connecting the town centre and key facilities, and natural trail-style paths to facilitate additional opportunities.

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Target programming to older adults and people with disabilities by providing a range of low cost, low impact programs utilising the indoor recreation centre.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « There are larger proportions of older people and people with disabilities in Crows Nest. « Activities targeted at older residents that aim to increase physical fitness, strength, balance, endurance and flexibility are recommended as part of the National Physical Activity Guidelines. « Low cost, low impact programs for older adults are proven to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing.
<p>Facilitate a partnership with the school to engage young people and encourage involvement in developing program ideas. Programs to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « A “walk/ cycle to school” program. « Programs using the skatepark, pump track and playground and Skelly Recreation Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Schools provide an excellent avenue and leadership to influence children and their families and promote active and healthy messages. « Council has invested in developing an excellent precinct at Skelly Recreation Reserve, however it is not used as well as it could be due to community safety concerns. Programs that activate the space and encourage greater use of the area will increase participation while also enhancing community ownership and safety. « Furthermore, Children who live within 800m of their school are more likely to walk or cycle to school. A program that encourages and rewards children for walking/ cycling to school on all or most days of the week would have significant benefits for the community.
<p>Advocate for the development of partnerships between the local school and local community groups (e.g. church groups, CWA etc.) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Establish a community garden in Crows Nest; and « Conduct healthy eating classes for school children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Research shows that fostering healthy eating through growing and preparing food from a young age helps to establish lifelong healthy habits. Furthermore, intergenerational programs have become popular in fostering relationships between children and older people, which can have significant social and mental health benefits. « There is strong community interest in Crows Nest for the development of a community garden.
<p>Continue to promote and develop nature-based recreation opportunities surrounding Crows Nest by implementing the linkages recommend in the Trails Network Strategy and supporting the development of community activities/ clubs/ organisations utilising the nature-based resources. For example, orienteering, bushwalking, trail running, mountain biking/ trail cycling, environmental volunteerism etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Crows Nest is within close proximity to a range of spectacular nature-based recreation opportunities. Promoting and supporting the use of these opportunities, particularly through trails, may enhance participation by locals and also benefit the wider regional population.

⁵ Heart Foundation. *Healthy Active by Design* (www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au)



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Darling Heights SA2 includes the suburbs of Darling Heights and Kearneys Spring.



Priority 3 Target SA2

Health Data¹

- « 26% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 65% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 33% sufficient physical activity.
- « 28% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 43% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 20% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 57% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « nobody to attend with
- « not aware of opportunities
- « can't afford to participate

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A significantly younger population with more than half the population being aged under 35 (53.7%). The largest age cohort is the 20-24 year olds.
- « Higher proportions of culturally and linguistically diverse people, with over a third of the population born overseas (33.7%) and 29.5% speaking a language other than English at home. The most common countries of birth were India (4.6%) and Iraq (2.1%).
- « Some socio-economic disadvantage, with slightly higher proportions of lower income households and a SEIFA index in the 3rd decile.
- « A high growth area, with significant growth expected in all age cohorts except 20-29 and 55-64.

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS SA2, 2016)	13,740	8.55% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	32 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 15.5% 65 years and over: 17.2%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	3.6%	4.0%
Born overseas	33.7%	19.0%
Low income households	22.7%	21.1%
Couple families with children	38.6%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	956	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² (Source: Profile ID)

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Diversity of destinations available with the university being a key focal point. Also includes shopping centre, Nell E Robinson Park, Kearney Springs Park, Toowoomba Garden of Remembrance and several other parks and open spaces.
- « Generally good pathway connections to key destinations (i.e. uni, shops, sporting fields). Some areas of disconnect.
- « Destination design is generally conducive to the activity.
- « Enhancement possible through additional activities, particularly for CALD people.

Housing Diversity

- « Mix of housing diversity. 64% separate houses and the remainder semi-detached, units, apartments etc.
- « Includes retirement villages.
- « Includes high density student accommodation.

Community Facilities

- « Mix of well-located sport and recreation facilities that support activity living, including sportsfields, indoor facilities, parks and open space.
- « Community facilities and destinations are relevant to the community and are within walking distance of the majority of the SA2 population.
- « Good co-location of facilities within close proximity of each other.

Food Supply

- « Clusters of fast food within this locality.
- « Access to fresh foods through supermarkets and green grocers.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Sense of Place

- « Generally attractive and appealing with a variety and diversity of open space and destinations.

Movement Network

- « Generally, well connected movement network with good connections to Toowoomba City via linear open space and pathways.
- « Some gaps in the movement network and some fragmentation due to pockets of cul-de-sac design. Some of these have already been rectified with pathway development through cul-de-sacs.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Good access to the public transport network with numerous bus stops in close proximity to most residents.

Public Open Space

- « Open space is generally appealing and well designed. Opportunities exist to improve the appeal and functionality of open space through provision of lighting, shade and seating.
- « Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Some limitations on visibility and functionality of smaller parks.
- « Cultural heritage is well acknowledged at Japanese Gardens and Toowoomba Gardens of Remembrance.

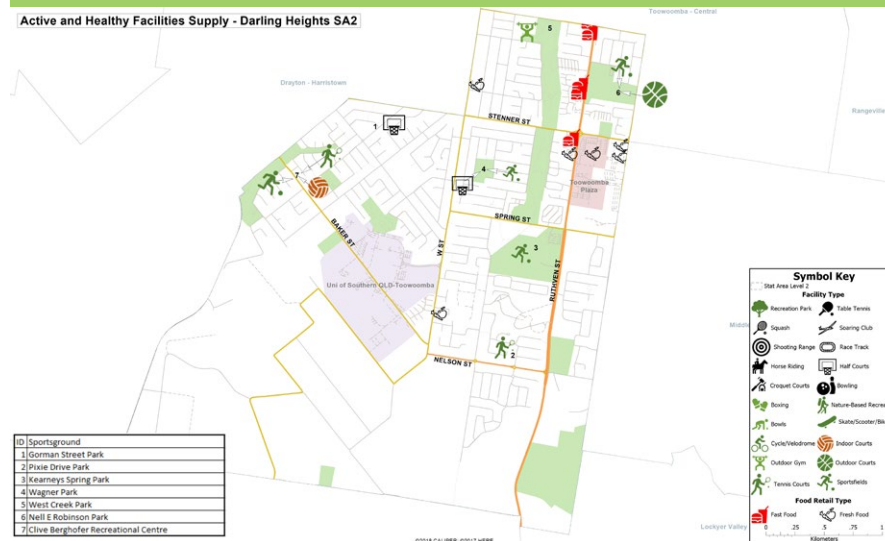
Programs and Services

- « Numerous formal sport options, including indoor and outdoor sport.
- « Close proximity to Parkrun at Middle Ridge.
- « No current CHANGE programs in the SA2, but access to programs nearby. There may be demand for low-cost programs for CALD communities.

Urban Design

- « Some small areas of traditional grid patterns.
- « Predominantly less permeable patterns with pockets of cul-de-sac style patterns.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Darling Heights



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network. Some priority connections include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Missing link on Charnley Street between Hoepper Street and Araluen Ct. « Missing link on Platz Street between Bamboo Ct and Baker Street. « Cortess Street between West Street and Kearney Street open space (on Cortess St). <p>Ensure the movement network has shade through provision of street trees and support facilities such as seating and water where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Facilitating an environment that makes it easy for older adults to walk for active transport and recreation will assist in encouraging walking. « Completing unfinished linkages and providing additional pathways to provide better connections to community facilities and destinations will improve the walkability of the community.
<p>Improve safety and accessibility of the movement network through ensuring a regular maintenance program and installation of lighting along key pathways. Priority areas include pathways traversing through parklands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The pathway network within Darling Heights is well established. Ensuring pathways are well maintained and safe will encourage more people to use them. This is particularly relevant in CALD communities and communities with high proportions of young people.
<p>Improve the amenity and functionality of open space by providing shade, pathway connections and ensuring landscaping enables adequate surveillance. Priority in the first instance should be on the linear park networks that include Thiess Park and the West Creek parklands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Spaces that are attractive and inviting and where people feel safe, will encourage people to get out and about.
<p>Facilitate low-cost programs for target populations. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Young adults; « People of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Exploring partnership opportunities with the University and local sporting clubs to develop informal/ social sport opportunities. « Partnering with multicultural support groups to coordinate social activities that education CALD communities about the links between physical activity and health and provide connections to healthy and active opportunities. « Support and advocate for the development of community gardens through programs such as the Mulberry Project to engage migrants and refugees in community gardening. « “Bring a Friend” programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The population within Darling Heights is predominantly younger, with the university being a key focus of the area. « There are higher proportions of people from culturally and linguistically diverse background (CALD) groups. Research indicates that people from CALD backgrounds are at greater risk for low physical activity.
<p>Increase awareness raising and promotion of opportunities to residents in the Darling Heights SA2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Awareness of opportunities was a key issues across the whole Toowoomba Region and is a key barrier to participation in Darling Heights.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Drayton-Harristown SA2 includes the suburbs of Drayton and Harristown.



Priority 2 Target SA2

Health Data¹

- « 26% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 65% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 31% sufficient physical activity.
- « 27% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 54% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 13% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 51% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not aware of local facilities/ opportunities
- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Can't afford to participate
- « Caring for an infant/ child
- « Lack of motivation

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A relatively balanced age profile compared to the Toowoomba region, with slightly higher proportions of people aged over 65 years.
- « Higher proportions of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- « Highly disadvantaged community with a SEIFA index in the first decile, a higher proportion of low income households and high levels of unemployment (9.0%)
- « Limited population growth with the highest growth predicted in the 35 to 39 and 75 to 59 age cohorts.
- « Higher proportion of households with no car (11.9%).

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS SA2, 2016)	10,198	6.34% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	38 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 17.8% 15-24 year olds: 14.1% 65 years and over: 22.1%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	5.5%	4.0%
Born overseas	29.7%	19.0%
Low income households	20.0%	21.1%
Couple families with children	35.4%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	924	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² (Source: Profile ID)

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Basic supply of opportunities including nature-based recreation, indoor recreation, sports fields, parks and open space.
- « Large areas of industry. No real “town centre” or “hub” to create appealing destinations.
- « Fragmented path and cycle routes to destinations.

Housing Diversity

- « Mix of housing diversity. 63% separate houses and 27% semi-detached, apartments, etc.
- « Includes retirements villages and ages care centres.

Community Facilities

- « Basic supply of sport and recreation facilities that support active living, including sports fields, indoor facilities, parks and open space.
- « Facilities are generally dispersed across the locality. No central “hub”.
- « Proximity to facilities in neighbouring areas.

Programs and Services

- « Limited evidence of structured programs in this locality.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through a food store and supermarkets and a green grocer.
- « Cluster of fast foods sits on the northern end of Harristown bordering Newtown.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « There are a number of pathways along key streets.
- « Industrial and commercial areas impact on the connectivity of the movement network.
- « There are areas of key disconnect between residential areas and destinations such as parks and the school.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Some pathways, not all, appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Public Open Space

- « A number of small local parks are dispersed throughout the locality.
- « Most residents, but not all, have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « Some limitations on visibility and functionality of smaller parks.
- « Lack of shade over play equipment.

Sense of Place

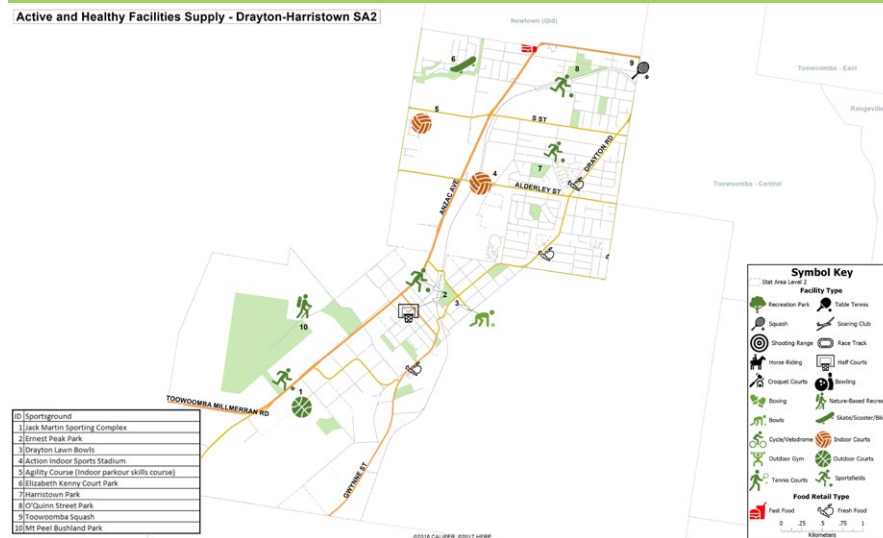
- « Overall sense of place is lacking due to large industrial and commercial precincts.
- « Pockets exist where sense of place is appealing or has potential for further appeal.

Urban Design

- « Traditional areas based on grid pattern. Some less permeable, disconnected patterns.

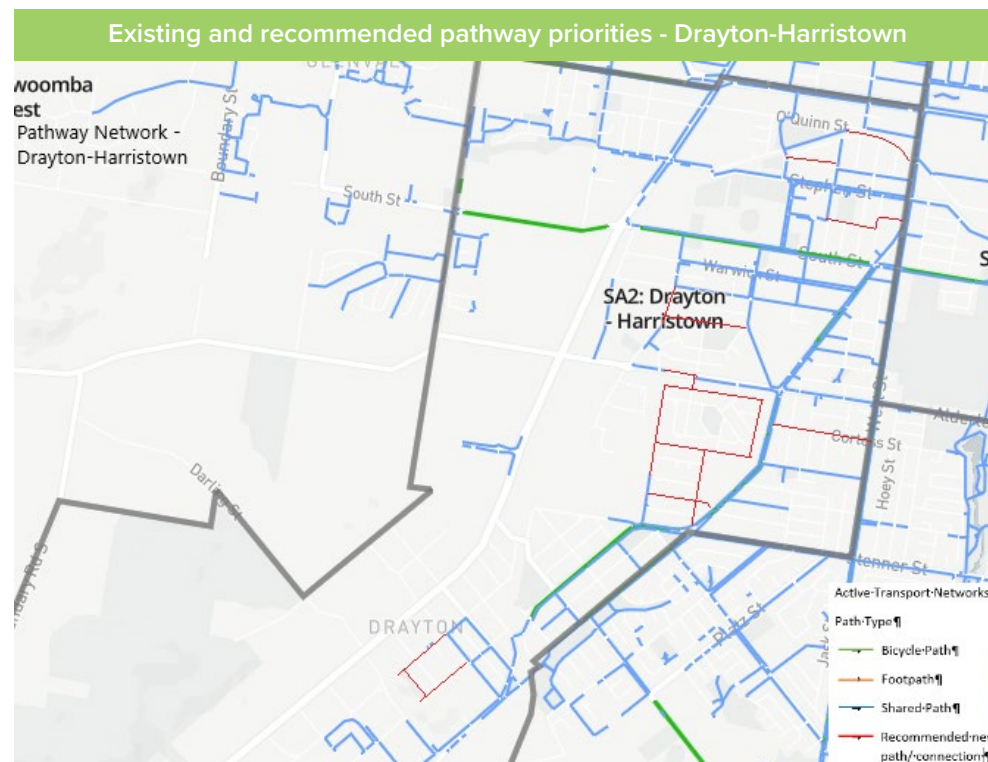
Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Drayton-Harristown

Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - Drayton-Harristown SA2



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network, particularly to key community facilities and destinations, parks and open space. Some priority connections include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Completion of the pathway along Dunne Street. « Underwood Crescent. « Completion of the link along Baynes Street and Memory Street to improve access to the school. « Spencer Street between Buckland Street and Croxley Street. « Croxley Street. « Missing link on Alderley Street between Chilla Street and Melody Drive. « The residential area bounded by Alderley Street, Drayton Road, Stenner Street and Arabian Street. « Cortess Street « Cambooya Street « Glennie Street <p>Ensure the movement is safe and appealing by providing shade, lighting and support facilities such as seating and water and undertaking regular maintenance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « With limited township “destinations” facilitating pathway connections that make it easy to walk to local parks and schools will improve the walkability. « “Caring for an infant or child” was a key barrier to participation. Together with enhancements to open space, pathways will facilitate opportunities for carers and children to walk to parks.
<p>Improve the amenity and functionality of open space and ensure parks are appealing and accessible to all. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Ensure all parks are accessible by pathway « Provide shade cover over playgrounds « Provide seating and shaded picnic tables « Ensure landscaping provides adequate surveillance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Improved access to and appeal of parks will encourage increased use. « Safety is a key consideration and there is a need to ensure spaces are safe for use by all.
<p>Facilitate low-cost programs targeted at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Parents/ carers and young children; « Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « A younger community with a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. « A key barrier to participation was caring for an infant/ child. « Lower socio-economic community will require low-cost programs.
<p>Ensure programs utilise local parks and facilities and are promoted through a range of traditional and contemporary mediums including social media, word of mouth and community fliers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Lack of knowledge about what is available in the local area was a key barrier to participation. « Higher percentage of households without a car (11.9%) compared to Toowoomba LGA (5.6%) meaning local programs should be a priority.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

Goombungee sits within the Crows Nest-Rosalie SA2, which has been identified as a Priority 3 Target SA2.



Priority 3 Target SA2

Local Health Data¹

- « 27% of children aged 2 to 17 years were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese.
- « 79% of people aged over 18 years undertook no or low exercise in the past week.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A balanced population with the spread across the age groups comparable with the Toowoomba region.
- « Higher proportions of young children.
- « Higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage with a SEIFA index in the 2nd decile and larger proportions of lower income households.



	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS State Suburb, 2016)</p>	1,026	0.64% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	41 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 22.0% 15-24 year olds: 11.5% 65 years and over: 17.1%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	5.0%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	10.9%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	28.5%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	34.4%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	921	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2. Goombungee sits within the Crows Nest-Rosalie SA2.

² (Source: Profile ID)

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Very well supplied for a small, rural township.
- « Good pathway access throughout the main street and to key destinations.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity.

Housing Diversity

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.

Community Facilities

- « Mix of well-located sport and recreation facilities that support activity living, including open space, sportsfields, courts, swimming pool and playgrounds.
- « Community facilities and destinations are applicable to the small, rural profile and are within walking distance of most of the population.
- « Good co-location of sporting facilities.

Programs and Services

- « Walking group.
- « Limited information about other program opportunities.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through a food store located in town.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.
- « Activate Survey results indicated a higher proportion of people in Goombungee consume fast food weekly.

Movement Network

- « Good pathway connections with many new pathways.
- « Completion of some minor gaps around key destinations, such as the school and showgrounds would enhance connectivity.
- « Some support facilities and reasonable shade, but limited lighting, shelter and signage.
- « Some, but minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Pathways generally appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Public Open Space

- « Good supply of open space for a rural township.
- « All residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.

Sense of Place

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Some heritage of place evident through buildings.

Urban Design

- « Predominantly grid pattern.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Goombungee

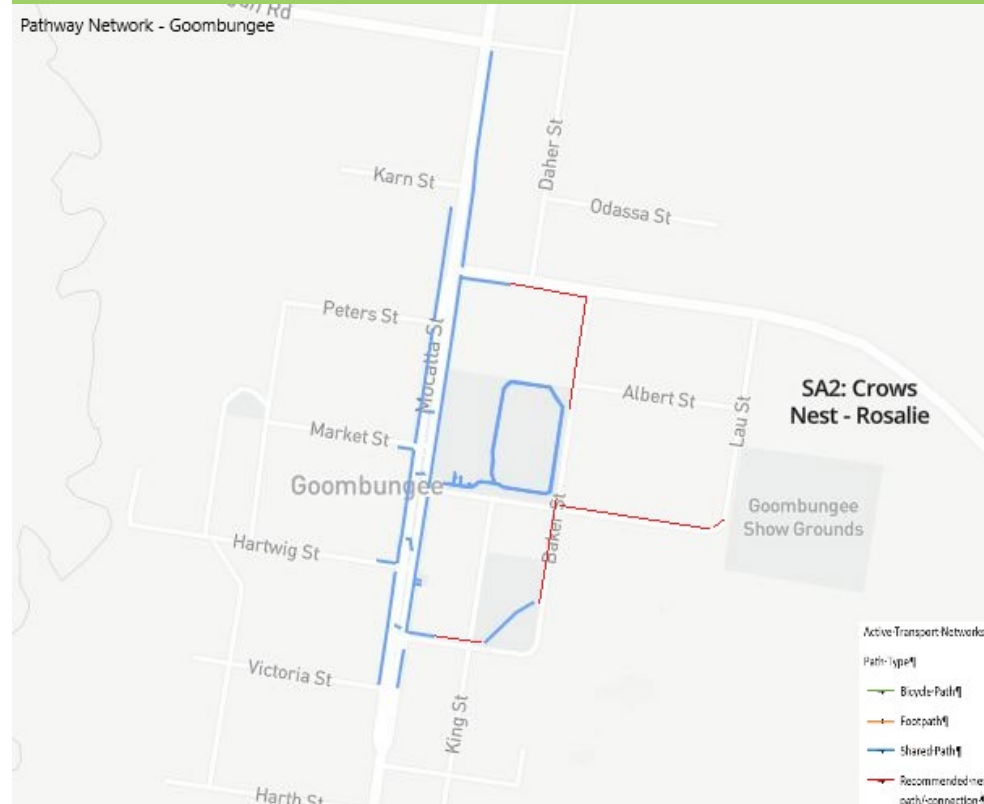


RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Ensure facilities are maintained to a functional standard and are accessible to all, including access for older people and people with disabilities. Key priorities to enhance accessibility are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Topdressing of ovals in Goombungee and Kingsthorpe to alleviate unlevel surfaces. « Investigating irrigation options for ovals in Goombungee and Kingsthorpe to ensure grass coverage suitable for play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The availability and proximity of recreation facilities has been associated with greater physical activity among adults, adolescents and children⁵. The condition of ovals in Goombungee and Kingsthorpe was raised as a key issue preventing access and participation. Ensuring these facilities are maintained to an adequate standard, are inviting and accessible will ensure usage.
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network, particularly to key community facilities and destinations, parks and open space. Some priority connections include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Completing the missing link along George street to Pioneer Park. « Completing missing links along Baker Street between Pioneer Park and Lilly Street. « Completing the pathway along Lilly Street to Baker Street. « Providing a pathway to the showgrounds along Edward Street. <p>Ensure the movement network has shade through provision of street trees and support facilities.</p> <p>Ensure the movement network is safe for parents with prams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « There is a reasonable supply of pathways in Goombungee, however some gaps in connectivity exist. « A safe pathway network will enhance usage, particularly by parents with prams – a priority population group considering the higher proportions of young children in Goombungee.
<p>Target programming to families and children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Goombungee has a relatively balanced age profile, however has higher proportions of children, suggesting a large family composition.
<p>Consider partnerships with the local school to engage children and increase physical activity opportunities. Programs such as “walk to school” or “ride to school” would promote use of local pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Children who live within 800m of their school are more likely to walk or cycle to school. Coupled with improved connectivity of the movement network, walk or ride to school programs would reach a large proportion of the community. « School facilities provide opportunities to engage children and young people to promote active and healthy messages.

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Facilitate programs to encourage healthy eating and investigate opportunities for partnerships with community groups and the local school to establish a community garden. Programs could include intergenerational gardening and cooking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The Activate survey revealed that Goombungee has higher proportions of fast food consumption.

Existing and recommended pathway priorities - Goombungee



⁵ Heart Foundation. Healthy Active by Design (www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au)

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



Low Priority SA2

Health Data¹

- « 23% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 67% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 76% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey indicated a higher proportion of weekly fast food consumption.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « An older population with a median age of 42, however larger proportions of children.
- « Not disadvantaged.
- « No significant socio-demographic characteristics.
- « High growth area with the highest growth expected in the 15-19 age cohort and those cohorts above 55 years.



	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS SA2, 2016)</p>	8,131	5.06% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	42 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 22.4% 15-24 year olds: 10.9% 65 years and over: 17.9%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	2.3%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	11.4%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	14.8%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	48.3%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	1083	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Diverse array of destinations distributed throughout the suburb.
- « Fragmented path and cycle routes to key destinations including sporting facilities and shops.
- « Central Highfields will provide a Major Centre.
- « District Centres at Highfields Plaza, Northpoint Shopping Centre and High Street Plaza.

Housing Diversity

- « Lack of housing diversity. 94% separate houses.
- « Central Highfields Master Plan provides for medium density housing development.

Community Facilities

- « A diverse mix of sport, recreation, nature-based recreation facilities that support activity living.
- « The Central Highfields Master Plan provides for more central development of community facilities and connectivity with other destination nodes.
- « Highfields sport and recreation park is a key destination, positioned to cater for future population growth and associated demand.

Programs and Services

- « Numerous activity opportunities, including a number of CHANGE Program activities to suit younger and older people.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through two supermarkets and a green grocer.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « The overall network is fragmented with little connectivity between pathways and to destinations. A key outcome of consultation was related to the difficulty walking or cycling to destinations in Highfields.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).

Public Open Space

- « Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « A mix of open space is provided servicing local, district and regional catchments. There are numerous smaller, parks tucked away in residential areas.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « Some limitations on functionality of smaller parks, particularly in relation to shade and embellishments such as playgrounds and picnic facilities.
- « Highfields Recreation Park is well designed and will embellished with appropriate activity options.

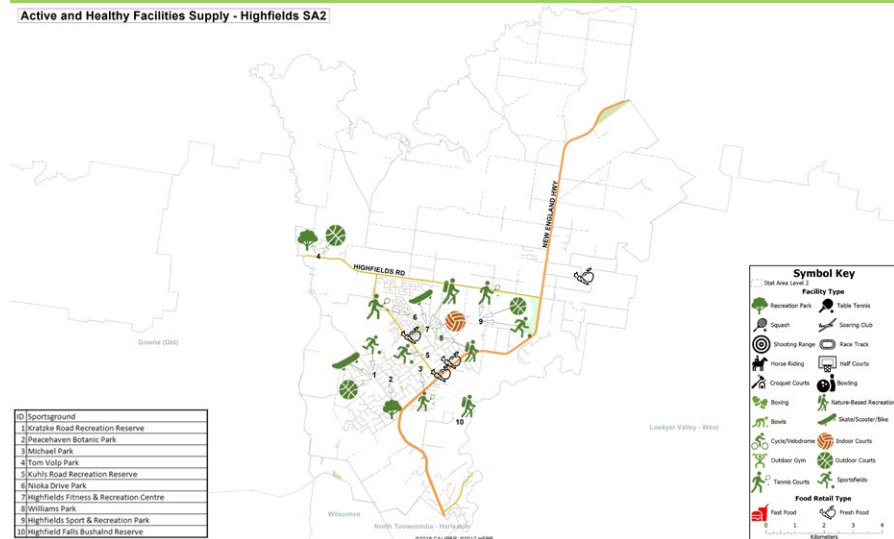
Sense of Place

- « Generally lacks a sense of place, however this will improve with implementation of the Central Highfields Master Plan.

Urban Design

- « Mix of urban design patterns, with many not permeable and dominated by cul-de-sac type patterns.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Highfields



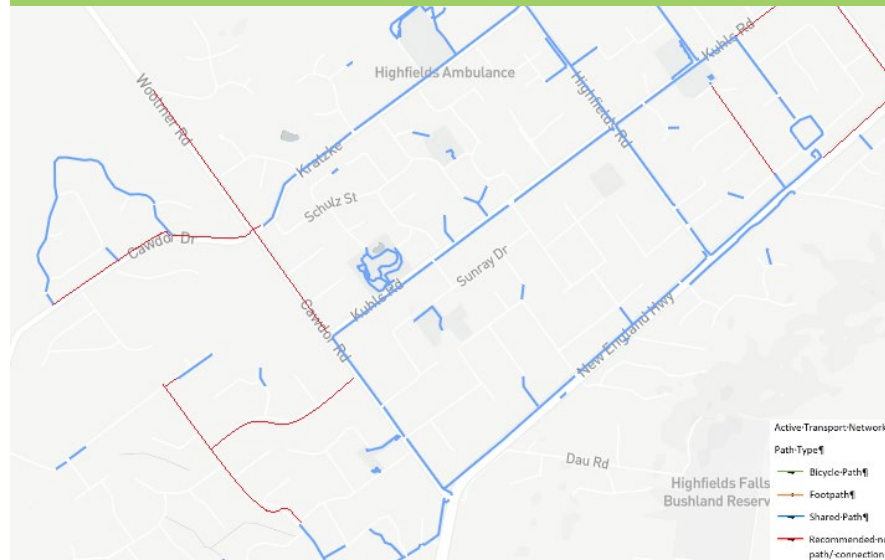
RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Expand and improve the movement network to ensure connectivity to destinations/ hubs. Priorities for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Connecting the northern residential area along Highfields Road. « Connectors along Reis Road, Kuhls Road and O'Brien Road. « New England Highway to Reis Road. « Cawdor and Woolmer Rds « Connections along Palmer and Granada Drives. <p>Ensure the movement network has shade through provision of street trees and support facilities for older adults such as seating and water where possible.</p>	<p>« The pathway network is fragmented and a key issues raised during consultation was the lack of connections to destinations and safety of the network.</p>
<p>Facilitate connections to Toowoomba and nature-based parks in accordance with the Trail Network Strategy.</p>	<p>Connections to nearby nature-based areas was a key priority raised during study research. The Trails Network Strategy identifies Highfields as a Key Trail Activity Area and provides linkages between Highfields and nature-based recreation opportunities at Lake Cooby, Spring Bluff, Highfields Falls and through to the escarpment park link trail.</p>
<p>Improve appeal and connectivity of parks and open space network by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Providing pathway linkages between open spaces. « Providing natural shade improvements at local parks and ensuring playground facilities have shade structures. « Ensure local parks have minimum standard embellishments including shade, seating, water bubblers, end-of-trip facilities. « Undertaking landscaping improvements. 	<p>Highfields has a reasonable provision of open space. Enhancing the amenity of these spaces, together with providing connections between space, will increase their appeal.</p>
<p>Ensure implementation of the Highfields Meringandan West Local Plan</p>	<p>The Highfields Meringandan West Local Plan provides a well-planned vision and structure that addresses many of the key issues that emerged during the SARHL Plan research, particularly strengthening active transport connections to 'hubs', strengthening the 'green' network, providing links to natural areas and enhancing the amenity of the Highfields area.</p>
<p>Facilitate programs to encourage healthy eating and investigate opportunities for partnerships with community groups/ schools to establish a community garden.</p>	<p>The Activate Survey results indicated that a higher proportion of people residing in Highfields consumed fast food weekly compared to other areas across the Toowoomba Region.</p>

Existing and recommended pathway priorities - Highfields (North)



Existing and recommended pathway priorities - Highfields (South)



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Middle Ridge SA2 includes the suburb of Middle Ridge.

Low Priority SA2

Health Data¹

- « 21% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 62% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 69% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 35% sufficient physical activity.
- « 24% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 54% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 10% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 51% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Weather too hot/cold
- « Not aware of local facilities/ opportunities

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A significantly older population with larger proportions of people aged over 65 years and lower proportions of adolescents.
- « Slightly higher proportions of people with a disability (8.1%)
- « No other significant disadvantage of socio-demographic limitations.
- « Limited population growth, with most growth predicted in the 40-44 age cohort and 65 years and over.

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS SA2, 2016)	7,141	4.44% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	43 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 21.4% 15-24 year olds: 10.7% 65 years and over: 21.1%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	1.2%	4.0%
Born overseas	10.7%	19.0%
Low income households	21.5%	21.1%
Couple families with children	48.5%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	1084	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Predominantly a residential area. Destinations generally parks and open space. Close proximity to shops and other destinations in neighbouring SA2s.
- « Good linear greenspace and pathway connectivity to the CBD.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity.

Housing Diversity

- « Lack of housing diversity. 94% separate houses.
- « A number of retirement villages.

Community Facilities

- « Facilities that support active living consist mostly of open space, nature-based recreation and sportsfields.
- « Stenner Street Jumps Park is popular for mountain biking.
- « Council reports informal bike tracks throughout the locality.

Programs and Services

- « Parkrun

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through supermarkets.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « The overall network is good. Some disconnect due to cul-de-sacs.
- « Good connectivity to CBD.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Some pathways, not all, appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Public Open Space

- « Good supply of greenspace and recreation facilities within the local area with a broad spectrum of provision including formal sport, open space and nature-based recreation.
- « Most residents, but not all, have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Good connectivity of greenspace and movement network to CBD.
- « Open space is generally well designed.

Sense of Place

- « Appropriate sense of place and amenity throughout.

Urban Design

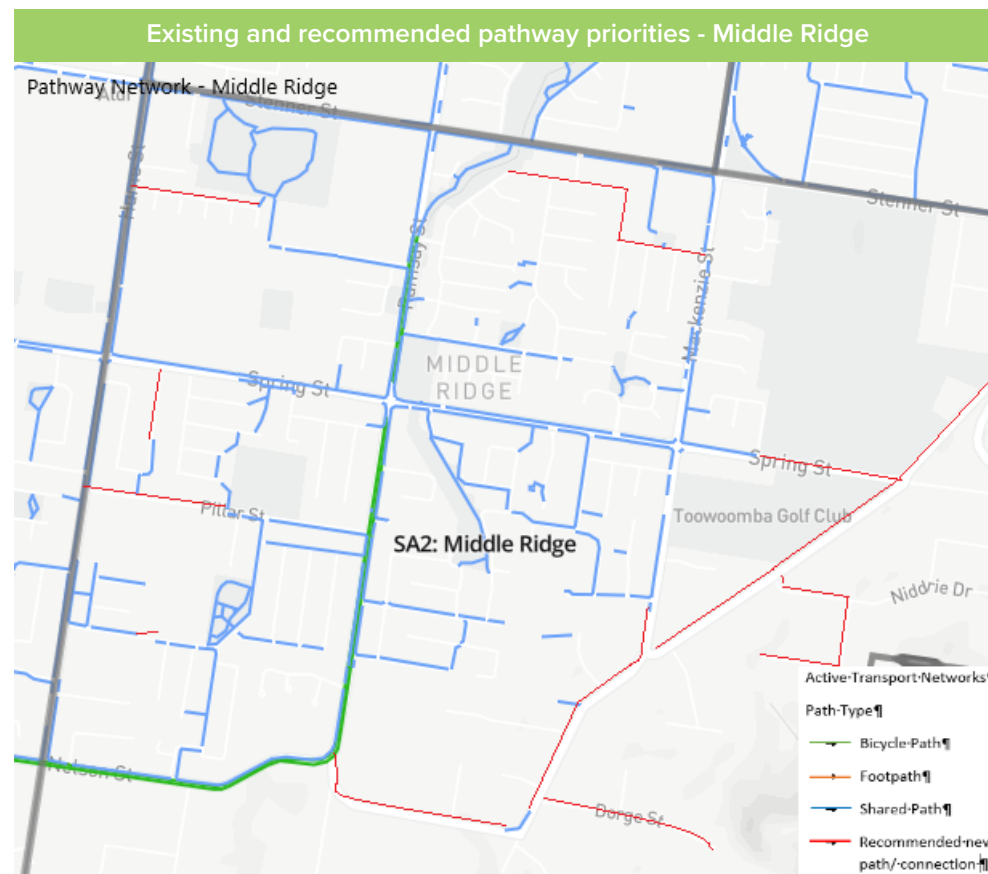
- « Predominantly less permeable (cul-de-sac) patterns.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Middle Ridge



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network to improve disconnect created by cul-de-sacs. Priority considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Audrey Court « Calypso Street « Pillar Street « Spring Street « Snapdragon Street and Boganvillea Drive « Rowbotham Street. 	<p>There is a good network of pathways in Middle Ridge. Some key connections will enhance the network and provide improved access to destinations.</p>
<p>Facilitate connections to Glen Lomond Park by providing pathways and wayfinding signage along streets leading to the Glen Lomond Park trail heads, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Dorge Street « Inadale Court « Burraway Court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Glen Lomond Park provides an excellent nature-based walking opportunity. Pathways and wayfinding linking to the park, particularly the Glen Lomond Bridal Trail will enhance awareness and participation.
<p>Increase awareness raising of opportunities including providing signage and wayfinding within the community directing residents to parks, open space and nature-based opportunities and signing pathways along linear networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Awareness was a key issue throughout the SARHL Plan research and not knowing what opportunities are available was a key barrier emerging for Middle Ridge.
<p>Ensure facilities are maintained to a functional standard and are accessible to all, including access for older people and people with disabilities. Key priorities to enhance accessibility are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Lighting and distance markers along the pathway traversing the linear open space network. « Provision of bubblers and seats along the linear pathway. « Shade over playground facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Provision of embellishments that make the open space and pathway network more user-friendly and safe will enhance usage.
<p>Consider providing a trail link through Nielson Park by providing connections with Tarlington Street and Nita Close on the eastern side and Colman Street and the existing pathway off Rowbotham Street on the western side.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « A trail link through Nielson Park would enhance east-west and north-south movement through this area and provide broader connections to other open space and destinations.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



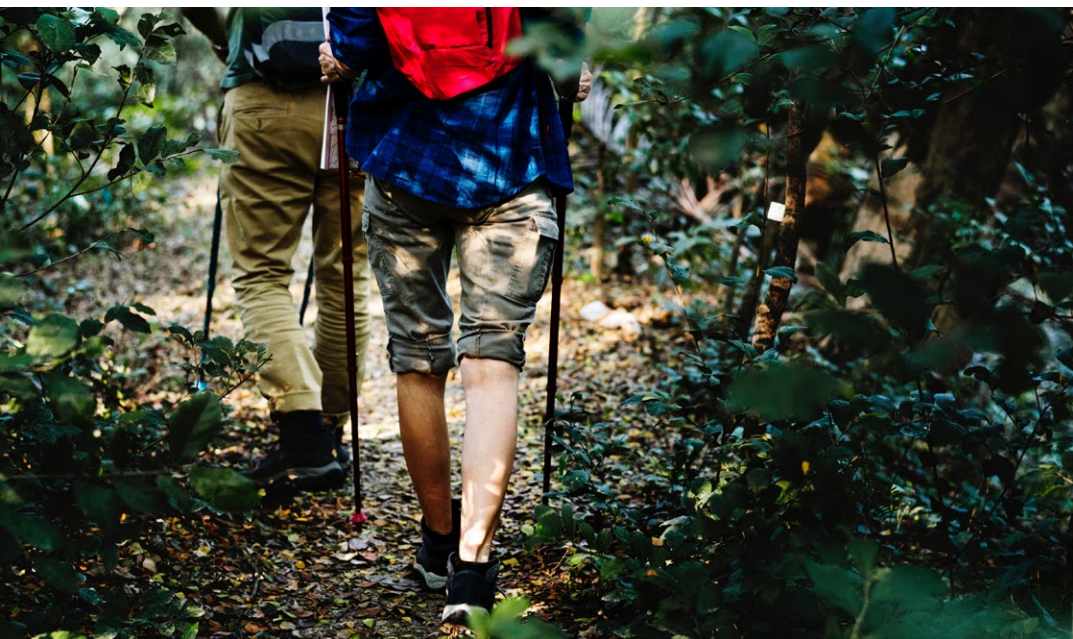
Priority 3 Target SA2

Local Health Data¹

- « 26% of children aged 2 to 17 years were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese.
- « 77% of people aged over 18 years undertook no or low exercise in the past week.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « An older population, with higher proportions of people aged over 65 years.
- « Slightly higher proportion of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- « Larger percentage of low-income households.
- « No population growth.



	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS State Suburb, 2016)⁴</p>	1,563	0.97% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	43 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 19.9% 15-24 year olds: 9.7% 65 years and over: 21.9%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	4.3%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	22.6%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	24.4%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	38.3%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	937	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT



Destinations

- « Generally appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Good path and cycle routes to destinations.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity.



Housing Diversity

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.



Community Facilities

- « A varied mix of well-located facilities that support activity living, including recreation centre, sportsfields, swimming pool, playgrounds and specialised facilities.
- « Facilities are well used by an active and engaged community.
- « Community facilities and destinations within Millmerran are applicable to its small, rural profile and are within walking distance of most of the population.
- « Good co-location of sporting facilities.



Programs and Services

- « A very active community with a large variety of community run programs that service the full Millmerran demographic from children to older adults.



Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through two food stores and green grocer located in town.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.



Movement Network

- « Generally good pathway connectivity throughout the township providing access from most areas to key destinations.
- « Potential to utilise the disused rail line as a rail trail.
- « Some, but predominantly limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Some pathways, not all, appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.



Public Open Space

- « Satisfactory supply of open space for a rural township with a mix of natural, formal and informal open spaces.
- « Nearby natural areas provide opportunities for a range of outdoor recreation experiences including watersports, camping and picnicking.
- « Most residents, but not all, have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « Main recreation ground is well designed and will embellished with appropriate activity options.
- « Cultural heritage is evident at some parks.



Sense of Place

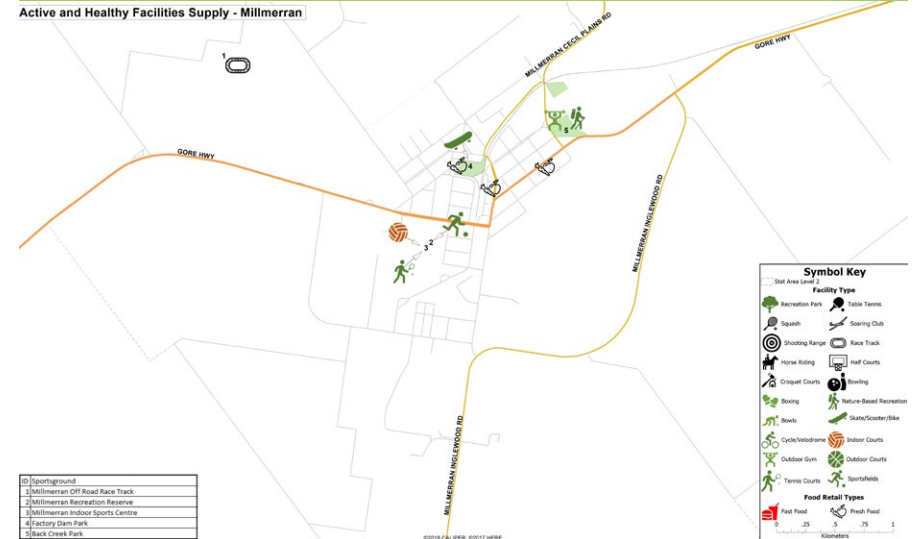
- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Generally good heritage of place evident at local parks.



Urban Design

- « Generally good pathway connectivity throughout the township providing access from most areas to key destinations.
- « Potential to utilise the disused rail line as a rail trail.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Millmerran

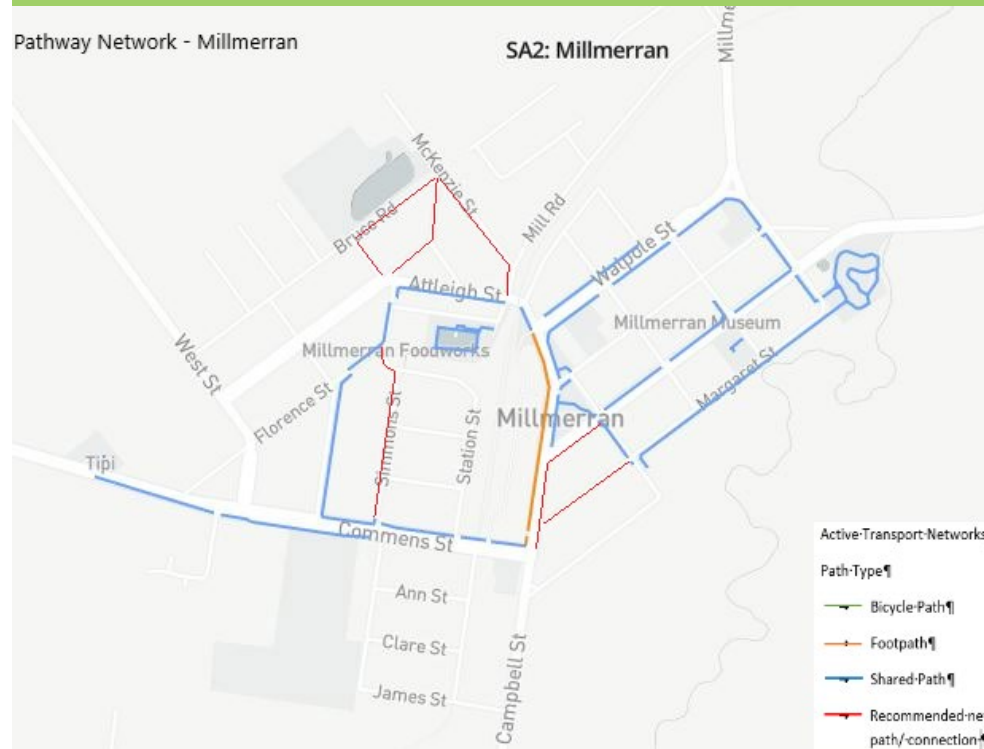


RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
Explore opportunities for development of sections of the disused rail line as a rail trail.	The current inland rail maps show that if the proposed inland rail proceeds, it would join the existing rail line at the s-bend approximately 6km to the north-east of Millmerran near Yandilla. This would leave approximately 6km of disused rail line between Millmerran and the s-bend, which provides potential for rail trail opportunities. Depending on the final route of the inland rail, this could be extended to include townships to the north-west of Millmerran (as identified in the Millmerran Tourism Strategy, 2019-2021).
Investigate opportunities for the development of Parkrun.	Millmerran has a very active community and a range of programs meet the active and healthy needs of residents. A key gap is "Parkrun". There is a strong contingent of walkers/ runners in the community and Parkrun would enhance opportunities for these residents as well as encourage greater participation. Back Creek Park, the recreation reserve or the disused rail line present options for development of a parkrun course.
Work with the community to facilitate programs for older adults aged 65 years and over. This should include low-impact programs such as walking as well as some strength-based activities and should use a combination of outdoor park facilities and the indoor centre.	Improved opportunities to engage the older population.
Consider partnerships with the local school to engage children and increase physical activity opportunities. Programs such as "walk to school" or "ride to school" would promote use of local pathways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children who live within 800m of their school are more likely to walk or cycle to school. In Millmerran, walk or ride to school programs would reach a large proportion of the community. School facilities provide opportunities to engage children and young people to promote active and healthy messages.

Recommendations	Rationale
Continue to improve the connectivity of the movement network. Key priorities for consideration include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a pathway along Summons Street connecting the school to the town centre. Extending the pathways along Margaret Street and Mary Street to the Gore Highway. Completing the link on the Gore Highway between Margaret and Mary Streets. Pathways connecting the caravan park to the town centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pathway network is well established, however there are some obvious missing links and potential opportunities to improve connectivity to key destinations, particularly the school and town centre. Completing unfinished linkages and providing additional pathways to provide better connections to community facilities and destinations will improve the walkability of the community. Pathways could consist of a combination of concrete pathways, connecting the town centre and key facilities, and natural trail-style paths to facilitate additional opportunities.

Existing and recommended pathway priorities - Millmerran



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Newtown SA2 includes the suburb of Newtown.

Priority 1 Target SA2

Health Data¹

- « 28% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 76% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 49% sufficient physical activity.
- « 38% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 54% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 8% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 42% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Not aware of local facilities/ opportunities
- « Nobody to attend with
- « Can't afford to participate

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A youthful population with higher proportions of young adults and lower proportions of people aged over 65 years.
- « Significantly larger proportions of low income households.
- « Significant socio-economic disadvantage.
- « Higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- « Lower numbers of families and larger proportions of lone households.
- « No population growth.

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS SA2, 2016)	9,596	5.97% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	35 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 18.4% 15-24 year olds: 15.5% 65 years and over: 15.8%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	6.5%	4.0%
Born overseas	26.6%	19.0%
Low income households	18.2%	21.1%
Couple families with children	32.3%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	917	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Inner city suburb provides access to a range of destinations and opportunities for walkability.
- « Good pathway network with some areas of disconnect.

Housing Diversity

- « Some housing diversity. 74% separate houses and 26% semi-detached or flats/ apartments.
- « Some retirement and aged care facilities.

Community Facilities

- « Mix of well-located sport and recreation facilities that support activity living.

Programs and Services

- « The CHANGE Program activities are targeted at older adults, however Newtown is a younger population.
- « Potential gap in programming for younger populations.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through several supermarkets and green grocers located in and around Clifford Gardens.
- « Cluster of fast food within this locality.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « The main movement network is good. Some areas are gridlocked due to cul-de-sac patterns that limit access to parks and destinations.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Some pathways, not all, appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Public Open Space

- « Satisfactory supply of open space, but some lack amenity. There is potential for increased activation of open spaces and some improvements to park infrastructure would enhance amenity and functionality.
- « Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Some limitations on visibility and functionality of smaller parks.

Sense of Place

- « Satisfactory sense of place.

Urban Design

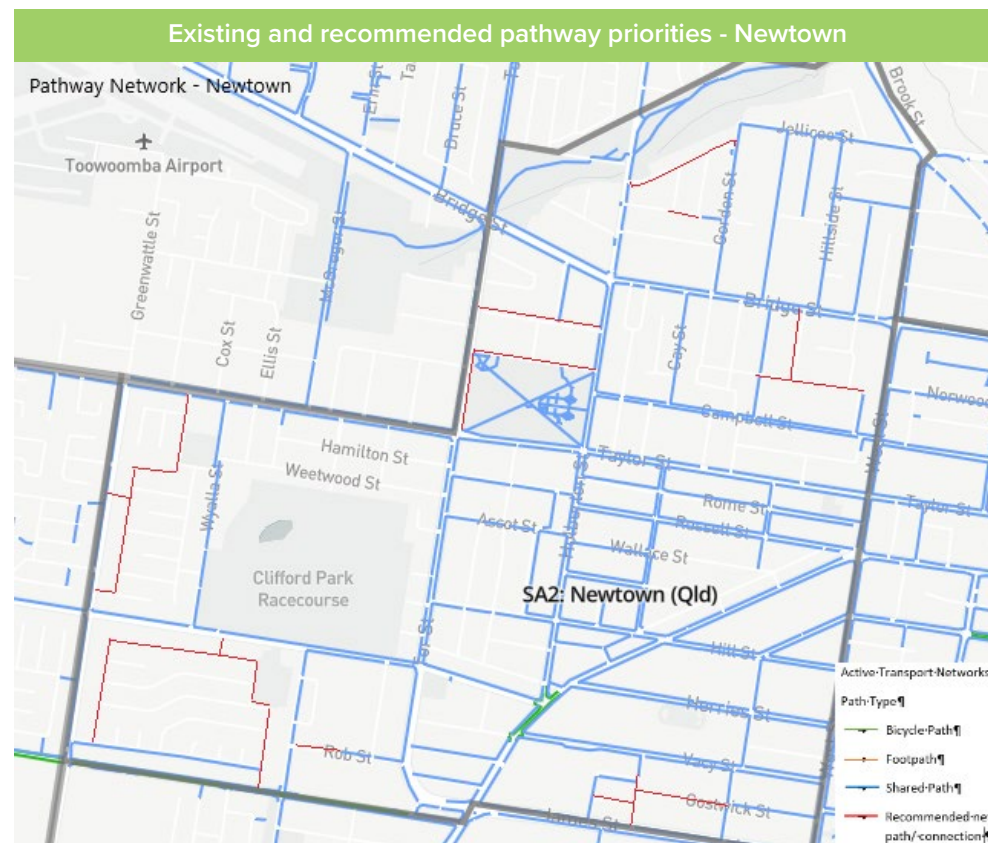
- « Predominantly grid pattern in traditional areas.
- « Some areas less permeable.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Newtown



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network. Consider the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Improving access to main roads for residential areas in the south-west corner between Taylor Street and Glenvale Road (i.e. Kurrajong Street, Brigalow Street, Poplar Street, Jimbour Drive) « Connection to Clifford Gardens along Gostwick Street and Betty Street. « Pottinger Street. « Victory Street. « Charlotte and Northland Streets. <p>Improve safety of the movement network by ensuring regular pathway maintenance and installation of lighting along all pathways, particularly those traversing parkland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Completing unfinished linkages and providing additional pathways to provide better connections will improve the walkability of the community.
<p>Improve amenity of open space by providing pathway connections, shade over playgrounds, and ensuring landscaping enables adequate surveillance. Some key parks to address include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Freneau Pines Park « George Orford Park « Hillview Street Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « There are a number of parks within the Newtown area that feature low landscaping and shrubbery, which limits surveillance of the parkland and may prevent safety issues. « Many of the playgrounds are uncovered and lack natural shade making them less appealing and less likely to be used.
<p>Facilitate low cost programming focusing on activities for target populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Young adults « Facilities « Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « A younger community with a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. « High levels of socio-economic disadvantage will mean higher price sensitivity.
<p>Ensure programs utilise local parks and facilities and are promoted through a range of traditional and contemporary mediums including social media, word of mouth and community fliers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « There is a good supply of local parks in Newtown. Programs should encourage the target populations to “get out and about” and utilise their local parks. « Promotion to a more youthful population is likely to be more successful if utilising contemporary mediums such as Instagram and Facebook.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The North Toowoomba - Harlaxton SA2 includes the suburbs of North Toowoomba, Harlaxton and Mount Kynoch.



Priority 3 Target SA2

Health Data¹

- « 28% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 76% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 49% sufficient physical activity.
- « 36% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 68% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 6% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 43% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Nobody to attend with
- « Not aware of local facilities/ opportunities
- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Can't afford to participate

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A younger population with significantly larger proportions of 15-24 year olds than the Toowoomba Region.
- « Significantly higher proportions of people born overseas. The most common countries of birth for people not born in Australia were England (2.1%) and New Zealand (1.9%).
- « Lower proportions of couple families with children.
- « Limited population growth.

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS SA2, 2016)	5,734	3.57% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	34 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 17.9% 15-24 year olds: 17.7% 65 years and over: 14.6%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	5.8%	4.0%
Born overseas	26.6%	19.0%
Low income households	18.3%	21.1%
Couple families with children	33.6%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	934	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « There are a number of destinations nearby but there is disconnect between residents and the destinations.
- « Access to destinations is difficult due to the fragmented movement network and potentially buys/unsafe connections.
- « Large areas of commercial and industrial.
- « Some isolated pockets of disconnected residential areas.

Housing Diversity

- « Limited housing diversity. 81.3% separate houses.

Community Facilities

- « Destinations consist of a central shopping hub, schools and churches.
- « Sport and recreation facilities include a number of parks and sporting facilities including the velodrome.
- « Infrastructure such as the railway, highway and industry create disconnect between residents and destinations.

Programs and Services

- « Walking group.
- « Little evidence of programs in this area.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through supermarkets.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « Very fragmented movement network.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).

Public Open Space

- « Satisfactory supply of open space with a mix of purposes including passive recreation and formal sport.
- « The open space network is fragmented with limited connections. Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Improved functionality and appeal is needed.

Sense of Place

- « Overall sense of place is lacking.

Urban Design

- « Mix of urban design patterns with some traditional grid, but predominantly less permeable arrangements.

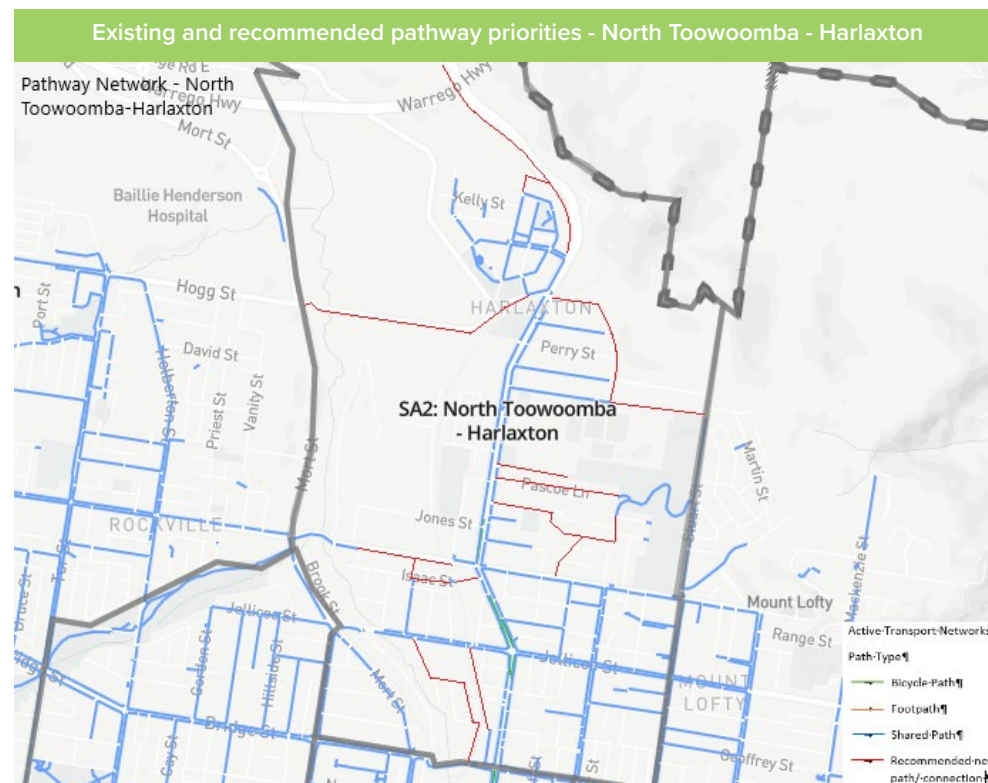
Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in North Toowoomba - Harlaxton

Active and Healthy Facilities Supply - North Toowoomba SA2



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network. Some priority connections include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Connections from Horn Park through to the New England Highway and North Street. « Missing link along North Street. « Connections between Jellico and Bridge Streets to the west of Ruthven Street. « Prince and Munro Streets connecting to the New England Highway. « Hogg Street. « Dwyer and Greene Streets connecting to the New England Highway. <p>Ensure safety and accessibility of the movement network by installing lighting and providing a regular maintenance regime.</p>	<p>« The pathway network is fragmented. Completing unfinished linkages and providing additional pathways to provide better connections to community facilities and destinations will improve the walkability of the community.</p>
<p>Improve amenity and functionality of open space by providing shade, pathway connections and support facilities such as seating, shade and bubblers. Key parks to consider are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Horn Park « Perry Street Park « Reg Veacock Park « Harlaxton Park. 	<p>« Many of the recreation parks lack shade over play equipment, seating, bubblers and shelter, making them less appealing and less likely to be used.</p>
<p>Consider developing Horn Park as a destination park providing a district level playground facilities, BBQ and picnic facilities, outdoor gym equipment and enhancing the pathway network with seating, distance markers and water bubblers.</p>	<p>« Horn Park presents an excellent opportunity to develop a key active and healthy destination for the people of North Toowoomba and would also be accessible to neighbouring SA2s.</p>
<p>Facilitate low cost programs for young adults.</p>	<p>« North Toowoomba – Harlaxton is a younger community.</p>



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

Oakey sits within the Jondaryan SA2, which has been identified as a Priority 3 Target SA2.

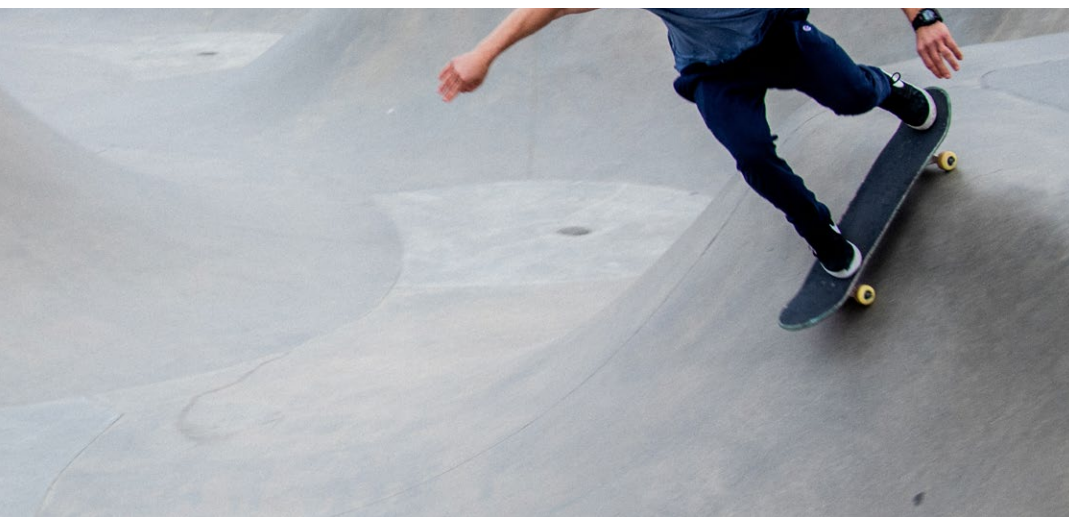
Priority 3 Target SA2

Local Health Data¹

- « 27% of children aged 2 to 17 years were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese.
- « 79% of people aged over 18 years undertook no or low exercise in the past week.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A balanced age profile, with slightly more people aged under 25 years.
- « Significantly higher proportions of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander people.
- « Indications of socio-economic disadvantage with a SEIFA index in the 1st percentile nationally and 2nd percentile in QLD.
- « Slightly higher proportions of people with a disability.
- « Limited population growth.



	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS SA2, 2016)</p>	4,705	2.93% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	38 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 21.5% 15-24 year olds: 13.6% 65 years and over: 17.2%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	8.7%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	18.1%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	20.8%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	38.5%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	900	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Good provision for a small, rural township.
- « Fragmented path and cycle routes to destinations.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity.

Housing Diversity

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.

Community Facilities

- « Mix of well-located Council and non-Council sport and recreation facilities that support activity living, including sportsfields, swimming pool, playgrounds and cultural centre.
- « Private facilities enhance opportunities (e.g. rugby league, indoor sports, tennis).
- « Community facilities and destinations within Oakey are applicable to its small, rural profile.

Programs and Services

- « Well serviced by programs such as the CHANGE Program, Parkrun and a local walking group.
- « Community apathy, particularly among younger generations is a key challenge to program participation.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through two food stores and a green grocer located in town.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « Evidence or recent pathway developments enhance the movement network.
- « Attractive pathways enhance linear open space corridors and include support infrastructure (e.g. outdoor gym equipment).
- « Gaps in the pathway network on the western side of town.
- « Southern area contains cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets.
- « Lack of connectivity between north-eastern residential area and town centre, which is exacerbated by the rail line.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).

Public Open Space

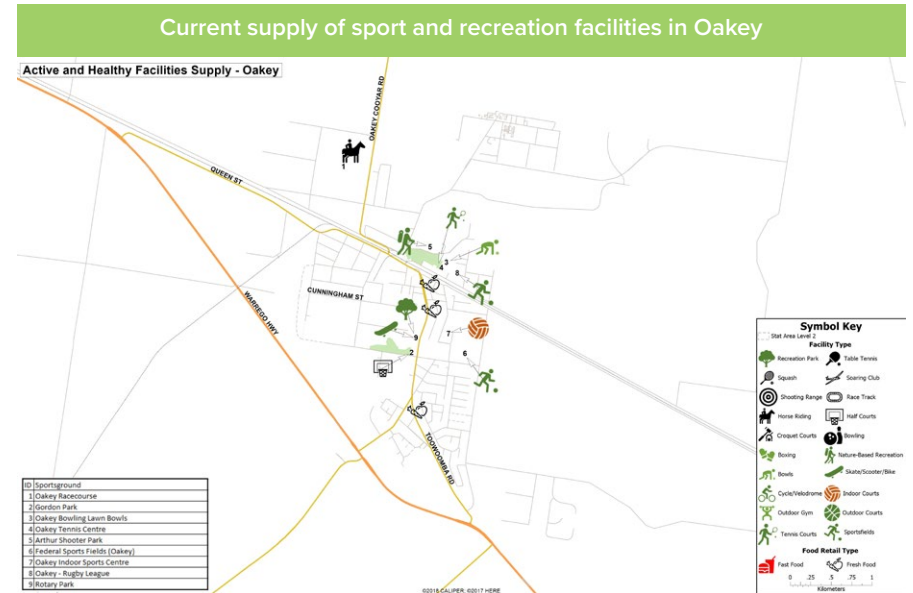
- « Satisfactory supply of open space for a rural township with a mix of natural, formal and informal open spaces. There is potential for increased activation of open spaces and some improvements to park infrastructure would enhance functionality.
- « Most residents, but not all, have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.

Sense of Place

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.

Urban Design

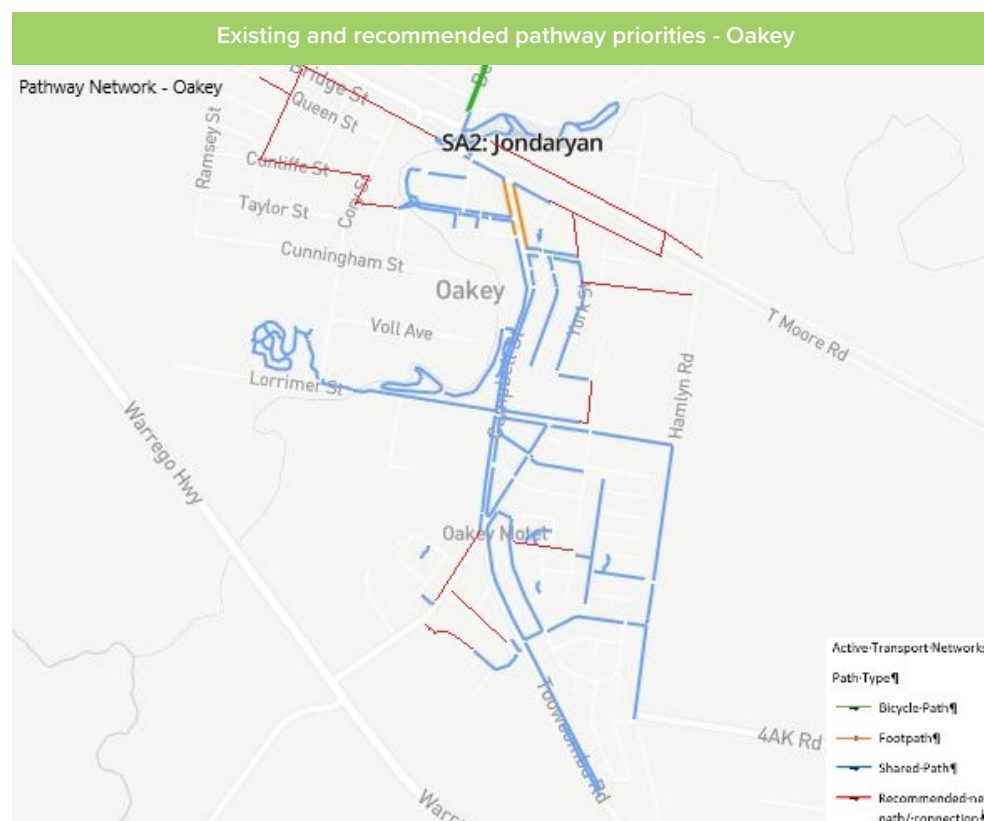
- « Traditional areas are a basic grid-style pattern accessible to main town centre and the majority of community facilities.
- « Southern section is less permeable with large numbers of cul-de-sacs and dead end streets.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network. Some priority considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Extending the pathway along both ends of Bridge Street to enable access from the western and north-eastern sides of town. « Pathways along West Street, Cunliffe Street, Cory Street and Tyrell Street to connect the western residential areas. « Kent Street and across to Bridge Street providing access from the northern residential area. « York Street adjacent to the Oakey State School. « Cribb Street and Aubigny Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Oakey has good connectivity close to the town centre. Completing unfinished linkages and providing additional pathways to provide better connections to community facilities and destinations will improve the walkability of the community. « There is a lack of pathways connecting the western and north eastern residential areas.
<p>Prioritise programs that engage and upskill young people and create connections between young people and older generations. Utilise existing successful programs and community events, such as Parkrun to involve young people.</p>	<p>There are higher proportions of young people in Oakey, however a key issue raised during consultation was the lack of community involvement by young people and some disconnect between younger and older generations.</p>
<p>Engage with Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander providers to facilitate programs targeted at the Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander community. This may include involving the Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander community in developing indigenous dance and yarning circles at Arthur Shooter Park and developing programs utilising this space.</p>	<p>Oakey has a significantly higher proportion of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander people. There is potential to develop indigenous dance and yarning circles at Arthur Shooter Park and this would provide an excellent opportunity to engage with the Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander community and facilitate active and healthy programs while also achieving broader social and community outcomes.</p>
<p>Facilitate partnerships amongst community sport and recreation clubs and community groups to foster greater community collaboration within the sport and recreation community and improve club sustainability. This may include encouraging alternative governance structures, such as amalgamations/ umbrella clubs that will ease the volunteer burden and cost of participation.</p>	<p>Oakey is a disadvantaged area as demonstrated by its SEIFA index. This can increase the burden on sporting clubs to attract members and volunteers, which threatens the sustainability of clubs. Cost was identified as a key barrier to participation within Oakey.</p>
<p>Ensure programs are low cost, utilise local community providers where possible and are promoted through a range of traditional and contemporary mediums including social media, word of mouth and community fliers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Oakey has a higher index of disadvantage and lower incomes than Toowoomba meaning there is likely to be high price sensitivity. « Key themes to emerge from the research were the lack of information about what is available in the community, together with a desire to improve community collaboration through the use of local providers.

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Consider partnerships with the local school to engage children and increase physical activity opportunities. Programs such as “walk to school” or “ride to school” would promote use of local pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Children who live within 800m of their school are more likely to walk or cycle to school. « School facilities provide opportunities to engage children and young people to promote active and healthy messages.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



Priority 3 Target SA2

Local Health Data¹

- « 26% of children aged 2 to 17 years were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese.
- « 77% of people aged over 18 years undertook no or low exercise in the past week.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « An older population with significantly higher proportions of people over 65 years.
- « No other significant socio-demographic characteristics or disadvantage.
- « Limited population growth. Most growth expected to occur in the older age groups with some growth in the adolescent and middle aged population groups.



	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS State Suburb, 2016)</p>	3,294	2.05% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	43 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 20.8% 15-24 year olds: 11.1% 65 years and over: 26.7%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	2.8%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	18.2%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	21.8%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	39.1%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	970	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Generally appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Good pathway network to destinations. Some gaps.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity.

Housing Diversity

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.

Community Facilities

- « Mix of well-located sport and recreation facilities that support activity living, including recreation reserve, aquatic centre and skatepark.
- « Community facilities and destinations within Pittsworth are applicable to its small, rural profile and are within walking distance of most of the population.
- « Good co-location of sporting facilities.

Programs and Services

- « A range of community programs including CHANGE program activities, Parkrun, walking group.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through two food stores and green grocer located in town.
- « Community garden.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « Reasonable network of connected pathways.
- « Some gaps in the network.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Some pathways, not all, appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Public Open Space

- « Satisfactory supply of open space for a rural township with a mix of natural, formal and informal open spaces.
- « Most residents, but not all, have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « Some limitations on visibility and functionality of smaller parks.

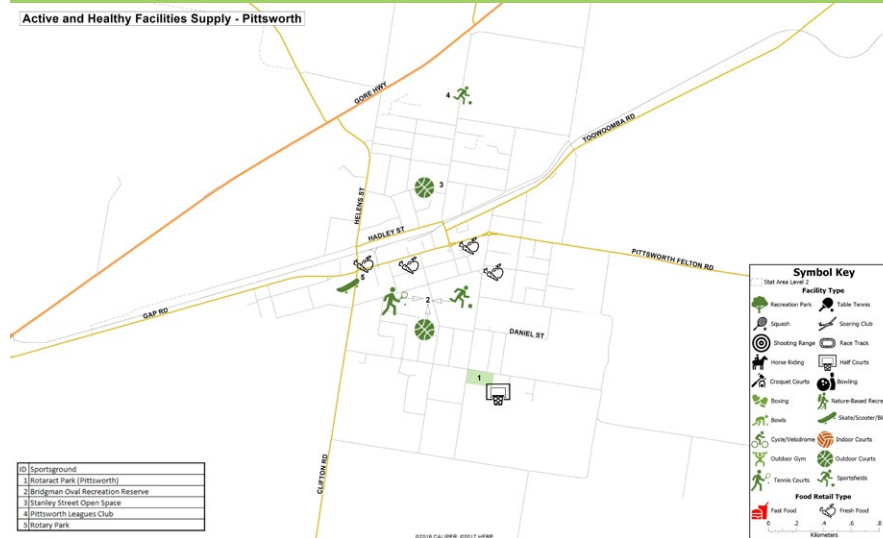
Sense of Place

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Generally good heritage of place evident.

Urban Design

- « Mixed. Predominantly grid pattern in traditional areas.
- « Some less permeable (cul-de-sac) areas.
- « North and south split by railway line.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Pittsworth



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network. Key priorities for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Improving connections to the recreation reserve with pathways along Steele Street and Margetts Street. « Completing connections along Young Street to Helens Street. Hadley Street from Thomas Street around to Campbell Street. « Campbell Street between Hadley Street and Short Street. « Short Street from Campbell Street to the existing path. « Young and Fryar Street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Pittsworth has an ageing population. Walking is a popular activity for older adults and the benefits are well documented. Facilitating an environment that makes it easy for older adults to walk for active transport and recreation will assist in encouraging walking. « Pathways would consist of a combination of concrete pathways, connecting the town centre and key facilities, and natural trail-style paths to facilitate additional connections.
<p>Focus programming on activities that provide low-impact active recreation for older adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Pittsworth has a high proportion of older adults and a larger proportion of people requiring assistance. Activities targeted at older residents that aim to increase physical fitness, strength, balance, endurance and flexibility are recommended as part of the National Physical Activity Guidelines.
<p>Facilitate programs at the skatepark.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « While the focus is on older adults, there is a need to provide for the younger residents of the community.
<p>Consider partnerships with the local school to engage children and increase physical activity opportunities. Programs such as “walk to school” or “ride to school” would promote use of local pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Children who live within 800m of their school are more likely to walk or cycle to school. In Pittsworth, this would account for a larger percentage of the school population. Coupled with improved connectivity of the movement network, walk or ride to school programs would reach a large proportion of the community. « School facilities provide opportunities to engage children and young people to promote active and healthy messages.
<p>Support the community in conducting events (e.g. cycling) and advocate to resolve road closure barriers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « There is an active cycling community in Pittsworth and there is a strong interest in conduct local cycling events, however issues with road closure approvals have been a consistent barrier to conducting events.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Rangeville SA2 includes the suburb of Rangeville.

Low Priority SA2

Health Data¹

- « 21% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 62% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 69% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 39% sufficient physical activity.
- « 31% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 58% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 9% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 52% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Nobody to attend with
- « Not aware of opportunities

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A significantly older population with lower proportions of young people and higher proportions of people aged over 65 years.
- « No other significant socio-demographic characteristics.
- « Limited population growth.

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
<p>Population (ABS SA2, 2016)</p>	8,312	5.17% of the Toowoomba region population
<p>Median Age</p>	43 years	38 years
<p>Age Groups</p>	0-14 year olds: 19.1% 15-24 year olds: 10.4% 65 years and over: 22.3%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people</p>	2.0%	4.0%
<p>Born overseas</p>	18.1%	19.0%
<p>Low income households</p>	20.1%	21.1%
<p>Couple families with children</p>	39.8%	40.8%
<p>SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage</p>	1046	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Fringe suburb surrounded by natural areas.
- « Good connectivity to inner city suburbs via pathways and greenspace.

Housing Diversity

- « Limited housing diversity. 84% separate houses and 14% semi-detached.

Community Facilities

- « Limited community facilities. Predominantly schools and church facilities and shopping centre.
- « Access to community facilities in nearby SA2s.

Programs and Services

- « Little evidence of program opportunities.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through supermarket.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « Relatively good movement network.
- « Some key gaps and opportunities for additional pathways.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).

Public Open Space

- « Good supply of greenspace with excellent linear network and good connection to central areas.
- « Some open spaces demonstrate limited amenity, safety and functionality, particularly undeveloped areas.
- « Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.

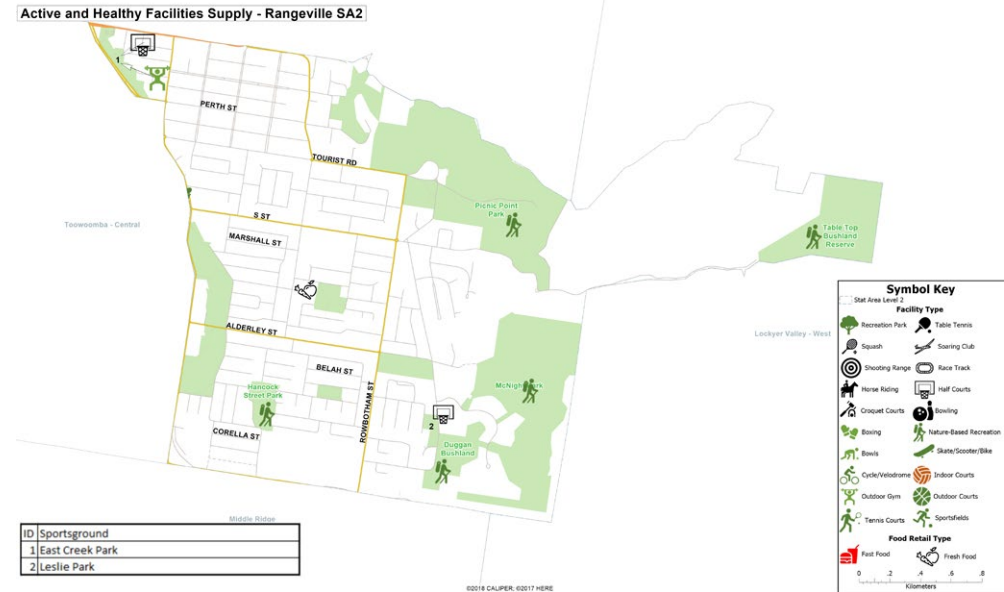
Sense of Place

- « Appropriate sense of place.

Urban Design

- « Mixture of well-designed grid patterns and less permeable cul-de-sac developments.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Rangeville



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
Further enhance the pathway network along the linear open space by providing lighting and support amenities such as water, seating, wayfinding and distance markers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Embellishments to the pathway network will improve the functionality of the network and encourage increased use.
Provide access from Rangeville to JE Duggan Park by providing pathway links along Collier Street and Leslie Street and explore opportunities for trail linkages through JE Duggan Park to connect with the Escarpment Park trail network. Ensure the access to the network is signed and that wayfinding signage is provided throughout the Rangeville SA2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The Escarpment Park network provides excellent bushwalking opportunities adjacent to Rangeville, however direct connections do not currently exist.
Improve the amenity and functionality of open space by providing shade over playgrounds, pathway connections, picnic facilities and ensuring landscaping enables adequate surveillance. Key parks include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Rangeville Park « Garnett Lehmann Park « Leslie Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Rangeville has an abundance of attractive parks. Some improvements will enhance functionality and encourage greater usage.
Continue to implement improvements to the Escarpment Park Links.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Existing planning provides direction to enhance functionality of escarpment parks in this locality.
Consider providing a trail link through Hancock Park by providing connections with Pelican Drive to the west of the park, Hancock Street to the north of the park and McClymont and Wirreanda Drives to the east of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « A trail link through Hancock park would enhance east-west and north-south movement through this area and provide broader connections to other open space and destinations.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Toowoomba Central SA2 includes the suburbs of Toowoomba, South Toowoomba, Centenary Heights.

Low Priority SA2

Health Data¹

- « 26% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 69% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 71% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 44% sufficient physical activity.
- « 36% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 56% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 26% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 45% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Weather too hot/ too cold
- « Can't afford to participate
- « Nobody to attend with
- « Not aware of local opportunities

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A balanced age profile. Slightly lower proportions of children.
- « Slightly larger proportions of people born overseas. The most common countries of both other than Australia being England (1.9%) and New Zealand (1.5%).
- « Lower proportions of families.
- « Slightly higher proportions of people with a disability (7.6%).
- « Slight socio-economic disadvantage.
- « Limited population growth.

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS SA2, 2016)	13,373	8.32% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	38 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 16.9% 15-24 year olds: 14.0% 65 years and over: 18.2%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	4.3%	4.0%
Born overseas	25.8%	19.0%
Low income households	20.9%	21.1%
Couple families with children	35.9%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	959	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Inner city area incorporating the CBD.
- « A range of destinations generally well connected via the movement network.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity.

Housing Diversity

- « Greater housing diversity than most other SA2s but still predominantly separate houses (72.5%) and larger proportions of semi-attached, unit style accommodation (26.8%).

Community Facilities

- « Significant provision of well-located sport and recreation facilities that support activity living.
- « Being an inner city suburb the CBD and surrounding areas provides a range of community facilities and destinations.

Programs and Services

- « Access to the CHANGE Program activities in neighbouring areas.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through a number of supermarkets and green grocers.
- « Cluster of fast food within the SA2.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « Well developed movement network throughout the CBD.
- « Some fragmentation in the southern area.
- « Some areas of limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « Some pathways, not all, appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Public Open Space

- « Satisfactory supply of open space.
- « Most residents, but not all, have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « Cultural heritage is acknowledged throughout the CBD.

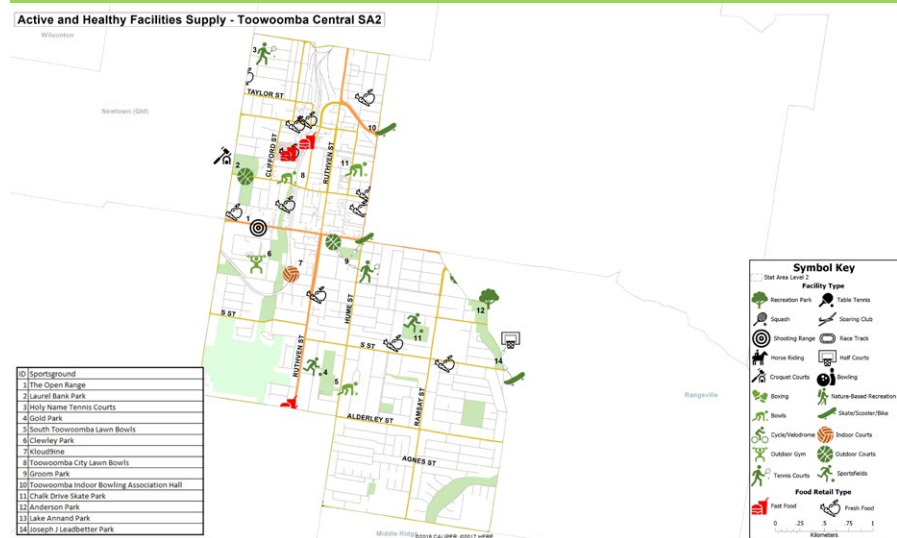
Sense of Place

- « Good sense of place.
- « Generally good heritage of place evident.

Urban Design

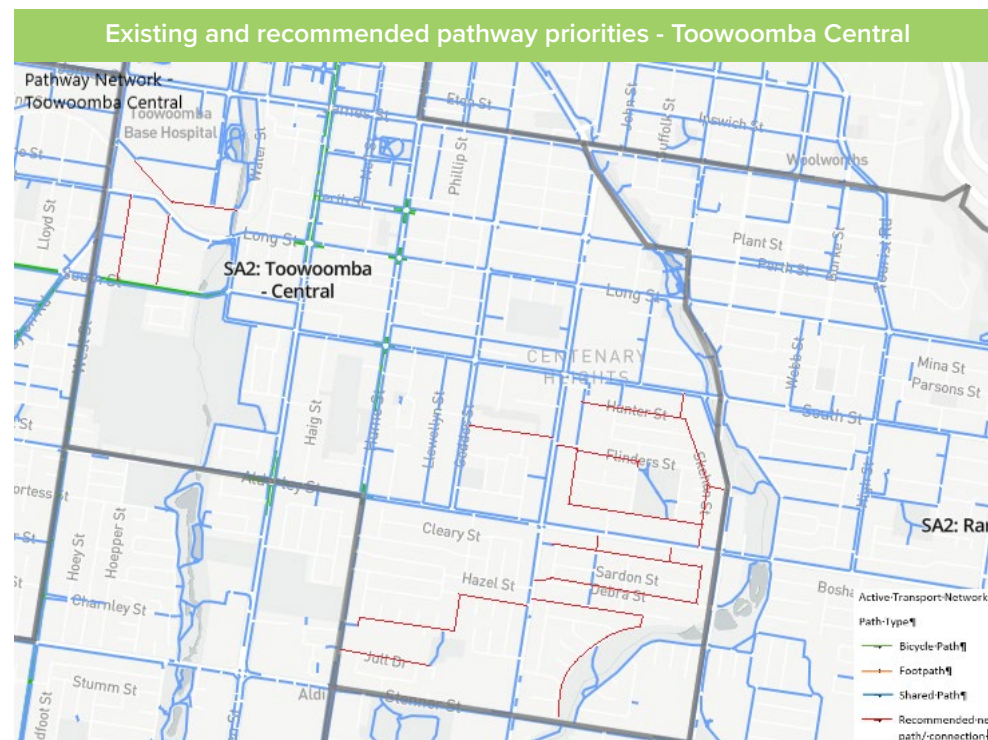
- « Predominantly grid pattern in traditional areas.
- « Some less permeable patterns.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Toowoomba Central



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network, particularly in the southern area. Key priorities to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Residential areas in Centenary Heights. « Residential area in South Toowoomba between South Street and Stephen Street. <p>Improve safety and accessibility of the movement network through a regular maintenance regime and installation of lighting on all pathways.</p>	<p>« The Toowoomba Central area has a good network of pathways providing access to key destinations. The network could be improved, particularly in the southern area of the SA2 by creating additional connections.</p>
<p>Improve amenity and functionality of open space by providing shade, pathway connections, lighting and ensuring landscaping enables adequate surveillance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Gowrie Street Park « Laurel Bank Park (particularly night lighting) « Amanda Drive Park 	<p>« The Toowoomba Central area has a number of highly attractive parklands. There are some areas where safety is a concern due to lack of lighting and low/ thick shrubbery. Improving safety will enhance usage, as will providing adequate pathway connections, shade and support facilities.</p>
<p>Consider relocating the Parkour equipment currently in Clewley Park to a more suitable location. Potential locations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The recommended site for a proposed regional skate/scooter/bike facility (The Gasworks, 1 Neil Street); « Groom Park; « East Creek Park. 	<p>« Clewley Park is not considered the ideal location for Parkour equipment and it is currently not well used. The equipment would be better located in conjunction with a precinct of youth facilities and/ or outdoor gym facilities in a location with opportunities for further expansion should demand warrant.</p>



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Toowoomba East SA2 includes the suburbs of East Toowoomba, Prince Henry Heights, Mount Lofty and Redwood.

Low Priority SA2

Health Data¹

- « 21% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 62% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 69% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 45% sufficient physical activity.
- « 22% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 55% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 9% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 50% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Not aware of opportunities
- « Can't afford to participate

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A balanced population profile by comparison with the Toowoomba region, although the higher median age indicates a slightly ageing population.
- « Not socio-economically disadvantaged.
- « No other significant demographic characteristics.
- « No projected population growth.

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
 Population (ABS State Suburb, 2016)	9,757	6.07% of the Toowoomba region population
 Median Age	41 years	38 years
 Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 19.4% 15-24 year olds: 12.7% 65 years and over: 17.2%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	2.5%	4.0%
 Born overseas	19.4%	19.0%
 Low income households	19.2%	21.1%
 Couple families with children	42.4%	40.8%
 SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	1045	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Inner city suburb with good connectivity to key destinations.
- « Limited key destinations. Access to additional destinations in neighbouring Toowoomba Central SA2.

Housing Diversity

- « Greater housing diversity than most other SA2s but still predominantly separate houses (77%).
- « Large numbers of temporary unit/ motel accommodation.

Community Facilities

- « Cluster of sport and recreation facilities that support activity living around the Queens Park precinct.
- « Limited other destinations, with some schools, churches and the museum.

Programs and Services

- « The CHANGE Program group fitness activities in Queens Park.
- « Parkrun in Queens Park.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through supermarkets and green grocers.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « More fragmented network in the northern area of the SA2 (i.e. Mount Lofty).
- « Improved functionality and appeal of the movement network would enhance usage.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).

Public Open Space

- « Mix of open space types including sport, recreation and nature-based recreation.
- « Queens Park is a major destination park providing a variety of opportunities.
- « Access to nature-based recreation parks nearby. Opportunities to improve and promote access.
- « Most residents have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed. Limited embellishments in some local parks.

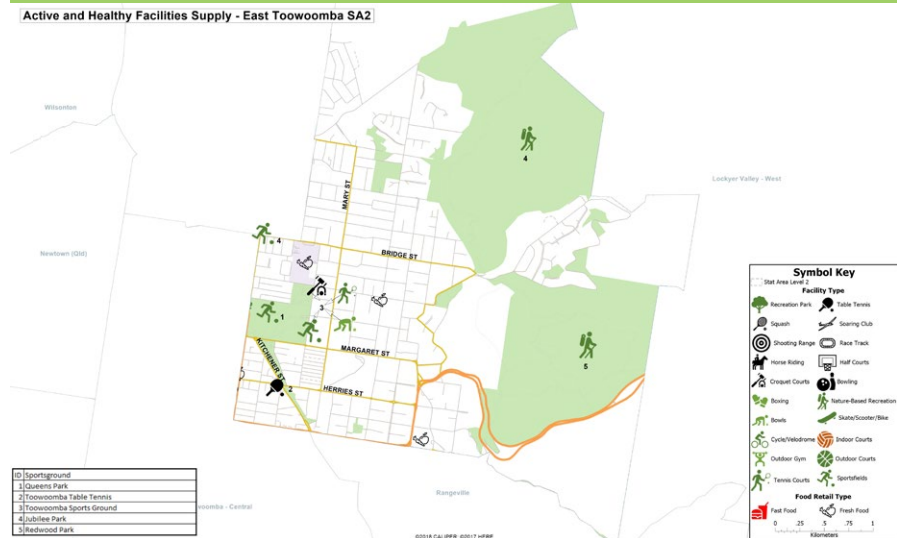
Sense of Place

- « Appropriate sense of place.
- « Generally good heritage of place evident, particularly in the areas closest to the CBD.

Urban Design

- « Predominantly grid pattern in traditional areas in the southern area of the SA2.
- « Less permeable patterns in new areas closer to Mount Lofty.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Toowoomba East



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Toowoomba West SA2 includes the suburbs of Glenvale Torrington, Charlton, Westbrook and Wellcamp.

Low Priority SA2

Health Data¹

- « 24% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 70% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 70% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 33% sufficient physical activity.
- « 40% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 58% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 20% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 37% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Not aware of opportunities
- « Nobody to attend with
- « Weather e.g. too hot/ cold

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A significantly younger population.
- « Lower proportions of older people aged 65 and under (12.4%) and higher proportions of younger people aged under 15 years (22.3%).
- « Large proportions of couple families with children (47.7%)
- « High growth area expected to reach 17,637 people by 2026 and 27,034 people by 2041 (QGSO 2016-2021)

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS SA2, 2016)	13,005	8.09% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	34 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 22.3% 15-24 year olds: 14.8% 65 years and over: 12.4%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	3.8%	4.0%
Born overseas	12.6%	19.0%
Low income households	14.6%	21.1%
Couple families with children	47.7%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	1039	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Bulk of the SA2 is currently rural.
- « Mix of industry, sport and recreation, parks and nature-based areas.
- « Reasonable pathway network in urban areas, some fragmentation in Westbrook.
- « West Toowoomba Land Use Plan provides an excellent framework for future development.

Housing Diversity

- « Currently a mix of urban residential and rural residential.
- « The Proposed West Toowoomba development provides for improved housing diversity with three key residential communities in Cotswold Hills, Glenvale/ West Torrington and Westbrook.

Community Facilities

- « Currently a mix of limited sport, recreation, open space and nature-based recreation facilities.
- « The West Toowoomba Structure Plan modelled on Next Generation best practice, which includes neighbourhoods clustered around activity centres.

Programs and Services

- « The CHANGE Program currently offers group fitness bootcamps.

Movement Network

- « Good pathway provision in current urban areas, but some fragmentation in Westbrook.
- « The West Toowoomba Structure Plan proposes a improved walking and cycling infrastructure that enables a comprehensive active transport system.

Public Open Space

- « The West Toowoomba Structure Plan proposes a legible and well distributed open space network that is multi-purpose, serves a variety of functions, connects with existing bushland parks and has walkable catchments (400m-800m).

Sense of Place

- « The West Toowoomba Structure Plan adequately addresses planning for sense of place.

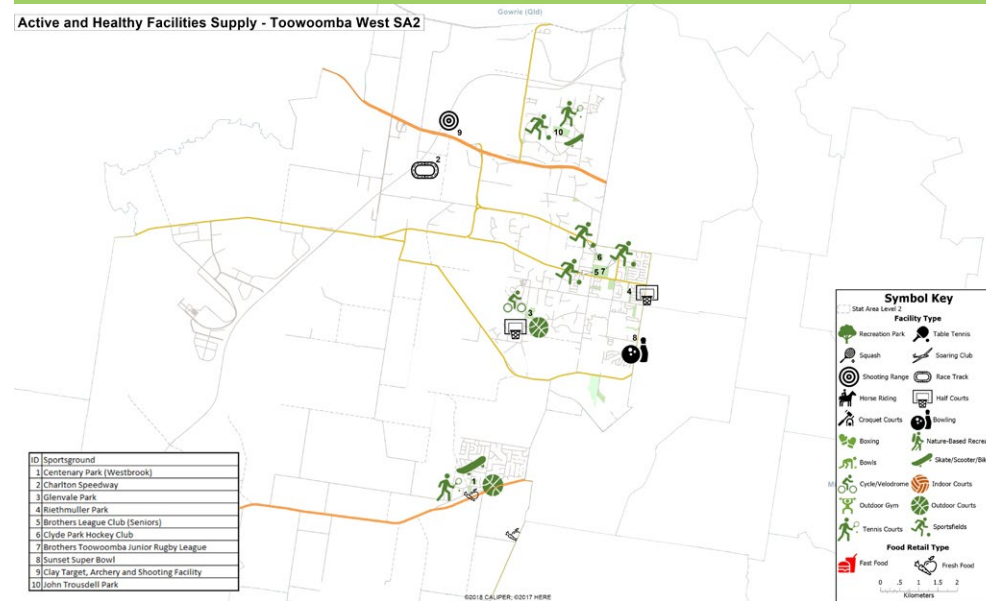
Urban Design

- « The West Toowoomba Structure Plan proposes an interconnected grid network of streets that encourage walking, cycling and public transport.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through food store and green grocer.
- « Community garden in neighbouring SA2 close to Glenvale.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Toowoomba West



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
Ensure development of the West Toowoomba Land Use Area in accordance with the Land Use Investigation Plan and Structure Plan for the area, which has active and healthy living at the core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Presents an opportunity to plan for an active and healthy community from the outset. « Land Use Investigation Plan and Structure Plan presents exciting Vision and outcomes including with active and healthy living as a core focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected and walkable neighbourhoods - Walking and cycling trails - Pleasant streets in grid-like pattern - Neighbourhood hubs - Housing diversity - Interconnected green spaces - Protection of natural and agricultural environment - Efficient and affordable infrastructure

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

The Wilsonton SA2 includes the suburbs of Wisonton, Rockville, Wilsonton Heights and Cranley.



Priority 1 Target SA2

Health Data¹

- « 28% of children were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of adults were overweight or obese.
- « 75% of adults were inactive.

Activate Survey Data (Self-reported)

- « 40% sufficient physical activity.
- « 42% sufficient vegetable consumption.
- « 36% sufficient fruit consumption.
- « 11% daily consumption of sugary drinks.
- « 33% weekly consumption of takeaway food.

Key barriers to participation

- « Not aware of local facilities/ opportunities
- « Not enough time/ too many commitments
- « Nobody to attend with

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A relatively balanced age profile compared to the Toowoomba region, with slightly higher proportions of people aged over 65 years and lower proportions of children.
- « Higher proportions of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- « Highly disadvantaged community with a SEIFA index in the first decile, a significantly higher proportion of low income households and high levels of unemployment (8.5%)
- « Limited population growth with the highest growth predicted in the older age groups above 75 years.
- « Higher proportion of households with no car (7.1%) or only one car (42.4%)

	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS SA2, 2016)	13,310	8.28% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	39 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 18.9% 15-24 year olds: 13.1% 65 years and over: 21.0%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	6.6%	4.0%
Born overseas	26.6%	19.0%
Low income households	15.6%	21.1%
Couple families with children	31.9%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	913	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.

² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Large sections of industrial area including aerodrome.
- « Main shopping hub is in the southern area of the SA2. Less access to destinations for residents in SA2.
- « Fragmented path and cycle routes to destinations.
- « Design of destinations is generally conducive to the activity.
- « Potential for improved functionality of destinations.

Housing Diversity

- « Limited housing diversity, with 78.7% separate houses.
- « Gated over 50's community.

Community Facilities

- « Basic, somewhat limited supply of sport and recreation facilities. Captain Cook Reserve provides good co-location of outdoor sport and recreation opportunities.
- « Some good open space resources.
- « Other key community facilities include churches, health care facilities and schools.

Programs and Services

- « Limited evidence of structured programs in this area.
- « Walking group.
- « Active group of mothers with young children would benefit from structured programs.

Urban Design

- « Predominantly grid pattern in traditional areas.
- « Significant areas of less permeable design.

Movement Network

- « Fragmented movement network with significant amounts of cul-de-sacs, particularly in Wilton Heights.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).

Public Open Space

- « A number of open space opportunities including formal sport and recreation, nature-based recreation and passive recreation.
- « There is potential for increased activation of open spaces and some improvements to park infrastructure would enhance functionality.
- « Most residents, but not all, have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Some limitations on visibility and functionality of smaller parks.
- « Cranley Bushland Park is difficult to access.

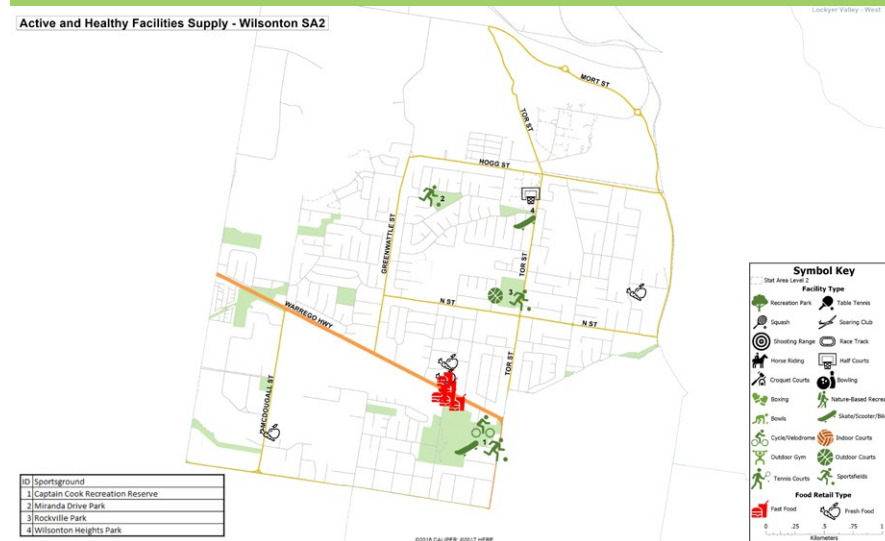
Sense of Place

- « Overall sense of place is lacking due to large industrial and commercial precincts.
- « Pockets exist where sense of place is appealing or has potential for further appeal.

Food Supply

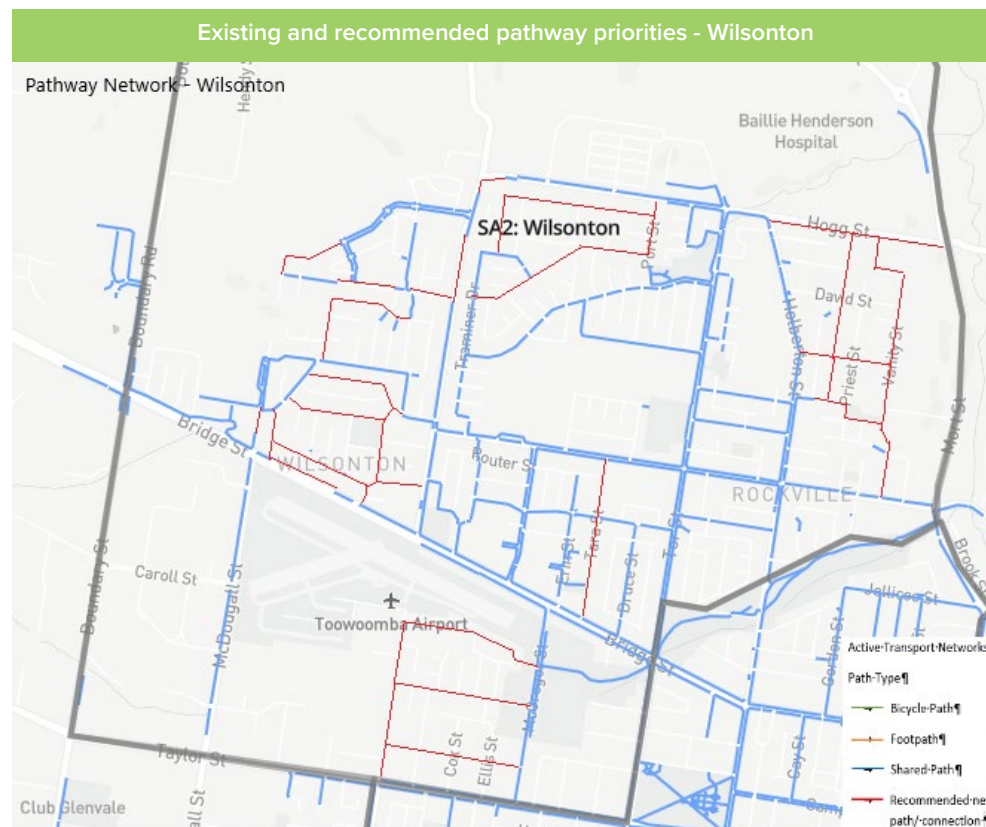
- « Access to fresh foods through two supermarkets.
- « Cluster of fast food in this area.
- « Heights Community Centre community garden.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Current supply of sport and recreation facilities in Wilton



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network to ensure access to parks, schools and shops. Key priorities are outlined on the attached map and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Connecting the area between Hogg Street and North Street. « Connections south of the aerodrome between Taylor Street and Captain Cook Reserve. « Several connections between Bridge Street and Hogg Street to the east of Tor Street. <p>Consider a cul-de-sac retrofitting program to alleviate the disconnect in those areas where cul-de-sacs limit connectivity.</p> <p>Improve the safety of the movement network by ensuring a regular maintenance program and installation of lighting along all pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The pathway network is fragmented and requires improved connectivity to provide links to destinations and improve walkability. « Significant cul-de-sac developments limit walkability. « Lit pathways will improve safety and encourage greater usage.
<p>Improve the amenity and functionality of open space and ensure all parks are appealing. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Shade over playground equipment « Additional natural shade and seating « Picnic facilities. « Ensuring landscaping provides adequate surveillance opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Improved access to and appeal of parks will encourage increased use. « Safety is a key consideration and there is a need to ensure spaces are safe for use by all.
<p>Facilitate low-cost programs for target populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People; « Families. <p>Partner with local schools, community centres, churches and health service agencies to develop and promote the programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « High proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and families. « Lower socio-economic community will require low cost opportunities.
<p>Ensure programs utilise local parks and facilities and are promoted through a range of traditional and contemporary mediums including social media, word of mouth and community fliers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Lack of knowledge about what is available in the local area was a key barrier to participation. « Use of local parks will encourage people to get out and about in their local community. « Higher proportion of households with no car or only one car means locally accessible programs should be a priority.
<p>Consider partnerships with local schools to engage children and increase physical activity opportunities. Programs such as “walk to school” or “ride to school” would promote use of local pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « School facilities provide opportunities to engage children and young people to promote active and healthy messages.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

Yarraman sits within the Crows Nest-Rosalie SA2, which has been identified as a Priority 3 Target SA2.



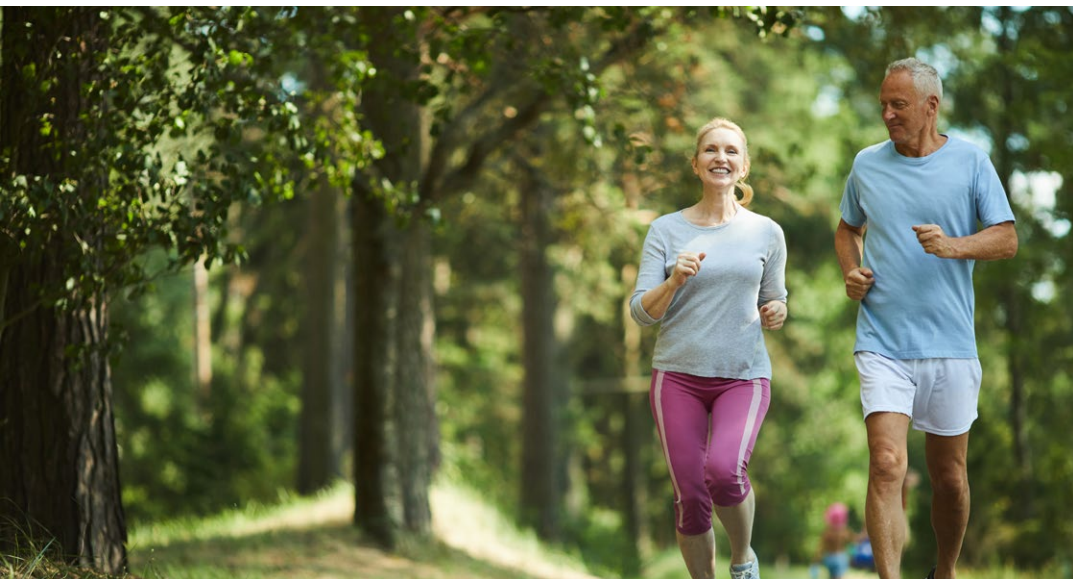
Priority 3 Target SA2

Local Health Data¹

- « 27% of children aged 2 to 17 years were overweight or obese.
- « 72% of the population aged 18 years and over were overweight or obese.
- « 79% of people aged over 18 years undertook no or low exercise in the past week.

Key Demographic Characteristics Relevant to Active and Healthy Living

- « A significantly older population. The largest age group is 65 to 69 year olds.
- « Lower proportions of young people aged under 15 years (15.7%) and higher proportions of older people aged over 65 (33.5%).
- « Larger proportion of people with disabilities (10.8%).
- « Significantly lower incomes. 38.0% of households are low income households.
- « Limited population growth.



	Population Data ²	Comparison with Toowoomba Region
Population (ABS State Suburb, 2016)	1,064	0.66% of the Toowoomba region population
Median Age	53 years	38 years
Age Groups	0-14 year olds: 15.7% 15-24 year olds: 9.1% 65 years and over: 33.5%	0-14 year olds: 20.3% 15-24 year olds: 12.9% 65 years and over: 17.8%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	4.2%	4.0%
Born overseas	22.0%	19.0%
Low income households	38.0%	21.1%
Couple families with children	25.6%	40.8%
SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage	966	989

¹ Based on Australia's Health Tracker data for Population Health Areas. Some Population Health Areas include more than one SA2.
² Source: Profile ID

ACTIVE & HEALTHY BY DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Destinations

- « Generally appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Fragmented path and cycle routes to destinations.
- « Design is generally conducive to the activity.
- « Enhancement required through additional activities, particularly for older adults and young families.

Housing Diversity

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.

Community Facilities

- « Mix of well-located sport and recreation facilities that support activity living, including sportsfields, courts, swimming pool and playgrounds.
- « Community facilities and destinations within Yarraman are applicable to its small, rural profile and are within walking distance of most of the population.
- « Good co-location of sporting facilities. Other facilities not co-located, but within close proximity and appropriate for a small rural township.

Programs and Services

- « The CHANGE Program Yoga is popular. Promotion of programs and services is a key issue and local partnerships are critical.
- « Active group of mothers with young children would benefit from structured programs.

Food Supply

- « Access to fresh foods through food store and green grocer located in town.
- « No provision for fresh food production on residential streets or at community destinations such as parks and school.

Movement Network

- « There are a small number of pathways along key streets and some are good quality.
- « The overall network is fragmented with little connectivity between pathways and to destinations.
- « Limited support facilities such as lighting, shade, shelter and signage.
- « Minimal infrastructure to support the function (e.g. bike racks, drinking fountains etc.).
- « No crossings at the school.
- « Some pathways, not all, appropriate for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Public Open Space

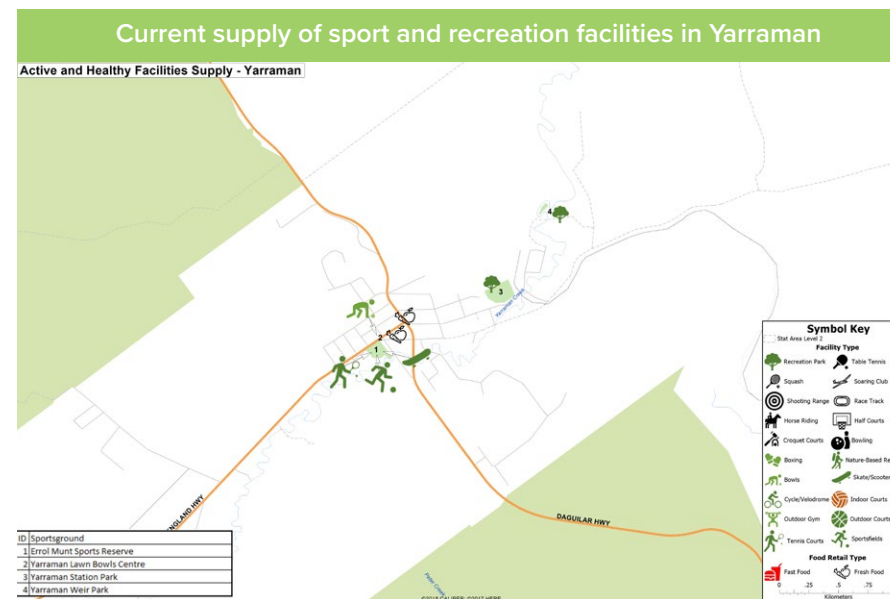
- « Satisfactory supply of open space for a rural township with a mix of natural, formal and informal open spaces. There is potential for increased activation of open spaces and some improvements to park infrastructure would enhance functionality.
- « Most residents, but not all, have access to a park within 400m – 800m.
- « Open space is generally well designed.
- « Some limitations on visibility and functionality of smaller parks.
- « Main recreation ground is well designed and will embellished with appropriate activity options. A Master Plan provides good direction for future development.
- « Cultural heritage is well acknowledged at the recreation ground and within the rail trail parks.

Sense of Place

- « Appropriate for a small, rural township.
- « Generally good heritage of place evident at rail trail and at some locations in the town centre and recreation grounds

Urban Design

- « Predominantly grid pattern in traditional areas. Some new developments exhibiting some less permeable patterns.

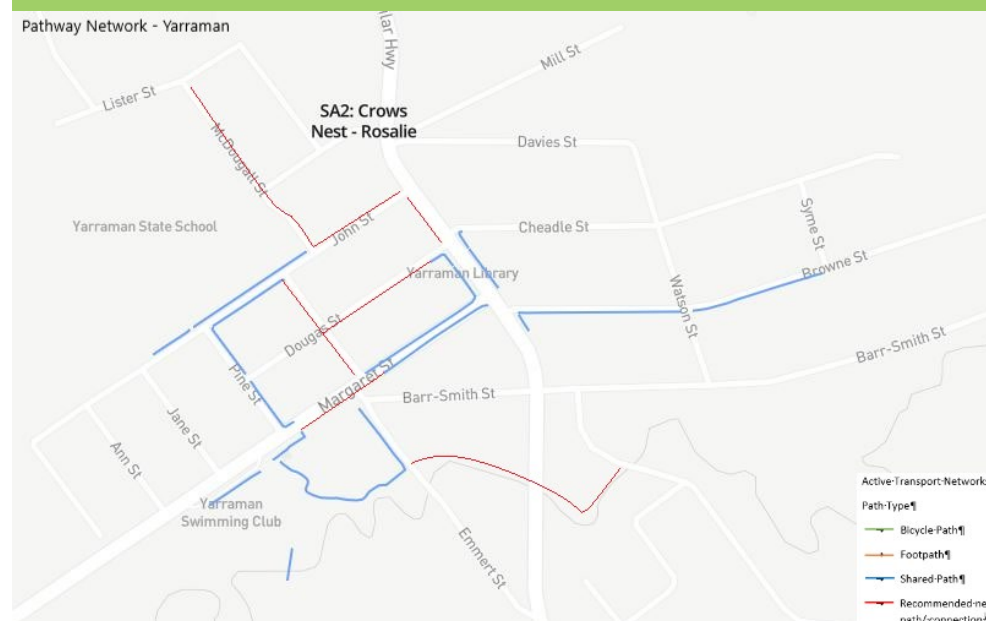


RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Ensure facilities are maintained to a functional standard and are accessible to all, including access for older people and people with disabilities. Key priorities to enhance accessibility are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Supporting the community to seek funding for resurfacing of 2 concrete tennis courts « Improvements to ensure PWD compliance of swimming pool. <p>Continue to implement the master plan for Errol Munt Sports Reserve, including as a priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Extension of the walking track « Provision of exercise equipment stations « Shade over the skatepark. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The availability and proximity of recreation facilities has been associated with greater physical activity among adults, adolescents and children³. Yarraman is fortunate to be a small, well-designed community where the majority of facilities are within walking distance for most residents. Ensuring these facilities are maintained to an adequate standard, are inviting and accessible will ensure usage. « The usage of the Yarraman tennis courts is limited by the inaccessibility of the two concrete courts. « The Aquatics Master Plan and Strategy (2015) recommended provision of PWD compliant facilities as high priorities for the Yarraman Swimming Pools. These improvements would greatly enhance accessibility for the community, particularly adults and people with disabilities. « Accessibility of facilities for people with disabilities and older adults may enhance usage in Yarraman where there is a high proportion of older adults and people with disabilities. « The master plan for Errol Munt sports reserve will result in an inviting space with a range of physical activity opportunities.
<p>Improve connectivity of the movement network, particularly to key community facilities and destinations, parks and open space. Some priority connections include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Connections between the main town centre and the school. « Complete linkages between the main town centre and Errol Munt Sports Reserve. « Investigate potential connection from Emmert Street along the creek to Bunya Pine Park. « Connection from the Caravan park to the town centre. <p>Ensure the movement network has shade through provision of street trees and support facilities for older adults such as seating and water where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Yarraman has an ageing population. Walking is a popular activity for older adults and the benefits are well documented. Facilitating an environment that makes it easy for older adults to walk for active transport and recreation will assist in encouraging walking by the Yarraman community. « The pathway network is fragmented. Completing unfinished linkages and providing additional pathways to provide better connections to community facilities and destinations will improve the walkability of the community. « Pathways would consist of a combination of concrete pathways, connecting the town centre and key facilities, and natural trail-style paths to facilitate additional connections.

Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Focus programming on activities that provide low-impact active recreation for older adults and people with disabilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Yarraman has a high proportion of older adults and a larger proportion of people with disabilities. Activities targeted at older residents that aim to increase physical fitness, strength, balance, endurance and flexibility are recommended as part of the National Physical Activity Guidelines.
<p>Ensure programs are low cost, utilise local community providers where possible and are promoted through a range of traditional and contemporary mediums including social media, word of mouth and community fliers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Yarraman has a higher index of disadvantage and lower incomes than Toowoomba meaning there is likely to be high price sensitivity. « Community partnerships are important in Yarraman and promotion relies heavily on word of mouth as well as more contemporary methods like social media.
<p>Consider partnerships with the local school to engage children and increase physical activity opportunities. Programs such as “walk to school” or “ride to school” would promote use of local pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Children who live within 800m of their school are more likely to walk or cycle to school. In Yarraman, this would account for a larger percentage of the school population. Coupled with improved connectivity of the movement network, walk or ride to school programs would reach a large proportion of the community. « School facilities provide opportunities to engage children and young people to promote active and healthy messages.

Existing and recommended pathway priorities - Yarraman



³ Heart Foundation. Healthy Active by Design (www.healthyactivebydesign.com.au)



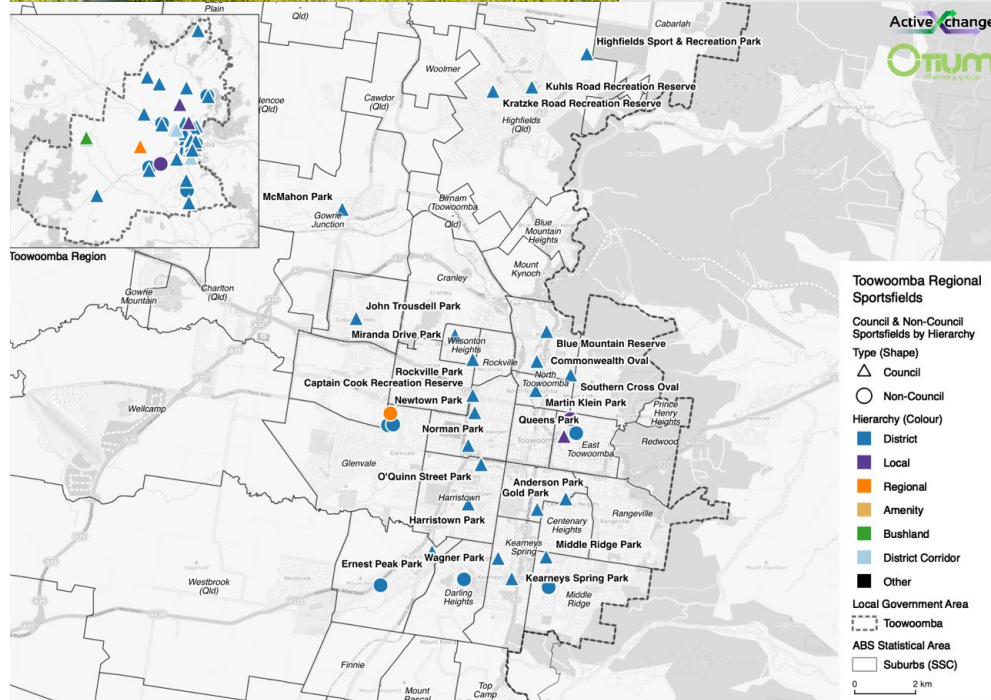
Toowoomba Regional Council Sport Facility Management Vision

To maintain the provision of sport facilities that support and encourage all members of the Toowoomba region community, regardless of age, ability or background to be physically active, whilst maximising the use, viability and sustainability of the sports infrastructure network.

SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE - OUTDOOR PLAYING FIELDS

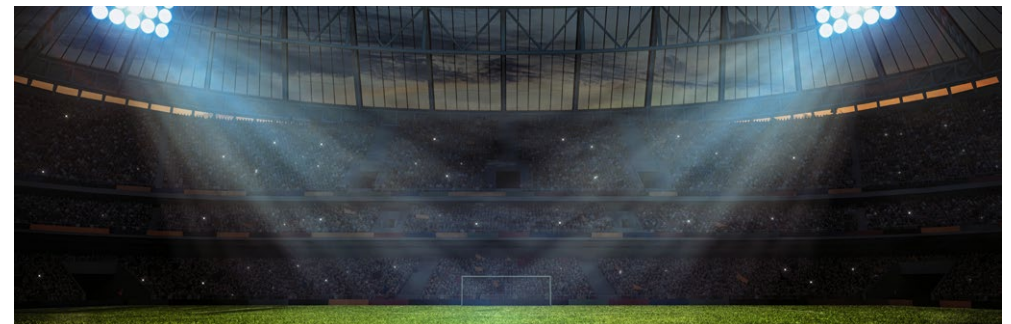
**Current situation**

The Toowoomba region is currently using approximately 85.7 hectares of land for outdoor playing fields for a diverse range of sport and recreation opportunities for the region. The map below summarises the location of current sports parks within the Toowoomba region.

**Trends - Outdoor Playing Fields**

In relation to outdoor playing fields, the following trends are evident:

- « Single playing field facilities do not support effective competition outcomes and are costly to maintain within the overall network of sportsgrounds.
- « Sports fields are increasingly being located as part of a larger, multi-use sport and recreation precinct providing opportunities for formal and informal activity.
- « Designing and maintaining playing surfaces to maximise their sustainability is important as the intensity of use of playing surfaces increases.
- « Water sensitive design and harvesting initiatives to reduce town water consumption, maintain a high standard of playing fields and improve viability is important (must consider any constraints to the Murray Darling catchment)
- « Provision of shade (natural and artificial) is increasingly important given the emphasis on sun safe practices.
- « Change rooms, canteen, storage and clubrooms are considered typical ancillary facilities provided within outdoor playing field environments.
- « With the rise in female participation within historically male dominated outdoor sports, the demand for female specific and/ or universal change facilities is increasing. Similarly, the need for improved site security (eg. lighting) is also increasing.
- « Due to the open nature of outdoor playing field facilities, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are critical to protect users and the facility assets.
- « Lighting of playing fields, compliant with Australian Standards and/ or sport-specific standards and increasingly the desire for Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting to enhance cost savings is increasing in importance
- « Facility design should consider incorporating options for temporary/ spill-over parking to support major events.
- « The way people utilise sportsgrounds is changing and people are now relying on open space for an increasingly diverse array of activities. Coupled with increasing cultural diversity, this means that sportsgrounds need to accommodate diverse activities to meet a variety of needs, including for both formal and informal playing opportunities.



Strategies for Addressing Increasing Demand

In order to maximise the yield from the existing supply of sports fields, local government throughout Australia is investigating:

- « Tenure arrangements in order to allocate access across the network that supports all fields being strongly utilised;
- « Management arrangements that support Council having the flexibility to amend user access arrangements as participation trends change;
- « Increase the field maintenance regime in order to maintain a higher standard of surface through high intensity of use periods;
- « Provision of efficient irrigation and drainage solutions to maximise the surface integrity and performance;
- « Provision of lighting to support expanded capacity into evening hours;

These strategies should be considered prior to exploring a synthetic surface or a new greenfield development solution.

Synthetic Playing Surfaces

Population growth, extreme climatic conditions, and a shortage of affordable land for sports fields in some urban centres are contributing to increases in the intensity of use of outdoor playing fields. This often results in overuse of fields and adversely impacts on the standard and usability of playing fields. Synthetic surfaces are increasingly being examined as a solution to these challenges.

Historically used only for hockey in Australia, synthetic surfaces are becoming popular among many Council's to support a variety of sport and recreation activities. A number of factors need to be considered in developing a synthetic surface:

- « The cost of developing synthetic fields is relatively high for one playing field.
- « Regular cleaning and preventative maintenance is required to protect the integrity of the synthetic surface.
- « Similar to any playing field/ court the standard of playing field is directly related to the quality of the base underneath the carpet (including road base and shock pad).
- « The life of the surface is not unlimited and generally requires replacement every 7-10 years within a playing environment.

School Partnerships

The importance of school fields as part of the solution to the increasing pressure on supply, is increasingly being recognised by State and Local Governments. Access to school facilities is becoming targeted within those localities that have the higher shortfall of supply.

By way of a case study, within New South Wales, LGA's and schools are increasingly entering into Joint Venture Agreements that outline:

- « Minimum access arrangements;
- « Type of use;
- « Each party's maintenance and operating responsibilities; and
- « Commitment to facility improvements and funding contributions.

Further, the State Education Department is expanding Principal key performance indicators to include measuring community use of school facilities.

Changing Sporting Landscape

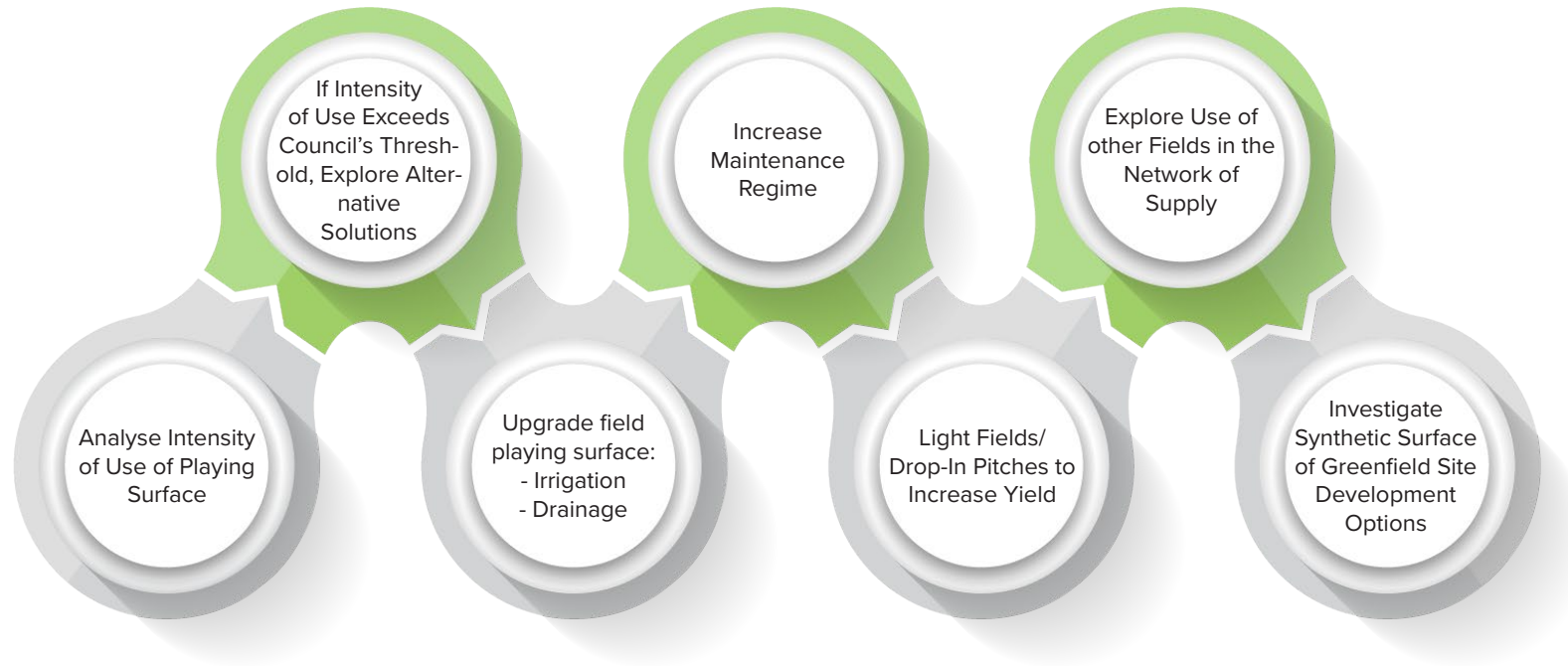
With the emergence and growth of women's sport in traditional male participated sports (eg. AFL, cricket, rugby union, soccer, rugby league), and new modified formats of competitions (eg. social, masters, all abilities), the traditional winter/ summer sporting seasons are becoming obsolete. Sport is becoming a twelve months of the year environment for participation. This is creating further pressures on limited sports field supply across Australia, particularly in shared use facility environments.

Further, the need for 'universal' change rooms capable of facilitating the needs of participants of all genders is also subsequently increasing in demand.



Management of Sports Field Demand Process

Summarised below is the step-by-step best practice process of strategies to address demand of sports fields:

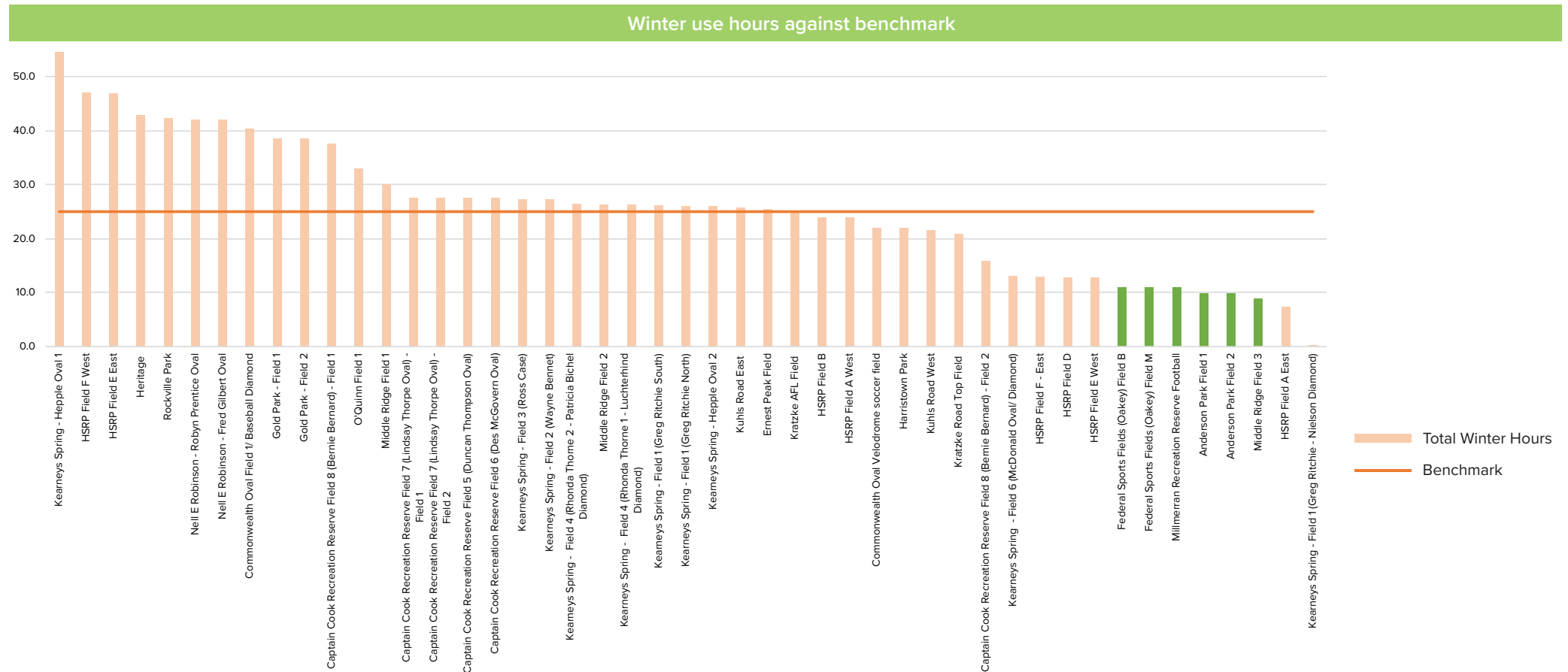


Analysis of Demand

Current Intensity of Use

Typical weekly utilisation in winter for Council-owned sports fields was compared with a benchmark of 25hrs per week¹ (refer figure below).

Figure 1 Toowoomba Region Sporting Fields Intensity of Use (Winter) (Council-owned Facilities)

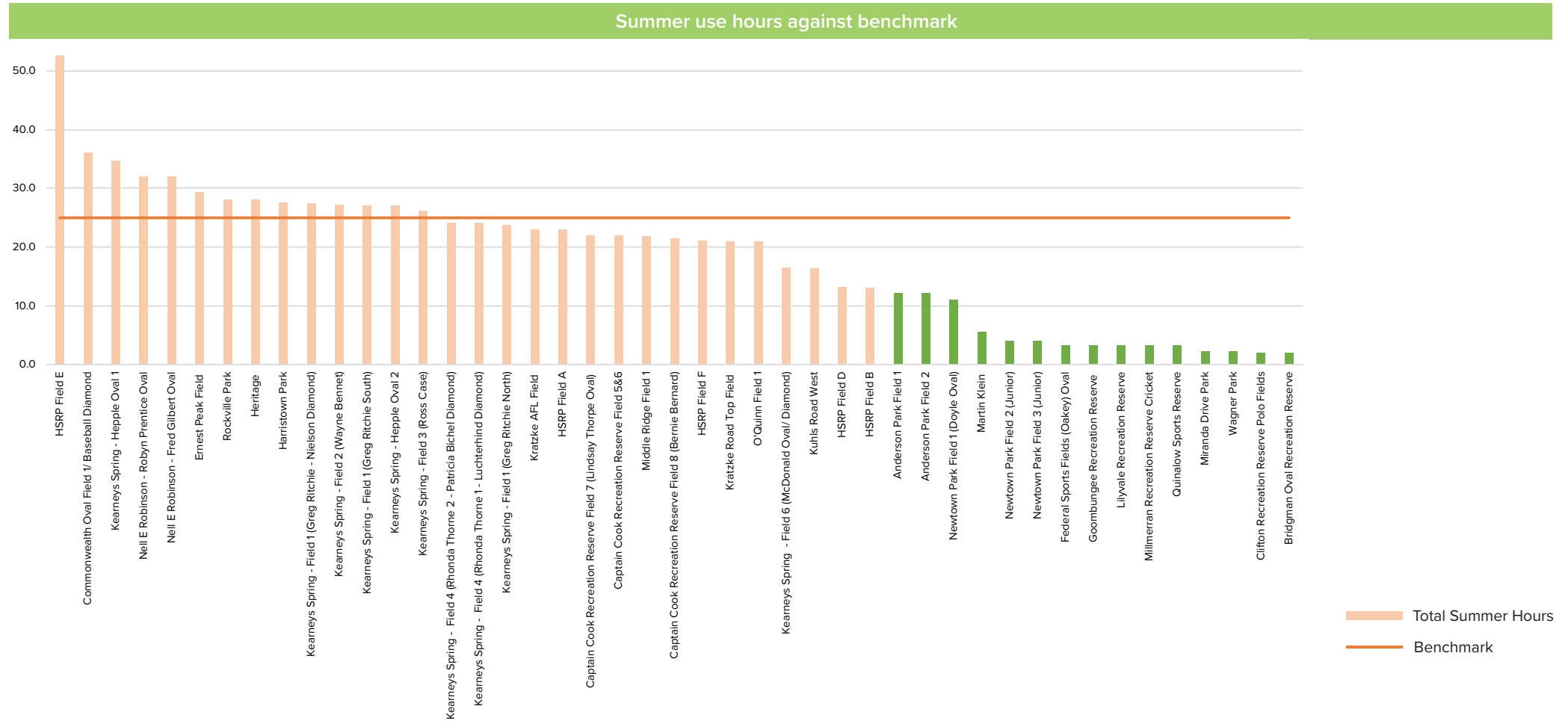


The graph above demonstrates that 28 (47%) of the 60 playing fields analysed are being used beyond a 25 hour per week threshold in winter.

¹ Natural turf sports fields have limits on intensity of use and need maintenance and recovery time. Several turf management consultants suggest that usage exceeding 25 hours a week will result in deterioration of the playing surface. It is during the winter season when playing fields are at peak demand and surface impacts are greatest due to higher usage numbers, intensity of use, and growing conditions at their most tenuous.

Typical weekly utilisation in summer for Council-owned sports fields was compared with a benchmark of 25hrs per week (refer figure below).

Figure 2 Toowoomba Region Sporting Fields Intensity of Use (Summer) (Council-owned Facilities)



The graph above demonstrates that 14 (23%) of the 60 playing fields analysed are being used beyond a 25 hour per week threshold in summer.

Demand Assessment Modelling

An assessment of the current (as at 2016 population) and future (estimated 2026 population) demand for land area and facility requirements for Council-owned playing areas was undertaken. In essence the Utilisation Model assesses the current utilisation of sportsgrounds against capacity benchmarks and population projections to determine the actual playing area required. The Demand Assessment Model is assumption based and takes into account a range of factors such as participation data, lit/ unlit playing areas, sportsground capacity and current/ projected population in order to determine actual playing area required.

A summary of the Demand Assessment Modelling is outlined in the tables below:

TOOWOOMBA REGION - Facility Type (2016) - Playing Fields

48,873
Total hours needed

60
Facilities required

60
Actual fields

0
Fields Variation

TOOWOOMBA REGION - Facility Type (2026) - Playing Fields

52,356
Total hours needed

66
Facilities required

60
Actual fields

-6
Fields Variation

TOOWOOMBA CITY - Facility Type (2016) - Playing Fields

22,659
Total hours needed

45
Facilities required

35
Actual fields

-10
Fields Variation

TOOWOOMBA CITY - Facility Type (2026) - Playing Fields

24,269
Total hours needed

48
Facilities required

35
Actual fields

-13
Fields Variation

When an assessment of the Toowoomba City² area is undertaken, the Demand Assessment Model suggests there is currently an adequate supply of sports fields in the region, however by 2026 it is estimated there will be a shortfall of 6 fields. This analysis excludes any greenfield, yet to be developed sites (eg. Charlton).

When an assessment of the Toowoomba City area is undertaken, the Demand Assessment Model suggests there will be a shortfall of 10 playing fields increasing to a shortfall of 13 playing fields by 2026.

In summary, moving towards a synthetic playing surface and/ or greenfield developments to 2026 is not warranted. Opportunities to improve the yield of the current supply of playing fields should be the priority over this time, including:

- « Lighting
- « Drainage
- « Irrigation
- « Increased maintenance regime
- « Drop-in pitches

² Toowoomba City: Highfields, Toowoomba West, Wilsonton, North Toowoomba – Harlaxton, Newtown, Toowoomba – Central, Toowoomba – East, Drayton – Harristown, Darling Heights, Rangeville, Middle Ridge

Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Focus new sports field greenfield development within Toowoomba City localities, including targeted investigation into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The potential development of an international standard synthetic athletics track « The potential to create a regional standard softball/ baseball facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The Demand Assessment Model suggests there is a higher demand for increased access to sports fields over the life of this study within Toowoomba City as opposed to rural locations « As a major regional hub with a catchment the size of Toowoomba, the region should provide an international standard synthetic athletics track in order to support local athletes and attract major events « Commonwealth Field, with the shared use of Willowburn Football Club and Toowoomba Baseball, the field is very heavily used. The potential relocation of baseball away from Commonwealth Field would reduce the intensity of use of the field and result in an improved standard of playing surface « The potential relocation of softball away from Kearney Springs, would increase the capacity of this venue for the introduction of other outdoor playing field sports to be co-located with touch football. Further, Kearney Springs currently has some of the highest use fields « One regional softball/ baseball venue is consistent with broader trends for facility provision for these two sports
<p>Increase the yield of existing playing fields across the network, particularly within Toowoomba City by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Installing lighting to unlit fields « Installing drainage and irrigation « Irrigation « Increased maintenance regime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « These strategies should be considered prior to exploring alternative synthetic surface or greenfield development solutions « Cost effective strategy as opposed to high cost new development and/ or synthetic field development
<p>Enforce (include within tenure agreement and compliance requirements – refer to SARHL Sports Management rotation of fields within multi-field facilities for competition and training)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The standard of several playing fields across the network suggest some fields have a much higher intensity of use than others within a multi-field facility « Spreading use across multiple fields within the one facility will improve the playing surface standard

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Designate off-season 'facility hubs' for major participation sports with expanding seasons (eg. rugby league, soccer, AFL, cricket, rugby union), including providing scheduling responsibility to the Regional Sporting Associations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Recognises trend towards year-round participation in traditional sports, and growth as a result of increased female participation and modified competition formats « Supports Council ensuring traditional off season use of one sport does not conflict with the traditional on season use by another « Regional Sporting Associations have more capacity to identify priority needs and allocate access to the facility hubs
<p>Continue to analyse and monitor the intensity of use of sports fields within the network of supply using improved data (refer to SARHL Sports Facility)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The analysis above still relies on some assumptions given gaps in data availability « The ongoing recording of actual intensity of use data by field will provide Council with more detail to make better informed decisions regarding allocation, maintenance and overall management
<p>Enter into Joint Venture Agreements (JVA) with local schools that confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Access arrangements « Security of tenure « Future facility improvements « Fees and charges « Maintenance responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Recognises the important role schools can play in the supply of sporting facilities « A formal JVA provides clarity around length of tenure, roles and responsibilities « Reduces the need to enter into high cost greenfield and/ or synthetic field developments
<p>Ensure new and/ or upgraded change rooms incorporate 'universal' design outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Supports multiple gender use concurrently « Recognises growth of female participation in traditional male participation sports
<p>Align the timing of development of the Toowoomba Regional Sports Precinct site with demand, and in particular the deficit in supply of playing fields in Toowoomba City.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Approximately half of the Toowoomba City playing fields are over the capacity threshold standard of 25 hours per week. « Demand modelling suggests there is currently a shortfall of 10 playing fields in Toowoomba City currently and this is estimated to increase to a shortfall of 13 fields by 2026.
<p>Ensure the development of the Toowoomba Regional Sports Precinct site supports formal and informal physical activity opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « With increased levels of Toowoomba region residents not being sufficiently physically active, there is a need to increase physical activity opportunities for all members of the community, including support the growth in participation of informal, self-regulated and social physical activity.

Squash

The management model for squash is moving away from the historical private sector model due to the decline in squash facilities over the past 15-20 years largely as a result of:

- « Large growth of property values in areas where squash centres were traditionally located (eg. close proximity to town centres and/ or major population hubs) has resulted in land values exceeding the value of the financial return of a standalone squash centre; and
- « The growth and viability of the health and fitness market has resulted in many squash courts throughout Australia being re-purposed for health and fitness programs.

In order to address the changing squash participation and management models, the following squash facility trends are emerging:

- « Co-location and integration with other indoor sport and recreation/ community facilities;
- « Multi-use squash courts;
- « Public courts;
- « Smart courts;
- « Portable courts; and
- « Inflatable courts.

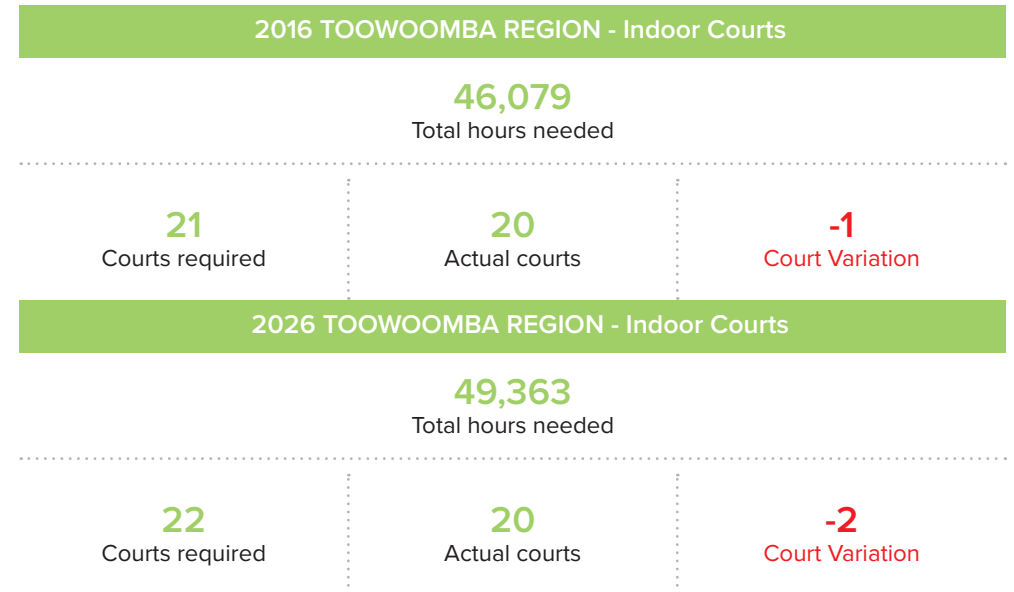


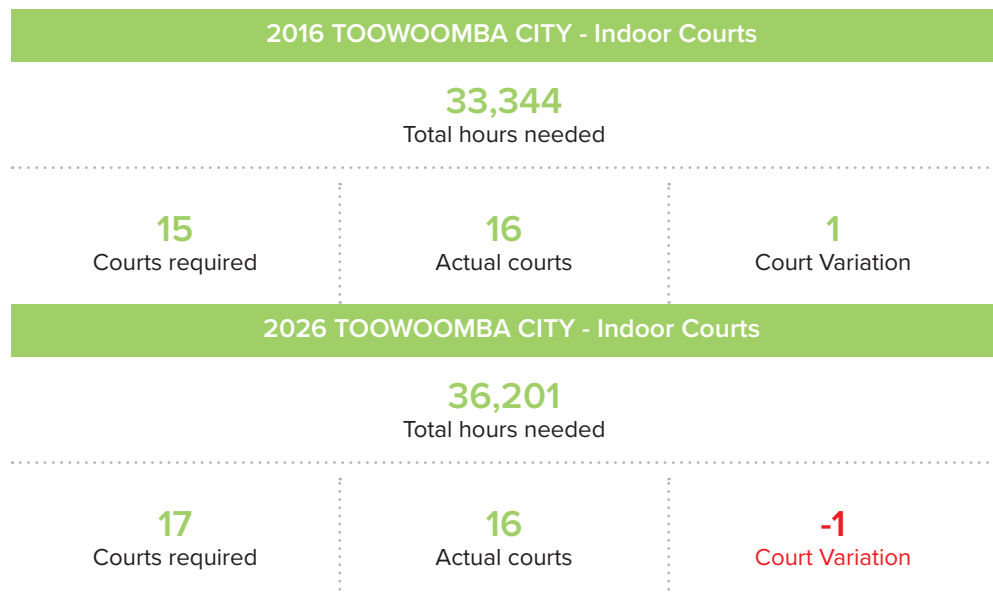
Analysis of Supply & Demand

An assessment of the current (as at 2016 population) and future (estimated 2026 population) demand for netball and tennis court requirements for Council and non-Council owned courts was undertaken. The table below suggests that there is currently an oversupply of both netball (+24 courts) and tennis (+42 tennis courts) in the Toowoomba region. This oversupply is estimated to decrease slightly to 23 netball courts and 39 tennis courts by 2026.

For Toowoomba City there is currently an oversupply of both netball (+25 courts) and tennis (+11 tennis courts). This oversupply is estimated to decrease slightly to 24 netball courts and 8 tennis courts by 2026.

Current and 2026 Toowoomba Region and City Demand Assessment Model (Council and Non-Council Owned Indoor Court Facilities)





The above analysis assumes school and privately owned indoor courts provide full community access to their courts. Whilst these schools offer community access, it should be noted that such access is not as excessive as Council owned facilities.

Planning is currently being undertaken to build a new 3-court indoor facility at Glenholme Park, Glenvale. Further, the St Mary’s Old Boys Association is also investigating the opportunity to increase from the current 2-court to a 3 courts facility.

Each of their potential future developments are also exploring the co-location of a new South West Regional Squash Centre consisting of 6 squash courts. Toowoomba Squash is currently preparing the South West Queensland Regional Squash Centre Feasibility Study. This study suggests there is a large population catchment to support at least one multi-court squash facility within the Toowoomba region. The study estimates there are potentially 2,637 squash players within the Darling Downs and South West Region. The study outlines that in order to maximise the use and viability of a regional standard squash centre in the Darling Downs and South West Region, and consistent with indoor sport facility trends to establish multi-use facilities, co-location within a broader indoor sport facility should be targeted.

The Demand Assessment Model also suggests that there is a current demand for 55 indoor facility spaces (eg. Squash, Indoor Cricket, Boxing, Gymnastics, Martial Arts, Table Tennis, Dancing (Recreational), Fencing, Yoga/ Pilates) in the Toowoomba region, and this is estimated to increase to 59 spaces by 2026.

Recommendations

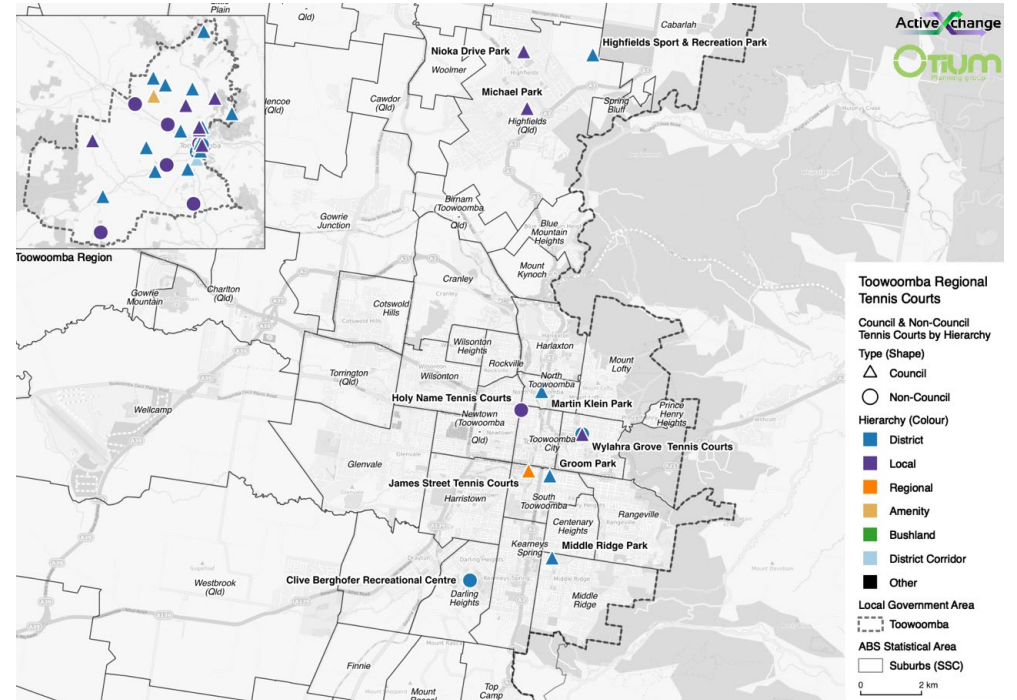
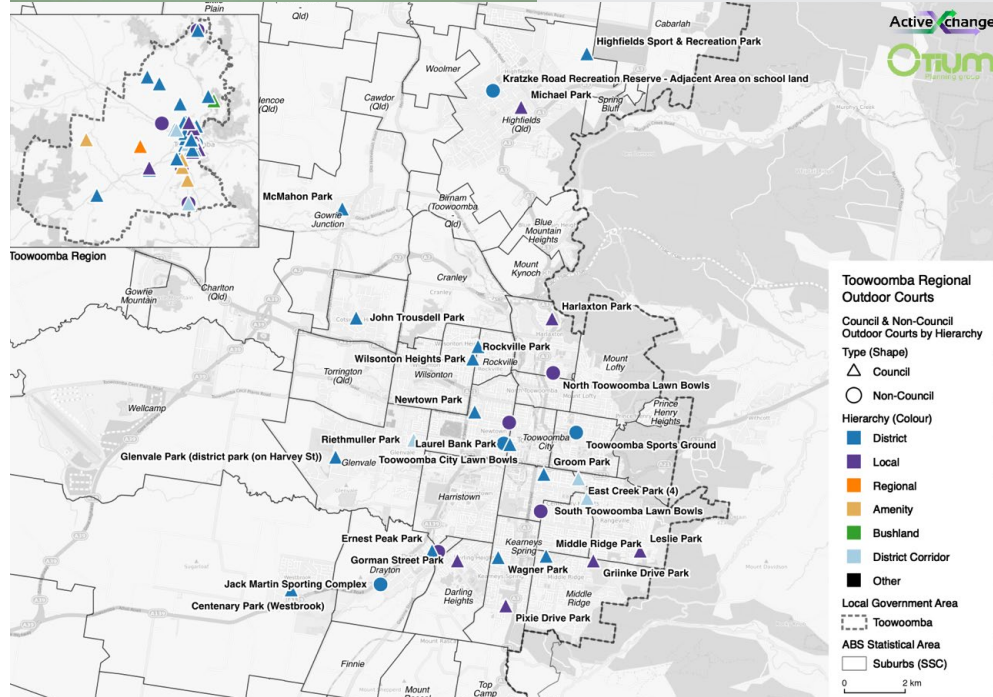
Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Explore the following opportunities to increase the supply of multi-purpose indoor courts within the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Support for the potential expansion of the St Mary’s Old Boys Indoor Court Centre « Support for the potential development of multi-purpose indoor courts at the proposed Glenholme Park development « Ensure any future regional leisure centre development by Council incorporates a minimum of 3 multi-purpose indoor courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Whilst there is not a major deficit of indoor courts based on the Demand Assessment Model, several of the facilities within the supply are located within schools with reduced community access « The planned expansion of St Mary’s Indoor Court Centre is a cost effective strategy to expand supply given access and amenities already exist « The planned Glenholme Park indoor court facility will provide access to the growing western Toowoomba City community in the interim of the longer term provision of indoor courts at the Toowoomba Regional Sports Precinct « There are strong synergies between the co-location of indoor courts with aquatic and leisure facilities, including likely improved overall usage and viability outcomes. Should Council proceed with the development of a major aquatic and leisure centre, it is recommended the facility mix also incorporate multi-use indoor courts
<p>Incorporate multi-use indoor community spaces within the following building types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Libraries « Community centres « Council offices « Aquatic and leisure centres « Indoor court centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Indoor facility spaces play an important role for a diverse range of physical activities « Co-location with other community facilities supports management synergies and decreases operating costs « Community facilities are typically located in accessible locations which would also support maximised use of the spaces for sport and active recreation
<p>Support the development and co-location of the proposed South West Queensland Regional Squash Centre within either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « St Marys Old Boys Indoor Court Centre; or « Glenholme Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « With the Toowoomba region population catchment there is adequate demand to support at least one multi-court squash facility « There are potentially 2,637 squash players within the Darling Downs and South West Region that may not have access to squash courts in future if the proposed development does not progress « The planned co-location of squash with other indoor facilities will support the maximised use and viability of the squash facilities

SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE - OUTDOOR COURTS



Current situation

The Toowoomba region offers a range of outdoor multi-use courts, tennis courts, netball courts, half-courts, dog-off-leash areas, outdoor fitness equipment and adventure sport opportunities. A multi-faceted approach is more commonly being taken through provision of outdoor courts with a range of social/ self-regulated sport and active recreation opportunities, such as multi-purpose outdoor courts, fitness equipment etc. The maps below summarise the current supply in the Toowoomba region of outdoor courts and tennis courts.



Trends - Outdoor Courts

The continuing trend for outdoor court sports is to move indoors. Demand for outdoor courts is generally driven by netball and tennis, with some social use. Basketball and futsal are generally provided indoors, with some usage of outdoor courts for training, social or program purposes.

Demand for outdoor courts is highly influenced by local program provision and accessibility of courts. Upgrades to outdoor courts can increase capacity and usage, e.g. improving playing surfaces, multi-use, lighting, shade.

Tennis

Tennis courts provide a mix of formal, informal and commercial use. On this basis, main road frontage for tennis centres is preferred. Tennis centres should form part of a network of facilities from a regional, district and local perspective.

Tennis Australia advise that a minimum 8 court, plus 4 hotshot court facility is required in order for a centre to be viable. Surfaces vary between hardcourt, synthetic grass, natural grass and clay. Hardcourt and synthetic grass are the most popular surfaces at district and local standard facilities. Hardcourts are typically preferred within centres that have a high level of player development and competitions, whilst synthetic grass surfaces are preferred at centres used by older adults due to the softer impacting surface.

Netball

Netball courts are typically being co-located within broader sport and recreation hubs. Where such multi-use precincts incorporate indoor courts, best practice design outcomes are to ensure close proximity between the two activity spaces. A minimum 8 court (preferably 12) netball facility is required in order to support effective competition management and viability.

Larger court provision is required for facilities at a regional and above standard. Lighting of netball courts is considered essential in order to address trends for increased night competitions and training.

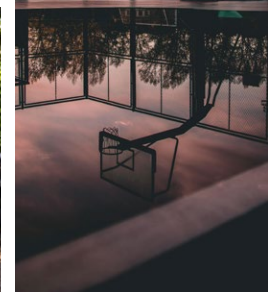
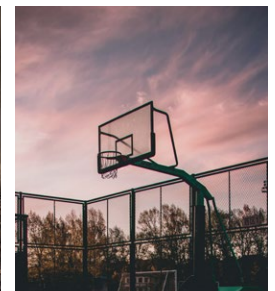
Parks Infrastructure

Recreation parks provide many opportunities for outdoor recreation including:

- « Youth Recreation: That are suitable for young people (13+) to gather and participate in recreation. These facilities may include skate facilities, hard courts and informal fields.
- « Active Recreation: Support individual and group based active recreation like tennis courts, practice nets, hard courts and informal fields.
- « Community Recreation: Spaces for gathering that can support extended visits like picnic and barbecue facilities and event spaces.
- « Fitness and Exercise: These are free and accessible elements like outdoor exercise equipment, boot camp spaces and circuit paths.
- « Trail and Path Based: Support walking cycling and running in open space and natural areas. Includes circuit paths, cycle ways, scooter tracks and bushwalking tracks.
- « Off-Leash Animal Exercise: Access to off-leash exercise areas for dogs and other animals. It may include fenced/ unfenced areas and agility equipment.

This multi-faceted approach can incorporate a range of social and/ or self-regulated active sport and recreation opportunities such as:

- « Multi-purpose outdoor courts (typically half-court) suitable for a range of activities, including basketball, soccer, netball and inline hockey;
- « Fitness equipment;
- « Dog-off-leash areas;
- « Outdoor squash courts (emerging throughout the U.S.A.);
- « Adventure parks (pump tracks, climbing, skate/ BMX); and
- « Natural activity zones (e.g. ropes, obstacle courses, Tough Mudder).



Analysis of Supply & Demand

An assessment of the current (as at 2016 population) and future (estimated 2026 population) demand for netball and tennis court requirements for **Council and non-Council owned** courts was undertaken. The table below suggests that there is currently an over supply of both netball (+24 courts) and tennis (+53 tennis courts) in the Toowoomba region. This over supply is estimated to decrease slightly to 23 netball courts and 50 tennis courts by 2026.

Current and 2026 Toowoomba Region and City Demand Assessment Model (Netball and Tennis Courts)

2016 TOOWOOMBA REGION - Netball Courts			
4,667 Total hours needed	19 Courts required	43 Actual courts	24 Court Variation
2026 TOOWOOMBA REGION - Netball Courts			
4,941 Total hours needed	20 Courts required	43 Actual courts	23 Court Variation
2016 TOOWOOMBA REGION - Tennis Courts			
7,306 Total hours needed	41 Courts required	83 Actual courts	42 Court Variation
2026 TOOWOOMBA REGION - Tennis Courts			
7,767 Total hours needed	44 Courts required	83 Actual courts	39 Court Variation

2016 TOOWOOMBA CITY - Netball Courts			
19,367 Total hours needed	14 Courts required	39 Actual courts	25 Court Variation
2026 TOOWOOMBA CITY - 2026 Netball Courts			
20,963 Total hours needed	15 Courts required	39 Actual courts	24 Court Variation
2016 TOOWOOMBA CITY - Tennis Courts			
41,273 Total hours needed	29 Courts required	40 Actual courts	11 Court Variation
2026 TOOWOOMBA CITY - Tennis Courts			
44,839 Total hours needed	32 Courts required	40 Actual courts	8 Court Variation

Whilst the above data suggests there is a major over supply of netball and tennis courts in the region, as outlined in the 'Trends' section above, in order for netball and tennis courts to support effective competition management and be viable, a minimum number of 8 courts is recommended. Several of the current supply of netball and tennis courts are below this trend.

At the time of writing this report, Council is undertaking a study into future tennis facility needs and management. Final recommendations relating to tennis will be informed by the findings of Council's study.

In order to activate Council's network of recreation parks to support increased social and/or self-regulated active sport and recreation outcomes, there is an opportunity to embellish parks infrastructure with the options outlined within the 'Trends' section above. The provision of activity nodes and equipment will provide increased access for physical activity by the Toowoomba community. Such provision should be diversified across the parks network offering a varied experience subject to the park being used by the community. It should be noted there is a very large number of half-courts within the Toowoomba region. This further supports the need to differentiate the supply of social sport and recreation infrastructure opportunities in order to provide incentives for maximised participation outcomes.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale
Do not provide additional netball or tennis courts into the network of supply over the life of the SARHL Plan (to 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The Demand Assessment Model suggests there is an oversupply of netball and tennis courts in the region
Identify opportunities to consolidate small tennis court facilities within the Toowoomba City area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Improve the viability of the network of tennis facilities within the region in accordance with advice from Tennis Australia that a minimum 8 court, plus 4 hotshot court facility is required in order for a centre to be viable « Reduce the oversupply and unnecessary duplication of tennis courts within the region
Provide a diversification of social and/or self-regulated active sport and recreation facility elements across the region's network of recreation parks, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Multi-purpose outdoor courts (limit new half-court developments in consideration of current high level of supply) « Fitness equipment « Dog-off-leash areas « Outdoor squash courts « Adventure parks « Natural activity zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Activate Council's network of recreation parks to support increased social and/or self-regulated active sport and recreation outcomes « Provision of activity nodes and equipment will provide increased access for physical activity by the Toowoomba community « Diversification will provide a point of difference between individual parks « There is a very large number of half-courts « Provides incentive for maximised participation outcomes



Tennis Planning Project Review – 2018-2019

Concurrently with this Study, Council undertook the Tennis Planning Project Review 2018-2019. This review was identified as a need due to the number of inconsistencies with the way tennis courts are managed and accessed within the region. There is a limited amount of data available that details how well the facilities are ageing, current usage of courts, safety concerns that need addressing. This review was classed as even more important since the release of multiple recent survey results showing that more people want to recreate informally rather than a traditional club-based structure.

The scope of this project looked at a number of different areas related to tennis courts including:

- « Current and future provision and planning
- « Benchmarking (nine other Councils)
- « Key audit and review findings (from facility audits and consultation)
- « Discussion (court access, signage, money collection, fees and charges, indication of identified upgrades, updating information, stakeholder engagement).
- « Summary of key recommendations
- « Action Plan.

The recommendations of this Review and their rationale are summarised in the table below:

Current Situation	Key Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Bookings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Private Facility « Leased/licenced Council Facility « Seasonal Permit « Public Access (no permit, where club exists) « Public Access (no club exists) 	<p>Leased/licenced facilities to be reviewed upon agreement term ending, if agreed best method then continue with lease or licence if not transition to seasonal permit (note Millmerran Pool and Sporting Complex Licence is due to expire 2020)</p> <p>Clubs that are currently running from a TRC facility without any arrangement (8) are to apply for a Seasonal Permit via the current Park Bookings process and open up courts to the public.</p> <p>Council to remove padlocks on locked TRC facilities that are not under a lease/licence and review this process in 12 months' time to monitor for vandalism. If vandalism occurs surveillance may be an option to minimise future damage and will be investigated on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Support tennis clubs with lease agreements (exclusive use) in further investigating 'Book a Court' with Council infrastructure. The system currently costs \$15,000 to install software and hardware with additional data charges of \$30 per month (billed annually). Extra costs may be encountered for an electrician, gate/fencing modification, trenching etc.</p>	<p>Some arrangements work better to continue as a lease.</p> <p>This recommendation is in line with all other sporting club booking processes.</p> <p>Tennis courts are there for public use and there are currently 9 facilities that are locked up without any formal arrangement. If vandalism occurs we may need to look at some options to solve the issue.</p> <p>The outcome of this investigation may result in additional charges to the club which will need to be factored into the grant application. At this current stage Parks and Recreation Staff are not in favour of 'Book a Court' for Council owned public access courts (this includes Seasonal Permit holders) especially out in the region where service may be limited and or users may not have access to a mobile phone with the required app therefore limiting access. Public courts are to remain open and accessible at all times.</p>
<p>Signage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « No signage « Very old hard to read « Handmade sign 	<p>TRC branded signage to be installed at each court with more information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « How to activate the lights « How to pay for use « Where to report any vandalism/safety concerns to « Contact information « Club bookings will take priority use over general public <p>Signage templates to have multiple versions ie for leased facilities and Seasonal Permit/ Open Access Courts.</p> <p>Council will need to build a budget to cover the signage costs and installation. (approx. 32) across the region. Investigate cost of aluminium signs through TRC sign shop.</p>	<p>General public turning up to use the courts currently have little information about how to use the lights or if there will be any club usage that may impact their game. This keep them informed and create a consistent message across Council tennis courts.</p> <p>This will simplify how many versions are required. Information will need to be as generic as possible so that changes to contact people or fixture times doesn't date the sign. This can be achieved by linking back to the Council website.</p> <p>Parks and Recreation staff may be able to install these when they are doing park maintenance to save costs. Signs will need to be aluminium as regular corflute's are not durable enough.</p>

Current Situation	Key Recommendations	Rationale
<p>Money Collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Private Facility « Leased/licenced Council Facility « Seasonal Permit « Public Access (no permit, where club exists) « Public Access (no club exists) 	<p>Investigate the preferred method and cost of managing lights as per the below options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that all public tennis courts with lights have a coin operated user pay light box installed. b) Change all current light boxes to credit card (swipe) payment systems and add this style box to any public courts requiring a user pay system where it currently does not exist. c) Change all user pay light boxes to push button so that no fees apply for lighting. <p>Provide information to clubs of the correct booking process and ensure that clubs follow this.</p>	<p>a) To make sure that money is collected for power usage and isn't free. It costs approximately \$1500 to setup a coin operated light box system.</p> <p>b) Eliminate the transparency issues of TRC staff collecting/counting money and the need for multiple resources for accountability. This option may limit access for some members of the community who don't use an eftpos/credit card.</p> <p>c) This will remove the need for users to carry cash/card to pay for lights. Estimated costs to take out the coin operated system and change over to a timer and push button is approximately \$600 per court.</p> <p><i>Note: There was \$1300 collected from Westbrook, Glenvale and Kratzke Tennis Courts over 3 months (combined). Money collection process involves 2 people collecting money, goes into safe, has to be run through machine (parks staff) and then sent downtown for checking. Labour costs would outweigh the amount collected.</i></p> <p>The current process where clubs are taking revenue for Council courts and Council are responsible for all costs associated with the courts is not a transparent/practical approach moving forward.</p> <p>Please note: Early discussions have been had with property services where there may be an opportunity to add in a clause to future lease agreements that only allow clubs to charge what Council does for electricity (as per adopted fees and charges). This however will need to be investigated in more detail.</p>

Current Situation	Key Recommendations	Rationale
Fees and Charges:	<p>Updates to current fees and charges to be made as per the following list:</p> <p>a) Under the list of Tennis Courts Facilities line 4, Centenary Park, Oakey needs to be changed to Westbrook.</p> <p>b) Bridgeman Oval Tennis Courts is spelt incorrectly and should be changed to Bridgman Oval.</p> <p>c) Change Cambooya Tennis Courts to Lucy Street Park, Cambooya</p> <p>d) Change name of Lions Park (Hodgson Vale Community Sports Centre) to be Lions Park, Hodgson Vale.</p> <p>e) Obst Park, Wyreema to be changed to Wyreema Park, Wyreema</p> <p>Add in 4 tennis courts as per the table listed in the report to include Cecil Plains, Glenvale Park, Highfields Sport and Recreation Park and Newtown Park. Coalbank and Koorongarra are recommended to be disposed of, if this is not approved then they will also need to be added in once they are at a playable and safe standard.</p> <p>Review the current charges for clubs to book tennis courts ie \$50 for class 1 clubs per season, \$40 for class 2 per season and free for class 3 and 4. Review the benchmarking information obtained and provide feedback as part of the SARHL Plan process for Council to consider.</p>	<p>a) There is no Centenary Park in Oakey</p> <p>b) Spelling change</p> <p>c) All other tennis courts are named after the park they are located in, to ensure consistency this should be changed.</p> <p>d) As above, confirmation required whether there are any historical ties to why this court is called Lions Park (Hodgson vale Community Sports Centre) no other club is part of the formal name listed in the fees and charges.</p> <p>e) As above, Obst is the oval located at Wyreema Park.</p> <p>The 4 tennis courts listed are missing out of the current fees and charges. Confirmation needed to ensure they are the correct classes and details</p> <p>To ensure that a thorough review has taken place before fees and charges are recommended.</p> <p>Note tennis clubs cannot afford the prices of sporting club charges and would be at risk of folding if they were to significantly increase. Utilise benchmarking information and allow Councillors to decide on the best approach moving forward through the SARHL Plan process.</p>

Current Situation	Key Recommendations	Rationale
Indication of Priority Works	<p>Each upgrade/maintenance item that has been identified through the audit/staff advice will need to be fed through the Prioritisation Criteria which will give a score of priority to assist with what items need to be included in future budget allocations.</p> <p>It is expected to include a number of key items eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Participation trends « Alignment with Council Strategic Direction (masterplans, planning documents, community consultation results) « Alignment with external priorities (State Sporting Organisations, Club direction, State Government Policy) « Benefit multiple community/user groups and the wider community « Regional scoring « Indicative cost to Council (no, low, moderate, high and very high) « External/part funding « Likelihood of Economic Benefit to the Region (large scale events) « Sustainability (growth areas, minimal impact on future Council operating expenditure) « Safety (addresses safety/risk management considerations) « Accessibility/Mobility (improves access and or participation opportunities with people with a disability) <p>It is recommended that there will be a panel (3-5 people) who reviews each project and an average score is given to be able to compare and justify which projects are recommended for funding in future Capital Works Budgets.</p>	<p>This is important to rationalise a list of upgrades for the budget available. It will create a very transparent and consistent approach moving forward.</p> <p>This criteria will eliminate bias and take into consideration a broad range of factors to ensure any work recommended for funding is the best spend and can be well justified.</p> <p>This process will add another layer of scrutiny across upgrades and provide a very rational approach when recommending works to be completed.</p>
Updating Information	<p>Update Knowledge Base/Source information so that it is in line with any implementation items once approved.</p>	<p>To ensure all information is correct and a consistent approach is taken to managing tennis courts and available data associated with them. This will ensure Customer Service have the most up to date information to be able to provide to customers.</p>

Current Situation	Key Recommendations	Rationale
Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Implementing the Council approved recommendations will need to be communicated to tennis clubs and users in the following ways:</p> <p>a) Write a letter to all tennis clubs on record about the changes and how clubs may be affected.</p> <p>b) Contact the relevant Council Officers to advise of any recommended changes to ensure they are able to answer any enquiries and understand how the general public may be impacted by the changes.</p> <p>c) Work closely with Tennis Queensland to keep them informed of any changes.</p> <p>d) Promote the changes on Social Media and Councils website.</p> <p>e) Advise groups that attend the Tennis Queensland Forum on the 11th of September to expect changes.</p> <p>f) Community Consultation will be encouraged as part of the Sport Active Recreation and Healthy Living Plan Feedback opportunity.</p> <p>g) Write a story in the ACTIVATE Newsletter advising changes which will be linked back to Council's website.</p> <p>h) Work with TRC Communication team to send out a media release to keep on the front foot of any changes and community consultation.</p>	<p>This communication is really important to ensure all of the community and affected users are aware of the changes moving forward. This approach will ensure that Council stay on the front foot and avoid any negative criticism.</p>
Other	<p>Investigate Costs to demolish Coalbank Tennis Courts and Koorongarra Tennis Courts and Surrounding Infrastructure that is no longer safe.</p> <p>Further investigate club information that was unable to be obtained as part of the audit process due to club contacts not getting back to Sport and Recreation officer and limited time.</p> <p>Further investigate an option for the Highfields community to play tennis at night at one of the Highfields Tennis Courts (excl the Highfields Sports Park).</p>	<p>Safety needs to be a top priority, the courts are no longer needed, are both are in close proximity to other courts.</p> <p>Breakdown of required information DM 8796935</p> <p>The current software doesn't allow a smooth process for light use at the Highfields Sports Park. Day use at this facility is free for the public. Once a recommendation is made for light management i.e. coin operated, swipe card or push button have that system installed at one of the Highfields courts to alleviate the night use issue at the Highfields Sports Park.</p>

SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE - SPECIALISED SPORTS

**Current situation**

Specialised sports that emerged through the study include:

- « Bowls – 17 greens
- « Croquet – 7 courts
- « Bocce – no dedicated facility
- « Hockey – 2 x synthetic & 3 x grass fields (private ownership in Glendale)
- « Baseball – 1 diamond
- « Softball – 4 diamonds
- « Athletics – 1 synthetic track (The Glennie School).

Trends

Lawn bowls and croquet are experiencing declining participation. As a result, many facilities have/ are closing as they struggle to meet the needs of rising operating costs and declining revenue streams. With a predominant older adult participation base, bowls and croquet provide an excellent environment to be more physically and socially active as our population continues to grow.

Bocce has limited demand in Australia in comparison to European localities. The provision of bocce courts can act as an attractor for the community for increased usage of recreation parks when co-located within this infrastructure.

Higher levels of hockey are typically played on synthetic surfaces, however there is a need for grass fields to form part of the hockey facility network in order to meet full community demand.

Baseball and softball participation has been relatively stagnant over the past decade. Venues that support baseball and softball require dedicated facilities for these sports. On this basis, where a population catchment can support it, baseball and softball facilities are increasingly being offered as part of one central regional centre.

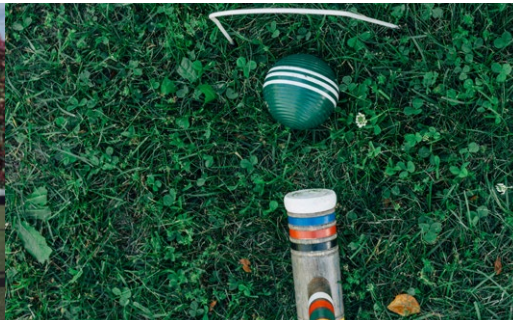
Synthetic athletics tracks are high cost infrastructure, however similar to hockey, are needed in order to support higher levels of competition and training. They can act as an attractor for major events and provide facilities that support a pathway for elite athletes. Based on the high capital and operating cost, provision is typically restricted to one synthetic track per region.

Analysis of Supply & Demand

An assessment of the current (as at 2016 population) and future (estimated 2026 population) demand for specialised sport requirements was undertaken. The table below suggests that each of the specialised sports assessed have either adequate or an over supply of facilities.

Current and 2026 Toowoomba Region and City Demand Assessment Model (Specialised Sports)

2016 & 2026 - Bowls			2016 & 2026 - Hockey (Synthetic)		
4 Courts required	17 Actual courts	13 Court Variation	2 Courts required	2 Actual courts	0 Court Variation
2016 & 2026 - Croquet			2016 & 2026 - Baseball		
1 Courts required	7 Actual courts	6 Court Variation	1 Courts required	1 Actual courts	0 Court Variation
2016 & 2026 - Bocce			2016 & 2026 - Softball		
1 Courts required	0 Actual courts	-1 Court Variation	1 Courts required	4 Actual courts	3 Court Variation



In order to address the current and future over supply of bowls greens and the impacts of declining participation and viability, opportunities for consolidation of bowls facilities could be considered. Multi-green facilities would contribute to increased participation outcomes at the one venue and improved viability as a result of economies of scale savings associated with reduced administration and asset management costs. Whilst croquet requires a smaller footprint to that of lawn bowls, the consolidation of croquet facilities could also improve the participation and viability of the sport. The ongoing provision of both lawn bowls and croquet is critically important for the Toowoomba region given its ageing population. Similarly, the incorporation of bocce facilities within Council's major parks could provide another attractor for older adult participation within a parks environment.

The Toowoomba Hockey Centre at Clyde Park is privately owned and considered one of the best regional hockey centres in Australia. The analysis above suggests the current provision of hockey fields at Clyde Park is adequate to service the current and future (to 2026) demand. As a privately owned facility by the Toowoomba Hockey Association, Clyde Park is filling a void of specialised facility provision that would typically fall within the responsibility of local government. The Association's capacity to self-fund its facility needs is as a result of having a viable licensed club (Club Glenvale). During peak hockey periods, there is car parking conflict between hockey and licensed club users. The Association has recently purchased an adjacent property to support improved car parking outcomes.

Whilst there are differences in diamond and outfield design and configuration between softball and baseball, there may be an opportunity for Council to explore the best location for a regional standard facility that accommodates both sports. Participation in these sports is relatively low, however competitions do attract participants/ teams from outside of the Toowoomba region providing broader economic benefits to the community. The provision of one (1) dedicated baseball diamond prevents Toowoomba Baseball from bidding for major events. One option for this facility may be the planned Toowoomba Regional Sports Precinct site.

Given the size of the Toowoomba region catchment and Toowoomba City being considered the regional hub of South West Queensland, the lack of an international standard synthetic athletics track is considered a gap. The current track at The Glennie School is undersized and does not meet international standards. Further, the intensity of use at the Glennie Track during peak times (eg. before and after school/ work) is very high, resulting in limited opportunities for increased utilisation. The 2014 Charlton Sports Precinct Master Plan and Business Case study suggested Concordia College as a potential location as the school had expressed an interest in developing a synthetic athletics track. However, the school have since formed a partnership with AFL Queensland which may constrain the development of the planned space for athletics. One alternative may be to explore opportunities at the planned Toowoomba Regional Sports Precinct site.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale
Undertake targeted investigation into (refer to Outdoor Playing Fields section above): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The potential development of an international standard synthetic athletics track « The potential to create a regional standard softball/ baseball facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « As a major regional hub with a catchment the size of Toowoomba, the region should provide an international standard synthetic athletics track in order to support local athletes and attract major events « Whilst data for Commonwealth Field was not available to support the intensity of use analysis, anecdotally, with the shared use of Willowburn Football Club and Toowoomba Baseball, the field is very heavily used. The relocation of baseball away from Commonwealth Field will reduce the intensity of use of the field and result in an improved standard of playing surface « The potential relocation of softball away from Kearney Springs, would increase the capacity of this venue for the introduction of other outdoor playing field sports to be co-located with touch football. Further, Kearney Springs currently has some of the highest use fields « One regional softball/ baseball venue is consistent with broader trends for facility provision of these two sports
Support Toowoomba City based lawn bowls community to explore opportunities for consolidation of bowls facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Multi-green facilities benefit from increased participation outcomes at the one venue « Improved viability as a result of economies of scale savings « Protecting the accessibility of lawn bowls is critically important in order to provide physical activity opportunities for the region's ageing community
Support Toowoomba Hockey Association with plans for improved facilities at Clyde Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Support the Association to be self-funded by providing support for facility improvements to this privately owned, regional standard sporting facility

PRIORITISATION CRITERIA FOR CAPITAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to inform future capital funding decision making and support for funding applications, Council has prepared an assessment tool consisting of prioritisation criteria for capital recommendations (see below). This tool will assist to inform Council on funding and project support priorities.

Note: Identification of support for a project as a result of utilisation of the prioritisation criteria for capital recommendations does not commit Council, nor should it be interpreted as a commitment by Council, to funding support for the project.

The table below summaries Council's assessment of the potential projects identified by user groups through consultation associated with this study. Projects have been prioritised based on their assessment outcome.

The following two questions to be answered prior to undertaking the assessment.

1. Does Council support analysis of the proposed project?	Yes/ No	(If no, no need to proceed with assessment)
2. Is the project confirmed within the Local Government Infrastructure Plan?	Yes/ No	(If yes, no need to proceed with assessment)

Criteria	Description	Low compliance with criteria = 1 Very high compliance with criteria = 5				
Strategic Context						
Activity(ies) support active & healthy outcomes	Structured & unstructured physical activity opportunities for several segments of our community	1	2	3	4	5
Consistent with identified trends in participation	High participation and growth sports; night availability; self-regulated participation; social activity opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Assist Council to meet DSS/ optimisation requirements	Consistent with Council planning standards, supports maximisation of existing infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5
Consistent with documented strategic external priorities including State Sporting Organisations, Club Direction and State Government Policy	Increases physical activity rates, improves accessibility, consistent with State Sport Facility Plans	1	2	3	4	5
Part of an endorsed master plan	Protects intent of endorsed master plan	1	2	3	4	5
Identified as a high need TRC SARHL Plan 2019	Identified as a Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Plan recommendation	1	2	3	4	5
Identified as a high need in other TRC strategies	Consistency with previously endorsed Council direction, strategies & policies	1	2	3	4	5
Economic and Environmental Sustainability						
Existing facility/area is at capacity	Capacity of existing facilities prioritised over new greenfield developments	1	2	3	4	5
Likely to increase operating efficiency or reduce operating costs	Supports improvement in asset, operating and competition management efficiencies	1	2	3	4	5
Has high likelihood of significant partnership funding	Material funding opportunities outside of Council	1	2	3	4	5
Has minimum impact on sensitive environmental areas	Natural and built areas (nature areas, houses, businesses)	1	2	3	4	5
Lifecycle costs identified	Demonstrated understanding of whole-of-life costs and asset management responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5
Asset management arrangements considered	Proof of ability of group to fulfil asset management responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5

Criteria	Description	Low compliance with criteria = 1 Very high compliance with criteria = 5				
		1	2	3	4	5
Social Equity						
Benefits multiple community/user groups	Support use beyond sport or recreation only; Increases opportunities for multiple segments of the community to be physically active	1	2	3	4	5
Supports community members most at risk to inactivity (eg. social disadvantage, ATSI, new Australians, people with a disability, older adults)	New program and activity opportunities aimed at disadvantaged members of the community	1	2	3	4	5
Facilities used for broader community active & healthy activities	Facilities accessible by the community in general; Support members of the community being physically active regardless of membership status	1	2	3	4	5
Infrastructure provision and club sustainability						
Facility age/ condition	Reached end of useful life; poor/ at risk condition; not fit for purpose	1	2	3	4	5
Addresses needs in a high density/ growth catchment	Primary catchment current and future population catchment size	1	2	3	4	5
Addresses lack of facility provision	Identified in other planning as a locality with a shortfall of supply	1	2	3	4	5
Maximises use of an existing facility	Aim to maximise yield from existing infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5
Performance record of club to maintain facilities	Good governance; track record of meeting asset management & tenure responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5
Improves the functionality of land	Drainage, irrigation, lighting	1	2	3	4	5
Addresses safety/risk management considerations	Addresses identified risk	1	2	3	4	5
If not addressed, there is a high risk exposure to TRC	Protection of Council image and liabilities	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility and mobility						
Supports universal use regardless of age, disability or gender	Accessibility from arrival, to and use of activity space, to amenities	1	2	3	4	5
Urban character and amenity						
Supports district identity or improves community satisfaction and utilisation of public infrastructure	Consistent with surrounding urban infrastructure design; addresses gap in community infrastructure; multi-purpose community outcomes	1	2	3	4	5
Indicative capital cost to council						
Item has no cost to TRC						5
Item has low cost to TRC (<\$50,000)					4	
Item has moderate cost to TRC (\$50,000-\$250,000)				3		
Item has high cost to TRC (\$250,000-\$1,000,000)			2			
Item has very high cost to council (>\$1m)		1				
Readiness to proceed						
Already commenced	Preliminary works underway					5
Item ready to commence	Planning finalised; approvals obtained; funding contribution secured			3		
Item requires more planning	Planning and funding commitment contribution yet to be completed	1				

SPORTS FACILITIES



Toowoomba Regional Council Sport Facility Management Vision

To maintain the provision of sport facilities that support and encourage all members of the Toowoomba region community, regardless of age, ability or background to be physically active, whilst maximising the use, viability and sustainability of the sports infrastructure network.

Toowoomba Regional Council Sport Facility Management Vision

To maintain the provision of sport facilities that support and encourage all members of the Toowoomba region community, regardless of age, ability or background to be physically active, whilst maximising the use, viability and sustainability of the sports infrastructure network.



SPORT FACILITY TENURE AND MANAGEMENT

Outdoor Sports Fields and Courts

CURRENT MODEL	
Tenure	Fees & Charges
Seasonal Permit – playing areas & buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Winter: 1 April to 30 September « Summer: 1 October to 31 March Some lease arrangements in place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Casual permits (eg, schools, clubs pre season training) « Event permits (eg, large competitions) « Leases (eg, over buildings owned by clubs but on Council grounds, or over specialised 'only one possible user' facilities) « Permit system in place for a reduced rate in recognition of clubs undertaking significant maintenance and capital works (eg - Mountain Bike club pays \$550 per season per year), tennis facility rates for clubs (\$50 per facility per season) or casual users. 	Junior organisations - free of charge Senior organisations - seasonal permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Class 1 (Regional/ District) - \$2,485 « Class 2 (District) - \$1,292 « Class 3 (Local) - \$420 « Class 4 (Small/ Rural) - \$248 Lighting electricity charged at cost.
Management Responsibilities	Constraints / Benefits
Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Mowing « Irrigation « Surface repair and maintenance « Building repair and maintenance « Internal roads and car parks « Sports lights bulbs and fixtures User Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Report maintenance issues « Line marking « Turf wicket and diamond maintenance « Facility misuse costs « Cleaning « Electricity, including lighting « Internal pest control « Waste removal « Dedicated playing facilities (eg. player boxes) 	Constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Free facility provision for junior clubs decreases Council's revenue stream and overall capacity to deliver high standards of service. « Provides opportunities for free of charge use by senior clubs where they share a facility with junior clubs. « Free of charge models typically decrease sense of responsibility and remove opportunities for penalties. « Inconsistent tenure approach between users under lease or permit arrangement. « Council provides a high level/ high cost standard of service. Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Free facility provision for junior clubs and subsidised permit fees supports increased viability of local clubs and associations. « Seasonal permit allows Council to amend future access in line with demand. « Council high standard of service increases likelihood of maintaining a higher standard of facilities that reach/ exceed their expected useful life.

TENURE

IMPROVEMENTS
COMPLIANCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Playing field/ court data « Strategic Plan « Succession Plan « Facility Plan « Management responsibilities satisfactorily met « Tenure and other fees up to date

FEES AND CHARGES

CURRENT	ADDITIONAL OPTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Juniors – Free of Charge « Four tiers for Seniors « \$248 - \$2,485 per field per season « Separate fees & charges arrangements for event permits, casual use and leases 	Maintain current fee arrangement, however obtain improved outcomes in return for Council's high level of support towards facilities, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Increased compliance performance (as per the table above); « Expanded program and competition offerings for members of our community most at risk of inactivity; « Satisfactory asset management performance; « Rotation of playing fields in order to ensure all fields are used equally; « Expanded community use of facilities beyond sport only.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Maintain the current tenure and fee model for access to outdoor sports fields and courts. Amend the tenure documents to incorporate the need for user groups to meet the following compliance obligations in order to secure ongoing tenure access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Quarterly provision of weekly usage data by field/ court to Council « Current Strategic Plan « Current Succession Plan « Current Facility Plan that aligns to Council's tenure expectations and considers future facility improvement priorities « Compliance with tender document terms and conditions « No outstanding payments to Council « Active and Healthy Plan that summarises strategies user groups are implementing to expand participation opportunities to all members of the community, including those most at risk of inactivity (eg. older adults, social disadvantage, new Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « In order to make informed decisions on the future allocation of access to fields/ courts and to prudently determine the timing of future greenfield development, more detailed data is required in order to support this analysis. This data needs to be at a per field/ court level. « A current Strategic Plan will encourage user groups to better consider current and future constraints and opportunities for their organisation in order to support their long term sustainability. « With such a large turnover of volunteers within community sport and recreation clubs, a Succession Plan is needed to ensure the user group has sound practices in place for the transition of people and information as committees change over time. « A Facility Plan will ensure the user group considers and acts according to its maintenance obligations under its tenure commitment to Council. Further, this Plan will also encourage the user group to think longer term about its future facility needs. « Given the high facility standards and services Council provides to user groups, tenure should not automatically be renewed if there has been a history of poor performance. Ensuring user groups meet their obligations as a user should be monitored and non-compliance managed prior to automatically renewing such tenure. « Similarly, tenure should not be automatically granted on an ongoing basis, should a user group owe outstanding monies to Council as the asset owner. « In order to combat the region's higher levels of inactivity and related health outcomes, opening up physical activity opportunities to those members of the community most at risk of inactivity is critical. User groups receive a high level of facility and service standard from Council at a relatively low cost. There is an opportunity for Council to work in partnership with user groups through this recommended tenure compliance obligation to expand the use of and participation within its sports parks for people most at risk of inactivity.

Council Managed Indoor Courts

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Ensure annual business plans for Council-managed leisure facilities incorporate KPI's consistent with active and healthy objectives (eg, CHANGE Project activities).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Subsidised management model recognises importance of indoor court facilities to a broad segment of the community. « Protects opportunities for management synergies and economies of scale savings with co-located facilities (eg. pools, health and fitness). « Fees and charges linked to an approved annual business plan will ensure synergies with business, usage and viability targets. « Currently leisure centres operate with an increased commercial focus compared to some other Council facilities, however increasing low cost and accessible facilities and programs would assist in addressing barriers to participation identified in Activate survey (ie, cost of facilities), and provide additional CHANGE Project offerings for the community.



FACILITY INVESTMENT

Current Situation



Any request from users for maintenance or for the upgrade of facilities are currently undertaken via the lodgement of the following forms:

- « Sports Ground / Other - Maintenance Request Sheet; and
- « Facility Upgrade Request Form.

Maintenance repairs are allocated from the information within the Sports Ground / Other - Maintenance Request Sheet by Council officers in consideration of their assessed priority and budget availability. Similarly, facility upgrades (typically of a capital nature) are determined by Council officers in consideration of the assessed priority, level of planning undertaken and budget availability to inform future capital works budgets.

Local Issues / Challenges / Considerations

The assessment and approval process for maintenance and facility upgrade requests are largely subjective. This could be perceived as an ad-hoc approach. The process lacks a consistent approach to decision making that additionally provides the detailed information required to inform internal and external stakeholders of the rationale for funding or rejection decisions. With no consistent, formal process to assessment and decision making, there is an increased risk that officer recommendations could either be not supported, rejected or influenced.

In order to prioritise the recommendations of the Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Plan and future requests for either maintenance or capital improvements taking into consideration budget constraints, an assessment matrix incorporating a range of criteria could be developed in order to ensure a consistent approach to assessment and decision making. This matrix would guide assessors and decision makers through the key considerations and their relevant weighting based on Council's priorities.

As the nature of maintenance/ repairs differ significantly from capital upgrades, a different criteria would be required. The assessment matrix should be as user friendly and concise as possible in order to ensure a diverse range of Council officers and other decision makers are able to understand the process and support a consistent approach.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Council adopt a Capital Works / Upgrades Assessment Matrix to inform future decision making for sport and recreation facility investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Update the current Facility Upgrade Request Form to source information that aligns with the Capital Works / Upgrades Assessment Matrix criteria. « Criteria to incorporate at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supports increased participation outcomes – Supports participation opportunities for all members of the Toowoomba region community regardless of age, ability or background – Supports maximised use, viability and financial sustainability of facilities – Readiness to proceed – Funding model – Consistency with Council planning priorities – Demonstrates environmental sustainability outcomes – Supports safe usage – Ensure assessment is peer assessed prior to final decision and funding allocation. « Ensure the assessment matrix is concise and user friendly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Current ad-hoc and inconsistent approach to assessment and decision making lacks the necessary detail required to make a fully informed decision. « Current approach to assessment increases the risk of officer recommendations either not being supported, rejected or influenced. « The use of an assessment matrix will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide detailed information to internal and external stakeholders on the rationale for decision making – Support a consistent and equitable approach to decision making and the allocation of funding – Ensure funded projects align with broader Council planning priorities and broader community outcomes – Support the prudent allocation of Council's limited funding available for sport and recreation facilities – A peer review of the application of the assessment matrix in order to determine recommendations for funding will further enhance high standards of ethics and probity outcomes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Review maintenance and upgrade request process to ensure is not unnecessarily onerous on club volunteers. « Incorporate reconciliation of compliance into fund allocation considerations. « Review bookings system and process to ensure modern approach and user-friendly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « A capital works/ upgrades assessment matrix will assist to support identification of priorities and budget allocation processes. « The current process for upgrade requests is considered too onerous. There is potential to split the process into 'proposals' only for the initial investigation, and then follow the current process for those requests moving in to the next phase. « There has been a large number of requests received via email or phone in Tech One relating to maintenance requests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Review upgrade requests process to ensure requests are consistent with best practice, align with Council objectives and support club volunteers. « Review maintenance process to ensure it is not unnecessarily onerous on club volunteers. 	

CLOSURE OF SPORTING FIELDS POLICY

Current Situation

Council's current policy on the closure of sporting fields is summarised as:

- « The decision to close sports fields for the purpose of minimising damage during wet weather and for the purpose of exercising duty of care to players, is currently made by the Coordinator Sport Infrastructure Services. The Coordinator makes the decision based on their experience and knowledge of the drainage capacities of the major Toowoomba sports fields and courts on the following criteria:
 - Amount of rainfall that has fallen throughout the city (measured at Captain Cook, Heritage and Nell E Robinson Sports fields, this data can be accessed every hour), within a 24 hour period;
 - Weather forecasts;
 - Porosity of soil in each sports field in each quadrant of the city;
 - Surface drainage capacity of each sports field;
 - The Manager, Parks and Recreation and Coordinator, Sport and Active Recreation inspect the major sports fields, prior to any closure decision being made; and
 - Closure decisions made on an individual sports field basis.
- « Historically, a decision to close the fields for weekend use has been made by mid-afternoon with the close (red cross) or open (green tick) displayed on Council's website.
- « Where Council has closed fields on a Friday, they remain closed for the duration of the weekend.
- « Where fields are categorised as open over a weekend and rain has occurred, it is the user's responsibility to determine the safety of the grounds prior for use. Council reserves the right to withdraw the use of its sports ground to a user group who causes excessive and/or repeated damage to sports fields due to training or play during or after wet weather conditions.
- « Fields can also be closed for maintenance purposes.

Local Issues / Challenges / Considerations

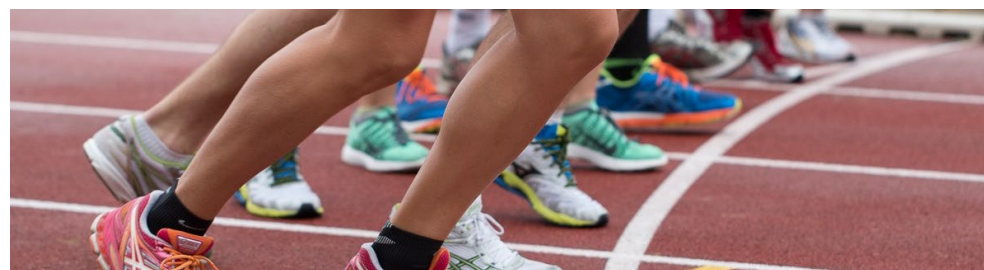
Closure of sports fields should not be based on wet conditions only. In consideration of changing climatic conditions and the increasing demand on limited sports field provision, the potential closure of sports field should consider the impact of prolonged wet and dry periods and the need for an increased maintenance regime.

The use of sports fields are an important part of the Toowoomba region fabric and therefore it is critical the standard of playing fields are maintained in order to service local demand and larger scale events that attract visitors from outside of the region. The current policy doesn't differentiate between sports fields other than for the Highfields Sports Park. Regional standard facilities typically attract higher standards of competition, including those involving teams from outside of the region.

The timing of decision making relating to the closure of sports fields is extremely difficult as an earlier decision by Council supports improved planning and communication outcomes for users, particularly those with participants travelling to the region. Conversely, a later decision supports Council making a more up to date, informed decision that increases the likelihood of sports fields remaining open.

One of the challenges of the current policy relates to when fields are categorised as open over a weekend and rain has occurred and it is the user's responsibility to determine the safety of the grounds prior for use. In this circumstance within a multi-use facility environment, understanding which user group is responsible for the final determination of field closures is uncertain.

The current policy has provision for Council to withdraw the use of its sports ground to a user group who causes excessive and/or repeated damage to sports fields, however there is no current provision for Council to recoup the costs for the repair of playing surfaces. The combined exercising of the current withdrawal policy and the potential ability for Council to forward on repair costs are critical in order to maintain Council's limited sports field maintenance budget for its intended, planned purpose and to act as a deterrent to users acting irresponsibly in future. The determination by user groups on whether fields should remain open or be closed could be supported by an assessment matrix and criteria that would support a more consistent approach to decision making.



Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Amend the field closure policy to allow Council to close fields for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Wet conditions « Prolonged dry conditions « Maintenance tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Recognition of the importance of maintaining playing fields at standards consistent with Council and community expectations. « Drought conditions have increased in the Toowoomba region over the past two decades and have had a similar adverse impact on playing surfaces as wet conditions. « In order to maintain satisfactory playing surface standards, fields must include a rest, recovery and maintenance period at a minimum annually. « The receipt of detailed usage data under the proposed new compliance model (outlined in Sports Facility Tenure and Management above) will support Council to better identify those fields requiring maintenance, rest or recovery.
<p>Amend the field closure policy to ensure final Council decision on field closures to be made by 12pm Monday to Friday.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Whilst weather conditions may change post a 12pm decision, other control factors can be introduced (as outlined below) to limit the use of sports fields should conditions worsen. « This timing supports early planning and communication outcomes for user groups.
<p>Amend to field closure policy to differentiate decision making around the closure of fields for regional standard facilities. Ensure necessary Council resourcing is allocated in order to support this policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Regional standard facilities generally have a higher standard of playing fields (including irrigation, drainage) and an increased maintenance regime that supports better surface recovery. « Supports increased opportunities for higher standard competitions, including those hosting teams from outside of the region to continue.
<p>Develop a Field Closure Assessment Matrix for use by user groups in periods of wet weather where field conditions conflict with Council's determination regarding weekend use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Provides guidance to user groups on what factors should be considered in making a determination on the closure of fields. « Supports a consistent approach to the assessment of the playability of sports fields across the region. « Acts as a reminder to user groups of ramifications should a field be played on and damaged. « Allows Council to assess the reasonableness of the decision should fields still be damaged.

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Enforce the current policy clause that allows..." to "Enforce and adopt a formal policy for the current practice that allows Council to withdraw the use of its sports ground to a user group who causes excessive and/or repeated damage to sports fields.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Supports maintaining Council's limited sports field maintenance budget for its intended, planned purpose. « Acts as a deterrent to users acting irresponsibly in future and damaging fields. « Supports user groups that take a responsible approach to field use.
<p>Amend the field closure policy to enforce forwarding repair costs to user groups that play on fields with excessive and/or repeated damage to sports fields after wet weather conditions.</p>	
<p>Improve field closure notification methods from currently emails only (eg, introduce text messages, text bounce back system, etc).</p>	



TRC GRANTS

Current Situation

Council offers a sport and recreation specific funding program known as the “Sport and Recreation Grant Program”. The program philosophy is “Council recognises the important contribution sport and recreation community organisations make in planning, developing and maintaining sport and recreation facilities and programs in their communities. Council has established a Sport and Recreation Grant Program to provide funding and/or in-kind assistance, to support community organisations to develop facilities and programs that are of benefit to the community”.

The Program is released **bi-annually** and seeks to achieve Council's objective of a safe, healthy and equitable community, enjoying a quality lifestyle” by providing support to eligible community organisations for projects that aim to achieve one or more of the following:

- « Upgrading facilities to meet standards, regulations and changing community needs and expectations.
- « Promoting healthy and socially inclusive communities through investing in the development of accessible sport and recreation facilities.
- « Increasing opportunities to groups with inequitable access to sport and recreation activities and infrastructure.
- « Facilitating well-planned, infrastructure projects that meet community needs developed through collaborative approaches to increasing participation in sport and recreation activities.
- « Encouraging sustainability in the design, development and management of sport and recreation facilities and spaces.

Preference is given to applications for projects that:

- « are identified within the Toowoomba Regional Council Strategic Sport and Recreation Plan;
- « demonstrate self-help, commitment and future sustainability;
- « demonstrate collaboration and partnerships between community organisations;
- « do not duplicate existing projects or activities.
- « embrace innovation and forward thinking;
- « have activities conducted on Council owned and/or managed land.

Organisations may apply for a grant of up to 50% of the funding gap (total project cost less other grant sources) up to a maximum of \$150,000. For projects greater than \$50,000, Council may consider a grant of up to 75% of the total project cost up to a maximum of \$150,000 where the project has been assessed as a high priority by the assessment panel and has been unsuccessful in two separate funding applications to the State Government. Council may consider larger projects of regional significance (>\$600,000) separately on merits through Council's Capital Works Budget.

Organisations can apply for funding under the Program if they:

- « Are an **eligible community organisation** or are under the auspices of an eligible community organisation as defined in the Community Grants Policy;
- « Operate or **provide services within** the Toowoomba Regional Council area;
- « Have an **Australian Business Number (ABN)**;
- « Conduct their activity on land owned privately and/or by the State Government providing they submit written evidence of tenure with a term outlining a minimum of 3 years.

Eligible projects include:

- « New facilities and upgrades to facilities;
- « Assistance towards feasibility studies, needs analysis or community consultation; and
- « Assistance towards planning, professional and application fees in preparing grant applications for larger projects.

All applications for Sport and Recreation Grants must be submitted by completing the Community Grant Application Form and the Sport and Recreation Supplement Form.

Other available Council grants include:

- « Community Support Grant
- « Cultural and Arts Support Grant
- « Environment Grant
- « Event Support Grant
- « Sports Tourism Event Grant
- « Community Economic Development Grant.



Local Issues / Challenges / Considerations

Whilst the current Program is for sport and recreation purposes, historically the large majority of funded projects have been sporting related. The Program does not offer opportunities that support broader active and healthy outcomes for the Toowoomba region community. This SARHL Plan recognises the important role Council plays in assisting the community to be more physically active and healthy. The potential expansion of eligible projects to include active and healthy related projects, including facilities, programs and services would better recognise that there are several elements beyond only sport and recreation that play an important role to the healthy living of Toowoomba region residents. The assessment criteria used to determine projects of greatest priority for funding would need to be amended to reflect the broader active and healthy project eligibility.

Over the past several years, funding for sport and recreation projects from the Queensland Government has been limited. This has increased the pressure on local government to explore funding opportunities in their own right. The Queensland Government will shortly release its whole-of-government Queensland Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. It is hoped that following the release of this strategy, improved funding opportunities for sport and recreation and active living will result. Should this occur, funding priority could be realigned to support those projects that fall outside of the new Queensland Government funding priorities, yet still achieve Council's objectives for sport and recreation and healthy living.

Like most contemporary funding programs, application interest often exceed available program funding. The current maximum funding per project available under the program, including the co-contribution model is considered realistic in order to support Council maximising the financial benefit from the Program to as many projects as possible. Subject to Council funding priorities, an expanded funding pool would allow Council to support an increased number of projects and expedite the implementation of the recommendations of this SARHL Plan.

The Assessment Panel responsible for recommending funded projects under the Program is critical in ensuring a robust, transparent assessment is undertaken in a manner that can clearly articulate the rationale for one project being funded over another. Funding programs can lend themselves to political influence in those cases that there is not a detailed assessment process in place and/ or the assessment panel is not reflective of a broad cross section of whole-of-Council views. An assessment panel consisting of a representative of Sport and Recreation within Council, a representative of another agency within Council that has an active and healthy focus (eg. representative of the proposed SARHL Working Group) and an independent representative of the community would provide broader outcomes for Council and the community. This model would better ensure committed funding is provided in an equitable, accountable, transparent and sustainable manner that produces community benefits with regard to geographical equity while complying with regulatory and reporting requirements¹.

¹ Toowoomba Regional Council - Sport and Recreation Grant Program Guidelines

Recommendations

Recommendation	Rationale
Expand Program eligibility criteria to include facility, programs and service related projects that can demonstrate active living outcomes for the Toowoomba region. Develop guidelines to ensure that the embellishment standards for both recreation and sports parks are adhered to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Consistent with recommendations of this SARHL Plan for recognition of the important role Council plays in assisting the community to be more physically active and healthy. « Expanding the program does not preclude funding being allocated to traditional sport and recreation projects.
Expand program eligibility and assessment criteria to include facility, programs and service related projects that can demonstrate accessible, sustainable and regular healthy and active living outcomes for the Toowoomba region. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Delivery of free / low-cost, pay-as-you-go, beginner friendly sport and active activities. « Training for sports and active recreation providers in regional and 'hot spot' areas (in return for low-cost regular activities). « Expanding eligibility criteria to include commercial entities (if can demonstrate meet program objectives). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Opportunity for targeted Council funding to service funding gaps for projects not supported by the Queensland Government. « Reflects the need for increased emphasis to be placed on active and healthy living within the Toowoomba region.
Maintain the current thresholds for the maximum funding per project available under the program, including the co-contribution model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Council has limited funding available for the Program. « Capping the maximum funding available and encouraging co-contributions supports Council's funding benefiting more organisations.
Explore opportunities to increase the overall Program funding pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Supports the recommended expansion of the Program for active and healthy related projects. « Supports earlier implementation of the SARHL Plan recommendations. « Recognises Council's role in and the need for increased emphasis overall of active and healthy outcomes for the Toowoomba community.
Amend the assessment panel to include representative of another agency within Council that has an active and healthy focus (eg, representative of the proposed SARHL working group).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Prevents opportunities for potential political influence on funding allocation decisions. « Supports broader outcomes for Council and the community. « Improves and supports equitable outcomes within a more transparent process.
Deliver modern, user-friendly online grant applications system (eg, Smarty Grants).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The previous online option was considered too onerous for both applicants and assessors.
Create new minimum contribution thresholds in consideration of the amount of funding being requested (eg. small contribution percentage requirement for smaller funding requests).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Recognition of ability to support and provide a more equitable approach for smaller, less financial clubs that are unable to meet a 50% contribution.
Update guidelines to remove funding priority to projects on Council land over private facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Recognises the value of privately owned facilities in reducing imposts to Council funding.

SPORTS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Prioritisation Criteria for Capital Improvement Recommendations

The following two questions to be answered prior to undertaking the assessment.

1. Does Council support analysis of the proposed project?	Yes/ No		If no, no need to proceed with assessment)
2. Is the project confirmed within the Local Government Infrastructure Plan?	Yes/ No		(If yes, no need to proceed with assessment)

Criteria	Description	Low compliance with criteria = 1 Very high compliance with criteria = 5				
		1	2	3	4	5
Strategic Context						
Activity(ies) support active & healthy outcomes	Structured & unstructured physical activity opportunities for several segments of our community	1	2	3	4	5
Consistent with identified trends in participation	High participation and growth sports; night availability; self-regulated participation; social activity opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Assist Council to meet DSS/ optimisation requirements	Consistent with Council planning standards, supports maximisation of existing infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5
Consistent with documented strategic external priorities including State Sporting Organisations, Club Direction and State Government Policy	Increases physical activity rates, improves accessibility, consistent with State Sport Facility Plans	1	2	3	4	5
Part of an endorsed master plan	Protects intent of endorsed master plan	1	2	3	4	5
Identified as a high need TRC SARHL Plan 2019	Identified as a Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Plan recommendation	1	2	3	4	5
Identified as a high need in other TRC strategies	Consistency with previously endorsed Council direction, strategies & policies	1	2	3	4	5
Economic and Environmental Sustainability						
Existing facility/area is at capacity	Capacity of existing facilities prioritised over new greenfield developments	1	2	3	4	5
Likely to increase operating efficiency or reduce operating costs	Supports improvement in asset, operating and competition management efficiencies	1	2	3	4	5
Has high likelihood of significant partnership funding	Material funding opportunities outside of Council	1	2	3	4	5
Has minimum impact on sensitive environmental areas	Natural and built areas (nature areas, houses, businesses)	1	2	3	4	5
Lifecycle costs identified	Demonstrated understanding of whole-of-life costs and asset management responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5
Asset management arrangements considered	Proof of ability of group to fulfil asset management responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5

Criteria	Description	Low compliance with criteria = 1 Very high compliance with criteria = 5				
Social Equity						
Benefits multiple community/user groups	Support use beyond sport or recreation only; Increases opportunities for multiple segments of the community to be physically active	1	2	3	4	5
Supports community members most at risk to inactivity (eg. social disadvantage, ATSI, new Australians, people with a disability, older adults)	New program and activity opportunities aimed at disadvantaged members of the community	1	2	3	4	5
Facilities used for broader community active & healthy activities	Facilities accessible by the community in general; Support members of the community being physically active regardless of membership status	1	2	3	4	5
Infrastructure provision and club sustainability						
Facility age/ condition	Reached end of useful life; poor/ at risk condition; not fit for purpose	1	2	3	4	5
Addresses needs in a high density/ growth catchment	Primary catchment current and future population catchment size	1	2	3	4	5
Addresses lack of facility provision	Identified in other planning as a locality with a shortfall of supply	1	2	3	4	5
Maximises use of an existing facility	Aim to maximise yield from existing infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5
Performance record of club to maintain facilities	Good governance; track record of meeting asset management & tenure responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5
Improves the functionality of land	Drainage, irrigation, lighting	1	2	3	4	5
Addresses safety/risk management considerations	Addresses identified risk	1	2	3	4	5
If not addressed, there is a high risk exposure to TRC	Protection of Council image and liabilities	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility and mobility						
Supports universal use regardless of age, disability or gender	Accessibility from arrival, to and use of activity space, to amenities	1	2	3	4	5
Urban character and amenity						
Supports district identity or improves community satisfaction and utilisation of public infrastructure	Consistent with surrounding urban infrastructure design; addresses gap in community infrastructure; multi-purpose community outcomes	1	2	3	4	5
Indicative capital cost to council						
Item has no cost to TRC						5
Item has low cost to TRC (<\$50,000)					4	
Item has moderate cost to TRC (\$50,000-\$250,000)				3		
Item has high cost to TRC (\$250,000-\$1,000,000)			2			
Item has very high cost to council (>\$1m)		1				
Readiness to proceed						
Already commenced	Preliminary works underway					5
Item ready to commence	Planning finalised; approvals obtained; funding contribution secured			3		
Item requires more planning	Planning and funding commitment contribution yet to be completed	1				

Field Closure Policy (incorporating Field Closure Assessment Matrix)

Purpose/ Intent

This procedure provides the management framework in determining the asset closure of Council owned and managed sports fields and grass courts to:

- « Minimise and mitigate potential damage to the asset
- « Minimise safety risks to players/ spectators/ users
- « Identify required maintenance and seasonal conflicts
- « Facilitate sporting training, competition schedules and events
- « Apportion the responsibilities and accountabilities to the sports community yet retain as the asset owner a high degree of strategic asset management.

Applicability

- « This procedure applies to all Toowoomba Region Council owned and managed sports fields and grass courts across the region in consideration of:
 - Wet conditions;
 - Prolonged dry conditions; and
 - Maintenance tasks.

Policy

1. The decision to close individual or whole-of-region sports fields in the city be made by the Manager, Parks and Recreation and the Co-ordinator, Sport and Active Recreation, after considering either:
 - a) Rainfall at sports fields in the city, within a 24 hour period (measured at Captain Cook, Heritage and Nell E Robinson Sports fields, this data can be accessed every hour); or
 - b) Extreme heat conditions (>35C) within a 24 hour period following prolonged periods of below average rainfall (>3 months) have impacted on the hardness of the playing surface to a point where it is deemed to be unsafe and/ or at high risk of long term damage to the surface; or
 - c) The current standard of playing surface of an individual field is deemed to be unsafe and in need of rest/ repair; or
 - d) Council withdraws the use of its sports field/ court to a user group who causes excessive and/or repeated damage to surfaces (in these cases, Council reserves the right to forwarding repair costs to user groups that play on fields with excessive and/or repeated damage to sports fields after wet weather conditions).
2. That the Manager, Parks and Recreation, or his delegate, be authorised to re-open individual sports fields during a weekend, under the following special circumstances:
 - a) The weather conditions have become favourable;
 - b) The fields are located within a Regional standard facility;
 - c) Major damage to playing surfaces is unlikely to result; and
 - d) A major carnival or event has been scheduled to occur.
3. Governing requirements for sports for condition of fields /courts use are primary will be adhered to in the foremost around inclement weather (eg storms).

Notification

- « Council decision on field closures to be made by 12pm Monday to Friday.
- « The provision of advice to user groups on the closure of sports fields/ courts will be made via:
 - Advertising on Council’s website via closed (red cross) or open (green tick)
 - Direct email to user groups
 - Text messages with bounce back system.

Worsening Conditions

- « In those cases where conditions worsen over a weekend and fields remained open aas t 12pm Friday, the user group is responsible for responsibly determining the playability of the field/ court.
- « In order for the user group to make a consistent and informed decision on the playability of the field/ court, the Field Closure Assessment Matrix below is to be used.
- « Council reserves the right to request a copy of the executed Field Closure Assessment Matrix following continued use of the fields within periods worsening conditions.
- « Develop a Field Closure Assessment Matrix for
- « Use by user groups in periods of wet weather
- « Where field conditions conflict with Council’s
- « Determination regarding weekend use.

Field Closure Assessment Matrix

In order to support using fields/ courts during worsening conditions, the Field Closure Assessment Matrix below must be used to guide decision making. In order to support playing on fields/ courts ALL criteria must be a “Yes”.

Assessment Criteria	Yes	No
Extreme rainfall has not occurred in the previous 24 hour period (>30mm)		
There is no standing water present on any part of the field that cannot be removed without causing damage to the field		
There are no muddy conditions present that will not dry by the start of the game		
While walking on the field, water cannot be seen or heard with a footstep		
While walking on the field, any impression of your footprint is not left in the surface		
Does water not gather around the sole of a shoe or boot on any portion of the field		
Have there not been extreme heat conditions (>35C) within a 24 hour period following prolonged periods of below average rainfall (>3 months)		
Is the field hardness not considered to provide a high risk of long term damage to the surface		
The current standard of playing surface of an individual field is not deemed to be unsafe to participants		

Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Grant Program Guidelines

Program Philosophy

Council recognises the important contribution sport, active recreation and healthy living community organisations make in planning, developing and maintaining facilities, programs and services in their communities. Council has established a Sport and Recreation Grant Program to provide funding and/or in-kind assistance, to support community organisations to develop facilities and programs that are of benefit to the community.

Program Objectives

The Sport and Recreation Grant Program seeks to achieve Council's objective of "A safe, healthy and equitable community, enjoying a quality lifestyle" by providing support to eligible community organisations for projects that aim to achieve one or more of the following:

- « Providing sport, active recreation and physical activity opportunities through facility improvements, programs or services for members of the community most at risk of inactivity.
- « Upgrading facilities to meet standards, regulations and changing community needs and expectations, including relating to universal accessibility of activity spaces and supporting amenities.
- « Promoting healthy and socially inclusive communities through investing in the development of accessible sport and active recreation facilities.
- « Improving activities and infrastructure for groups with inequitable access to sport, active recreation and physical activity opportunities.
- « Facilitating well-planned, infrastructure projects that meet community needs developed through collaborative approaches to increasing participation in sport, active recreation and physical activity.
- « Encouraging sustainability in the design, development and management of sport, active recreation and physical activity facilities and spaces.

Preference will be given to applications that:

- « Are identified within the Toowoomba Regional Council Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Plan;
- « Demonstrate self-help, commitment and future sustainability;
- « Demonstrate collaboration and partnerships between community organisations;
- « Do not duplicate existing projects or activities;
- « Embrace innovation and forward thinking;
- « Support improved opportunities to those members of the community most at risk of insufficient physical activity; and
- « Have activities conducted on Council owned and/or managed land.

Financial and/or in-kind assistance will be given in an equitable, accountable, transparent and sustainable manner that produces community benefits with regard to geographical equity while complying with regulatory and reporting requirements.

Support and Assistance

Council may run workshops to provide information and assistance to applicants on a variety of Council grant programs prior to each funding round. Applicants may make appointments with relevant Council Officers to receive advice on the funding and application process, and identify additional or alternative grant opportunities.

Council Officers are available to discuss external funding options with sport and recreation organisations on a need by need basis.

Guidelines, application and acquittal forms are available from on Council's website <http://www.tr.qld.gov.au/>, along with any updated grant information and priorities.

Interpreter services can be made available for people who have difficulty communicating in English, through the "Telephone Interpreter Service" (TIS).

Timelines

The opportunity to apply for grants will be available twice annually, and will be promoted in the media and on Councils' website, outlining the selection criteria, the availability of application forms and guidelines, and the closing date.

Advertising	Closing Date	Notification
February 1st	March 1st	April
July 1st	August 1st	September

Funding Amounts

Financial Assistance

Grant funds are limited in individual amounts and total funds available. Project proponents should liaise with Council's Sport and Recreation Development Officers to ascertain the size of the grant available.

Organisations may apply for a grant of up to 50% of the funding gap (total project cost less other grant sources) up to a maximum of \$150,000.

For projects greater than \$50,000, Council may consider a grant of up to 75% of the total project cost up to a maximum of \$150,000 where the project has been assessed as a high priority by the assessment panel and has been unsuccessful in two separate funding applications to the State Government and was assessed as high priority by that program.

Council may consider larger projects of regional significance (> \$600,000) separately on merits through Council's Capital Works Budget.

Council Officers can give advice and assistance in seeking other grant funding for larger projects, and an application can be made for seed funding for initial planning for larger projects.

In-kind support

Applications for in-kind Council support should provide details of the type of support sought and the date required. Please provide as much detail as possible.

Consideration will also be given to organisations seeking to use their own contribution of in-kind support such as volunteer labour and materials for construction. Both labour and materials must be substantiated and costed at current market rates.

Volunteer contributions will need to be itemised and must include information on the number of volunteers, the hours of contribution and rate of pay for the task being undertaken. All works must be undertaken by people with the appropriate skills and licences. A statutory declaration will be required to substantiate each contribution.

When completing the application form, the following information must be provided:

- « Details of the services or goods being provided;
- « Details of the volunteer(s) attributable costs (hours and unit rates) for these contributions; and
- « Details of the volunteer(s) involved including their relevant qualifications & / trade licences.

In-kind support, including provision of equipment, labour or volunteers must be directly related to the project construction to be deemed eligible. Costs that are considered to be ongoing such as club operations, contingency allowances, escalation costs and grant administration costs are ineligible under this program and are not to be included as part of the overall contribution from the applicant.

Types of costs considered as eligible club contributions to a project include:

- « Labour costs
- « Demolition works
- « Geotechnical costs
- « Site preparation
- « Earthworks
- « Construction works
- « Development/building approvals
- « Relevant project professional fees
- « Plant hire
- « Fit-outs
- « Fixed structures.

The following rates will be applied to volunteer labour contributions:

Advertising	Notification
Professional labour e.g. architects, engineers, surveyors, certifiers, project managers	Market rate up to \$160 per hour as per supplied quote/letter
Skilled labour e.g. bricklayer, carpenter, painter, plumber, electrician	Market rate up to \$80 per hour as per supplied quote/letter
Unskilled labour e.g. volunteer, labourer	Up to \$25

Applying for a Grant

Applications can be made online by visiting <https://epwweb2.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/ePathway/Production/Web/default.aspx> or by fully completing the Community Grant Application Form and the Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Supplement Form, giving details of the project and attaching information regarding:

- « The need for the project and who will benefit, such as a Community Benefit Statement with reference to program objectives; any relevant feasibility studies or statistical analyses; results of a community survey; or a needs analysis;
- « Identify how and why the support being requested will positively impact the local community;
- « Planning undertaken, including a budget; cost estimates and/or quotes, and concept plans;
- « Support for the project, including letters of support; partnership agreements or intentions;
- « Confirmation of other funding; and evidence of the organisations' own contributions; and
- « Evidence if support has been sought from other funding schemes.

Who can apply

Organisations can apply for a Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Grant if they:

- « Are an eligible community organisation or are under the auspices of an eligible community organisation as defined in the Community Grants Policy;
- « Operate or provide services within the Toowoomba Regional Council area;
- « Have an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- « Conduct their activity on land owned privately and/or by the State Government providing they submit written evidence of tenure with a term outlining a minimum of 3 years.

Who cannot apply

- « Individuals
- « For-profit companies, trusts and other organisations
- « Government, semi-government organisations and statutory authorities
- « Public and private educational institutions (primary, secondary and tertiary (including P. & C. and P&F Associations)
- « Unions and student guilds
- « Research foundations
- « Professional associations
- « An organisation that has not acquitted an outstanding Toowoomba Regional Council funded grant application.
- « An organisation that has not acquitted an overdue TRC funded grant application or have previously defaulted on their conditions of funding

Eligible Projects

A wide range of support will be considered on its merits and community benefit, for the following:

- « New facilities and upgrades to facilities;
- « Assistance towards feasibility studies, needs analysis or community consultation;
- « Program or event start-up that encourages increased physical activity outcomes for members of the community most at risk of inactivity; and
- « Assistance towards planning, professional and application fees in preparing grant applications for larger projects.

Ineligible Projects

Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Grants will not fund:

- « Programs such as coaching, professional development, training or first aid
- « Loan or other debt repayments
- « Projects already started or completed
- « Recurrent administration and running costs, such as:
 - Regular wages
 - Regular office expenses
 - Rent, mortgage repayments or land purchases
 - Equipment that has a short life or needs regular replacement
 - Rates, utilities, energy, insurance or regulatory expenses
- « Projects with a commercial purpose
- « Projects already funded by other Toowoomba Regional Council Grant programs
- « Sport / recreation events that are not targeted towards increased physical activity outcomes for members of the community most at risk of inactivity¹
- « Prize money, trophies, raffle prizes or fundraising
- « Offset of fees and charges for Council facilities, equipment or services¹

¹ These projects may be eligible under an alternate grants scheme

Assessment Processing and Criteria

Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Grant applications will be considered against the program philosophy, objectives, eligibility criteria and selection criteria.

Not all applications that meet the criteria may be successful, as grants are highly competitive and approval will depend on availability of funds, the number of applications, program priorities and geographical equity.

Council may give a lower amount than requested, and may place terms and conditions on which items may be funded by the grant.

Selection Criteria

Applications must demonstrate:

- « The organisation and project, activity or event is eligible;
- « The organisation and project activity or event is viable;
- « Genuine need and community benefit;
- « How and why the support being requested will positively impact the local community;
- « Evidence of planning, consultation, and support;
- « Financial need, the organisation's contribution and support, and other funding sought (whether successful or not);
- « Linkages to program objectives;
- « Alignment with Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Plan;
- « Any regulatory requirements have been, or will be, met.

Receiving a Grant/Acquittal Process

Successful grant recipient organisations will have to meet certain obligations:

- « Enter into Funding Agreement with Council;
- « Use the grant only for the nominated purpose for which it is given, unless written approval is given by Council for a variation;
- « Obtain all appropriate permits, approvals, licences, insurances and indemnities etc. relating to the project;
- « Expend the funds within twelve months of being granted, unless written approval has been given by Council for an extension;
- « Acknowledge Council's support as set out in the Funding Agreement;
- « Acquit the grant on an Acquittal Form as set out in the Funding Agreement, within six weeks of completion of the project.

Where the support requested is to match or augment other funding, an interim acknowledgment letter of support may be provided, to be confirmed when and if the other funding is approved.

Council reserves the right to request an audit of grant expenditure and to demand repayment of any funds granted, and/or refuse consideration of further support, if the conditions set out in the Funding Agreement are not met. Any unused must be returned to Council.

Lodging your Application

Grants are to be lodged by the advertised closing date.

Lodgement of Application

All applications for Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Grants must be submitted online or by completing the Community Grant Application Form and the Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Supplement Form.

Applications must be submitted before 5.00pm on the closing date advertised.

Late applications will NOT be considered.

Frequently Asked Questions**Q. What is the definition of sport?**

A. Sport is 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.

Q. What is the definition of active recreation?

A. (Active) recreation activities are those 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. For the purpose of this program, any reference to 'recreation' is defined as 'active recreation'.

Q. What is the definition of healthy living?

Any activity, event, program, facility or service that supports increased physical activity, social interaction, physical and mental wellbeing.

Q. Can we get help in developing our project and completing the application?

A. Yes, you can attend one of the regular Community Grant workshops that are advertised, and/or make an appointment to see one of Council's Sport and Recreation Development Officers.

Q. What if our organisation doesn't have an ABN?

A. You can still apply, but you will need to provide us with a copy of the group/organisation's Certificate of Incorporation together with a Statement by a Supplier form from the Australian Tax Office. The Statement by a Supplier form is available online at www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads/nat3346.pdf.

Q. What if our organisation is not registered for GST?

A. You can still apply if your organisation is not required to be registered for GST, but GST will not apply to any grant allocated.

Q. What if our organisation is not incorporated?

A. You can still apply, but the application must be under the auspices of an eligible organisation who will take full responsibility for the grant. Council staff may be able to assist in finding sponsors for applications with clear community benefits, or assist in getting your group incorporated.

Q. Does my project need to benefit all residents of the Toowoomba Region?

A. No. As long as there is a service/project/event being delivered in the Toowoomba Regional Council Local Government area and there is benefit to communities within the Toowoomba region.

Q. Can I get funding for more than one year?

A. No. You will need to apply for funding every year, and there is no guarantee of repeat funding.

Q. Can a school apply?

A. No. Public and private educational institutions (primary, secondary and tertiary including Parents & Citizens and Parents & Friends Associations) are not eligible for funding consideration.

Q. Can Council grants funds be used to 'top-up' other grant funds?

A. Yes. Council funds can be added to other funds to make a better project, or can be used as seed funding at the 'front-end' to develop project plans and fund application fees etc. This is a high priority for Sport and Recreation grants.

Q. If our club is successful in obtaining any sports infrastructure grant on Council land, does that mean our club obtain the ownership of the new infrastructure?

A. No, once infrastructure is built on Council land, it becomes the property of Toowoomba Regional Council for insurance and asset management purposes.

Q. If my application is unsuccessful; can I apply for the same thing next round?

A. Yes. However, it is advised that you seek feedback as to why your application was unsuccessful in the first instance. It would also be very beneficial to attend one of the public community grant workshops, as this will enhance your chance of a successful application.

Relevant Law

Local Government Act 2009 Local Government Regulation 2012.

TOOWOOMBA REGION SPORT ACTIVE RECREATION AND HEALTHY LIVING PLAN



NATURE BASED RECREATION

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CURRENT SITUATION

For the purpose of the study, nature-based recreation is defined as *‘recreational activities that are dependent on the environment and where appreciation of nature is a key motivator. Includes activities that do not require substantial modification to the natural environment and are environmentally sustainable.’* This includes the following activities:

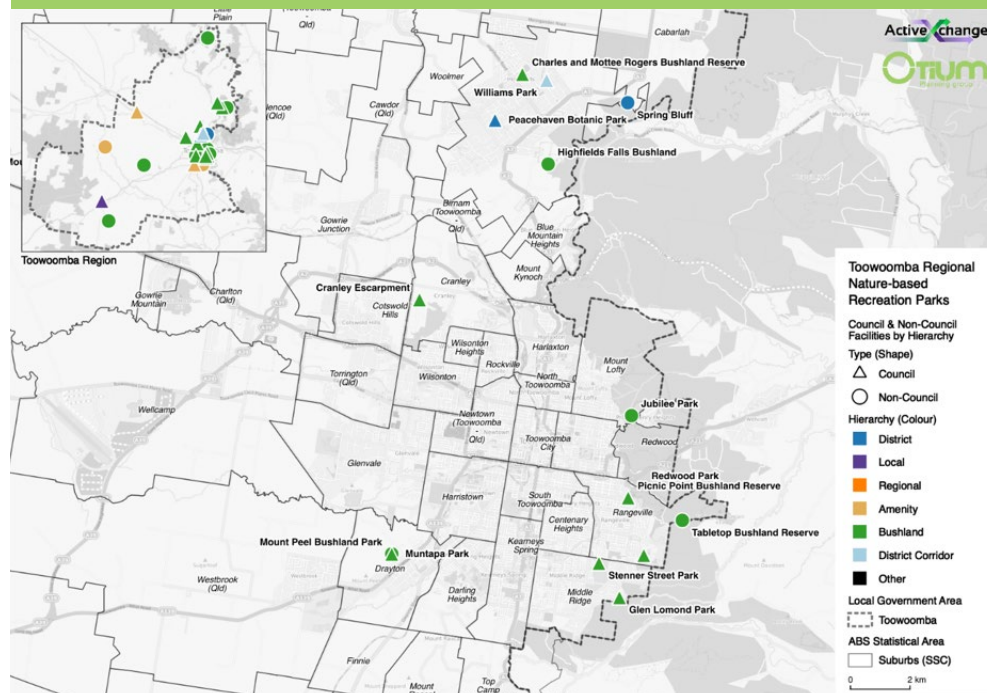
- « Bushwalking, hiking, trail running and trail yoga
- « Mountain biking, trail cycling

- « Kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, sailing and motorised watercraft activities
- « Horse riding
- « Rock-climbing, bouldering, abseiling and ropes courses
- « Orienteering, rogaining and geocaching
- « Off-road motorised riding / driving (ie, motocross bikes, dirt bikes, e-bikes, quad bikes and similar motorised vehicles, Four Wheel Driving)
- « Camping and picnicking
- « Environmental volunteerism.

As the map demonstrates there are a large number of opportunities for nature-based recreation within the Toowoomba region. A number of these recreation parks are located within close proximity to Toowoomba city, and a large portion are predominantly located within the eastern boundary of the region. These existing opportunities include:

- « a significant trail network (over 50 trails) for bushwalking, hiking and trail running
- « 34 dedicated single-track mountain bike trails in Jubilee Park
- « A number of horse-riding opportunities at numerous locations including Glen Lomond Park, Jubilee Park, Redwood Park, Mount Peel Bushland Park, Yarraman Station and Weir Park.
- « Kayaking, canoeing and sailing opportunities at both Lake Cooby and Cressbrook Dam
- « Abseiling opportunities at Perseverance Cliff (for accredited abseiling)
- « Orienteering opportunities around Toowoomba including Picnic Point and Mount Peel Bushland Park
- « Camping opportunities at Cressbrook Dam, Crows Nest National Park and Yarraman Station and Weir Park
- « A range of picnic opportunities including Palms National Park (Cooyar), Lake Perseverance, Crows Nest National Park, Ravensbourne National Park and Mount Peel Bushland Park just to name a few.

Map 1: Location of nature-based recreation parks across the Toowoomba region.



TRENDS

The following table outlines participation rates in nature-based recreation activities captured through the AusPlay survey.¹

Participation Rate (%) in Adults (Over 15)

Activity	Oct 2015 – Sep 16	Jan 16 – Dec 16	July 16 – June 17	Jan 17 – Dec 17	Jan 18 – Dec 18
Bushwalking	5.4%	6.1%	6.3%	5.8%	5.7%
Kayaking / canoeing	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%
Mountain Biking	1.0%	1.3%	1.5%	1.1%	1.0%
Waterskiing / Wakeboarding	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Orienteering	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0%	0.1%

KEY FINDINGS:

- « Bushwalking was the most popular activity and experienced an increase in participation over the past few years. Kayaking and canoeing has experienced a small decline with mountain biking remaining stable.
- « Using the most recent AusPlay survey data, bushwalking had a similar participation rate amongst males and females with the larger proportion of people undertaking the activity aged between 25-54.
- « Canoeing and kayaking on the other hand had a greater number of males (1.5%) undertake the activity compared with females (1.0%) with the majority of participants aged between 35 and 64.
- « Mountain biking similarly has a higher rate of male participation (1.6%) compared with females (0.4%) and the largest proportion of participants aged between 35-54.



Most popular: Bushwalking

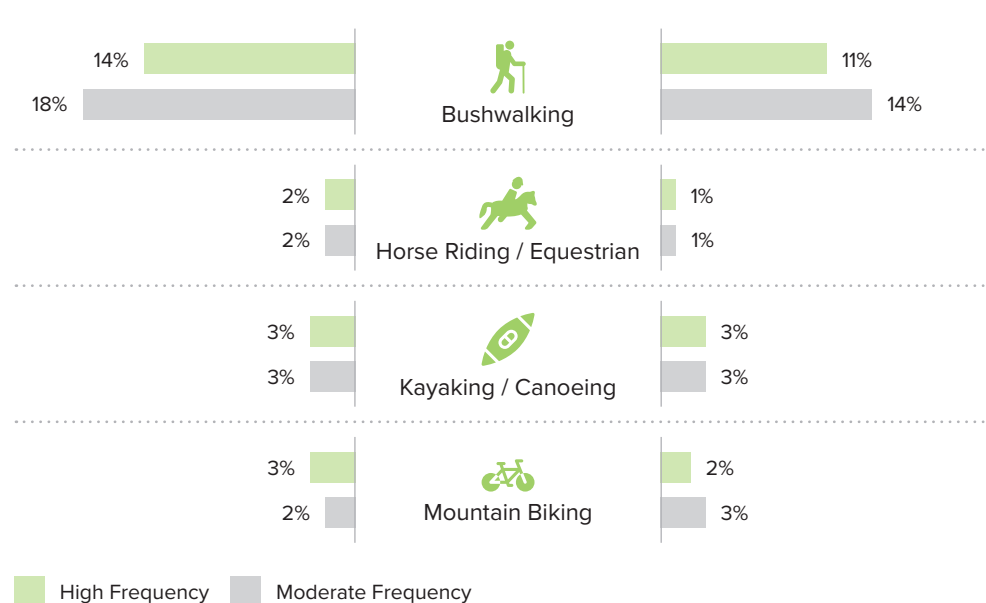


In Queensland participation trends in a number of recreation activities have been identified through the 2015 and 2016 Survey of Sport, Exercise and Recreation Participation by Queensland adults. This included a number of nature-based recreation activities.

Participation Rate (%) in Adults (over 18)

JULY – AUGUST 2015

JUNE – JULY 2016



KEY FINDINGS:

- « A slight decline in bushwalking was seen in both high and moderate frequency participants, similarly with horse riding / equestrian. The remaining activities remained relatively stable in participation.
- « A quarter of bushwalking participants travelled over 50km to undertake the activity.
- « Only 20% of mountain biking participants travelled 20km or more to undertake the activity (2016 survey results).
- « A quarter of the kayaking / canoeing participants travelled between 20km to 50km with another 17% travelling more than 50km (2016 survey results).

¹ The AusPlay Survey was introduced in 2016 to measure participation in sport and recreation activities

² The results were presented in terms of high frequency participants (active at least once a week) and moderate frequency participants (active at least between once a fortnight to once every 6 months).

Toowoomba’s recent Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Survey outlined that 72% of respondents (had undertaken, or members of their household) nature-based recreation activities in the past 12 months. The following shows the top ten activity breakdown:

Nature Based Activities Undertaken in the Past 12 Months

Ranking	Children		Adolescents		Adults	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	Bushwalking / trail walking / hiking	Bushwalking / trail walking / hiking	Bushwalking / trail walking / hiking	Bushwalking / trail walking / hiking	Bushwalking / trail walking / hiking	Bushwalking / trail walking / hiking
2	Camping	Camping	Camping	Camping	Camping	Camping
3	Picnicking	Picnicking	Fishing	Picnicking	Picnicking	Picnicking
4	Fishing	Fishing	Picnicking	Fishing	Fishing	Kayaking / canoeing
5	Kayaking / canoeing	Kayaking / canoeing	Mountain biking (dirt track)	Kayaking / canoeing	Kayaking / canoeing	Bird watching
6	Mountain biking (single track)	Horse riding	Kayaking / canoeing	Horse riding	Mountain biking (dirt road)	Fishing
7	Mountain biking (dirt road)	Mountain biking (single track)	Mountain biking (single track)	Off-road motorised riding / driving	Mountain biking (single track)	Mountain biking (dirt track)
8	Geocaching	Nature Play (children's program)	Motorised watercraft	Motorised watercraft	Bird watching	Mountain biking (single track)
9	Nature Play (children's program)	Bird watching	Off-road motorised riding / driving	Geocaching	Off-road motorised riding / driving	Horse riding
10	Motorised watercraft	Rock climbing / abseiling	Trail cycling	Bird watching	Trail cycling	Stand-up paddle-boarding

KEY FINDINGS:

- « The most popular activities among all ages were bushwalking, followed by camping, picnicking and fishing
- « Canoeing / kayaking had consistent participation across all demographics
- « Mountain biking had higher participation in males compared with females
- « 78% of respondents undertake nature-based recreation activities informally, individually or with family and friends, with only 10% undertaking the activity through a club or association
- « 24% of respondents stated that they would like to participate in nature-based recreation activities in the future through community or Council run programs compared with only 4% currently participating in this manner.
- « Key responses preventing respondents from undertaking nature based recreation activities included, not aware of bushland parks/don't know where to go (22%), awareness (14%), not enough facilities (9%), not enough trails (8%), safety concerns (8%), lack of maintenance (7%) and poor trail entrance / signage (6%)
- « The top 5 nature-based activities respondents stated they would like to participate in the future were bushwalking, camping, kayaking / canoeing, picnicking and fishing.
- « Most survey respondents stated they participated in nature-based activities every few months (25.3%), once a month (25%), fortnightly (16.9%) or 1-2 times a year (16.5%).
- « Most survey respondents stated they participated in nature-based activities for 1 to 2 hours (or more) per session (72.7%), but a higher proportion participated for more than 2 hours per session (37.5%) in comparison to sport and active recreation participation. A further 31% of people participated in nature-based for longer durations per session (4.6% - 1 day, 11.2% - 2 days, or more than 2 days – 15.2%).



Most popular:
Bushwalking

78%

undertake nature-based recreation activities informally, individually or with family and friends

1-2 hours
per session

Data from a number of trail counters at different trails and locations over a two-year period provided the following key highlights:

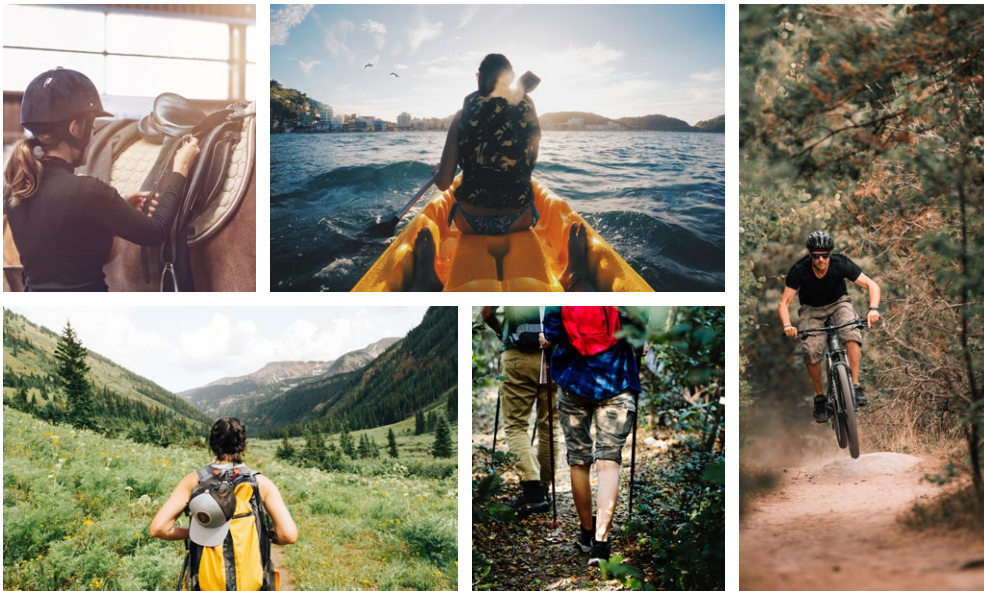
- « High use and participation of the horse trails at Mt Peel
- « Bushwalking high participation across a number of locations
- « Tabletop Mountain has consistent and high frequency use
- « Significant use of some of the Jubilee Park mountain bike trails, in particular Anonymous and Easy Rider

LOCAL ISSUES / CHALLENGES / CONSIDERATIONS

The following key considerations were identified through consultation, review of previous planning and trends analysis:

- « Strong cycling participation within Toowoomba including mountain biking.³
- « Bushwalking is a popular activity across the Toowoomba region and among a range of age groups.⁴
- « Opportunity to develop additional green trails to encourage and support people new to mountain biking
 - Current breakdown of mountain bike trails in Jubilee Park is approximately 22% green, 64% blue and 16% black.
 - The Australian Mountain Bike Trail Guidelines suggest a break down of 10% white, 30% green, 40% blue, 15% black, 5% double black.⁵
- « Trail running is increasing in popularity and partly due to the rise in popularity of events such as Kokoda and Milne Bay Challenge.
- « Opportunity to develop additional nature play opportunities and events.
- « Opportunity to look at providing charging stations for e-bikes and repair stations at trail heads.⁶
- « Through the consultation one key factor was the overall lack of awareness of what is available, both from a promotion and understanding of the activities allowed at different sites.⁷

- « Lack of signage, or improvements required to signage, was also identified as an issue for a number of sites.⁸
- « Previous planning identified the need to protect suitable settings for low impact nature-based recreation activities including horse riding, bushwalking and mountain biking and nature appreciation. Recommendations included preparing and distributing informative and interpretive materials on nature-based opportunities including signage and trail guides.⁹
- « Previous planning identified opportunities for nature-based recreation opportunities (including camping, picnicking, horse riding and mountain biking) at Lake Cooby, Lake Perseverance and Lake Cressbrook.¹⁰
- « Consultation identified the importance of having a network of trails that link together.¹¹
- « Funding is a challenge for the Mountain bike club in order to develop new trails and maintain existing trail network.
- « Mountain Bike Club identified an increase in female membership.
- « A lack of motor bike/trail bike facilities was also identified through the consultation¹² although there is a private facility (owned and operated by Toowoomba Motorcycle Club) located at Murphy's Creek. Motorcycling is also a prohibited activity within Council bushland reserves.
- « Orienteering club operate at a number of locations across Toowoomba but did identify concern around lantana and jumping cactus making Mt Peel unusable.¹³



³ Through consultation – community workshops
⁴ Through consultation – community workshops and survey data
⁵ For trails of regional significance (20km-80km in length)
⁶ Through nature-based recreation focus group
⁷ Identified in community workshops and school focus groups
⁸ Identified through bushwalking group survey response
⁹ Regional Strategic Sport and Recreation Plan, Toowoomba 2010
¹⁰ Three Lakes Recreation Review, 2018
¹¹ Through consultation – community and school workshops
¹² Nature based focus group and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander focus group
¹³ Survey feedback

Measuring participation

A key with planning and managing nature-based recreation is to be able to accurately assess and measure participation. As a large number of participants undertake these activities outside of structured organisations, accurately measuring participation can be difficult. The following table outlines some of the methods that can be used along with some of the advantages and disadvantages. It is likely that a combination of these methods would be required to obtain sufficient information around use and to determine trends. This table has been adapted from the *Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Report – Measuring Participation in Outdoor Activities: An exploration of methods (2017)*.

Method	What is it?	Limitations	Benefits
Public Participation GIS	Asking users to provide data on spatial or visual tools (for example interactive maps)	Relies on self-reporting and recall, doesn't capture time spent at each site or facility, resources required to establish the tool to commence the process, user time to input data	Provides insights to spatial distribution, can provide reasons for visitor activity and specific locations, can overlay multiple sources of information from different user groups
GPS Mapping	Asking users to 'opt in' to share GPS information	Reliance on the user to 'opt in', some level of technical knowledge is required	Obtain detailed information that is accurate in comparison to other methods, can provide distances and duration of trail use, capture the entire travel route, easy to use once set up
Mobile Apps	Using data from relevant mobile apps such as Strava and Map My Ride / Walk etc	Inconsistent use of app can result in missing data, challenge to have representative data, possible legal and ethical concerns of using the data	Can show where users most commonly participate across multiple activities, willingness to share data can be high
Social Media	The use of geotagged data through social media platforms	Limited value in areas of low usage or limited social media posts, users may tag the entire location and not precise locations, unlikely to provide representative data, multiple platforms of social media would need to be monitored to obtain data	Can identify popular sites within parks, can present a broad range of activities and provide insight into emerging trends

Method	What is it?	Limitations	Benefits
Aerial Surveys	Using aerial surveying (such as a drone) to monitor areas	Impact on user experience, difficulty in areas with dense canopy, privacy considerations	Can work in remote areas, high definition aerial photos / video, cost effective, large area can be surveyed in short time
Camera / Video Imaging	Fixed camera or video to monitor areas	Time consuming, can impact on visitor experience, expensive equipment to maintain, requires power which may not be possible at all sites, ethical and privacy concerns	Method used extensively, can be motion sensitive or time lapse, can provide user profile information such as size of group, type of user
Ocular Data / Field Observations	Visual in the field observations	Resource intensive, can be inaccurate for longer duration counts, subjective information	Portable/mobile, useful for short term counts, can capture descriptive details and different users
Recreation / Usage Surveys	Undertaking surveys with users	Resource intensive, size of sample impacts on the findings, users may have no desire to provide information	Enables a wide range of information to be captured, can be distributed in a range of ways, can be repeated and therefore capture trends, simple for users to complete
Vehicle Counts	Counts number of vehicles through cameras or motion sensors	Finding an appropriate site, risk of double counting if multiple access points and counters, clarity on vehicle count to estimated users	Automatically records and stores data, ease of use on a regular basis
Other Traffic Counters	On-site counters to determine user numbers, can be mechanical counters, pressure counter, optical counters or sensors	So many different products with each having a different way of recording users, rigour to install to minimise count errors, software requirements to store, process data	Can work well in remote areas and for extended periods of time, can detect direction of movement, can be hidden from view of user, can be waterproof, portable
Entry fees, bookings and permits	Having entry fees or a booking system can provide details on usage	Requires consistent and correct data entry systems and processes	Can provide a total user count, part of the 'business as usual'
Secondary data mining	Using other sources of information to seek data on users such as surveys by Tourism Research Australia	Not specific, some data may be missing due to small sample size for particular areas, relies on participant recall	Data captured nationally and systematically, data capture is regular and long term, includes demographic data

Identifying, Protecting and Promoting Sites (and stories) of Indigenous Cultural Significance

An important consideration when developing nature-based recreation activities is that of cultural heritage. This is commonly used to describe places that stake a unique claim on our landscapes, lifestyles, hearts and minds.¹⁴ With any new development of nature-based recreation the views of Traditional Owners must be considered. In Queensland, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) is responsible for administering the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Cultural heritage is defined within the Act as anything that is:

- ◀ a significant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander area in Queensland; or
- ◀ a significant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander object in Queensland; or
- ◀ evidence of archaeological or historic significance, of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander occupation of an area of Queensland.

The Act requires that a person must exercise due diligence and reasonable precaution before undertaking an activity which may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. Duty of Care guidelines¹⁵ outline the reasonable and practical measures required. Consultation with the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander party for an area may be necessary if there is a high risk that the activity may harm Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.

A guide to consulting and negotiating with Indigenous people about their cultural heritage has been released by the Australian Heritage Commission, titled *Ask First – A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values*. This guide outlines the following process which may be used to assist in meeting legislative obligations or to promote sites and stories of indigenous cultural significance:

Stages	Actions / Considerations
Initial Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Identify Traditional Owners and other Indigenous people with rights and interests in the area ◀ Identify non-Indigenous people with rights and interests in the area ◀ Meet with relevant Indigenous people to describe the project or activity ◀ Agree on a process for addressing Indigenous heritage matters ◀ Arrange a meeting of all stakeholders to discuss the project or activity and agree who will undertake work ◀ Dealing with disputes
Identifying Indigenous heritage places and values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Undertake background research ◀ Ensure that the relevant Indigenous people are actively involved and identify their heritage places and values
Managing Indigenous heritage places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Identify any special management requirements with relevant Indigenous people ◀ Meet with all stakeholders to identify constraints on managing identified heritage places and values ◀ Implement and review outcomes with relevant Indigenous people and other stakeholders

¹⁴ Cultural Heritage Strategy QLD

¹⁵ <https://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/resources/datsima/people-communities/cultural-heritage/duty-of-care-guidelines.pdf>

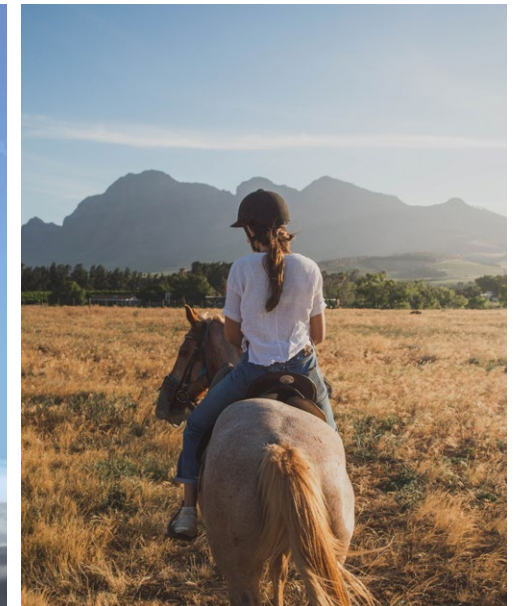


SUSTAINABILITY AND MANAGEMENT

Sustainable development is another key consideration with any future development. With increased activation of bushland reserves there is also the need to ensure the protection of ecologically sensitive areas. This is especially true when considering multi-use developments which can be valuable community assets but need to be balanced with the environmental considerations. A key factor in the development is compliance with legislative requirements which may include (but not limited to) the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and *Vegetation Management Act 1999*. Achieving sustainable development for recreation relies on a number of key factors as outlined in the *South Australia Recreational Trails 10 year Master Plan* and summarised in the table below:

Factor	Considerations
Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « What is the nature and intensity of land use wherever trails/ facilities are to be developed or provided? « What are the key land use/management practices and programmes that the development and provision might impact upon and how? « What are the key land use/management practices and programmes that might impact upon the development and provision and on users? « How can nature based recreation best be integrated into existing land use/management practices? « What are the acceptable levels of impacts that the development can have on the effective management and use of the land? « In what ways might land use/management impact upon the health and safety of recreational users?
Landscapes and Habitats	<p>Landscape Key Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The nature of the landscape itself « The value of the landscape « The nature of the topography « The nature of the land use « The users of the area « The status and classification of the trail/development <p>Habitat Key Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The development should not lead to levels of soil erosion or deposition that damage habitats and the environment. « It should not destabilise soils or slopes « It should not damage vegetation and ground cover beyond the bounds of the required trail width or footprint « It should not permanently or irreversibly displace flora and fauna « It should not lead to levels of disturbance that are not sustainable in the context of the habitat and species concerned « It should manage the impacts of recreation on flora and fauna and habitats in positive, sustainable ways

Factor	Considerations
People and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The development or provision should not be to the detriment of any individual, community or group « The development and provision should add value to places, communities or landscapes « The development and provision should not de-value places or landscapes for individuals or communities « The development should primarily bring positive benefits to individuals, communities or groups
Trail Management and Maintenance (see further management models below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The nature and intensity of the land use « The nature and intensity of the use of the area « What are the likely management requirements in the context of the users? « How will the area be managed and what resources will be required? « What will the management mechanisms be? « How many site inspections per year are required as a minimum (linked to number of users etc)? « How will maintenance be prioritised and carried out? « How will records be kept?



There are a number of ways that nature-based recreation activities can be managed. An overview of the key management models are outlined below:

	Overview	Advantages	Disadvantages
Council Management	Council manage and maintain the areas. General public access areas should always remain under Council control to ensure availability to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Council remains informed of activities and trends « Council receives sole recognition for the service provided « Control over the activities « Control over asset maintenance and development « Enables Council to enter into individual agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Consuming of staff time « Possibility of staff taking on responsibilities outside of role and skillset « Council responsible for administrative roles such as collection and processing of camping registration, tourism marketing « Council may not have all the skills required with current staff
Council Management via Licence/Lease	Council grants a right to a lessee to have use of that land for a specified period of time, subject to a fee. Lease terms may also include responsibility for maintenance and operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Council has no day-to-day administrative responsibility other than managing a lease « Encourages lessee to take ownership and ultimately responsibility for land / facilities « Lessee may have greater level of flexibility in day-to-day management, operations and decision making « Lessee may invest funds into the facility if they have acceptable tenure « Reduction of activity risk for Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Council does not have control over management and use of the land which could reduce community access and benefit « Council control the land and may be limited by the provisions contained within the lease « Lessee may not maintain assets to an acceptable standard « Difficult for Council to withdraw from or change the terms without consent of both parties
Council Management Fee for Service	Council contract management of land and/or facilities to another entity (may be a business, individual manager or community organisation) under a defined set of responsibilities for a fixed period of time and a fixed fee. Contractor usually determines the service to be delivered based on a commercially viable approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Council has administrative responsibility « The contractor may have greater freedom to operate more efficiently and pursue a commercial approach « Industry knowledge gained through managing other sites enables the contractor to draw on staff knowledge and experiences « The activity risk may sit with the contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Council may be required to pay a management fee as well as other administrative fees « Community recognition of Council's contribution could be diluted « Council may have minimal control over day to day operations « Financial stability of contractor « Contractor may sub-contract some elements or responsibilities « Council may not have full control and benefit over any 3rd party contracts
Commercial Management – Private Public Partnership	Involves Council entering into a partnership with a commercial operator to share skills, assets, costs and income. Council would seek capital contribution from the commercial entity to develop facilities and would also seek to share in the rewards generated from the investment. Typically for larger projects requiring significant capital contributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Council has limited day-to-day responsibilities « Council shares or divests the responsibility for capital investment required for facility development « Council may still receive some income from the facility « The commercial entity may have greater freedom to operate more efficiently and pursue a commercial approach « Industry knowledge gained through managing other sites enables the commercial entity to draw on staff knowledge and experience « The activity risk may sit with the commercial entity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Council may still be responsible for some costs « Community recognition of Council's contribution could be diluted « Council may have minimal control over day-to-day operations « Commercial operator may sub-contract some elements or responsibilities « Council may not have full control and benefit over any 3rd party contracts

SUMMARY

The above table outlines a number of methods for managing nature-based recreation activities. The question of which model is most suitable ultimately depends on the desired outcome and investment willing to be committed by the landowner. For areas that have multiple different users the most suitable management model will generally be Council management. For example, a multi-use trail network that accommodates bushwalking, horse riding, and mountain biking Council management will be the most suitable as it would be difficult to have any other management model to ensure public access. The other models including provision of a lease agreement provides the organisation with control over day to day management which may result in the reduction of community access. Typically, these trails are also fire trails and therefore require Council management. Dedicated mountain bike trails are generally council managed or under a lease or licence agreement. The mountain bike club may be able to assist with the maintenance of the trail network. Ultimately the question in this model is whether the club or organisation have the necessary skills and resources to adequately maintain a trail network that still accommodates broader public access. In consideration of the site investigation that has been undertaken for the five bushland sites in the following pages, it would be considered that the most appropriate management model to ensure multi use of the sites would be for Council to manage these spaces.

SITE INVESTIGATION

Council identified 5 bushland reserves to investigate their capacity to support nature-based recreation opportunities. These reserves are:

- « Redwood Park
- « Jubilee Park
- « Mt Peel Bushland Reserve
- « Cranley Bushland Park
- « McKnight-Barry Griffith Park.

To identify the possible opportunities for each of these five sites, an assessment matrix was developed. The first table outlines criteria related to each of the nature-based recreation activities. A value or a series of values that outline the preferred requirements for each activity has then been provided. The details and descriptions of these values is explained in the second table.

SITE CRITERIA								
Activity	Resource Type Land Form	Landscape Classification System (LCS)	Access	Topographical	Environmental Constraints	Infrastructure Needs (minimum)	Management Level - Activity Control	Area Required – total space needed
Bushwalking, hiking, trail running, trail yoga	3,4,5	2-6	1,2,3	4,5	3,4,5	2,3,4	2,3	3,4,5
Mountain Biking, trail cycling	4,5,7	2-5	2,4	3,4	2,4,5	3,4	2,3	2-5
Kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding,	1,2,6	1-8	5	1	2-5	6	2	6,7,8
Sailing	1,2,6	3-6	5	1	2,4	6	2	6,7
Motorised Watercraft	1,2,6	5	5,6	1	1,4	6	3,4	6,7
Picnicking	1-7	1-8	1-5	5	3	4	2	1-5
Camping	1,2,4,5,6	5-9	4,5	2,5	2,3,4,5	5,7	3,4	2
Horse Riding	4,5,7	3-7	2,3	5	2,4,5	3	2,3	4,5,8
Rock Climbing	5	1-9	1-6	6	2-5	2 (may require additional activity specific infrastructure)	1-5 (highly site dependent)	2
Abseiling	5	1-9	1-6	6	2-5	2,3 (may require additional activity specific infrastructure)	1-5 (highly site dependent)	2
Orienteering, Rogaining and Geocaching	3,4,5	2-6	1,2,3	2	3,4,5	3,4	2,3	3,4,5
Off-road motorised riding / driving	4,7	3-6	4	4	2-4	3	3-5	2,8
Environmental Volunteerism	1-7	1-8	1-5	4,5	2,4,5	2,3,4	3-5	1-5

SITE CRITERIA - CONDITIONS									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Resource Type – Land Form	Beach, foreshore, ocean	River, creek, waterway, estuary	Urban park, general open space	Bushland Area	Mountains, escarpments and hilly country	Freshwater impoundment (Dam)	Linear land system	Sky based	
Landscape Classification System Value – See notes	Wilderness – undeveloped no management	Almost totally natural and minimal management	Predominantly natural	See Notes	See Notes	See Notes	See Notes	Minimal naturalness high level of development and management	Urban developed highly managed
Access	Walk in, no paths	Walk / ride on formed paths	Hardened tracks for non motorised	4WD, motorcycles and mtb access only	2WD access	Controlled access only			
Topographical	Not reliant on topography or not applicable	Requires flat land or undulating land grades <15%	Requires slope	Mixed preferred	Limited by slope should be <25%	Slope must be >50%			
Environmental Constraints	Not suitable for conservation areas	Suitable in conservation areas as controlled use only	Suitable as uncontrolled use in conservation areas	Suitable in moderate and low value areas	Relies on natural setting	Not setting reliant			
Infrastructure Needs (minimum)	No infrastructure required	Basic management infrastructure (eg signage and access points)	Trail / path / road infrastructure required (inc trail head)	Parking and day use infrastructure	Camping and service infrastructure	Specialised infrastructure required	Toilets required		
Management Level – activity control	Minimal resource or activity management	Self managed activity – passive management only inc signage	Self managed with permits and signage control	Active Management required - personnel	High control need through managed program or 3rd party provider				
Area Required – Total Space	<1ha	<5ha	>5ha and <20ha	>20ha and <100ha	100ha+	Ocean area	Dam area / creek river system	Linear distance	Sky based

Notes: The Landscape Classification System (LCS) is used by QPWS and other state agencies for assessing landscape settings from a visitor use and management perspective. It is not for describing conservation of other values and is not specifically used to determine what can take place. The LCS allows managers to consider implications of proposed activities and to assess and monitor impact from activities. The system uses a 9 point spectrum from Wild to Urban and assesses 3 factors – Physical, Social and Management.

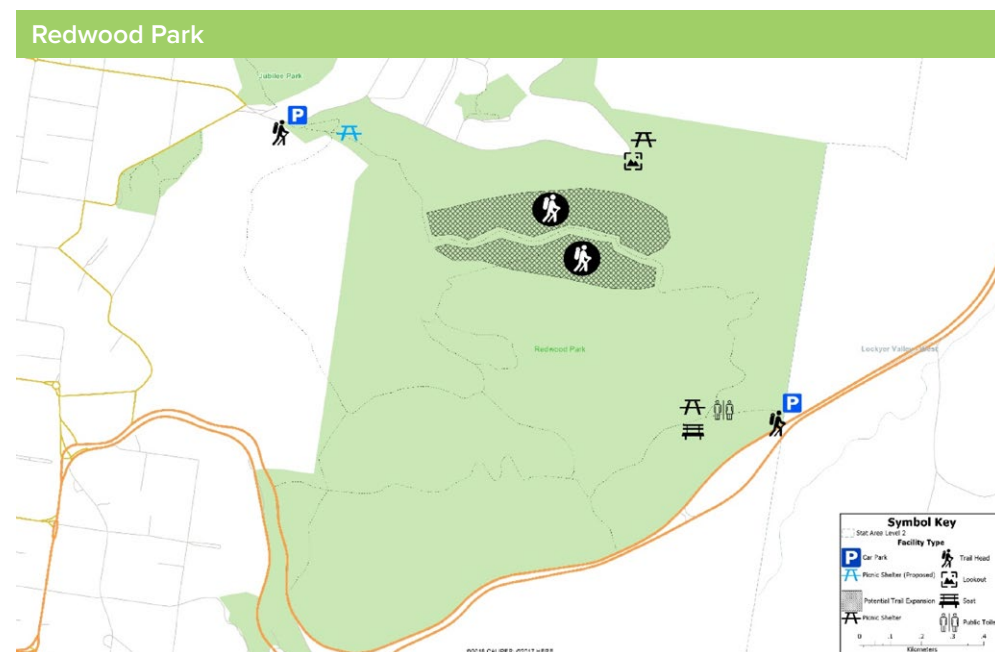
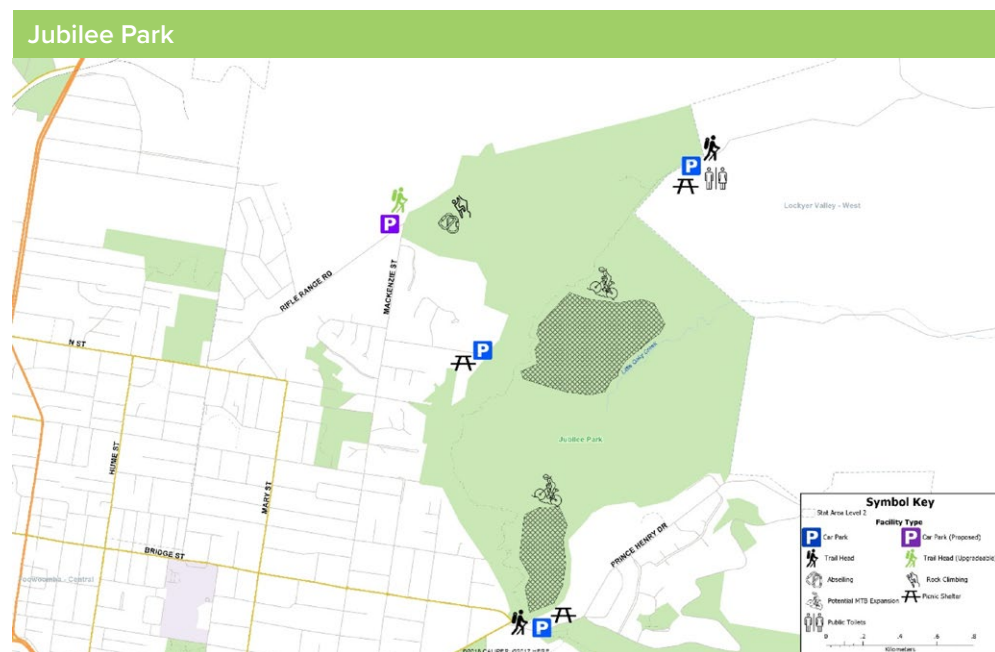
Activity	Jubilee Park	Redwood Park	Mt Peel Bushland Park	Cranley Bushland Reserve	McKnight Barry Griffith Park
Bushwalking, hiking, trail running, trail yoga	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, reserve meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria
Mountain Biking, trail cycling	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria, access improvements required
Kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding,	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria
Sailing	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria
Motorised Watercraft	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria
Picnicking	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: park can meet all of the site criteria, however access and infrastructure improvements may be required
Camping	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: access improvements, infrastructure improvements and management control consideration would be required	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: access improvements, infrastructure improvements and management control consideration would be required	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: access improvements, infrastructure improvements and management control consideration would be required	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: access improvements, infrastructure improvements and management control consideration would be required	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: access improvements, infrastructure improvements and management control consideration would be required
Horse Riding	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria, access improvements required
Rock Climbing	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)
Abseiling	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)	MAY MEET CRITERIA Rationale: infrastructure and management level specific requirements (see rock climbing and abseiling preliminary directions)

Activity	Jubilee Park	Redwood Park	Mt Peel Bushland Park	Cranley Bushland Reserve	McKnight Barry Griffith Park
Orienteering, Rogaining and Geocaching	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: existing activity, park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria, infrastructure improvements may be required
Off-road motorised riding / driving	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Rationale: Does not meet resource type land form criteria, access and management considerations	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Does not meet resource type land form criteria, access and management considerations	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Does not meet resource type land form criteria, access and management considerations	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Does not meet resource type land form criteria, access and management considerations	DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA Does not meet resource type land form criteria, access and management considerations
Environmental Volunteerism	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria	MEETS CRITERIA Rationale: park meets all of the site criteria

The table suggests that all five of the Council’s nature parks have the potential to accommodate several recreational activities. The following mapping identifies each of these five sites outlining the identified opportunities at each of the sites. While it may be possible to accommodate multiple activities at each of these parks, the identified opportunities have looked at the most suitable activities for the site while providing a different focus so that all of the sites are not the same.



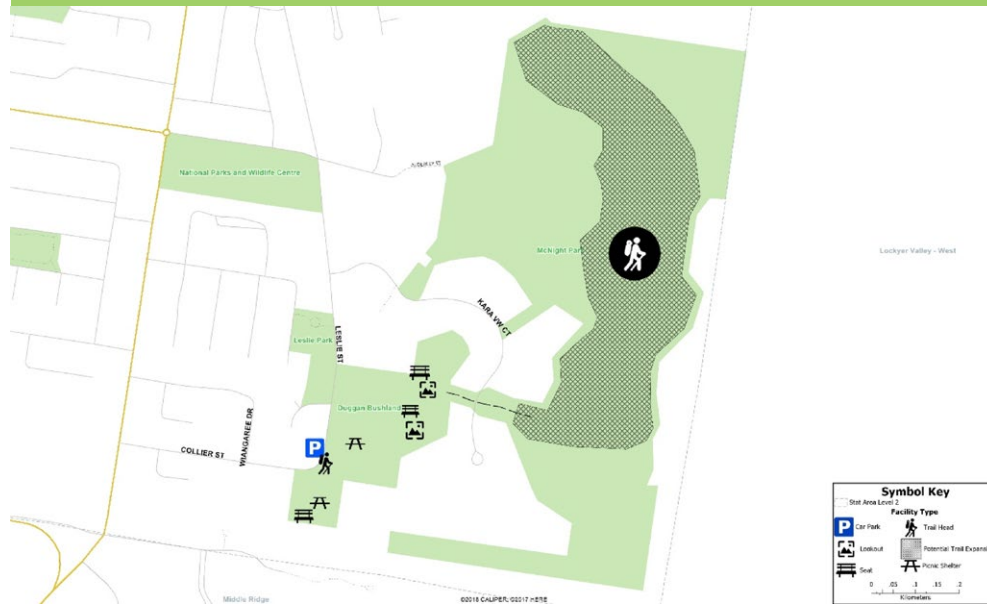
MAPPING



- « Jubilee Park currently provides for a range of activities and is the main mountain biking destination in Toowoomba.
- « There is a current network of approximately 28km of dedicated mountain bike trails and there is an opportunity to expand this network to cater for the growth of the sport.
- « The Identified location to the north is close to a large trail head and close to the majority of the existing mountain bike trails. The identified location to the south is located close to the trail head and may be suitable for additional green mountain bike trails. These locations would require detailed investigations to ensure suitability.
- « An opportunity for an abseiling/rock climbing location has also been considered to the north of Jubilee Park.
- « There is also an opportunity to upgrade the trail head and parking to the south of the site which also presents an opportunity to service Redwood Park.

- « Redwood Park provides for a range of recreation activities.
- « The site provides amazing views and has a diverse array of flora and fauna.
- « The opportunity at Redwood Park is to enhance the bushwalking opportunities at the site with particular consideration on any additional loop trails that can be achieved. This would provide additional bushwalking opportunities within the site.
- « An additional picnic opportunity could also be considered towards the north of Jubilee Park.

McKnight Barry Griffith Park



- ◀ McKnight Barry Griffith Park presents an opportunity to expand the bushwalking opportunities within Toowoomba.
- ◀ This would allow a trail network that could connect from Picnic Point through to JE Duggan Park.
- ◀ The trail network could be multi-use allowing cycling and horse riding as well.
- ◀ The main parking and trail head would be from JE Duggan Park which has an existing trail network, picnic opportunities and allows access into McKnight Park.
- ◀ This site would provide additional opportunities for the main nature-based recreation activity of bushwalking within Toowoomba.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
Create bushwalking groups at bushland reserves promoted through the CHANGE program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « High participation in bushwalking which was also highlighted in Toowoomba Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living Survey « Lack of awareness and understanding of what is available was highlighted during consultation « Supports entry level bushwalking
Continue to implement actions from Trails Network Strategy particularly around signage and promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Lack of signage and awareness of existing opportunities was highlighted during the consultation « Trails Network Strategy outlines a number of key actions
<p>Council to engage with local Indigenous groups and leaders in order to identify cultural heritage stories for promotion. Considerations should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Story boards on site (e.g. at trail heads) and at significant points throughout the sites « Interpretive signage identifying and explaining significant features (e.g. scar trees, artefacts etc.) « Documentation of the stories on web pages dedicated to the site « Summary of stories in promotional material (e.g. brochures, maps etc.) « Engage local indigenous artists to prepare artwork for the storyboards/ interpretive signage etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Promotes the cultural heritage of particular bushland reserves « Promotes particular sites and connects the user with the history of the site/area « Act as an attractor to the sites from a local and tourism participation perspective
Ensure obligations under the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> and the <i>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i> are complied with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Meets legislative requirements
Develop Bushcare Groups at Cranley Bushland Reserve and Mt Peel and promote through the CHANGE program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Bushcare groups at a number of other locations missing at these locations « Mt Peel was identified as becoming unusable for Orienteering due to lantana and jumping cactus – a Bushcare Group could address these constraints over time
Continue to progress the Toowoomba Escarpment Trail Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The importance of having a trail network that links was highlighted during the consultation « Would cater for popular activities bushwalking, cycle, horse riding « Would cater for long distance trail running training and events « Tourism opportunity

Recommendations	Rationale
Opportunity to develop additional green trails for mountain biking at Jubilee Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « High participation and interest in mountain biking « Lack of trails for beginners was highlighted during the consultation
Expand opportunities for nature-based recreation opportunities (including camping, picnicking, horse riding and mountain biking) at Lake Cooby, Lake Perseverance and Lake Cressbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Consistent with the recommendations of the Three Lakes Recreation Review, 2018
Progressively install charging stations for e-bikes at trail heads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Increasing use of e-bikes for mountain biking « No longer considered emerging facility need, but an integral facility requirement
Continue to measure participation through the use of onsite counters (ideally ones that will differentiate between different users, for example infrared sensor or pressure sensors) and conduct usage surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Enables Council to monitor trends in participation « Onsite counters can provide a range of data including type of usage over an extended period of time « Surveys can provide a wider range of information and survey can be repeated over a number of years to provide trends « The information obtained can be used to inform maintenance requirements, funding applications and identify when upgrades or new trails and infrastructure may be required



TOOWOOMBA REGION SPORT ACTIVE RECREATION AND HEALTHY LIVING PLAN

ROCK CLIMBING, ABSEILING AND BOULDERING



CURRENT SITUATION

The following definitions are provided for each of the activities:

Abseiling

Abseiling involves descending vertical or near vertical surfaces, both natural and artificial, using ropes and descending friction devices to manage the descent¹.

Rock Climbing & Bouldering

Rock climbing is the process of ascending natural cliffs. Associated activities include bouldering, single and multi-pitch lead climbing and single pitch top rope climbing. The activity of bouldering is described as rock climbing where the lowest part of the body is no more than 1.2m above the impact zone and where adequate safety can be provided by ‘spotting’ rather than with the aid of additional systems involving harnesses, belay mechanisms and ropes. Spotting is a support process provided by a person, or persons, who offer physical protection of the head and upper body of the climber should a fall occur during bouldering.²

There are some rock climbing, abseiling and bouldering opportunities located within Toowoomba Region (Perseverance Cliff for accredited abseiling and informally at Glen Lomond Park) as well as other opportunities in close proximity of the Toowoomba Region at Murphys Creek and Maidenwell. There was previously an indoor rock climbing facility (private facility) however this has recently closed with no indication another facility will open. Four sites have also been identified for investigation into their suitability for rock climbing, abseiling and bouldering. These are located within close proximity to Toowoomba city and located along the eastern portion of Toowoomba region.

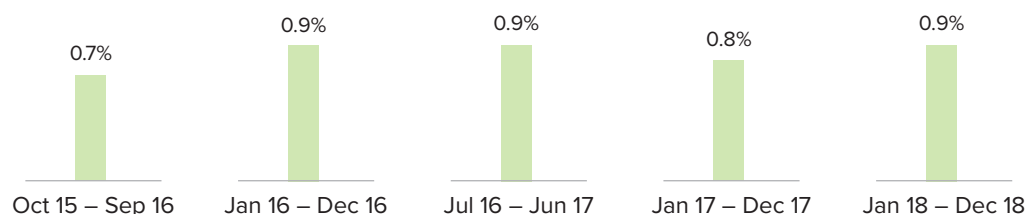


TRENDS

A number of trends have been identified for rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling from a national, state and local level. The rise of the popularity of non-traditional sports emerging within Australia and around the world provides new challenges to planners, developers and communities. The 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games will introduce sport climbing as an Olympic sport. This includes three disciplines of speed climbing, bouldering and lead climbing. In addition, South East Queensland is considering a bid for the 2032 Olympic Games, with Toowoomba included as part of the bid. These factors will likely increase participation in these sports.

The following table outlines participation rates captured through the AusPlay survey³.

Participation Rate (%) in Adults (Over 15) for Rock Climbing / Abseiling / Caving



KEY FINDINGS:

- « A slight increase was seen in participation from 2015 to 2018. While caving is an excluded activity for this study it is included within the AusPlay survey with Rock Climbing and Abseiling.
- « Rock Climbing / Abseiling / caving had a higher proportion of males (1.0%) compared to females (0.7%) and the larger proportion of participants are aged between 18-34.



18-34

highest participants rate



¹ Queensland Adventure Activity Standards - Abseiling, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, 2014

² Queensland Adventure Activity Standards - Rock Climbing, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, 2014

³ The AusPlay Survey was introduced in 2016 to measure participation in sport and recreation activities

In Queensland, participation in rock climbing can be seen below from the 2015 and 2016 Survey of Sport, Exercise and Recreation Participation by Queensland adults.⁴ While abseiling is an included activity, there was insufficient responses to provide valid analysis.

Participation Rate (%) in Adults (over 18) for Rock Climbing



KEY FINDINGS:

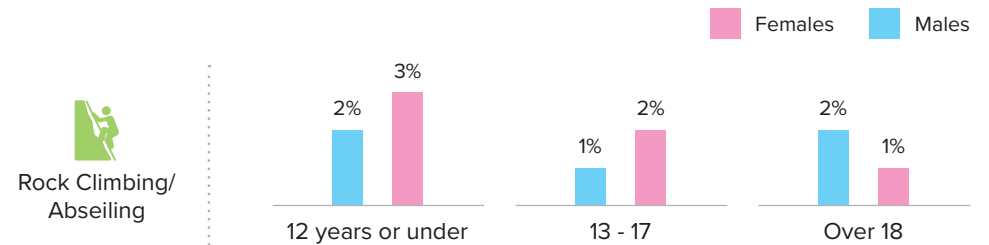
- « Participation remained stable for moderate frequency participants, while a decline was identified in high frequency participants.
- « Approximately half of the rock climbing participants travelled 20km or more to participate in the activity⁵ (2016 survey results)

⁴ The results were presented in terms of high frequency participants (active at least once a week) and moderate frequency participants (active at least between once a fortnight to once every 6 months).

⁵ 2016 Queensland Sport Exercise and Recreation Survey of Adults.

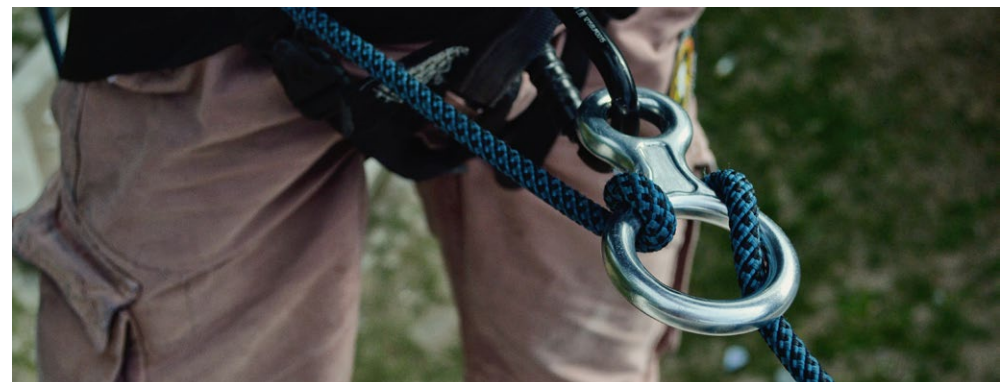
Toowoomba's recent Sport, Active Recreation and Healthy Living – Activate Survey provided the following breakdown of people who had undertaken rock climbing or abseiling in the past 12 months.

Rock climbing / Abseiling Participation



KEY FINDINGS:

- « Highest response was seen from females 12 years and under, females 13-17 years also had a higher response rate than males 13-17 years
- « 5% of respondents indicated that they (or members of their household) would like to undertake rock climbing or abseiling in the next 12 months.
- « The survey responses suggest a higher demand in the Toowoomba region in comparison to national and Queensland benchmarking.



LOCAL ISSUES / CHALLENGES / CONSIDERATIONS

- « Willingness of participants to travel to suitable locations
- « Some opportunities for rock climbing and abseiling provided just outside the Toowoomba region (Murphys Creek – Lockyer Valley LGA)
- « There was a previous indoor rock climbing facility in Toowoomba, however this is no longer in operation
- « Reflections at Lake Cooby have a rock climbing wall which they operate for programming
- « There is a need to balance the environmental value and protection of areas against the recreational opportunities different sites provide
- « Possible abseiling site at Lake Cooby was raised in consultation as a site for future consideration
- « Opportunity to enhance participation through indoor climbing and to co-locate indoor climbing within an indoor sports centre. The Preliminary Directions for Indoor Sports Centres include supporting expansion of St Mary's Old Boys Indoor Court Centre and support potential new development of multi-purpose indoor courts at the proposed Glenholme Park Development
- « There is an opportunity to include bouldering opportunities into playgrounds to provide a free opportunity for children and youth
- « Sport climbing is in the Olympics for the Tokyo 2020 Games, Toowoomba has also supported the 2032 South East Queensland Olympic bid

Site Considerations

There are a number of considerations to determine if a site is suitable for rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling. The following checklist provides an overview of key considerations:

- « Is the site already a recognised site for this activity?
- « Will local people, land managers and traditional owners support the site being used for this activity?
- « Will the use of this venue be supported by other activity providers in the region?
- « Is the site clean enough to use without excessive vegetation removal as part of risk management?
- « Are there suitable tracks and group access to the site and between the top and bottom of the site?
- « Are there suitable trail heads and car parking?
- « Can the activity be undertaken without impact on the manageable safe participation by other recreational users?
- « Are there suitable anchor points for safe abseiling or rock climbing?
 - Regular inspection procedures for all anchors and connections should be implemented. Safety for anchors and connections should include the following considerations:
 - Anchors are capable of supporting their intended loads
 - Inspection and testing regimes for artificially installed anchors are established
 - Procedures for checking each attachment during the activity are required. The selected method should prevent unplanned disconnection.

If the answer to any of these questions is 'no', then further consultation with peak industry bodies is required to be documented in environmental and risk management plans before a final decision to continue or discontinue is made.⁶

Bouldering Specific Site Considerations

Specific issues that relate to the organisation of bouldering as an activity that should be considered include:

- « Areas with potentially hazardous landing zones (impact zones) should not be used.
- « The ground surface should be reasonably hazard free to minimise injury resulting from a fall.
- « Where the above is not possible, as in most natural environments, specialist bouldering mats are strongly recommended.
- « Participants should be 'spotted' and appropriate spotting techniques should be demonstrated and practised before participation.
- « Bouldering should not be conducted where the lowest part of the body is more than 1.2m above the impact zone unless significant additional measures are undertaken to control a fall.
- « Constant supervision by a competent person should be provided, with participants always in visual contact.

Council has identified four potential sites for investigation into their suitability for rock climbing, abseiling and bouldering. These sites are:

- « Jubilee Park (off Mackenzie St and Coventry Court)
- « Jubilee Park (off Jellicoe Street)
- « Glen Lomond Park (off Dorge Street - into Hell Hole)
- « Perseverance Cliff (Crows Nest – off Perseverance Dam Rd)

An assessment of each of the four sites is outlined in the following table:

⁶ Queensland Adventure Activity Standards - Abseiling, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, 2014

⁷ Queensland Adventure Activity Standards – Rock Climbing, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, 2014

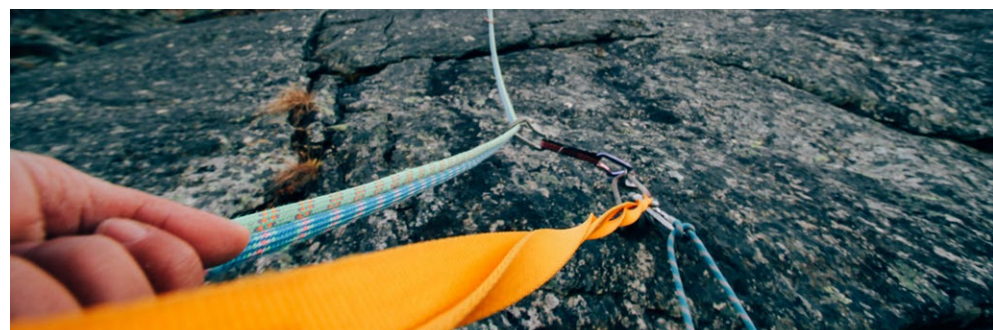
Jubilee Park (off Mackenzie St and Coventry Court)	
Is the site already recognised for this activity?	No
Will local people, land managers and traditional owners support the site being used for this activity?	Potential for isolated areas of recognition and protection – detailed investigations recommended, including engagement with traditional land owners
Will the use of this venue be supported by other activity providers in the region?	Whilst further consultation will be required, other activities being undertaken in this site are considered complementary
Is the site clean enough to use without excessive vegetation removal as part of risk management?	Some vegetation removal may be required
Is there suitable parking, trail heads?	Insufficient parking currently from Coventry Court. Any future development within this area of a trail head may impact on adjacent neighbours
Are there suitable trails / tracks for groups to be able access between top and bottom of the site?	At the time of inspection fire trails (from Coventry Court) were blocked due to construction works. However likely improvements (trail head, parking, trails) required in order to activate the site for these activities
Can the activity be undertaken without impact on the manageable safe participation by other recreational users?	Unlikely to impact on the mountain biking trails within the park
Are there suitable anchor points for safe abseiling or rock climbing?	If site was to proceed a detailed investigation would be required by accredited assessor
Decision / Comments	This site could be considered for activation for climbing. Additional car parking and trail head are key considerations to reduce potential conflicts with residents. Further a detailed investigation of the site by an accredited assessor should be undertaken.

Jubilee Park (off Jellicoe Street)	
Is the site already recognised for this activity?	No
Will local people, land managers and traditional owners support the site being used for this activity?	Potential for isolated areas of recognition and protection – detailed investigations recommended, including engagement with traditional land owners
Will the use of this venue be supported by other activity providers in the region?	Whilst further consultation will be required, other activities being undertaken in this site are considered complementary
Is the site clean enough to use without excessive vegetation removal as part of risk management?	No, some vegetation removal would be required
Is there suitable parking, trail heads?	Insufficient parking currently from Jellicoe St. Any future development within this area of a trail head may impact on adjacent neighbours.
Are there suitable trails / tracks for groups to be able access between top and bottom of the site?	Access (trail head, parking, trails) would require improvement in order to activate the site for these activities
Can the activity be undertaken without impact on the manageable safe participation by other recreational users?	Likely to have an impact on the mountain bike trails which are located within close proximity
Are there suitable anchor points for safe abseiling or rock climbing?	If site was to proceed a detailed investigation would be required by accredited assessor
Decision / Comments	Not recommended as a priority in consideration of high cost of access and potential conflicts with adjacent residential neighbours



Glen Lomond Park	
Is the site already recognised for this activity?	Evidence of informal use of Rock Climbing and Abseiling from desk top analysis ⁸
Will local people, land managers and traditional owners support the site being used for this activity?	Potential for isolated areas of recognition and protection – detailed investigations recommended, including engagement with traditional land owners
Will the use of this venue be supported by other activity providers in the region?	Whilst further consultation will be required, other activities being undertaken in this site are considered complementary
Is the site clean enough to use without excessive vegetation removal as part of risk management?	No, vegetation removal and pathways works would be required
Is there suitable parking, trail heads?	Insufficient from Dorge St, there may be an opportunity from McStay Street for additional parking
Are there suitable trails / tracks for groups to be able access between top and bottom of the site?	Access (trail head, parking, trails) would require improvement in order to activate the site for these activities
Can the activity be undertaken without impact on the manageable safe participation by other recreational users?	Yes
Are there suitable anchor points for safe abseiling or rock climbing?	If site was to proceed a detailed investigation would be required by accredited assessor
Decision / Comments	Given current informal use and non-residential conflict, this site is recommended for activation for climbing. Additional trails and vegetation removal required to reduce risk to participants.

⁸ www.alltrails.com

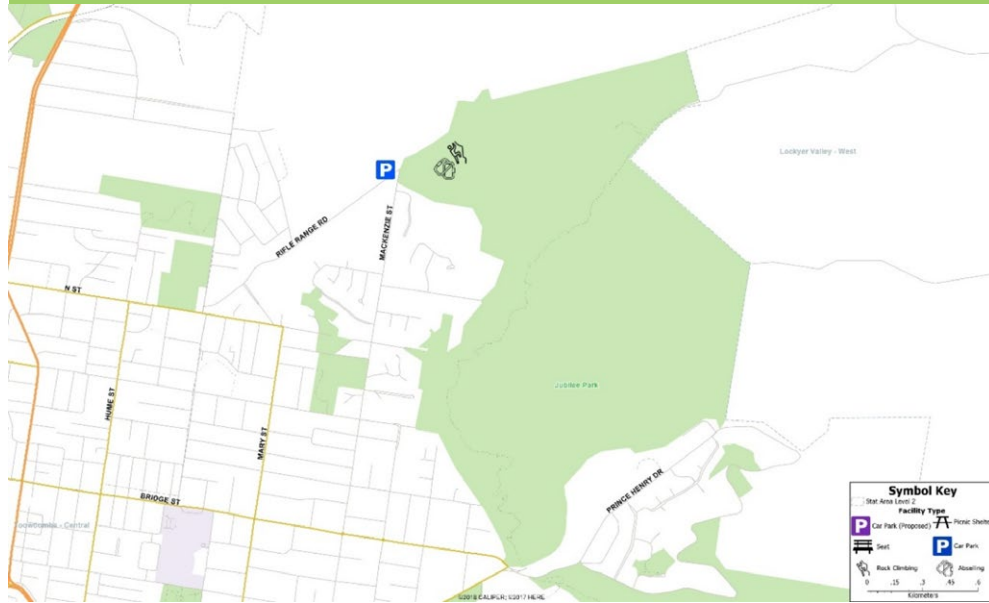


Perseverance Cliff	
Is the site already recognised for this activity?	Yes (abseiling), however restricted for use by accredited climbers only managed by gate and sign infrastructure
Will local people, land managers and traditional owners support the site being used for this activity?	Site has historically been used for these activities, particularly abseiling
Will the use of this venue be supported by other activity providers in the region?	Whilst further consultation will be required, other activities being undertaken in this site are considered complementary
Is the site clean enough to use without excessive vegetation removal as part of risk management?	Yes
Is there suitable parking, trail heads?	Yes
Are there suitable trails / tracks for groups to be able access between top and bottom of the site?	Yes
Can the activity be undertaken without impact on the manageable safe participation by other recreational users?	Yes
Are there suitable anchor points for safe abseiling or rock climbing?	Assessment of the existing anchors should be carried out by accredited assessor as a priority – who installed the anchors, how, when, what was installed, and whether those anchors meet geotechnical assessment standards
Decision / Comments	Recommended to undertake a detailed investigation of the site by an accredited assessor in order to determine if ongoing use should be restricted to accredited climbers only or expanded for broader recreational climbing. Further geotechnical assessment required.



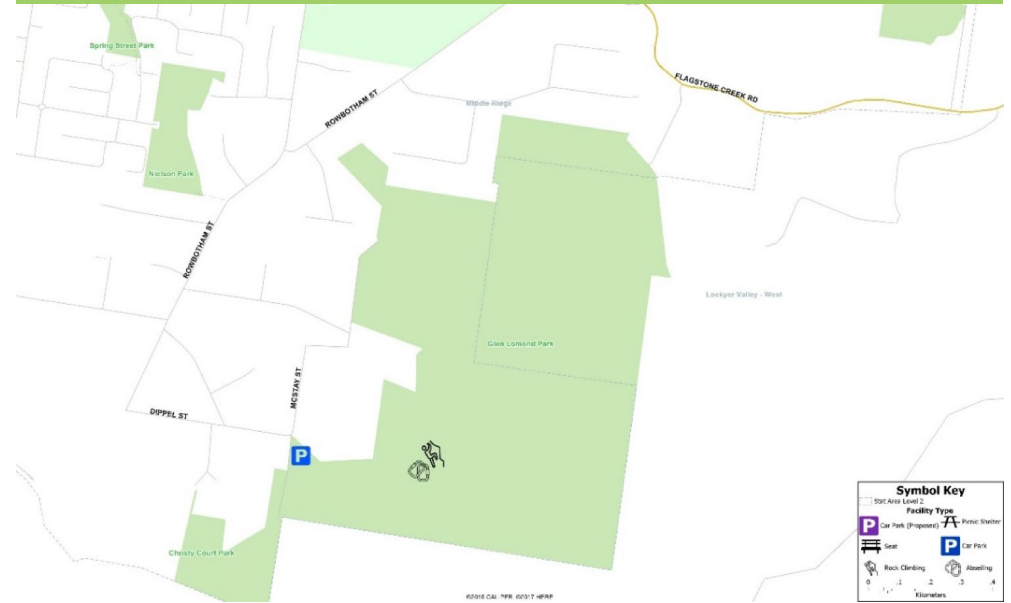
MAPPING

Jubilee Park (Mackenzie Court and Coventry Court)



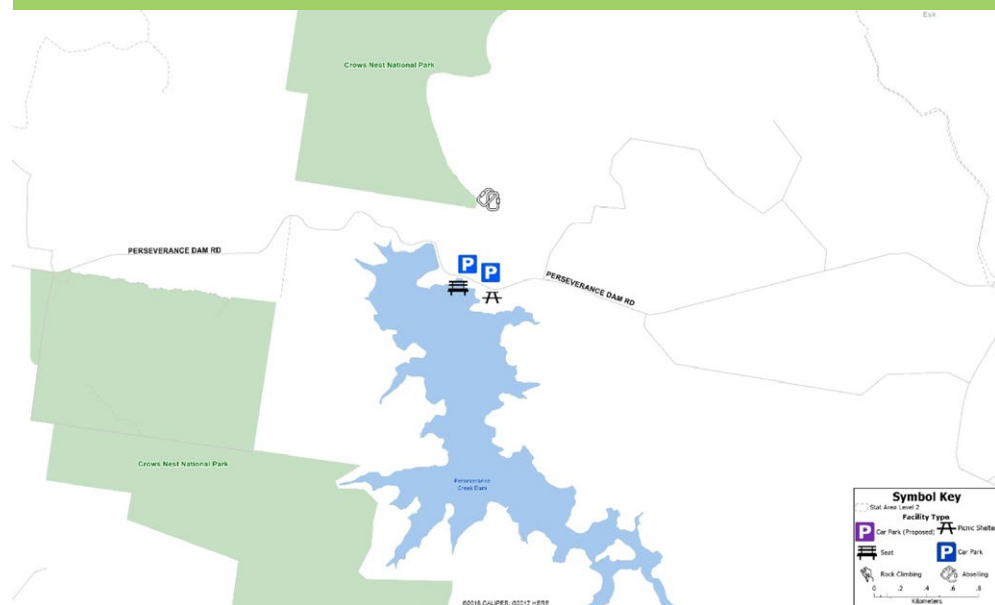
A high-level assessment as per the assessment table has been undertaken and this site meets many of the criteria. However, additional car parking and trail head are key considerations to reduce potential conflicts with residents. In addition, the location identified in the map is an approximate location and a detailed investigation of the site would be required by an accredited assessor.

Glen Lomond



As per the assessment table a high level assessment has been undertaken with this site meeting many of the criteria. However additional trails and vegetation removal would be required to reduce risk to participants. In addition, the location identified in the map is an approximate location and a detailed investigation of the site would be required by an accredited assessor.

Lake Perseverance



As per the assessment table, it is recommended to undertake a detailed investigation of the site by an accredited assessor in order to determine if ongoing use should be restricted to accredited climbers only or expanded for broader recreational climbing. Further geotechnical assessment required.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Rationale
Activate Glen Lomond Park as a climbing hub, including provision of additional trails and vegetation removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Recognises current informal use « Non-residential conflict « Additional trails and vegetation removal required to reduce risk to participants
Consider activating Jubilee Park (Mackenzie Street and Coventry Court) as a site for climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Provides participants with another location for climbing « Trail head and car parking need to be considered « A detailed investigation of the site by an accredited assessor should be undertaken.
Investigate the potential expansion of climbing currently undertaken at Perseverance Cliff for broader recreational use, subject to detailed geotechnical and climbing investigations by suitably qualified specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Site currently being used by accredited climbers only restricts broader recreational use « Any potential expansion must be subject to meeting climbing standards and determined by suitably qualified specialist in order to address risks
Explore opportunities to co-locate indoor climbing with indoor courts for the expansion of St Mary's Old Boys Indoor Courts and/or the potential development at Glenholme Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Provides an opportunity for new participants to try the sport « Utilise the existing roof height of indoor facilities « Limited additional footprint required to cater for indoor climbing « Co-location decreases management and operation costs « Previous indoor climbing facility is no longer in operation « Sport climbing likely to increase in popularity now that it is in the Olympics
Explore opportunities to include climbing and bouldering into playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Provides an opportunity for new participants to try the sport « Provides opportunity for informal use of an emerging activity

TOOWOOMBA REGION SPORT ACTIVE RECREATION AND HEALTHY LIVING PLAN

SKATE / SCOOTER / BIKE

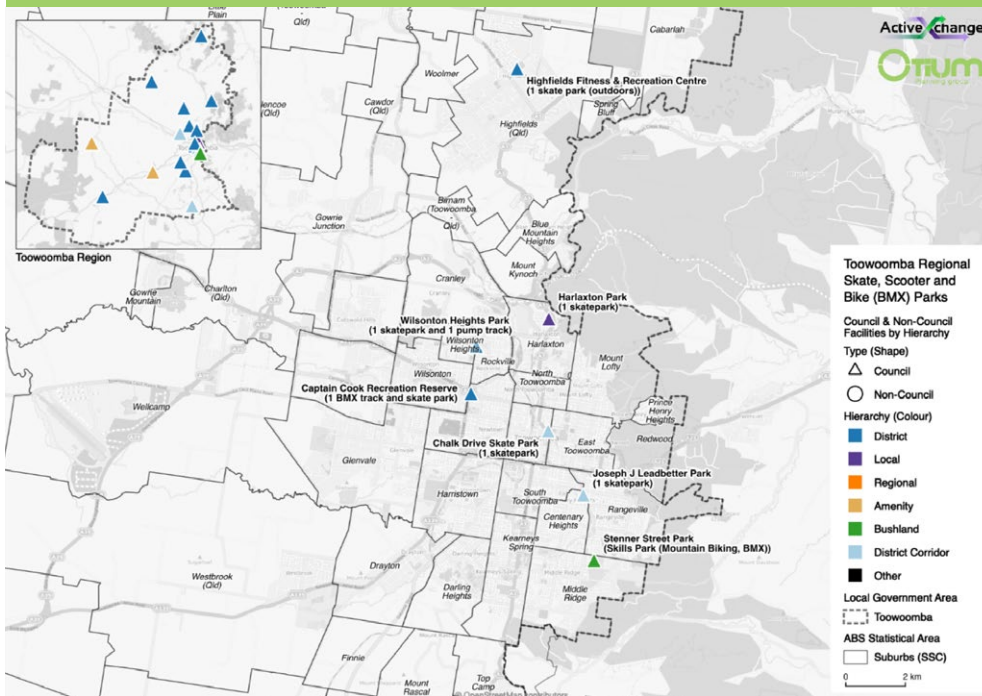
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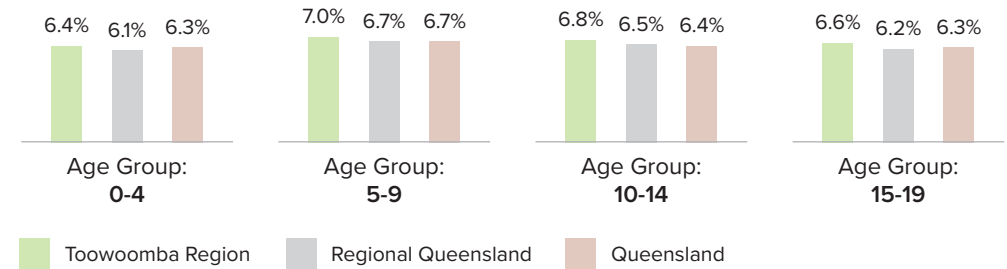
CURRENT SITUATION

There are currently a number of skate / scooter / bike parks located across the Toowoomba region. While a number of these parks are located in and around the Toowoomba city area, there are also skate parks located within the smaller regions within Toowoomba including, Cambooya, Goombungee, Millmerran, Yarraman and Crows Nest. These skate parks would all be considered to be local level facilities with similar opportunities at each location.

Map 1: Distribution of skate / scooter / bike parks across the Toowoomba region

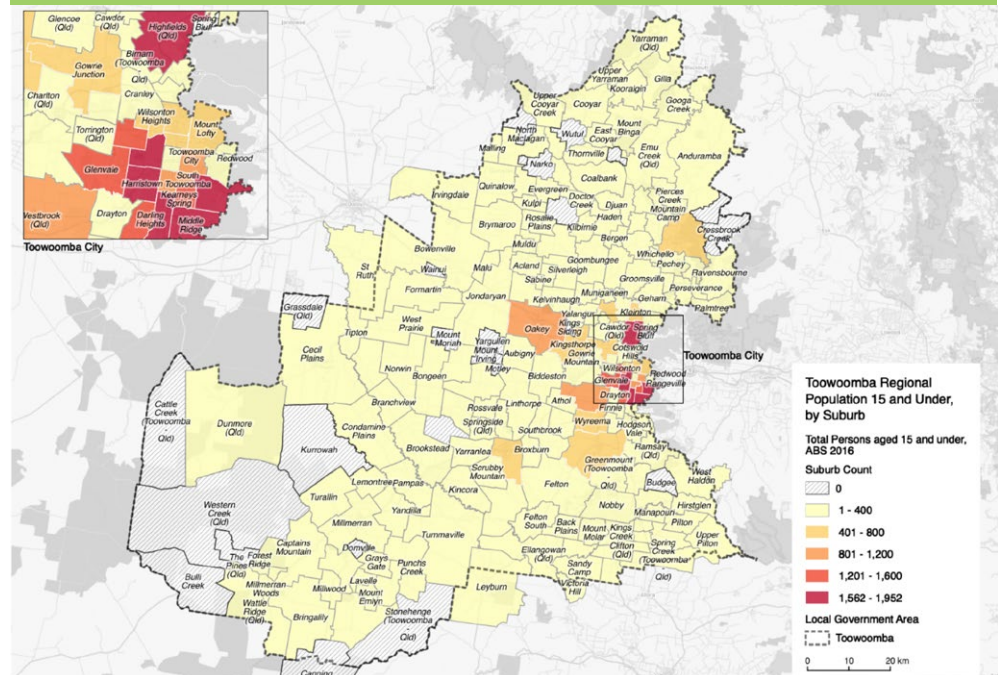


Toowoomba region has a higher percentage of children and youth when compared with regional Queensland and Queensland as a whole, as per the table below¹:



In particular, some of the areas around Toowoomba City have the highest number of youth (aged 15 and under) as the below map outlines.

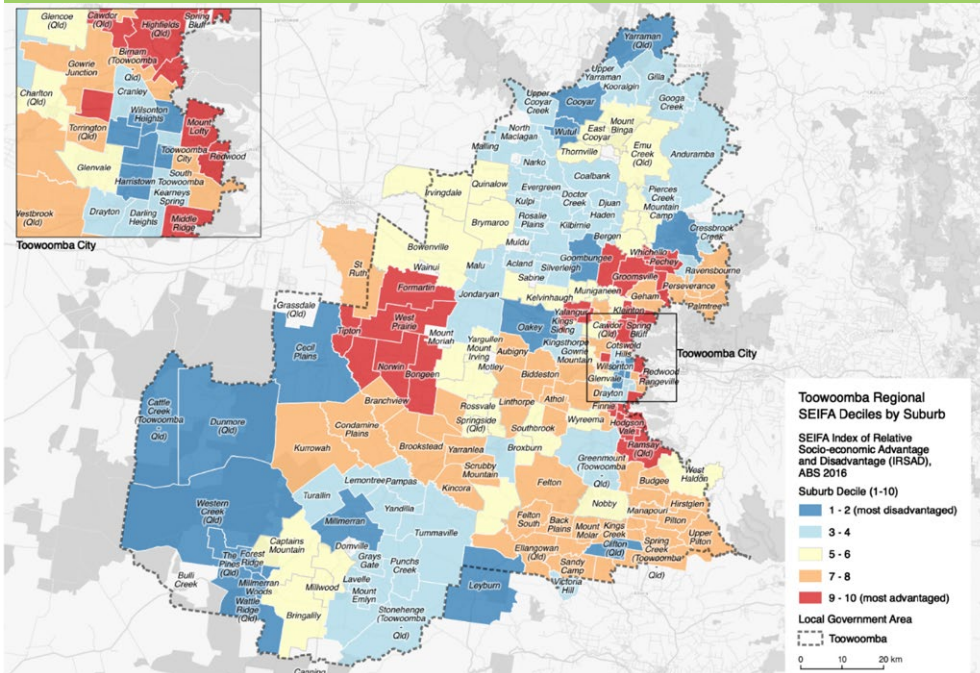
Map 2: Toowoomba population people aged 15 and under



¹ Profile Id

The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage measure the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of characteristics including income, educational attainment and high unemployment. A higher SEIFA score means a lower level of disadvantage. The SEIFA for Toowoomba is 989 which is more disadvantaged than Queensland at 996, but slightly more than Regional Queensland at 981. When looking at some of the particular areas it shows high levels of disadvantage with Wilsonton 922.7, Harristown 918.0, Newtown 916.8, Harlaxton 907.4, Toowoomba City 890.5 and Wilsonton Heights 870.7 all have a SEIFA index that is in the 15% most disadvantaged or under in Australia. A breakdown of suburbs is shown in the following map.

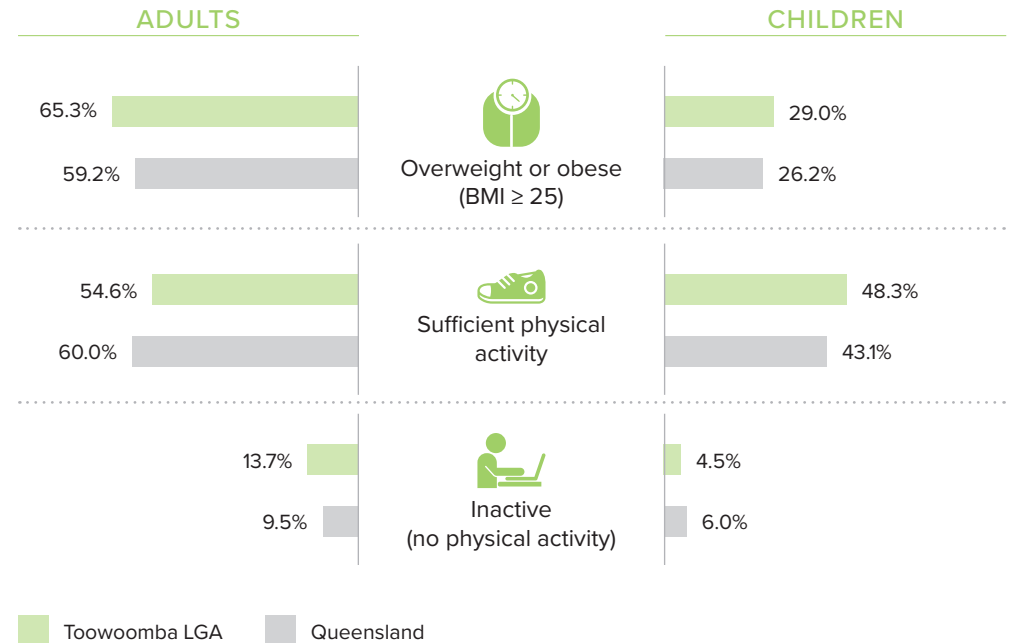
Map 3: SEIFA index of Toowoomba by suburb



A number of areas within Toowoomba also have high proportions of low-income households (less than \$650 per week). Toowoomba has 19.1% of low-income households which is comparable with Regional Queensland at 19.4% but higher than Queensland at 17.6%. However when looking at some of the suburbs with the highest percentage of low-income households they are located around Toowoomba City including North Toowoomba (22.7%), Rockville (22.9%), Wilsonton Heights (24.0%), Newtown (24.5%), South Toowoomba (24.8%), Harlaxton (26.2%), Wilsonton (26.2%), Harristown (28.0%) with Toowoomba City having the highest proportion of low-income households with 33.3%

The Toowoomba Region also scores poorly when it comes to health statistics. Health data indicates that there are high levels of overweight and obese residents in the Toowoomba region and only just over half the population are achieving sufficient levels of physical activity to gain a health benefit¹.

The 2017/18 Population Health Survey² estimated that in the Toowoomba LGA **65.3% of adults were overweight or obese** and only half undertook sufficient physical activity. This is on par with levels for the Darling Downs Health Service Region as a whole, but represents higher levels of overweight/ obesity than Queensland as a whole and lower levels of sufficient physical activity.



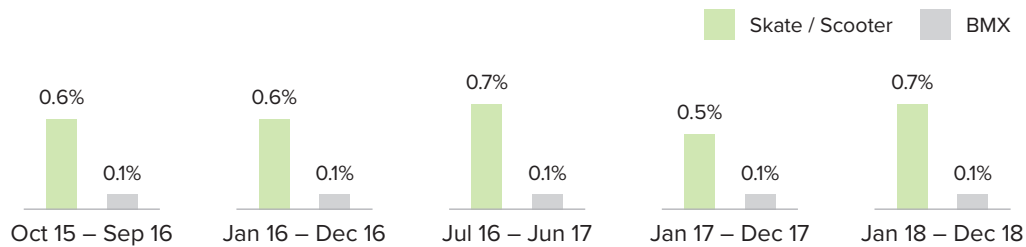
¹ Queensland Health. *The health of Queenslanders 2018. Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland. Queensland Government, Brisbane 2018.*
² Queensland Government. *Queensland survey analytic system (QSAS), <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/phsurvey>*

TRENDS

A number of trends have been identified for skate, scooter and bike from a national, state and local level. The rise of the popularity of non-traditional sports emerging within Australia and around the world provides new challenges to planners, developers and communities. Following the introduction of mountain biking to the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games will introduce skateboarding and the new discipline of freestyle BMX. In addition, South East Queensland is considering a bid for the 2032 Olympic Games, with Toowoomba included as part of the bid. These factors will likely increase participation and require parks to become more flexible in order to support a diversity of use. Local government now must consider their network of supply in terms of providing potential elements such as adventure parks (pump tracks, climbing, skate/ BMX).

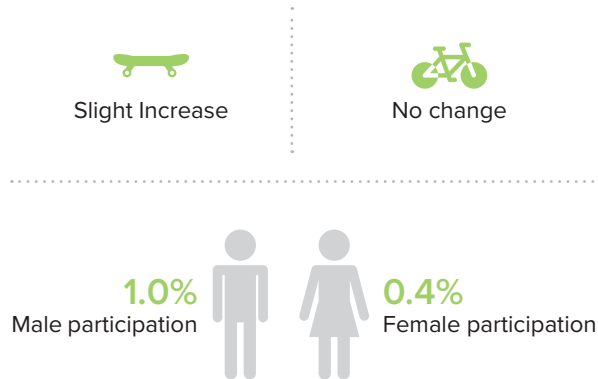
The following table outlines participation rates for skate and scooter activities captured through the AusPlay survey³.

Participation Rate (%) in Adults (Over 15)



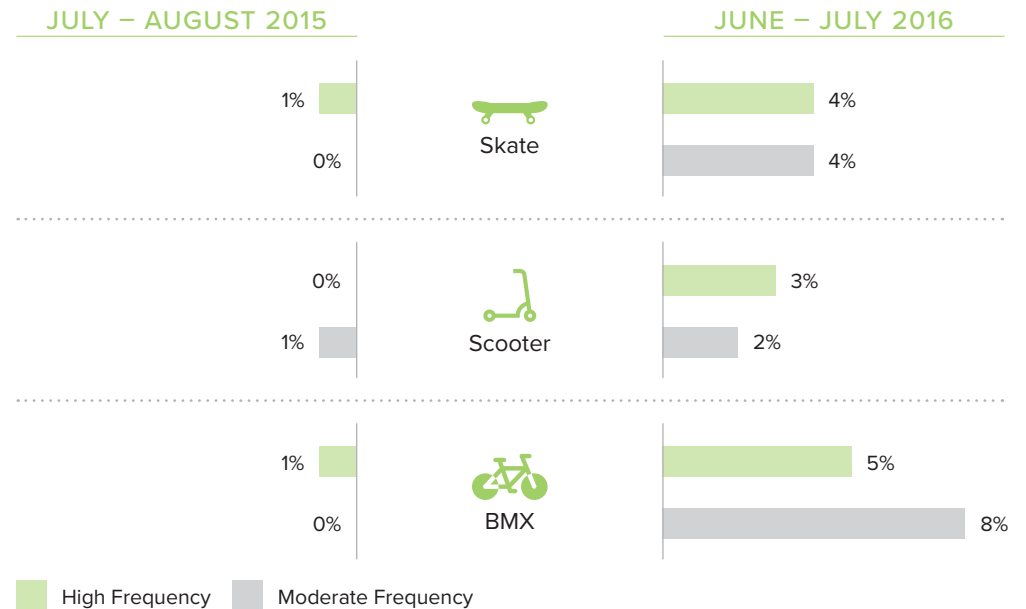
KEY FINDINGS:

- « Overall a slight increase in skate and scooter participation since 2015 0.6% - 0.7%, no change in BMX participation
- « More males participate in Skate and Scooter at 1.0% compared with females at 0.4%, with the highest participation rate being in the 18-24 year old 1.5% then followed by the 15-17 year olds (1.2%).



In Queensland, participation trends in a number of recreation activities have been identified through the 2015 and 2016 Survey of Sport, Exercise and Recreation participation by Queensland adults.⁴

Participation Rate (%) in Adults (over 18)



KEY FINDINGS:

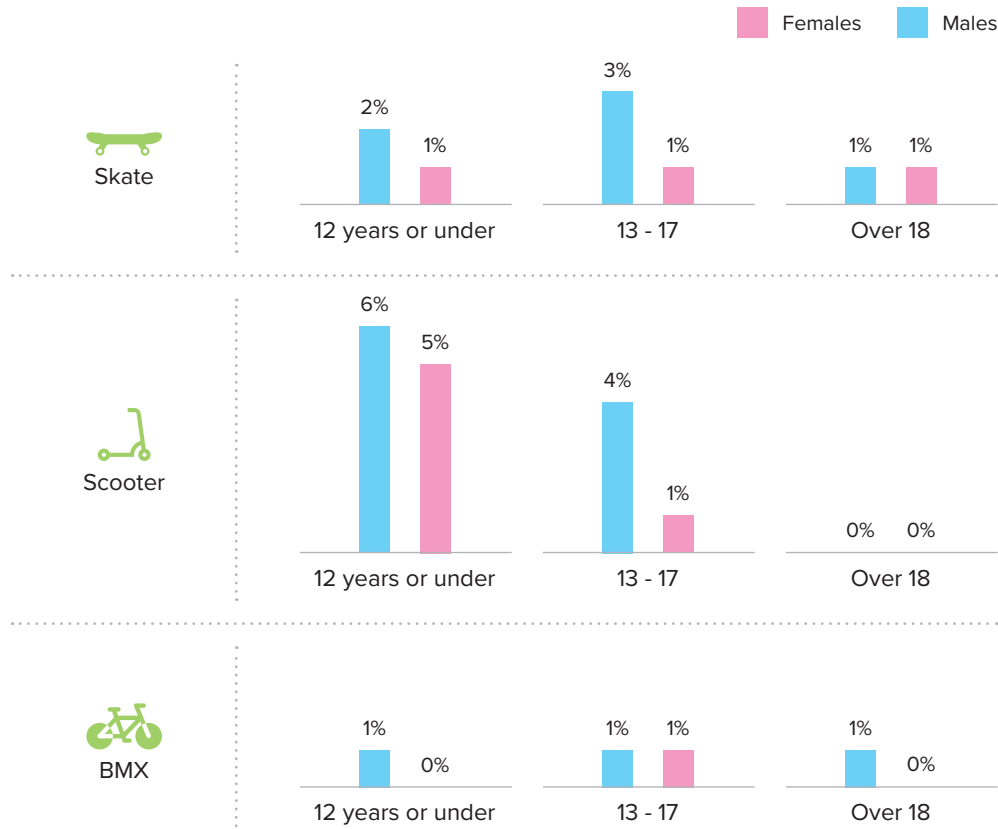
- « Increase in each of the three sports in overall participation, most significantly seen in an increase in BMX.

³ The AusPlay Survey was introduced in 2016 to measure participation in sport and recreation activities

⁴ The results were presented in terms of high frequency participants (active at least once a week) and moderate frequency participants (active at least between once a fortnight to once every 6 months).

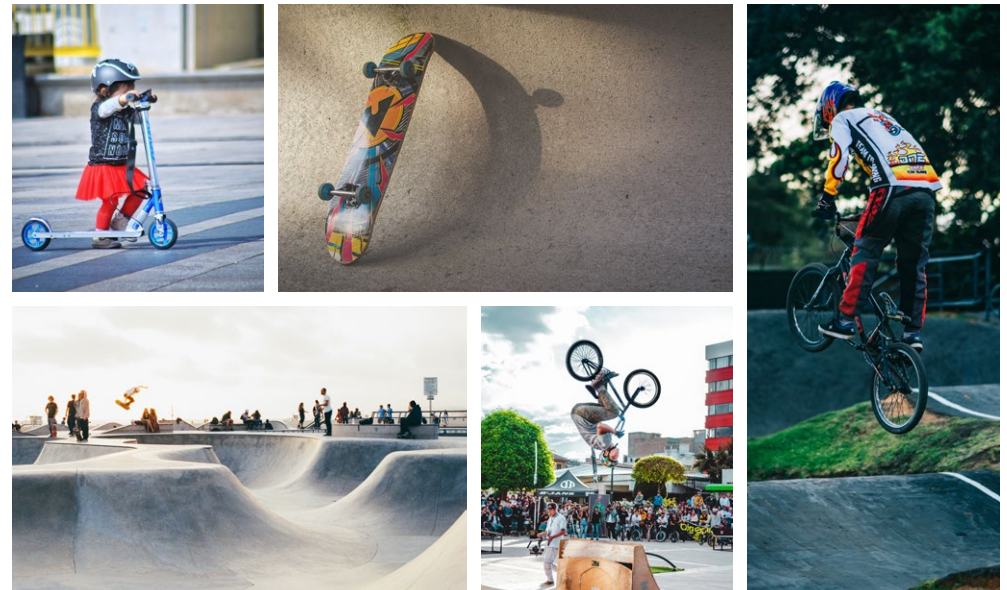
Toowoomba's Regional Council's recent Activate Survey provides an indication of local participation of skate, scooter and bike in the last 12 months across different age groups.

Participation in Skateboarding, Scootering and BMX by age and gender in Toowoomba



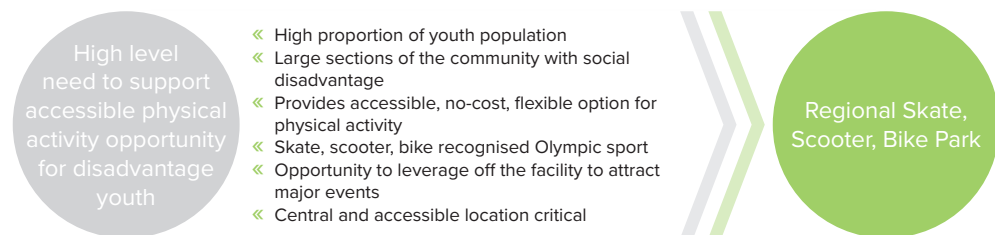
KEY FINDINGS:

- « Highest participation for all of the sports was in scootering with its highest participation being in males under 12, this participation then decreases with age
- « Skateboarding participation was highest in males 13-17 year age group
- « Based on the Toowoomba Region Activate Survey, Toowoomba Region has a higher participation rate compared to Queensland and Australia.
- « The Toowoomba Region Activate Survey also outlined barriers to participation with the number one barrier for sport being that there are no options to participate casually (eg low cost), cost was also the third highest barrier to participating in activities (includes sport, active recreation and nature-based recreation)
- « A further survey of the Toowoomba Region residents (38 responses) asking specifically whether they would utilise a regional skate / scooter / bike facility outlined that 45% would use the facility, with 37% saying no, and 18% providing no response. However the small sample size does make this difficult to determine any significant results.



LOCAL ISSUES / CHALLENGES / CONSIDERATIONS

- « A centrally located skate, scooter, bike park would provide a free opportunity for physical activity, accessible to those most disadvantaged members of the community, including the following community segments:
- « Higher percentage of children and young people in the Toowoomba region when compared with regional Queensland and Queensland as a whole⁵
 - High levels of social disadvantage within Toowoomba region and in particular surrounding Toowoomba City
 - Higher percentage of low-income households around the Toowoomba City area, therefore the cost to participate in traditional organised sport becomes a barrier which was outlined in the Toowoomba Activate Survey results
 - Higher percentage of overweight or obese children in Toowoomba compared with Queensland.
- « A significant lack of youth focused activities and play equipment in the parks was identified through the consultation, similarly the lack of public transport and pedestrian and cycleways to a number of parks was also an identified issue.⁶
- « Previous planning suggested the development of a regional skate strategy.⁷
- « Skateboarding and BMX freestyle will both be in the Olympics for the first time at the Tokyo games in 2020. Toowoomba Region has supported the SEQ bid for the 2032 Olympic Games.
- « Adequate provision of local only standard skate parks.
- « The Chalk Drive skate park is disconnected from broader parks network (Queens Park), has limited parking on site and has no opportunity for expansion.
- « Based on the available evidence, Toowoomba Region has a higher participation rate in skateboarding, scootering and BMX compared to Queensland and Australia.
- « The recent development of the Stenner Street bike skills park has proved to be popular.



⁵ Profile Id
⁶ School focus groups
⁷ Regional Strategic Sport Plan, Toowoomba, 2010

SITE ANALYSIS

A high-level site analysis has been undertaken on six different sites.

Queens Park was also considered as a possible site, however that site has a current master plan which does not include the development of a skate park and was therefore ruled out as an option.

Scoring Explanation

0 – non-compliance | 1 – limited compliance | 2 – mostly compliant | 3 – compliant

WILLOWBURN OVAL		
Site Criteria	Site	Score
Does the site comply with existing strategies?	No known issues	3
Does the site comply with existing zoning?	Zoned Community Facilities	3
Is the site large enough for a proposed regional facility?	Yes, site is large enough with undeveloped areas	3
Can the facility be built with limited impact on tree removal	Yes, trees only around perimeter	3
Would the site require significant earthworks?	No, site relatively flat	3
Are there services (electrical, water, sewer) at the site?	Yes, existing services	3
Is there room for additional expansion?	Yes, site appears large enough for expansion	3
Can the site accommodate events?	Possible	2
Will the site location meet the objectives of the project (providing a free activity space for areas of high disadvantage – ie catchment)	Yes, site is centrally located	3
Is the site within close proximity (500m) of public transport?	Yes, close to public transport	3
Is there a suitable pathway network to the site?	Some improvements may be required.	1
Is the site located close to City Centre	Reasonably closely located	2
Does the site have adequate parking?	Yes, some parking	2
Is the site located close to other services including food and beverage?	Yes, within close proximity	3
Does the site have suitable passive surveillance?	Yes, but likely to need some improvements	2
Does the site provide for emergency and maintenance access?	Yes, site can provide easy access	3
Summary This location is located next to the large Priority Development Area which presents an opportunity to address some of the issues around pathways and passive surveillance. However, the Neil Street location presents the same opportunity with less current constraints.		42

CHALK DRIVE SKATE PARK		
Site Criteria	Site	Score
Does the site comply with existing strategies?	Existing skate park facility	3
Does the site comply with existing zoning?	Zoned Community Facilities	3
Is the site large enough for a proposed regional facility?	Space is restricted	1
Can the facility be built with limited impact on tree removal	Yes, trees only around perimeter	3
Would the site require significant earthworks?	No, site relatively flat	3
Are there services (electrical, water, sewer) at the site?	Yes, existing services	3
Is there room for additional expansion?	No, size is limited	0
Can the site accommodate events?	No – limited space	0
Will the site location meet the objectives of the project (providing a free activity space for areas of high disadvantage – ie catchment)	Yes, site ideal site location	3
Is the site within close proximity (500m) of public transport?	Yes, close to public transport	3
Is there a suitable pathway network to the site?	Yes, existing pathways	3
Is the site located close to City Centre	Ideal location to City Centre	3
Does the site have adequate parking?	Limited parking	1
Is the site located close to other services including food and beverage?	Yes, within close proximity	3
Does the site have suitable passive surveillance?	Yes	3
Does the site provide for emergency and maintenance access?	Yes, site can provide easy access	3
Summary		38
While the site is in an ideal location it is constrained by its size.		

1 NEIL STREET (THE GASWORKS)		
Site Criteria	Site	Score
Does the site comply with existing strategies?	Site is undeveloped and located within the Railway Parklands Priority Development Area	3
Does the site comply with existing zoning?	Priority Development Area	3
Is the site large enough for a proposed regional facility?	Yes, site is large enough with undeveloped areas	3
Can the facility be built with limited impact on tree removal	Yes, undeveloped site	3
Would the site require significant earthworks?	No, site relatively flat	3
Are there services (electrical, water, sewer) at the site?	Yes, existing services	3
Is there room for additional expansion?	Yes, site appears large enough for expansion	3
Can the site accommodate events?	Possible	2
Will the site location meet the objectives of the project (providing a free activity space for areas of high disadvantage – ie catchment)	Yes, site is ideally located	3
Is the site within close proximity (500m) of public transport?	Yes, close to public transport	3
Is there a suitable pathway network to the site?	Yes, existing pathways	3
Is the site located close to City Centre	Ideal Location to City Centre	3
Does the site have adequate parking?	Yes, some on street	2
Is the site located close to other services including food and beverage?	Yes, within close proximity	3
Does the site have suitable passive surveillance?	Yes	3
Does the site provide for emergency and maintenance access?	Yes, site can provide easy access	3
Summary		46
This site is an undeveloped site located within the Priority Development Area which presents an opportunity for connection to the new developments and has close proximity to a number of broader community services, food and beverage and to Queens Park.		

GROOM PARK		
Site Criteria	Site	Score
Does the site comply with existing strategies?	No known issues	3
Does the site comply with existing zoning?	Zoned Open Space	3
Is the site large enough for a proposed regional facility?	Yes, site is large enough	3
Can the facility be built with limited impact on tree removal	Yes, some trees primarily around perimeter	3
Would the site require significant earthworks?	No, site relatively flat	3
Are there services (electrical, water, sewer) at the site?	Yes, existing services	3
Is there room for additional expansion?	Somewhat limited	1
Can the site accommodate events?	Possible	2
Will the site location meet the objectives of the project (providing a free activity space for areas of high disadvantage – ie catchment)	Yes, site is centrally located	3
Is the site within close proximity (500m) of public transport?	Yes, close to public transport	3
Is there a suitable pathway network to the site?	Yes, existing pathways	3
Is the site located close to City Centre	Reasonably close to City Centre	2
Does the site have adequate parking?	Yes, some on-street parking	2
Is the site located close to other services including food and beverage?	Yes, within close proximity	3
Does the site have suitable passive surveillance?	Yes, bordered by three streets	3
Does the site provide for emergency and maintenance access?	Yes, site can provide easy access	3
Summary This site presents an opportunity however the Neil Street site presents better opportunities in terms of size and without impact to existing uses.		43

MIDDLE RIDGE PARK		
Site Criteria	Site	Score
Does the site comply with existing strategies?	Existing sporting reserve	3
Does the site comply with existing zoning?	Zoned sport and recreation	3
Is the site large enough for a proposed regional facility?	Yes, large site with existing sporting uses	3
Can the facility be built with limited impact on tree removal	Yes, trees around perimeter	3
Would the site require significant earthworks?	No, site relatively flat	3
Are there services (electrical, water, sewer) at the site?	Yes, existing services	3
Is there room for additional expansion?	Yes, although may impact on sporting opportunities at the site	2
Can the site accommodate events?	Yes, large site	3
Will the site location meet the objectives of the project (providing a free activity space for areas of high disadvantage – ie catchment)	No, location is too far away from primary catchment	0
Is the site within close proximity (500m) of public transport?	Yes, close to public transport	3
Is there a suitable pathway network to the site?	Yes, existing pathways	3
Is the site located close to City Centre	No, too far away	0
Does the site have adequate parking?	Yes, parking available	3
Is the site located close to other services including food and beverage?	Yes, within close proximity	3
Does the site have suitable passive surveillance?	Reasonable (one main street)	2
Does the site provide for emergency and maintenance access?	Yes, site can provide easy access	3
Summary Site provides some opportunities however is located outside of the desired catchment to achieve a suitable outcome.		40

CAPTAIN COOK RECREATION RESERVE		
Site Criteria	Site	Score
Does the site comply with existing strategies?	Existing sporting reserve and skate park	3
Does the site comply with existing zoning?	Zoned sport and Recreation	3
Is the site large enough for a proposed regional facility?	Yes, large site with existing sporting uses	3
Can the facility be built with limited impact on tree removal	Yes, limited trees	3
Would the site require significant earthworks?	No, site relatively flat	3
Are there services (electrical, water, sewer) at the site?	Yes, existing services	3
Is there room for additional expansion?	Yes, although may impact on sporting opportunities at the site	2
Can the site accommodate events?	Yes, large site	3
Will the site location meet the objectives of the project (providing a free activity space for areas of high disadvantage – ie catchment)	No, location is too far away from primary catchment	0
Is the site within close proximity (500m) of public transport?	Yes, close to public transport	3
Is there a suitable pathway network to the site?	Yes, existing pathways	3
Is the site located close to City Centre	No, too far away	0
Does the site have adequate parking?	Yes, parking available	3
Is the site located close to other services including food and beverage?	Yes, within close proximity	3
Does the site have suitable passive surveillance?	Yes	3
Does the site provide for emergency and maintenance access?	Yes, site can provide easy access	3
Summary		41
Site presents a good opportunity, however, is located outside of the primary catchment, however there is an opportunity to develop sub-regional facility.		

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The following considerations could be given to any future development of a regional skate / scooter / bike facility:

Key Consideration	Details
Facility Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Facility components cater for a diverse range of ages and abilities « Opportunity to include pump track as part of urban design outcomes « Engage youth during the design « Accommodate elements for both skateboarding disciplines in the Olympics of Street and Park⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Street elements include stairs, handrails, kerbs, benches, walls and slopes « Park elements include a series of complicated curves – some resembling large dishes and dome-shaped bowls
Additional Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Access to toilets / amenities « Lighting for surrounds « Car parking, pick up and drop off zone, emergency vehicle access « Adequate provision of shade, bins, water bubblers « Adjacent seating « Potential for commercial partnership (eg. café, retail)

⁸ <https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/sport/olympic/skateboarding/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Rationale
<p>Subject to detailed site investigations develop a regional standard skate / scooter / bike facility at 1 Neil Street Toowoomba. Additional consideration for the co-location of a BMX pump track and other youth focused elements.</p>	<p>The following provides a rationale for the recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « High levels of disadvantaged within some areas of Toowoomba and high percentage of overweight or obese children in Toowoomba. A regional level youth focused precinct can provide a free attractor to respond to these needs « Lack of youth focused activities and equipment within Toowoomba was identified through the consultation « High percentage of children and young people (0-19 years - 26.8%) within the Toowoomba region population compared with regional QLD (25.5%) and Queensland as a whole (25.7%) « All current skate facilities are considered local level facilities « The scale of the Toowoomba region population suggests a it can support a regional facility « Opportunity to leverage off the new Olympic status of BMX freestyle and skateboarding to attract high level competitions and events to Toowoomba consistent with the region's focus on tourism and events
<p>Upgrade the at Captain Cook Recreation Reserve, Wilsonton skate park to a sub-regional standard facility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Existing skate park and BMX facility will reduce the required capital investment « Wilsonton community identified as a high-risk locality for physical inactivity « High youth population and significant increase in numbers of Wilsonton State School



TOOWOOMBA REGION SPORT ACTIVE RECREATION AND HEALTHY LIVING PLAN



VELODROME NEEDS ANALYSIS

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CURRENT SITUATION

There is currently one velodrome in the Toowoomba region which is located at Commonwealth Oval in Harlaxton. This facility is a 333m outdoor velodrome.

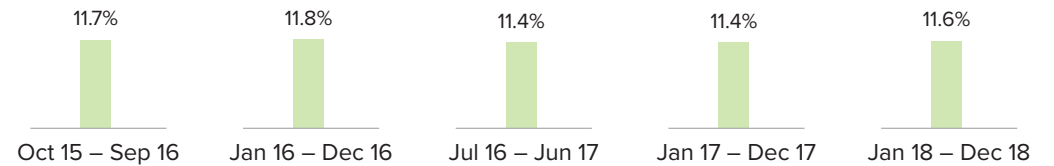


TRENDS

Velodrome use is a specialty discipline within the sport of cycling. Being a specialist discipline within cycling it is difficult to determine the percentage of cyclist who utilise the velodrome. However, the following trends have been noted for cycling.

The following table outlines participation rates in cycling captured through AusPlay¹ survey.

Participation Rate (%) in Adults (Over 15) for Cycling



KEY FINDINGS:

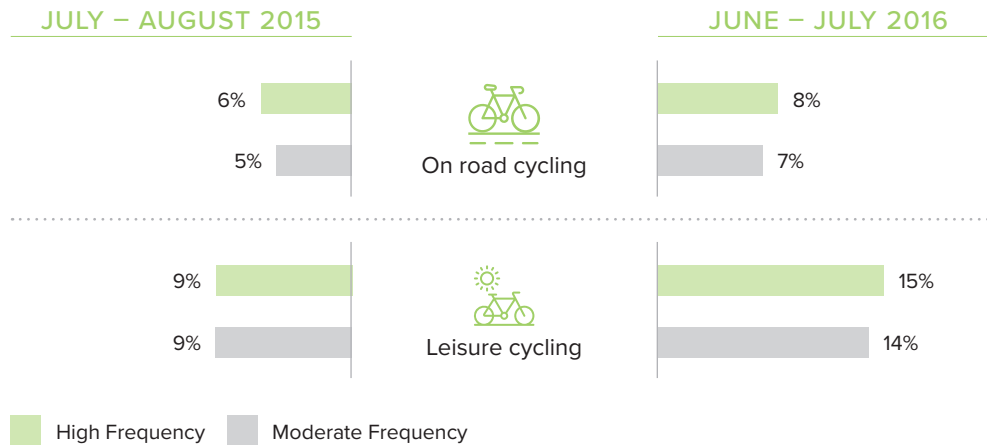
- « Cycling has a high participation rate which has remained relatively consistent over the past few years
- « More males (14.7%) participants compared with females (8.7%), with the highest participation age groups being the 45-54 (18.7%) followed by 35-44-year-olds (15.7%)
- « Only 1.1% participate in cycling as an organised activity and only 0.4% as part of a sport club or association
- « Velodrome use is a mix of informal, unstructured activity and formalised competition based cycling.



¹ The AusPlay Survey was introduced in 2016 to measure participation in sport and recreation activities.

In Queensland, participation trends in cycling have been identified through the 2015 and 2016 Survey of Sport, Exercise and Recreation participation by Queensland adults².

Participation Rate (%) in Adults (over 18)

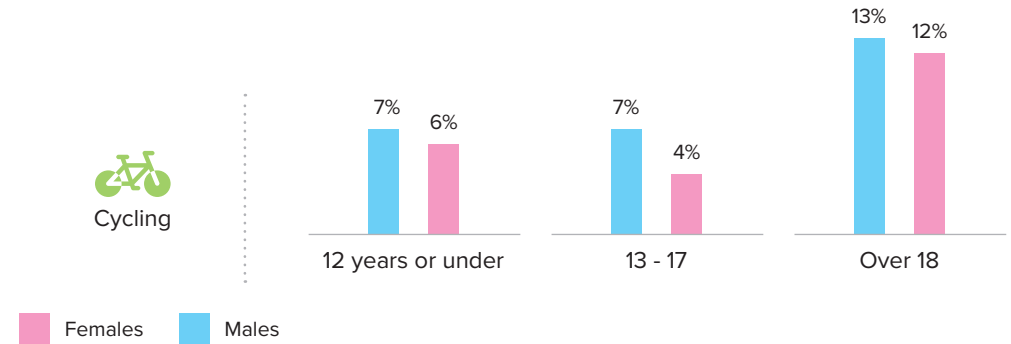


KEY FINDINGS:

- « Strong participation in cycling in QLD with significant growth experienced from 2015 to 2016.

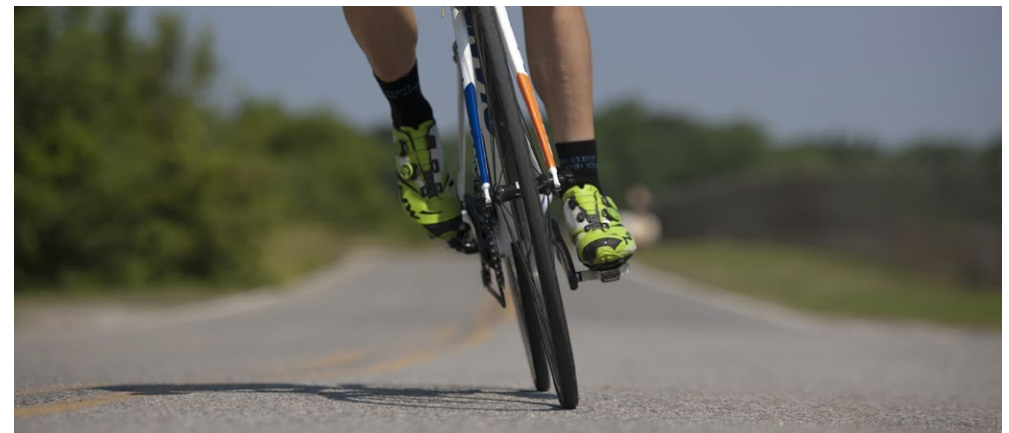
The Toowoomba Regional Council's Activate Survey provides an indication of local participation of cycling in the last 12 months across different age groups and genders.

Participation in Cycling - Activate Survey



KEY FINDINGS:

- « Highest participation in males over 18, and generally more males participating in all age groups.
- « 6% of respondents indicated they would like to try or do more cycling in the next 12 months.

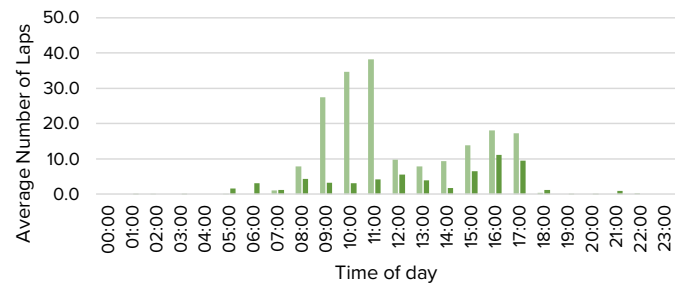


² The results were presented in terms of high frequency participants (active at least once a week) and moderate frequency participants (active at least between once a fortnight to once every 6 months).

Toowoomba Regional Council collected usage data from the velodrome over an approximate five-week period. These results show the total number of laps undertaken and does not provide data as to how many users this equates to. The findings of this data recording are summarised below:

Week	Number of laps
Week 1 - 11/4 - 17/4/2018	553
Week 2 - 18/4 - 24/04/18	911
Week 3 - 25/4 - 1/05/18	657
Week 4 - 2/5 - 8/05/18	714
Week 5 - 9/5 - 13/05/18* (<i>*partial week only</i>)	440
TOTAL	3275
Average per week	655

Velodrome Use

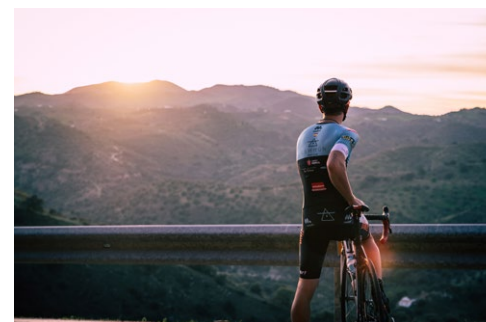


■ High Frequency
 ■ Moderate Frequency

KEY FINDINGS:

- « There was more use on the weekends compared with during the week, and typically higher use in the mornings on weekends.
- « Higher use was typically seen between 4pm and 5pm during the week.

An online survey was made available to residents who were unable to attend community workshops (38 responses). This survey asked specifically whether they would utilise a velodrome with 18% yes, 64% no, 18% no response. However, it is worth noting that the small sample size of the survey makes it difficult to interpret the result.



LOCAL ISSUES / CHALLENGES / CONSIDERATIONS

The following key considerations were identified through consultation, review of previous planning and trends analysis:

- « There is strong participation in cycling within Toowoomba Region, however it is difficult to determine how many participants utilise the velodrome
- « Participants are increasingly looking for safe (car free) environments to ride³
- « Toowoomba Regional Council has developed a criterium track (Peter Watts Criterium Track) at the Toowoomba Showgrounds which provides cyclists with a safe recreation and training area with six different track configurations from 350m to 1.76km.
- « Darling Downs Cycling Club utilise the velodrome for training on Sunday afternoons
- « Previous planning identified increased need for additional field space for other sports / user groups of Commonwealth Oval⁴
- « Council have financially invested in the velodrome through maintenance and upgrades in the past 10 years
- « There are benefits in co-locating facilities of a similar nature together. For example, developing a cycling precinct (eg criterium track, skills park, bmx track) which would cater for multiple disciplines of the sport. This can then attract new people to the sport, as well as catering for a range of ages and abilities.
- « The current velodrome would appear to meet the current needs of users; however, some suggested improvements could include⁵:
 - Additional signage – particularly for safety reasons
 - Access to toilets
 - Upgrade to track surface to enable races to be held
- « There appears to be some challenges with the other sporting clubs located at Commonwealth Oval; these include:
 - Additional space required for baseball⁶
- « The velodrome is a 333m track. While a track can be between 133m – 500m, all championships are held on tracks of 250m – with a width of 7m⁷
- « There are also some challenges with informal use by the public while the facility is being used by the cyclists. These include⁸:
 - Some people using the grassed area as a dog off leash area which creates a safety concern if cyclists are using the track.
 - Informal games of soccer also create safety concerns as balls enter the track while cyclists are utilising the facility.

³ Advised by Darling Downs Cycling Club

⁴ Regional Strategic Sport Plan, Toowoomba, 2010

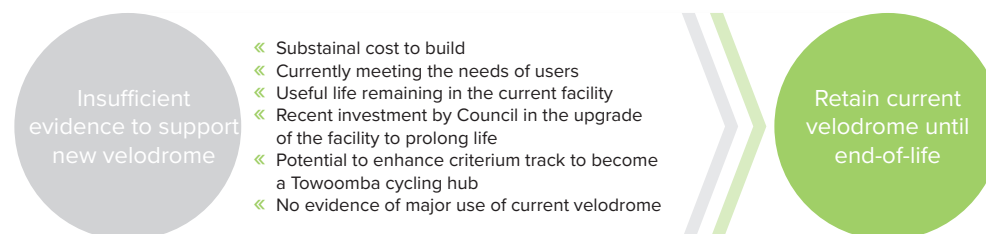
⁵ Through consultation with stakeholders

⁶ Regional Strategic Sport Plan, Toowoomba, 2010

⁷ UCI Cycling Regulations, Part 3 Track Races, Version 4.03.2019

⁸ Through consultation with stakeholders

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND FUTURE DIRECTION



RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Rationale
Undertake a detailed structural condition assessment of the velodrome	The following provides a rationale for the recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « There is a need to determine the life remaining in the asset « No evidence to invest significant funding required for a new velodrome « Council has invested capital funding to upgrade the standards of the velodrome facility over the past 10 years « Substantial cost to build a new velodrome (cost vs need) « Currently meeting the needs of users albeit with some suggested improvements (signage and access to toilets)
Retain existing velodrome until end of useful life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Substantial cost to build a new velodrome (cost vs need) « No evidence to invest significant funding required for a new velodrome « Currently meeting the needs of users albeit with some suggested improvements (signage and access to toilets) « Council has invested capital funding to upgrade the standards of the velodrome facility over the past 10 years
Once remaining useful life is known, investigate future cycling hub facility improvement opportunities to be co-located as part of the current criterium track site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Strong interest in cycling within Toowoomba « Colocation of facilities will only enhance the interest in the sport.

CAPITAL PRIORITIES TABLE

Priority	Facility	Organisation/ Document	Project	Capital Assessment Matrix Score
1	Captain Cook Recreation Reserve	10-year Capital Works Plan and Captain Cook Recreational Reserve Master Plan	Field 2 - remove cricket pitch, surface repair, and irrigation realignment	28
2	Hodgson Vale Community Sports Club	Hodgson Vale Community Sports Club	Develop rectangle touch area and watered oval/ field for running.	28
3	Kingsthorpe Recreation Reserve	10-year Capital Works Plan	Irrigating and top dressing field	28
4	Nell E Robinson Park, Kearneys Spring	Saints Netball Club - Toowoomba The Glennie School Toowoomba Netball Association	Upgrade parking / car parking	28
5	Captain Cook Recreation Reserve	10-year Capital Works Plan and Captain Cook Recreational Reserve Master Plan	Field 2 LED lighting, Controllers, Poles	27
6	Bridgeman Oval Recreation Reserve	Bridgman Oval Recreation Reserve/ Pittsworth District Recreation Park Master Plan/Tennis Project	Lighting	27
7	Bridgeman Oval Recreation Reserve	Bridgman Oval Recreation Reserve/ Pittsworth District Recreation Park Master Plan/Tennis Project	Replace athletics cement (discus circles)	27
8	Goombungee Sports Reserve		Install tennis court lights	27
9	Hodgson Vale Community Sports Club	Hodgson Vale Community Sports Club	Shower facilities and lighting on oval	27
10	Kingsthorpe Recreation Reserve	10-year Capital Works Plan	Resurface full basketball court	27
11	Kratzke Road Recreation Reserve	Kratzke Road Recreation Reserve Master Plan & staff input	Finalise pathway connections within grounds and to the gazebo.	27
12	Stanley St Open Space (Pittsworth)	Pittsworth & District Wildcats Netball Club Inc.	Lighting on the hard surface courts	27
13	Wylahra Grove Community Hall	Wylahra Grove Progress Assoc. Inc.	Light court	27
14	Wyreema Obst Park	Wyreema Obst Park Master Plan	Replace tennis courts & lights (under review, may be multi-purpose courts)	27
15	Highfields Sport and Recreation Park	Highfields parkrun	Boom gates on the internal road.	26
16	Anderson Park, South Toowoomba	Toowoomba Community Football	Football (soccer) field without concrete cricket pitch	25
17	Captain Cook Recreation Reserve		Create informal kick-about space.	25
18	Captain Cook Recreation Reserve	Toowoomba Cricket	Improved/ female & match officials friendly changerooms and clubhouse	25
19	Heritage Oval	Toowoomba Cricket	Improved/ female & match officials friendly changerooms and clubhouse	25
20		South Toowoomba AFC	Female changerooms	25
21	Kearneys Spring Park, Kearneys Spring	Toowoomba Touch	Amenities/ toilet block	25
22	Rockville Park, Wilsonton Heights	Toowoomba AFC Toowoomba Australian Football Club	Increase/ upgrade toilet facilities/ changerooms/ separate showers	25
23	Rockville Park, Wilsonton Heights	Coolaroo Football Club	Changerooms and toilets	25

Priority	Facility	Organisation/ Document	Project	Capital Assessment Matrix Score
24	Gold Park, South Toowoomba	Toowoomba Rangers	Additional changerooms; also cater for females	25
25	Kuhls Road Recreation Reserve, Highfields	Highfields & District Junior Rugby League	Additional changerooms; also cater for females	25
26	Nell E Robinson Park, Kearneys Spring	West Wanderers Football Club	Additional changerooms; also cater for females	25
27	Nell E Robinson Park, Kearneys Spring	West Wanderers Football Club	Upgrade toilet/ bathroom facilities	25
28	Kingsthorpe Recreation Reserve	10-year Capital Works Plan	Upgrade (or repair) toilet	24
29	Harristown Park, Harristown	South Toowoomba Hawks Soccer Club	Adequate parking	24
30	Bridgeman Oval Recreation Reserve	Bridgman Oval Recreation Reserve/ Pittsworth District Recreation Park Master Plan/Tennis Project	Upgrade tennis court lighting	23
31	Captain Cook Recreation Reserve	Toowoomba BMX Club	Sealed BMX track surface (Ipswich/Nerang have SIC Surface for reference)	23
32	Commonwealth Oval, Harlaxton	10-year Capital Works Plan	Upgrade to LED lighting	23
33	Errol Munt Sports Complex	Errol Munt Sports Complex Master Plan/Tennis Project	Upgrade lighting	23
34	Errol Munt Sports Complex	Errol Munt Sports Complex Master Plan/Tennis Project	Install shared pathway (connecting Nth & Sth fields), plus fitness stations on concrete pads around circuit. Tennis pathway to back courts (4/5)	23
35	Highfields Sports & Recreation Park	Highfields & Districts Railway Cricket Club	Cricket quality lighting for synthetic wicket at Highfields SP	23
36	Kratzke Road Recreation Reserve	Highfields Lions AFL	Improve field lighting	23
37	Middle Ridge Park, Middle Ridge	Southern District Magpies Cricket Club Inc	Improved field lights	23
38	Quinalow Sports Reserve	10-year Capital Works Plan	Pathway from carpark to court	23
39	Wylahra Grove Community Hall	Wylahra Grove Progress Assoc. Inc.	Upgrade tennis court for multi-purpose use.	23
40	Gagen Park	10-year Capital Works Plan	Upgrade second court to be multi-purpose court	22
41	John Trousdell	10-year Capital Works Plan	Replace end of toilet with same standard (construction)	22
42	Middle Ridge Park, Middle Ridge	Southern District Magpies Cricket Club Inc	Increase storage space for equipment	22
43	Nell E Robinson Park, Kearneys Spring	West Wanderers Football Club	Additional car parking and entry/ exit points	22
44	Highfields Sports & Recreation Park	Redbacks Junior Rugby Union Club	Storage space	21
45	Kratzke Road Recreation Reserve	Highfields & District Little Athletics	Security and storage space	21
46	Kearneys Spring Park, Kearneys Spring	Toowoomba Touch	Storage	21
47	Ravensbourne Recreation Reserve	10-year Capital Works Plan	Replace end of toilet with same standard (construction)	21
48	Bridgeman Oval Recreation Reserve	Bridgman Oval Recreation Reserve/ Pittsworth District Recreation Park Master Plan/Tennis Project	Clubhouse shade awning	20
49	Kearneys Spring Park, Kearneys Spring	Kearneys Spring Park Master Plan	Install toilets to service western side	20
50	Stanley St Open Space (Pittsworth)	Pittsworth & District Wildcats Netball Club Inc.	Changerooms & toilet blocks for females	20

Priority	Facility	Organisation/ Document	Project	Capital Assessment Matrix Score
51	Bridgeman Oval Recreation Reserve	Bridgman Oval Recreation Reserve/ Pittsworth District Recreation Park Master Plan/Tennis Project	Drop-in cricket pitch	19
52	Kearneys Spring Park, Kearneys Spring	Kearneys Spring Park Master Plan	Investigate additional parking opportunities on western boundary	19
53	Nell E Robinson Park, Kearneys Spring	10-year Capital Works Plan	Field 2 – Upgrade to LED lighting	19
54	O'Quinn Street Park Oval	Sport & Recreation Plan	Synthetic Javelin run-up and additional shade	19
55	Kuhls Road Recreation Reserve, Highfields	Highfields & District Junior Rugby League	Extended clubhouse space	18
56	Stanley St Open Space (Pittsworth)	Pittsworth & District Wildcats Netball Club Inc.	Storage shed for training equipment	18
57	Millmerran Pool and Sporting Complex	Tennis Project	Investigate draining issues (tennis courts)	18
58	Anderson Park, South Toowoomba	Toowoomba Community Football	Field fencing	16
59	Bridgeman Oval Recreation Reserve	Bridgman Oval Recreation Reserve/ Pittsworth District Recreation Park Master Plan/Tennis Project	Spectator seating	16
60	Commonwealth Oval, Harlaxton	Toowoomba Rangers Baseball Club	Undercover seating	16
61	Kearneys Spring Park, Kearneys Spring	Kearneys Spring Park Master Plan	Seal gravel walkway	16
62	Kratzke Road Recreation Reserve		Separate toilet/ shower room for umpires	16
63	Kratzke Road Recreation Reserve		Spectator seating in front of clubhouse	16
64	Nell E Robinson Park, Kearneys Spring	West Wanderers Football Club	Seating and shade	16
65	Rockville Park, Wilsonton Heights	Toowoomba Australian Football Club	Expand indoor/ outdoor entertaining area; include permanent tables and chairs.	16
66	Rockville Park, Wilsonton Heights	Coolaroo Football Club	Spectator seating	16
67	Toowoomba BMX Club		Canteen upgrade	15
68	Nell E Robinson Park, Kearneys Spring	Brothers Netball Club Toowoomba	Upgrade canteen	15
69	Pittsworth Show Society Grounds	Pittsworth Show Society Inc.	Upgraded/ extended stabling facilities	15
70	Rockville Park, Wilsonton Heights	Coolaroo Football Club	Canteen and food preparation areas	15
71	Rockville Park, Wilsonton Heights	Toowoomba Tiger Australian Football Club	Increase shade areas	15
72	Heritage Ovals		Clubhouse with functional / regulation quality canteen	13
73	Kratzke Road Recreation Reserve	Highfields & Districts Railway Cricket Club	Upgraded training (cricket nets) facilities at Kratzke Road Oval	13
74	Harristown Park, Harristown	South Toowoomba Hawks Soccer Club	Secure clubhouse and storage sheds	12
75	Kratzke Road Recreation Reserve		Automation	11
76	Hodgson Vale Community Sports Club	Hodgson Vale Community Sports Centre and Lions Park Concept Master Plan	Examine options to overcome flooding issues at entry (Bridge over gully/ alternative access)	10