

VICTORIAN CRICKET INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

2018-2028

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Consulting Team wish to thank Cricket Victoria (CV) and Cricket Australia (CA) representatives and staff for their involvement in, and commitment to, the preparation of the Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy.

We acknowledge the significant contribution made by a number of other stakeholders in the development of the Strategy. Thank you to the cricket community, umpires, associations, Victorian Country Cricket League, Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union, Victorian Premier Cricket, Victorian Sub District Cricket Association, local clubs, individuals and organisations that have contributed significant information and feedback throughout the development of the Strategy.

Cricket Victoria acknowledges the support provided by the Victorian Government in co-funding the project and Sport and Recreation Victoria representatives whom formed part of the Project Control and Working Groups. Cricket Victoria would also like to thank all Local Government Authorities who participated in a range of consultation activities, in particular those Council representatives who formed part of the Project Reference Group.

inside **EDGE**
sport and leisure planning



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ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy provides the Victorian cricket community and its stakeholders with a detailed assessment and analysis of the Victorian cricket facility landscape (both Metropolitan Melbourne and Country Victoria) and identifies key future venue planning and development priorities for the 2018 to 2028 period. In addition to overarching state-wide infrastructure priorities, detailed assessment, strategic directions and recommendations have been provided for each of Cricket Victoria's 16 Regions. The Strategy also provides a hierarchy for Victorian cricket facilities that includes facility development guidelines and recommended provision levels.

Separate reporting and presentation outputs developed as part of the Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy that have helped inform and shape strategic directions and priority actions include:

- Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy Draft Infrastructure Framework presentations
- Online Premier Club Survey Analysis Report
- Online Association / Competition Survey Analysis Report
- Online Umpire Survey Analysis Report
- Individual facility condition and compliance audit reports.

These documents can be made available from Cricket Victoria on request.

1. WELCOME

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the **Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy** – a document that sets the future direction for cricket facility planning, provision and development across Victoria from 2018-2028.



Cricket Victoria is committed to creating positive and welcoming environments for all participants, both now and into the future. The provision of quality facilities plays a significant role in the cricket experience of each and every player, coach, umpire, volunteer and spectator.

Cricket Victoria has confirmed its focus on supporting better facilities through the establishment of clear strategic objectives, investment into dedicated staff and resources, and creation of industry wide partnerships. This is outlined in the *Victorian Cricket Strategy 2017-22*.

In collaboration with the Victorian Government and Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria is supporting vital community cricket projects via a \$12.4 million fund established to stimulate collective investment into facilities across Victoria between 2015-2019.

Investments of this nature and the 1,700 existing facilities used by cricket across Victoria each week are only possible through partnerships with Local and State Government, land owners and venue operators, along with the collective tireless efforts of the Victorian cricket community.

This document is designed to assist our stakeholders in understanding Cricket's needs. It defines how facilities will be planned, provided and adapted to meet the changing needs of cricket and the local communities in which it's played.

ANDREW INGLETON

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Ingleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy (VCIS) provides an integrated and strategic approach to the future provision of, and investment in cricket facilities across both Metropolitan Melbourne and Country Victoria for the next 10 years.

The preparation of the VCIS has included significant sport and government sector consultation, review and feedback and is closely aligned with Cricket's national direction and objectives for progressing the sport of cricket into the future.

The VCIS takes its lead from Cricket Victoria's Common Ground - *A unified plan for cricket facilities development*. The five strategic pillars from Common Ground have been used to guide detailed research, analysis and evidence to identify the trends, changes, gaps and current priorities across the Victorian cricket facility network. They are:

PILLAR 1	Game and Practice Facilities Maximise the capacity and activation of grounds and facilities
PILLAR 2	Regional Cricket and Community Centres Improve access to cricket programs, pathways and development services
PILLAR 3	Inclusive Cricket Supporting diversity through inclusive facilities
PILLAR 4	Multi-use Facilities Providing welcoming, safe, flexible and accessible community facilities
PILLAR 5	Planning and Investment Catering for change and maximise partnerships



The VCIS interprets these five pillars and provides a current day assessment of how they can lead and drive infrastructure provision and planning across Victoria. Strategic objectives have also been added to these infrastructure pillars to guide the development and implementation of recommendations.

In addition to the pillar structure provided, detailed assessment, strategic priorities and recommendations have been provided for each of Cricket Victoria's 16 Regions (eight Metropolitan and eight Country Regions). These provide unique and customised insights into the future planning priorities for each individual region.

The VCIS identifies a very clear framework for how Cricket Victoria, the cricket community and government stakeholders view the future development of cricket and associated facilities.

Cricket Victoria currently provides for in excess of 87,000 registered club cricket participants and more than 376,000 total participants across all of its programs and formats. Further growth and diversity in the game is what will drive support and investment in Cricket and into the Victorian cricket facility network.

To support the structured provision of cricket facilities and participants, an interpretation of the National Cricket Facility Hierarchy has been developed and applied to guide priorities based on infrastructure provision, as well as venue purpose and cricket participation focus. Without a focus on participation and venue activation the sport cannot create a fully engaged network of facilities.

A number of challenges for Cricket and its partners have been highlighted through the development of the VCIS.

Many of these challenges are not new, but are further exacerbated by the significant growth Victorian Cricket has experienced in recent years. Particularly in the areas of modified junior formats, school participation, female cricket, winter cricket and veterans club cricket participation.

To address these challenges, the VCIS builds on existing strategic planning and objectives of Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria and those of the Victorian Government, local government and sporting community. The Strategy also highlights eight Critical Actions that will ensure opportunities for cricket participation development and growth can be realised through supporting infrastructure and investment.

1	Provide leadership to stakeholders on facility planning, use, renewal, policy development and budgeting through the utilisation of Cricket Victoria's facility and participation data.
2	Publish and communicate the key purpose and drivers of regional level Cricket and Community Centres.
3	Finalise site selection and partners for proposed Regional Cricket and Community Centres across Country Victoria and Metropolitan Melbourne and partner with Local Government, State Government and commercial partners to finalise funding.
4	Prioritise and support the upgrade and development of facilities at sites with identified and potential female participation growth.
5	Seek partnership opportunities with the education sector and local government to access and support management of cricket infrastructure at education facilities.
6	Continue to partner the Victorian Government to achieve ongoing dedicated funding for community cricket facilities or any initiatives where there is mutual benefit.
7	Collaborate with growth area Councils, State Government (and their agencies) developers and commercial partners on future facility provision requirements, service guidelines and ground models to guide precinct structure planning (e.g. multi-oval sites in growth areas).
8	Ensure strategy implementation through the provision of appropriate financial and human resources.





To support the achievement of the proposed strategic direction and objectives highlighted within this strategy, and to ensure the needs of the Victorian cricket community are met in the short, medium and long-term, 28 strategic priorities have been identified for implementation over the next 10 years.

Strategic priorities have been informed through:

- assessment of Victoria's facilities held in the National Cricket Facility Audit database (Australia's largest ever sports facility assessment project);
- analysis of Victorian cricket's historical, current and future participation market projections;
- stakeholder consultation and facility partner and investor engagement, and from
- collective interpretation of Victorian cricket's greatest challenges and needs with respect to its infrastructure.

The facility led response provided within this Strategy will also need to be underpinned by a number of broader sector changes and developments, some of which are out of Cricket's control.

These include:

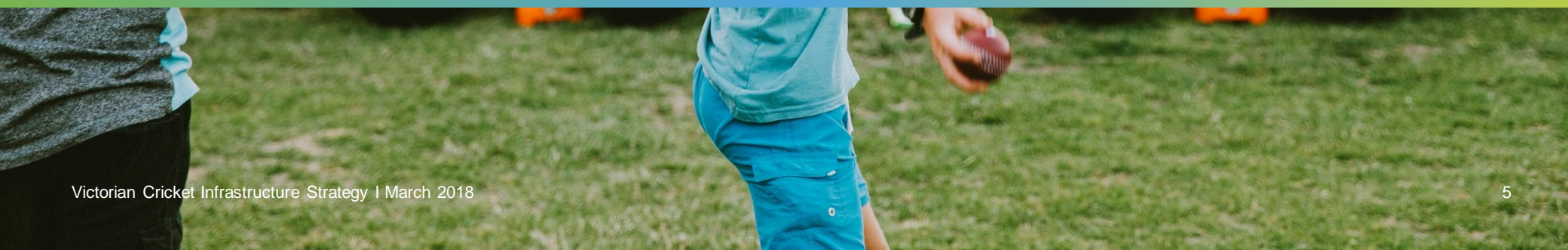
- Evolving the way in which cricket is structured and competitions and programs are offered to players, teams and clubs.
- Ongoing support and investment via the Victorian Government sector at both state and local levels.
- Unique conditions and geography of country regions.

The VCIS has been supported by Sport and Recreation Victoria, Cricket Australia and a Project Reference Group consisting of a mix of metropolitan, regional and rural Local Government and Victorian Cricket representatives.

This Strategy is an important document to support an aligned approach to infrastructure planning. The implementation of strategic directions and recommended actions will also require an equally aligned approach between all levels of cricket, government and community stakeholders, and provides Cricket Victoria with a sound platform from which to grow and support the sport and partners alike.



3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



WHAT IS THE VICTORIAN CRICKET INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY?

Cricket Victoria is regularly asked to play a role and provide strategic and policy direction to local government, schools, associations and clubs in the planning and provision of cricket facilities. This document aims to enhance the collaboration between all layers of the cricket community and government and highlight the important drivers of facility planning for and investment in cricket.

The VCIS aims to align cricket's recent strategic planning objectives together with those of government and local communities, and provide targeted research and direction across Cricket Victoria's 16 regions. Each region is different and their unique characteristics, available resources, structure and mix of programs all need to be considered when planning and delivering facility environments.

This document identifies the priorities for collective support and investment in community infrastructure that will sustain the game and meet the changing needs of participants.

The VCIS builds on existing strategic planning and objectives of Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria and those of the Victorian Government and sporting community. The Vision of the *Victorian Cricket Strategy 2017-2022* is to be 'Victoria's favourite sport, a sport for all Victorians'. The Australian cricket community has set the focus for cricket to lead and deliver more and greater outcomes for:

- **junior participation**
- **women and girls**
- **investment in cricket**
- **player pathways**
- **fans and participants**

Cricket's fundamental goal is to provide quality environments that promote positive cricket experiences for everyone. To attract them and entice them to play, then keep them coming back.

Underpinning VCIS recommendations has been the results and analysis from the **National Cricket Facility Audit** - an audit of all facilities used for community cricket competition across Australia. This has been a two-year undertaking by Cricket Australia and all State-Territory bodies and has involved participation from all 79 local councils across Victoria. The result, Australia's most comprehensive database of cricket facilities ever compiled, measured against **Cricket Australia's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines**. A data source that is updatable and will continue to drive collaborative planning and investment decisions for the cricket community into the future.



KEY PROJECT OUTPUTS

Key outputs of the VCIS include:

- Reports on cricket facility audits conducted across Metropolitan Melbourne and Country Victoria to understand current facility provision, gaps, trends and development priorities.
- Briefing material on the impact projected participation and population change will have on current and future cricket facility provision requirements across the state.
- A strategic framework for the integrated planning and development of cricket infrastructure across both Metropolitan Melbourne and Country Victoria.
- The identification of specific regional and hierarchical facility needs, key issues and facility development priorities.
- The alignment of future facility planning and investment with Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria game development and participation initiatives, and programming and investment priorities.
- A prioritised facility development implementation plan with clear direction for Premier Cricket, cricket regions and local government authorities.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Significant stakeholder consultation has been required in developing the VCIS and to ensure that it responds to current and future facility demands.

Key stakeholders involved in the development of this Strategy include local and state government representatives, the Victorian Country Cricket League, Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union, local cricket associations, umpires, Victorian Premier Cricket, Cricket Victoria staff and the general cricket community.

The following consultation methods have been undertaken and have informed development of the Strategy:

- Project information bulletins
- Project information webpage
- Local government newsletter
- Project Control and Working Group meetings including representation from Cricket Victoria, Cricket Australia and Sport and Recreation Victoria.
- Project Reference Group workshops and framework presentation (Project Reference Group comprised of 11 local government representatives, Cricket Victoria staff and a representative from the Victorian Country Cricket League, Victorian Metropolitan Cricket Union and Victorian Premier Cricket.
- Individual meetings with Cricket Victoria Facilities and Game Development staff.
- Online Association / Competition Survey (33 responses).
- Online Premier Clubs Survey (24 responses including men's and women's premier cricket).
- Online Umpires Survey (551 responses received).
- Workshop with Cricket Victoria's Regional Cricket Managers.
- Southern Bayside Region Workshop.
- Six Draft Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Framework presentations to local and state government representatives across Victoria.
- Public online exhibition of Draft Infrastructure Framework on Cricket Victoria's website.

DATA COLLECTION

Cricket participation figures presented and analysed throughout this Strategy have been informed by Cricket Victoria's MyCricket database.

The MyCricket database includes participants registered in formalised cricket competitions and programs across Victoria. It does not include participants aligned with informal and/or social cricket competitions, schools programs or any other cricket participation opportunities outside of affiliated club competitions/programs.

It should be noted that given this Strategy's focus is on infrastructure, regional cricket participation figures provided have been based on the physical location of an individual player's home club/facility location, not necessarily their Cricket Victoria association affiliation. For example, a player that lives within the Western Metropolitan Region but has a club home ground/facility located within the North West Metro Region has been allocated to the North West Metro Region.

Broader participation figures have been captured through Cricket Victoria's 2016/17 Census Data and referenced in this Strategy on page 16.

Facility condition and provision data was collected by trained Cricket Victoria staff and volunteers as part of Cricket Australia's National Facilities Audit.

While every effort has been made to ensure data is as detailed and accurate as possible, accessing all 1,700 cricket venues and associated buildings across the State (particularly in remote rural areas) presented several challenges.

In some geographical areas data completion rates have not reached 100%. In these areas, consultation and engagement activities with regional cricket community and local government representatives have helped inform facility findings and related infrastructure priorities.

Significant stakeholder consultation has been required in developing the VCIS and to ensure that it responds to current and future facility demands.





4. WHAT'S IMPACTING ON CRICKET DELIVERY IN VICTORIA?



INDUSTRY INFLUENCES

A number of industry and community trends and changes outside of Cricket's control must be considered when planning for the future of the sport. Changes in community needs, demographics and stakeholder priorities all play a role in shaping future planning directions and decision making. The following factors have been identified as potential influences on the VCIS.

State Government priorities

The Victorian Government's *Active Victoria – Strategic Framework for Sport and Recreation in Victoria 2017-2021* guides the strategic directions for how the government will respond to changes and challenges within the sport and recreation industry.

Future policies in the education sector, stadium precinct development and growth corridor strategies will also inform how and where community and high performance infrastructure is built.

Victorian cricket will need to align its infrastructure planning response to these strategic directions in order to maximise future partner investment and benefits from stakeholder collaboration.

Continued commitment from Victorian cricket towards meeting future community demands, providing a broad range of inclusive participation opportunities, working collaboratively with partners and supporting events and high performance venue use will be critical to providing an aligned approach to meeting both cricket and government objectives.

Supporting Local Government objectives

As the majority land owner/manager and sponsor of community cricket facilities across Victoria, local government will look to Cricket to support the delivery of a broad range of community objectives. Project consultation identified a very strong desire from local government to work alongside Cricket Victoria and the cricket community, but it also identified the need to maximise the value of cricket facilities for their local communities.

Cricket is the majority user of outdoor playing fields in the summer months across Victoria and has proven itself to be a true partner in shared use community infrastructure. More work is still to be done in planning for and delivering shared spaces that involve cricket, but there is a general recognition that outdoor playing fields will need to be flexible multi-use spaces into the future. Cricket is also seeking to identify solutions within its programming, scheduling and formats to accommodate this more widely. For example, the trialing of portable synthetic wickets that can be used in outfields.

Turf management practices are also a key consideration for local government. Consultation with local Councils raised the challenges of cost, access to natural resources and gaps in knowledge in order to deliver a quality solution.

The question of where and for who will provide turf wickets will need to be collectively addressed by the broader cricket community in conjunction with local government.

Access to off-field amenities is also a focus for local government as is managing the challenge of increasing maintenance and renewal costs. Cricket's use of clubrooms will also need to attract a benefits based approach to access and support the adaption of facilities to meet the changing needs of local communities (for example inclusive design to meet growing demand in female cricket).

Demographic change

As the Victorian population changes so to does the market for cricket. Changes in game formats and programs, increased access to cricket for girls and women, year wide competitions and a higher number of 40 plus year olds returning to the game all play a vital role in determining Cricket's participation markets.

Victoria's population is growing (7.7 million plus people projected by 2031) significantly in some areas. While this is not new, Cricket needs to understand the key changes, whether its growth in key suburban areas (which will impact on ground provision and need), decline in rural areas (which impacts on player numbers and club sustainability), or a shift in player numbers from one age group to the next (influencing annual ground and resource allocations).

2016 population Census results have also indicated growth in residents from a South Asian background who have strong connection to Cricket. In some metropolitan areas this change is driving growth in year round cricket due to its popularity.

Changes to modified formats of the game have also increased the demand for competition cricket (under modified rules and conditions) at the younger age level, with more seven, eight and nine year olds being involved in club cricket. Areas where growth in the five to nine year age cohorts is predicted will be increasingly important for cricket to provide and maintain a strong venue footprint.

More than ever Cricket will also need to look at demographic change and growth in female participation due to the increased popularity of the game. The average age of a female cricketer across Victoria is 22 compared with 27 for males. Girls are being introduced to the game earlier than ever before and the school age market for girls (generally seven to fifteen) is the time in which they are most likely to be introduced to the sport.

Funding and investment

As the pressures of public funding continue to be tested across a range of community investment priorities, sport and recreation facilities need to continue to demonstrate their value proposition to funders, in particular the local government sector.

Cricket has, at times, suffered from not telling its story and identifying the range of social, economic, physical and cross cultural benefits that it delivers. This will need to change in order to demonstrate the importance of investing in the game.

In addition to the significant community work through the *Harmony in Cricket* program, Cricket Victoria has also shared a healthy relationship with the Victorian Government, having partnered to deliver \$12.4M (Victorian Government \$10M, Cricket Australia \$1.2M and Cricket Victoria \$1.2M) worth of investment into community cricket facilities between 2015 and 2019.

The \$40 million investment, build and opening of the CitiPower Centre (Junction Oval) in March 2018 is a significant milestone in the ongoing partnerships between the Victorian Government, Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria.

Funding and investment levels have also changed from a national cricket perspective with Cricket Australia investing resources into understanding the existing cricket facility landscape, identifying key priorities to support the growth of the game and increasing its National Community Facility Funding Scheme from \$600,000 to \$1.5M to stimulate further investment into cricket facilities nationally.

Investment by Cricket and the Victorian Government in Regional Cricket and Community Centres will help to leverage existing community and education assets and build a network of cricket facilities that can sustain themselves operationally, as well as generate localised economic benefits via event and program services.



In addition to ground management practices that are in place, changing climatic conditions will continue to play a role in driving ground availability and quality. Continued investigation into best practices training and education, synthetic surface options and different places to play (e.g. schools) will all need to contribute to a broader solution for sustainable cricket infrastructure.

Quality, condition and competing demands

During the 2016-17 season there were 2,276 playing fields used for cricket across Victoria, all delivered and maintained at varying levels of quality due to a range of factors, including:

- Number of fields available to meet demand.
- Ability to meet quality conditions with limited resources.
- Ground ownership and management models and competition for financial resources.
- Managing fields with historical design limitations such as tip sites and drainage reserves.
- Irrigation and drought proofing measures in place.
- Matching venue and ground allocations to meet changing club needs.
- Changing participation mixes (e.g. junior/senior).
- Seasonal changes and influences from other sports needing more access to grounds more often.
- Vast differences in approach to provision and maintenance of turf pitches and grounds.
- Demand from cricket clubs on councils to provide more in order to meet their increasing expectations.

HOW COMMUNITY CRICKET IS CHANGING

The game of Cricket has changed and evolved over time and continues to do so through new innovations, competition structures and modified formats to attract and retain participants. Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria's strategic planning for the future is heavily focused on providing the right mix of opportunities to engage with a broader range of participants. The following key changes in the way cricket is played and is changing have been a key source for driving the VCIS directions and recommendations.

More people are playing cricket

Victorian Cricket reported a 14.7% increase in total participation across all forms of the game in the past 12 months. A wider push into more schools via entry level programs has seen a 41% increase in program participants, setting the foundation for more players being introduced to the game and creating opportunities to transition them into club cricket.



Modified formats

New junior cricket formats were trialed in the 2016-17 season to increase the fun, activity levels and skill development of kids as they commence their cricket journey. Cricket Australia, States and Territories partnered with 15 associations to deliver this new initiative that enabled 640 teams to play 6,261 innings of cricket under the new rules.

Following a successful trial in a number of geographical areas across Victoria, Cricket Victoria has continued to implement the new national junior cricket formats. Junior formats has since been adopted by 50% of associations across the state. The evidence from the pilot program confirms that players face more balls, can play more shots in more areas, get more wickets and field far more balls than traditional 11-a-side, full-length pitch formats.

In addition to a more engaging game that creates more action, more fun, better skill development and less time to play, the modifications to pitch lengths and boundary sizes has allowed junior cricket to maximise the use of existing playing fields. Changes to playing schedules has resulted in the growth of the game at the introductory level with little to no impact on the demand for new grounds in many areas. Cricket is also looking to be proactive and maximise the use of grounds with the adoption of portable synthetic wickets for use in schools and outfields.

Cricket for women and girls

Along with the introduction of modified playing formats for juniors, growth in girls participation in school programs, competitions and entry level programs is evident. More girls than ever are playing and the number of junior teams is growing in many metropolitan and country areas. Female club and community cricket participation increased by 57% between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 seasons.

Australian cricket is providing a strong focus and increased resources towards growing the game for girls and creating a realistic pathway from modified programs, through junior competition and into senior women's cricket. In addition to providing the right support, education and resource structures, ensuring that access to appropriate facilities to accommodate cricket for women and girls will be critical to maintaining participant levels over time.



Cricket is very popular with the ageing demographic

Even though the numbers suggest that the average age of the community club cricketer is 2-3 years younger than in 2013-14, the sport is also seeing a resurgence in the return to cricket by more 'mature aged' players (those aged 40-65).

Over 40's now make up 18% (4% growth in the past four years) of Victorian club cricketers and the change in formats to accommodate more one-day, shorter versions and less frequent matches (i.e. play every two weeks) has been a well received adaptation in a number of Associations to attract more families back to the sport. The ability of competition providers to be flexible and create new competitions that meet skill levels has also been a positive improvement across the game and one that will need to continue to order to retain and attract the older player demographic.

Flexible schedules and often Sunday play has also allowed this growth in competition, capitalising on the ability to maximise existing ground use across the weekend.

Cricket is a summer sport, isn't it?

Not anymore. Over the past three seasons there has been a significant increase in the levels of cricket, with much of this demand coming from new winter leagues and competitions that have been emerging across Melbourne.

Very popular with Melbourne's South Asian population, winter cricket now attracts a growing base of registered cricketers and makes use of available uncovered synthetic cricket wickets during the winter months.



5. CRICKET IN VICTORIA – STATE OF PLAY



PARTICIPATION

CRICKET IN VICTORIA

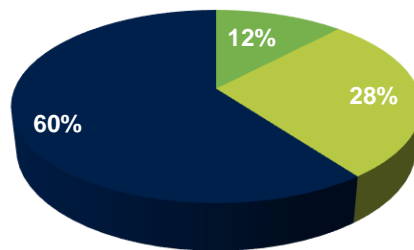
The level of cricket participation across Victoria continues to grow, the only change is how the game is being played.

The rise of both the men's and women's domestic Big Bash League competitions has heightened demand for a shorter, faster version of the game at local community level, while the introduction of Cricket Australia's new junior formats has re-shaped the way in which introductory and junior programs and competitions are played and delivered. Interest in mid-season or 'winter cricket' opportunities in Metropolitan Melbourne is climbing, as it is in social cricket competitions, and the school cricket programming is going from strength to strength.

While these changes in participation are notable, and impacting on the way in which cricket is delivered across Victoria, traditional club cricket remains the pillar of the sport with in excess of 87,000 club players taking to the field in 2016/17 season. This was an increase of 2.6% on 2014/15 totals and included 1,237 additional female club cricketers. Introductory club cricket participants (2-11 years) increased by 8.5% (+825), juniors (12-17 years) increased by 6% (+1,359) and senior (18+ years) participation remained stable increasing by 0.2% (+95).

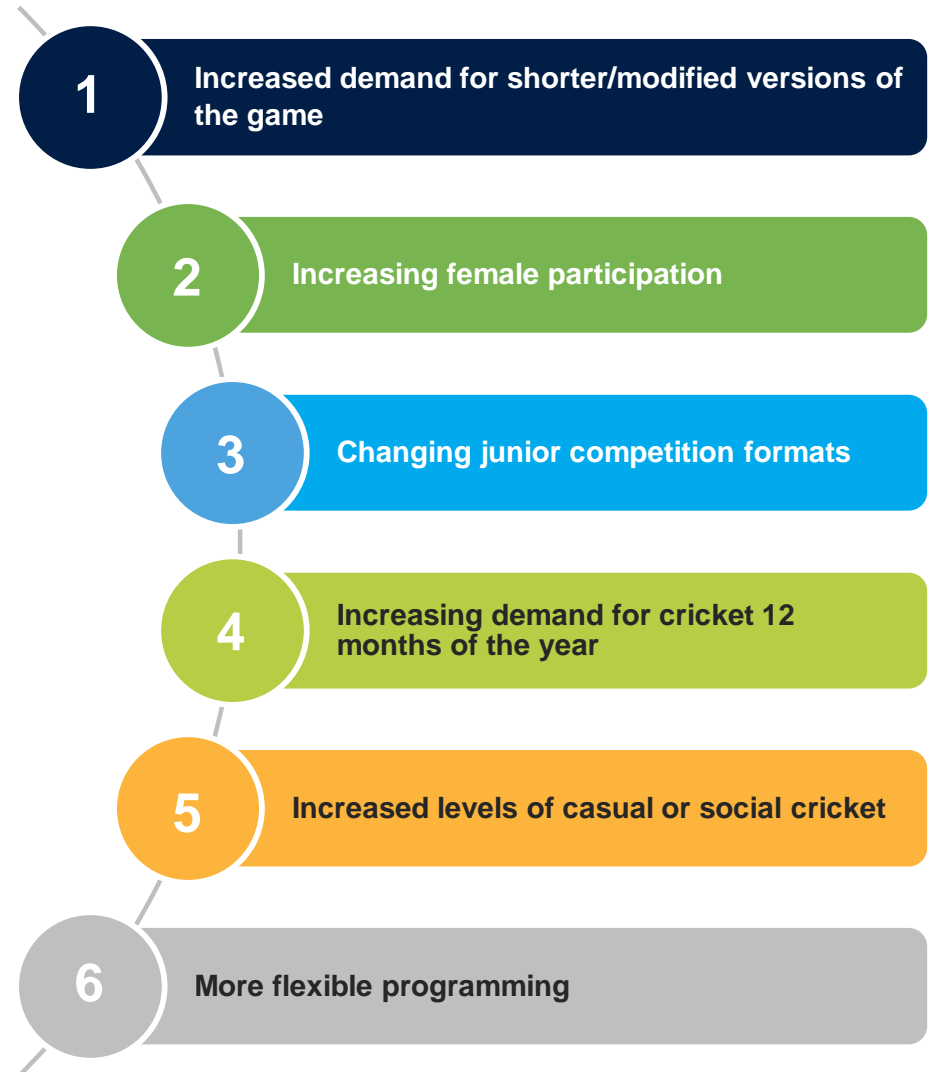
98.5% of this growth fell within Metropolitan Melbourne, with the remaining 1.5% growth in Country Victoria.

2016/17 Club Cricket Player Type Profile



■ Introductory (2-11 years) ■ Junior (12-17 years) ■ Senior (18+ years)

VICTORIAN CRICKET'S 'BIG 6' PARTICIPATION TRENDS



1,115

CLUBS

77

ASSOCIATIONS

2,320

COACHES

3,500+

UMPIRES

87,225

CLUB
PARTICIPANTS

3,412

FEMALE
PLAYERS

10,553

INTRODUCTORY
PLAYERS
(2-11 years)

24,163

JUNIOR
PLAYERS
(12-17 years)

52,490

SENIOR
PLAYERS
(18+ years)



Note: The 'club participant' numbers provided above count **one player as one participant**, regardless of the number of separate programs, competitions, grades or tournaments they may have participated in during the 2016/17 season. It also does not include participants registered with junior modified programs. For this reason, the above provided statistics may vary from other participation figures calculated via alternate participation data collection methods.

Source: MyCricket (2016/17)

Cricket Victoria's census data revealed the following key participation highlights across the State. Note that the below figures extend beyond structured club programs and competitions and include all forms of cricket participation and engagement across the State (e.g. school cricket programs) during the 2016/17 season.

OVERALL PARTICIPATION



376,300
+14.71%



FEMALE PARTICIPATION



87,988
+55.78%



SCHOOLS PARTICIPATION



169,011
+41.01%



CLUB AND ENTRY LEVEL PARTICIPATION



140,462
-2.31%



INDOOR CRICKET PARTICIPATION



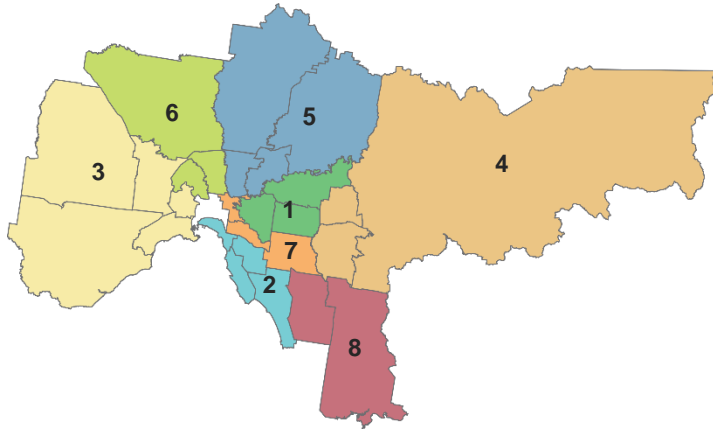
66,827
+3.78%



CLUB CRICKET PARTICIPATION BY CRICKET VICTORIA REGION

METROPOLITAN

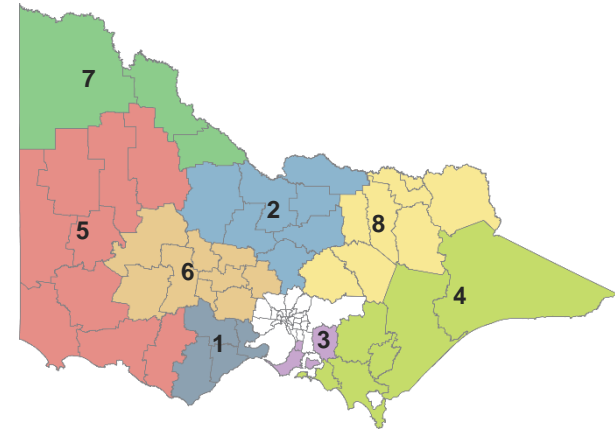
In a pleasing statistic for club cricket across Metropolitan Melbourne, all eight Regions experienced participation growth between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 seasons. Not surprisingly, two of Melbourne's growth area Regions recorded the highest percentage of overall participant growth (West and Southern Metro Regions), while cricket participation in the more established inner eastern Metropolitan Regions continued to rise. Despite modest growth and relatively high overall club participant totals, the Northern and North West Metropolitan Regions recorded the least growth from 2014/15 to 2016/17. **2,212 additional players took to the field across Metropolitan Melbourne in 2016/17, a 4.2% increase on 2014/15 season totals.**



#	Region	2016/17 Participation Total	# / % Growth from 2014/15
1	Inner East Metro	9,234	+149 / +1.6%
2	South East Bayside	7,785	+467 / +6.4%
3	West Metro	6,992	+645 / +10.2%
4	Outer East Metro	6,413	+90 / +1.4%
5	Northern Metro	6,273	+55 / +0.9%
6	North West Metro	5,726	+161 / +2.9%
7	Inner South East Metro	5,361	+295 / +5.8%
8	Southern Metro	5,287	+350 / +7.1%

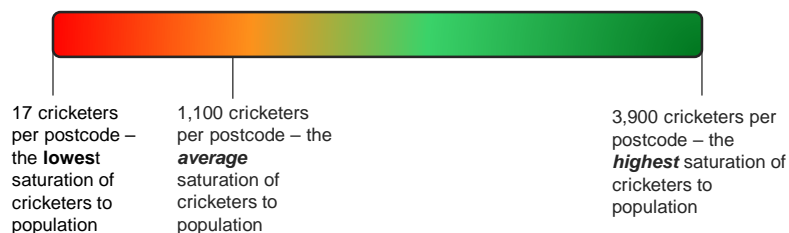
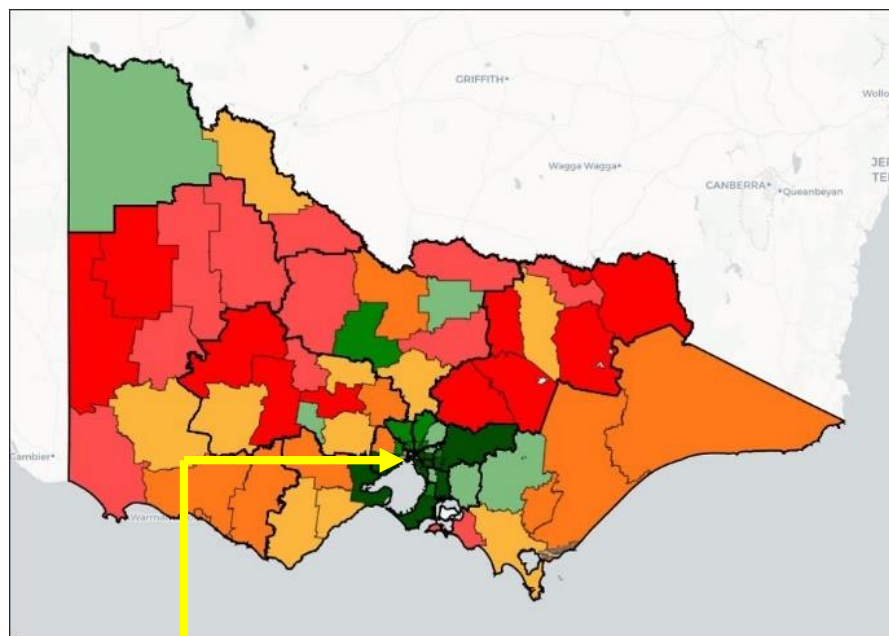
COUNTRY

In comparison, only four of eight Country Regions built on their 2014/15 club player totals. The South East Country Region grew the most (+249), with this rise in player numbers due mainly to the somewhat 'hybrid' geographic profile attached to this Region (includes the LGA areas of Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula). Participation in the West and North West of Country Victoria decreased by 488 players from 2014/15, however overall club player numbers remain high in several of these Regions, in particular Barwon which played host to 5,718 players in 2016/17. **33 additional club players were recorded across Country Victoria at the completion of the 2016/17 season, a 0.01% increase from 2014/15.**

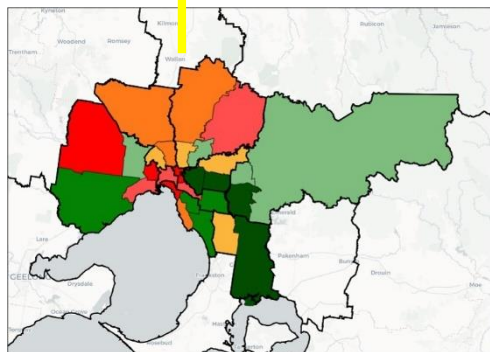


#	Region	2016/17 Participation Total	# / % Growth from 2014/15
1	Barwon	5,718	-214 / -3.6%
2	Northern Rivers	5,412	+68 / +1.3%
3	South East Country	5,403	+249 / +4.8%
4	Gippsland	5,024	+142 / +2.9%
5	Western Country	4,713	-2 / -0.04%
6	Central Highlands	4,489	-254 / -5.4%
7	Mallee Murray	1,823	-18 / -1%
8	North East Country	1,261	+62 / +5.2%

2016/17 LGA CLUB AND COMMUNITY CRICKET MEMBERS BY POSTCODE OF RESIDENCE



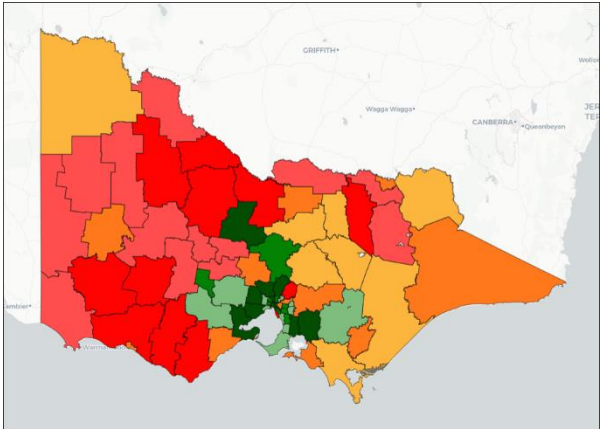
As depicted by the adjacent and below participant catchment maps, the majority of 2016/17 club and community cricket participation across Victoria occurred within or on the fringe of Metropolitan Melbourne local government areas. The highest Country Victoria LGA areas included Geelong (3,633), Mornington Peninsula (2,579) and Greater Bendigo (2,046). A list of the top 20 participating LGAs at the completion of the 2016/17 season is provided on page 20.



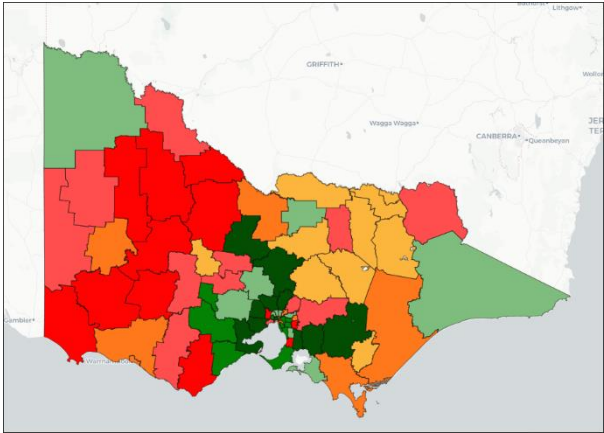
Note: The above catchment and population maps on the following page have been colour coded to provide a visual representation of member and population spread across Victoria. As per the above legend, **green** colouring on the map represents a **higher** saturation of members, or a **larger** forecast population increase. **Red** represents a **lower** total, with the **orange** shades highlighting more **average** levels of member catchments and/or forecast population growth.

Source: Cricket Victoria 2016/17 MyCricket data

2016-2031 FORECAST LGA CHANGE IN 5-14 YEAR OLD PARTICIPANTS

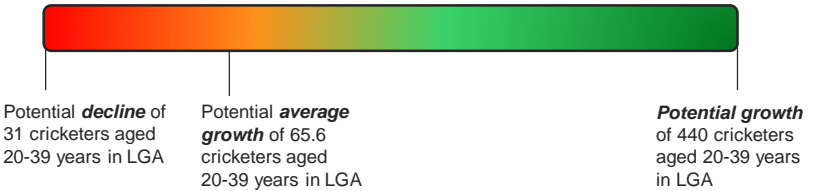
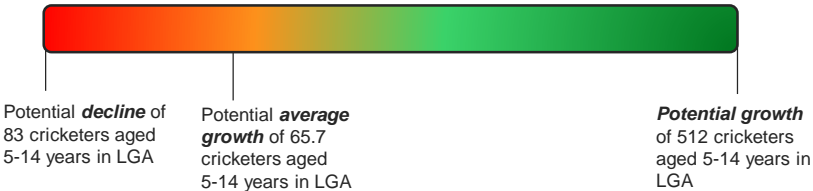


2016-2031 FORECAST LGA CHANGE IN 20-39 YEAR OLD PARTICIPANTS



Through the application of individual 2016/17 local government penetration rates and Victoria in Future population forecast figures, the adjacent and below participant catchment maps highlight key growth areas for particular age cohorts (5-14 and 20-39 years) and in-turn potential demand for additional and/or improved cricket facilities to 2031.

While this method of forecast future demand does not take into account any significant participation change that may occur within a particular LGA area during one season (e.g. introduction of a new club or competition), it does provide an indication of where the most likely levels of demand for modified and junior cricket will occur (5-14 year olds) as well as senior club competition (20-39 years) and assists with the planning of facilities to better cater for these respective player categories.



The majority of forecast 5-14 year old participant growth across Victoria will occur within Metropolitan Melbourne, in particular the LGA areas of Wyndham, Casey and Whittlesea. In Country Victoria the LGA areas of Geelong, Cardinia, Greater Bendigo and Ballarat are forecast to provide the biggest increases in 5-14 year old cricket participants. The majority of 20-39 year old participant growth will occur within the LGA areas of Casey, Mitchell, Wyndham and Melton.

VICTORIA'S TOP 20 LGAs (2016/17)

The below table provides a list of the top 20 club and community cricket participating local government areas at the completion of the 2016/17 season.

#	LGA	CV Region	2016/17 Total Club Membership
1	Casey	Southern Metro	3,888
2	Greater Geelong	Barwon	3,633
3	Boroondara	Inner East Metro	3,343
4	Whitehorse	Inner East Metro	3,201
5	Knox	Outer East Metro	2,887
6	Kingston	South East Bayside	2,791
7	Wyndham	West Metro	2,780
8	Mornington Peninsula	South East Country	2,579
9	Monash	Inner South East Metro	2,485
10	Glen Eira	South East Bayside	2,408
11	Yarra Ranges	Outer East Metro	2,276
12	Banyule	Northern Metro	2,193
13	Maroondah	Outer East Metro	2,088
14	Greater Bendigo	Northern Rivers	2,046
15	Brimbank	West Metro	2,016
16	Hume	North West Metro	1,949
17	Bayside	South East Bayside	1,823
18	Moreland	North West Metro	1,786
19	Whittlesea	Northern Metro	1,726
20	Moonee Valley	North West Metro	1,724

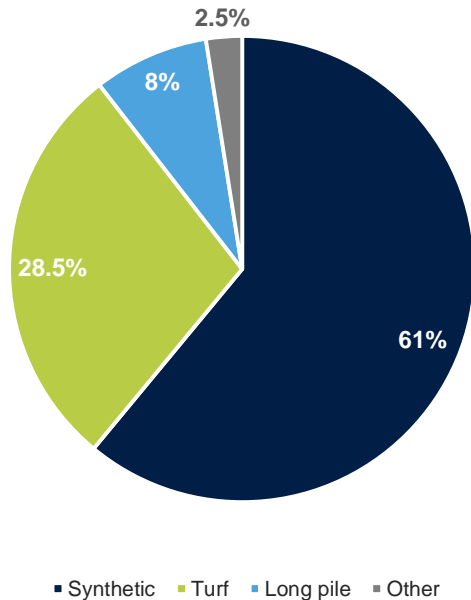
Note: Figures based on individual member postcode of residence



FACILITIES

PROVISION

There are currently 2,276 playing fields provided across 1,696 sites that are used for club and community cricket (including those school sites used for weekend club cricket) across Victoria, all of which have varying levels of infrastructure provision and condition. Of the 2,276 playing fields, 28.5% provide turf centre pitches, 61% 9mm-11mm synthetic grass pitches and the remaining 10.5% a combination of 'long pile' or 'other' (e.g. concrete) pitch surface types.



Provision by Cricket Victoria Region

Based on the below ratios, the 2016 statewide ground to population provision ratio was 1: 2,603, with this figure being higher in Metropolitan Melbourne (1:3,345) and lower in Country Victoria (1:1,860).

Ground to Population Ratio by Region (2016)

Region	# of Grounds	Provision Ratio (2016)
North West Metro	150	1: 4,192
West Metro	185	1: 3,995
Southern Metro	126	1: 3,634
Northern Metro	158	1: 3,461
Inner South East Metro	117	1: 3,357
South East Bayside	169	1: 3,054
South East Country	141	1: 2,761
Outer East Metro	162	1: 2,607
Inner East Metro	189	1: 2,464
North East Country	58	1: 2,326
Barwon	155	1: 1,981
Mallee Murray	50	1: 1,791
Central Highlands	146	1: 1,677
Northern Rivers	181	1: 1,641
Gippsland	170	1: 1,577
Western Country	131	1: 1,127

Note: National ground to population average provision ratio is approximately 1: 3,300.

Population data source: Victoria in Future (July 2016)

Looking purely at facility provision compared with overall population can lead to misguided perceptions of over or under supply within a certain cricket region or local government area. Just because a local area or region has a lower ground to population facility provision ratio does not necessarily indicate demand for additional cricket ground provision. Factors such as each local Council's demographic profile and the volume and format of cricket being played within individual regions should be considered when identifying demand for future facility development and/or increased utilisation of existing venues. The below table provides actual player to ground ratios by Cricket Victoria Region following the 2016/17 season.

2016/17 Season Player to Ground Ratio by Region

Region	2016/17 Ground to Player Ratio
Inner East Metro	1: 48.9
South East Bayside	1: 46.1
Inner South East Metro	1: 45.8
Southern Metro	1: 42.0
Northern Metro	1: 39.7
Outer East Metro	1: 39.6
South East Country	1: 38.3
North West Metro	1: 38.2
West Metro	1: 37.8
Barwon	1: 36.9
Mallee Murray	1: 36.5
Western Country	1: 36.0
Central Highlands	1: 30.7
Northern Rivers	1: 29.9
Gippsland	1: 29.6
North East Country	1: 21.7
Victoria average	1: 37.6
Metropolitan average	1: 42.5
Country average	1: 32.7

QUICK FACILITY STATS

- 2,276 grounds
- 648 turf pitch grounds
- 1,386 synthetic pitch grounds
- 242 'other' pitch surfaces

43 Premier / Regional

991 Community Club (home ground)

414 Community Club (satellite ground)

143 School grounds

State-wide Region average ground to population provision ratio 1: 2,603

Metropolitan Region average ground to population provision ratio 1: 3,345

Country Region average ground to population provision ratio 1: 1,860



State-wide average ground to player ratio

1:38



Metropolitan Melbourne Region average ground to player ratio

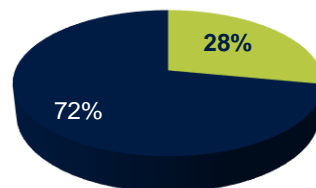
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State-wide average ground to player ratio

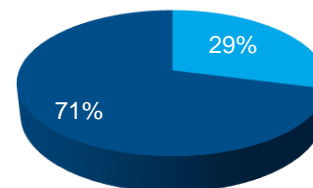
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72% of pitch widths are too narrow



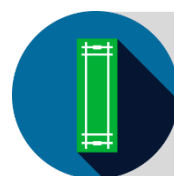
■ 2.4m+ ■ Less than 2.4m

71% of pitch lengths are too short

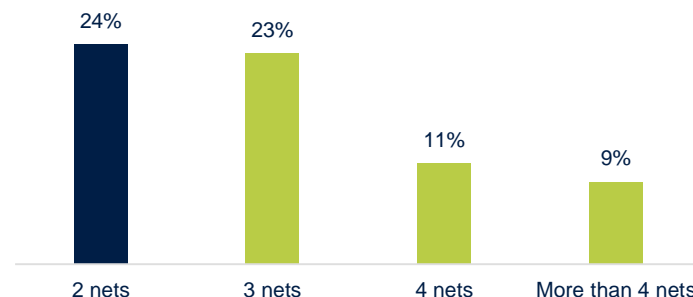


■ 25m+ ■ Less than 25m

A large percentage of centre synthetic pitch dimensions across Victoria no longer meet national guidelines for synthetic pitch dimensions



By 2022, approximately 800 synthetic pitch surfaces across Victoria will require replacement due to poor condition.



Approximately one in four cricket venues across Victoria provide less than three training net lanes



44% of current training net facilities present potential safety issues



81% of change room facilities are not considered to be female friendly

STATE-WIDE FACILITY CHALLENGES

The following key state-wide facility challenges have been identified as having the greatest impact on cricket. Addressing them will be important for Cricket Victoria and its partners to ensure future infrastructure planning and development provides fit for purpose and flexible facilities that maintain pace with the changing needs of cricket and increasing participation levels. The below infrastructure challenges have been identified through analysis of facility audit data and extensive stakeholder consultation activities.

Flexible use and capacity of cricket grounds

Cricket has traditionally been a game played on Saturdays by 44 players (two back to back matches - juniors and seniors). With the recently introduced junior formats and the growth of T20 and modified cricket programs and competitions, cricket can now be played seven days a week with capacity to play junior matches simultaneously. Promoting this flexible use and potential for increased programming (particularly of turf pitch sites) of playing fields to accommodate increased demand and game development initiatives is a key short term priority for Cricket Victoria. The introduction of multi-purpose training net designs is another example of how cricket facilities are increasing potential access and usage levels.



Female friendly and inclusive facility design

Only 19% of venues across Victoria were assessed as providing female friendly change room facilities and supporting amenities. Following the recent growth in female participation in cricket, combined with healthy increases in both multi-cultural, Indigenous and all abilities player categories, a key focus area for Cricket Victoria (in partnership with other co-tenant state sporting bodies) is ensuring not only change rooms and supporting amenities are inclusive in design, but all infrastructure elements promote an accessible, safe and attractive environment for players, umpires, coaches, officials, spectators and family members from all social and cultural backgrounds.

Training net design, condition and renewal

44% of training nets across Victoria were assessed as presenting potential safety issues. This combined with varying, and in many cases unsuitable design structures and provision levels (e.g. less than three training nets) and a state-wide average lifespan of six years places the future replacement and/or renewal of cricket training nets as one of the sport's biggest infrastructure and investment challenges over the next 10 years. The provision of multi-purpose cricket training net enclosures at suitable sites across Victoria is also a key infrastructure priority for the sport moving forward.

Synthetic centre pitch (surface) condition and lifespan

The current state-wide average lifespan for synthetic pitch surfaces is five and a half years which presents a challenge for Cricket Victoria, local government and cricket stakeholders. Approximately 800 pitch surfaces across the state (of those able to be assessed) will require replacement over the next five years, at an average of 160 pitch surface replacements per year. Incorporating centre pitch surface replacement and renewal programs into future local government asset management and capital works planning is a key priority for Victorian cricket.

Synthetic centre pitch dimensions

In addition to ensuring that synthetic pitch surface conditions promote a safe and suitable playing environment, a key priority for cricket is the lengthening and widening of synthetic pitches at the end of their useful life to meet Cricket Australia's guidelines for synthetic pitch dimensions. Approximately 70% (970) of Victoria's existing centre synthetic pitches do not meet these guidelines. Providing a pitch of adequate width is particularly important for junior development (promotes greater enjoyment if juniors are able to land their delivery on the pitch) and also encourages the art of spin bowling with players able to pitch the ball wide on the pitch and spin it in or away from the batter.

Turf or synthetic pitches?

As of January 2017, Victoria's turf wicket percentage provision was 28.5% of all pitches (648 turf pitches) across the State. 61% of grounds (1,386 pitches) provide synthetic surfaces, with the remaining 10.5% a combination of long pile and concrete surface pitches. Turf pitch provision levels are higher across Country Victoria (33.5%) than Metropolitan Melbourne, due mainly to the more conducive weather conditions and climate in the northern part of the state and the strong turf cricket competition history. Cricket's growth has brought about the formation of many different associations and competitions throughout Victoria. Within these association structures are turf competitions, synthetic competitions and in some cases a hybrid of the two.

Cricket Victoria is working with existing metropolitan cricket associations to deliver a more strategic approach regarding pitch type provision. Ensuring current and future turf/synthetic pitch playing field provision is strategic, financially sustainable, balances player pathway and development while at the same time increasing grassroots participation opportunities is a key focus area for cricket across Victoria over the next 10 years.

'Seasonal Creep'

The increasing overlap or 'seasonal creep' as it is commonly referred to between winter and summer sporting codes (mainly AFL and soccer with respect to cricket) presents cricket and facility managers with a significant challenge. A growing trend of increasing professionalism at local level sporting clubs is seeing pre-season training periods lengthened for winter sports and in turn demand for extended facility access.

This trend combined with winter sporting code finals often extending into mid September limit Council and cricket's access to prepare grounds (in particular turf table areas) prior to season commencement. It also places increased pressure on playing field carrying capacity during the months of December and January when winter pre-season training is in full swing. Cricket Victoria and AFL Victoria is currently exploring approaches to ground management, scheduling of use and maintenance during these periods that promotes shared use where possible as well as ensuring playing field surface conditions and suitability are not compromised for either sport.

Matching facilities with club needs

With ground access and availability continuing to be challenging (particularly in inner urban metropolitan areas of Melbourne), it is important Cricket Victoria continue to work with local association/competition providers, clubs and local government to ensure cricket grounds and supporting infrastructure are being used to optimal capacity, and furthermore promote club and overall sport development and growth. The identification of underutilised sites with capacity for greater programming and/or potential club relocation is a key priority of Cricket Victoria's over the next five to ten years.

Cricket Victoria is currently working with AFL Victoria on a Turf Wicket Pilot Program aimed at identifying strategies and processes that can assist in addressing the challenge of turf wicket preparation prior to season commencement. Working in partnership with other winter sporting codes and facility managers to minimise access and ground maintenance/preparation issues generated during this season transition phase is also key priority for Cricket Victoria.



METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE FACILITY CHALLENGES

Below is a brief summary of infrastructure challenges more relevant to Metropolitan Melbourne.

Ground availability and capacity

Several of Melbourne's inner urban Metropolitan Regions are being faced with the growing challenge of accommodating population and participation growth with limited availability of open space for new facility development.

Access to school facilities

With limited open space available for additional cricket ground developments and a high portion of existing grounds operating at full capacity, increasing access levels to school facilities is a key priority for Cricket Victoria. Accessing school facilities remains a day to day challenge for cricket, as does the more often than not unfit for purpose infrastructure provision at school venues (e.g. access to change rooms, toilets, shelter). With the significant growth in school based programs, Cricket Victoria is committed to working in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training in an effort to increase access to and improve infrastructure provision at school venues to enable more flexible use (e.g. weekend club competition). In addition to weekend access for club cricket competitions, the presence of synthetic surfaces at a large number of primary and secondary schools provides opportunity for increased delivery of modified programs (e.g. Junior Formats). In Metropolitan Melbourne, South East Bayside, Inner East, Inner South East and North West are key focus areas.

Playing field sizes

Playing field sizes vary significantly across the State, with 22% of grounds throughout Metropolitan Melbourne considered to be undersized for senior cricket. This issue is heightened within the Inner East and Inner South East Regions forcing local Councils to explore innovative design practices to maximise facility usage and functionality while at the same time minimising the potential for damage to property and/or injury to nearby pedestrians.

Increased demand for more cricket

Mid-season or 'winter' cricket competitions are significantly increasing in popularity across Metropolitan Melbourne. While this extension to the summer version of the sport is strongly supported by Cricket Victoria, and key to the game's continued growth and sustainability, it does present significant facility access issues (synthetic pitches more often than not covered from April through to September to service winter sporting codes). Designing new playing fields in partnership with winter sporting codes (e.g. AFL, Soccer, Rugby) that enable synthetic pitches to remain uncovered during the winter (e.g. two soccer fields with a synthetic cricket pitch placed in the middle) is a priority for Cricket Victoria (particularly across western Metropolitan Melbourne where winter cricket competition participation is at its highest). The identification of any underutilised grounds with synthetic pitches left uncovered during winter that could be used for organised and/or unstructured social winter competitions is also a focus area.

'Long Pile' synthetic pitches

'Long pile' pitches, introduced several years ago to allow for easier all year round usage and maintenance exist across several of the State's Metropolitan Cricket Regions. Due to the irregular and inconsistent bounce this surface type provides, it is not an approved playing surface of Cricket Australia, nor Cricket Victoria, with planning processes in place to have these pitches replaced with the traditional 9mm-11mm pile height synthetic surface.



COUNTRY VICTORIA CHALLENGES

Below is a brief summary of infrastructure challenges more relevant to Country Victoria.

On and off-field facility and supporting infrastructure quality and condition

State-wide facility audit data analysis identified that the general provision and overall condition of facilities (e.g. change room facilities, playing field surface conditions) in Country Victoria were on average of a lower standard than those in Metropolitan Melbourne. With a high proportion of cricket grounds in Country Victoria managed by volunteer Committees of Management on Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) land, a heavy reliance falls on club volunteers to maintain facilities. These works are often delivered on minimal budgets by volunteers who are not always equipped with the necessary skills and equipment to deliver facility upgrade projects and day to day maintenance tasks.

Travel time / facility location

The spread (and subsequent travel time required) of facilities throughout Country Victoria is not surprisingly much further than it is in Metropolitan Melbourne. This creates significant time and cost barriers to participation, and while facility provision needs align with demand and local demographics, a review of and more strategic approach (including best use of existing community facilities) to future facility provision throughout Country Victoria is a key priority for the sport over the next five to ten years.

Population and participation challenges

In smaller, more rural townships experiencing (or forecast to experience) population decline, it will be important for clubs, associations and government (with Cricket Victoria support) to work in partnership to prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects that provide maximum community benefit (not just for cricket).

Regional Cricket and Community Centre / Indoor cricket facility provision

Very few regional level indoor cricket facilities exist throughout Country Victoria, with cricketers often required to leave their local townships and travel to Metropolitan Melbourne for this level of facility provision (and related services e.g. high performance coaching/winter development).

Turf wicket provision

As previously noted, the level of turf wicket provision (percentage of overall pitch provision) is higher in Country Victoria than it is in Metropolitan Melbourne. A future priority for Cricket Victoria and local stakeholders will be exploring opportunities to provide greater support and education to local Councils, clubs and curators on turf pitch preparation and ongoing maintenance practices.

Subject to future demand and demographic shifts (e.g. declining township population), a review of which venues and associated club structures are most suited to continue to sustainably provide and maintain turf pitches is also a key focus area.





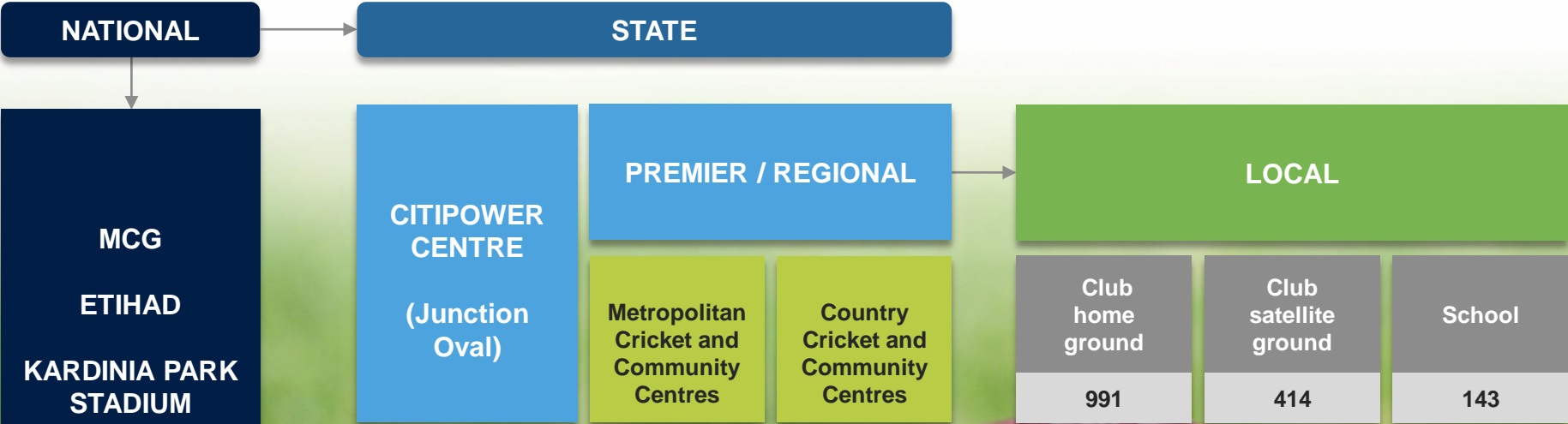
6. CRICKET VICTORIA FACILITY HIERARCHY



CRICKET VICTORIA FACILITY HIERARCHY

Cricket Australia provides guidance on a National Cricket Facility Hierarchy model, including different facility levels to meet core cricket use and purpose. In addition, information on relevant pitches and training amenities, site facilities, club facilities and estimated land area requirements for development for each hierarchy level is also provided within the *Cricket Australia Community Cricket Facility Guidelines*.

Cricket Victoria has adopted the various hierarchy levels documented with the Guidelines and provides Victoria's interpretation of how the National Cricket Facility Hierarchy model can be applied across the Victorian cricket facility landscape.



HIERARCHY LEVEL	FACILITY EXAMPLE	FACILITY PURPOSE	KEY CRICKET ACTIVITIES	FUNDAMENTAL FACILITIES
FIRST CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCG Etihad Stadium Kardinia Park Stadium CitiPower Centre (Junction Oval) 	Hosting of State/Territory domestic/national competitions and international matches (all forms of the game) with venue prepared for high performance use and spectator attendances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International fixtures Domestic fixtures Major event venue High performance training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple turf wickets Indoor and outdoor training Player change rooms Official's change rooms Media and administration Spectator accommodation VIP accommodation Medical amenities Match day amenities
REGIONAL CRICKET AND COMMUNITY CENTRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Country (Hamilton) North East Country (Wodonga) Central Highlands (Ballarat) Gippsland (Moe) A further nine to be developed 	Primarily a participation development centre within (accessible to) each Cricket Region that integrates participation programming, high performance development, regional education and administration and supports local cricket competition and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative cricket Premier/Regional cricket Pathway program training Local club training Carnival/event venue Coach/umpire education Regional administration Regional promotional Entry level cricket programs Inclusion and diversity programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum one ground, preferably two Indoor and outdoor training Turf and synthetic training Player change rooms Official's change rooms Viewing vantage points Dedicated car parking On-site administration Clubrooms with social area First aid and medical Temporary event capacity Access to fitness, aquatic and education facilities
PREMIER / REGIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 venues Identified as being used for Premier Cricket in Melbourne and in Geelong and Frankston (Country Regions) 	Predominately used to facilitate Premier Cricket, and to provide training and skill development opportunities for senior and junior cricketers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premier cricket Club training Club social activities Representative cricket Pathway program training Pathway coaching Carnival/event venue Potential finals venue Community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple turf wickets Turf and synthetic training Player change rooms Official's change rooms First aid and medical Clubrooms with social area Viewing vantage points Dedicated car parking Match day amenities
LOCAL CLUB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 991 identified through the National Community Cricket Facility Audit 	The fundamental pillar of the hierarchy and the driver of sustainable community cricket. Club competition and training for all levels, senior/junior, male/female. Provides a venue for the first experience for those being introduced to cricket.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local club competition Club training Club social activities School competition Entry level cricket programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turf or synthetic pitch Minimum one ground, preferably two Synthetic training nets Clubrooms with social area Player change rooms Umpire change rooms Shade for spectators Dedicated car parking
SATELLITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 557 (including schools) identified through the National Community Cricket Facility Audit 	A mix of Council grounds, schools, local parks or overflow venues used for senior and junior club cricket competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local club competition School competition Recreational cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turf or synthetic pitch Minimum one ground Access to toilets/water Access to shaded area

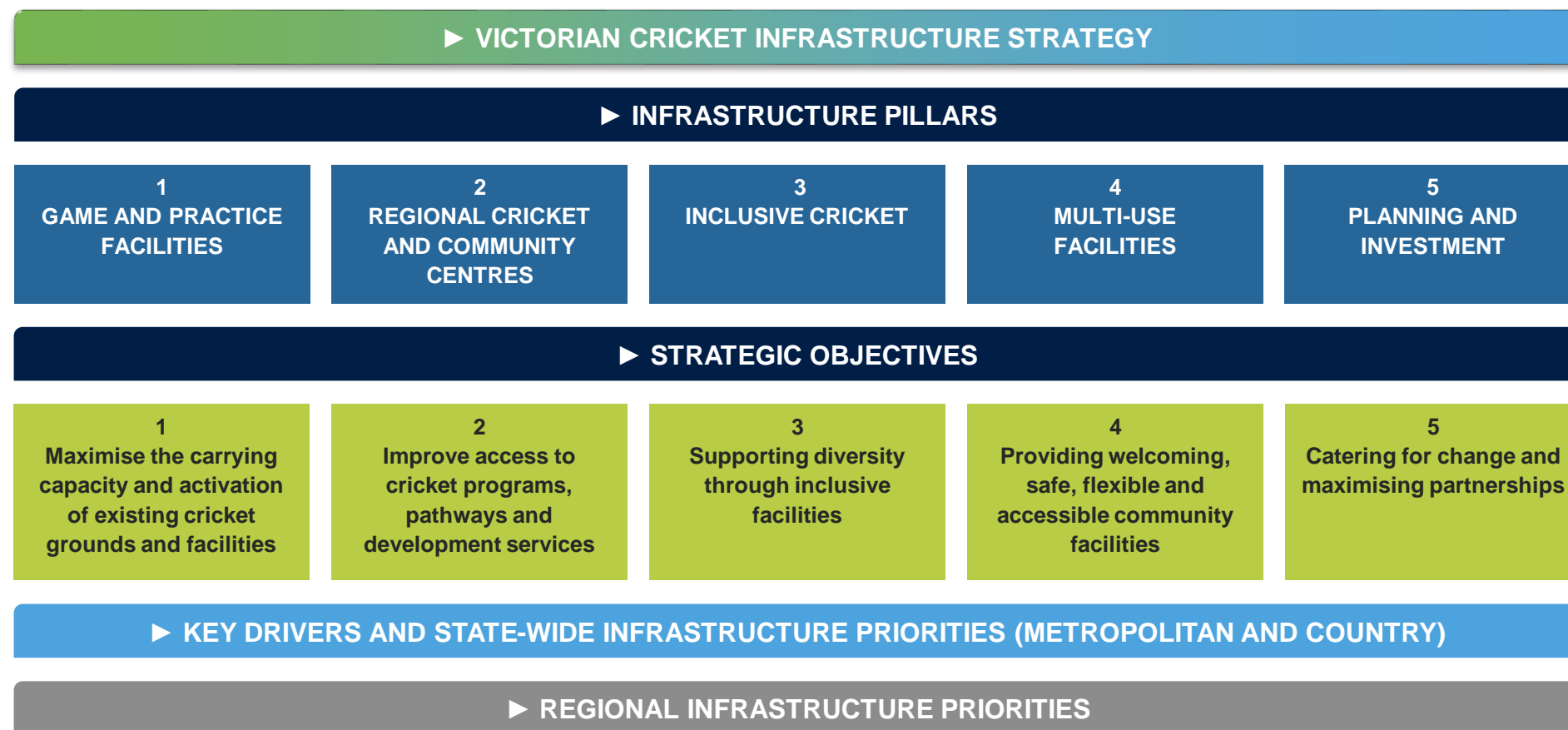


7. STATE-WIDE INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The diagram below outlines the strategic framework for the future provision of cricket facilities and development initiatives throughout Victoria to 2028. Five key infrastructure pillars and supporting objectives guide the future direction of cricket facilities for Victoria and are underpinned by prioritised actions.



The following pages provide a summary of Victorian Cricket's five key infrastructure pillars, their drivers and proposed strategic responses to address future cricket facility planning and development across Victoria for the next 10 years.

'Maximise the carrying capacity and activation of existing cricket grounds and facilities'

Quality playing and training infrastructure is essential in facilitating cricket participation opportunities and skill development activities. Cricket's requirements for playing facilities are generally focused on cricket pitches, playing fields and training nets, which have the greatest impact on the game and the experience of players. Off-field amenities including change rooms, spectator amenities and social facilities all play a role in creating quality environments and sustainable clubs. Expectations have changed over time but these core elements remain the most fundamental to providing for cricket.

Training regimes and techniques have also changed over time and cricket clubs will need to adapt to the range of activities that are available to develop and enhance skills. Centre wicket, indoor and outfield training activities are more prevalent than they used to be and broader utilisation of practice wickets has evolved through the introduction of multi-purpose facilities.

Maximising the use of all existing facilities and ensuring game and practice facilities are sustainable is a collective objective of all partners.

KEY DRIVERS FOR CHANGE:

- A large number of cricket venues across the State have aged infrastructure that is unable to adequately service cricket's changing needs (e.g. catering for growth in female cricket, practice net and pitch quality).
- There is limited availability of unoccupied open space across Metropolitan Melbourne to enable the development of additional cricket grounds.
- Facility owners/managers (predominately local government) are faced with the challenge of managing increasing facility renewal gaps.
- Almost one in three cricket venues across Victoria provide turf pitches. These pitches are managed under a range of scenarios, from full-time curator to volunteer.
- Varying Council policies are in place guiding a range of facility access and investment levels for the Victorian cricket community (e.g. ground and resource allocations, budget prioritisation).

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Provide leadership to stakeholders on facility planning, use, renewal, policy development and budgeting through utilisation of Cricket Victoria's facility and participation data.
2. Prioritise the renewal and upgrade of cricket training facilities to safe and practical levels.
3. Provide education on modified junior cricket formats and their flexible use of grounds and facilities.
4. Provide leadership as to the most appropriate balance of synthetic and turf pitches at community club level.
5. Prioritise the sustainable provision of turf wickets at venues that support player pathway and development initiatives.
6. Increase education on ground maintenance and turf wicket management requirements and best practices.



'Improve access to cricket programs, pathways and development services'

Up to 13 Regional Cricket and Community Centres have been identified for strategic delivery across Victoria. In conjunction with the Victorian Government and local government, education sector and local cricket communities, Cricket Victoria will implement a range of centres to support the delivery of the game, with the sport's short term focus on the State's regional (country) areas.

Regional Cricket and Community Centres will be designed and professionally managed to act as 12 month of the year participation development centres, have a learning and education focus, provide high performance training environments and offer shared administrative services to support and promote regional cricket development.

The selection and evaluation of venues to accommodate Regional Cricket and Community Centres will require critical consideration with location and access, long-term sustainability, capacity to leverage existing site amenities and the ability to integrate with existing local and regional networks essential in identifying the best opportunities for cricket.

KEY DRIVERS FOR CHANGE:

- State government's recent investment into supporting the development of Regional Cricket and Community Centres across Country Victoria.
- The current under provision of purpose built, publicly accessible Regional Cricket and Community Centres across the State (particularly in rural and regional areas).
- Cricket communities in rural and regional areas are currently challenged by long distance travel and associated costs to access higher quality cricket facilities and services.
- There is a significant lack of indoor cricket training facility provision integrated within the club network and a very high reliance on commercial centres to perform this function.
- Limited opportunity for the hosting of higher profile cricket events and competitions in regional areas that could benefit local clubs and their cricket communities.
- Cricket Victoria has identified the need to provide greater collective administrative support within several strategic geographical locations across the State.
- A more streamlined approach to collectively and consistently promoting cricket from a centralised location is vital to the successful alignment and delivery of future cricket programs and competitions across Victoria.

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. **Publish and communicate the key purpose and drivers of Regional Cricket and Community Centres.**
2. **Finalise site selection and partners for eight proposed Regional Cricket and Community Centres across Country Victoria and five in Metropolitan Melbourne.**
3. **Partner Local and State Government and commercial partners to finalise funding and investment plans.**
4. **Develop service guidelines and activity, business and management plans for each venue.**
5. **Generate Regional Cricket and Community Centre case studies to highlight their unique characteristics and benefits.**

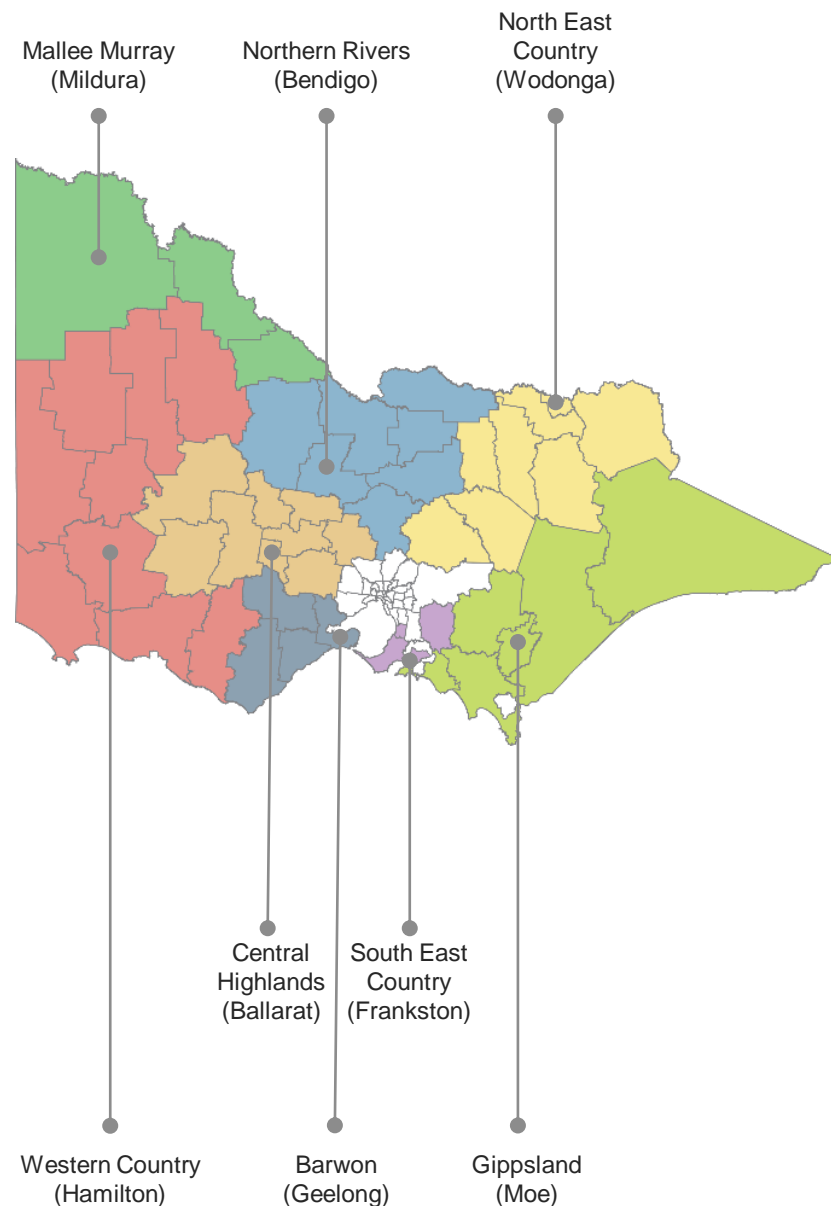


KEY ROLES AND FOCUS AREAS OF A REGIONAL CRICKET AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. **Participation development centre** – Provide 12 month competition activities (all ages/genders), designated finals and events venue, program centre and schools development venue.
2. **Education focus** – Support player, coaching, umpiring, off field administrative services and ground management initiatives.
3. **High performance training** – Deliver indoor, outdoor, health and fitness programs
4. **Shared regional services** – Provide office accommodation, administration centre, Association base, regional marketing and promotion.

REGIONAL CRICKET AND COMMUNITY CENTRE PRINCIPLES

1. **Quality** – Training and playing areas, and associated facilities and amenities provided and maintained to the highest quality and professional standard.
2. **Integrated** – Achieving integration of Victorian and Australian community cricket and high performance pathways to ensure that cricketers, coaches, umpires and administrators are provided the same level of facilities, programs, services and administration, within their geographic region and comparable to other regions across the state.
3. **Cricket first** – Cricket requirements need to be met as a priority within the venue, with additional community and commercial uses considered to support sustainable management operations.
4. **Flexible** – Common areas (including playing, training and building footprint) must promote shared space in order to maximise flexible uses and package sport and related services together to increase regional capacity.
5. **Inclusive** – While meeting high performance cricket objectives, the site will be developed to ensure access to community, club and representative cricket opportunities, with a particular focus on dedicated junior, female, Indigenous and all abilities programs.
6. **Sustainable** – Facilities and amenities are designed to create maintenance efficiencies and management structures developed to ensure operational efficiencies are achieved and commercial opportunities available (e.g. indoor cricket competitions, venue hire, specialist program delivery), while having capacity to attract and cater for new participants, deliver events and promote regional tourism.



‘Supporting diversity through inclusive facilities’

Significant steps have been taken over recent seasons aimed at growing the game outside of its traditional formats and competitions, with a strong focus now on female cricket through all levels of the game.

Transformation of the sport at a grassroots level to better cater for females is a key strategy of both cricket and local communities, and is strongly supported by local and state government alike. Community cricket infrastructure needs to ensure it keeps pace with this growth and improvements need to be incrementally made to player, umpire and spectator facilities to continue to promote the involvement of women and girls.

In addition, a broader focus on flexible and inclusive design is paramount to providing the best community facilities that cater for the broadest possible use. Cricket Victoria is committed to providing for all its participants and being an active leader in assisting the transformation of cricket facilities into quality inclusive community facilities for all.

KEY DRIVERS FOR CHANGE:

- Despite an increase of 57% (+1,237) between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 seasons, Cricket Victoria's current female participant base of 3.9% of all club cricketers is lower than the sport's desired level.
- There is a notable drop off in female participant numbers between the teenage years of 15 and 19.

- The growth of female participation across a number of sporting codes (in particular AFL) has increased the appeal and demand (as well as competition for participants) for female cricket programs, competitions and supporting infrastructure.
- Strong growth in both multicultural and indigenous participation levels.
- Cricket's changing landscape of programming and competition opportunities requires alignment of fit for purpose cricket facilities and supporting infrastructure.
- The majority of cricket's player and umpire change room facilities and supporting amenities are male dominated and/or non-inclusive in their design.
- Off-field amenities and supporting infrastructure (e.g. pavilion social spaces) are often not inclusive in design and creating barriers to attracting new participant groups, families and spectators to the game.
- Sport and government's commitment to supporting inclusive sporting initiatives (programming and facilities) that provide greater access for participants of all levels, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. **Prioritise and support the upgrade and development of facilities at sites with identified and potential female participation growth.**
2. **Prioritise and support projects that deliver diversity and inclusion outcomes.**
3. **Seek joint opportunities for cricket and winter sports to improve inclusive off-field player, umpire and spectator amenities.**
4. **Adapt industry design guidelines to educate how cricket can integrate its inclusive programs through facility design.**
5. **Highlight inclusive practices via facility design and management case studies.**



‘Providing welcoming, safe, flexible and accessible community facilities’

As a co-tenant of 98% of sites used by cricket across Victoria, the sport already considers itself a shared user of multi-purpose facilities, generally as the primary summer occupant.

Despite many clubs utilising facilities over the weekend period and weekday evenings for training activities and T20 matches, there still remains significant opportunity for local communities to share and use cricket grounds.

Traditionally cricket practice facilities have been designed and built to provide specifically for cricket's use. In recent years cricket has supported the transition from 'cricket only' training nets to multi-purpose facilities that are flexible in design and can cater for multiple uses, particularly during winter months and while not in use for cricket.

With competition for community sporting infrastructure funding currently at an all time high, there is and will continue to be an increasing need for cricket to work with its partners to share facility investment responsibilities and use of venues. This includes on-field, off-field and training facilities (both indoor and/or outdoor).

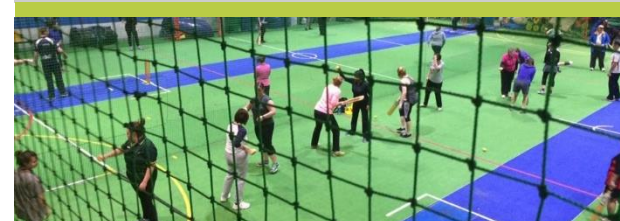
Strong partnerships with co-tenants and winter sporting codes (AFL, Soccer, Rugby and Lacrosse in particular) supported via the establishment of joint project development principles will assist in maximising use of facilities and ensuring benefits can be achieved through shared use for the mutual benefit of all.

KEY DRIVERS FOR CHANGE:

- Continuing population growth in inner urban areas and a lack of additional open space for new facilities
- Rapid population growth on Melbourne's fringe and key regional centres driving increased facility development requirements.
- Increasing competition for investment and the availability of sport specific funding.
- The limited flexibility and multi-use opportunities associated with turf pitch only grounds.
- Only a small number (2%) of cricket training net practice facilities across Victoria are considered multi-purpose in design.
- 98% of sites utilised for cricket are shared with other sports (primarily AFL and Soccer).
- There are currently very few synthetic playing fields across Victoria with capacity to accommodate cricket.

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. **Seek partnership opportunities with the education sector and local government to access and support management of cricket infrastructure at education facilities.**
2. **Promote successful design models for multi-use cricket practice facilities.**
3. **Encourage flexibility in use/design of indoor social and amenity spaces.**
4. **Research turf management practices and pitch preparation times and techniques to identify opportunities for alternate summer uses for cricket facilities.**
5. **Partner Cricket Australia, AFL/AFL Victoria, FFV and relevant LGAs to identify potential sites for shared synthetic playing fields.**
6. **Identify opportunities to provide floodlighting at select grounds to expand multi-sport event opportunities and showcase games in local communities.**





‘Catering for change and maximising partnerships’

Planning for the future and securing partnership investment is a key driver of the Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy and of Australian Cricket in general.

As a stakeholder that does not own or manage cricket facilities, Cricket Victoria is committed to proactively partnering facility owners (predominantly local government) in the sourcing and leveraging of funding and support for the cricket community. Maintaining strong partnerships and working relationships with local and state government representatives combined with the alignment of strategic planning and objectives is essential in maximising ongoing support.

Cricket Victoria has recently put measures in place toward the development and delivery of new plans and policies that will assist in the prioritisation of future infrastructure investment decisions. The recent National Cricket Facilities Audit will assist in this decision making, via the sharing of data with facility owners and users to identify key infrastructure priorities. Sharing data and information can be an easy way to identify mutual benefits and collectively highlight what is important to all stakeholders. Facility audit data and related infrastructure priorities will be reviewed and evaluated regularly as plans and priorities will be subject to change over time.

KEY DRIVERS FOR CHANGE:

- Commensurate with forecast population increases, particularly within Melbourne’s growth corridors and inner Metropolitan areas, there will be considerable demand for additional cricket grounds and supporting infrastructure.
- Introduction of Cricket Australia’s Community Facility Guidelines.
- As player safety and sports field surface suitability expectations and requirements have risen, so too has the need for quality open space for sportsground development.
- The game’s changing formats and related facility requirements.
- Cricket Australia’s National Facilities Fund and alignment of priorities.
- The need to better align with local and state government funding availability and principles of community benefit, access and multi-use.
- The need to align and adapt to the Victorian Government’s policy on shared school facility access.
- The increasing trend of sport specific partnerships being developed to enable greater shared use opportunities and mutual benefits.

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. **Continue to partner the Victorian Government to achieve ongoing dedicated funding for community cricket facilities or any initiatives where there is mutual benefit.**
2. **Collaborate with growth area Councils, State Government (and their agencies) developers and commercial partners on future cricket ground provision requirements, service guidelines and ground models to guide precinct structure planning (e.g. multi-oval sites in growth areas).**
3. **Ensure Strategy implementation through the provision of appropriate financial and human resources.**
4. **Share cricket’s detailed facility and participation data with stakeholders as evidence to the sport’s range of benefits.**
5. **Align cricket’s priorities with local and state government strategic directions, policies and funding criteria to leverage investment.**
6. **Partner local government and the cricket community to better match existing facilities with changing club needs.**
7. **Promote and communicate what infrastructure a ‘club cricket facility’ needs, and what is critical to cricket.**

DELIVERING ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The VCIS has been developed to provide strategic priorities that are practical and realistic for implementation and delivery over a 10-year timeframe.

The implementation of proposed Strategic Priorities and associated recommendations requires collective stakeholder involvement and understanding. A number of roles will need to be performed in order to deliver on the range of priorities identified, including the need to initiate, deliver and support the ongoing delivery of actions.

Key stakeholders likely to be involved in delivering strategic priorities have been identified in the following pages. Many strategic priorities will require further stakeholder consultation to ensure that their delivery can be achieved in a timely manner. To achieve this, continued collaboration between cricket, government and regional stakeholders is crucial.

State-wide Strategic Priorities have been allocated a level of priority based on their impact on delivering the desired outcomes for cricket facilities across Victoria, alignment with meeting stakeholder objectives and capacity to attract partnership investment.

The tables on the following pages provide a collective summary across each of the five Infrastructure Pillars.

A description of each priority level is provided below:
















CRITICAL - A Strategic Priority that needs to be delivered as soon as practical and without its delivery Cricket's participation is likely to be impacted, stakeholders will be effected and/or the sport is at risk of losing potential investment into community infrastructure.














HIGH - Very important Strategic Priority that underpins the development and growth of Cricket and positively drives infrastructure improvements across Victoria.

MEDIUM - Strategic Priority that contributes to meeting overall state-wide needs and objectives, and supports Cricket's stakeholders to continually deliver safe and quality infrastructure.

LOW - Strategic Priority that contributes to building knowledge across Cricket's stakeholders and contributes to supporting overall state-wide strategic objectives.

Abbreviation	Stakeholder
AFL	Australian Football League
AFLV	Australian Football League - Victoria
CA	Cricket Australia
CC	Cricket Community
CV	Cricket Victoria
DEV	Urban Developers
EDU	Education Sector
FFV	Football Federation Victoria
LGA	Local Government Authority
SG	State Government
SSAs	State Sporting Associations

1. GAME AND PRACTICE FACILITIES		Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
1.1	Provide leadership to stakeholders on facility planning, use, renewal, policy development and budgeting through utilisation of Cricket Victoria's facility and participation data.					CV, LGA, CC
1.2	Prioritise the renewal and upgrade of cricket training facilities to safe and practical guidelines.					CV, LGA, CC
1.3	Provide education on modified junior cricket formats and their flexible use of grounds and facilities.					CV, CC
1.4	Provide leadership as to the most appropriate balance of synthetic and turf pitches at community club level.					CV, CC
1.5	Prioritise the sustainable provision of turf wickets at venues that support player pathway and development initiatives.					CV, LGA, CC
1.6	Increase education on ground maintenance and turf wicket management requirements and best practices.					CV, CA
2. REGIONAL CRICKET AND COMMUNITY CENTRES						
2.1	Publish and communicate the key purpose and drivers of regional level Cricket and Community Centres.					CV
2.2	Finalise site selection and partners for proposed Regional Cricket and Community Centres across Country Victoria and Metropolitan Melbourne and partner with Local Government, State Government and commercial partners to finalise funding.					CV, LGA
2.3	Develop service guidelines and activity, business and management plans for each venue.					CV
2.4	Generate Regional Cricket and Community Centre case studies to highlight their unique characteristics and benefits.					CV
3. INCLUSIVE CRICKET						
3.1	Prioritise and support the upgrade and development of facilities at sites with identified and potential female participation growth.					CV, LGA, CC
3.2	Prioritise and support projects that deliver diversity and inclusion outcomes					CV, LGA, CC
3.3	Seek joint opportunities for cricket and winter sports to improve inclusive off-field player, umpire and spectator amenities.					CV, SSAs, LGA, CC
3.4	Adapt industry design guidelines to educate how cricket can integrate its inclusive programs through facility design.					CV
3.5	Highlight inclusive practices via facility design and management case studies.					CV

4. MULTI-USE FACILITIES		Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
4.1	Seek partnership opportunities with the education sector and local government to access and support management of cricket infrastructure at education facilities.					CV, EDU, SG, LGA
4.2	Promote successful design models for multi-use cricket practice facilities.					CV
4.3	Encourage flexibility in use/design of indoor social and amenity spaces.					CV
4.4	Research turf management practices and pitch preparation times and techniques to identify opportunities for alternate summer uses for cricket facilities.					CV
4.5	Partner Cricket Australia, AFL/AFL Victoria, FFV and relevant LGAs to identify potential sites for shared synthetic playing fields.					CV, CA, AFL, AFLV, FFV
4.6	Identify opportunities to provide floodlighting at select grounds to expand multi-sport event opportunities and showcase games in local communities.					CV, LGA, CC
5. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT						
5.1	Continue to partner the Victorian Government to achieve ongoing dedicated funding for community cricket facilities or any initiatives where there is mutual benefit.					CV, SG
5.2	Collaborate with growth area Councils, State Government (and their agencies) developers and commercial partners on future cricket ground provision requirements, service guidelines and ground models to guide precinct structure planning (e.g. multi-oval sites in growth areas).					CV, LGA, SG, DEV
5.3	Ensure strategy implementation through the provision of appropriate financial and human resources.					CV, CA
5.4	Share cricket's detailed facility and participation data with stakeholders as evidence to the sport's range of benefits.					CV
5.5	Align cricket's priorities with local and state government strategic directions, policies and funding criteria to leverage investment.					CV, LGA, SG
5.6	Partner local government and the cricket community to better match existing facilities with changing club needs.					CV, LGA, CC
5.7	Promote and communicate what infrastructure a 'club cricket facility' needs, and what is critical to cricket.					CV



8. REGIONAL SUMMARIES AND PRIORITIES - COUNTRY

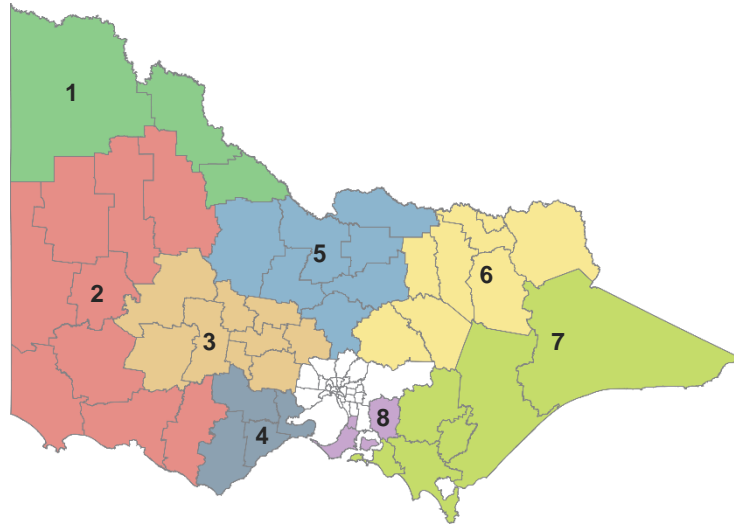


REGIONAL PRIORITY OVERVIEW

Regional summaries and priorities have been developed for each of Cricket Victoria's 16 Regions and are presented in the following order to coincide with existing regional numbering:

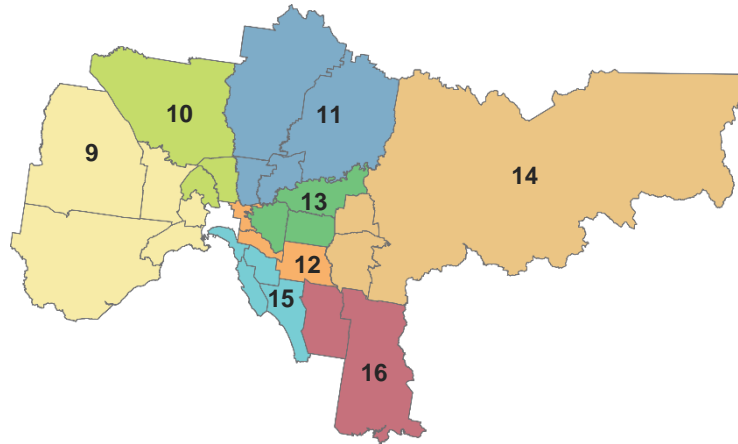
Country Regions

1. Mallee Murray
2. Western Country
3. Central Highlands
4. Barwon
5. Northern Rivers
6. North East Country
7. Gippsland
8. South East Country



Metropolitan Regions

9. West Metro
10. North West Metro
11. Northern Metro
12. Inner South East Metro
13. Inner East Metro
14. Outer East Metro
15. South East Bayside
16. Southern Metro



Regional summaries have been developed following extensive data analysis, consultation and engagement with cricket community and government representatives and from review of state-wide, metropolitan and country specific priorities.

Each Regional Summary provides a brief overview of the following:

- Regional context
- Population change implications
- Participation trends
- Facility provision summary
- Key facility findings
- Big 6 infrastructure priorities
- Strategic responses, priority level and likely stakeholder involvement

Each strategic response has been allocated a level of priority based on their impact on delivering the desired outcomes for cricket facilities within the Region and ability to contribute to meeting state-wide, country and metropolitan objectives. A description of each priority level is provided below:

CRITICAL - Action that needs to be delivered as soon as practical and without its delivery Cricket's participation is likely to be impacted, stakeholders will be effected and/or the sport is at risk of losing potential investment into community infrastructure.

HIGH - Very important action that underpins the development and growth of Cricket and positively drives infrastructure improvements across the Region.

MEDIUM - Action that contributes to meeting overall regional needs and objectives, and supports Cricket's stakeholders to continually deliver safe and quality infrastructure.

LOW - Action that contributes to building knowledge across Cricket's stakeholders and contributes to supporting a Region's Big 6 priorities.

The Mallee Murray Region's overall club membership total remained steady between 2014/15 and 2016/17, recording a minimal decrease of 18 players. 1,823 registered players partook in cub cricket programs and competitions in 2016/17 with an additional 56 introductory (2-11 years) trying their hand at the game for the first time. Female participation rose by 25 players, totalling 159 players at the completion of the 2016/17 season. 53% of The Region's participant base was aligned with associations located within Mildura Rural City Council, with the highest association membership total attached to the Sunraysia Cricket Association (709 members, 39% of the Region's player base).

Similar to several other of the State's northern Regions, the Mallee Murray Region provides a high percentage of playing fields with turf pitches (28.5% above Country Region average). This is due mainly to the more 'turf friendly' weather conditions in the north of the State, and the historic use of turf pitches to support local club competitions. Synthetic pitches are less common across the Region, with the majority of these pitches recorded as being in poor condition (25% below Country Region average) and in need of repair works or replacement.

Given this high volume of turf cricket pitches and varying land ownership/management arrangements (a mixture of local government and DELWP owned sites, often managed by volunteer committees of management) and subsequent differing approaches and responsibilities associated with turf management (e.g. funding, maintenance), a key priority for the Region, Cricket Victoria and local stakeholders will be exploring opportunities to provide greater support and education to local Councils, clubs and curators on turf pitch preparation and ongoing maintenance. Subject to future demand and demographic shifts (e.g. declining township population), a review of which venues and associated club structures are most suited to continue to sustainably provide and maintain turf pitches will be key in ensuring the Mallee Murray continues to position itself (and attract cricket events and competitions) as one of the leading Regions for quality turf pitch provision across Country Victoria.

While ensuring turf and synthetic pitches are suitable for play, and that the playing field surface is safe and promotes optimal playing conditions, off-field infrastructure is equally important. This is an area that requires priority attention across the Mallee Murray Region with only 2% of sites providing appropriate facilities for female participants and an average pavilion condition rating of 50% (16% below Country Region averages). 65% of sites across the Region provide training net facilities, and of that 65%, only 40% provide three or more training nets (Cricket Australia recommends a minimum of three training nets for a 'Community Club Home' level facility).

With Gannawarra Shire forecast to experience population decline over the next 10-15 years and minimal growth forecast for Swan Hill Rural City Council, demand for additional facilities and/or investment in facility upgrades across the Region will likely occur in and around the township of Mildura. In local areas of forecast population decline, it will be important for clubs, associations and government to work collectively, and in partnership with Cricket Victoria, to prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects that provide maximum community benefit (not just for cricket) and to ensure future club viability and facility sustainability.

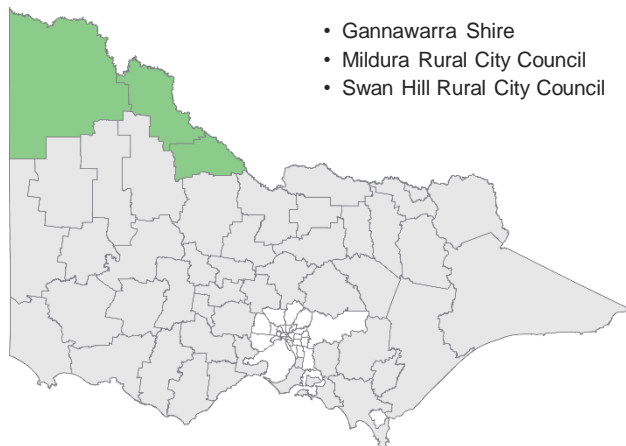
Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	1,841	1,823	-18	-1%
Introductory (2-11 years)	46	102	56	121.7%
Junior (12-17 years)	558	540	-18	-3.2%
Senior (18+ years)	1,223	1,181	-42	-3.4%
Females	134	159	25	18.7%
Female participation rate	7.3%	8.7%	1.4%	19.8%
% of overall State participation	2.2%	2.1%	-0.1%	-4.2%

SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Mallee Murray	Country Region Ave
Total # of sites	34	103
Total # of grounds	49	128
Ground to population ratio	1: 1,791	1: 1,860
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 37	1: 33
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 2,887	1: 6,119
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 5,595	1: 3,015
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	62%	33.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	32%	57%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Country Regions?		
Average synthetic pitch condition rating (centre pitch)	40%	65%
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (centre pitch)	3 years	5.9 years
Main pavilion condition rating	50%	66%
Female friendly change room provision	2%	10%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).



Key facility findings

- Regional Cricket and Community Centre being planned and developed within the Region.
- A small percentage of sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Overall condition rating of pavilion social spaces, player and umpire amenities is significantly below the Country Region average.
- Two thirds of sites across the Region currently provide training net facilities.
- Above average turf pitch provision rate (30% above Country Region average).
- Only 16 of the Region's 49 cricket fields provide synthetic pitches. The average condition rating of these 16 synthetic pitches is 40% (25% below Country Region average).
- Population decline forecast for two LGA areas within the Region.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised pavilion upgrade and renewal plans.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to identify those 'Community Club Home' cricket grounds without training nets and develop training net facilities in consultation with clubs.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic cricket pitches.					CV, LGA, CC
Capitalise on the Region's strong turf cricket pitch provision by advocating for the hosting of competitions, events and programs.					CV, CC
In areas of forecast population decline, prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects to ensure future club and facility sustainability.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



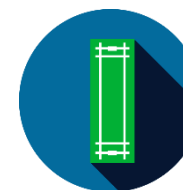
Improve pavilion and change room facilities and supporting amenities



Increase training net provision levels for 'Community Club Home' venues



Promote high level of turf pitch provision across the Region



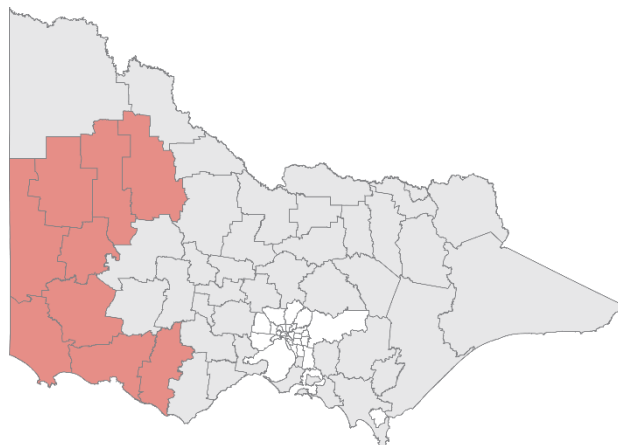
Improve condition of synthetic cricket pitches

Despite participation figures falling by two players between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 seasons, the Western Country Region is one of the more established and stable Country Regions across the State. With a player to population penetration rate almost double that of Cricket Victoria's Country Region average (3.19% compared with 1.88%) and the second highest female participant base across the State, including Metro Regions (333 total, 109 additional players between 2014/15 and 2016/17), cricket in the west of the State is thriving relative to modest population growth. In a further positive for the Region, both introductory and junior player category numbers increased from 2014/15 with the only decrease being in the male senior category (-27).

The Warrnambool (1,149) and Hamilton District (811) Cricket Associations combined contribute 42% of the Region's overall player base, with Warrnambool City Council (868), Moyne (739) and Southern Grampians Shires (596) the highest cricket participating areas across the Region.

The level and type of (turf/synthetic pitch) playing fields used for cricket across the Region is considered to be above average provision, suggesting the current volume of facilities is adequate (subject to localised demand pressures) and that short-medium term facility planning and development priorities should be concentrated on improving the condition and carrying capacity of existing cricket venues (e.g. female friendly facilities, umpire change rooms and supporting amenities, improved pavilion condition).

As highlighted on the following page, key infrastructure priorities for the Region include delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre, the utilisation of National Facilities Audit data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for player and umpire change rooms and supporting amenities as well as training nets and centre synthetic pitches. Managing the current use and carrying capacity levels of existing playing fields (current player to ground ratio above Country Region average, particularly within the City of Warrnambool) and prioritising investment in ground maintenance at high traffic sites likely to provide the greatest participation opportunities and outcomes for cricket is also a key priority for the Region.



- Buloke Shire
- Corangamite Shire
- Glenelg Shire
- Hindmarsh Shire
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Moyne Shire
- Southern Grampians Shire
- Warrnambool City Council
- West Wimmera Shire
- Yarriambiack Shire

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	4,715	4,713	-2	-0.04%
Introductory (2-11 years)	267	273	6	2.3%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,338	1,372	34	2.5%
Senior (18+ years)	3,093	3,066	-27	-0.9%
Females	224	333	109	48.7%
Female participation rate	4.8%	7.1%	2.3%	48.7%
% of overall State participation	5.56%	5.40%	-0.2%	-2.9%







SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Western Country	Country Region Ave
Total # of sites	115	103
Total # of grounds	130	128
Ground to population ratio	1: 1,127	1: 1,860
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 36	1: 33
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 3,884	1: 6,119
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 1,696	1: 3,015
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	29%	33.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	66%	57%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Country Regions?		
Female friendly change room provision	6%	10%
Average training net synthetic pitch lifespan	6 years	6.6 years
Umpire change room provision	28%	31%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).

Key facility findings

- Regional Cricket and Community Centre being planned and developed within the Region.
- A small percentage of sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- The number of playing fields providing umpire change rooms and supporting amenities is below the Country Region average.
- Below average lifespan of training net surfaces (six years).
- Above average ground to player ratio (1:36) for Country Regions.
- Minimal population growth forecast (and in some cases decline) for several municipalities within the Region.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for umpire change rooms and supporting amenities.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic practice facilities.					CV, LGA, CC
Support land owners/managers to manage the carrying capacity of existing playing fields with high use through education and resourcing.					CV
In areas of forecast population decline, prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects to ensure future club and facility sustainability.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve condition of umpire change rooms facilities and supporting amenities



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



Increase support and education in playing field surface management



Prioritise infrastructure development and renewal in alignment with population change

Despite recording a healthy rise of 81 additional female cricket participants between 2014/15 and 2016/17, the Central Highlands Region experienced a 5.4% decrease in overall club participant numbers. The majority of this decline fell within the male senior (18+ years) age cohort (-189). While participation numbers within the introductory age cohort (2-11 years) fell by 56 from 2014/15, the Region's total number of 2-11 year olds (349) engaged in club cricket programs during the 2016/17 season was the fourth highest total across Cricket Victoria's eight Country Regions. This, combined with the Region's slightly lower than average male and female ages of 26 and 16 respectively indicates opportunity for the Region to address the recent downward curve in participation and stabilise the local club cricket environment into the future. 39% of the Region's participant base (1,756) are affiliated with the Ballarat Cricket Association and 26% the Gisborne and District Cricket Association (1,156).

With minimal population growth forecast for the majority of the Region's Council areas (in some instances population decline), demand for additional facilities across the Region will likely be heightened in and around the township of Ballarat and to a lesser extent the Shires of Moorabool and Macedon Ranges. In areas of forecast population decline (or minimal growth), it will be important for local clubs, associations and government to work collectively and in partnership with Cricket Victoria to prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects (versus the development of new infrastructure) that provide maximum community benefit (not just for cricket).

As highlighted on the following page, key infrastructure related priorities for the Central Highlands Region include improving the condition of player change rooms and supporting amenities (to further foster and support the growth of female cricket), improving the condition, safety and suitability of training nets and centre synthetic pitches and looking at potential opportunities to increase turf pitch provision (12.5% below Country Region average provision level) across the Region.

Providing greater support and education opportunities to local clubs and volunteer curators on turf pitch preparation and maintenance will also be important with all but four of the Region's current turf pitch grounds managed by volunteers. Converting existing synthetic or developing new turf pitch playing fields should be subject to demand, financial capacity of club/land owner/manager to maintain, competition structures and in consultation with land owners and/or managers, Cricket Victoria and local cricket stakeholders.

The delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to service the Region is another key focus area for Cricket Victoria and the Central Highlands cricket community.

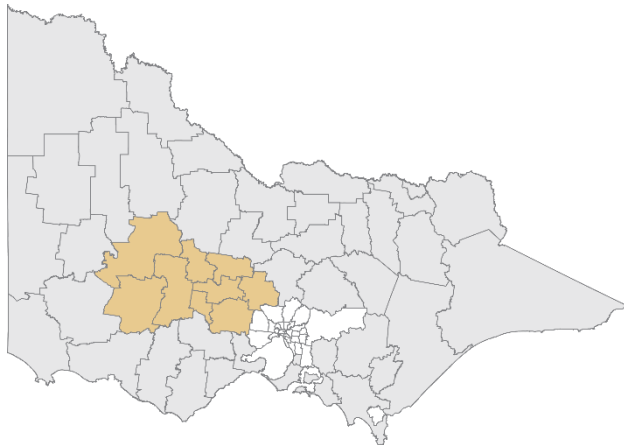
Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 – 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	4,743	4,489	-254	-5.4%
Introductory (2-11 years)	405	349	-56	-13.8%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,503	1,499	-4	-0.3%
Senior (18+ years)	2,829	2,640	-189	-6.7%
Females	139	220	81	58.3%
Female participation rate	2.9%	4.9%	2%	67.2%
% of overall State participation	5.6%	5.15%	-0.45%	-8.1%

SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Central Highlands	Country Region Ave
Total # of sites	125	103
Total # of grounds	143	128
Ground to population ratio	1: 1,677	1: 1,860
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 31	1: 33
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 7,899	1: 6,119
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 2,332	1: 3,015
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	21%	33.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	72%	57%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Country Regions?		
Training nets identified as presenting potential safety issues	52%	42%
Female friendly change room provision	7%	10%
% of grounds with centre synthetic pitch <2.4m	79%	73%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).



- Ararat Rural City Council
- Ballarat City Council
- Central Goldfields Shire
- Hepburn Shire
- Macedon Ranges Shire
- Moorabool Shire
- Mount Alexander Shire
- Northern Grampians
- Pyrenees Shire

Key facility findings

- Regional Cricket and Community Centre currently under construction in Ballarat.
- A small percentage of sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- 52% of training net facilities across the Region were assessed as presenting potential safety issues for users (10% above Country Region average).
- High percentage of turf pitches across the Region are managed by local club volunteers.
- Lower than average turf pitch provision rate (13% below Country Region average).
- Minimal population growth forecast for several municipalities within the Region.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic practice facilities.					CV, LGA, CC
Increased support and education to assist with turf pitch preparation and ongoing maintenance requirements.					CV
Assess the suitability and current balance of synthetic and turf cricket pitches in-line with future demand, competition structure and financial capacity of tenant club/facility owners and in consultation with key stakeholders.					CV, LGA, CC
In areas of forecast population decline, prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects to ensure future club and facility sustainability.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



Increase support and education in turf pitch management



Assess the suitability of the current balance of synthetic and turf pitch provision



Prioritise infrastructure development and renewal in alignment with population change

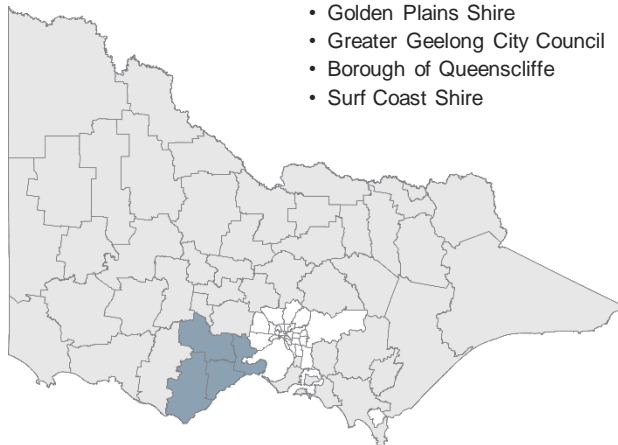
Despite the Region's 3.6% decrease (-214) in overall club and community cricketers between 2014/15 and 2016/17, Barwon is Victoria's highest participating Country Region. A large percentage of this participation (63%) falls within the City of Greater Geelong (Geelong Cricket Association and Geelong Junior Cricket Association account for 72% of the Region's overall participant base), however well established and stable competitions exist across all five Region LGA areas and corresponding associations.

The majority of the Region's participation is aligned with two age cohorts, 10-14 years (1,403/24.5%) and 20-39 years (2,146/37.5%). This participation profile is consistent with state-wide trends with the average male player being aged 26 and female 18 years. Local associations provide a combination of two day, one day and modified cricket competitions and programs on both turf and synthetic pitch grounds, providing a suite of opportunities for local cricketers of all levels and abilities. The youth girls' cricket competition in Geelong has grown to 10 clubs during the current 2017/18 season following a successful first season in 2016/17. The growth of this competition will likely result in a rise in female participation across the Region, a key priority for Cricket Victoria and local cricket stakeholders.

The Barwon Cricket Region plays host to the Geelong Cricket Club, one of Cricket Victoria's 18 Premier Cricket Clubs. The Geelong Cricket Club is based at the Geelong Cricket Ground, Kardinia Park. This facility is the Region's premier cricket venue and attracts players and competitions from all over Victoria.

The Barwon Region's unique demographic profile will require a 'Regional goals with local level solutions' approach to future facility planning and development given strong forecast population growth (and likely demand for additional facilities) in only one of the five LGA areas (City of Greater Geelong). As highlighted on the following page, other key facility priorities for the Region (in addition to state-wide infrastructure priorities) include a more strategic approach to turf pitch provision, delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre and the utilisation of National Facilities Audit data to develop upgrade, renewal and replacement plans for training net facilities and centre synthetic pitches.

- Colac Otway Shire
- Golden Plains Shire
- Greater Geelong City Council
- Borough of Queenscliffe
- Surf Coast Shire



Region Participation Trends
(Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	5,932	5,718	-214	-3.6%
Introductory (2-11 years)	602	476	-126	-20.9%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,665	1,752	87	5.2%
Senior (18+ years)	3,659	3,489	-170	-4.7%
Females	76	98	22	29%
Female participation rate	1.3%	1.7%	0.4%	33.8%
% of overall State participation	7%	6.55%	-0.45%	-6.4%







SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Barwon	Country Region Ave
Total # of sites	108	103
Total # of grounds	154	128
Ground to population ratio	1: 1,981	1: 1,860
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 37	1: 33
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 8,530	1: 6,119
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 2,647	1: 3,015
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	23%	33.5%
2016 synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	75%	57%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Country Regions?		
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (centre pitch)	4.4 years	5.9 years
Training nets identified as presenting potential safety issues	59%	42%
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (training nets)	4.2 years	6.6 years

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).

Key facility findings

- Regional Cricket and Community Centre being planned and developed within the Region.
- 90% of the Region's turf pitch provision falls within the City of Greater Geelong.
- 59% of training net facilities across the Region were assessed as presenting potential safety issues for users (17% above Country Region average).
- Below average lifespan of training net (four years) and main centre pitch surfaces (four years).
- Above average Country Region ground to player ratio (1:38).
- There is a mixture of growing and declining population areas across the Region.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Outside of the City of Greater Geelong, assess the suitability and balance of synthetic and turf cricket pitches in-line with future demand, competition structure and financial capacity of tenant club/facility owners and in consultation with key stakeholders.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic practice facilities.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic centre cricket pitches.					CV, LGA, CC
Support land owners/managers to manage the carrying capacity of existing playing fields with high use through education and resourcing.					CV
Plan for new cricket playing field developments and supporting infrastructure in growth areas across the Region (e.g. Armstrong Creek). In areas forecast to experience population decline (Colac Otway Shire and the Borough of Queenscliff) prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects to ensure future club and facility sustainability.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



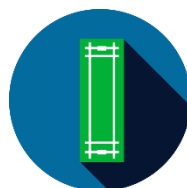
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Assess the suitability of the current balance of synthetic and turf pitch provision



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



Improve condition of synthetic cricket pitches



Increase support and education in playing field surface management



Prioritise infrastructure development and renewal in alignment with population change

The Northern Rivers Cricket Region adjoins the Northern Metro Region and includes two of the State's major Regional Centres, Bendigo and Shepparton. The Region's population is forecast to grow by approximately 90,000 people to 2031 (31% increase), with the majority of this growth forecast within the Mitchell Shire growth area (+41,631). Minimal forecast population growth is forecast for the Region's remaining LGA areas, with the Loddon Shire forecast to decline by approximately 550 local residents.

Participation levels across the Region rose by 1.3% between 2014/15 and 2016/17 (+68), with the largest increase within the senior age cohort of 18+ years and the only decline (-11) occurring in the introductory (2-11 years) category. The Region's 2016/17 club participant total of 5,412 was the second highest Country Region total across the State. Growth in female cricket has been a little more subdued across the Northern Rivers Region, with 15 additional females taking to the field between 2014/15 and 2016/17 (109 total).

From an infrastructure planning and development perspective, the Region's current ground to population ratio of 1: 1,641 is above the Country Region average of 1:1,860 (ground to player ratio of 1:30 is also below average indicating that at a regional level, grounds are not at full capacity and have potential for greater use) which on face value would suggest no short-mid term need for additional grounds across the Region. However, forecast to be the second fastest growing Region across Country Victoria (behind South East Country which includes the LGA areas of Frankston and Mornington Peninsula) will place increased pressure on the carrying capacity of existing fields and supporting infrastructure and furthermore the need to develop additional playing fields (particularly those with synthetic pitches as current provision ratio below Country Region average). Planning for this future growth and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with localised population hot spots (58% of the Region's population will reside within the LGA areas of Bendigo and Mitchell by 2031) will be important for future growth and sustainability of cricket across the Region.

In addition to planning for population growth, other key priorities for the Northern Rivers Region (in addition to state-wide facility planning directions) include monitoring the number of turf pitches across the Region to ensure that resources invested in preparation and maintenance is sustainable (46% of pitches are turf surfaces, 12.5% above Country Region average. This is however a point of difference for the Region and an opportunity for it to position itself as a turf competition/event destination), increasing the number of synthetic pitches, utilising National Facilities Audit data to develop training net and change room upgrade and renewal programs (65% of nets currently considered to present safety issues, 23% above Country Region average and only 11% of the 57% of venues which provide change room facilities provide female friendly change rooms and supporting amenities). The delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to service the Region is another key focus area for Cricket Victoria and the Northern Rivers cricket community.

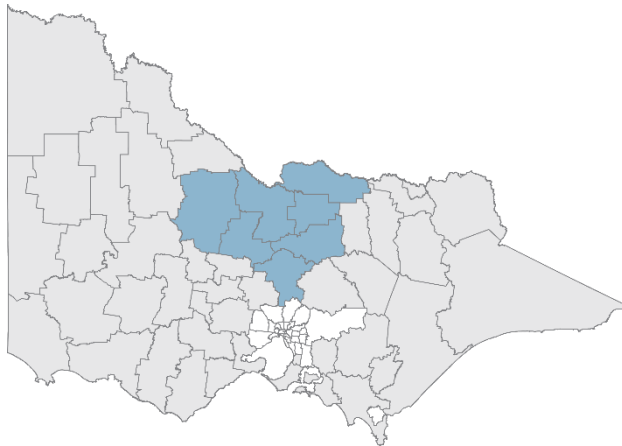
Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	5,344	5,412	68	1.3%
Introductory (2-11 years)	540	529	-11	-2%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,696	1,729	33	2%
Senior (18+ years)	3,077	3,153	76	2.5%
Females	94	109	15	16%
Female participation rate	1.8%	2%	0.2%	14.5%
% of overall State participation	6.3%	6.2%	-0.1%	-1.7%

SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Northern Rivers	Country Region Ave
Total # of sites	151	103
Total # of grounds	181	128
Ground to population ratio	1: 1,641	1: 1,860
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 30	1: 33
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 3,579	1: 6,119
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 4,791	1: 3,015
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	46%	33.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	35%	57%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Country Regions?		
Training nets identified as presenting potential safety issues	65%	42%
Playing fields with change room facility provision	57%	67%
Average playing field condition rating	69%	75%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).



- Campaspe Shire
- Greater Bendigo City Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Loddon Shire
- Mitchell Shire
- Moira Shire
- Strathbogie Shire

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Access to additional traditional synthetic pitch playing fields (e.g. within schools, identification of sites for new facility development). The Mitchell Shire and City of Greater Bendigo will be key focus areas for increased provision due to strong forecast population growth over the next 10-15 years.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic practice facilities.					CV, LGA, CC
Capitalise on the Region's strong turf cricket pitch provision by advocating for the hosting of competitions, events and programs.					CV, CC
In areas of forecast population decline, prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects to ensure future club and facility sustainability.					CV, LGA, CC

Key facility findings

- Regional Cricket and Community Centre being planned and developed within the Region.
- Below average synthetic pitch provision rate (22% below Country Region average).
- A small percentage of sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- 65% of training net facilities across the Region were assessed as presenting potential safety issues for users (23% above the Country Region average).
- Above average turf pitch provision rate (13% above Country Region average).
- Minimal population growth forecast for several municipalities within the Region.

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Increased number of and improved condition of synthetic pitches



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



Promote high level of turf pitch provision across the Region



Prioritise infrastructure development and renewal in alignment with population change

Despite recording the lowest overall 2016/17 Region participation figure across the State (1,261), the North East Country Region recorded a 5.2% increase (+62) in club participants from 2014/15 totals. Both introductory (+39) and junior (+31) participation categories increased, while senior male participants was the only player category to decrease (-7). In undoubtedly the most positive participation statistic for the Region, female participation increased by 40 players, a 95% increase from 2014/15.

Future demand for additional cricket infrastructure will likely occur within the Cities of Wodonga, which is forecast to grow by 12,715 people to 2031 (approximately 75% of the Region's overall growth) and Wangaratta which produced 1,063 participants during the 2016/17 season. The provision of additional synthetic pitches/conversion of existing turf pitches to synthetic pitches is a key priority for the Region. Consultation with the Albury Wodonga Cricket Association (Region's largest association) identified a significant shortfall in synthetic pitches to accommodate junior competitions and schools programs. This is supported by the Region's current synthetic pitch to population ratio being two and half times higher (1: 7,495) than the Country Region average provision ratio of one synthetic pitch per 3,015 people. This challenge is due mainly to the Region's high level of turf pitch playing fields, which although providing the Region with a point of difference and the capacity to attract regional and state turf competitions and events, also lowers the programming capacity for club/school competitions and programs, particularly junior formats.

The Region's current ground to population ratio of 1; 2,326 is lower than the Country Region average of one ground per 1,860 residents, however the actual player to ground ratio of 1: 22 is significantly lower than average. This suggests the existing number of grounds from a Regional perspective is adequate (and in some of the smaller more rural townships where population figures are declining there is overprovision), and that there is carrying capacity at existing venues for greater programming (Albury-Wodonga and Wangaratta the exception to this with healthy participation and forecast population growth across the cities).

Facility upgrade and renewal and the potential consolidation of facilities in smaller, declining areas (e.g. Towong Shire) may also become necessary to ensure future club and facility sustainability.

In addition to reviewing the existing pitch surface provision levels and seeking a greater turf to synthetic pitch balance, other key infrastructure priorities for the North East Country Region include utilising National Facilities Audit data to develop prioritised player (and umpire) change room facility upgrades (only 54% of sites provide change room facilities, 13% below Country Region average) ensuring they are inclusive in design and female friendly (currently 5% of venues provide female friendly facilities), increasing the number of 'Community Club Home' venues with training nets (only two thirds of sites across the Region provide training nets) and delivering and activating a regional level Cricket and Community Centre for the state's north east.

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	1,199	1,261	62	5.2%
Introductory (2-11 years)	117	156	39	33.3%
Junior (12-17 years)	483	514	31	6.4%
Senior (18+ years)	597	590	-7	-1.2%
Females	42	82	40	95.2%
Female participation rate	3.5%	6.5%	3%	85.6%
% of overall State participation	1.4%	1.45%	0.05%	3.2%

SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	North East Country	Country Region Ave
Total # of sites	54	103
Total # of grounds	57	128
Ground to population ratio	1: 2,326	1: 1,860
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 22	1: 33
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 4,818	1: 6,119
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 7,495	1: 3,015
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	50%	33.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	32%	57%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Country Regions?		
Female friendly change room provision	5%	10%
Playing fields with change room facility provision	54%	67%
Training net provision at playing field	65%	70%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).



- Alpine Shire
- Benalla Rural City Council
- Indigo Shire
- Mansfield Shire
- Murrindindi Shire
- Towong Shire
- Wangaratta Rural City Council
- Wodonga Rural City Council

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Access to additional traditional synthetic pitch playing fields (e.g. within schools, identification of sites for new facility development). The Albury/Wodonga area is a key focus area for increased future synthetic pitch provision.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to identify those 'Community Club Home' cricket grounds without change room facilities and develop facilities in consultation with clubs.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to identify those 'Community Club Home' cricket grounds without training nets and develop training net facilities in consultation with clubs.					CV, LGA, CC
Capitalise on the Region's strong turf cricket pitch provision by advocating for the hosting of competitions, events and programs.					CV, CC

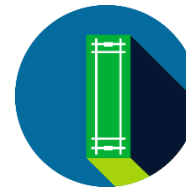
Key facility findings

- Regional Cricket and Community Centre being planned and developed within the Region.
- Under provision of playing fields with synthetic cricket pitch surfaces across the Region (25% below Country Region average).
- A small percentage of sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Below average change room facility provision (54% of all sites - 13% below Country Region average).
- Two thirds of sites across the Region currently provide training net facilities.
- Above average turf pitch provision rate (17% above Country Region average).

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Increased number of and improved condition of synthetic pitches



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Increased change room facilities and supporting amenities provision



Increase training net provision levels for 'Community Club Home' venues



Promote high level of turf pitch provision across the Region

The Gippsland Cricket Region was one of only four Country Regions to surpass 5,000 club participants at the completion of the 2016/17 season. Increases in all player categories were recorded with the exception of female participants, contrasting the state-wide trend of an increasing female player base. Despite increasing by 2.9% (+142 players), the Region's increase of only 41 players aged 2-17 years is a statistic local clubs, associations and the cricket community will be aiming to increase to ensure the Region stabilises itself as one of the higher participating Country Regions into the future. The majority of this participation is centred within Baw Baw (928), Latrobe (965) and Wellington (912), with this trend and demand for improved infrastructure forecast to continue, commensurate with population growth. The Region's five largest associations at the completion of the 2016/17 season included Sale-Maffra (864), Leongatha and District (838), Bairnsdale (811), Warragul and District (757) and Central Gippsland (743) Cricket Associations.

The Region's total of 168 grounds is a significantly higher number than the Country Region average (128), meaning provision levels for both synthetic and turf pitch playing fields are also high. The Region's current mix of turf (30.5%) and synthetic (63.5%) is consistent with state-wide and Country Region averages, indicating existing provision levels across the Region as a whole is adequate, however localised pressures for additional playing fields in growing townships and LGA areas such as the Baw Baw Shire will continue.

While continuing to improve and maintain playing fields and centre turf/synthetic pitches (and planning for growth in townships forecast to experience population increases) will be important for the Region moving forward, the condition and provision levels of off-field infrastructure across the Region is of equal, if not more importance. Only 2% of change room facilities across the Region were assessed as being inclusive in design and female friendly. The condition rating of player (50%) and umpire (40%) change room facilities for both genders and pavilion social spaces are significantly below Country Region averages.



Utilising National Facilities Audit data to develop training net upgrade and renewal plans is also a key priority for the Region, with the average training net pitch surface lifespan of six years lower than average.

The delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to service the large footprint of the Region is another key focus area for Cricket Victoria and the Gippsland cricket community.

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	4,882	5,024	142	2.9%
Introductory (2-11 years)	300	318	18	6%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,324	1,347	23	1.7%
Senior (18+ years)	3,205	3,356	151	4.7%
Females	205	202	-3	-1.5%
Female participation rate	4.2%	4%	-0.2%	-4.3%
% of overall State participation	5.76%	5.76%	0%	0%







SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Gippsland	Country Region Ave
Total # of sites	137	103
Total # of grounds	168	128
Ground to population ratio	1: 1,577	1: 1,860
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 30	1: 33
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 5,156	1: 6,119
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 2,482	1: 3,015
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	30.5%	33.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	63.5%	57%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Country Regions?		
Female friendly change room provision	2%	10%
Condition rating of umpire facilities	40%	59%
Condition of player change room facilities and supporting amenities	50%	63%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).

Key facility findings

- Regional Cricket and Community Centre being planned and developed within the Region.
- A small percentage of sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Overall condition rating of pavilion social spaces, player and umpire amenities is significantly below the Metropolitan average.
- High percentage of turf pitches across the Region are managed by local club volunteers.
- Below average lifespan of training net (six years) and main centre pitch surfaces (five years).
- Minimal population growth forecast for several municipalities within the Region.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised pavilion upgrade and renewal plans.					CV, LGA, CC
Increased support and education to assist with turf pitch preparation and ongoing maintenance requirements. Key focus areas include East Gippsland, Wellington and Latrobe Councils who collectively contribute 41 of the Region's 52 turf pitches.					CV
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic training nets and centre pitches.					CV, LGA, CC
In areas of forecast population decline, prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects to ensure future club and facility sustainability.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve pavilion and change room facilities and supporting amenities



Increase support and education in turf pitch management



Improve condition of synthetic pitches and practice facilities



Prioritise infrastructure development and renewal in alignment with population change

The South East Country Region is one of Victoria's more unique 'Country' Regions. Its make-up of Frankston City Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire and the Cardinia Shire growth area result in it being the State's fastest growing Country Region, and subsequently the Region most in need of additional cricket playing fields and supporting infrastructure.

With 5,403 club participants in season 2016/17, The South East Country Region was the third highest participating Country Region across Victoria. An additional 249 players took to the field in 2016/17 than 2014/15, an increase of 4.8%. In an even more pleasing statistic for the Region, all of this growth was attributed to either female participants (+64/+47.4%) or players from the introductory (+127) and junior (+152) player categories. Senior male participation was the only player category to decrease (-1%), however overall participation figures in this category remain strong at 2,984. 30% of the Region's player base is aged 10-14 years, 6% above the Country Region average.

A key future infrastructure priority for the South East Country Region will be gaining access to additional playing fields (either existing venues that are underutilised or the development of new facilities) for cricket to support the high forecast population growth (as evidenced by current provision ratios in adjacent table). When applying Cricket's National provision ratio average of 1: 3,300, the South East Country Region will require access to an estimated minimum 10 additional cricket grounds by 2031. While increasing the number of playing fields with synthetic pitches will be important in catering for the Region's high level of junior participants, there will likely also be demand for additional turf pitch playing fields as cricket broadens its footprint across the Region's expanding population (current turf pitch provision 28.5% below Country Region average). Future turf pitch developments need to be financially viable and sustainable (long-term commitment and capacity of land owner/manager and/or tenant club/s to prepare and maintain), be in alignment with competition structure/s and only be installed following consultation with Cricket Victoria, local clubs, associations, land owners and/or managers.

Other key priorities for the South East Country Region include improving off-field amenities including player and umpire change rooms (only 14% of facilities provide female friendly facilities), utilising National Facilities Audit data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for training nets (58% of training nets were identified as presenting potential safety issues and only 63% of sites provide training net facilities – both below Country Region averages).

The delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to service the Region is another key focus area for Cricket Victoria and the State's south east cricket community.

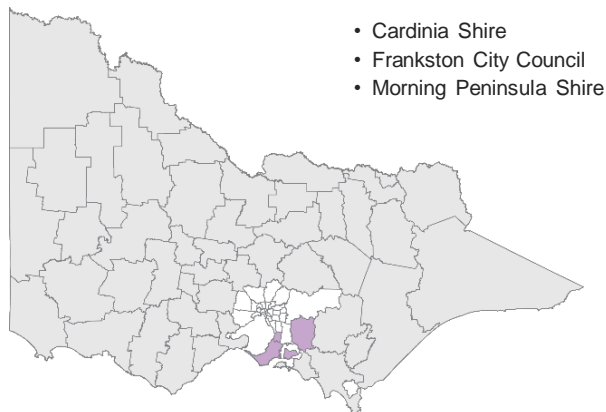
Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	5,154	5,403	249	4.8%
Introductory (2-11 years)	680	807	127	18.7%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,458	1,610	152	10.4%
Senior (18+ years)	3,015	2,984	-31	-1%
Females	135	199	64	47.4%
Female participation rate	2.6%	3.7%	1.1%	40.6%
% of overall State participation	6.1%	6.20%	0.1%	1.8%

SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	South East Country	Country Region Ave
Total # of sites	98	103
Total # of grounds	141	128
Ground to population ratio	1: 2,761	1: 1,860
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 38	1: 33
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 48,665	1: 6,119
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 3,507	1: 3,015
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	5.5%	33.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	79%	57%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Country Regions?		
Training nets identified as presenting potential safety issues	58%	42%
Training net provision at playing field	63%	70%
% of grounds with centre synthetic pitch <2.4m	81%	73%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).



Key facility findings

- Regional Cricket and Community Centre being planned and developed within the Region.
- A small percentage of sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Higher than average population and player to ground ratios (turf and synthetic). The Region is forecast to grow by 110,000 people between 2016 and 2031. Of this population growth, approximately 8,500 residents will be aged between 10 and 14 years (Cricket's 'sweet spot' for participation) with the majority of this growth occurring in the Cardinia Shire.
- The condition of cricket site's main pavilion, player facilities (e.g. change rooms and supporting amenities) and umpire facilities across the South East Country Region all fall below the Country Region condition average.
- 58% of training net facilities across the Region were assessed as presenting potential safety issues for users (16% above the Country Region average).
- Lower than average turf pitch provision rate (28% below Country Region average).
- 63% of sites across the Region currently provide training net facilities.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Access to additional traditional synthetic pitch playing fields (e.g. within schools, identification of sites for new facility development).					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised pavilion upgrade and renewal plans.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic practice facilities.					CV, LGA, CC
Assess the suitability and current balance of synthetic and turf cricket pitches in-line with future demand, competition structure and financial capacity of tenant club/facility owners and in consultation with key stakeholders.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to identify those 'Community Club Home' cricket grounds without training nets and develop training net facilities in consultation with clubs.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Access to additional playing fields in-line with population growth and participation needs



Improve pavilion and change room facilities and supporting amenities



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



Assess the suitability of the current balance of synthetic and turf pitch provision





9. REGIONAL SUMMARIES AND PRIORITIES - METRO



The Western Metro Region is cricket's fastest growing participation Region across Victoria. 645 additional players (approximately 60 more teams) registered between the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons, 200 more than any other Region across the State during the same period. Growth in membership was experienced across all traditional player categories (introductory, junior and senior) as well as 74 additional female players, taking total female participation figures to just over 200.

Wyndham (2,294), Brimbank (1,612), and Hobsons Bay (1,026) were the the largest participating areas across the Region following the 2016/17 season, with the Western Region Junior (1,852), Victorian Turf (1,621) and Western Suburbs Churches and Community Cricket (1,426) Associations the largest competitions.

The Region's strong forecast population growth, particularly within the growth area Councils of Wyndham and Melton, will see increased pressure placed on existing facility capacity and in turn high demand for additional facilities. Approximately 31,000 additional 10-14 year olds (cricket's age cohort participation 'sweet spot') are forecast to reside within the Region, presenting significant opportunity for cricket to further broaden its footprint across this growing area and become the sport of choice for young players during the summer season. When applying Cricket's National provision ratio average of 1: 3,300, the West Metro Region will require access to an estimated 100 plus additional cricket grounds by 2031 (assuming demand for cricket aligns with population growth).

The rise of mid-season cricket or 'winter cricket' is expanding and more pronounced across western Metropolitan Melbourne, due mainly to the high proportion of sub-continent residents. While this extension to the summer version of the sport is strongly supported by Cricket Victoria, and key to the game's continued growth and sustainability, it does present significant facility access issues, with synthetic pitches more often than not covered from April through to September to service winter sporting codes.

Designing new playing fields in partnership with winter sporting codes (e.g. AFL, Soccer, Rugby) that enable synthetic pitches to remain uncovered during the winter is a key priority for cricket in the west.

National Facility Audit analysis identified West Metro as one of the highest performing Regions in terms of overall facility provision, condition and design indicating Councils and cricket stakeholders are responding well to, and implementing Cricket Australia's recently released Community Cricket Facility Guidelines.

In addition to working closely with facility managers, state sporting bodies and local stakeholders on the planning and development of new facilities across the Region, other key priorities include monitoring the demand for additional turf pitch playing fields as new clubs and competition structures expand, delivering and activating a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to service the west, continuing to implement best practice in facility design that promotes inclusiveness and strategically allocating new facility developments to appropriate club structures (those that optimise facility usage).

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	6,347	6,992	645	10.2%
Introductory (2-11 years)	870	1,011	141	16.2%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,436	1,632	196	13.6%
Senior (18+ years)	4,030	4,345	315	7.8%
Females	127	201	74	58.3%
Female participation rate	2%	2.9%	0.9%	43.7%
% of overall State participation	7.5%	8%	0.5%	6.9%

SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	West Metro	Metro Region Ave
Total # of sites	122	109
Total # of grounds	185	156
Ground to population ratio	1: 3,995	1: 3,345
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 38	1: 43
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 11,548	1: 12,227
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 6,907	1: 5,464
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	35%	27.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	58%	60%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Metro Regions?		
Umpire change room facility provision	44%	52%
Playing fields with player change room facility provision	66%	70%
Playing field condition rating	68%	71%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).



- Brimbank City Council
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Melton City Council
- Wyndham City Council

Key facility findings

- High forecast population growth within the Region, particularly the municipalities of Wyndham and Melton to 2031. Of this population growth, approximately 31,000 residents will be aged between 10 and 14 years (Cricket's 'sweet spot' for participation). This is the highest number of additional 10-14 year olds per Region across Victoria.
- High level demand for 12 month access to playing fields for cricket (e.g. mid-season/winter cricket).
- No existing Regional Cricket and Community Centre within the Region.
- Turf pitch ground to player provision ratio will drop below Metropolitan average if no further turf pitches developed over the next 10 years.
- Likely demand for the establishment of new cricket clubs (and need for additional facilities) in growth areas across the Region.
- Significant cricket facility planning and development scheduled across the Region.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Access to additional traditional synthetic pitch playing fields (e.g. within schools, identification of sites for new facility development).					CV, LGA, CC
Partner with Growth Councils and developers on the planning and provision of new facilities to cater for forecast population growth.					CV, LGA, CC
Where possible, design and development of new multi-purpose playing fields should allow for synthetic cricket pitches to remain uncovered during winter (without limiting or impeding on winter usage).					CV, LGA, CC
Subject to Cricket Victoria's current Metropolitan Zone Review, deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Subject to future demand and in alignment with current Cricket Victoria Metropolitan structure review, investigate opportunities to increase centre turf pitch provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Ensure the most efficient club to ground allocation is investigated when developing and allocating new cricket fields to existing/establishing clubs. This will ensure new facilities are used to their optimal capacity and not underutilised by smaller clubs / clubs not offering a broad range of cricket programs and competitions.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise Cricket Australia's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines and Victorian Cricket Infrastructure Strategy to inform planning and ensure best practice and fit for purpose facilities are developed in the future.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Access to additional playing fields in-line with population growth and participation needs



Support access to synthetic cricket pitches year round (based on demand)



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Consider increased turf pitch provision across the Region subject to current Metropolitan structure review



Ensure new facility developments are used to their optimal capacity



Best practice facility development for new facilities in growth areas

The North West Metro Region recorded a 2.9% increase (+161) in overall cricket participation between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 seasons. While this figure is not as high as that experienced across some of the other Metropolitan Regions, North West Metro is one of the more stable and rounded (healthy spread of participation across all player categories) Regions across the State. Female participation increased by 83 players between 2014/15 and 2016/17 totalling 281 players (fourth highest Region total across the State) and mirroring the strong growth in female cricket with the neighbouring Region, Northern Metro.

The Region comprises of three well-established local government areas including Moreland, Moonee Valley and Melbourne City Councils, as well as one of the Victoria's fastest growing municipalities, Hume City Council. Priorities and the capacity for future facility upgrade and development will differ between these two contrasting Council types, with the landlocked nature and lack of green open space limiting opportunity for new facility development within the more established local communities of Moreland, Moonee Valley and Melbourne.

Building the capacity of existing cricket venues via fit for purpose on and off-field infrastructure, adequately resourced ground maintenance programs, innovative design and management practices (e.g. scheduling of matches) and access to non-traditional playing field types (e.g. schools, universities) are several strategies considered critical for landlocked Councils to successfully harness and cater for cricket's growing participant base. The planning and development of new facilities in conjunction with Council, other peak sporting bodies and local cricket stakeholders within the City of Hume will be just as important, with over 100,000 additional residents forecast over the next 15 years. When applying Cricket's National provision ratio average of 1: 3,300, the North West Metro Region will require access to an estimated 100 plus additional cricket grounds by 2031 (assuming demand for cricket aligns with population growth).

When audited in 2016, 38% of playing fields across the Region were recorded as providing turf centre pitches. This provision level is 9.5% above the Metropolitan Region average, with the majority of this provision falling within the City of Moonee Valley (40%). While the important role turf cricket plays in player pathway and skill development is undisputed and vital to the game, a key priority for cricket across the Region will be working with Council and local cricket stakeholders to identify any opportunities for greater use of turf playing fields during the season, and ensuring they are strategically located to maximise participation outcomes and sustainability of the sport in the Region for years to come.

Improving off-field amenities that promote inclusiveness, utilising National Facility Audit data to develop prioritised training net and centre pitch renewal plans and investigating a potential site for a regional Cricket and Community Centre (subject to Cricket Victoria's Metropolitan Zone review) are also key facility planning and development priorities for the north west over the next 10 years.

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	5,565	5,726	161	2.9%
Introductory (2-11 years)	700	758	58	8.3%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,336	1,334	-2	-0.1%
Senior (18+ years)	3,514	3,631	117	3.3%
Females	198	281	83	41.9%
Female participation rate	3.6%	4.9%	1.3%	37.9%
% of overall State participation	6.57%	6.56%	-0.01%	-0.2%

SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	North West Metro	Metro Region Ave
Total # of sites	107	109
Total # of grounds	150	156
Ground to population ratio	1: 4,192	1: 3,345
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 38	1: 43
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 11,031	1: 12,227
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 7,575	1: 5,464
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	38%	27.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	55%	60%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Metro Regions?		
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (centre pitch)	4 years	5.1 years
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (training nets)	5 years	6 years
Female friendly change room provision	20%	26%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).



- Hume City Council
- Melbourne City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Moreland City Council

Key facility findings

- Approximately 1 in 5 sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Below average lifespan of training net (five years) and main centre pitch surfaces (four years).
- High forecast population growth within the Hume and Melbourne municipalities.
- Higher than average turf provision rate (10% above Metropolitan average). 40% of provision within City of Moonee Valley.
- No existing Regional Cricket and Community Centre within the Region.
- Multiple turf pitch grounds across the Region are managed by local club volunteers.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic training nets and centre pitches.					CV, LGA, CC
Access to additional traditional synthetic pitch playing fields (e.g. within schools, identification of sites for new facility development).					CV, LGA, CC
Assess the suitability and current balance of synthetic and turf cricket pitches in-line with future demand, competition structure and financial capacity of tenant club/facility owners and in consultation with key stakeholders.					CV, LGA, CC
Subject to Cricket Victoria's current Metropolitan Zone Review, deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Increased support and education to assist with turf pitch preparation and ongoing maintenance requirements.					CV
Partner with Growth Councils and developers on the planning and provision of new facilities to cater for forecast population growth.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve condition of synthetic pitches and practice facilities



Access to additional playing fields in-line with population growth and participation needs



Assess the suitability of the current balance of synthetic and turf pitch provision



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Increase support and education in turf pitch management

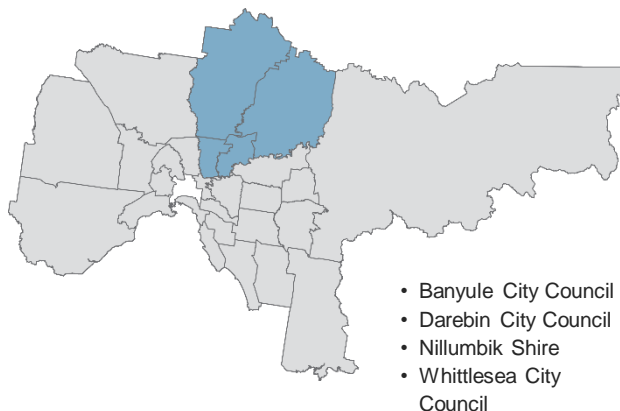
The Northern Metro Cricket Region recorded a modest overall participation increase of 0.9% (+55 players) between the 2014/15 and 2016/17 seasons. The majority of this growth was attributed to a significant spike in female players, with 245 additional players taking the field. This growth has seen Northern Metro rise to the number one Region for female participation across the State, totalling 371 players during the 2016/17 season

Banyule (1,852), Whittlesea (1,397) and Darebin (1,116) were the highest participating areas in 2016/17, with the Diamond Valley (3,376) and North Metro (2,073) Cricket Associations providing 87% of the Region's player base.

The typical player age profile across the Region is slightly older than state-wide averages with 21% of the player base aged 40 years or more. This is due mainly to the Region's more mature LGA areas including Nillumbik, Banyule and Darebin. Introductory level participation (2-11 years) totals are lower than state-wide averages, however this figure is set to increase as cricket continues to position itself strongly within the Whittlesea City Council growth area.

Very few turf pitches exist across the Region (17% below average provision), with the majority of competition played on synthetic centre pitches. 'Long pile' pitches, introduced several years ago to allow for easier all year round usage are common across the Region, however are not the preferred playing surface of cricket's National or State bodies due to the unnatural and irregular bounce.

The highest level of demand for access to additional cricket playing fields and supporting infrastructure will undoubtedly be generated from within the Whittlesea municipality. When applying Cricket's National provision ratio average of 1: 3,300, the Northern Metro Region will require access to an estimated 60 additional cricket grounds by 2031 (assuming demand for cricket aligns with population growth).



Other key facility priorities across the Region include the replacement of 'long pile' pitch surfaces with the preferred 9mm-11m pile height, improving the existing condition of training net and centre synthetic pitch facilities, ensuring off-field amenities are inclusive in design to support the growing female player base and looking at potential opportunities to increase turf pitch provision across the Region (subject to demand, Cricket Victoria's Metropolitan structure review and in consultation with key stakeholders).

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	6,218	6,273	55	0.9%
Introductory (2-11 years)	538	595	57	10.6%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,662	1,705	43	2.6%
Senior (18+ years)	4,010	3,971	-39	-1%
Females	126	371	245	194%
Female participation rate	2%	5.9%	3.9%	192%
% of overall State participation	7.3%	7.2%	-0.1%	-1.5%








SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Northern Metro	Metro Region Ave
Total # of sites	122	109
Total # of grounds	158	156
Ground to population ratio	1: 3,461	1: 3,345
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 40	1: 43
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 36,451	1: 12,227
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 11,866	1: 5,464
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	10%	27.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	29%	60%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Metro Regions?		
Average playing field condition rating	61%	71%
Training nets identified as presenting potential safety issues	62%	47%
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (centre pitch)	4 years	5.1 years

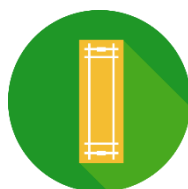
Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).

Key facility findings

- 61% of synthetic pitches across the Region are 'long pile' pitches.
- Approximately one in four sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- The Region is forecast to grow by 170,000+ people between 2016 and 2031. Of this population growth, 13,000 residents will be aged between 10 and 14 years (Cricket's 'sweet spot' for participation). With the majority of this growth within the City of Whittlesea.
- 62% of training net facilities across the Region were assessed as presenting potential safety issues for users.
- Lower than average playing field surface condition rating across the Region.
- Lower than average turf pitch provision rate (17% below Metropolitan average).

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Replace 'long pile' pitches with the preferred 9mm-11mm synthetic surface.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Access to additional traditional synthetic pitch playing fields (e.g. within schools, identification of sites for new facility development).					CV, LGA, CC
Partner with Growth Councils and developers on the planning and provision of new facilities to cater for forecast population growth.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic practice facilities.					CV, LGA, CC
Support land owners/managers to manage the carrying capacity of existing playing fields with high use through education and resourcing.					CV
Subject to future demand and in alignment with current Cricket Victoria Metropolitan structure review, investigate opportunities to increase centre turf pitch provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Replace 'long pile' pitches with preferred 9mm-11mm surface



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Access to additional playing fields in-line with population growth and participation needs



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



Increase support and education in playing field surface management



Consider increased turf pitch provision across the Region subject to current Metropolitan structure review

The Inner South East Metro Region is one of only four Regions across the State to record participation increases in all player categories over the past three seasons. 295 additional players took to the field in 2016/17, 270 of which were junior players (12-17 years). Female participation numbers increased by 67 and totaled 224, while the senior player category grew the least overall (+3).

The majority of cricket's 2016/17 participation occurred within Monash (1,537) and Stonnington (803). The Eastern (1,730) and Inner South East (1,343) Cricket Associations were by far the largest local competitions, contributing 57% of the Region's entire playing base.

The Inner South East Metro Region provides playing fields with both turf and synthetic pitches and plays host to several local associations and two premier cricket clubs. Local cricketers are provided with opportunity to partake in all versions of the game (e.g. T20, one day and two day matches) with a clear player pathway available from modified introductory programs through to elite level premier cricket.

Like several other landlocked inner Metropolitan Regions, the Inner South East area is faced with the challenge of accommodating increased participation levels and subsequent demand for additional facilities with limited access to underutilised green space for facility development. To compound this issue is the Region's higher than average ground to player ratio of 1:46 (Metropolitan average 1: 43), a higher than average player penetration rate of 1.36% of the population, current ground provision ratio of 1: 3,357 (slightly below the Metropolitan average) and 8.5% higher than average turf pitch provision level.

The following page provides a list of the Region's 'Big 6' infrastructure priorities over the next 10 years. With the exception of the Region's higher than average number of undersized grounds for senior cricket (attributed mainly to lack of open space), the remaining five priorities could be grouped together under 'building the carrying capacity of existing facilities', with a key focus area for the Region over the next 10 years being the utilisation of National Facilities Audit data to prioritise facility upgrade and renewal at sites



likely to provide the greatest programming and participation opportunities for cricket across the Region. The identification of existing but underutilised green spaces (e.g. schools, universities) that could potentially be accessed by cricket will also be important, as will ensuring current and future turf pitch playing field provision is strategic, balancing player pathway and development while still increasing grassroots participation opportunities.

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	5,066	5,361	295	5.8%
Introductory (2-11 years)	788	822	34	4.3%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,130	1,400	270	24%
Senior (18+ years)	3,133	3,136	3	0.1%
Females	157	224	67	42.7%
Female participation rate	3.1%	4.2%	1.1%	34.8%
% of overall State participation	5.98%	6.14%	0.16%	2.7%







SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Inner South East Metro	Metro Region Ave
Total # of sites	80	109
Total # of grounds	117	156
Ground to population ratio	1: 3,357	1: 3,345
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 46	1: 43
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 11,014	1: 12,227
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 5,862	1: 5,464
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	37%	27.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	57%	60%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Metro Regions?		
Average training net pitch surface condition rating	59%	69%
% of grounds with centre synthetic pitch <2.4m	92%	72%
Main pavilion condition rating	58%	64%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).

Key facility findings

- Above average ground to player ratio (1:46)
- Approximately one in four sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Higher than average turf pitch provision rate (10% above Metropolitan average). 40% of this provision falls within the City of Monash.
- Overall condition rating of pavilion social spaces and player amenities is below the Metropolitan average.
- Average training net condition rating of 59% (10% lower than Metropolitan average).
- Approximately one third of grounds across the Region are considered to be undersized for senior cricket matches.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Support land owners/managers to manage the carrying capacity of existing playing fields with high use through education and resourcing.					CV
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Assess the suitability and current balance of synthetic and turf cricket pitches in-line with future demand, competition structure and financial capacity of tenant club/facility owners and in consultation with key stakeholders.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised pavilion upgrade and renewal plans.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic practice facilities.					CV, LGA, CC
Ensure reserve master planning considers creative ways to increase the size of boundaries where possible (e.g. relocation of cricket nets if enclosed) or look to minimise safety and risk management issues of balls being hit beyond the boundary (e.g. high fencing).					LGA

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Increase support and education in playing field surface management



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Assess the suitability of the current balance of synthetic and turf pitch provision



Improve pavilion and change room facilities and supporting amenities



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



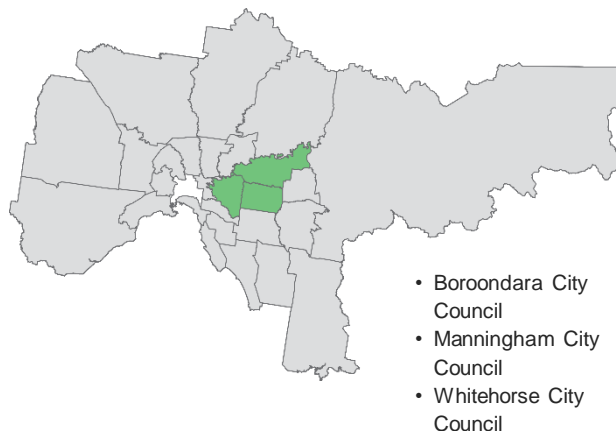
Innovative design practices to maximise facility usage, safety and functionality

The Inner East Metro Region recorded the highest number of club participants (9,234) of any Region across the State at the completion of the 2016/17 season and comprised almost 11% of the Victoria's overall club participant base. 279 female players took to the field across the Region in 2016/17 (fifth highest Region total across Victoria). Senior males was the only player category to decrease (-45) with both introductory and junior player categories recording healthy growth.

The majority of cricket's 2016/17 participation occurred within Boroondara (2,666) and Whitehorse (2,643). The Eastern (4,458) and Box Hill Reporter (3,433) Cricket Associations were by far the largest local competitions contributing 85% of the Region's entire playing base.

The Inner East Metro Region (along with several other Metropolitan Regions) is faced with the growing challenge of accommodating population and participation growth with limited availability of open space for new facility development. Currently accommodating the largest number of participants per Region, on one of the smallest overall land footprints, will continue to present challenges for land owners/managers, local cricket clubs and association/competition administrators. The Region's current ground to player ratio of 1: 49 is the highest across the State, meaning the Region's 189 grounds are being heavily utilised, with many sites likely to be operating beyond capacity and subject to playing field surface and supporting infrastructure deterioration. This is evidenced by the Region's average centre synthetic pitch and training net pitch surface lifespans both falling below Metropolitan Region averages.

While the Region's ground to population provision ratio of 1: 2,464 is considered adequate compared with the Metropolitan average of 1: 3,345, the sheer volume of cricketers using the playing fields will require a concerted approach to ground maintenance by facility owners and strategic scheduling of matches by local administrators. The current turf (25%) to synthetic (72.5%) pitch surface provision level is considered to be of good proportion, assuming all grounds are being used to capacity.



The management of highly used playing fields and increased investment in ground maintenance, along with improved access to any underutilised green spaces (e.g. schools, universities) is a key priority for the Inner East Metro Region. The use of facility audit data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal facility plans that focus on improving the condition of player change rooms and supporting amenities (inclusive facility design), synthetic training nets and centre pitches is also a key priority.

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	9,085	9,234	149	1.6%
Introductory (2-11 years)	1,451	1,523	72	5%
Junior (12-17 years)	2,363	2,487	124	5%
Senior (18+ years)	5,263	5,218	-45	-1%
Females	101	279	178	176%
Female participation rate	1.1%	3%	1.9%	171%
% of overall State participation	10.7%	10.6%	-0.1%	-1%






SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Inner East Metro	Metro Region Ave
Total # of sites	120	109
Total # of grounds	189	156
Ground to population ratio	1: 2,464	1: 3,345
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 49	1: 43
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 9,908	1: 12,227
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 3,399	1: 5,464
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	25%	27.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	72.5%	60%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Metro Regions?		
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (centre pitch)	3 years	5.1 years
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (training nets)	5 years	6 years
Female friendly change room provision	25%	26%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).

Key facility findings

- Above average ground to player ratio (1:49)
- Existing playing fields at/near capacity for cricket
- Approximately one in four sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Below average lifespan of training net (five years) and main centre pitch surfaces (three years).
- Approximately one third of grounds across the Region are considered to be undersized for senior cricket matches.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Support land owners/managers to manage the carrying capacity of existing playing fields with high use through education and resourcing.					CV
Identification of new or unoccupied green spaces suitable for cricket use (e.g. schools, underutilised open space that may be able to accommodate modified programs).					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic training nets and centre pitches.					CV, LGA, CC
Ensure reserve master planning considers creative ways to increase the size of boundaries where possible (e.g. relocation of cricket nets if enclosed) or look to minimise safety and risk management issues of balls being hit beyond the boundary (e.g. high fencing).					LGA

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Increase support and education in playing field surface management



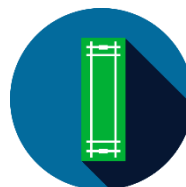
Increased access to underutilised open space (e.g. schools)



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



Improve condition of synthetic cricket pitches



Innovative design practices to maximise facility usage, safety and functionality

The Outer East Metro Region's total participation number rose by 90 players between 2014/15 and 2016/17, totaling 6,413 players. All player categories increased in participation numbers, bar senior males (a consistent theme across the State) which decreased by 57 players. Female cricket rose by 30.6% (+48) while junior figures (12-17 years) also increased the most out of any player category, both of which are positive trends for cricket across the Region. The Outer East Metro Region provides playing fields with both turf and synthetic pitches and plays host to several local associations and one premier cricket club. Local cricketers are provided with opportunity to partake in all versions of the game (e.g. T20, one day and two day matches) with a clear player pathway available from modified introductory programs through to elite level premier cricket.

The majority of cricket's 2016/17 participation occurred within Knox (2,198) and Yarra Ranges (1,984). The Ringwood District (2,761) and Ferntree Gully (2,090) Cricket Associations were by far the largest local competitions contributing 76% of the Region's entire playing base.

Common facility issues experienced across the majority of Metropolitan Regions that are relevant to the Outer East Metro area include the need to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for training nets and centre synthetic pitches as well as building the carrying capacity of existing playing fields and supporting infrastructure within the landlocked Council areas of Maroondah and Knox. Subject to future demand, the Yarra Ranges Shire presents opportunity for the development of additional playing fields for cricket, however the Region's current ground to population provision ratio (1: 2,607) is above Metropolitan Region averages, suggesting capacity for greater use of existing facilities, and from a regional perspective, no immediate demand for additional playing fields for cricket (there may however be localised pressure for additional facilities in areas of high participation and/or under provision of grounds).



Unique or more pronounced facility challenges for the Outer East Metro Region include a 21% lower than average turf pitch playing field provision level, a well below average level of female friendly facilities (13% below average) and a need to improve the condition of umpire change rooms and supporting amenities. Subject to Cricket Victoria's current Metropolitan structure review, the delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre is also a priority for the State's Outer East.

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	6,323	6,413	90	1.4%
Introductory (2-11 years)	636	687	51	8%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,558	1,659	101	6.5%
Senior (18+ years)	4,124	4,067	-57	-1.4%
Females	157	205	48	30.6%
Female participation rate	2.5%	3.2%	0.7%	28.8%
% of overall State participation	7.46%	7.35%	-0.11%	-1.47%







SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Outer East Metro	Metro Region Ave
Total # of sites	120	109
Total # of grounds	162	156
Ground to population ratio	1:2,607	1: 3,345
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1:40	1: 43
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 42,229	1: 12,227
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 2,834	1: 5,464
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	6%	27.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	93%	60%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Metro Regions?		
Female friendly change room provision	13%	26%
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (centre pitch)	4 years	5.1 years
Average synthetic pitch lifespan (training nets)	5 years	6 years

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).

Key facility findings

- 13% of sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Below average lifespan of training net (five years) and main centre pitch surfaces (3 years).
- Lower than average playing field surface condition rating across the Region.
- Lower than average condition rating of umpire change room facilities and supporting amenities.
- No existing Cricket and Community Centre within the Region.
- Lower than average turf pitch provision rate (21% below Metropolitan average).

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic training nets and centre pitches.					CV, LGA, CC
Support land owners/managers to manage the carrying capacity of existing playing fields with high use through education and resourcing.					CV
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for umpire change rooms and supporting amenities.					CV, LGA, CC
Subject to Cricket Victoria's current Metropolitan Zone Review, deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC
Subject to future demand and in alignment with current Cricket Victoria Metropolitan structure review, investigate opportunities to increase centre turf pitch provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve condition of synthetic pitches and practice facilities



Increase support and education in playing field surface management



Improve condition of umpire change rooms facilities and supporting amenities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



Consider increased turf pitch provision across the Region subject to current Metropolitan structure review

The South East Bayside Region is one of only four Regions across the State to record participation increases in all player categories over the past three seasons. 467 additional players took to the field in 2016/17 (second highest Region growth across the State). Totalling 7,785 participants during the 2016/17 season, South East Bayside recorded the second most participants per Region across the State. Included in that growth was 161 additional female cricketers, taking the Region's total to 316 female players, again the second highest total across Victoria. 34% of the Region's player base is aged between 10-14 years. This is 8% higher than the state average and is in-turn placing increased pressure of ground availability for juniors as well as an increased need to be providing family friendly off-field facilities and supporting amenities.

The majority of the Region's 2016/17 participation occurred within Kingston (2,162) and Glen Eira (1,959). The South East (4,497) and Cricket Southern Bayside (1,185) Associations were by far the largest local competitions contributing 73% of the Region's entire playing base.

Like several other landlocked inner Metropolitan Regions (in particular its neighbouring Inner East and Inner South East Metro Regions) the South East Bayside area is faced with the challenge of accommodating increased participation levels and subsequent demand for additional facilities with limited access to underutilised green space for additional facility development. To compound this issue is the Region's higher than average ground to player ratio of 1:46 (Metropolitan average 1: 43), lower than average synthetic pitch to population ratio of 1: 6,010 (Metropolitan average 1: 5,464) above average player penetration rate of 1.51% of the population, and 10.5% higher than average turf pitch provision level.

The following page provides a list of the Region's 'Big 6' infrastructure priorities over the next 10 years.

Priorities could collectively be summarised as 'building the carrying capacity of existing facilities', with a key focus area for the Region over the next 10 years being the utilisation of National Facilities Audit data to prioritise facility upgrade and renewal at sites likely to provide the greatest programming and participation opportunities for cricket across the Region. The identification of existing but underutilised green spaces (e.g. schools, universities) that could potentially be accessed by cricket will also be important, as will ensuring current and future turf pitch playing field provision is strategic, balancing player pathway and development with grassroots participation opportunities.

Off-field infrastructure and supporting amenities is also a key focus area for the Region over the next 10 years. The Region's current female friendly facility percentage of 19% is below average, as is the general condition of pavilion social spaces (13% below average) and general player change room facilities and supporting amenities (also 13% below average). This is assumed to be mainly attributed to the Region's more mature infrastructure profile, with a number of aged facilities that are no longer fit for purpose and/or meeting peak sporting body preferred guidelines.

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	7,318	7,785	467	6.4%
Introductory (2-11 years)	1,330	1,494	164	12.3%
Junior (12-17 years)	2,118	2,354	236	11.1%
Senior (18+ years)	3,862	3,932	70	1.8%
Females	155	316	161	103.9%
Female participation rate	2.1%	4.1%	2%	91.6%
% of overall State participation	8.6%	8.9%	0.3%	3.2%

SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	South East Bayside	Metro Region Ave
Total # of sites	113	109
Total # of grounds	169	156
Ground to population ratio	1: 3,054	1: 3,345
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 46	1: 43
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 8,063	1: 12,227
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 6,010	1: 5,464
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	38%	27.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	60%	60%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Metro Regions?		
Female friendly change room provision	19%	26%
Average main pavilion condition rating	51%	64%
Average player change room facility condition	47%	60%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).



- Bayside City Council
- Glen Eira City Council
- Kingston City Council
- Port Phillip City Council

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Support land owners/managers to manage the carrying capacity of existing playing fields with high use through education and resourcing.					CV
Identification of new or unoccupied green spaces suitable for cricket use (e.g. schools, underutilised open space that may be able to accommodate modified programs).					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised pavilion upgrade and renewal plans.					CV, LGA, CC
Assess the suitability and current balance of synthetic and turf cricket pitches in-line with future demand, competition structure and financial capacity of tenant club/facility owners and in consultation with key stakeholders.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic training nets and centre pitches.					CV, LGA, CC

Key facility findings

- Above average ground to player ratio (1:49)
- Existing playing fields at/near capacity for cricket
- Approximately one in five sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- Overall condition rating of pavilion social spaces, player and umpire amenities is significantly below the Metropolitan average.
- Higher than average turf pitch provision rate (10% above Metropolitan average). 35% of this provision falls within the City of Kingston.
- Below average lifespan of training net (five years) and main centre pitch surfaces (four years).

'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Increase support and education in playing field surface management



Increased access to underutilised open space (e.g. schools)



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve pavilion and change room facilities and supporting amenities



Assess the suitability of the current balance of synthetic and turf pitch provision



Improve condition of synthetic pitches and practice facilities

The Southern Metro Region is one of only four Regions across the State to record participation increases in all player categories over the past three seasons. 350 additional players spread evenly across all player categories took to the field during the 2016/17 season compared with 2014/15. Female participation increased by 32 players (totaling 106), with this figure forecast to rise significantly in line with forecast population growth across the Region.

This forecast population growth, particularly within the growth area Council Casey, will see increased pressure placed on existing facility capacity and in turn high demand for additional facilities. The Region's current facility to population provision ratio of 1: 3,634 is currently below the Metropolitan average of 1: 3,345, with this gap set to only increase with forecast population growth. When applying Cricket's National provision ratio average of 1: 3,300, the Southern Metro Region will require access to an estimated 70 additional cricket grounds by 2031 (assuming demand for cricket aligns with population growth).

Approximately 13,500,000 additional 10-14 year olds (cricket's age cohort participation 'sweet spot') are forecast to reside within the Region, presenting significant opportunity for cricket to further broaden its footprint across this growing area and become the sport of choice for young players during the summer season.

In addition to the clear need to work with local Councils and other state sporting bodies on the development of additional multi-purpose playing fields to support future population growth, other key priorities across the Region include addressing the condition and safety of training net facilities, (86% of nets recorded as presenting safety issues to users) ensuring equal planning and financial investment is attributed to off-field facility and amenity condition as on-field (currently only 58% of facilities across the Region provide change room facilities) and subject to Cricket Victoria's Metropolitan Structure review, the delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to service the ever growing Southern Metro Region.



- Casey City Council
- Greater Dandenong City Council

Unique or more pronounced facility challenges for the Outer East Metro Region include a 21% lower than average turf pitch playing field provision level, a well below average level of female friendly facilities (13% below average) and a need to improve the condition of umpire change rooms and supporting amenities. Subject to Cricket Victoria's current Metropolitan structure review, the delivery and activation of a regional level Cricket and Community Centre is also a priority for the State's Outer East.

Region Participation Trends (Club membership 2014/15 - 2016/17)

Participation Type	2014/15	2016/17	+ / -	% +/-
Total	4,937	5,287	350	7.1%
Introductory (2-11 years)	491	611	120	24.4%
Junior (12-17 years)	1,105	1,200	95	8.6%
Senior (18+ years)	3,341	3,474	133	4%
Females	74	106	32	43.2%
Female participation rate	1.5%	2%	0.5%	33.8%
% of overall State participation	5.8%	6%	0.2%	4%








SUMMARY FACILITY PROVISION

Facility Element	Southern Metro	Metro Region Ave
Total # of sites	90	109
Total # of grounds	123	156
Ground to population ratio	1: 3,634	1: 3,345
2016/17 season ground to player ratio	1: 43	1: 43
Turf pitch to population ratio	1: 11,167	1: 12,227
Synthetic pitch to population ratio	1: 6,359	1: 5,464
Turf % of overall pitch surface type provision	32.5%	27.5%
Synthetic % of overall pitch surface type provision	57%	60%
Key National Facility Audit findings - Where is the Region falling behind other Cricket Victoria Metro Regions?		
Training nets identified as presenting potential safety issues	86%	47%
Playing fields with player change room facility provision	58%	70%
Umpire change room provision	41%	52%

Note: Above provision ratios are based on 2016 Victoria in Future population figures (July 2016).

Key facility findings

- High forecast population growth within the Region, particularly in the City of Casey. Of this population growth, 13,500 residents will be aged between 10 and 14 years (Cricket's 'sweet spot' for participation).
- Approximately one in three sites across the Region provide adequate off-field facilities and amenities for females.
- 86% of training net facilities across the Region were assessed as presenting potential safety issues for users (39% above Metropolitan average).
- Well below average number of pavilions (-23) and change room facilities (-39) provided across the Region.
- The number of playing fields providing umpire change rooms and supporting amenities is 11% below the Metropolitan average.
- No existing regional Cricket and Community Centre within the Region.

Strategic responses	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Stakeholders
Access to additional traditional synthetic pitch playing fields (e.g. within schools, identification of sites for new facility development).					CV, LGA, CC
Partner with Growth Councils and Developers on the planning and provision of new facilities to cater for forecast population growth.					CV, LGA, CC
Increase the provision of unisex change room areas, supporting amenities and more inclusive social spaces.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for synthetic practice facilities.					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to ensure future on-field facility upgrades and developments are mirrored by fit for purpose off-field facilities and amenities (e.g. pavilions and change rooms).					CV, LGA, CC
Utilise facility and participation data to develop prioritised upgrade and renewal plans for umpire change rooms and supporting amenities.					CV, LGA, CC
Subject to Cricket Victoria's current Metropolitan Zone Review, deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre to extend cricket service provision across the Region.					CV, LGA, CC

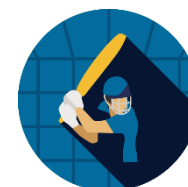
'BIG 6' Infrastructure Priorities



Access to additional playing fields in-line with population growth and participation needs



Increase provision of inclusive facilities with a focus on female friendly design



Improve condition of synthetic training net practice facilities



Increase off-field facility infrastructure provision (e.g. pavilion, change rooms)



Improve condition of umpire change rooms facilities and supporting amenities



Deliver and activate a regional level Cricket and Community Centre



10. DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

DELIVERING THE VICTORIAN CRICKET INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

A range of strategic priorities, actions and recommendations have been identified by the VCIS. They have been developed to assist sport, government and community stakeholders to work collaboratively, respond to emerging opportunities and allocate appropriate resources in order to sustain and grow the sport of cricket.

The delivery of the VCIS and its regular monitoring and evaluation will be the responsibility of Cricket Victoria. While Cricket Victoria is the state's governing body for the sport, it is important to recognise that community cricket facility development requires a collective approach and a shared vision for the future.

Recommendations within the strategy set state and regional level direction, while allowing emerging opportunities to be harnessed at the local level. As priorities continue to evolve, the periodic monitoring and review of recommendations will be vital in maintaining the relevance of the strategy through to 2028.

A stakeholder wide commitment to planning, communication, cooperation, ownership and implementation of strategic priorities and local projects will help to ensure the future sustainability and improvement of cricket infrastructure across Victoria.

The VCIS is an aspirational 10-year plan designed to be practical and realistic in its implementation. It is important to note that stakeholder policy, community demand and priorities change over time. As a result, strategic priorities and recommendations are subject to available funding and resourcing and should be regularly monitored to ensure their ongoing alignment with stakeholder objectives.

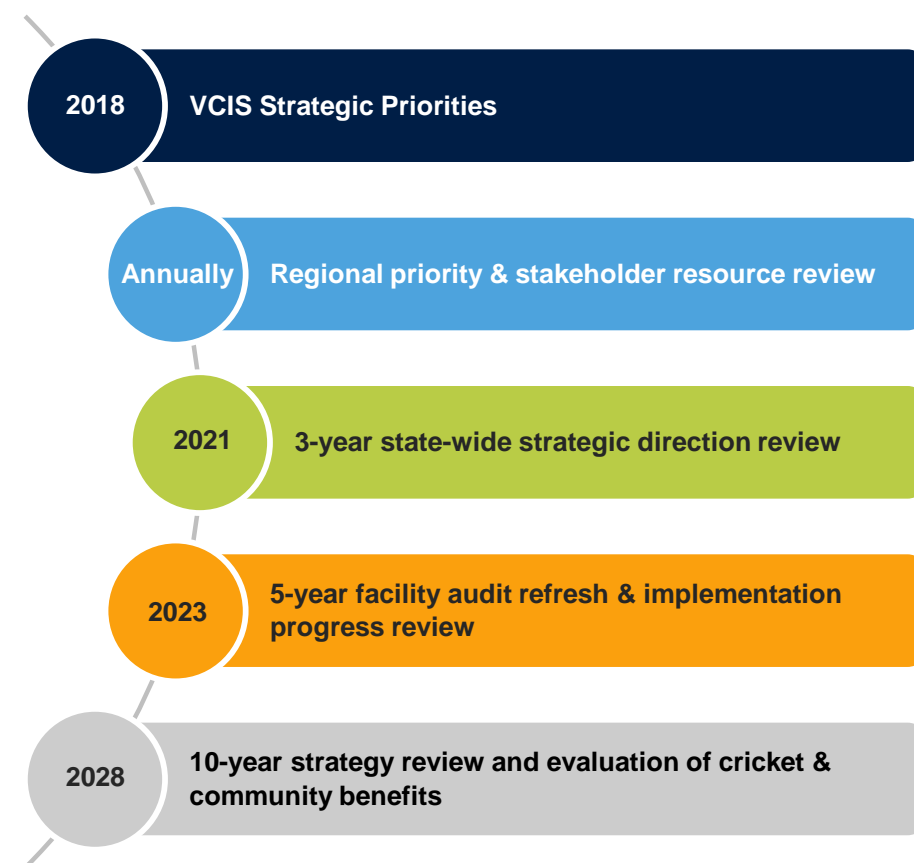
The financial impact of implementing the proposed recommendations has not yet been determined. However, it is critical that key stakeholders and potential funding partners adopt a collaborative approach to the scoping and delivery of actions and recognise the need for joint funding and resourcing as identified under Pillar 5 – Planning and Investment.

In order for the VCIS to be successful, it must provide a diversity in the mix of facilities to be delivered in line with forecast demand, ensure that facilities provide shared use opportunities, be utilised to their full capacity and help to provide a positive experience for all users and participants to facilitate the growth of the sport.

Strategy review process

Formal evaluation of strategic priorities by Cricket Victoria and partners will be required to ensure ongoing and consistent alignment with sport, government and regional objectives. Evaluation will also identify key successes and overall benefits for cricket and the communities in which it is played.

The following monitoring and review process will be led by Cricket Victoria to ensure that the VCIS remains relevant for all stakeholders.



PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY

While Australian Cricket will provide a strategic platform for change and improvement, Cricket Victoria (via its state and regional staff) and Local Government (via its land and community facility planning, development and management role) will drive critical actions that have the greatest impact on the sport.

The following diagram highlights the core roles and functions of key stakeholders and partners in supporting the delivery of the VCIS.

NATIONAL PARTNERS	STATE PARTNERS	REGIONAL / LOCAL PARTNERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket's strategic direction setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Victorian Government investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket, LGA and school partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matching of local community and Cricket needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy and project advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth area planning input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of data, objectives and priorities into local projects and site planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and resource development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility policy guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on capital development, renewal and budget allocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data tools to support State, Regional and Local decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Cricket and Community Centre partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piloting new initiatives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining alignment of stakeholder objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying new projects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual resource review and acquisition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local policy development and implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding Cricket's governance and regional structural change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review of regional and local priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing VCIS monitoring and evaluation 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication of benefits and achievements 	



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