



# Active Central Goldfields Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020 to 2029

Volume One Final Report  
January 2021





The development of the Active Central Goldfields Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020 to 2029 was supported by a Community Sport Infrastructure Fund Planning Grant from the Victorian Government.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Central Goldfields Shire Council acknowledges the ancestors and descendants of the Dja Dja Wurrung.

We acknowledge that their forebears are the Traditional Owners of the area we are on and have been for many thousands of years.

The Djaara have performed age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

The Strategy was assisted by:



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

#### 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 Project Purpose

1.2 Project Methodology

#### 2. RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION FINDINGS

2.1 Central Goldfields Shire Council Area

2.2 Facility Inventory Summary

2.3 CGSC Demographic Review

2.4 Market Research and Engagement Key Findings

2.5 Trends Impacting on Sport and Recreation Participation

2.6 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Facility Hierarchy

2.7 Assets Prioritisation and Assessment System

#### 3. THE CGSC RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

3.1 Strategy Principles

3.2 Council's Sport, Recreation and Open Space Role

3.3 Recommended Priority Project Assessment Criteria

3.4 Strategy Framework

3.5 The CGSC Recreation and Open Space Strategies and Actions

1  
2  
2  
3  
4  
4  
4  
6  
7  
15  
21  
24  
25  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29



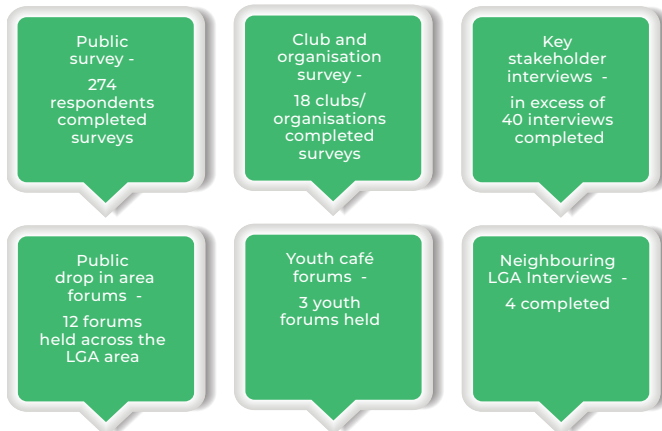
## RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

### 1 Project purpose

The projects purpose is to “establish a clear direction for the provision, development and management of high quality open space, sport and recreation places and spaces to increase the CGSC community’s opportunities to be Healthier and More Active More Often”

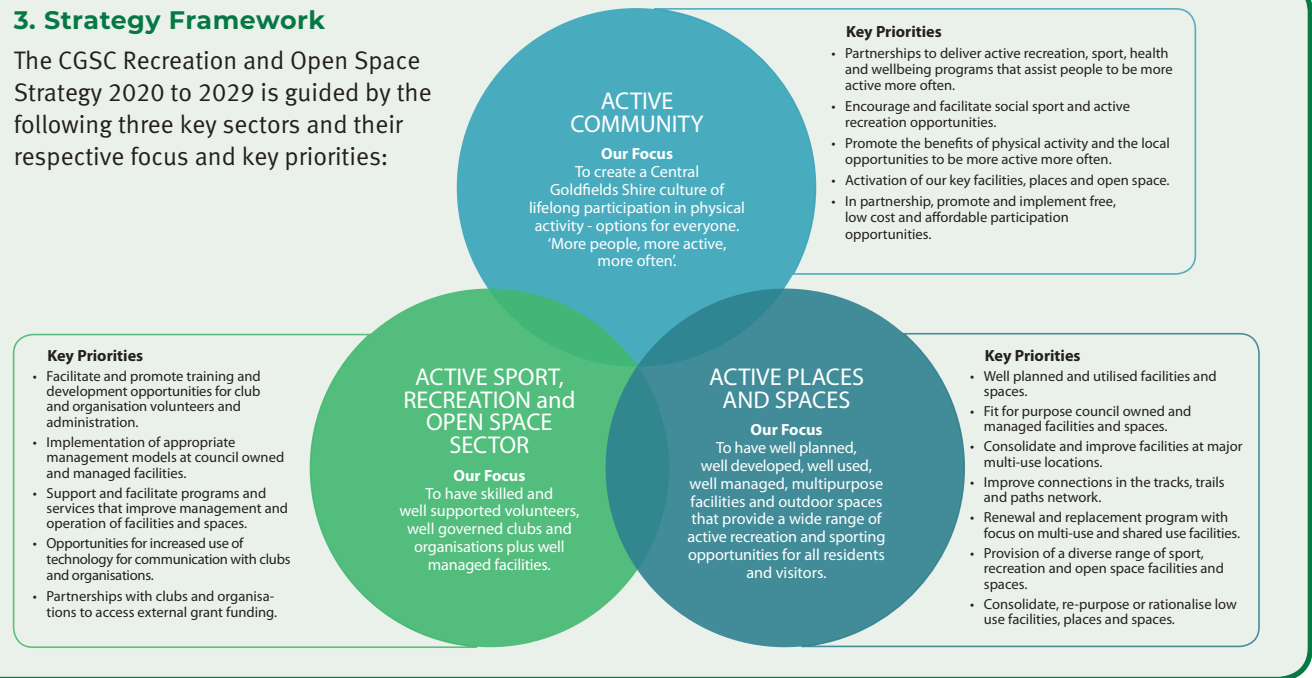
### 2. Many have contributed to the strategy and told us a lot

A key study feature is the broad range of community and key stakeholder engagement which was well supported by residents and interested persons. This is summarised in the following graphic.



### 3. Strategy Framework

The CGSC Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020 to 2029 is guided by the following three key sectors and their respective focus and key priorities:



### 4. ROSS Strategy Highlights

Section Three of this report provides a complete list of the strategies, recommended actions, estimated costs, priority rating and partners council will work with to achieve better community spaces and places in Central Goldfields Shire.



## 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Central Goldfields Shire Council (CGSC) has developed the Volume One: Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020 to 2029 (ROSS) that will significantly contribute to council's vision of 'a vibrant thriving, inclusive community'.

This strategy aims to build on the achievements of the CGSC Recreation Strategy 2008 to 2018. It provides an updated vision and process to enable the CGSC to be recognised for its level of participation in physical activity.

This document has been summarised into three integrated sections being:

- Section One: Project overview
- Section Two: Research and consultation key findings
- Section Three: The strategy and recommendations

Due to the large amount of research, community engagement and background information collected as part of this study, supporting documentation has also been developed into the following volumes:

- Volume Two: Market research and engagement
- Volume Three: Trends, standards and management models
- Volume Four: Recreation and open space inventory

### 1.1 Project Purpose



For the purpose of the Active CGSC Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020 to 2029 the following definitions have been applied:



#### **PUBLIC OPEN SPACE**

Land in public ownership and/or under public management that provides recreation and leisure benefits. These areas include public parks, gardens, reserves, waterways, sporting venues, conservation bushlands and nature reserves.



#### **ACTIVE RECREATION**

Physical activities engaged in during free time for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment.



#### **SPORT**

*A human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill which, by its nature and organisation, is competitive and is generally accepted as being a sport.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Sport Australia – Clearing House for Sport, [www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge\\_base/sport\\_participation/Sport\\_a\\_new\\_fit/what\\_is\\_sport](http://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge_base/sport_participation/Sport_a_new_fit/what_is_sport)

### 1.2 Project Methodology

Otium Planning Group Pty Ltd (OPG) was appointed in June 2019 to assist council and its Project Steering Committee with completing the Recreation and Open Space Strategy.

The project methodology stages and tasks completed by OPG for the CGSC Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020 to 2029 are listed in Figure 1 to the right.

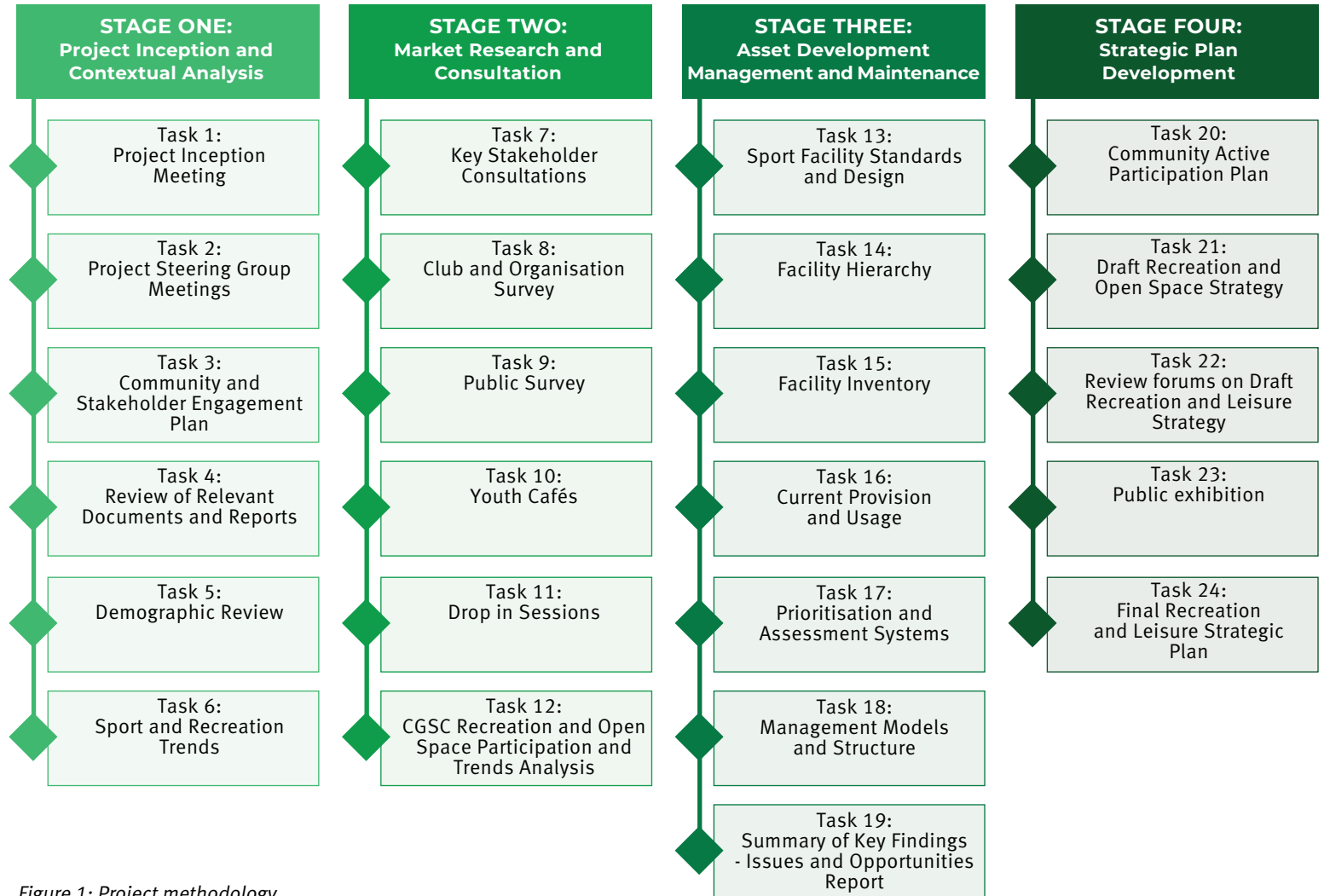


Figure 1: Project methodology

## 2. RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION FINDINGS

This section provides a summary of the key research and consultation findings and provides a context and basis for the development of the strategy. More detailed supporting information can be obtained by reviewing the supporting volumes two, three and four.

### 2.1 CGSC Area

CGSC takes in an area of 1,532km<sup>2</sup> and is bounded by Northern Grampians Shire in the north-west, Pyrenees Shire in the west, Hepburn Shire in the south, Mount Alexander Shire in the east and Loddon Shire in the north east.

The main agricultural industries that are spread across the municipality include grain, sheep grazing and broiler farming.

The Shire is also home to a number of major manufacturing, infrastructure, agricultural, freight, printing and food production companies.

The Shire's road network assets include 512 km of sealed roads, 768 km of gravel roads and 110 bridges.

### 2.2 Facility Inventory Summary

A major component of the study was the development of the open space, sport and recreation facility inventory for the CGSC area.

Facilities have been identified in 25 different towns and localities throughout the CGSC area with main town and localities listed in table 1 and figure 2.

Table 1: CGSC towns and localities with Recreation and Open Space facilities

Town/location			
Adelaide Lead	Bromley	Dunolly	Moliagul
Alma	Bung Bong	Goldsborough	Mount Cameron
Amherst	Carisbrook	Havelock	Mount Glasgow
Archdale	Daisy Hill	Lillicur	Talbot
Bealiba	Dunach	Majorca	Timor
Bet Bet	Dunluce	Maryborough	Wareek
Bowenvale			

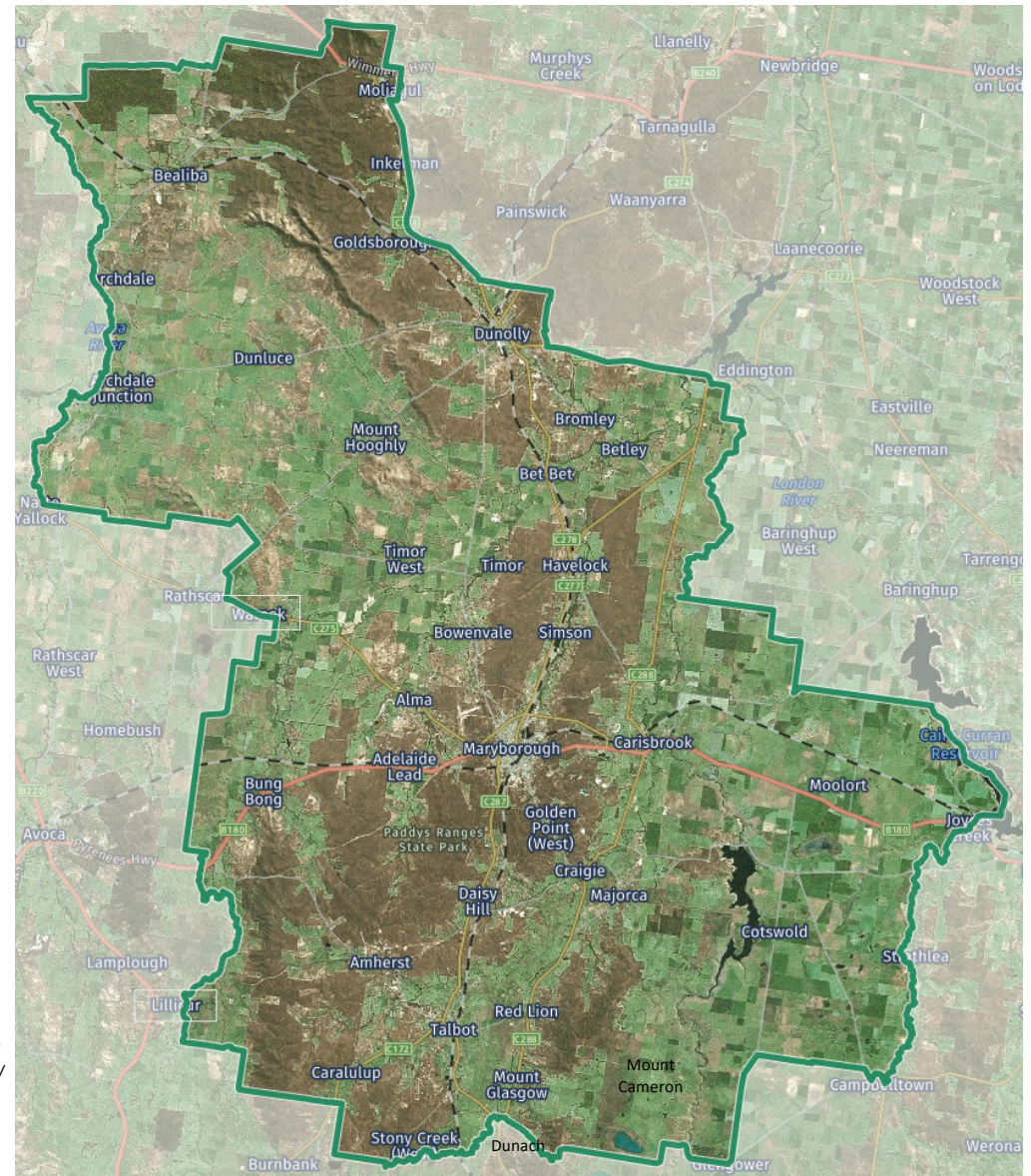


Figure 2: CGSC Map  
Source: <https://centralgoldfields.pozi.com/>

An overview of the Volume 4: Facility inventory data notes the CGSC area incorporates the following facilities.

### Facility Location, Distribution and Type

- 168 open space, sport and recreation facilities and spaces, with many catering for multiple activities.
- 70 identified open space facilities that have no assets/services facilities provided.
- Maryborough has a total of 90 facilities, whilst Dunolly has 28, Talbot 21, Bealiba 18, Majorca and Carisbrook 17 each.
- 182<sup>1</sup> different open space, sport and recreation facilities that cater for a diverse range of open space, sport and recreation activities.
- Active recreation reserves and facilities also occur in the small towns and localities of Alma, Bowenvale, Daisy Hill, Dunluce and Moliagul.

<sup>1</sup> Facilities that cater for more than one sport and activity have been counted for each sport and activity with those open space assets (71) without any identified asset/services not included. For example, a facility that caters for Australian rules football and cricket is counted as two facilities. Courts that are used for netball and tennis are also counted as two facilities.

### Facilities by Activity Type

- 44 different activities occurring at the open space, sport and recreation facilities including:
  - 19 open space and recreation facilities identified for bushwalking and 17 for recreation.
  - 16 playgrounds and play facilities
  - 2 skating facilities (Maryborough and Dunolly).
- Sport facilities:
  - 10 cricket facilities with 3 of these having turf wickets whilst 3 cricket facilities do not currently have cricket clubs based at them.
  - 10 venues provided netball court/s. Some netball courts have been identified as not complying with Netball Victoria standards, in terms of the required run-off and actual surface condition, i.e. joint use court at Maryborough lawn tennis club has been deemed unplayable.
  - 8 bowls facilities (5 are outdoor venues).
  - 6 Australian rules football facilities.
  - 4 equestrian facilities as well as 4 open space facilities where horse riding occurs.
  - 7 aquatic and water sport facilities - 4 swimming pools and 3 reservoirs.

### Land Ownership and Land Management

- More than three-quarters (80%, 135) of the facilities are either fully (76%, 128) or partly owned by the Crown. Of the Crown owned facilities:
  - Parks Victoria manage 39% (52) with a further one (Paddys Ranges) jointly managed with Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation.
  - 30 facilities are managed by DELWP (23% of Crown fully owned) and a further 10 by a DELWP appointed committee of management.
  - 25 (19%) facilities managed by CGSC, either directly (12) or by a CGSC appointed committee of management, with 3 Section 86 and 1 a club lease.
- CGSC owns or partly owns 17%, (28) of the identified facilities. There are 21 that are owned solely by council and of these 76% are directly managed by council.

### Facilities by Asset/Activity Type

- 29 different open space, sport or recreation asset/activity types including:
  - 46 bushland reserves, 15 State forests, 12 historic reserves and 10 nature reserves.
  - 20 identified as recreation reserves, 15 playgrounds, 12 parks and 10 halls and community centres.
- Paddys Ranges is the only National/State park with Maryborough regional park being the only regional park asset.

### Sport and Recreation Clubs, Groups and Activities

- 85 sport and recreation clubs that are regular users of facilities.
- 44 facilities have one or more regular user groups (mainly recreation reserves).
- Facilities without regular user group use includes:
  - 4 tennis facilities.
  - 3 cricket facilities.
  - Other facilities without regular user groups are swimming pools, playgrounds, open space, recreation reserves, reservoirs and skate parks.



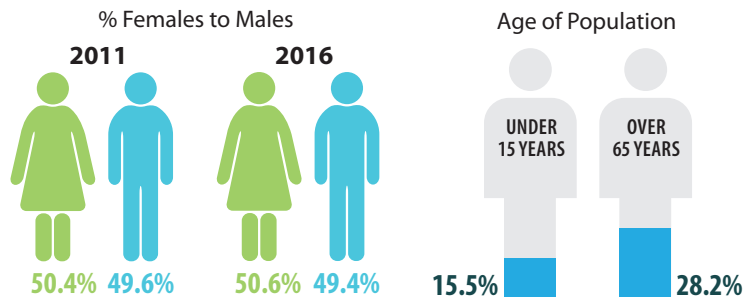
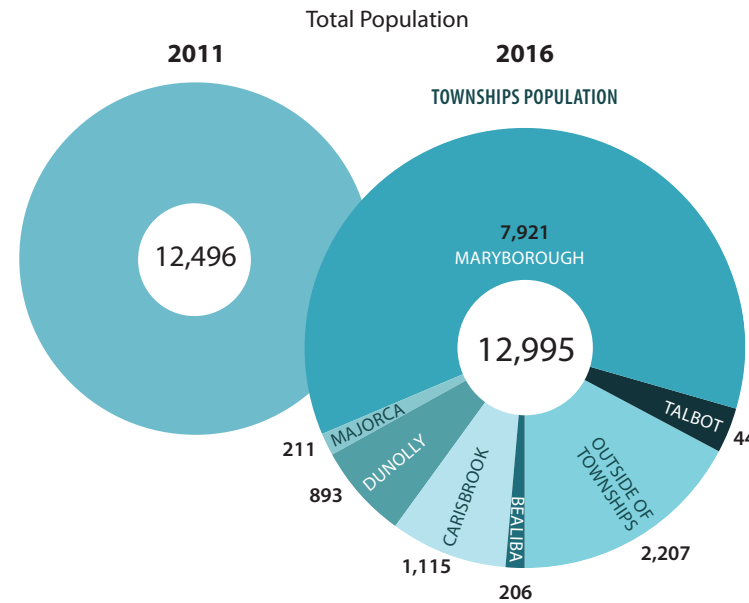
### 2.3 CGSC Demographic Review

The key findings from the project area's demographic review<sup>1</sup> have been summarised in the following infographics to the right.

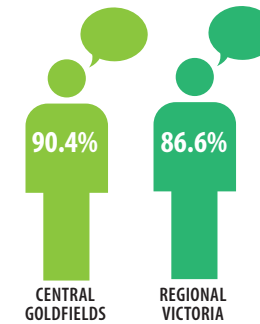
The demographic trend findings that have been taken into account for the current population (ABS 2016) and future population (2036) include:

- **Population change:** Between 2011 and 2016 there were 499 more people (+4%) living in the local government area. Future local government area population is expected to increase by 1,140 people (8.7%) by 2036.
- **Gender:** There are slightly more females (50.4%) than males (49.6%) living in the local government area and in 2036 this is expected to change slightly with females (50.6%) and males (49.4%).
- **Age of population:** a total of 15.5% of people are aged under 15 years, 56.3% aged 15 to 65 years old and 28.2% aged over 65 years. In the future there are projected significant age profile changes with significantly more people aged 75 years and older and less people aged 20 to 24 years and 50 to 59 years old.
- **SEIFA Index of Disadvantage:** The CGSC area is considered the most disadvantaged local government area in Victoria. Income reviews indicates there are lower proportions of residents earning high incomes and higher proportions of residents earning lower than average incomes

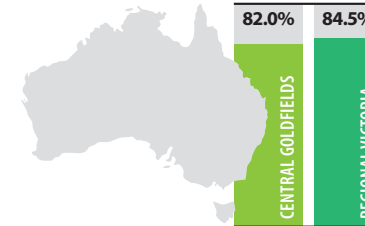
#### KEY FINDINGS FROM THE PROJECT AREA'S DEMOGRAPHIC REVIEW



#### English Speaking Population



#### Population Born in Australia

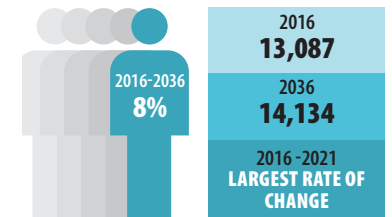


#### Weekly Income levels

	CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS	REGIONAL VICTORIA
↑ \$1,750	2.6%	6.9%
↓ \$500	45%	33%

The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage indicates that Central Goldfields is considered the most disadvantaged municipality in Victoria.

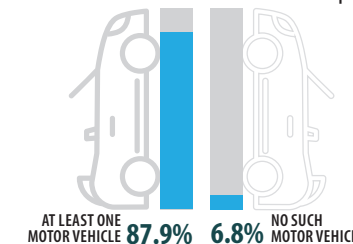
#### FUTURE POPULATION PREDICTIONS



#### Significant Age Population Changes - 2016 to 2036

85+	+406 residents (3.3% to 5.9%)
80-84	+344 residents (3.5% to 5.6%)
75-79	+323 residents (6.5% to 7.3%)
55-59	+240 residents (7.4% to 5.2%)
50-54	+166 residents (7.0% to 5.3%)
20-24	+136 residents (4.1% to 3.4%)

#### Household Vehicle Ownership



<sup>1</sup> Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016

### 2.4 Market Research and Engagement Key Findings

A key study feature is the broad range of community and key stakeholder engagement which was well supported by residents and interested persons. This is summarised in the following graphic.

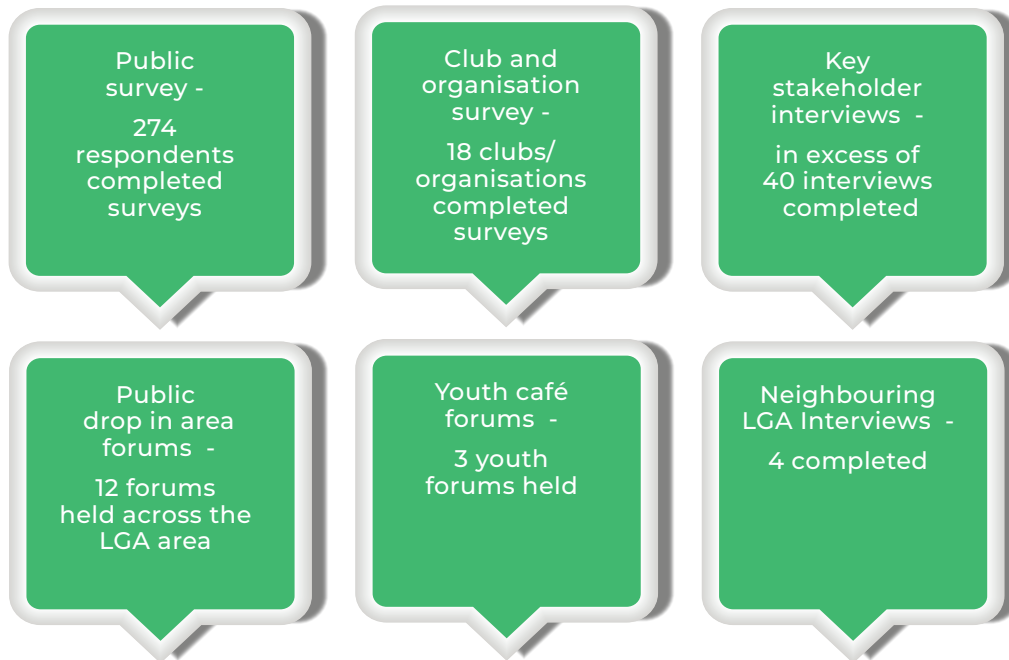


Figure 3: Summary of market research and engagement

The Volume Two – Market research and engagement provides detailed summaries of the community engagement and research key findings. Key issues and highlights are also covered in the following sections.

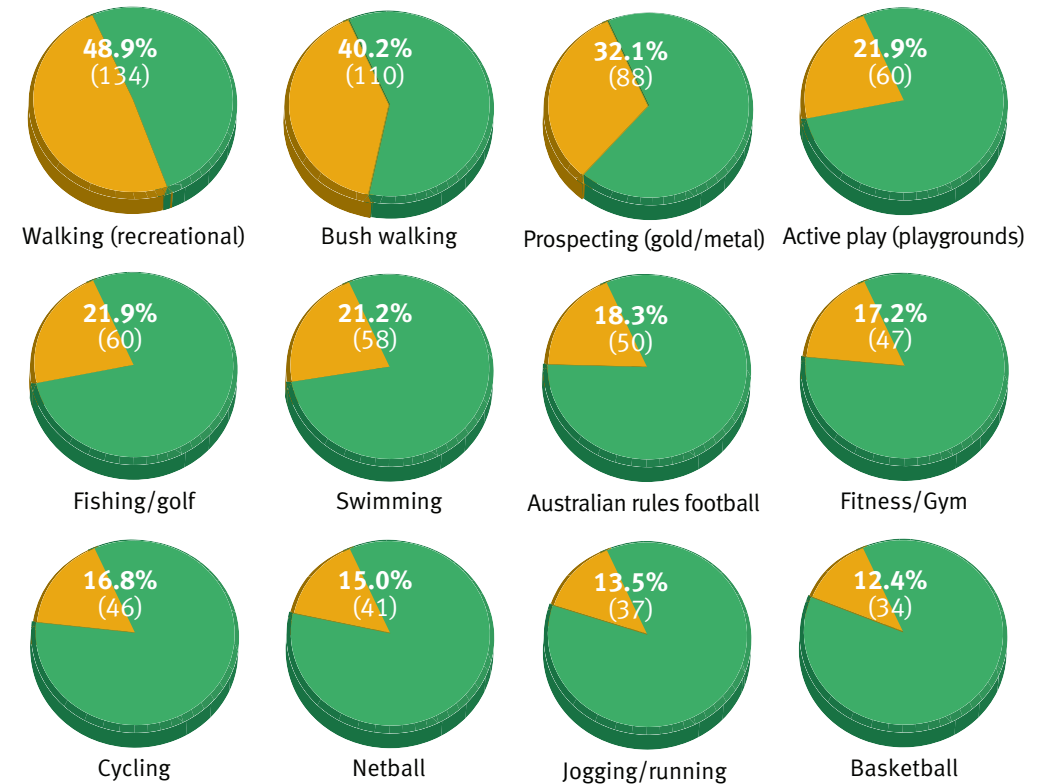
#### 2.4.1 Public survey

A total of 274 people completed a survey on current and future sport, recreation or physical activity participation. Key findings are summarised as follows:

##### 1) Current sport, recreation or physical activity participation

More than nine out of 10 people (97.4%, 267) participated in sport, recreation or physical activities in the past 12 months with the most commonly participated activities shown below.

Table 2: Public survey most commonly participated activities



The survey participation results highlighted:

- In the past 12 months almost half of the survey respondents had participated at least once in walking - recreational (48.9%, 134), followed by bushwalking with 40.2% (110) and almost one-third of respondents participated in prospecting (gold, metal, etc) with 32.1% (88).
- Many of the most participated activities use public open space for walking, bush walking, prospecting, active play, cycling and jogging/running.
- The top six activities are all individual activities with a total of 8 of the top 10 being completed by individuals while just 2 were team-based sports (Australian rules football and netball).
- Outdoor sports were the most popular which may be as a result of available facilities.

## 2) Future participation in sport, recreation or physical activity

- More than half (59.9%, 161) identified that there were no sport, recreation or physical activities that they were not participating in that they would consider trying in the next 12 months.
- Females were more likely to want to consider trying a new sport, recreation or physical activity than males (51.9% compared to 33.6%).
- People most interested in taking up a new sport, recreation or physical activity

in the next 12 months were females aged 40 – 49 years (60.9%) and 30 – 39 years (57.7%), with 53.9% of males aged 30 – 39 years.

New future sport, recreation or physical activity participation results highlighted:

- Active recreation including yoga (19.2%, 20), fishing (16.4%, 17), recreational dancing (13.5%,14), bush walking (12.5%,13), Pilates (12.5%, 13) and recreational walking (11.5%, 12).
- Specialist facilities were not needed for a number of the activities - yoga, bushwalking, walking, jogging and running - which can be participated in alone or with others.
- In contrast some of the activities need access to specific facilities such as gyms and swimming pools.
- Female respondents were interested in participating in active recreation such as yoga, dancing and bushwalking.
- Males were interested in active recreation although some different activities such as fishing, walking (recreational) and bush walking.



### 3) Sport and recreation volunteering

- Four in every 10 respondents (42.8%, 113) had acted in a volunteer role in sport or recreation with more females (50.9%, 55) than males (39.7%, 46) volunteering.
- Volunteering increased with age with highest in the 40 - 49 years and then decreasing each year with only 2% (2) of those aged 70+ volunteering.
- More than 50% (57) of volunteers were administrators or committee members or coach, instructor, trainer or teacher. The next highest response was official (including umpire and referee, judge, scorer, timekeeper, starter, etc) with 45.1% (51).

### 4) Facility usage and improvement priorities

- Highest used facility was the Goldfields Reservoir, 28.4% (72), followed by the MSLC (28.0%, 71).
- The most regular used facility was JH Hedges Memorial Park (20.0%, 47).
- Facilities that were rated as needing some improvement were Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre (MSLC) (45.5%), Princes Park (29.4%), JH Hedges Memorial Park (21.3%) and Lake Victoria (20%).
- Facilities rated as needing a lot of improvement included JH Hedges Memorial Park (68.1%) and Princes Park, (47.1%).
- Facilities needing most improvement were change rooms (51.3% of respondents), poor standard and quality of playing

surfaces (50.4%), lack of spectator facilities and seating and poor quality or no public toilets (both 41.0%).

### 5) Future participation - facilities and programs

- Facilities and spaces or programs that would encourage increased participation in sport and recreation were change room and
  - amenity improvements (40.6%, 43),
  - affordable, low cost facilities and programs (39.6%, 42),
  - updated modernised facilities (34.0%, 36) followed by facilities suitable for children and families (30.2%, 32)
  - improved and more shade or shelter at facilities (26.4%, 28).
- Five of the top six (excluding other) responses were about facilities and spaces.



### 2.4.2 Club and organisation survey

A total of 18 surveys were completed by clubs or associations.

Responses were received from football and netball (7 clubs), cricket (2 clubs), equestrian activities (2 clubs), triathlon, croquet, athletics, golf, tennis, soccer, and outdoor hiking/abseiling/camping/canoeing.

The key results indicate:

#### 1) Participation and membership

- The majority of clubs (81.3%, 13) have the capacity to increase their current membership numbers.
- Up to 18.8% of clubs require additional club members to continue operating in their current form.
- No clubs indicated that they are at member capacity.

#### 2) Existing facilities

##### • Main (home) facility

- A total of 10 different facilities were identified as being the main (home) facility. Two facilities were identified by 2 clubs each, being Carisbrook Recreation Reserve and Deledio Recreation Reserve, Dunolly.
- There was a wide range of usage agreements in place with 3 clubs operating under a seasonal user agreement with the CGSC and a further two clubs

are paying building rental or hire.

- Three clubs indicated that they are using facilities under a DELWP Committee of Management.

##### • Standard of current facilities

Figure 3 below highlights the standard of main facility (home base) ratings:

- (26%) rated their home facility as very good or good including Bealiba Recreation Reserve, MSLC and Talbot Golf Club.
- Nearly 7 out of every 10 respondents (69%) rated the facilities as needing some improvement (Carisbrook

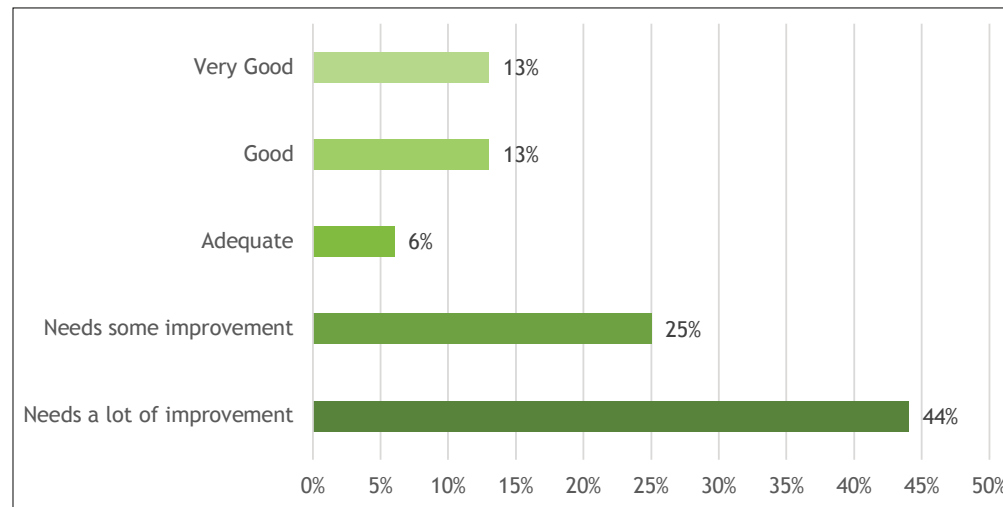
Recreation Reserve, Jack Pascoe Reserve, Jubilee Oval and Princes Park)

- Needs a lot of improvement (Carisbrook Recreation Reserve, Deledio Recreation Reserve (2), JH Hedges Memorial Park, Maryborough Tennis Centre, Maryborough VRI Croquet Club and Princes Park).
- More than one-third (38%) rated their 2nd facility as either needs some improvement (25%) or needs a lot of improvement (13%) whilst 60% rated their 3rd facility as either needs some improvement (40%) and needs a lot of improvement (20%).

##### • Competition requirements

- Just over half (57%) of main facilities used by clubs and associations meet state sports associations competition requirements for their sport.
- The main (home) facilities that were identified<sup>1</sup> as not meeting competition requirements were Bealiba Recreation Reserve, Deledio Recreation Reserve (2), JH Hedges Memorial Park, Jubilee Oval (soccer) and Maryborough VRI Croquet Club.

Figure 3: Standard of main facility (home base)



<sup>1</sup> Not all facilities were able to be identified.

### 3) Maintenance tasks at main facility

- **Grounds maintenance**
  - More than two-thirds (69%) use volunteers and half (50%) require council to undertake grounds maintenance.
  - Six clubs and organisations used a combination of council and volunteers.
  - Five clubs and organisations solely used volunteers.
  - For two clubs, council were solely responsible.
- **Building and facility maintenance**
  - More than two-thirds (69%) use volunteers, 31% use contractor's and 19% use council or other to undertake building and facility maintenance tasks.
  - Volunteers were solely responsible at 7 clubs and organisations.
  - Four clubs and organisations had volunteers and contractors undertaking building and facility maintenance.

### 4) Club and Organisation Funded Improvements

- 8 clubs and organisations are intending to undertake improvements or capital works at the facilities they use in the next five years.
- Clubs and organisations identified 9 projects that they would be seeking grant funding, of which the State and Federal

Government were identified in 3 projects.

### 5) Current and future issues

The key issues facing clubs were broken down into two main areas:

- Issues relating to facilities
- Club and organisation operations

These are listed in table 3 below.

### 6) Future support and assistance sought

The main areas of club assistance include the provision of grants to help conduct club and organisation activities (75%, 12), workshops and seminars (62.5%, 10), incentives to clubs which encourage participation and support in promotion and marketing the club and it's activities.

Table 3: Top facility and operations current and future issues

Facility issues		Club and organisation operations	
Condition and standard of facilities	62.5%	Recruiting committee members and volunteers	56.3%
Facility upgrade needs	43.8%	Attracting and retaining members	31.3%
Female friendly facilities	31.3%	Funding and sponsorship	31.3%
Maintenance requirements at facility/s	31.3%	Income generation	31.3%
Access for people with a disability	18.8%	Recruiting juniors	18.8%
Pavilion/building condition	18.8%		

### 2.4.3 Key stakeholder consultations

Consultations with key stakeholders to discuss current issues and potential future opportunities were completed and key points raised were

#### 1) Positive facilities and services feedback

- **Current facilities**
  - **Quality** – some grounds well looked after; Phillips Gardens; advanced tree planting; some have access to water.
  - **Provision** – good base and diversity of facilities provided; facilities in most communities and townships; extensive amounts of state forests and open space; proximity and ease of access to bush (e.g. Paddys Ranges); tracks and trails – walking and cycling; Goldfields Reservoir; accessible and free facilities.

- **Planning** – master plan at Gordon Gardens (started implementing); pavilion at Deledio RR; Carisbrook RR (grants to upgrade pavilion and change rooms).
- **Current services**
  - **Community development** - strong sense of community – responsive.
  - **Events** - Energy Breakthrough very successful and draws people to town; number of events / hosting.
  - **Usage** – many facilities are heavily utilised; tracks and trails attracting people – maps provided.
  - **Participation and Activity Positives** – number of people walking; number of free activities; choice of sports – diversity and the choice in smaller townships and communities; location – access to large towns and Melbourne; services available; potential for outdoor activities; social sport opportunities.
  - **Club sustainability** - resilience in clubs - they continue to operate even though they may be struggling for members.
  - **Healthy Heart of Victoria Program** - provides opportunities including linking physical activity with health.

## 2) Facilities and services issues

The main issues raised for facilities and services from the key stakeholder consultations are summarised under the relevant themes in the table below.

Table 4: Facilities and services issues

Facilities		Services	
<p><b>Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netball courts at recreation reserves – many not compliant.</li> <li>• Surface issues – ovals and courts (tennis and netball).</li> <li>• Ageing facilities of varying quality and outdated with many change rooms in poor condition with poor accessibility.</li> <li>• Many facilities not female friendly and not meeting needs of wide range of users (multi-use); not unisex design or meeting child safety requirements.</li> <li>• Limited or no umpires’ amenities.</li> <li>• Lack of welcoming spaces.</li> <li>• Paths and trails – condition (quality, safety and maintenance); lack of footpaths (safety issues for walking); lack of provision of shared paths.</li> <li>• Playgrounds - not fenced; out of date equipment; poor quality / condition; not compliant.</li> <li>• Skate parks – in poor condition; metal is hot; lacking in higher skill level elements.</li> <li>• Lack of lighting (safety), seats and footpaths.</li> <li>• Climate change – impacts of drought on playing fields; access to water.</li> <li>• Maintenance – lack of consistency and approach (inequitable); lack of and standard of maintenance; amount of maintenance needed with ageing facilities; playgrounds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Provision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of female friendly facilities limiting growth in female participation particularly in traditional male sports (cricket, Australian rules football, soccer).</li> <li>• No “rectangular” playing field; soccer does not have a home (plays at two venues – Jubilee Oval and old hockey pitches).</li> <li>• MSLC – ageing; areas not accessible (pools, spa and change); poor condition (group fitness room, pool deck [slippery] change rooms [heating and air conditioning]); limited water for older adults or family (limited water play); spa often broken.</li> <li>• Outdoor pools – ageing; not enough shade; Maryborough Outdoor Swimming Pool - heritage listing impacts on upgrades and costs; no fun elements (eg diving boards, water play); limited operating hours.</li> <li>• Underutilised or disused facilities eg tennis courts, velodrome, some ovals.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Participation and access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Club sustainability</u> – declining participation / memberships in some sports - there is competition for participants; impact of declining and ageing population (Australian rules football - number of clubs in the area for population size means there is competition for participants eg three in Maryborough); lack of juniors means clubs are unable to field teams in all age groups in some sports (limits pathways); declining population in some towns impacts team sports.</li> <li>• <u>Population</u> - young people leaving town; ageing community - need to provide options for participation and be mindful of health implications.</li> <li>• Underutilisation of large number of facilities.</li> <li>• <u>Cost to participate</u>; impact of low socio-economic area and unemployment.</li> <li>• Concerns re changes to access to State parks and forests (prospecting).</li> <li>• MSLC – limited operating hours.</li> <li>• Transport for young people; school bus can limit access and opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Governance and resourcing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Limited CGSC resources</u> available – staffing and financial for implementing the strategy, for capital works improvements and to support clubs and organisations.</li> <li>• <u>Financial</u> – cost to participate; funding for facility improvements with some clubs paying players rather than spending on facilities.</li> <li>• <u>Grants</u> – accessing information; complexity of applications - skills required to complete and be successful; no match funding; lack of knowledge of available grants.</li> <li>• <u>Child safety</u> – compliance requirements.</li> <li>• Resourcing programs and activities in townships.</li> <li>• <u>Planning</u> - lack of strategic direction.</li> <li>• <u>Volunteers</u> – expectations; ageing and declining numbers; multiple roles.</li> </ul>

### 3) Needs, improvements and opportunities

A summary of the main findings on regarding future needs, improvements and opportunities for facilities from the key stakeholder consultations is provided in the table below.

Table 5: Facilities needs, improvements and opportunities

Facilities			
<p><b>Provision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Upgrades:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gymnastics.</li> <li>– Netball courts - compliance and surface.</li> <li>– Additional courts (basketball).</li> <li>– Playgrounds - compliance; nature play; multi-age playground; sensory playground.</li> <li>– Croquet - pavilion with change rooms and amenities.</li> <li>– Female friendly facilities.</li> <li>– Accessible facility provision.</li> <li>– MSLC - upgrades to group fitness and amenities; more family and accessible change rooms and changing places; warm water program pool; more water play; pool deck (non-slip).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>New facilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <u>Rectangular sports field</u> - a home for soccer club; co-location opportunities with little athletics.</li> <li>– <u>Splash park</u> - demand within community; co-located with skate park and adventure playground; free and open access; District Level; target age up to 13 yrs.</li> <li>– <u>Skate/scooter park</u> - progress plans and development; raised in a number of consultations including Youth Cafés.</li> <li>– <u>Mountain biking</u> - potential of Bristol Hill.</li> <li>– <u>Fitness equipment</u> - Princes Park.</li> <li>– Active sports areas - half-courts, hit-up walls, etc.</li> <li>– Wellness facilities eg at hospital.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Facilities suitable for older adults</u> (age friendly and intergenerational).</li> <li>• <u>Rationalising and re-purposing:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Rationalising investments in Australian rules football, cricket and netball.</li> <li>– Consider de-commissioning facilities - identify surplus assets.</li> <li>– Re-purposing underutilised facilities (eg consider velodrome as off-leash dog area/dog park).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Facility Hierarchy</u> - review and assess all facilities against hierarchy.</li> <li>• <u>Outdoor pools</u> - more shade; amenities upgrades (Dunolly and Maryborough); fun elements (eg replace 20m pool with splash pad and water play at Maryborough).</li> <li>• <u>Multi-use and shared use</u> - consolidate provision; partnerships with schools (joint use facility provision).</li> <li>• <u>Criteria to assess capital works projects.</u></li> <li>• <u>Shade</u> - natural shade; use mature trees.</li> <li>• <u>Tracks, trails and paths:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Linking paths eg to Goldfields Reservoir.</li> <li>– More shared paths where children can ride bikes to school safely.</li> <li>– Footpath on at least one side of a street.</li> <li>– Opportunities for rail trail with disused train track to Castlemaine.</li> <li>– Lighting - safety.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Townships</b></p> <p>Key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Bealiba:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Footpaths, shade (trees and shade sails).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Carisbrook:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Plans being completed for improvements at recreation reserve.</li> <li>– Access to bore water?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Dunolly:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Deledio RR pavilion - plans for new pavilion.</li> <li>– Dunolly Horse Activity Club - perimeter fence upgrades (safety).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Maryborough:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Eight recreation reserves in Maryborough needs reviewing - opportunities for sharing and repurposing.</li> <li>– Upgrade and improvements to Jack Pascoe, Jubilee Oval, Princes Park, Maryborough Tennis Club, MSLC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Talbot:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Linking paths; footpath provision and seating.</li> <li>– Facility upgrades (football).</li> <li>– Stadium - alternative uses (non-compliant for netball).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netball court compliance - upgrade courts (Princes Park, Jubilee Oval and JH Hedges Memorial Park).</li> <li>• Fields of play surface improvements.</li> <li>• Focus on improving what already have.</li> <li>• Improved lighting - fields of play and safety.</li> <li>• Facility hierarchy - option for less at higher quality; Princes Park - if regional then re-turf oval.</li> <li>• Sustainability - managing climate change impacts; access to water; heat; shade - at outdoor pools, along streets, playgrounds, mature trees.</li> </ul> <p><b>Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing access to water and making use of technologies, looking at surface water capture - storage and use of water.</li> <li>• Prioritise resource allocations - concentrate on high use and shared facilities.</li> </ul>



A summary of the key findings regarding future service needs, improvements and opportunities from the key stakeholder consultations are provided in the table below.

Table 6: Services needs, improvements and opportunities

Services		
<p><b>Usage and participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-use and joint use facilities - sharing of facilities; partnerships with schools for use of ovals, play spaces, stadiums, etc</li> <li>• MSLC - increased opening hours; gym 24/7.</li> <li>• Outdoor pools - longer operating hours.</li> <li>• Manage usage of facilities - sharing; reduced number of higher quality facilities.</li> <li>• Physical activity - getting people active; non-structured opportunities.</li> <li>• Healthy Heart of Victoria - continue to engage in programs and leverage off that.</li> <li>• Activation - opportunities for low cost / free; social sports and activity participation options.</li> <li>• Disadvantaged / priority groups:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Females - taking a lead; maximising opportunities.</li> <li>– Older adults - ageing community and intergenerational opportunities.</li> <li>– Youth - more activities and opportunities for young people; declining numbers and how to address in team sports.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New and different activity opportunities.</li> <li>• Integrated service provision and partnership opportunities.</li> <li>• Programs and activities in townships (not just Maryborough).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Governance and partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for partnerships / linkages with:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Parks Victoria - integrated approach including promotion; with improved communication and linkages can share usage between the two groups assets.</li> <li>– Sports Focus.</li> <li>– Maryborough and District Health Service.</li> <li>– Maryborough Education Centre.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Club sustainability – sharing of facilities and resources.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Resourcing and promotion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CGSC:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Clearly defined role.</li> <li>– Will need to consider increased resourcing to enable and facilitate implementation and act on strategy.</li> <li>– How can council increase funding (addressing lack of financial resources)?</li> <li>– DELWP – determine role in resourcing DELWP community managed facilities.</li> <li>– Management of recreation reserves – equitable system.</li> <li>– Communication and engagement with clubs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provision of free and low cost activities and access to facilities (address socio-economic issues); assess impact of free access to outdoor pools (cost vs community benefit of potential increased usage).</li> <li>• Contract for outdoor pools and MSLC up for review in 2021- need to review the service levels.</li> <li>• Marketing - promotion of free and low cost opportunities; signage about events activities.</li> <li>• Grants - facilitation; assistance and training.</li> <li>• Ensure equitable approach - consider townships and surrounds as well as Maryborough.</li> <li>• Reliable NBN/internet - advocacy.</li> <li>• Education and training of volunteers.</li> </ul>



#### 2.4.4 Youth café consultations

The participants at the three youth cafés were asked to select the best future improvements / opportunities for youth being:

- Dunolly - new asphalt running track around oval with lines at Deledio Recreation Reserve; open pool earlier in day and month; bubble taps; diving board at pool.
- Maryborough - water park; water slides at outdoor pool; dog park near the lake; more open green grass; more camping places at Maryborough.
- Talbot - gym; heated pool with a water slide.

#### 2.4.5 Interviews with neighbouring local government areas

Telephone interviews were conducted with neighbouring municipalities, being Hepburn Shire Council, Loddon Shire Council, Mount Alexander Shire Council and Northern Grampians Shire Council. Key points to note in terms of issues and opportunities:

- Sustainability of clubs in some sports - participants and volunteers.
- Ageing infrastructure and quality issues – demand for upgrades including female friendly provision to facilitate and encourage female participation.
- Importance of walking and cycling.
- Need to keep costs down and gain efficiencies.
- Partnership and service sharing opportunities between local government areas.

#### 2.5 Trends Impacting on Sport and Recreation Participation

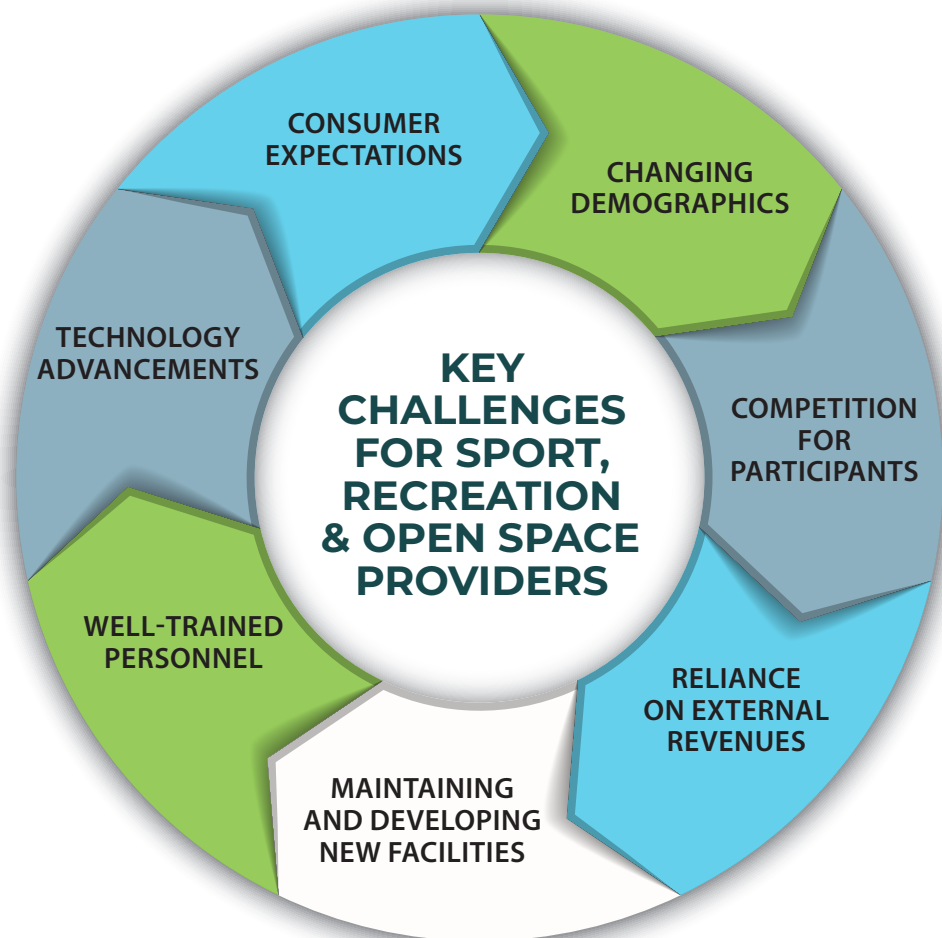
The key sport and recreation trends that are likely to impact on this strategy are pictured in the following graphic:



<sup>2</sup> Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport 2017, The Boston Consulting Group, 2017

### 2.5.1 Provider challenges

Industry trends also confirm the following key challenges facing sport, recreation and open space providers:



### 2.5.2 Participation trends

The project has reviewed a range of research documents and key issues from the Sport Australia AusPlay<sup>1</sup> survey results and other sport and recreation participation research which are provided in the following sections.

#### a) Adult participation

- In the period from July 2018 to June 2019 in Victoria:
  - 91% of adults (15 yrs and over) participated at least once per year in some form of physical activity or sport for exercise or recreation with male and female participation equal at 91%.
  - Participation at least once per year generally declines with age with the highest level of participation in the 15 - 17 yr age groups (96.3%) compared to those aged 65+ who had the lowest rate at 87.1%.
  - As frequency of participation increases the rates of participation decreases:
- Participation over three times or more per week found that almost two-thirds (64.6%) participated in some form of physical activity or sport for exercise or recreation.
- One-quarter (25.1%) of the survey respondents participated in some form of physical activity or sport for exercise or recreation seven or more times.
- The most popular activities for adults for the past two years are identified in the following table.

Table 7: Victorian adult participation by activity – 2017/18 to 2018/19

Ranking	2018 –2019	2017 –2018
1	Walking (recreational) 45.0%	Walking (recreational) 45.0%
2	Fitness/gym 37.5%	Fitness/gym 35.3%
3	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running) 16.4%	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running) 15.5%
4	Swimming 14.5%	Swimming 14.0%
5	Cycling 13.2%	Cycling 12.4%
6	Basketball 5.9%	Golf 5.5%
7	Yoga 5.4%	Yoga 5.4%
8	Golf 5.2%	Bush walking 5.2%
9	Bush walking 5.1%	Tennis 4.6%
10	Australian rules football 4.7%	Basketball 4.5%



<sup>1</sup> Sources for following sections: AusPlay survey results July 2016 – June 2017; AusPlay participation data for the sport sector summary of key national findings October 2015 to September 2016 data, December 2016; AusPlay survey results July 2018 to June 2019, Sport Australia, October 2019.

A review of the results for Victorian adult participation by activity indicates the following trends:

- Walking remained the most popular activity at 45%.
  - The top ten activities were predominantly the same for both years.
  - There were increases in the percentage of adults participating in fitness and gym 35.3% to 37.5%.
- A comparison between the top ten adult participation by activity (at least once per year) in Victoria males versus females over the period indicates the following trends:
    - In 2018/19 males were more likely than females to participate in athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running) with 18.7% versus 14.1% and cycling (16.6% versus 10%) whilst females (56.7%) were more likely to walk (recreational) than males (33.7%) as with fitness and gym, 42.0% compared to 32.8%.
    - A higher percentage of males than females also participated in golf, football (soccer), Australian rules football and basketball.
    - A higher percentage of females than males participated in swimming, yoga, pilates, bush walking and netball.

- Motivations for participation:
  - Physical health and fitness – strongest motivation in all age groups; it tends to increase with age until 25 - 34 years age group then plateaus increasing again in the 45 - 54 years and then decreases slightly; was strongest in the 45 - 54 years age group (84.4%).

- Fun and enjoyment - those aged 15 - 17 yrs age group are more motivated by this than all other age groups, whilst only 39.7% of those 65+ motivation was fun and enjoyment; generally, decreases with age.

- Social reasons - were strongest of the age groups in the 15 - 17 years with 38.8%, whilst only 25.7% of 55 - 64 year olds motivation was social reasons; tends to decrease with age increasing again in the 65+ age group.



### b) Children's participation<sup>1</sup>

- An estimated 82.2% of children (0 - 14 years) participated in organised sport and physical activity outside school hours at least once per year.
- A higher percentage of girls (83.3%) than boys (81.2%) participated compared to 2017/18 when a higher percentage of boys (75.1%) than girls (73.7%) participated. The participation rates decreased significantly for participation in organised sport and physical activity outside school hours 3+ times per week with an estimated 23.4% females and 22.3% males.

The most popular activities for children in Victoria for the period are provided in table 8.

A review of children's participation results indicates that:

- Swimming remained the most popular activity, more than double that of the second most popular activity (Australian rules football).
- Nine of the top ten sports were the same in all periods except for athletics, track and field which is no longer ranked in the top ten being replaced by karate (4.2%, 10th).

A review of results by gender for 2018/2019 indicates that:

- Swimming was the most popular activity for both boys (32.6%) and girls (35.9%) whilst the second most popular activity for

boys was Australian rules football (26.3%) and for girls dancing (recreational) (21.1%).

- Girls (45.4%) were more likely to swim than boys (38.9%) as with dancing (recreational, 21.1%), gymnastics (16.1%) and netball (12.1%).
- Boys were more likely than girls to participate in Australian rules football with 26.3%, football (soccer)(14.5%), basketball (14.5% versus 8.8%), cricket (11.2%) and tennis (9.6%).



Table 8: Children's participation for Victoria by activity for 2017/18 to 2018/19

Ranking	2018 –2019		2017 –2018	
1	Swimming	42.0%	Swimming	34.1%
2	Australian rules football	16.0%	Australian rules football	15.8%
3	Gymnastics	11.9%	Basketball	12.4%
4	Basketball	11.8%	Dancing (recreational)	8.6%
5	Dancing (recreational)	11.3%	Gymnastics	8.5%
6	Football (soccer)	11.2%	Football (soccer)	8.4%
7	Tennis	8.1%	Netball	7.4%
8	Cricket	6.5%	Tennis	7.3%
9	Netball	5.9%	Cricket	6.3%
10	Karate	4.2%	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	4.7%

<sup>1</sup> Please note that for AusPlay surveys for children 0-14 years, data was collected via the child's parent/guardian for organised participation outside of school hours.

### c) Older adults participation

In October 2018 SportAus released a report, *Older Australians' Participation in Sport and Physical Activity* using the results from the AusPlay survey. The key findings included:

- 86% are participating in physical activity with 44% active five times or more per week, however only one-third meet the physical activity recommendations.
- Participation tends to decrease with age, however, does not drop significantly until 75 years plus, with the decrease more pronounced in females than males.
- Older men are more likely to participate in sports clubs or associations (48% versus 22%).

A review of results for the top ten sports and physical activities for males compared to females indicates that:



- Females (67%) were more likely to walk (recreational) than males (54%) as with fitness and gym, 31% compared to 22% whilst males were more likely than females to participate in cycling (14% versus 6%) and golf (14% versus 4%).
- A higher percentage of females than males also participated in swimming, yoga, pilates and tennis whilst a higher percentage of males than females also participated in running, bush walking, fishing, bowls and tennis.
- Health related reasons are both the main motivation and barrier to participation in sport and physical activity for older Australians.
- Motivations and barriers varied with age - 'increasing age/too old' and 'no opportunities/facilities/clubs in my area' are unique to those aged 65+.
- Those aged 75+ were more likely to use physical activity as a 'way of getting around'.

### d) Victoria and sport participation

*Sport Participation in Victoria, 2017* (VicHealth and Sport and Recreation Victoria, Nov 2019) covers the results of research into organised community sport in 12 popular Victorian sports. Key results include:

- Participation is highest in children aged 5 - 14 yrs, with half of all sport participants aged between 4 - 14 yrs.
- Female sport participation rates (11%) are almost half those of males (20%).

- Female participation in traditionally male-dominated sports (Australian rules football, soccer and cricket) increased considerably over the three-year period, mainly in the 5 - 19 yrs due to policy initiatives and strategic investments by the sports into visible pathways for females.

### e) Central Goldfields Shire Sport Participation

*Sport Participation by Local Government*

- Participation in Central Goldfields Shire increased each year from 20.1% in 2015

to 20.9% in 2016 and peaking at 21.1% in 2017 which was similar to the average for regional other (excludes regional growth).

- In 2015 Central Goldfields was ranked 24 of the 40 regional other local government areas, increasing to 21 in 2016 and 2017.

Table 9 on the next page compares the top 10 sport and recreation activities in the Shire compared to Victoria.



<sup>1</sup> T4156.0 - Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2012, Australian Bureau of Statistics, updated January 2015

Table 9: CGSC and Victorian sport and recreation participation

Ranking	CGSC		Victoria	
1	Walking (recreational)	48.9%	Walking (recreational)	45.0%
2	Bush walking	40.2%	Fitness/Gym	37.5%
3	Prospecting (gold/metal)	32.1%	Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	16.4%
4	Active play (playgrounds)	21.9%	Swimming	14.5%
5	Fishing/Golf	21.9%	Cycling	13.2%
6	Swimming	21.2%	Basketball	5.9%
7	Australian rules football	18.3%	Yoga	5.4%
8	Fitness/Gym	17.2%	Golf	5.2%
9	Cycling	16.8%	Bush walking	5.1%
10	Netball	15.0%	Australian rules football	4.7%

## 2.6 Sport, Recreation and Open Space Facility Hierarchy

A three-level facility hierarchy consistent with the research findings, industry and regional trends is proposed for CGSC in order to guide the future development and provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

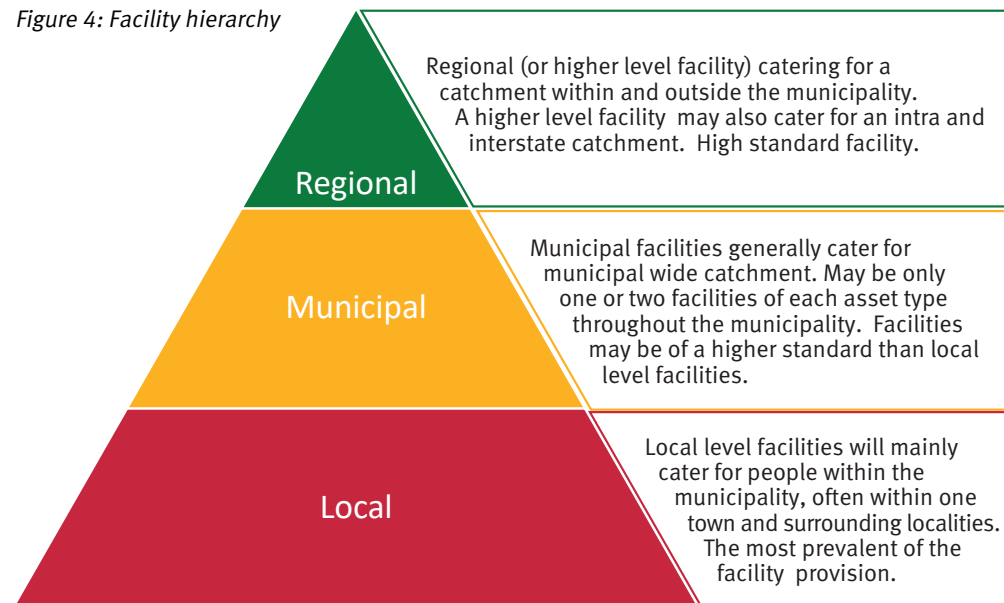
As part of this strategy all council owned, or managed facilities have been classified according to the definitions provided for sport, recreation and open space for each facility hierarchy level.

The figure below summarises the recommended ROSS facility hierarchy proposed to guide future facility development.

The service levels for ground and building maintenance will be provided in line with the hierarchical structure noting for example higher standard regional facilities will usually require a greater level of maintenance.

In line with adopting this facility hierarchy classification system it is recommended these are reviewed/reassessed every five years or as facilities are upgraded and/or user needs change.

Figure 4: Facility hierarchy





### 2.6.1 Open space facility hierarchy definitions

The definitions for the three-level open space facility hierarchy are listed in table 9 below.

Table 9: Open space facility hierarchy definitions

Classification	Definition	Examples
Regional	Regional or higher level facility catering for a catchment within and outside the Shire. If a higher standard facility it may also cater for an intra and interstate catchment. Size generally 10 - 30 hectares. State significant open spaces are usually managed by state agencies, often in partnership with council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paddys Ranges State Park</li> </ul>
Municipal	Municipal open space facilities cater for and have a municipal catchment. Usually a minimum of 3 ha and may be specialised for specific sporting infrastructure in conjunction with informal recreation and passive activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldfields Reservoir</li> <li>• Princes Park – Australian rules football and cricket</li> </ul>
Local	Local level and township facilities will mainly cater for people within a local catchment. Generally, services the immediate local area.  Size can be up to 10 hectares and will often comprise both passive and active open space. Likely to be the home for the towns outdoor sport and recreation facilities (e.g. sports ovals, tennis courts, parkland, hall and pavilions, etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amherst Reef Geological Reserve, Lillicur</li> <li>• Bealiba Reservoir Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Brian Dowie Conservation Park, Carisbrook</li> <li>• Jack Pascoe Reserve, Maryborough</li> <li>• Gordon Gardens, Dunolly</li> <li>• Talbot Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>

### 2.6.2 Sport facility hierarchy definitions

The definitions for the three-level sport facility hierarchy are listed in table 10 below.

Table 10: Sport facility hierarchy definitions

Classification	Definition	Examples
Regional	Regional level facility catering for a catchment within and outside the municipality. They will have the capacity and standard of infrastructure to cater for and attract regional and state level events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryborough Harness Racing</li> </ul>
Municipal	Municipal facilities cater for and have a municipal catchment. They will generally cater for activities that have lower participation rates and only one or two facilities throughout the municipality. Facilities may be of a higher standard than local level facilities to accommodate a higher level of competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldfields Gymnastics</li> <li>• Maryborough Golf Club</li> <li>• Maryborough and District Gun Club, Carisbrook</li> <li>• MSLC (basketball and aquatics)</li> </ul>
Local	Local level facilities will mainly cater for people within CGSC area, sometimes within one town, providing for local senior and junior club competition and training. They are normally the “home ground” facility for user groups. May include school facilities being used as joint-use community facilities.  Generally, services the immediate local area and in rural areas the surrounding community.  Local facilities tend to be the most prevalent of the sporting facility provision within CGSC area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carisbrook Recreation Reserve</li> <li>• Dunluce Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Dunolly Bowling Club</li> <li>• JH Hedges Memorial Park</li> <li>• Talbot Golf Club</li> </ul>

### 2.6.3 Recreation facility hierarchy definitions

The definitions for the three-level recreation facility hierarchy in order to guide the future development and provision of recreation facilities are detailed in the following table.

Table 10: Recreation facility hierarchy definitions

Classification	Definition	Examples
Regional	Regional level facility catering for a catchment within and outside the municipality. May be managed by state agencies in partnership with council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tullaroop Reservoir</li> </ul>
Municipal	Municipal facilities cater for and have a municipal catchment. Facilities may be of a higher standard than local level facilities and will cater for informal and passive activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alma Camping and Recreation Reserve</li> <li>Goldfields Reservoir</li> </ul>
Local	<p>Local level facilities will mainly cater for people within CGSC area, sometimes within one town, providing for local community recreation.</p> <p>Generally, services the immediate local area and in rural areas the surrounding community.</p> <p>Local facilities tend to be the most prevalent of the recreation facility provision within CGSC area and will cater for informal and passive activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daisy Hill Community Centre</li> <li>Dunolly Outdoor Pool</li> <li>Herring Reserve, Maryborough</li> <li>Pioneer Park and Playground, Talbot</li> <li>Timor Historic Cultural Features Reserve</li> </ul>





## 2.7 Assets Prioritisation and Assessment System

Systems to assess project priorities for open space including capital works have been developed.

### 2.7.1 Assessment of land for open space

Criteria to be applied to assessing any future proposals for land to be used as open space has been recommended in the following key categories:

- Access and liveability - distribution, access and connectivity; accessibility.
- Quality - appropriateness and useability - size; shape; topography; aspect and orientation; access to services; land capability assessment; land suitability assessment; land ownership and use; council policies and planning; operating cost assessment.

A Capital Works Assessment Matrix with limited resources and high demand council funding for improvements in prioritising capital works projects. Key assessment is based on a four stage review process:

- Assessment one - relates to an existing facility and includes quality and functionality, strategic fit and alignment, facility guidelines (state sporting association or Australian playground standards), condition.
- Assessment two - land ownership and land management, environmental benefit.
- Assessment three - participation outcomes.
- Assessment four - need and community benefit.

### 2.7.2 Capital Works Assessment Matrix

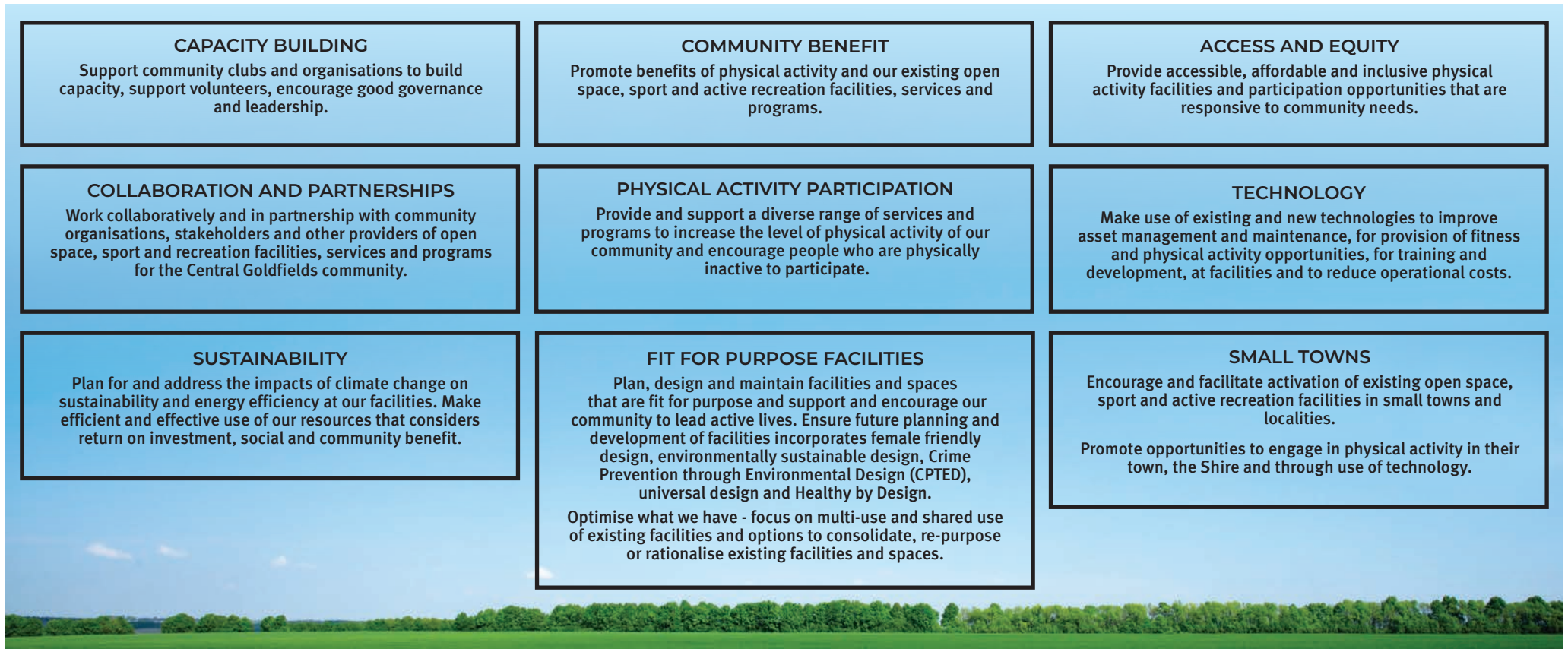
### 3. THE CGSC RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

This section details the recommended strategies for the CGSC Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020 to 2029. The Strategy is framed within the context of the CGSC Plan 2017 - 2021 Vision of:

To be a vibrant, thriving, inclusive  
community

#### 3.1 Strategy Principles

The CGSC Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2020 to 2029 is guided by council making future priority facilities program and services decisions using the following principles shown in the graphic below.



### 3.2 Council's Sport, Recreation and Open Space Role

Councils role in the provision of, investment in, and delivery of sport, recreation and open space facilities programs and services will include:

#### Facilities

- To identify council owned sport, recreation and open space assets which are surplus to needs and investigate options and opportunities to re-purpose, consolidate or rationalise.
- To incorporate environmentally sustainable design, universal design, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) female friendly design, and Healthy by Design in the design of new and upgraded facilities.

#### Physical Activity Participation

- Providing choice and diversity of opportunities for people to be more physically active - access all abilities.
- Partnerships to activate our existing open space, sport and recreation places and spaces.
- Support and partnerships to provide and promote programs and services aimed at increasing the level of physical activity of our community.

#### Partnership

- To develop partnerships with government, education providers, the business sector, community clubs and organisations to fund and resource facility development.
- To partner with local communities to plan facilities, programs and services.

#### Advocacy and Investment

- To be financially responsible, allocate funding based on our adopted plans, policies and strategies, supporting evidence and identified need.
- To seek, lobby and advocate for external funding from State and Federal government, peak bodies and other key agencies.
- To provide, facilitate and support access to affordable participation opportunities to assist people to be more active, more often.
- To contract delivery of sport and recreation services to commercial or community organisations.

#### Leadership

To be a proactive leader for the community in the policy, planning, provision of and access to sport, active recreation and physical activity facilities, programs and services.

#### Promotion

- To promote and inform our community about the:
- Benefits to health and wellbeing of participation in sport, active recreation and physical activity.
  - Participation opportunities - programs and services.
  - Existing open space, sport and recreation facilities and spaces in and around Central Goldfields Shire.

### 3.3 Recommended Priority Project Assessment Criteria

The financial and human resources available are likely to not meet identified demand. Council will consider the following criteria in making decisions regarding future priorities (not in priority order).



#### Planning for New, Renewal and Upgraded Facilities

Capital works that align with the facility hierarchy level and that are rated highly in the Capital Works Assessment Matrix.

Opportunities for shared and multi-use or repurposing of an existing facility, with a focus on maximising use of single purpose, single use and/or underutilised facilities.

Informed by community health and wellbeing status data to help influence health outcomes.

#### Business Case

A business case and a current business plan is provided when tenant clubs and organisations, land owners and managers or other groups and organisations seek a major funding contribution from council.

#### Partnerships

Projects delivered in partnership with other groups and organisations including the provision of resources.

#### Project Contributions

To progress capital works priority projects including sourcing grant funding, user groups will be required to contribute financially or through in kind with levels to be determined by council.

#### Integrated Planning

Open space, sport and recreation facilities and activities identified and prioritised in other council strategies and plans will be taken into account.

#### Facility Hierarchy Alignment

New developments and upgrades to existing facilities are to be in accordance with the hierarchy classification level(s).

#### Inclusive Facility Provision

Projects that include provision of new and/or upgraded facilities for under-represented groups including female friendly and access for all facilities provision.

#### New and Emerging Activities

As it may not be possible to provide facilities and/or allocate resources to meet all identified needs and at a specific level in the hierarchy, these needs may be met by provision in a neighbouring or other council area.

#### Viability

Project meets identified unmet demand. Ongoing viability and sustainability of user groups and sports and activities.

#### Economic Impact

The economic benefit and impact of the investment - strengthening our local economy.

#### Physical Activity Programs

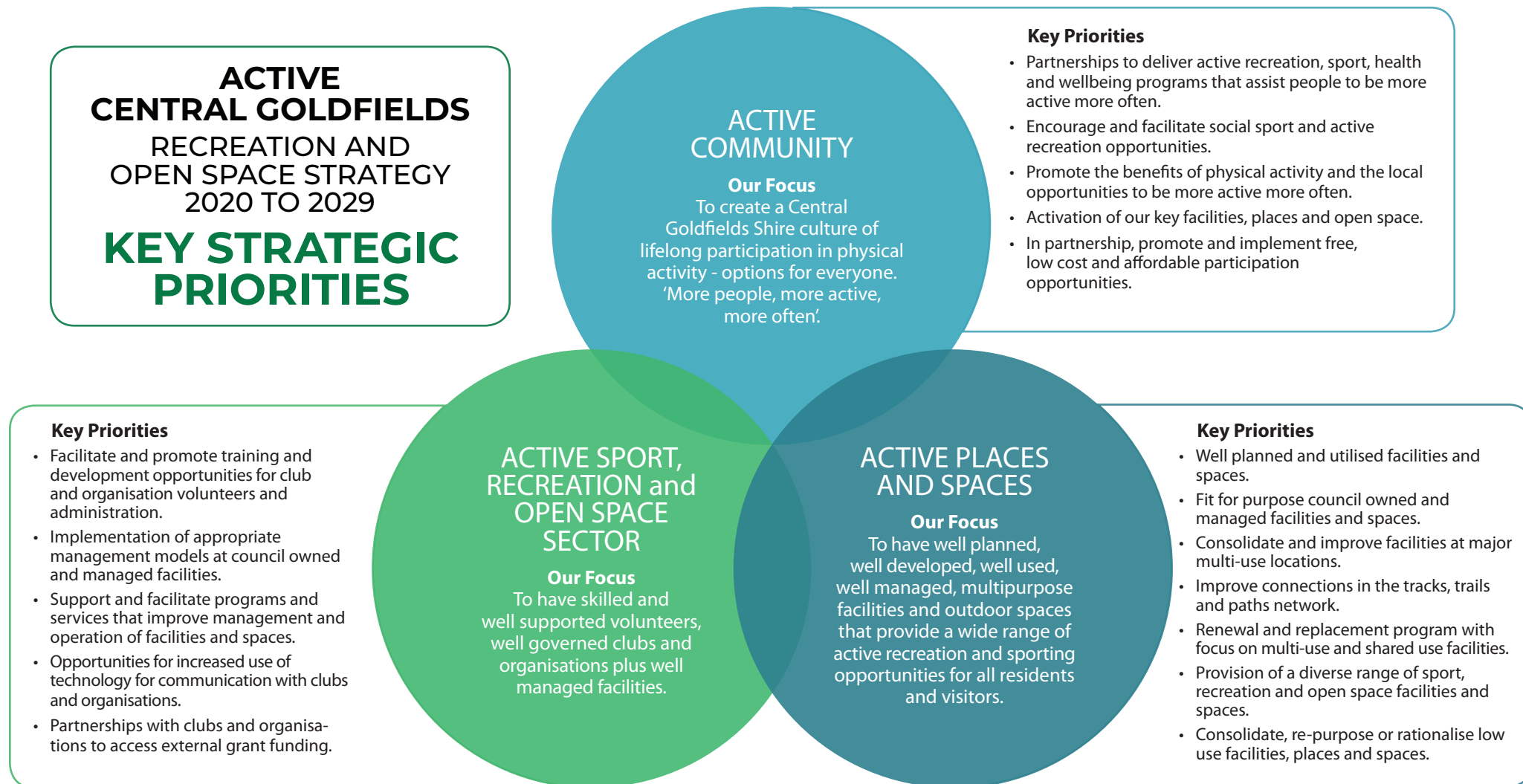
Provides physical activity opportunities targeted to underrepresented, marginalised or vulnerable groups in the community. Provides affordable and accessible participation opportunities. Supports people who are physically inactive to participate and/or people to be more active, more often. Increases the diversity of opportunities including new and emerging activities, social sport or active recreation.

#### Low Participation or Specialised Activities

Facilities for low participation or specialised activities where viable or feasible will be provided in Maryborough or where already provided in townships or localities (such as equestrian, shooting, motorcycle, etc).

### 3.4 Strategy Framework

The Strategy will be guided by the following 3 key sectors and guided by each sectors focus and key priorities as listed in the following graphic.



### 3.5 The CGSC Recreation and Open Space Strategies and Actions

In reviewing the following strategies please note that the LINKING STRATEGIES AND PLANS have been developed in association with:

- CGSC Plan
- Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Community Plans
- Integrated Transport Management Plan
- Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Economic Development
- Tourism Strategy
- Disability Action Plan.

#### Implementation

The timelines for the strategies are dependent on the readiness and capacity of CGSC, users and project partners to proceed with each strategy.

Where community benefit and cost savings can be achieved by delivering strategies and actions concurrently, council officers will review and make amendments accordingly in consultation with the relevant parties and (if required) as approved by council.

In some of the identified strategies further specific and detailed research, investigations and consultations may be required.

#### Timelines

The recommended strategies are currently listed under the following priority timelines:

- High 0-4 years
- Medium 5-7 years
- Long 8-10 years
- Ongoing

#### Review

The Strategy requires review by CGSC annually in order to identify completed strategies and to determine strategies that may need to be revised, re-prioritised, updated or removed due to changing community needs, opportunities or available resources.

#### Funding and Budgets

The strategies do not commit CGSC or any proposed project partner organisations to the responsibility for funding and/or delivery of the strategies.

The commitment of funding will be subject to council's annual budget processes and where necessary the securing of external funding.





### 3.5.1 ACTIVE COMMUNITY

**Our focus: to create a Central Goldfields Shire culture of lifelong participation in physical activity - options for everyone. 'More people, more active, more often'!**

**CGSC and community challenges – what you told us!**

- Affordable programs and club fees, uniforms, equipment
- Need for more free or low fee activities
- Access and inclusion
- Maximising the use of facilities and spaces
- Activities and opportunities for all
- How to live an active and healthy lifestyle
- Need for non traditional and new sport and active recreation options
- More information about what is available – promoting what we have
- Continued predicted decrease in participation by adult males in traditional sports.



### 3.5.1.1 Priority - lifelong physical activity participation - 'More people, more active, more often'

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
1. Develop Central Goldfields Shire Active Participation Communication Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Utilise council's communications unit to promote physical activity, healthy living, the health benefits of and opportunities available for sport, active recreation and physical activity.</li> <li>b. Promote relevant apps and websites.</li> <li>c. Work with schools to promote community sport and active recreation opportunities.</li> <li>d. Develop strategies to ensure effective communication with clubs, organisations and the community.</li> <li>e. Make the Leisure Services Guide more interactive.</li> <li>f. Develop a specific focus on promoting free and informal opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Budget maybe required for d.</p>	Ongoing	Schools, clubs and organisations, physical activity providers, health services, peak and regional organisations.
2. Develop an Active Central Goldfields Community Partnership Initiatives Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Convene a partnership of key local agencies to develop the plan and implementation strategy.</li> <li>b. Work with Maryborough and District Health Service (MDHS) to encourage general practitioners to continue making or introduce referrals to relevant physical activity options.</li> <li>c. Partner with key stakeholders to assist clubs and organisations to implement sport, active recreation, health and wellbeing programs.</li> <li>d. Link to and promote participation in existing physical activity challenges and platforms.</li> </ul>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Budget maybe required for c and/or d - To be determined (TBD).</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing Ongoing</p>	Sports Focus, VicHealth, Healthy Hearts of Victoria, State and Federal Government, Universities, education providers, health services, state sporting associations, peak and regional sports organisations, community groups, clubs and organisations.
3. Support and implement events and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to implement the Walking and Cycling Strategy events and programs actions.</li> <li>b. Work with partners to develop and implement programs that encourage inactive people to become more active such as walking and cycling, social dog walking groups, etc.</li> <li>c. Work with partners to increase social sport and active recreation such as opening up locked sport and recreation facilities, assisting clubs in offering social sport, increased programming of social sport and active recreation activities at MSLC and outdoor pools.</li> </ul>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Budget to implement actions - TBD</p>	High and Ongoing	Walking and Cycling Advisory Committee, clubs and organisations, schools, health services, facility management, funding bodies.
4. Activate the MSLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Investigate physical activity opportunities and initiatives to increase weekday off-peak usage of the Centre by schools, community groups, businesses and individuals; implement viable actions, seeking any required funding.</li> <li>b. Complete a cost benefit analysis of providing 24/7 health club access.</li> </ul>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Capital to implement action b - TBD</p>	Medium	Centre management, community groups and clubs, businesses, funding bodies.
5. Activate open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identify and promote opportunities for active recreation in Paddys Ranges in partnership with Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation (DDWCC) and Parks Victoria</li> <li>b. Identify other open space activation opportunities and engage with land owners and managers re implementation.</li> </ul>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Budget may be required for implementation - TBD</p>	<p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium - Long Ongoing</p>	Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, Parks Victoria, land owners and managers.

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
6. Create healthy activity environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Promote implementation of the Healthy Choices Framework in sporting clubs and venues.</li> <li>b. Adopt the Healthy Choices Policy Guidelines for sport and recreation centres including the MSLC, outdoor pools and in any facility management tenders.</li> <li>c. Encourage clubs and associations to participate in programs that create healthy activity environments.</li> </ul>	CGSC	Medium	Sports Focus, clubs and organisations, users, health services and providers, facility management
7. Increase participation in small towns and localities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Work with local communities to develop physical activity communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social physical activity groups</li> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Riding</li> <li>• Dog walking</li> <li>• Scootering</li> <li>• Identify circuits for being active.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Promote and encourage opportunities to access groups and individual physical activity sessions on the internet.</li> </ul>	CGSC Budget maybe required to implement actions in a.	High Ongoing	Small towns, community groups, health services facility managers.
8. Increase opportunities for under represented individuals and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implement and promote free, low cost and affordable sport, active recreation and physical activity options.</li> <li>b. Seek resources to provide discounted access to facilities and programs for holders of a concession card.</li> <li>c. Work with clubs and organisations to offer discounted fees for concession card holders and promote their participation in this offering.</li> <li>d. Partner with relevant groups to run free activities and events.</li> <li>e. Seek funds to activate outdoor gym equipment by providing free training when newly installed.</li> <li>f. Seek external grant funding to develop and implement new free programs and services.</li> </ul>	CGSC Budget to implement actions - TBD	Ongoing Ongoing Medium Medium High Ongoing	Clubs and organisations, facility management, program providers, State Government, peak and regional organisations, funding bodies.
9. Increase female participation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Investigate the interest for, and feasibility of, female only sessions at MSLC.</li> <li>b. Identify and promote local ambassadors.</li> <li>c. Promote and encourage the inclusion of females in leadership positions including on committees and boards of management, in coaching and officiating and other leadership roles.</li> <li>d. Improve access for females to quality participation opportunities including providing female friendly facilities and access to gender inclusive and accessible facilities and programs.</li> <li>e. Support and assist clubs to create social, flexible and fun programs that empower females to give it a go regardless of their background, ability, age, size or body shape.</li> </ul>	CGSC  Budget to implement action d - TBD	Medium Medium Ongoing High and Ongoing Ongoing	Facility management, clubs and organisations, peak and regional organisations, Sports Focus, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
10. Increase participation by young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Investigate program initiatives, with local health services, to assist young people with obesity to increase their physical activity.</li> <li>b. Develop a program, with young people, of non-traditional, non-structured informal sport and active recreation activities.</li> <li>c. Ensure that inclusive programs and services and supportive environments are provided for young people at MSLC.</li> <li>d. Assist clubs to establish links with schools to help young people transition from school activities to community activities.</li> <li>e. Facilitate specific events and programs for young people at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new skate and scooter park.</li> <li>• proposed splash park/water play.</li> <li>• aquatic facilities and,</li> <li>• indoor centres.</li> </ul> </li> <li>f. Develop leadership opportunities for young people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a skate and scooter park activation group.</li> <li>• Events management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>g. Work with young people to design promotional materials targeting physical activity participation and ideas to young people.</li> </ul>	CGSC Budget to implement actions a, b, e, g - TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> <li>Medium</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	Health services, clubs and organisations, education providers, Sports Focus, centre and facility managers.
11. Increase participation by older adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensure that older adults programs are provided at MSLC and outdoor pools.</li> <li>b. Promote the range of age friendly physical activity opportunities available in Central Goldfields Shire.</li> <li>c. Partner with health sector to provide physical activity programs and services for older adults.</li> </ul>	CGSC Budget to implement actions a and b - TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	Facility management, health providers, older adults groups, clubs and organisations.
12. Increase participation by people of all abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Accept the companion card at CGSC facilities, programs and events and encourage other providers to also accept the Companion Card.</li> <li>b. Conduct engagement activities for people with a disability and their carers to identify activities of interest and link them with all abilities and inclusive clubs, programs and activities.</li> <li>c. Promote the Access All Abilities program offered by Sports Focus.</li> <li>d. Support disability service providers and health services in accessing and providing sport, active recreation and physical activity programs and services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council</li> <li>CGSC</li> <li>CGSC</li> <li>CGSC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Medium</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	Facility management, disability service providers, Sports Focus, health providers, clubs and organisations.
13. Active council staff initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to engage staff in walking meetings, developing groups for active social activities, encouraging walking and riding to work initiatives, provision of corporate membership rates at MSLC and other initiatives as identified.</li> </ul>	CGSC - Health and Wellbeing Committee	Ongoing	

### 3.5.2 ACTIVE PLACES AND SPACES

**Our focus: to have well planned, well developed, well used, well managed, multipurpose facilities and outdoor spaces that provide a wide range of active recreation and sporting opportunities for all residents and visitors.**

**CGSC and community challenges – what you told us!**

- Ageing and not fit for purpose – poor quality, standard and maintenance
- Oversupply - underutilised or disused facilities
- Lack of female friendly facilities is limiting growth in female participation
- Umpires are poorly catered for
- No rectangular playing field/s
- Tracks, trails and paths - poor/no connections, condition (e.g. maintenance) and safety (e.g. lighting)
- Single purpose/use facilities
- Renewal gap - limited financial resources
- Provision not meeting trends and changing community needs
- Demographic change is impacting on the viability of some sports and clubs changing demand for facilities.



### 3.5.2.1 Priority - Maximising usage of facilities and spaces

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
1. Ensure that facilities and spaces are fit for purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Utilise the Capital Works Assessment Matrix and Access Audits to determine need for improvements at Council owned and managed facilities and to prioritise projects in Council's capital works budget.</li> <li>b. Develop asset management plans for key council owned and managed facilities that align with service levels according to facility hierarchy classification.</li> </ul>	CGSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Ongoing</li> <li>High Ongoing</li> </ul>	Clubs and associations, land owners and facility managers, peak and regional organisations.
2. Respond to specific issues raised about compliance with state sporting association standards and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Work with clubs and associations to develop a plan to address the non-compliant netball courts across the Shire; prioritise council owned and managed facilities; seek funding.</li> <li>b. Support clubs and organisations to address universal design, access to premises issues and competition requirements at existing facilities; seek and assist in applying for funding as per project priority; prioritise Council owned and managed facilities.</li> <li>c. Support clubs and organisations to address female friendly facility provision; prioritise council owned and managed facilities; seek funding.</li> </ul>	CGSC Capital to implement - TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Ongoing</li> <li>High - medium Ongoing</li> <li>High Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Clubs and associations, Netball Victoria, State and Federal Government, funding bodies.</li> <li>b. User groups, state sporting associations, peak and regional organisations, disability support agencies, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.</li> <li>c. User groups, facility managers, peak and regional organisations, state sporting association, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.</li> </ul>
3. Develop facility activation initiatives for currently underutilised facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Jack Pascoe Reserve - review options for winter and other uses to compliment summer little athletics use; seek funding to action and implement viable options.</li> <li>b. R J Pryor Stadium and Talbot Recreation Reserve – investigate future options including as a community gym and/or physical activity hub; seek funding support for identified priorities.</li> <li>c. Maryborough Velodrome – investigate options for future use including cycling reactivation or as a dog park; seek funding support for identified priorities.</li> <li>d. Investigate joint use opportunities with schools - particularly Maryborough Education centre (MEC), private providers, and civic organisations.</li> <li>e. Work with facility managers, schools, private providers and civic organisations to increase the range of participation options and opening times including golf clubs.</li> <li>f. Identify facilities which can be modified for multi-use activities e.g. multi use marking of courts, seek funding to implement identified priorities.</li> <li>g. Work with Parks Victoria, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation and other land owners and managers for the provision of user and visitor infrastructure to increase usage of parks, bushland and forests.</li> <li>h. Work with Central Highlands Water, Coliban Water and Department of Environment Land Water and Planning ( DELWP) for the provision of infrastructure to support active recreation opportunities and activities at Tullaroop Reservoir and Bealiba Reservoir Recreation Reserve.</li> </ul>	CGSC Budget to implement actions for Council owned and managed facilities - TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High - Medium</li> <li>High - Medium</li> <li>Medium</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<p>Users, clubs and organisations, schools, facility managers, land owners and managers, funding bodies, businesses.</p> <p>Action g: Parks Victoria, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, land owners and managers.</p> <p>Action h: Central Highlands Water, Coliban Water, DELWP.</p>

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
4. Identify and monitor underutilised facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish annual collection of facility use data.</li> <li>b. Identify and facilitate opportunities for shared and multi-use.</li> <li>c. Determine the appropriate option for underutilised facilities - re-purposing, rationalising or disposal.</li> <li>d. Frank Graham Oval – re-purpose if sustained all year usage cannot be confirmed; if decision is to re-purpose then seek funding.</li> <li>e. Peel Street Reserve, Maryborough – seek Department of Education and Training (DET) support to return management and maintenance to DET.</li> <li>f. Review management and operation models for seasonal outdoor pools.</li> </ul>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Capital budget maybe required for action d.</p>	<p>Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing</p> <p>High High High</p>	User groups, clubs and associations, facility managers, community, DET, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
5. Implement facility renewal and replacement program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Finalise plans and construction of the Carisbrook Recreation Reserve Upgrade Stage 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female friendly change rooms</li> <li>• Umpires rooms</li> <li>• Meeting room</li> <li>• First aid rooms</li> <li>• Upgrades to netball and tennis courts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Complete planning for Carisbrook Recreation Reserve Upgrades Stage 2.</li> <li>c. Seek funding and undertake development of Carisbrook Recreation Reserve upgrades stage 2.</li> <li>d. Work with the committee of management in the completion of the concept plans for a new pavilion at Deledio Reserve, Dunolly.</li> <li>e. Seek funding and undertake construction of Deledio Pavilion.</li> <li>f. Seek funding to implement renewal and replacement projects according to prioritisation identified in <i>Strategy 1 Ensure that facilities and spaces are Fit for Purpose</i>.</li> <li>g. Install fun and fitness equipment with lighting improvements around Lake Victoria; prepare design and construct documentation; seek funding and implement.</li> <li>h. Construct new skate and scooter park in Princes Park when grant funding is secured.</li> </ul>	<p>\$2,350,000</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>\$1,053,000</p> <p>\$15,000</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>Capital for action f - TBD</p> <p>CGSC Capital for action - TBD</p> <p>\$650,000</p>	<p>High</p> <p>High Medium</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p>	<p>Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Sport and Recreation Victoria,</p> <p>Actions b to f: Recreation Reserve Committees of Management, land owners and facility managers, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.</p> <p>Healthy Hearts of Victoria</p> <p>Funding bodies, State and Federal Government</p>
6. Increase usage of seasonal outdoor pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete a cost benefit analysis re providing free ‘casual’ access (excludes group bookings and programs).</li> <li>b. Provide fun and adventurous equipment and activities as suggested by community consultation.</li> <li>c. Provide low cost programs targeting older adults, young people and families.</li> <li>d. Develop an outdoor pools capital and operational improvement program that includes consideration of additional shade and increasing water temperature (solar); seek funding to implement actions according to priority.</li> <li>e. Continue implementation of upgrades to Maryborough outdoor pool as funding is secured.</li> </ul>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Budget may be required for b and c</p> <p>Budget to implement d - TBD</p> <p>\$2,000,000</p>	<p>High</p> <p>High High High</p> <p>High - Medium</p>	<p>Actions a to c: Facility Management</p> <p>Actions d and e: Facility Management, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.</p>

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
9. Implement a play space improvement program	a. Undertake a play space inventory review and utilise Capital Works Assessment Matrix to determine need for facility improvements.	CGSC	High	Land owners and managers, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
	b. Utilise results to develop a Play Space Strategy and include priority projects (renewal and new) in Council's Capital Works Budget; seek funding according to prioritisation using Capital Works Assessment Matrix.	Capital for action b - TBD	High - Ongoing	
10. Improve amenities in parks, bushland and forests owned or managed by CGSC	a. Undertake an audit of parks, bushland and forests owned or managed by Council to identify and prioritise amenities improvements including seating, picnic facilities, access to public toilets, shade, shelter, BBQs, water refill stations, signage, accessible paths, accessible seating and accessible toilets.	CGSC	Ongoing	Land owners and managers, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
	b. Seek funding to implement according to prioritisation.	Capital - TBD		
11. Extend active transport options	a. Identify, map and prioritise missing network links to open space, sport, active recreation and community facilities, schools and town centres; seek funding to implement.	CGSC	High	Funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
12. Improve existing tracks, trails and pathways support infrastructure	a. Audit existing tracks, trails and pathways network to determine locations for improved signage, way finding, shelters and seating.	CGSC	Ongoing	Walking and Cycling Advisory Committee, Parks Victoria, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, Central Highlands Water, Coliban Water, land owners and facility managers, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
	b. Work with Parks Victoria, DELWP, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, Central Highlands Water, Coliban Water and other land owners and managers to deliver maintenance and upgrades for facilities under their control.	Budget maybe required if project partner - TBD	Ongoing	
	c. Seek funding for missing links to key destinations in townships – Bealiba, Carisbrook, Dunolly, Maryborough and Talbot; construct, when project funding is secured.	Capital for action c - TBD	High - Medium	
13. Improvements to lakes, gardens, reserves and playing Fields	a. Continue to improve Phillips Gardens, Maryborough and its internal path network to cater for residents and visitors of all abilities.	CGSC Capital for actions a to e - TBD	Ongoing	Funding bodies, community groups, clubs and organisations, Central Highlands Water and North Central Catchment Authority, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation.
	b. Seek funding to implement priority works in Gordon Gardens, Dunolly masterplan.		Ongoing	
	c. Complete nature based play space at Goldfields Reservoir.		Ongoing	
	d. Work with Central Highlands Water and North Central Catchment Authority to implement the Maryborough Integrated Water Management Plan to ensure water security at Goldfields Reservoir and Lake Victoria.		Ongoing	
	e. Identify strategies and actions aimed at securing and improving water for key active recreation and open space assets including Goldfields Reservoir and Lake Victoria; seek funding, if required, to implement.		High	
	f. Advocate for additional water contributions to maintain water level in Goldfields Reservoir during summer.		High	



### 3.5.2.2 Priority - Planning and feasibility for development

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
1. Update master plans for all major reserves	a. Revise master plans for Carisbrook Recreation Reserve, Deledio Recreation Reserve, Talbot Recreation Reserve, JH Hedges Memorial Oval; use Capital Works Assessment Matrix and Access Audits to prioritise projects with a focus on increasing usage.	CGSC	High	Land owners and facility managers, clubs and organisations, peak and regional organisations, schools, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
	b. Seek funding, in partnership with land owners and facility managers, to implement prioritised strategies and actions.	Capital for action b - TBD	Ongoing	
2. Plan and develop a new multi-sport, rectangular fields complex in Maryborough	a. Undertake a feasibility study of existing sites for a new rectangular fields complex in Maryborough that is multi and shared use.	\$25,000	High	Clubs and organisations, state sporting association, peak and regional organisations, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
	b. Seek funding to implement priority recommendations.	Capital for action b - TBD		
3. Plan and develop free water play options	a. Undertake a feasibility study for a “free access” splash park/water play area in Maryborough.	\$20,000	High	Land owners and facility managers, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
	b. Seek funding to implement.	Capital for action b - TBD		
4. Continue planning to make the Princes Park Complex the premier sport, recreation and open space facility	a. Develop a comprehensive master plan for the entire complex to include consideration of feasibility for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expansion of Adventure Playground.</li> <li>• inclusion of more adult play equipment.</li> <li>• age friendly and older adults physical activity components.</li> <li>• increasing multi-use shared use by clubs and associations.</li> <li>• cricket wickets and nets upgrades.</li> <li>• netball and tennis courts upgrades.</li> <li>• grandstand renewal.</li> <li>• potential splash park/water play.</li> <li>• needs of Energy Breakthrough.</li> <li>• linking paths including Burn Street multi-use path.</li> </ul>	\$50,000	High	Clubs and organisations, state sporting associations, peak and regional organisations, State and Federal Government, funding bodies.
	b. Seek funding for detailed design and plans consistent with project priority identified using Capital Works Assessment Matrix. c. Implement projects when funded.	Capital for action b - TBD		
5. Continue the development of the MSLC as the major indoor sport and wellbeing centre	a. Undertake a feasibility study into a warm water program pool.	\$20,000	Medium	Facility management, health and disability services, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
	b. Seek funding to develop if feasible.	Capital for action b - TBD		
6. Develop age friendly facilities in parks	a. Investigate opportunities in existing parks to provide age friendly facilities to encourage active recreation by older people at parks across the Shire.	CGSC	Medium	Older adults community groups, land owners and managers, funding bodies.
	b. Seek funding for implementation at priority locations.	Capital for action b - TBD		

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
7. Provision of outdoor exercise equipment	a. Identify potential sites in townships, where equipment is co-located with active recreation facilities and the equipment suitable for each location. b. Seek funding consistent with project priority identified using Capital Works Assessment Matrix; implement projects as funded.	CGSC  Capital for action b - TBD	Medium	Land owners and facility managers, community groups, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
8. Assess demand for dog parks	a. Identify and assess demand and priority locations for fenced dog parks. b. Seek funding if required to implement actions according to priority identified in point a.	CGSC Capital for action b - TBD	Medium - Long	Land owners and facility managers, dog groups, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
9. Investigate opportunities for parkour	a. Investigate provision of infrastructure that provides accessible and safe parkour options. b. Seek funding if required to implement actions identified in point a.	CGSC  Capital for action b - TBD	Medium	Land owners and facility managers, funding bodies, schools.
10. Expand trail links to neighbouring local government areas	a. Participate in planning for the Maryborough to Castlemaine Rail Trail. b. Investigate track rider option from either Newstead or Carisbrook to Maryborough. c. Identify opportunities for partnerships with neighbouring Councils for projects a and b. d. Undertake required feasibility study for actions a and b as required. e. Seek a partner to apply for funding to implement projects a and/or b if feasible.	CGSC  Budget for actions d and e - TBD	High - Medium High - Medium  Ongoing  Medium Ongoing	Walking and Cycling Advisory committee, Parks Victoria, Mount Alexander, Loddon, Hepburn, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees Shire Councils, land owners and facility managers, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.
11. Revise Walking and Cycling Strategy	a. Update Walking and Cycling Strategy to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of a BMX facility.</li> <li>• Small wheeled transport.</li> <li>• Bristol Hill - options and opportunities.</li> <li>• Feasibility of new tracks, trails and paths.</li> <li>• Identify locations for bike trailhead shelters in Maryborough and Dunolly.</li> <li>• Investigate feasibility of a cycling hub(s).</li> <li>• Options for mountain bike track/s (point of difference to others in region).</li> </ul> b. Seek funding to implement priority projects identified using Capital Works Assessment Matrix.	CGSC  Capital for action b - TBD	High - Medium  Ongoing	Walking and Cycling Advisory Committee, Cycling Victoria, bicycle network Victoria, clubs and organisations, funding bodies.

### 3.5.2.3 Sustainability

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
1. Plan to respond to climate change challenges	<p>a. Conduct a feasibility study to identify the need for additional indoor facility options and/or new opportunities that can be provided at existing indoor facilities (may require re-purposing).</p> <p>b. Assess provision of shade, lighting to facilitate activities at night, alternative surfaces, etc, at existing Council owned and managed facilities.</p> <p>c. Seek funding to implement if feasible and according to prioritisation as determined in the Capital Works Assessment Matrix.</p>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Capital for action c - TBD</p>	<p>Medium/Long</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Facility management, land owners and facility managers, clubs and organisations, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.</p>
2. Include environmental sustainable design components in all facility projects	<p>a. Develop new and upgrade existing facilities giving a priority to environmentally sustainable design and to the management of climate change impacts using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• warm season grasses</li> <li>• synthetic surfaces</li> <li>• rainwater and / or stormwater capture</li> <li>• provision of shade and shelter</li> <li>• others as identified in each project.</li> </ul> <p>b. Develop specific projects to address identified sustainability needs including at Maryborough, Dunolly and Talbot outdoor pools, sporting fields, parks and gardens, along footpaths, walking paths and others as identified.</p> <p>c. Identify and seek funding for implementation according to identified priority.</p>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Capital for actions b and c - TBD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Land owners and managers, facility management, clubs and organisations, funding bodies</p>
3. Instigate water saving initiatives	<p>a. Work with Central Highlands Water, Goulburn Murray Water and North Central Catchment Management Authority to develop opportunities for using storm water capture at open space, sport and active recreation facilities.</p> <p>b. Develop a priority list of projects at council owned and managed facilities for consideration in council's Capital Works Program.</p> <p>c. Plan for and seek opportunities for water security for open space, active recreation and sports assets.</p> <p>d. Seek funding to implement projects according to priority.</p>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Capital for actions b and d - TBD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Central Highlands Water, Goulburn Murray Water and North Central Catchment Management Authority, land owners and facility managers, clubs and organisations, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.</p>
4. Identify recycling initiatives	<p>a. Work with land owners and facility managers and users to identify and implement recycling measures at council owned and managed facilities.</p>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Budget to implement - TBD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Land owners and facility managers, clubs and organisations</p>
5. Identify and implement energy saving measures to reduce energy use and greenhouse emissions	<p>a. Identify improvements to council owned and managed facilities including solar energy options, energy saving lighting, provision of sensors.</p> <p>b. Seek funding to implement projects according to priority.</p>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Budget to implement - TBD</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Land owners and facility managers, clubs and organisations, funding bodies, State and Federal Government.</p>

### 3.5.3 ACTIVE SPORT, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SECTOR

**Our focus: to have skilled and well  
supported volunteers, well governed  
clubs and organisations plus well  
managed facilities**

**CGSC community challenges – what you told  
us!**

- Club and organisation sustainability
- 81% of clubs have capacity for new members
- 19% of clubs need more members to continue
- High reliance on scarce volunteers
- Requirements for managing and maintaining facilities
- Accessing financial resources
- Developing good governance
- Need for leadership skills
- How to advocate
- Developing partnerships
- Marketing and promotion.



### 3.5.3.1 Priority - Governance, capacity building and resourcing

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
1. Support club development and sustainability	<p>a. Support clubs and organisations to increase participation numbers.</p> <p>b. Support club and code new governance and competition structure, and resource sharing to sustain sports unable to field juniors and/or maintain sufficient senior players.</p> <p>c. Convene working groups, in partnership with peak and regional bodies, to investigate the future of traditional sporting clubs with declining membership numbers; first priority to be Australian rules football and netball.</p> <p>d. Support clubs and organisations to introduce modified sports and games, social sport and active recreation to improve viability.</p> <p>e. Promote to clubs the importance and value of developing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• club business or strategic plans; and</li> <li>• business cases for major facility developments.</li> </ul> <p>f. Encourage clubs to link to and be a part of Sports Focus.</p>	CGSC	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>High</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Clubs and organisations, Sports Focus, state sporting associations, peak and regional organisations.
2. Develop and implement volunteer support initiatives	<p>a. Enable links to Sports Focus and other local training providers to ensure local or online training and development opportunities are available locally – administration, governance, women in leadership, mentoring programs, income generation, etc.</p> <p>b. Promote training opportunities through council's communications unit.</p> <p>c. Encourage clubs and organisations to nominate suitable volunteers for Australia Day awards, state sporting association, state and / or national awards and other relevant awards.</p> <p>d. Encourage clubs and organisations to establish their own volunteer awards.</p> <p>e. Support clubs and organisations to promote non-traditional more flexible volunteering options.</p> <p>f. Seek funding to introduce a small grants program 'Doing Things Differently' to facilitate future planning to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new and improved governance arrangements</li> <li>• sharing of facilities</li> <li>• club management and co-operation</li> <li>• diversification into new activities such as modified games and social physical activity for people of all ages and abilities</li> <li>• new events</li> <li>• use of new technologies.</li> </ul>	<p>CGSC</p> <p>Annual Budget allocation to implement action f - TBD.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>High</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Sports Focus, local training providers, clubs and organisations, state sporting associations, peak and regional organisations.

Strategy	Actions	Estimated costs	Priority	Partners
3. Maximise the use of existing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assist new clubs and emerging sports to access underutilised Council owned or managed facilities.</li> <li>b. Support clubs to share facilities to reduce operating costs and/or access more appropriate facilities.</li> <li>c. Liaise with competition organisers/leagues to coordinate scheduling to make best use of facilities.</li> <li>d. Advocate for clubs to have access to State Government and private sector for open space, sport and active recreation facilities - joint use agreements.</li> <li>e. Promote Central Goldfields Shire's outdoor adventure based opportunities and facilitate event development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orienteering, cycling, mountain biking, fossicking, hiking, nature based experiences.</li> <li>• Promote Maryborough as a destination for sports club / association training venues.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	CGSC	Ongoing	Clubs and organisations, state sporting associations, local leagues and associations, State Government, private organisations and businesses.
4. Establish appropriate and equitable management models for council owned and managed facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete audit of management and occupancy agreements at council owned and managed facilities.</li> <li>b. Ensure all tenants and users at council owned and managed facilities have a current and signed occupancy agreement.</li> </ul>	CGSC	High	Land owners and facility managers, clubs and organisations.
5. Access external funding and grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Work in partnership with clubs and organisations to seek funding for facilities, programs and services.</li> <li>g. Provide and promote information and advice about funding opportunities.</li> </ul>	CGSC	Ongoing Ongoing	Land owners and facility managers, clubs and organisations.
6. Increased adoption of the use of technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop a clubs and organisations portal to provide access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• current and changing sector issues and regulations</li> <li>• ground allocations</li> <li>• facility bookings</li> <li>• services available</li> <li>• funding and grant programs</li> <li>• finding programs and activities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Support clubs and organisations in the adoption and use of technology including connecting with members and new participants, meetings, training, and building and developing skills and expertise.</li> </ul>	CGSC	High Ongoing	Peak and regional organisations, Sports Focus, clubs and organisations.
7. Review community support committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review the role and responsibilities of the Walking and Cycling Advisory Committee.</li> </ul>	CGSC	High	Walking and Cycling Advisory Committee
8. Support safe participation environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Support clubs and organisations to develop and implement policies and procedures on child safety, business and activity continuity, health and safety issues (eg pandemic), etc.</li> </ul>	CGSC	Ongoing	Clubs and organisations, Sports Focus, peak and regional organisations.