

Sunshine Coast
**Indoor Sport
Network Plan 2026**



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Acknowledgements

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Reference document

This document should be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Network Plan 2026

Disclaimer

To the extent this document contains future plans, activities, policies and strategies, these matters are aspirational and subject to change at any time without notice.

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Traditional acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations people. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations people.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations people continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

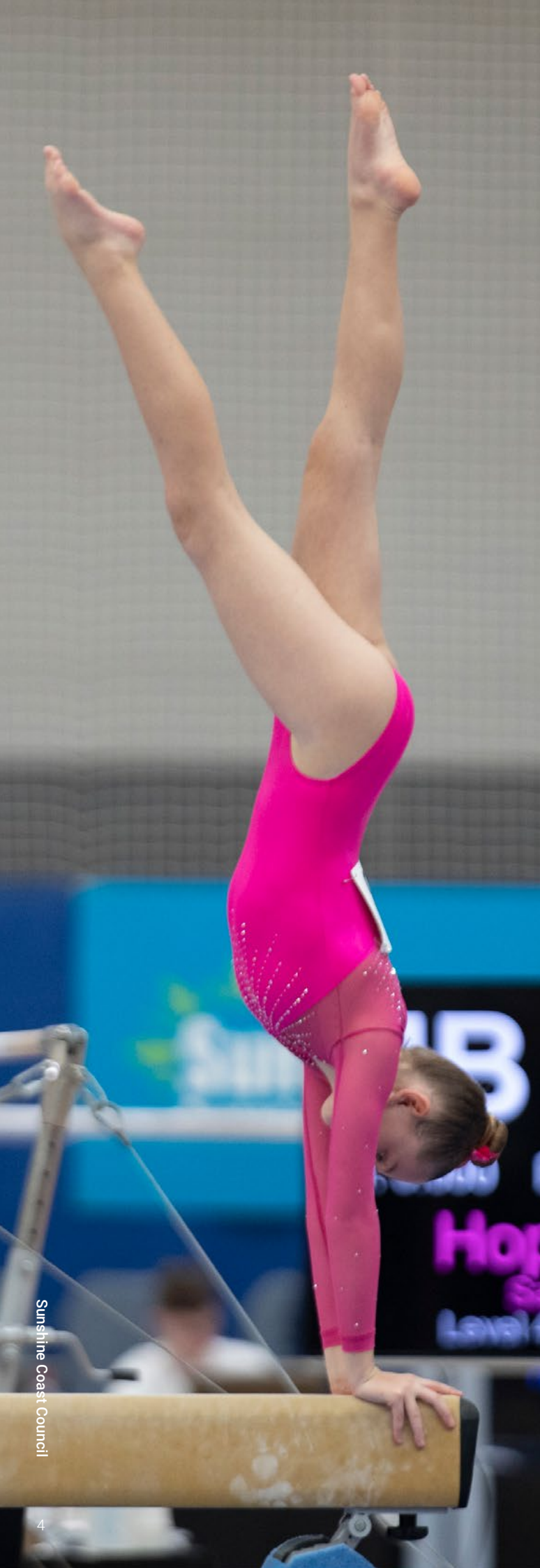
Together, we are all stronger.





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Purpose of the Plan

The Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Network Plan provides the strategic direction for the planning, advocacy and facilitation of indoor sport facilities across the Sunshine Coast over the next 15 years to 2041.

The Plan draws on detailed information and consultation to identify current and future needs across the indoor sport network to provide a clear, prioritised set of recommendations.

This Plan has been developed by Sunshine Coast Council and is intended for public use, stakeholder engagement and advocacy, and to guide Council's future planning, partnership development and delivery investigations.

The Plan focuses on 11 key indoor sports:

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Futsal
- Gymnastics
- Netball
- Para Court Sports
- Padel
- Pickleball
- Squash
- Table tennis
- Volleyball.

Making progress together

Working towards our vision

Australia's most sustainable region.
Connected. Liveable. Thriving.

Sunshine Coast
Community Strategy
2019–2041

Sunshine Coast Council
Corporate Plan 2025–30

Sunshine Coast Sport and Active
Recreation Plan 2011-26

Indoor Sport Network Plan
2026

Alignment to the regional strategies

The Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Network Plan aligns with the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy and recognises the role of sport and active recreation in building a healthier, more active and socially connected community. Sport participation has positive physical and mental health outcomes, builds social connections, reduces crime and supports educational and employment outcomes. The Plan guides the provision of indoor sport across the region to deliver a network of high-quality, accessible and fit-for-purpose indoor facilities for the community.



Why indoor sport matters

Indoor sport facilities are essential community infrastructure. They provide:

- year-round, all-weather participation opportunities
- inclusive access for people of all ages and abilities
- critical developmental pathways for sport
- support for clubs, volunteers and community organisations
- venues for competitions, events and sport tourism
- potential dual use for emergency and evacuation purposes.

As the Sunshine Coast continues to grow, access to suitable indoor sport facilities is fundamental to community wellbeing, participation and regional liveability.

Growth and participation pressures

The Sunshine Coast is experiencing sustained population growth alongside rising participation in indoor sports. Growth is driven by:

- population increase across all age cohorts
- increased female participation
- an ageing population seeking indoor and low-impact sport
- rapid growth in emerging sports such as pickleball and padel
- increased demand for inclusive and accessible facilities.

The Plan recognises suppressed demand, where participation growth is constrained by limited facility access rather than lack of interest. Demand projections adopted in this Plan are deliberately conservative



Growth in organised indoor sport participation

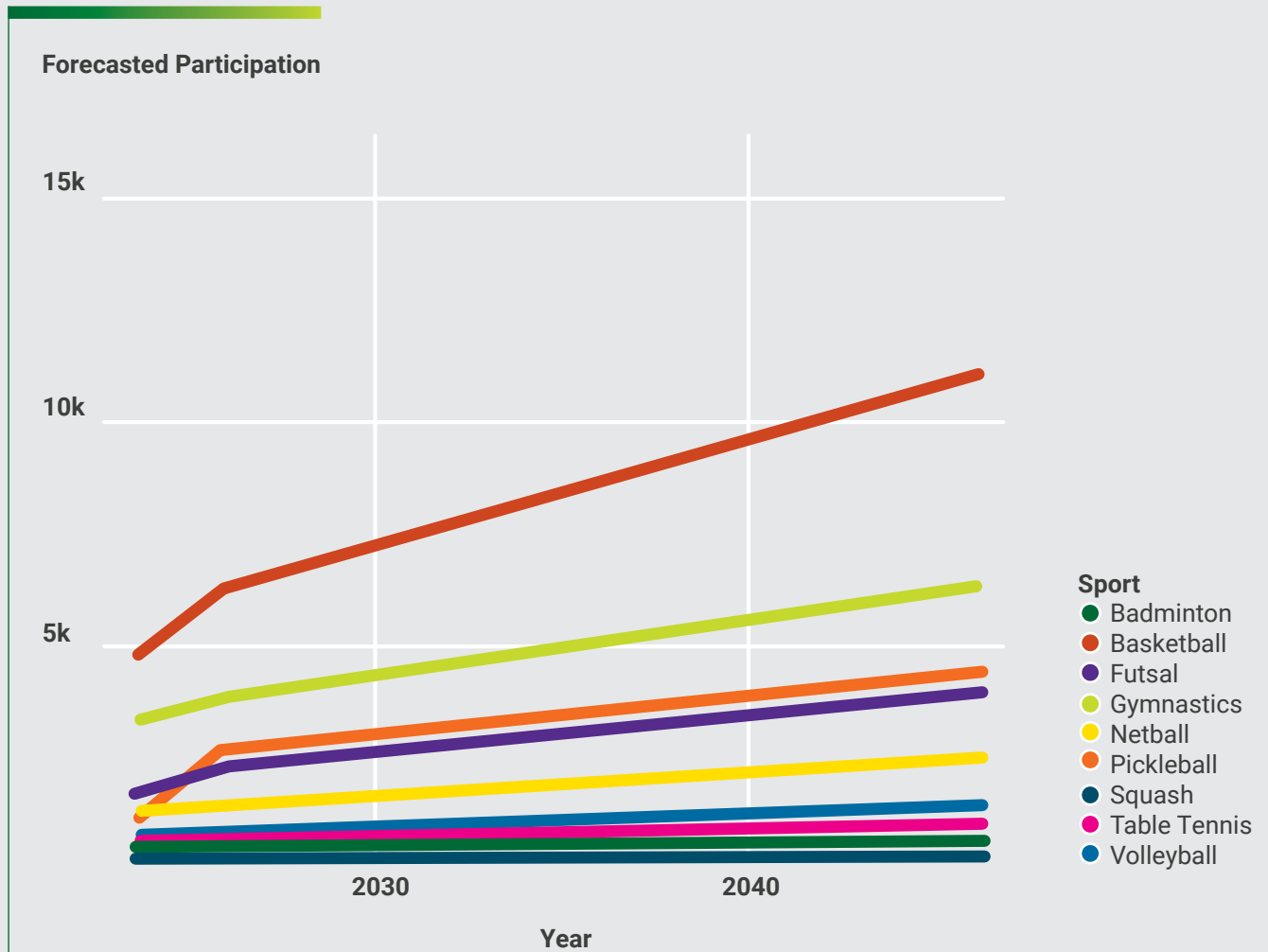


Figure 1: Forecast participation per organised indoor sport.

Forecast modelling shows strong growth in organised indoor sport participation across the Sunshine Coast over the next 20 years.

The following graph presents estimated participation trends for nine organised indoor sports. Due to limited historical and forecast data, padel and para sports have been considered separately within the technical analysis and are not included in this figure. The forecast indicates sustained and significant growth in several indoor sports over the planning horizon.

Of particular note is basketball participation, which is projected to more than double from approximately 4,500 to over 11,000 participants. Strong growth is also forecast for gymnastics, pickleball and futsal, reflecting changing participation preferences, increased female participation and demand for year-round indoor activities.

These trends reinforce the need for additional indoor court capacity and more flexible, multi-court facilities capable of accommodating multiple sports and high participation volumes.

What participation growth means for facilities

Translating participation growth into facility demand highlights the scale of the challenge facing the Sunshine Coast's indoor sport network. While participation in indoor sports continues to increase, the overall supply of indoor courts has remained relatively static, placing increasing pressure on existing facilities.

Forecast modelling undertaken as part of the Plan shows that growth in organised indoor sport participation will translate into a growing shortfall in indoor court capacity over time. The projections presented in this Plan are based on conservative (medium) participation forecasts that reflect population growth and constrained participation, recognising that current participation levels are already limited by facility availability.

Without additional infrastructure, constraints on participation, pathways and event hosting will intensify, reinforcing the need for a coordinated, network-based approach to future indoor sport provision.

The current indoor sport network

The Sunshine Coast indoor sport network comprises Council-owned facilities, schools, universities, community-managed venues and privately operated facilities.

While approximately 70 indoor multipurpose courts exist across the region, limited community access, fragmented availability and competing uses mean these equate to far fewer functional full-court equivalents in practice (equating to 28 full-sized courts). This reduces the ability of the network to support growing participation, competitions and events.

Overall, the network is characterised by:

- a small number of high-use multi-court facilities
- a large number of small or single-court venues
- ageing infrastructure with limited expansion potential
- strong competition for peak-time access across all sports.

Analysis across 11 indoor sports confirms that most existing indoor sport facilities are operating at or near capacity, with limited opportunities to accommodate further growth through optimisation alone. Demand for indoor courts and specialist activity spaces is expected to continue increasing over the next 15 years.

Without additional infrastructure, constraints on participation, pathways and event hosting will intensify, reinforcing the need for a coordinated, network-based approach to future indoor sport provision.



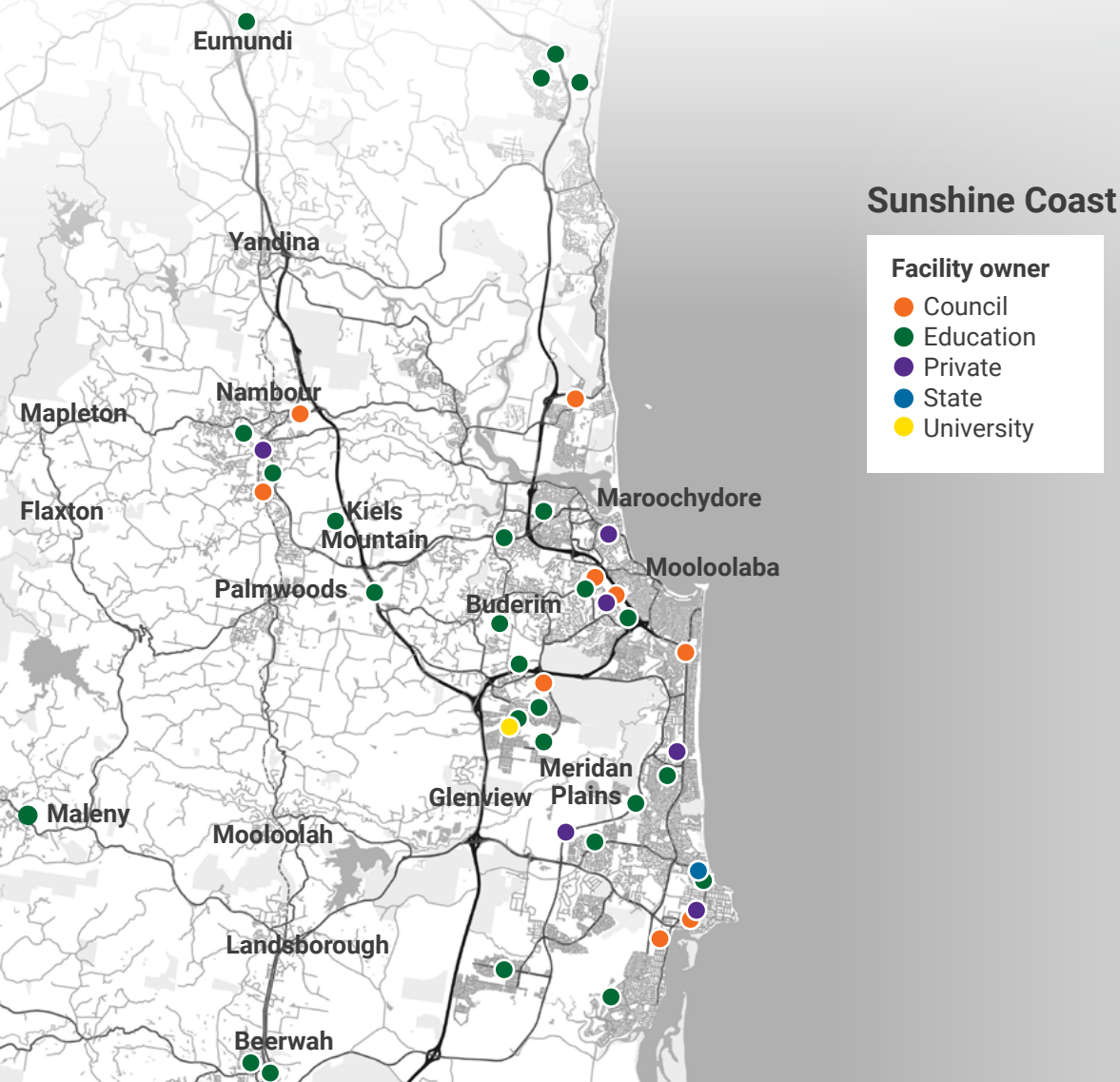


Figure 2: Facilities used for the key 11 indoor sports on the Sunshine Coast.

Spatial distribution of indoor sport facilities

The distribution of indoor sport facilities across the Sunshine Coast reflects historical development patterns and the location of established population centres.

The following map provides a high-level view of the current indoor sport network, showing where key facilities are located across the region.

The map shows that indoor sport facilities are generally located in line with existing population centres and provides context for understanding the indoor sport network as a system of facilities operating collectively across the Sunshine Coast. Future location planning for indoor sport facilities will need to consider population growth and changing demand patterns across the region.



Current and future needs

Figure 3 below illustrates the estimated number of additional indoor full-court equivalents required to meet demand in 2026, 2031 and 2046. These projections represent total network demand across all providers and are intended to inform strategic planning and advocacy. They do not represent a delivery program or funding commitment.

As of 2026, an additional 15 courts are required to meet demand—to total 43 full court equivalents. Without any additions to the network, by 2031, an additional 21 full courts (to total 49) are needed to meet demand.

By 2046, a total additional 43 full courts (to total 71) are required to meet demand. An additional 1,614m² activity area for gymnastics is also required to meet anticipated demand.

Facilities should be distributed across the northern, central and southern areas of the region—ensuring access for the hinterland communities —guided by population growth, availability of existing facilities and subject to land, funding opportunities and Council priorities.

These forecasts demonstrates that even under conservative assumptions, the existing indoor sport network is unable to meet demand, with the shortfall increasing over time. In the short term, additional capacity is required to stabilise participation pathways and reduce pressure on existing venues.

Over the medium to long term, the scale of the projected shortfall indicates the need for a combination of targeted facility expansion, new multipurpose venues and regionally significant indoor sport infrastructure. prioritised in future planning.

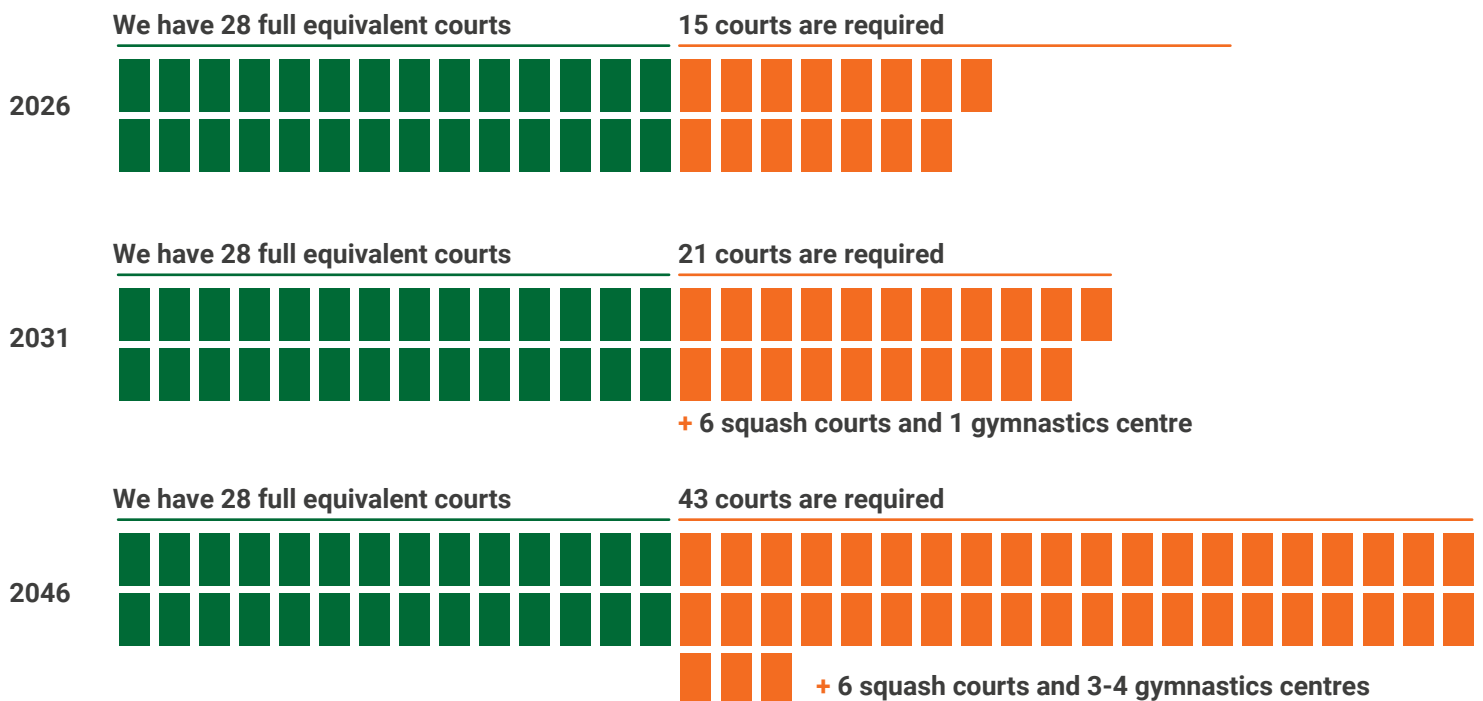


Figure 3: Required additional indoor full courts to meet demand in 2026, 2031 and 2046 based on medium participation projections (Medium projections are based on projected population growth and a constrained growth in the sports).



Facility hierarchy and planning approach

The Plan adopts a hierarchy-based approach to guide future planning:

Local facilities: Support grassroots participation but offer limited capacity and flexibility.

District-level facilities: Multi-court venues serving multiple suburbs, supporting multiple sports and larger participation events.

Council-wide facilities: Large multi-court venues with show-court capacity, supporting major competitions, pathways and sport tourism.

Evidence demonstrates that reliance on small, fragmented facilities is inefficient and constraining. The Plan therefore prioritises larger, flexible, multi-court facilities wherever feasible.

Plan recommendations

Strategic recommendations

Participation analysis, facility utilisation data and growth projections demonstrate that the Sunshine Coast indoor sport network is operating beyond capacity and lacks sufficient multi-court venues to meet current and future demand.

The following strategic recommendations prioritise larger, flexible facilities, targeted expansion of high-performing venues and partnership-based delivery.

Prior to 2031

1. Prioritise, in partnership with other levels of government, the delivery of a Council-wide Major Indoor Sport Centre (12 courts) with show-court capacity.
2. Support the 2–3 court expansion of Clippers Basketball Stadium.
3. Support UniSC in plans to undertake a 2–3 court expansion.
4. Support or enable construction of multipurpose racquet sport facilities through partnership models.
5. Commence renewal of the Sunshine Coast Gymnastics Academy.

Post 2031

6. Construct or facilitate additional district-level multipurpose indoor sport facilities (4+ courts) in the north, central and south of the region, including hinterland access.

Ongoing

7. Encourage and enable commercial investment opportunities on Council-controlled land.
8. Support court-covering projects to improve utilisation of outdoor courts.
9. Encourage flexible, multi-sport design and line marking.
10. Improve participation data collection.
11. Strengthen partnerships with clubs, schools and private providers.
12. Prioritise venues capable of hosting large participation events.
13. Consider evacuation centre requirements in planning for new facilities.
14. Review planned indoor provision through relevant master plans.
15. Encourage strong partnerships and facility use agreements between clubs and schools.



Sport recommendations

Assessment of 11 indoor sports identified network constraints and infrastructure requirements relating to floor type, run-off, storage, accessibility and competition standards. The following recommendations respond to those needs within the broader network approach.

16. **Badminton** – Support additional clubs and maximise use of the Sunshine Coast Badminton Centre.
17. **Basketball** – Advocate for new district-level multipurpose facilities and support expansion of Clippers Basketball Stadium.
18. **Futsal** – Support usage opportunities and prioritise futsal-compatible design in new venues.
19. **Gymnastics** – Undertake maintenance of the Sunshine Coast Gymnastics Academy building, plan future expansion and support additional facilities in the south.
20. **Netball** – Support a major indoor facility with show-court capacity, and court-covering initiatives.
21. **Para court sports** – Improve storage, access, and accessibility at key venues.
22. **Padel** – Support retrofits, modular courts and commercial investment aligned to Council endorsed policy positions.
23. **Pickleball** – Encourage inclusion in new venues, shared-use opportunities at existing venues and commercial investment aligned to Council endorsed policy positions.
24. **Squash** – Support relocation of Maroochy Squash Club and alternative delivery models.
25. **Table tennis** – Investigate land opportunities for a racquet sports facility.
26. **Volleyball** – Support usage opportunities and appropriate design in new facilities.

Facility recommendations

Site inspections and operational reviews confirm many existing facilities are heavily utilised, ageing or constrained by layout and ancillary space. Targeted upgrades and expansions can deliver meaningful improvements to capacity and functionality.

27. **Schools** – Advocate for maximised community access and provide planning support.
28. **Caloundra Indoor Stadium** – Investigate storage, access and expansion opportunities.
29. **Clippers Basketball Stadium** – Support expansion, multi-sport use and clarify tenure arrangements.
30. **PCYC Sunshine Coast** – Maximise gymnastics use and advocate for additional facilities.
31. **Sunshine Coast Gymnastics Academy** – Address storage, maintenance and long-term future.
32. **Sunshine Coast Recreation Precinct** – Encourage maximised utilisation.
33. **UniSC Arena** – Support additional courts, para sport access and Sunshine Coast Lightning relocation considerations.
34. **YMCA Caloundra** – Maximise use and investigate expansion opportunities.

Council's role in implementing the Plan

Council cannot deliver the future indoor sport network alone. The recommendations in this Plan will be progressed through a combination of advocacy, coordination, facilitation, support, and where appropriate direct delivery.

Council's role will vary depending on the nature of each recommendation, land ownership, partnership arrangements, funding opportunities, and governance considerations. Inclusion of a recommendation in this Plan does not represent a direct Council commitment to funding or delivery. All actions remain subject to further investigation, partnerships, funding availability and Council decision-making processes.

To provide transparency and clarity, Council's indicative role for each recommendation is summarised in Appendix A. The appendix identifies whether Council's primary role is to advocate, facilitate, support, coordinate or deliver outcomes, recognising that roles may evolve over time as partnerships mature and opportunities arise.

10 Implementation horizons

The implementation horizons provide indicative sequencing for progressing the Plan's recommendations over time. They support coordinated advocacy, partnership discussions and planning alignment.

Horizon 1: Immediate to short term (2026–2031)

This horizon focuses on addressing acute capacity constraints, protecting participation pathways and positioning the Sunshine Coast for funding and partnership opportunities.

Actions include targeted expansions of high-performing facilities, renewal of critical assets, optimisation projects and early planning and advocacy for Council-wide significant indoor sport facilities.

Horizon 2: Medium term (2031–2036)

This horizon focuses on delivering additional district-level capacity and responding to population growth and emerging demand across the region.

Actions include development of new multi-court facilities, increased use of partnership delivery models and alignment with growth areas and supporting infrastructure.

Horizon 3: Long term (post-2036)

This horizon focuses on establishing a resilient, future-ready indoor sport network capable of supporting major events, participation pathways and sport tourism.

Actions include delivery of Council-wide indoor sport facilities, rebalancing of the network as new assets come online and periodic review of the Plan.

Implementation and review

The Plan will be implemented progressively through advocacy, partnerships and future Council decision-making. Progress will be monitored through existing reporting mechanisms, and the Plan will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains responsive to population growth, participation trends and community needs.



Appendix A – Council’s role in implementing the Plan

This appendix provides a summary of Council’s indicative role for each recommendation in the Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Network Plan. Recommendation numbering aligns directly with Section 8 of the Plan.

Inclusion of a recommendation in this Plan does not represent a commitment to funding or delivery. All actions remain subject to further investigation, partnerships, funding availability and Council decision-making processes.

Council role definitions:

- **Deliver** – lead or directly deliver infrastructure where Council is the asset owner or delivery partner
- **Advocate** – represent regional needs to State and Federal Government, funding bodies and partners
- **Facilitator** – enable outcomes through partnerships, planning processes, land use coordination or commercial arrangements
- **Supporter** – provide non-financial support such as planning assistance, coordination or access facilitation
- **Coordinator** – align stakeholders, timing and decision-making across the network

Table A1: Strategic recommendations

Rec.	Recommendation	Council role
1	Prioritise delivery of a Council-wide Major Indoor Sport Centre (12 courts) with show-court capacity	Advocate/ Coordinate
2	Support the 2–3 court expansion of Clippers Basketball Stadium	Supporter/ Facilitator
3	Support UniSC plans to undertake a 2–3 court expansion	Supporter/ Advocate
4	Support or enable multipurpose racquet sport facilities through partnerships	Facilitator/ Advocate
5	Commence renewal of the Sunshine Coast Gymnastics Academy	Deliver/Advocate
6	Facilitate additional district-level multipurpose indoor facilities (4+ courts)	Advocate/ Facilitator
7	Encourage and enable commercial investment opportunities on Council-controlled land	Facilitator
8	Support court-covering projects for outdoor courts	Supporter/ Facilitator
9	Encourage flexible, multi-sport venue design and line marking	Coordinator
10	Improve participation data collection	Coordinator
11	Strengthen partnerships with clubs, schools and private providers	Facilitator
12	Prioritise venues capable of hosting large participation events	Advocate
13	Consider evacuation centre requirements in new facilities	Coordinator
14	Review planned indoor provision through relevant master plans	Deliver/ Coordinator
15	Encourage strong partnerships and facility use agreements between clubs and schools	Supporter

Table A2: Sport recommendations

Rec.	Recommendation	Council role
16	Badminton – Support additional clubs and maximise use of the Sunshine Coast Badminton Centre	Supporter
17	Basketball – Advocate for new district-level multipurpose facilities and support Clippers expansion	Advocate/ Supporter
18	Futsal – Support usage opportunities and prioritise futsal-compatible design in new venues	Coordinator/ Supporter
19	Gymnastics – Undertake maintenance of the SC Gymnastics Academy, plan future expansion and support additional facilities in the south	Deliver/ Advocate
20	Netball – Support a major indoor facility with show-court capacity and court covering	Advocate/ Supporter
21	Para court sports – Improve storage, access, and accessibility at key venues	Deliver/ Advocate
22	Padel – Support retrofits, modular courts and commercial investment	Facilitator/ Advocate
23	Pickleball – Encourage inclusion in new venues, shared-use retrofits and commercial investment opportunities	Supporter/ Coordinator
24	Squash – Support relocation of Maroochy Squash Club and alternative delivery models	Supporter/ Advocate
25	Table tennis – Investigate land opportunities for a racquet sports facility	Advocate
26	Volleyball – Support usage opportunities and appropriate design in new facilities	Supporter / Coordinator



Table A3: Facility recommendations

Rec.	Recommendation	Council role
27	Schools – Maximise community access and provide planning support	Advocate/ Supporter
28	Caloundra Indoor Stadium – Investigate storage, access and expansion opportunities	Deliver
29	Clippers Basketball Stadium – Support expansion, multi-sport use and tenure clarity	Supporter/ Coordinator
30	PCYC Sunshine Coast – Maximise gymnastics use and advocate for additional facilities	Supporter/ Advocate
31	Sunshine Coast Gymnastics Academy – Address storage, maintenance and long-term future	Deliver
32	Sunshine Coast Recreation Precinct – Encourage maximised utilisation	Supporter/ Advocate
33	UniSC Arena – Support additional courts, para sport access and Sunshine Coast Lightning relocation considerations	Supporter/ Advocate
34	YMCA Caloundra – Maximise use and investigate expansion opportunities	Supporter







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