

Sunshine Coast
Sport and Active Recreation Plan
2011-26



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Reference document

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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 peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

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 peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.





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Introduction

An active and healthy Sunshine Coast lifestyle where everyone can participate in sport and recreation.

The Sunshine Coast Council recognises the significant role sport and active recreation plays in contributing toward our region's vibrant lifestyle, health, and well-being. Whether playing formalised competitive sport, having a social hit of tennis or taking a walk along one of our many beautiful pathways, sport and active recreation positively contributes to our way of life and has well-known health, social and economic benefits.

The provision of sport and active recreation facilities and services to meet community needs is not without its challenges. The Sunshine Coast region is rapidly growing and changing, from our built environments to our evolving communities. The number of residents who call the region home is estimated to increase by 30% from 351,424 in 2021 to more than 500,000 by 2041¹.

The purpose of the Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-26 (the plan) is to guide the future provision of sport and active recreation facilities and services to meet our diverse community needs over a 15 year period. This refreshed edition of the Plan shares outcomes achieved since the Plan's inception in 2011 and sets out priorities and actions for the remaining period to 2026.

The plan provides a strategic framework for decision making and recognises Council's important role in facilitating, and advocating for, improved sport and active recreation facilities and participation opportunities for the community. Accommodating the expected population growth places competing pressures on finite land resources. The Plan responds to this challenge and ensures land for sport purposes continues to be prioritised.

Since the last iteration of the plan, it has been announced the Sunshine Coast will co-host a number of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games events. This plan supports the legacy vision for our region to become more connected, active and sustainable.

The 2024 review revealed that of the 154 recommendations listed in 2016, 143 actions (93%) were completed or ongoing. The actions in the updated edition of the plan are either carried over long term actions or new actions.

Through implementation of the plan, Council will deliver a network of high-quality and inclusive sport and active recreation facilities and services that all people in the community can access to become more healthy and active.

¹ 2021-2041 population figures sourced from Queensland Treasury, Queensland Government population projections, 2018 edition, medium series.

“The plan ensures the provision of sport and active recreation opportunities across the region effectively contributes to the vision for the Sunshine Coast to be Australia’s most sustainable region: Healthy. Smart. Creative”

Scope

The geographic area encompassed by the Sport and Active Recreation Plan is defined by the Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area (LGA) and aligns to the region's 37 Localities of Interest. The boundaries of these localities are illustrated in Map 1: Localities of Interest.

The Plan focuses on the provision of sports facilities encompassing land only where the Sunshine Coast Council has a role in the network. It does not provide management solutions for activities occurring on land that isn't owned or controlled by Sunshine Coast Council, except where specified.

Defining sport and active recreation

Sport and active recreation refers to activities that have formal rules, scoring, event organisation and administration structures. These activities also require legitimate/ formal venues and services to operate from.

It refers to all participants including players, committee members, volunteers and staff, coaches, referees, spectators and infrastructure/ product suppliers who contribute to community sport and active recreation opportunities.

The Sport and Active Recreation Plan does not cover

- non-competitive, passive sport and recreation activities such as bird watching, bushwalking, billiards and snooker, bridge, camping, cards, chess, pigeon racing and picnicking
- activities being addressed in other Council strategies (e.g. motocross/ hard to locate sports, swimming, skateboarding, recreation trails, walk/cycle paths)
- wholly private sector funded activities (e.g. ten-pin bowling, personal training).





United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

As we advance our vision as Australia's most sustainable region – Healthy. Smart. Creative. the environmental, social, cultural and economic activities across the region must be carefully balanced to ensure we advance our vision sustainably.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) for peace, prosperity, people and planet provide a comprehensive and internationally recognised framework for us to collectively align

the way we each live, work, learn and play every day – and form an important foundation of the performance measurement framework of our Biosphere.

Council is demonstrating regional leadership by committing to embed the UNSDGs in our strategies, plans and associated progress reporting. Each Corporate Plan goal identifies how it contributes to the UNSDGs and, in doing so, assists to progress our Sunshine Coast Biosphere aim and objectives.



Our global commitment

This Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-2026 embeds the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) into its actions. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for peace, prosperity, people and planet provide a comprehensive and internationally recognised framework to collectively align the way we each live, work, learn and play every day.

UNSDG 3 – The plan recognises the value of sport and active recreation and significant impact it can have on an individual's health, resilience and overall quality of life. It aims to encourage and facilitate increased physical activity through participation in sport and active recreation to improve the health and well-being of the region's residents. The plan guides the provision of accessible, high-quality sports and active recreation infrastructure to enable clubs to attract and retain participants and provide inclusive services that promote an active and healthy way of life.

UNSDG 5 – The plan recognises the need for gender equality and endeavours to maximise the accessibility of sport and active recreation facilities and services throughout the region. The plan guides the management and planning of sport and active recreation to encourage the provision of participation opportunities for all residents regardless of gender.

UNSDG 8 – The plan recognises the economic value of the sports and active recreation sector and supports the development and promotion of sports and active recreation activities as a key driver of economic growth and job creation. By enhancing the capacity of sporting

clubs and active recreation groups and supporting this diverse sector to thrive, the plan contributes to the diversification of economies and the generation of income and employment opportunities across the whole region.

UNSDG 9 – The plan contributes to this goal by recognising the role of the sport and active recreation sector in driving health and well-being, creating innovative opportunities for active participation and economic growth. It supports the development and growth of sport and active recreation activities as key components of the sports economy. The plan encourages the development of high quality, sustainable sporting infrastructure and innovative solutions to support local sports and active recreation clubs in delivering participation opportunities for the community.

UNSDG 11 – The plan seeks to improve the network of sports and active recreation facilities across the region to meet the growth and needs of the community. It guides the planning, design and management of sporting infrastructure to ensure all facilities are high quality, inclusive, safe and sustainable.



In June 2022, our Sunshine Coast local government area was recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a biosphere reserve – where responsible development and people living sustainably sit alongside active conservation.

Our region has joined a world-wide network of biosphere reserves to balance the environmental, social, cultural and economic needs of today, without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

Our region's international recognition as a special place where people are living, working, learning and playing sustainably highlights the values of our region that we are

seeking to protect and enhance, brings new opportunities and a range of possible benefits to our natural environment, community, lifestyle and economy.

Being recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and maintaining this credential is our region's commitment to create a positive legacy for future generations. Every resident, visitor, business and government entity has a key role to play in maintaining and enhancing the Sunshine Coast Biosphere reserve for our children, grandchildren and all those who will enjoy the prosperity, beauty and liveability of our region into the future.

Strategic framework



Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-26

The Sport and Active Recreation Plan aligns with Council's Community Strategy 2019-41 and recognises the role of sport and active recreation in building a healthier, more active and socially connected community. It also contributes to outcomes in the Environment and Liveability Strategy and Regional Economic Development Strategy as it relates to the provision and embellishment of open space, access to well-designed sports facilities and services, the delivery of major sporting events and growth of the sport and active recreation sector.

Strategic alignment

Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019-41

The Sunshine Coast Community Strategy provides the strategic pathways towards a future where together we thrive. We thrive through connection with people, places and spaces and where we stay true to our values as a welcoming, caring and vibrant community, with opportunities for all to participate.

Participation in sport and active recreation is a key contributor towards creating a healthy, active community. It has positive physical and mental health outcomes, builds social connections, reduces crime and supports educational and employment outcomes. Community connections are fostered through sport and active recreation spaces, activities and events. The Plan guides the provision of sport and active recreation across the region to deliver a network of high-quality, accessible and fit-for-purpose sport and active recreation spaces and facilities for the community. It aims to ensure people of all ages and abilities have access to opportunities to get physically active, improve their health and wellbeing and reduce their risk of chronic disease.

Environment and Liveability Strategy 2023

The Environment and Liveability Strategy provides strategic pathways to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041. It focuses on the natural environment and how it can be preserved and enhanced, as well as the liveability of the region. It enables a good quality of life for all residents, while supporting a strong economy in an accessible and well-connected built environment.

Community infrastructure and open spaces such as community sports facilities, fields and courts are important places where the community can meet and participate in sport and active recreation activities. The plan recognises the critical role sport and active recreation infrastructure plays in enabling the community to become more active and healthier. It aims to provide integrated, larger and centrally located sports grounds co-located with recreation parks that respond to changing environments and community needs.

Regional Economic Development Strategy 2013-33

The Regional Economic Development Strategy provides the strategic pathways to transition into a regional economy that is innovative, adaptive, resilient and climate ready. It encourages a more sustainable and equitable future economy, attracting investment and supporting local businesses to innovate, grow and enable diverse employment opportunities.

Sport and active recreation significantly contributes to the Sunshine Coast's primary economic assets including the lifestyle, environment and sporting events it offers the community. Quality sporting infrastructure, high functioning sports clubs, a diverse range of accessible participation opportunities and strong volunteer and community participation all enhance the Sunshine Coast's local lifestyle and competitive advantage. A high performing sport and recreation sector drives lifestyle opportunities and supports regional economic development through the delivery of major sporting events and the progression of local sports related businesses, products and services.



Sunshine Coast Major Events Strategy 2018-28 – 2023 Refresh

Lifestyle opportunities and major sporting events that attract visitors, tourists and residents further supports the region’s economic prosperity. The plan aligns to this strategy by stimulating the sport and active recreation sector, driving sports tourism and contributing to the region’s diverse calendar of major sports events.

Other relevant Council strategies and plans:

- Active Transport Plan 2011-31
- All Abilities Action Plan 2024-28
- Aquatic Plan 2011-26
- Integrated Transport Strategy 2019
- Sunshine Coast Council Local Disaster Management Plan
- Recreation Trail Plan 2012
- Recreation Parks Plan 2021-31
- Regional Facilities Plan for Difficult to Locate Sports 2019
- Skate and BMX Plan 2011-21 – 2017 Edition
- Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014

Sports complex master plans:

- Ballinger Park Sports Complex
- Beerwah Sportsground
- Caloundra Central Park Sport and Recreation Precinct
- Coolum Sports Complex
- Elizabeth Daniels Sports Complex
- Glasshouse Mountains Sports Complex
- Honey Farm Sport and Recreation Precinct
- Maleny Sport and Recreation Reserve
- Maroochydore Junior Rugby League
- Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex
- Meridan Fields Sporting Complex
- Mooloolah Recreation Reserve
- Nambour Showgrounds
- Palmwoods Sports Complex
- Reserve 1000 Golden Beach

View Council strategies and plans

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/council/planning-and-projects

Context

The Sport and Active Recreation Plan not only guides the provision of inclusive, fit-for-purpose sporting infrastructure across the region, it also recognises the need to support our sporting clubs and volunteers who contribute significantly towards the delivery of active participation opportunities for our community.

The plan acknowledges the challenges in responding to population growth, community needs and competing pressures for finite land resources. It responds to the region's challenges and ensures land for sport and active recreation continues to be prioritised in future planning.

A snapshot of the sport and active recreation sector

The impact of sport and active recreation

It is well known participation in sport and physical activity has a positive impact on our health, social and mental well-being and our economy. Physical activity is scientifically proven to reduce obesity and other serious medical conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes type 2, various cancers and mental illness. In 2018-19, \$2.4 billion was spent on diseases caused by physical inactivity and it was the fourth highest contributor to disease in Australia according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)². The need to increase community participation in physical activity is a National priority with the Australian Sports Commission's 2023 AusPlay report revealing only 35.4% of Australian adults (15+ years) were physically active enough to meet Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines³.

Research also confirms participation in sport, particularly team sports, fosters significant social connections and resilience, can provide a sense of 'belonging' and is positively associated with life satisfaction. Research by KPMG, for the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), found numerous social benefits from participation in sport including community pride and trust, improved social inclusion and mental health and reduced crime and anti-social behaviour⁴. The social impacts of sport are particularly important given the transitory nature of the Sunshine Coast's population.

Enhanced cognitive performance, improved productivity and the development of skills that improve people's education and employability outcomes are also proven physical activity outcomes⁴.

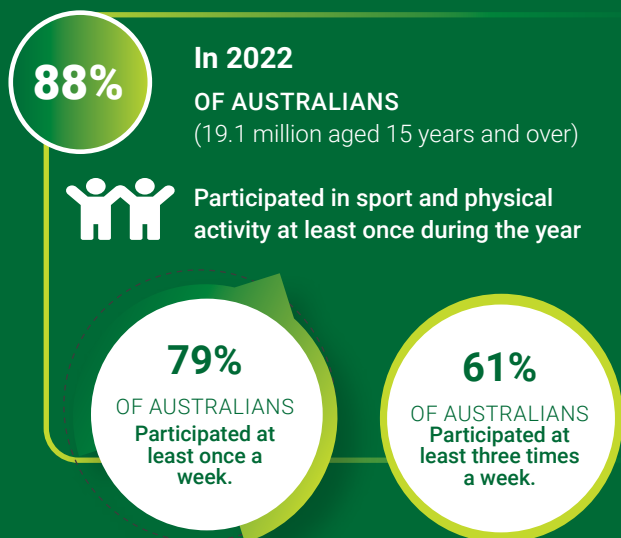


2 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), Economics of Sport and Physical Activity Participation and Injury, September 2023.

3 Australian Sports Commission, 2023 AusPlay – Data Portal, ASC, Canberra.

4 The value of community sport infrastructure: Investigating the value of community sport facilities in Australia, KPMG for the Australian Sports Commission, 2018.

Participation in sport and physical activity in Australia⁵



Top ten sports adults participated in

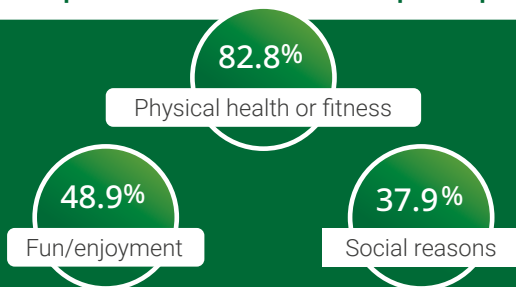
- Walking
- Fitness/gym
- Running/ athletics
- Swimming
- Cycling
- Bush walking
- Yoga
- Soccer
- Golf
- Tennis



The biggest barriers to adult participation were

- Poor health or injury, 28%
- Not enough time/ too many other commitments, 25.4%

The top motivators for adults to participate



National trends indicate

- A decreasing participation rate in organised sport with increasing age
- Participation in modified versions of organised sport is increasing
- Participation in non-sport physical activities such as walking and fitness/ gym have increased most
- Individual or self-directed activities such as running, swimming and cycling have increased and continue to grow in popularity
- Younger generations continue to embrace more lifestyle and emerging/ adventure non-traditional sports such as skateboarding and ninja sports



Top ten sports children participated in

- Swimming
- Soccer
- Gymnastics
- Dancing
- Australian Football
- Basketball
- Netball
- Tennis
- Running/ athletics
- Cricket



⁵ Australian Sports Commission, 2023 AusPlay – Data Portal, ASC, Canberra.

The sport and active recreation economy

Tourism, sport and leisure is identified in the Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy as one of seven industry sectors that contributes to broadening the region's economic base. Sunshine Coast Council has a substantial financial stake in sport and active recreation through major sporting events, high performance sports training opportunities and the provision and maintenance of Sunshine Coast wide and district sporting facilities. The network of sports facilities and services contributes to the region's economy via household expenditure on organised sport, the provision of employment opportunities, significant volunteer workforce contribution, substantial return on infrastructure investment, income from major sporting events and industry related sports products.



In 2022



The combined value of the sport sector to the Australian economy was \$16.4 billion⁶



Adults (15 + years) spent \$12.5 billion on participation in sport and physical activities⁶



Household expenditure on organised sport on the Sunshine Coast was \$10.2 million, a rise of 24% from \$8.2 million recorded in 2016⁷



The Sunshine Coast's total value of sport and recreation exports was \$80.3 million⁷



The value of the volunteer contribution to sport on the Sunshine Coast was \$107.4 million representing growth of 4.8% annually since 2016⁷.



There were 1,841 people in the Sunshine Coast region whose main job was in a sport and physical recreation occupation a rise of 22% from 1509 in 2016⁷.



There were 375 sports and recreation businesses (GST registered) on the Sunshine Coast, a significant rise of 43% from 262 recorded in 2016⁷



The economic value of major sports events held on the Sunshine Coast was \$70.3 million⁸.



Over 3.3 million Australians (15.6% of adults 15+ years) participated in non-playing roles in the sport and active recreation sector at least once. Over 90% of these participants (3.06 million) were volunteers⁹.

6 Australian Sports Commission, AusPlay, Participation Expenditure, Key Figures, 2023.

7 National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) 2023, compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

8 Economic value of major sports events held on the Sunshine Coast, Compiled by the Major Events Unit Sunshine Coast Council, 2023.

9 AusPlay Data Portal: Non playing roles and volunteering, Australian Sports Commission, 2023.



Trends impacting sport and active recreation

Key trends impacting on sport and active recreation facility provision and participation include:

- Rapid and continued growth in female participation and the associated demand for universal change facilities.
- The need for well-designed sports facilities that are inclusive and accessible to everyone.
- Additional lighting of sports facilities to enable night training and competitions to increase field/ court use.
- The need to maximise the sustainability of sports fields and ovals via effective maintenance to cope with intensified and additional use.
- The growing variety of leisure options for people to choose from continues to challenge traditional sports provision, includes modified versions of traditional sports and supports the emergence of new adventure and lifestyle sports.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The upcoming games, which the Sunshine Coast will co-host, is anticipated to inspire an increase in sports and physical activity participation and volunteerism across

the Nation, whilst also presenting an opportunity for local sports clubs to host international teams who arrive to train prior to the games. The Games will provide an opportunity to showcase the Sunshine Coast as a globally recognised location for international sporting events, whilst also delivering significant upgrades or new sports or community infrastructure as lasting legacies for the Sunshine Coast region.

Methodology

The refresh of the Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-2026 involved a comprehensive review of the previous Plan's (2016 edition) outcomes and achievements, current sports infrastructure provision and future community needs.

The development of the Plan included a review of relevant Council strategies and plans, analysis of current and projected population, review of participation trends, inspection of key facilities, consultation with internal and external stakeholders and a comprehensive community engagement process. In addition to the broader strategic recommendations for the region, the process involved examining Council's 37 Localities of Interest to determine each locality's current and future needs.

Key findings

Participation

- Many sports, such as Soccer, Netball, Australian Football and Tennis have increased in participation primarily due to population growth.
- Some sports are experiencing declining participation rates (e.g. lawn bowls, golf, softball and squash).
- Many lawn bowls clubs are experiencing static or declining participation.
- Gymnastics facilities on the Sunshine Coast are at capacity and there is high demand.
- Existing multi-court indoor sports facilities are at capacity during peak afternoon/evening usage times.
- There is growing demand for more social, casual and non-competitive forms of participation (e.g. walking, pickleball and disc golf).
- Junior sport and evening participation continues to grow.

Facility provision

- There is a lack of available suitable land within some localities of interest and/or poor functionality of land for field sports (due to inadequate drainage, flooding, environmental constraints, and poor field condition often from overuse).
- Formalise sports land opportunities at Coolum SHS to service the Coolum and surrounding catchments.
- The total cost of developing and managing inferior land that is cheaper to acquire has been found to exceed the lifecycle cost of more expensive acquisition options (e.g. due to periodic remediation after flood events), puts pressure on the sustainability of existing resources and ultimately affects participation in sport.
- Many field and outdoor sports consider lighting of fields, provision of amenities / changerooms and available car parking as areas of improvement across the region.
- There is inadequate access to sports facilities for people with disabilities.
- On-land facilities nearby water access points are major concerns for non-powered water sports such as sailing, rowing and canoeing. Issues include limited land availability, existing areas being at capacity, a lack of support facilities, conflicts with other uses and cost to access facilities.
- There is sufficient land for football (soccer) in the region for the plan term however existing and future sites require embellishment to increase participation opportunities.
- Sunshine Coast Gymnastics at Woombye has reached capacity and future growth is constrained by its 30 year old building.
- There is sufficient land for equestrian pursuits however reorganisation of the network would provide a more effective equestrian offering.
- Currently there is no permanent home for equestrian cross-country events on the coast.
- Sunshine Coast Table Tennis operates from a variety of locations and continues to seek a home base for their sport on the coast.
- Squash facility provision continues to reduce due to privately owned squash centres being developed for other purposes resulting in few remaining facilities.
- Pickleball is conducted from eight indoor locations including schools, community recreation centres and Caloundra Indoor Stadium and continues to look for more venues to accommodate its rapid participation growth.
- While suitable for some competitive activities and training purposes, facilities with a small number of fields/ courts have design limitations, do not enable adequate revenue generation and are not capable of hosting competitions and larger sporting events.
- Peak bodies in some sports (e.g. tennis/AFL) are seeking to upgrade existing facilities to accommodate higher level competitions.
- There is growing demand to use regional facilities such as the Nambour Showgrounds and Sunshine Coast Stadium for non-sport uses such as exhibitions.
- There is likely to be some medium to long term impact on some sports facilities from future road/rail corridor developments.
- Some field sport clubs expressed a desire to relocate due to either a lack of tenure security, desire for larger playing areas, difficulties with shared use, poor facility condition or to move closer to new growth areas.



School partnerships

- The major users of schools for club-based sports activities are cricket, soccer, and to a lesser extent AFL, netball and futsal.
- Whilst there are numerous indoor sports facilities located in schools their suitability for community sport is often limited. School facilities can have design limitations such as not being of adequate size, in terms of court provision and amenities, to conduct competitions.
- Some sports clubs continue to experience difficulties accessing school facilities. The main issues are uncertainty of access, poor maintenance standards, red tape in formalising access, difficulty in establishing amenities and a lack of lighting and storage areas.

Management and governance

- The maintenance of sports facilities is a major area of concern for sports clubs with many struggling with the cost of maintaining facilities to an adequate standard, particularly in a climate of declining volunteers.
- Field sports face added challenges maintaining their facilities with their governing/ peak bodies imposing higher minimum standards for the condition of playing areas and lighting.
- Sports clubs based at venues owned and (directly or indirectly) maintained by Council (e.g. Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex) were perceived by some clubs as receiving a 'better deal' than those who hold individual tenure agreements with Council.
- Growing legal and operational obligations for sports clubs continues to impact on their ability to focus on delivering their services.
- The volunteers, who represent the majority of the workforce in sports clubs, continue to be stretched with many clubs relying on just a handful of dedicated volunteers to continue operating.
- Sports clubs continue to struggle attracting and retaining volunteers, particularly those with the skills needed to undertake increasing administration requirements and manage club viability strategies.
- While administrative duties do assist clubs to plan, attract funding, report to governing bodies, maintain insurance and incorporation status, they also draw volunteer time away from the delivery of sport.

Council's role


Sunshine Coast Council provides leadership and sets the strategic direction for sport and active recreation across the region. As custodian of the plan, Council engages with, and supports, the sector and community to achieve Council's vision.

The actions in the plan are all interrelated and while Council is responsible for leading delivery, the plan is owned by everyone committed to achieving the vision. Council is not solely responsible for delivering all actions in the plan. Partnerships and collaboration across the sector, community, education and business, and government are key to achieving the outcomes.

Council also plays an advocacy and facilitation role, particularly with the local sports clubs and state sporting organisations. To fulfill this role, Council provides ongoing specialist advice and support to clubs and works collaboratively with sport peak bodies and other government agencies to guide the planning and delivery of the region's sport network. This includes understanding the community's evolving demands for sport-based participation opportunities.

On the ground, Council provides new, and upgrades existing, infrastructure to improve the network of sports facilities across the region to support the growth and sustainability of local clubs and their ability to deliver participation opportunities.





“Through its role in sport and active recreation, Sunshine Coast Council will contribute to the health and wellbeing, social cohesion, and broadening of the regional economy of the Sunshine Coast.”

Plan outcomes and guiding principles

The Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-26 provides Council, the community and key stakeholders with a clear blueprint for how we will continue to create a healthy, active community and outlines Council's role.

Vision

Our 'vision' aligns with Council strategies and contributes significantly to the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy, Healthy, Active Communities Outcome to make the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area one of the healthiest regional communities in Queensland.

The plan ensures Council strategically guides the network of sport and active recreation infrastructure provision across the region and supports the sports clubs who provide participation opportunities.

The realisation of the plan will deliver:

- a network of high-quality and inclusive sport and active recreation facilities and services that the community can access for healthy and active pursuits
- well planned, sustainable and accessible sports infrastructure that responds to community needs and future growth
- sufficient, suitable and centrally located land for sport purposes that meets Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy desired standards of service
- effective, self-sufficient sport and active recreation clubs led by strong committees using good governance practices
- strong partnerships with community, government and education sectors to deliver sport focused outcomes
- a diverse calendar of high-level sports events, especially those that build on the natural advantages of the region.

Guiding principles

The following guiding principles give effect to Council's 'vision' for sport and active recreation, align to Council's strategic direction and are used to inform sports facility development needs and effective management strategies.



Economic and environmental sustainability

- avoid duplication of facilities
- maximise the capacity of existing facility use before developing new
- new land developments for sport purposes must be of sufficient scale and functionality
- employ environmentally sustainable design principles
- pursue partnerships to develop/operate new sports facilities
- support sports clubs to apply for Council and external funding
- contribute to the development of sports facilities on Council owned/ managed land



Infrastructure provision and club sustainability

- determine sports provision needs via community need and existing supply
- ensure high growth areas have adequate land and facilities for sport
- encourage the multi-use of facilities where practicable
- support the efficient management of sport assets
- provide appropriate tenure arrangements for sport land use
- support clubs to solve management problems with good governance as opposed to more facilities
- support clubs to be sustainable and well managed
- employ Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to ensure community safety



Accessibility and mobility

- encourage and maximise the accessibility of sport and active recreation opportunities
- sports facilities are located in areas of need and in proximity to residential areas
- facilities can be accessed via a range of transport modes
- internal mobility within areas/facilities is adequate
- support sports clubs to focus on accessibility when planning facility enhancements or new infrastructure



Urban character and amenity

- new/upgraded sports facility developments compliment the surrounding urban character
- high quality, functional and attractive sport and active recreation infrastructure is developed
- sports and active recreation facilities and improvements do not impact on residential amenity
- the location or upgrade of sports infrastructure preserves intrinsic environmental values



Social equity and community involvement

- provide opportunities for all residents regardless of age, gender, income, culture or physical ability
- encourage sports clubs to adopt policies and programs that encourage and facilitate equity
- ensure land identified for sport purposes is not lost to other purposes or uses
- endeavour to accommodate other active recreational uses of open space set aside for sport purposes
- consider the needs of different cultural groups and traditions in land use planning and service delivery
- employ Council's community engagement principles when planning sport facilities and services across the region



Achievements to date

The Sunshine Coast's sport and active recreation sector has grown and evolved significantly since the release of the Plan in 2011 and revision in 2016.

The 2024 review of the plan revealed, that of the 154 recommendations listed in 2016, 143 actions (93%) were either completed or ongoing. These actions have resulted in significant sport and active recreation outcomes for the Sunshine Coast.

Policy development

- Successfully advocating for Council's tenure policy to standardise the level of service provided to sports clubs: reducing maintenance, operational and water/sewer costs and responsibilities for sports clubs on Council's tenured facilities.
- Supporting sports clubs to deliver more evening and social/casual forms of participation by permitting flexible use times.

Provision and development of land or sport

- Adopting the provision standard of 1.5 hectares per 1000 residents for district level and 0.5 hectares for Council-wide sports reserves and other performance criteria for sports land as detailed in Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy.
- Since 2011, Council has proactively secured over 100ha of additional sports reserve land at Conondale, Doonan, Meridan Plains, Mooloolah, Woombye and Bli Bli to address the existing sport facility shortfall to meet the region's population growth and evolving sports participation needs.
- Developing region-wide sport specific plans for sports with identified needs such as football (soccer) and equestrian to assess need and highlight necessary infrastructure improvements to improve capacity.
- Developing a master plan for 15 of our key multi-sport complexes across the region which includes a 15-year vision for each site and prioritisation of infrastructure development to support membership growth and community needs. (Refer to the Other strategies and plans section of this Plan to find the list of sites which you can view on Council's website)
- Implementing recommendations of the Difficult-to-Locate Sports Study 2009-28 including protecting the Cooloolabin Shooting Venue.

Council support and communication with sport

- Continuing to provide specialist advice to over 350 sport and active recreation clubs on club operations including governance and planning activities to effectively deliver capital projects and participation programs.
- Educating the region's sport and active recreation clubs on energy efficiency options to decrease energy, water and waste usage.
- Successfully assisted sporting clubs to amalgamate as needed to ensure their viability and meet changing community needs such as Headland Pacific Bowls Club.
- Continuing to partner with key stakeholders including the Department of Tourism and Sport to support the sports volunteer sector.
- Successfully delivering community grant funding programs that provide equitable operational, infrastructure and maintenance funding to sports clubs.
- Continuing to support sports clubs to source and develop successful funding applications for operational support and facility embellishments. For example, in 2023, 175 clubs on the Sunshine Coast received over \$5 million in funding from ten different state, local and peak body funding programs to improve the region's network. The development of this Plan and the sports precinct Master Plans have significantly helped in this grant success as reference documents and evidence of planning and engagement undertaken.
- Negotiating with the University of the Sunshine Coast to develop a turf wicket within the university grounds to accommodate senior cricket.
- Improving the functionality of existing facilities by applying a higher weighting to requests for Council grants that align with Council policy and/or address the upgrading of drainage, lighting, sustainability initiatives or all abilities access.
- Elevating connections and strengthening partnerships with key state, regional and local sporting bodies and other government agencies to collaboratively improve the region's network of sports infrastructure.
- Successfully negotiating with relevant state government agencies to reduce the impact on sports facilities from future road/ rail corridor developments and investigating alternative arrangements.

School partnerships

- Developing an ongoing relationship with the Department of Education and key stakeholders to support community sports clubs to negotiate agreements for the use of school ovals and multi-purpose halls and advocating to the state government for firmer policies.
- Successfully negotiated the ongoing use of Coolum State High School by the Coolum Breakers Junior Australian Football Club to create facility improvements and enable additional club use of the school facilities.
- Implementing co-location of sports reserves with schools at new housing developments such as the Baringa Football Grounds and Nirimba Sports Complex.
- Supporting Mountain Creek Junior Australian Football Club to access the University of the Sunshine Coast for training and competition access.

Management/ development of major facilities and outdoor sport

- Consolidating sporting facilities of regional significance, including the Sunshine Coast Stadium, Maroochydore Multi Sports Precinct and Caloundra Indoor Stadium into the Major Sport Facilities Team to improve delivery and create resource efficiencies.
- Sourcing \$13.3 million in external funding (2021 to 2024), to deliver new and upgraded sports facility projects.
- Submitting applications, in 2023-24, worth \$7 million in external funding to improve the sports network.
- Expending over \$8.07 million in capital works related to organised sport facilities (excluding maintenance and including aquatics) across the region in 2022–23.
- Developing the Nambour Showgrounds Master Plan 2023-38 to cater for sport and non-sport uses as equitably and sustainably as possible to meet multiple community demands.
- Completing a major upgrade of the Nambour Showgrounds Equestrian Indoor Arena to enable the hosting of international level events.
- Installation of a new international level hockey playing synthetic turf surface at the Sunshine Coast Hockey Association.
- New sports clubhouses at Baringa Sports Ground, Nirimba Sports Complex, Meridan Fields Sports Complex, Coolum Sports Complex, Maroochydore Multi-Sports Complex, Ballinger Park Sports Complex, and Palmview Sports Complex.
- New ovals and playing fields at Coolum Sports Complex, Maroochydore Multi-sports Complex, Meridan Fields Sports Complex, Peregian Springs

Sports Ground, Caloundra South, Palmview, Ballinger Park Sports Complex, Elizabeth Daniels Sports Complex, Baringa Sports Ground, Nirimba Sports Complex, North Shore Multi-sports Complex and Central Park Sport and Recreation Precinct.

- Major upgrade of lighting, drainage, internal road network and car parks at numerous sites across the region.
- Clubhouse demolition, rebuild and upgrade projects at Palmwoods Sports Complex and Palmwoods Football Club, Yandina Sports Complex, Nambour Crushers Rugby League Club, Nambour & District Netball, Reserve 1000, Maroochydore Junior Rugby League Club, Sunshine Coast Tennis Centre, Nambour & District Netball and North Shore Multi-Sports Complex.
- Major tennis and netball court upgrades at Sunshine Coast Regional Tennis Centre, Maroochydore Multi-Sports Complex, Coolum Sports Complex, Caloundra Indoor Stadium Precinct, Eudlo Tennis Club, Eumundi Tennis Club, Nambour & District Netball, and Aura Netball Club.
- Commencing construction of new sport precinct at Honey Farm Road in Meridan Plains.

Non-motorised water sports

- Commencing the Non-Motorised Water Sports Plan (e.g. sailing, rowing and canoeing) to understand current and future challenges.
- Developing a new facility for the Maroochy River Rowing Club to support rowing at Bli Bli.
- Enclosing the finish tower at Lake Kawana to attract all levels of sporting events, including international level.
- Partnering with Maritime Safety Queensland to develop a River Management Plan for the Maroochy River.

Indoor sport

- Delivering new indoor courts through the expansion of the Clippers Basketball Stadium from one to three courts.
- Enabling the expansion of the Maroochy Beach Gymnastics Association to increase membership and ability to host regional and state level events.
- Supporting the expansion of Caloundra YMCA Gymnastics facility at Caloundra Central Park Sport and Recreation Precinct to service community needs in the southern area of the coast.
- Ensuring the Aura Sports Network Plan incorporates indoor sports facilities to cater for the Baringa – Banya District and Surrounds locality.

Sport development

- Partnering with Tennis Queensland to develop a Regional Tennis Plan to assist the planning and development of tennis facilities across the coast.
- Assisting the upgrade of facilities to provide additional Pickleball opportunities at Nambour and Mooloolaba.
- Supporting the amalgamation of Pacific Paradise Bowls Club with Headland Bowls Club to form the Headland Pacific Sports Club to improve facility use and club viability.
- Supporting the development of Disc Golf courses at Meridan Downs Park and Jensen Park at Pelican Waters to support this emerging sport.
- Advocating to SEQ Water for the protection of access and usage of Ewen Maddock Dam and surrounding areas for active outdoor recreation pursuits such as horse riding, cycling, walking, canoeing and kayaking.

Economic sport development planning

- Continuing to work in partnership with Council's Economic Development Branch to broaden the region's economic base, leverage off the coast's natural competitive advantages and support the development of facilities capable of attracting major sporting events.
- Successfully negotiating to become a co-host city for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and agreement to provide four key venues to host events such as football, basketball, marathon, mountain biking, cycling and kiteboarding.

Impacts on existing facilities

- Continuing to successfully advocate for no net loss of capacity and if needed, the redevelopment to an equal or better standard of sports facilities impacted by transport corridor developments.
- Ensuring no non-essential relocation of sports clubs occurs and is only supported where it addresses safety or usage constraints and results in no net loss of playing areas for sport.

Action plan

Sunshine Coast Council delivers a range of activities to support the ongoing development of sport and active recreation and participation opportunities for the region. This action plan seeks to recognise that work, whilst focusing on Council's future priorities over the remaining life of the Plan.

The Sport and Active Recreation Plan sets out the priority areas and actions for 2024-2026 that will most effectively contribute toward achieving Council's goal for a healthy, active community.

Many of the actions are ongoing and will continue to be monitored and reviewed annually.

Policy development

Council supports local sports clubs through the roll out of Council's *Community Groups Occupying Council Owned or Council Controlled Land and/ or Infrastructure Policy* and plays a pivotal role in providing capacity building support.

Actions

- Continue to support the roll out of Council's Community Groups Occupying Council Owned or Council Controlled Land and/ or Infrastructure Policy to provide a consistent level of service to sports clubs and reduce some of their responsibilities on Council's tenured facilities.
- Continue to apply the Prioritisation Criteria for Capital Recommendations (Appendix 1) and the Sport and Active Recreation Plan guiding principles as a strategic framework for decision making.
- Support sports clubs to deliver more evening and social/casual forms of participation by continuing to permit, where appropriate, flexible use times.





Provision and development of land for sport

Council applies the Desired Standards of Service for sports reserve land supply of 1.5 hectares per 1000 residents for district level and 0.5 hectares per 1000 residents for Council-wide provision of land for sports purposes, as detailed in the Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS).

Council also recognises the most efficient model of land provision for sport is the development of 'precincts' where larger parcels of land (over 20 hectares) provide operational savings by being able to 'hub' facilities, service multiple sports, enable longer term growth of individual clubs and reduce maintenance. As such, the acquisition of larger parcels of land for sports reserves continues to be a priority for Council.

Having accurate, yearly participation data for all sports clubs operating across the Sunshine Coast will further inform the planning of needed facilities and new sports reserve land.

Actions

Secure land to meet community needs and population growth

- Ensure land acquired for sport purposes complies with the Desired Standards of Service outlined in Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy.
- In new residential sub-divisions and structure plans, endeavour to co-locate sports reserves with school ovals where possible in order to maximise available playing areas. Ensure that co-location of Council playing fields with schools does not result in schools opting out of providing playing fields or ongoing maintenance responsibilities.
- In smaller, isolated population settlements or mature, high-density communities where the provision of land may be unwarranted

or prohibitively expensive, facilitate access to school land or land in adjoining localities.

- Source adequate funding, both internally and externally, to fund the development of sustainable sports infrastructure on new sports reserve land and to maximise use of existing facilities.

Actions

Priorities for land

- Secure suitable land for sport in the localities identified in Council's the Environment and Liveability Strategy to meet current and future community needs.
- Monitor demand across the network especially in future growth areas as identified in the Environment and Liveability Strategy.
- If any existing large land areas become under-utilised, identify opportunities for rationalisation of clubs in order to generate greater use of the land.
- Ensure land zoned for sport and recreation purposes is protected for future sports development as required in densely populated urban areas to accommodate growth.
- For land secured or acquired for sport, prepare a master plan for any sports complexes that require planning.

Actions

Understand sport and active recreation participation on the Sunshine Coast

- Collect accurate sports participation data across the region and liaise with the Department of Tourism and Sport to gain insights into participation trends and the performance of the sports network to inform decision making.

Council support and communication with sport

Council provides specialist knowledge and advice to sports and active recreation clubs as well internal and external stakeholders who play a role in supporting and delivering sport participation opportunities.

Council also liaises and partners with state sporting organisations, peak bodies and other sports related government agencies to effectively plan and deliver support and resources across the region.

Council's grant programs, particularly the Sports Field Maintenance and Community Partnership Funding Programs, provide equitable support to not-for-profit sports clubs to ensure a safe playing surface is delivered for the community.

Council supports the development of sports club management skills and the future growth of sport and active recreation by providing specialist advice, a dedicated annual capital works budget, partnerships and grant funding.

Actions

- Continue to provide specialist advice and support to sports clubs and volunteers to build their capacity, improve and maintain their facilities, apply for funding, develop plans, manage financial and governance matters and enhance the delivery of participation opportunities for the community.
- Collaborate and partner with the Department of Tourism and Sport (DTS) to develop and promote resources that provide improved guidance and structure for club planning, development and administration.
- Support opportunities for sports clubs to exchange information, knowledge and develop shared solutions.
- Liaise with State Sporting Organisations, peak bodies and other sports related government agencies to effectively plan and deliver support and resources across the region.
- Encourage clubs to apply environmentally sustainable design principles such as water harvesting, use of recycled water, treated effluent water for irrigation of sports fields, under car park storage wells, cogeneration of power, solar capture and power storage, and the use of 'green' building technologies.

- Continue to encourage the installation of lighting to facilitate increased night time use for training and competitions.
- Consider a three year transition through the Sports Field Maintenance Funding Program toward providing a minimum level of maintenance of playing fields in accordance with a ranking hierarchy in order to deliver equitable support to sporting clubs.
- Through tenure arrangements, seek to achieve a minimum period of separation (2-4 weeks) between sporting seasons to enable adequate maintenance of playing fields. Support clubs in making alternative pre- season arrangements at educational or private sector facilities.

School partnerships

In some smaller communities or mature coastal communities, land for community sport may not be available and it may be more cost effective to utilise school land.

Actions

- Liaise with schools to determine future sporting facilities and identify opportunities for community use.
- Continue to implement the co-location of sports reserves with school ovals at new housing developments where possible to maximise available playing spaces.
- Support sports clubs to negotiate agreements for the use of school fields and indoor facilities in line with the Department of Education (DoE) *Community Use of State School Facilities Policy*.

Non-motorised water sports

With five river catchments, several large water bodies and canal systems and of course, the beaches and ocean, the Sunshine Coast attracts a diverse range of non-motorised water sports requiring access and participation opportunities.

Actions

- Develop a Non-Motorised Water Sports Plan in 2024-25 to assess the current and future trends in non-motorised water sports participation and formulate an action plan.
- Undertake conceptual and detailed designs of a non-motorised water sports facility at Lake Kawana.
- Monitor the demand for amenities and increased parking to support non-motorised water sports at Lake Kawana.
- Monitor demand and site constraints for non-motorised water sport activities at Chambers Island and Eudlo Creek.
- Support Maroochy Sailing Club to source funding for minor works of their clubhouse.

Indoor sport

Monitoring and planning for the provision of adequate indoor sports facilities across the Sunshine Coast continues to be a high priority for Council. In the region there are currently four (4) publicly accessible multi-court indoor sports facilities of three (3) or more courts. These are the University of the Sunshine Coast (3 courts), Caloundra Indoor Stadium (4 courts), Clippers Stadium (3 courts) and Sunshine Coast Recreation Precinct, Currimundi (3 courts). Most are at capacity during peak afternoon and evening usage times (3.30-10pm).

A number of local schools have indoor halls available for community use however, most of these halls are single court, constrained by space and unsuitable for conducting court sport competitions or events.

Taking into account current and projected populations and the notional catchments of existing and proposed multi-court facilities as at 2026, Council has identified areas potentially requiring new indoor facilities.

Junior participation in gymnastics continues to grow. Gymnastics Queensland has confirmed the priority areas for facilities on the Sunshine Coast are Maroochydore and Caloundra. Existing gymnastics facilities are also reaching capacity.

Sunshine Coast Table Tennis continues to seek a home base within the region to overcome access challenges operating from a variety of locations across the region. The development of a dedicated table tennis facility is supported by the sport's peak body however, Council strongly advocates and encourages multi-use opportunities to ensure the facility is financially viable and remains self-sustainable.

Squash courts have historically been privately provided but ongoing provision is under threat due to redevelopment of private facilities. Squash participation has declined over recent years and, in the absence of public provision, the sport may struggle to survive in the long term.

Actions

- As part of Council's commitment to co-host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, continue to progress the construction of a large multi-court indoor sports facility in Kawana.
- Continue to implement the Aura Sports Network Plan 2023 and plan the delivery of indoor sports facilities to service Caloundra South and surrounding localities.
- Undertake a review of indoor court facilities provision across the region, in light of the new 11 court facility planned to be delivered in Kawana.
- Assist the Sunshine Coast Gymnastics club at Woombye to determine the feasibility of extending their building to better accommodate the growth of gymnastics in the hinterland.
- Support the Sunshine Coast Table Tennis club to secure a suitable location which facilitates multi-use opportunities.
- Consider incorporating the provision of squash courts (if suitable and viable) in future feasibility studies undertaken for the development of new indoor sports facilities.

Management and development of major facilities and outdoor sport

Major facilities are defined as those which service regional catchments, host high level events, and cater for training and competition for sport. Sunshine Coast Council directly manages and maintains a number of such facilities:

- Maroochydore Multi Sports Complex (MMS)
- Nambour Showgrounds
- Caloundra Indoor Stadium (CIS)
- Sunshine Coast Stadium or Kawana Sports Precinct.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Looking to the future as a co-host, the Sunshine Coast will play an integral role in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Key venues in the region will host events including football, basketball, marathon, mountain biking, cycling and kiteboarding.

The Games provides an opportunity to showcase our region and cement our reputation as a globally recognised location for international sporting events and training. It will contribute to the growth of our region and provide a legacy of world class infrastructure including a multi-sport stadium, indoor sports centre and international level mountain bike trail.

The Brisbane 2032 Legacy Strategy, Elevate 2042 is the product of the Games Delivery Partners and is a unifying statement of our joint commitment to ensure the catalytic effect of the Games drives lasting benefits beyond the Games themselves. Elevate 2042 ensures there is collective focus on the areas of our society, economy, connectivity and environment where we plan to make the most significant change to be better, sooner, together through sport.

Actions

- Continue involvement in the engagement, planning and design of infrastructure to be delivered as part of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to maximise legacy outcomes for the Sunshine Coast community.
- Develop and/or upgrade the four venues proposed to host games events:
 - Kawana Sports Precinct – football and basketball

- Sunshine Coast Hinterland – mountain biking
- Maroochydore City Centre – athletes village
- Alexandra Headland – staging area for marathon, race walking, kiteboarding, cycling road race and time trial, Paralympic marathon and cycling.
- Facilitate the redevelopment of the Sunshine Coast Stadium precinct and support the construction of a new indoor multi-court stadium at Kawana to co-host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Support the relocation of existing user groups at the Sunshine Coast Stadium to facilitate redevelopment works for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy. This includes supporting the upgrade of facilities to accommodate the needs of the relocated sports clubs (i.e. Meridan Fields Sports Complex).

Outdoor sport

Lack of available land for growth of sport is a common issue acknowledged by Sunshine Coast Council, particularly for outdoor field and court sports. Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy outlines priority areas for securing additional suitable land to reduce the identified deficit of sports reserves. The implementation of recommendations in Council's 15 multi-use sports complex endorsed master plans ensures existing sports land is well utilised and facility provision across the network is maximised. Refer to the Sports Complex Master Plans section of this Plan to find the list of sites which you can view on Council's website.

Actions

- Continue to implement the plans to construct new major sports facilities at:
 - Honey Farm Sport and Recreation Precinct, Meridan Plains (Master Plan 2021)
 - Palmview (Palmview Structure Plan 2023)
 - Caloundra South (Aura Sports Network Plan 2023).
- Progressively monitor and implement each of the master plan recommendations Council has endorsed for 15 multi-sport complexes. (Refer to the Sports Complex Master Plans list p.10).
- Progressively implement the recommendations of the Difficult-to-Locate Sports Study 2009-28.

Sport development

The review of the Sport and Active Recreation Plan highlighted some sport specific sustainability and development challenges that require addressing to meet changing community needs and participation trends.

Council recognises the growth of pickleball as a popular emerging sport throughout the region and supports facility access through shared use hire arrangements.

Our landscape lends itself to a range of alternative sport and active recreation opportunities such as beach sports, disc golf and rock climbing. As the LGA, it is important that Council acknowledges the sports played in Australia, as well as how and why we play them, are changing over time. To appropriately respond to this change, Council will continue to consider these emerging activities when formulating plans and policies as they increase in popularity. The Aura Sports Network Plan 2023 identifies a future Emerging Sports Park for development in future years (early 2040's), the composition of which will be determined closer to that time in line with trends.

Council understands the provision of pathways for walking and cycling contributes to the community's capacity to be physically active and will continue to ensure the future planning of sports complexes includes this valuable infrastructure.

Actions

- Continue to support Tennis Queensland and local tennis clubs to improve court surfaces and lighting across the network.
- Support the development and growth of pickleball through access to appropriate facilities via shared use arrangements.
- Investigate the incorporation of pickleball courts where opportunities arise and demand warrants investment.
- Work with regional lawn bowls groups, Bowls Queensland and local bowls clubs to develop an amalgamation strategy to improve the long-term viability and sustainability of clubs on the Sunshine Coast.
- Support the development of emerging sports particularly the evolution of lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports that align with the natural advantages of the Sunshine Coast (e.g. beach sports, stand up paddleboarding, canoe polo, kite surfing, BMX, disc golf and rock climbing).

Economic development

Encouraging and facilitating increased physical activity through participation in sport and active recreation creates economic and social benefits, as well as reducing health costs and increasing productivity. The Sunshine Coast is also well known for many of its large sporting events such as the Sunshine Coast Marathon and Mooloolaba Triathlon Festival. As a co-host of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the economic growth of the region will be significantly boosted, visitors will be attracted, and additional job opportunities will be created.

Council also acknowledges that smaller scale community-based events have the potential to generate a greater rate of return than large scale events that require significant capital investment and involvement from outside organisers.

Actions

- Broaden the region's economic base through the development of facilities capable of attracting major sporting events and training opportunities.
- Continue to attract major sporting events and games to the region that contribute to economic and entertainment outcomes for our community.
- Continue to plan for and deliver infrastructure and implement management processes, to fulfill our role as a co-host city for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Impacts on existing facilities

Some existing sporting facilities could be significantly impacted by external factors under State Government control (e.g. Motorway widening and heavy rail network will impact Western Fields, Kawana). Provision needs to be made if displacement of sports is likely to result. Protocols have been established to ensure there is no non-essential alienation or loss of sports land for environmental, engineering or transport purposes. The non-essential relocation of clubs is not supported as it diverts limited budgets from addressing demand in new areas or areas where facilities are already at capacity. Council will only approve the relocation of sports from their existing playing areas if the relocation is necessary to address safety or usage constraints and will result in an overall improvement in servicing the needs of the sport, greater efficiencies via co-location and no net loss of sport playing areas.

Actions

- Where transport corridor developments impact on existing sporting facilities, advocate for no net loss of capacity and, where relocation is required, ensure access and redevelopment to an equal or better standard.
- Where alienation of land is unavoidable, ensure adequate compensation is made to offset any loss of land for sport.

Site specific actions

Whilst many of the actions in the Sport and Active Recreation Plan, 2016 edition that related to specific regional localities have already been completed, the following actions will continue to be undertaken over the remainder of the plan's life 2024-26.

Sunshine Coast Council's 37 Localities of Interest are illustrated in Map 1: 37 Localities of Interest.

Locality	Recommendation
Bli Bli	Continue advocating for increased multi-use opportunities at the Parklakes Sports Complex
Bokarina – Birtinya – Wurtulla	Continue to investigate opportunities to acquire additional land within Locality 7 in collaboration with the state government to compensate any loss of land from the Multi-Modal Transport Corridor (MMTC) and constraints on vegetation.
Caloundra – Kings Beach – Moffat Beach – Shelly Beach	Review the Caloundra Central Park Sport and Recreation Precinct Master Plan and ensure ongoing use for sport and active recreation is preserved.
Coolum Beach - Mount Coolum - Yaroomba - Point Arkwright	Support Coolum Beach Junior Australian Football Club in negotiations with Coolum State High School to develop club facilities, seek external funding opportunities and reach a more permanent long-term outcome for the club. Progressively implement the recommendations of the Difficult-to-Locate Sports Study 2009-2028 relevant to this locality. Negotiate with relevant State Government agencies to secure long term tenure or suitable relocation options for the Motocross Venue and Model Aero Club formerly at Quanda Road, Coolum.
Currimundi – Aroona – Battery Hill – Dicky Beach	Explore increased opportunities for partnerships and utilisation of sport and recreation facilities at the Sunshine Coast Recreation Precinct, Currimundi.
Eumundi – Eewah Vale – North Arm – Bridges	Monitor the utilisation of Eumundi Showgrounds and Eumundi State School. If demand warrants, secure additional land for active sport.
Landsborough – Mount Mellum	Develop and implement a master plan for the Landsborough Sports Complex.
Maroochydore	Prepare a master plan for Cotton Tree Sport and Community Precinct which addresses site integration and investigates opportunities for rugby union, bowls, tennis and other community functions.
Mooloolah Valley – Diamond Valley – Balmoral Ridge – Bald Knob	Implement stage two car parking improvements at the Mooloolah Valley Sportsground.
Mountain Creek	Advocate for improved training, competition access and facilities for Mountain Creek Junior Australian Football Club at Mountain Creek State School or alternative available sites.
Sippy Downs	Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of the Sunshine Coast, advocate for the upgrade of facilities and amenities to better provide for community sport and active recreation in Sippy Downs.
Weyba Downs – Verrierdale – Doonan (part)	Review appropriate usage, events and continue to activate Fellowship Drive, Doonan Sports Park land under trusteeship of Council.
Woombye	Prepare and implement a master plan for Victory Park Sports Complex sensitive to this closed landfill site.
Yandina – Yandina Creek and District	Prepare and implement a master plan for the Yandina Sports Complex.



Commitment

Sunshine Coast Council will continue to invest in the region's network of sports infrastructure via a mix of core Council budget including the capital works program for sports facilities, revenue from development infrastructure agreements, grants and partnerships. Facility condition audits and structural maintenance support is also provided to sports clubs located on Council owned or managed land.

It is recognised that the cost to implement all actions in the Plan is beyond the capacity of the Sunshine Coast Council to fund solely in its own right and as such, the delivery of the Plan's actions are subject to funding. To this end, external funding and/ or partnerships with other government agencies, state sporting organisations or the private sector will be sought where possible to enhance the provision of sports facilities across the region.

Council will continue to provide specialist advice and actively support local and region-wide community sports clubs to improve their governance and operations to become more sustainable and deliver accessible participation opportunities for the community.

Community grants and sponsorship

Council offers a range of grants and funding for sport and active recreation projects and infrastructure maintenance and development.

- Community Partnership Funding Program
- Major Grants Program
- Minor Grants Program
- Sports Field and Maintenance Funding

Council's Major Event Sponsorship Program also aims to attract high performance sports training groups and major sports events, including mass participation events like the Sunshine Coast Marathon and Mooloolaba Triathlon.

Monitoring and reviewing our progress

A major refresh of the plan was undertaken after five years in 2016 and again after thirteen years in 2024. The major refreshes evaluated the progress achieved, recognised changing trends and environmental circumstances, and identified future priorities for each subsequent period.

The 2024 review revealed that of the 154 recommendations listed in 2016, 143 actions (93%) were either completed or ongoing. The actions represented in the 2024 edition of the Plan are either carried over long term actions or are new actions.



Delivery

The Sport and Active Recreation Plan is the vehicle which delivers on the following Environment and Liveability Strategy Network Plan category standards:

Delivery
Category standards - Recreation
Category standards - Sport
Category standards - Sport and Recreation Facilities

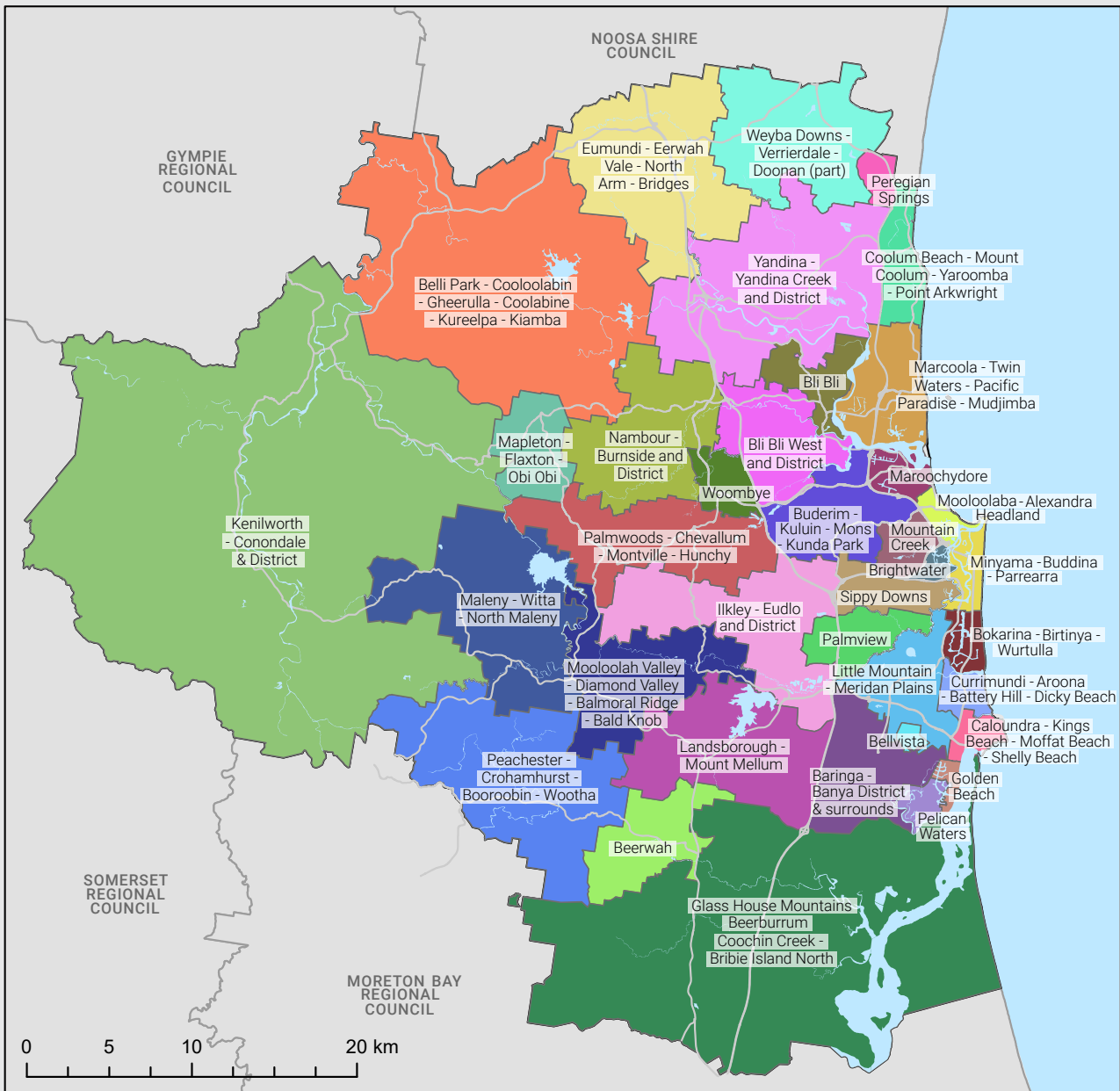
The Sport and Active Recreation Plan is the key plan for the implementation of the Environment and Liveability Strategy identified Network Blueprint recommendations for Council-wide and district sports grounds, facilities and specific sports.

Outcome indicators

The Sport and Active Recreation Plan contributes to the achievement of the following strategic outcomes:

Outcome indicator	Measure
Provision of land for sport and active recreation (open space)	
Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS)	<p>ELS: Hectares of land per 1,000 residents for sport and recreation purposes maintained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and Active Recreation Plan specifically: Provision rate of 0.5 hectares of land per 1,000 residents for sport grounds (Council-wide) • Sport and Active Recreation Plan specifically: Provision rate of 1.5 hectares of land per 1,000 residents for sport grounds (District) <p>ELS: The principal and each major activity centre host a suite of social infrastructure including a community venue, library, aquatic centre and indoor sport and recreation facility to meet community need by 2041</p>
Provision of sport and active recreation infrastructure and amenity	
Community strategy	Residents in agreement that Council's community infrastructure meets community need
Sunshine Coast Council Living in Place Survey	The ability to view and participate in sports and recreation
Healthy active communities	
Community strategy	Residents who rated their health as good, very good or excellent as a ranking within Regional Queensland
Community Connections Survey	Level of Physical Activity in a Typical Week
Community Connections Survey	Intensity of Physical Activity in a Typical Week

Map 1: Localities of interest



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ■ Baringa - Banyas District & surrounds | ■ Glass House Mountains - Beerburum - Coochin Creek - Bribie Island North | ■ Mountain Creek |
| ■ Beerwah | ■ Golden Beach | ■ Nambour - Burnside & District |
| ■ Belli Park - Cooloolabin - Gheerulla - Coolabine - Kureelpa - Kiamba | ■ Ilkley - Eudlo & District | ■ Palmview |
| ■ Bellvista | ■ Kenilworth - Conondale & District | ■ Palmwoods - Chevallum - Montville - Hunchy |
| ■ Bli Bli | ■ Landsborough - Mount Mellum | ■ Peachester - Crohamhurst - Booroobin - Wootha |
| ■ Bli Bli West & District | ■ Little Mountain - Meridan Plains | ■ Pelican Waters |
| ■ Bokarina - Birtinya - Wurtulla | ■ Maleny - Witta - North Maleny | ■ Peregian Springs |
| ■ Brightwater | ■ Mapleton - Flaxton - Obi Obi | ■ Sippy Downs |
| ■ Buderim - Kuluin - Mons - Kunda Park | ■ Marcoola - Twin Waters - Pacific Paradise - Mudjimba | ■ Weyba Downs - Verrierdale - Doonan (part) |
| ■ Caloundra - Kings Beach - Moffat Beach - Shelly Beach | ■ Maroochydore | ■ Woombye |
| ■ Coolum Beach - Mount Coolum - Yaroomba - Point Arkwright | ■ Minyama - Buddina - Parrearra | |
| ■ Currimundi - Aroona - Battery Hill - Dicky Beach | ■ Mooloolaba - Alexandra Headland | |
| ■ Eumundi - Eerwah Vale - North Arm - Bridges | ■ Mooloolah Valley - Diamond Valley - Balmoral Ridge - Bald Knob | — Major Roads |
| | ■ Mooloolah Valley - Diamond Valley - Balmoral Ridge - Bald Knob | ■ Waterbodies |

Appendix 1: Prioritisation criteria for capital recommendations

In order to prioritise the recommendations of this report, in particular those with budget implications, the following criteria has been developed. The criteria builds on the guiding principles (see Section 1.2: Guiding Principles) to ensure consistency. It is assumed that in terms of Council's capital budget projections, projects that have already commenced would have a higher ranking than new works outlined in this Plan. The suggested weighting for each criterion is shown in brackets.

Criteria	Low compliance with criteria = 1	2	3	4	5	Score
Strategic context						
Activity(ies) have high participation	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Consistent with identified trends in participation (e.g. social)	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Identified as a shortfall in the Environment and Liveability Strategy (2023 edition)	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Consistent with State Sporting Organisation direction	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Complies with Council policy on support not-for-profit groups	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Part of an endorsed master plan	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Identified as a high need in the Sunshine Coast Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2011-2026 (2024 edition)	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Identified as a high need in other Council strategies	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Part of a master planned area	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Economic and environmental sustainability						
Existing facility/area is at capacity	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Likely to increase operating efficiency or significantly reduce operating costs	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Has high likelihood of partnership funding	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Has minimum impact on sensitive environmental areas	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Provides likelihood of economic benefit to the region (e.g. events) (w1)	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Has minimal impact on future Council operating expenditure	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Social equity						
Benefits multiple community/user groups	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Area is accessible for informal recreation out of hours	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Infrastructure provision and club sustainability						
Addresses needs in a high growth catchment	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Addresses lack of facility provision	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Maximises use of an existing facility	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Beneficiaries (if a club) have demonstrated financial/management capacity	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Improves the functionality of land (e.g. drainage, lighting, amenities, parking)	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Addresses safety/risk management considerations	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
If not addressed, there is a high risk exposure to Council	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Accessibility and mobility						
Improves accessibility and/or participation opportunities for people with disabilities	(w2)	1	2	3	4	5
Urban character and amenity						
Addresses urban amenity issue(s)	(w1)	1	2	3	4	5
Indicative capital cost to council						
Item has no cost to Council	(w2)	5				
Item has low cost to Council (<\$50,000)	(w1.5)		4			
Item has moderate cost to Council (\$50,000-\$250,000)	(w1)			3		
Item has high cost to Council (\$250,000-\$1,000,000)	(w1)				2	
Item has very high cost to Council (>\$1m)	(w1)					1
Readiness to proceed						
Already commenced	(w1)	5				
Item ready to commence	(w1)			3		
Item yet to obtain necessary approvals	(w1)					1





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