

9.4. Community Engagement Outcomes - Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy

C273/08/26

Moved Cr Milli Livingston seconded Cr Craig Maidment

That Council:

- 1. Receive and note the contents of the report titled Community Engagement Outcomes - Draft Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy.**
- 2. Receive and note the Community Engagement Feedback Report as provided at *Attachment 1* contained in this meeting agenda.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C274/08/26

Moved Cr Sue Miller seconded Cr Michael Scott

That Council adopt the Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy and appendices as provided at *Attachments 2 and 3* contained in this meeting agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C275/08/26

Moved Cr Milli Livingston seconded Cr Sue Miller

That Council authorise the Administration to undertake a review of the adopted Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy and appendices and make any changes of a minor technical or formatting nature prior to and during the period of effect.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4. Community Engagement Outcomes - Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy

Decision Report

Responsible Officer: Alan Harvey (General Manager Infrastructure)

Report Author: Jess Bridgman (Team Leader Open Space and Building Assets)

Previous Decisions: October 2024 - C24510, C138/04/26

Report Purpose

This report provides Council with the outcomes of the draft Recreation Open space and Sport Strategy (ROSS) community engagement process and proposes the adoption of the ROSS and ROSS Appendices documents.

Recommendation

Recommendation Group A

That Council:

1. Receive and note the contents of the report titled **Community Engagement Outcomes - Draft Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy**.
2. Receive and note the **Community Engagement Feedback Report** as provided in Attachment 1.

Recommendation Group B

1. Adopt the **Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy** and appendices as provided in Attachments 2 and 3.

Recommendation Group C

1. Authorise the Administration to undertake a review of the adopted **Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy** and appendices and make any changes of a minor technical or formatting nature prior to and during the period of effect.

Background

The ROSS has been established to form an integrated, strategic framework for the planning, provision, renewal and management of all recreation, open space and sport infrastructure across the district. The ROSS is intended to guide future decision-making by identifying service levels, strategic directions and implementation actions that respond to community need, population growth, participation trends, asset condition, township function and available resources.

The ROSS was developed through a staged process involving background research, benchmarking, review of Council's existing recreation, open space and sporting assets, analysis of service provision and township needs, and consideration of population growth, participation trends, asset condition and known infrastructure gaps. Detailed background information underpinning this process is provided within the ROSS Appendices Document (**Attachment 3**). This body of work was further informed by previous community engagement undertaken through Village Conversations in 2021 and 2023, targeted engagement with sporting clubs and the broader community regarding the use of open space in 2024 and 2025, and ongoing engagement with Council Members and internal staff throughout 2025.

This process helped shape the draft ROSS document (**Attachment 2**) including the proposed Levels of Service and Implementation Plan actions. A report was presented to Council on the 20 April 2026 seeking approval to release the Draft ROSS and Appendices documentation out for community consultation to confirm the level of support, and identify further refinements required before presenting the final ROSS to Council for approval at the 17 August 2026 Council meeting.

Following Council's approval (C138/04/26) at its meeting on 20 April 2026, the Draft ROSS and associated Appendices Document were released for community consultation. The Community Engagement Feedback Report is provided in **Attachment 1**. The following section of this report provides a summary of that consultation.

The entire process has taken nearly 2 years to complete. As a result, the draft ROSS and appendices have not been annually reviewed and updated.

If adopted that review would occur prior to the ROSS and appendices being uploaded to Council's website.

Discussion

Engagement Summary

Community engagement on the draft ROSS and supporting Appendices documentation was undertaken from 23 April to 5 June 2026, following Council's approval on 20 April 2026 to release the draft documents for public consultation. The engagement process utilised a range of channels, including the My Say platform, written submissions, direct stakeholder communication, Council communication channels, media promotion, community drop-in sessions, and targeted engagement with clubs, community groups, advisory committees and key agencies. Communication activities achieved broad reach across the community, including promotion through Council's website, media advertising, My Say e-newsletters sent to 2,332 subscribers (45.9% open rate), social media campaigns which generated 3,584 Facebook views, 32 interactions and 8 link clicks, and 906 Instagram views, reaching 530 people.

Two public drop-in sessions were held during the consultation period, with one being held at Strathalbyn Woolworths on 8 May 2026, which was attended by 28 community members, and one at Goolwa Shopping Centre on 18 May 2026 which was attended by 7 community members, resulting in a total attendance of 35 people.

During the engagement period, Council received 39 responses across the My Say platform and written submissions, including three submissions received after the formal closing date that were also reviewed and considered as part of the feedback process. Feedback indicated majority support for adopting the ROSS as Alexandrina Council's first strategic framework for recreation, open space and sport infrastructure, with particularly strong support for the proposed Levels of Service.

Engagement Outcomes

A majority of those that responded supported adopting the ROSS, with 64% of respondents supporting its adoption as Council's first official strategic document for recreation, open space and sport infrastructure, while 21% were unsure and 15% opposed.

The proposed Levels of Service received stronger support, with 79% support for Recreation, 73% support for Sport and 73% support for Open Space, demonstrating broad endorsement of the service standards and strategic directions proposed within the draft strategy.

The draft Strategy was well received overall, achieving an average satisfaction rating of 3.48 out of 5. More than 60% of respondents indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the Strategy, while 83% provided a neutral to very satisfied rating.

The key themes identified through the consultation period included support for a comprehensive and long-term planning approach, strong interest in youth and unstructured recreation opportunities, demand for improved walking and cycling connections, support for multi-use and shared facilities, and continued recognition of the role that recreation, open space and sport play in community health, wellbeing, inclusion and social connection. Feedback also highlighted the importance of partnerships with clubs, schools, community groups and other agencies to support future delivery.

The consultation also identified areas requiring further consideration, including perceived geographic imbalance between larger and smaller townships, concern about the balance between new facilities and renewal of existing assets, the need for clearer prioritisation and funding information, and a desire for stronger recognition of environmental reserves, biodiversity, greening, shade, coastal protection and climate resilience within the ROSS documentation. Some respondents also sought greater transparency about how community feedback informs final decisions and how implementation will be staged, funded and reviewed over time.

These outcomes have informed refinements to both the ROSS and supporting Appendices documentation which now provides Council with a strong evidence base strategic guide to help future planning and investment decisions.

Changes and Updates Undertaken

In response to the feedback received through community consultation changes have been made to the draft ROSS. Key changes include strengthening environmental outcomes within the Open Space Levels of Service and Implementation Plan, with greater recognition of biodiversity, greening, shade, climate resilience, environmental reserves and sensitive coastal environments. Additional refinements have also been made to better reflect community expectations to open space planning, trail connectivity, youth recreation opportunities, recreation facility access and community wellbeing.

The final documents have been further informed with a range of sporting, recreation and community organisations, resulting in the inclusion of additional information relating to equine activities, horse racing, surf lifesaving, model aircraft clubs, club development opportunities, partnerships and specialised recreation users. Updates to the Appendices have strengthened club and facility information, participation data and stakeholder profiles, while the final ROSS provides clearer recognition of the diverse range of recreation, sport and open space users across Alexandrina.

Further amendments have also been made to the Implementation Plan to provide greater clarity around future planning priorities and delivery considerations, including actions relating to open space and recreation asset audits, sporting facility planning, shared-use trails, wheeled recreation facilities, youth infrastructure, Lot 10, sporting hubs, community and privately owned facilities, club support, partnership opportunities, environmental mapping and long-term asset management. Collectively, these changes strengthen the strategic intent of the ROSS and help ensure future investment decisions are guided by transparent and evidence-based criteria, including population growth, participation trends, asset condition, accessibility, township function, community need, financial sustainability and Council's delivery capacity.

Matters for Ongoing Consideration

Not all feedback received through the consultation period required a direct amendment to the ROSS. However, a number of matters raised will continue to inform future planning, communication and delivery. These include feedback relating to project funding and affordability, delivery timing, perceptions of pre-determined projects, township equity, public toilet provision, dog park planning and Council's role in supporting sporting clubs. As a strategic informing document, the ROSS, together with aligned Council strategies and plans such as the [Public Toilet Management Plan 2024-2034](#), [A2040 Strategic Delivery Plan 2025-2035](#) and [Long-Term Financial Plan 2026 - 2036](#), provides a framework to guide these matters over time. Further consideration will occur through future budget processes, asset management planning, grant advocacy, project planning, service reviews and additional community engagement where required.

Overall, the consultation confirmed support for the strategic direction of the ROSS while providing a space to receive valuable feedback that has informed the final ROSS and implementation plan as well as the Appendices documentation.

Financial Implications

In accordance with Alexandrina Council's adopted Budget and Long Term Financial Plan, the financial implications of adopting this recommendation are considered consistent with Council's long-term financial framework and manageable within existing strategic planning processes. The ROSS provides a strategic basis for future decision-making and investment in recreation, open space and sporting infrastructure. A number of actions identified within the ROSS align with existing budget allocations and programmed works, while implementation of individual actions will be prioritised and considered through Council's annual business planning, budget and Long Term Financial Plan review processes. Future projects requiring additional funding will be subject to Council consideration and may be supported through external grant funding and other funding opportunities where appropriate.

Risk Implications

In accordance with Alexandrina Council's Risk Assessment Matrix, the risk of adopting this recommendation is considered Low. Adoption of the ROSS establishes a clear strategic direction for the provision and management of recreation, open space and sporting assets and supports informed, transparent and evidence-based decision-making. Adoption of the strategy does not commit Council to the delivery of specific projects or expenditure beyond existing approvals, with implementation plan actions to be prioritised and considered through future business planning, budget and Long Term Financial Plan processes. Adoption of the ROSS will assist in reducing strategic and operational risks by providing a clear, evidence-based framework to support future investment, asset planning and service delivery decisions.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - ROSS Community Engagement Feedback Report

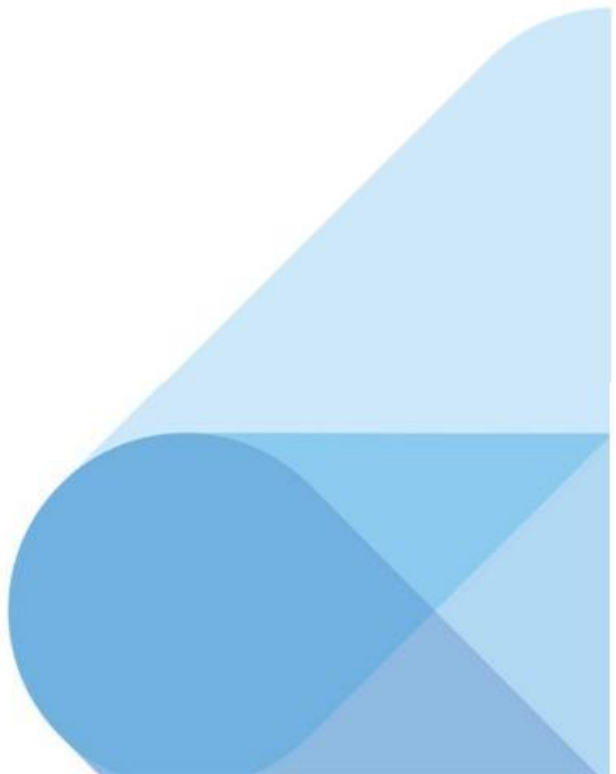
Attachment 2 - Final ROSS main document

Attachment 3 - Final ROSS Appendices document



Community Engagement Feedback Report

Draft Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy (ROSS)



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1. Background

Alexandrina Council is currently developing a Recreation, Open space, and Sport Strategy (ROSS). This strategy aims to review the current supply and assess future demand for recreation, open space, and sports facilities within the Alexandrina Council area.

The goal of the ROSS is to:

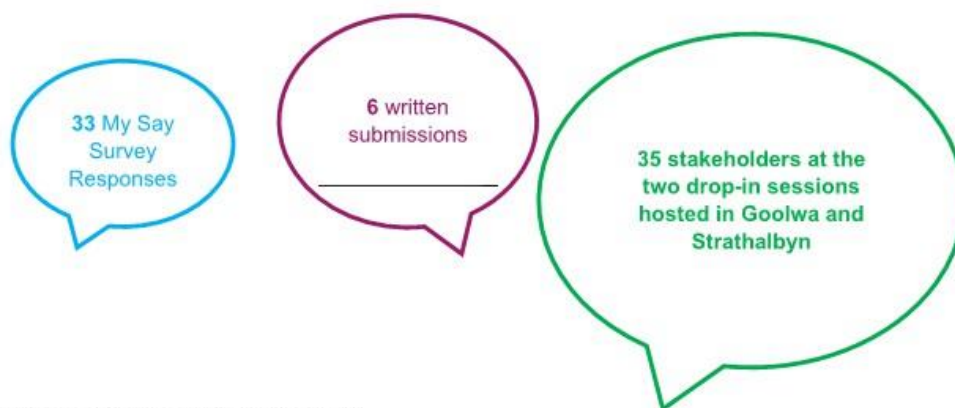
- Create a comprehensive strategy that includes levels of service.
- Help guide the development of a future implementation plan for all recreation, open space, and sport assets.
- This strategy will be instrumental in shaping future asset management decisions, ensuring the sustainable development and maintenance of our recreation, open space, and sports facilities across the Alexandrina Council region.

Community consultation was conducted for the draft ROSS to seek feedback to help with future endorsement.

During the engagement process, we sought community support for the proposed service levels, with an opportunity to provide feedback.

2. Engagement Snapshot

During the consultation period from 23 April – 5 June 2026, **a total of 39 responses** were received across both the My Say platform and via email/hard copy. With 3 written submissions received after the closing date that have been included in this feedback report.



Who we heard from (My Say only):

- 29 x Ratepayer and ongoing resident
- 6 x Business Owner-Operator
- 3 x Resident (residential tenant)
- 1 x Frequent Visitor
- 2 x Interested Stakeholder
- 15 x Member or volunteer at a sporting, recreation or leisure group/club

2.1 Engagement communications

Audience	Channel	Results
Residents/ Ratepayers	Council website - Latest news article on home page of corporate website	Throughout consultation
	Social media (Instagram and Facebook) – at the start and midway through consultation	Facebook - Views: 3,584 - Link clicks: 8 - Interactions: 32 Instagram - Views: 906 - Reach: 530 - Interactions: 7
	Council office displays - entryways	Throughout consultation
	Community noticeboards	N/A
	My Say e-newsletter subscribers	23 April - Sent to 2,332 subscribers (45.9% open rate)
	Corflutes (large waterproof signage on site)	- Soldiers Memorial Strathalbyn - Commodore Reserve/Continental Reserve Port Elliot - Bristow Smith Reserve, Goolwa - Mount Compass Rec Park - Goolwa Bike Park - Strathalbyn Skate Park
	Face-to-face drop-in sessions	8 May – Strathalbyn, Strathalbyn Woolworths, 11am – 1pm (28 attendees) 18 May – Goolwa, Goolwa Shopping Centre, 1:30-4:30pm (7 attendees)
Government and key agencies	Direct email	- Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation - Department for Environment and Water - Members of Parliament
Section 41 Committees / Advisory Committees/	Out of session email	- Agricultural Advisory Group - Climate Emergency and Environment Advisory Group

Audit and Risk Committee	Presented at request to Lot 10 Committee meeting 26 May 2026	- Heritage Advisory Group - Ratalang Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay Advisory Group - SA Wooden Boat Festival Committee - Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10) Advisory Group
Community groups, resident and ratepayer associations	Direct email	- Alexandrina Residents and Ratepayers Acton Group - Clayton Bay Community Association - Langhorne Creek Progress Association - Hope Forest Residents Association Inc. - Middleton Community Association Inc. - Milang and District Community Association Incorporated - Mount Compass War Memorial Community Association - Port Elliot Town and Foreshore Association - Sporting clubs within the Alexandrina region. - To all whom have requested updates through the current My Say Page
Media	Fleurieu Sun & The Southern Argus	23 April 2026  ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Community Consultations Council seeks community feedback on the following three (3) consultations. Please direct all written submissions via: mysay@alexandrina.sa.gov.au email or mysay@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or by post to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214. For further information, contact Council on 8550 7000. Draft Community Engagement Policy Council seeks feedback on the Draft Community Engagement Policy. The Policy has been developed to be in line with the State Government's Community Engagement Charter and the Local Government Act 1998. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 15 May 2025. Future Planning for Goolwa Main Street Trees Council seeks feedback on the six (6) proposed options to plan for the Cadell Street avenue of trees. This follows consistent community feedback that the trees along Cadell Street (from Gardner Street to Goolwa Torrens) are causing nuisance to both property and infrastructure. Community feedback will help to define the next steps for management of these trees. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 22 May 2025. Draft Recreation Open space and Sport Strategy 2026-2036 (ROSS) Council seeks feedback on its first ROSS 2026-2036. The draft Strategy aims to guide the future development of recreation, open space and sport facilities across the Council district. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 5 June 2025.

Internal staff	Connect Intranet Announcement	Published 24 April 2026
Council Members	Briefing to Council Members via Council Report, CM Portal, email, Council Information Session	• Council Report - 20 April 2026 • Council Information Session – 24 November 2025 7 July 2025 5 May 2025 • CM Portal update

3. Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

Feedback summary:

Question3 - Overall connection to the Alexandrina community was noted at (NB could choose more than one):

- Rate payer and ongoing resident 87.88%
- Business owner 18.18%
- Resident (residential tenant) 9.09%
- Frequent visitor 3.03%
- Interested stakeholder 6.06%
- Member or volunteer at a sporting, recreation or leisure group/club 45.45%

Outcome: Feedback is largely from engaged local residents and active community/sport users.

Question 4 – Do you support adopting the Draft ROSS document as the first official strategic documentation for all Recreation, Open Space and Sport Infrastructure within Alexandrina Council.

Majority support for adopting ROSS (64% support; 15% opposed; 21% unsure)

- ☒ Yes: 64%
- ☒ No: 15%
- ☐ Unsure: 21%

Outcome: The engagement results indicate majority community support for adopting the Draft ROSS as Alexandrina Council's first official strategic document for recreation, open space and sport infrastructure. While the 64% support level demonstrates a clear mandate to progress the strategy, the 15% opposed and 21% unsure responses show that further communication is required to explain how community feedback has shaped the final document, how priorities will be assessed, and how implementation will be staged and funded.

Question 5 -How satisfied are you with the draft strategy

Participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with the draft strategy using a thumbs up scale, (1 thumbs up = not satisfied to 5 thumbs up = very satisfied).

- 5 = 13.04% 
- 4 = 47.83 % 
- 3 = 21.74% 
- 2 = 8.70% 
- 1 = 8.70% 

Average rating: 3.48 / 5

This informed us that there is moderate overall satisfaction with an average of 3.48 thumbs up out of 5 and 82.61% between 3-5 thumbs up, which would convert to neutral to very satisfied, and 60.87% between 4-5 thumbs, which is satisfied to very satisfied.

Question 6 - further feedback

Top Themes

- Strongest positives:
 - Comprehensive and data-driven approach
 - Long-term vision
- Key issues:
 - Overemphasis on new facilities vs upgrading existing
 - Missing environmental and climate considerations
 - Perceived imbalance across townships

Question 7 – Do you agree with the implementation plan priorities

- ☒ Yes: 59%
- ☒ No: 16%
-  Unsure: 25%

Outcome: There is overall support for the proposed implementation plan priorities, with 59% of respondents agreeing. However, the level of uncertainty and opposition indicates that Council should strengthen transparency around prioritisation, affordability, delivery timing and decision-making criteria. Future implementation should clearly demonstrate how projects are selected, how funding will be considered, and how priorities align with demonstrated community need, growth, asset condition and available resources.

Question 8 - Further feedback

Top themes

- Support for direction, but concerns about:
 - Funding and affordability
 - Prioritisation transparency
 - Perceived “pre-determined” projects
- Objections to:
 - Potential sale of community land
 - Spending on studies vs delivery
 - Creation of new staff roles

Question 9 – Do you support the service levels for Recreation

- ☒ Yes: 79%
- ☒ No: 9%
- ☐ Unsure: 12%

Outcome: Feedback shows strong support for the proposed Recreation service levels, with 79% of respondents in favour. This confirms community interest in unstructured, accessible and inclusive recreation opportunities, particularly for youth, families and everyday informal use. Future planning should continue to prioritise equitable access to facilities such as skate parks, bike parks, outdoor gyms, play spaces and trail connections, while using population growth, participation trends and asset data to guide investment decisions.

Question 10 – further feedback

Top themes

- Strong support for:
 - Unstructured recreation (youth, informal use)
 - Inclusion and accessibility
- Key feedback:
 - Need more:
 - Skate parks, bike parks, outdoor gyms
 - Trail connections between areas
 - Facilities must reflect:
 - Population growth
 - Changing demographics

Question 11 – Do you support the service levels for Sport

- ☒ Yes: 73%
- ☒ No: 12%
- ☐ Unsure: 15%

Outcome: The Sport service levels received strong community support, with 73% of respondents in favour. Feedback supports the direction of planning for multi-use facilities, sporting hubs and shared-use outcomes, while also highlighting concerns about equitable distribution, capacity pressures and Council's role in supporting clubs. Future implementation should continue to balance investment in major hubs with township-level needs, ensuring decisions are informed by participation, population growth, facility condition, club capacity and partnership opportunities.

Question 12 - Further feedback

Top themes

- Support for:
 - Multi-use facilities
 - Sporting hubs
- Concerns:
 - Over-focus on Goolwa & Strathalbyn hubs
 - Need for equitable distribution
 - Capacity issues (e.g. need for new ovals)
 - Councils becoming too involved in club operations

Question 13 – Do you support the service levels for Open Space

- ☒ Yes: 73%
- ☒ No: 18%
- ☐ Unsure: 9%

Outcome: The Open Space service levels were strongly supported, with 73% of respondents in favour. Feedback confirms the importance of open space for amenity, wellbeing, accessibility, tourism and community connection. However, respondents also identified a need to strengthen environmental, biodiversity, coastal protection and climate adaptation outcomes within the strategy. Future refinement of the ROSS should make these environmental considerations more explicit within open space planning, service levels and implementation actions.

Top themes

- Strong value placed on:
 - Open space for amenity, wellbeing, tourism
- Major concerns:
 - Lack of environmental / conservation focus
 - Biodiversity
 - coastal protection
 - climate adaptation
 - Issues with:
 - 1 km spacing rule (should be maximum)
 - Limiting regional spaces to only two towns
- Conflicting views:
 - Dog parks (high demand vs opposition)

There was strong support for all service levels:

- Recreation: ~79% support
- Sport: ~73% support
- Open Space: ~73% support

Summary:

Through reading the statistics it confirms that there is community support for the adoption of the ROSS, especially the service levels for Recreation, Open Space and Sport which are:

Recreation LoS are:

- Deliver more unstructured recreation for youth with the inclusion of an additional skate park and bike park facilities.
- Support equitable unstructured recreation access across townships.
- Maintain Council-owned recreation facilities by undertaking regular inspections and risk assessments to ensure they meet compliance and future developed service standards, whilst utilising this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrade needs.

Open Space LoS are:

- Plan to have 1km distance between open spaces that are either a Reserve or Environmental function within largely populated areas with over 500 people population within a defined township boundary, or where possible.
- Maintain two regional open spaces within the Council area, which are Goolwa (Bristow Smith) and Strathalbyn (Soldiers Memorial Gardens, including Strathalbyn Lions Park playground on Colman Terrace).
- Plan to develop a framework to help guide future dog park provision within Alexandrina.

- Design reserves to be welcoming, inclusive, intergenerational and reflective of local character and apply universal design principles to promote accessibility and comfort for all users.
- Maintain accurate open space asset data by conducting inspections, audits, and valuations, and utilise this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrades priorities.
- Maintain reserves as per service standards for Parks and Reserves.

Sport Los are:

- Plan to maintain Sporting Hubs within Goolwa and Strathalbyn.
- Maintain Council-owned sports facilities to ensure they meet grassroots needs, including future developed service standards, while also promoting inclusivity and multi-use.
- Review facility provision in alignment with population growth, participation rates and catchment demand.
- Plan for shared use between schools, clubs, and community groups through multi-use facility design to maximise utilisation.
- Maintain sports facility data by undertaking regular inspections, audits and valuations and utilise this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrade requirements.

Key Takeaways

-  Strong overall support for having a ROSS strategy
-  Perceived imbalance (sport vs environment/open space)
-  Equity across all towns is critical
-  Strong demand for both upgrades and new facilities
-  Delivery and funding require consideration
-  Environmental outcomes need stronger integration
-  Partnerships with clubs are a major opportunity

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Evaluation
Environmental Reserves	That the strategy could be too sport/recreation focused. That it underrepresents environmental reserves and conservation outcomes Provides a limited representation for green infrastructure like trees, shade and biodiversity.	Therefore, requiring the need to review how we can incorporate additional information regarding environmental reserves in conjunction with better recognising conservation land especially coastal environments within the ROSS documentation. Outcome: Updated Open Space LoS and additional actions within the Implementation Plan
Perceived inequity	Other townships other than Goolwa and	Council acknowledges community concern regarding a perceived geographic focus on

	Strathalbyn could be more represented. The possibility that investment should reflect population, usage and need, not location.	Goolwa and Strathalbyn. The ROSS already applies an evidence-based approach to planning and prioritisation, considering factors such as population, projected growth, usage, participation, catchment demand, asset condition and identified community need. The greater focus on Goolwa and Strathalbyn reflects their current and projected role as the largest population and growth centres within Alexandrina, as well as their function as regional service hubs. This does not preclude investment in smaller townships; rather, future priorities will continue to be assessed across all communities using transparent criteria that balance population, need, usage, growth, equity and available resources.
Multi-use indoor/outdoor facilities	The feedback reiterates the need for multi-use indoor/outdoor facilities especially Strathalbyn.	This feedback is noted and aligns with existing ROSS directions. The strategy already supports multi-use and shared facility planning through actions that promote shared use between schools, clubs and community groups, review facility provision against population growth and participation rates, and utilise asset data, inspections and service standards to guide future renewal and upgrade priorities. The specific reference to Strathalbyn is consistent with its role as a key sporting hub and identified growth area. Importantly, the feedback reflects a demonstrated gap in indoor sporting provision, particularly the need for indoor basketball courts, which has been directly recognised within the ROSS implementation plan. The implementation plan includes actions to continue planning for the Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10), with indoor basketball court facilities identified as a high priority. It also identifies opportunities to partner with schools and neighbouring councils in the short term to help address capacity constraints in indoor court provision.
New or upgraded Ovals	The need for new or upgraded ovals (Goolwa growth pressures)	This feedback is acknowledged and aligns with the strategic direction of the ROSS. Goolwa is identified as a key growth area, and increased demand for oval capacity is

		recognised in line with population growth and participation trends. The ROSS and Implementation Plan include actions to review and plan sporting infrastructure provision based on demonstrated need, while prioritising upgrades, increased capacity and improved utilisation of existing facilities. This includes maximising the use of existing assets, improving their functionality, and ensuring investment decisions are guided by asset data, inspections and service standards.
Youth facilities like skate parks, BMX/bike facilities	The need for more access to youth facilities like skate parks and BMX/bike facilities	The need for youth-focused facilities such as skate parks, BMX and bike facilities is strongly reflected within the ROSS, particularly through the Recreation Level of Service (LoS). The strategy explicitly identifies the importance of providing unstructured recreation opportunities for young people, including the provision of additional skate parks and bike park facilities to support active lifestyles and informal participation. This is further reinforced through the ROSS Implementation Plan, which includes actions to assess existing provision, respond to population growth and participation trends, and prioritise investment using asset data and service standards. Importantly, the ROSS includes several township-specific actions that directly respond to identified gaps in youth recreation infrastructure. These include the development of new bike facilities at Clayton Bay (Action 31), where community engagement will inform the type of facility required prior to construction, and the review of the Milang tennis courts (Action 38), which includes consideration of consolidating and repurposing existing courts into multi-use facilities incorporating activities such as basketball and other recreational opportunities. The strategy also includes an action to review suitable locations for a new skate facility in Middleton (Action 36). Together, these actions demonstrate Council's commitment to expanding and improving youth-focused recreation opportunities across the region, while

		ensuring future investment is informed by local needs, participation trends and community feedback.
Walking/cycling trail connections between townships.	The need to develop walking and or cycling trails that connect through each township.	Walking and cycling trail connections between towns is reflected within the draft ROSS through its focus on connectivity, accessibility and active recreation. Community feedback has identified the importance of improving trail links between towns and residential areas. This is further supported through the Recreation and Open Space directions, which emphasise improving access and connectivity across the network and supporting unstructured activities such as walking and cycling. Furthermore, through the Implementation Plan, by identifying the need to develop a master plan for shared use trails to help review any gaps, planning of new connections where needed, and prioritising investment based on growth and demand.
Dog parks	Mixed feedback with some in support and some opposed.	The provision of dog parks is identified in the draft ROSS as part of the broader Open Space Level of Service, which includes an action to develop a framework to guide future dog park provision across Alexandrina which received over 70% acceptance through engagement. Furthermore, with an action noted within the implementation plan for consideration for a dog park within Strathalbyn (lot 10) in line with previous feedback.
Public toilet and upgrades	Community responses identified a need for improved availability, accessibility and condition of public toilet facilities, particularly in high-use recreation areas and growing townships.	Within the ROSS, this is addressed through broader service level directions focused on maintaining and improving open space assets to ensure they are functional, safe and meet community expectations. This includes ongoing inspections, audits and the use of asset data to prioritise renewal and upgrade works noting that we already have an endorsed public toilet management plan.
Multi-functional and contemporary open spaces	Community has expectations towards more inclusive, multi-	The Draft ROSS responds to community expectations for more inclusive, multi-functional and contemporary open spaces

	functional and contemporary open spaces, reinforcing the need for facilities like outdoor gyms and modern play areas that support everyday use by a wide cross-section of the community.	through its Recreation and Open Space Levels of Service, which places a strong emphasis on unstructured recreation, inclusivity and universal design. The strategy specifically promotes the creation of spaces that are welcoming, intergenerational and accessible to all users, ensuring facilities cater to a broad range of ages, abilities and interests. This directly supports the inclusion of features such as modern play spaces and outdoor gym equipment, which provide flexible, informal recreation opportunities beyond traditional sport. Through the Implementation Plan, these directions are translated into actions that prioritise upgrading ageing assets, improving the functionality of open spaces, and delivering contemporary facilities based on demand, population growth and community need.
Lot 10	Feedback consistently identified Lot 10 as a key opportunity site for future recreation and community infrastructure in Strathalbyn. There was strong interest in activating and progressing development of the site to better meet current and future demand. The most prominent theme was the need for multi-use indoor facilities, particularly driven by demand for indoor basketball courts. This was raised as part of broader requests for improved indoor recreation capacity and more flexible, year-round facilities.	The Draft ROSS directly responds to this feedback through its strategic emphasis on strengthening sporting hubs, planning for growth, and delivering multi-use, shared facilities based on demonstrated demand. Lot 10 is identified within the Implementation Plan as a high-priority project, with specific actions to progress the precinct and deliver key infrastructure, including indoor basketball courts and potential soccer facilities. Supporting actions further reinforce this direction through partnership opportunities, shared use with schools, and evidence-based planning to guide staging and investment. Overall, the feedback aligns strongly with the intent of the ROSS, confirming Lot 10 as a critical project for addressing infrastructure gaps and delivering long-term, multi-functional recreation outcomes for the Strathalbyn community.

Maintenance, asset management & service delivery	Community feedback identified a need to shift from reactive maintenance toward a more planned, proactive approach, supported by improved inspections, reliable asset data and risk-based maintenance planning. This was raised alongside concerns about limited staffing and resourcing capacity, particularly given the age and condition of existing infrastructure.	This feedback is reflected in the draft ROSS through its focus on sustainable asset management, service levels and evidence-based decision-making. The strategy supports a shift from reactive maintenance to a more planned and risk-based approach by using inspections, audits, valuations and reliable asset data to guide future operational, renewal and upgrade priorities. The Implementation Plan gives effect to this through actions such as open space and recreation asset audits, sport and recreation facility mapping, 20-year implementation planning, service standards, building condition audits and wheeled park maintenance inspections. However, delivery will depend on available staffing, funding and operational capacity, particularly given the age of existing infrastructure and the need to prioritise higher-risk assets.
Clubs, partnerships and community use	Feedback indicated strong support for greater collaboration between clubs and Council, including opportunities for clubs to play a more active role in delivery and activation. Clubs also sought greater involvement in planning processes, potential partnership opportunities, clearer recognition and support, and reduced administrative burden.	This feedback is strongly reflected in the draft ROSS through its focus on partnerships, shared use, community-owned facility support, club development and capacity building. The strategy recognises that clubs play an important role in delivering sport and recreation outcomes and identifies the need for clearer, more consistent support arrangements, improved communication, and stronger collaboration between Council, clubs and other partners. The Implementation Plan directly responds to this through actions for community and private-owned facility guidelines, review of sporting club grants and funding access, sport and recreation facility frameworks, community access requirements, partnership development and promotion of sport and recreation. Most importantly, it identifies the need for a dedicated Recreation Planner position to specialise in planning, coordinating and supporting sport and recreation clubs, including club development, annual club surveys, maintaining club data and monitoring trends to better support participation and community wellbeing.

Financial concerns & deliverability	Community feedback raised questions about how projects will be funded, Council's affordability and debt levels, and how priorities will be determined to ensure value for money. Concerns were also raised about the balance between spending on studies and delivering tangible outcomes, as well as the creation of new staff roles.	This feedback is addressed through the ROSS by positioning the strategy as an informing plan that supports evidence-based prioritisation rather than committing Council to unfunded delivery. The ROSS uses community feedback, asset data, condition audits, service levels, population growth, participation trends and benchmarking to guide which projects should progress, helping ensure future investment is based on demonstrated need, affordability and value for money. The Implementation Plan also responds to deliverability concerns by identifying timeframes, indicative costs, Council's role and whether actions are business-as-usual, partly funded, or require further budget consideration. All outcomes of the ROSS Implementation Plan have been reviewed against the current A2040 program, ensuring proposed actions are considered alongside Council's broader financial planning, existing commitments and delivery capacity. Concerns about studies and new roles are also reflected through actions that support better planning, governance and implementation, including the Recreation Planner role, which would help coordinate club support, partnerships, data, prioritisation and delivery readiness.
Open Space planning	Feedback highlighted the importance of protecting existing open space while improving access, connectivity and walkability across the network. It also noted that the 1km service level should be treated as a maximum distance to open space, rather than a minimum standard.	This feedback is reflected in the draft ROSS through its focus on protecting and planning open space based on function, hierarchy, access, connectivity and community need. The strategy recognises open space as an important community asset and uses gap analysis, township-level planning and service levels to guide future decisions about where open space should be retained, improved or rationalised. The 1km service standard is not intended to operate as either a strict maximum or minimum distance. Rather, it provides an overall planning distance to help assess access to Reserve and Environmental open space within larger townships, where possible. This is reinforced through the

		Implementation Plan, which includes an action to review open space provision across the network against established service level benchmarks and the 1 km walking distance objective. This approach supports strategic, evidence-based planning while taking into account local context, connectivity, walkability and the value that individual open spaces provide to their communities.
Environment, climate and biodiversity	Community feedback showed strong support for biodiversity corridors, greening, shade and climate resilience, while also emphasising the need to protect sensitive coastal and environmental areas. This highlights the importance of strengthening environmental outcomes within the ROSS service levels.	This feedback is partially reflected in the draft ROSS through the recognition of Environmental open space as a distinct function, the emphasis on native vegetation, shade and natural character within open space survey outcomes, and the broader A2040 alignment to climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainable land management. However, the ROSS could more clearly elevate environmental outcomes within the Levels of Service so that biodiversity, greening, shade, climate resilience and protection of sensitive coastal and environmental areas are more explicitly considered alongside recreation, access and asset condition. This could be strengthened by adding the following to the Open Space Levels of Service: Strengthen environmental outcomes across open space planning and management by supporting biodiversity, greening, shade, climate-resilient planting and the protection of sensitive coastal and environmental areas. Then, including an action within the Implementation plan to undertake mapping of biodiversity, sensitive coastal environmental areas requiring protection. Undertake mapping of possible locations for potential greening/shade opportunities. Ensure future open space style guides include climate-resilient planting, shade, habitat values and environmental protection principles. These additions would help demonstrate that environmental outcomes are embedded in planning, renewal and prioritisation decisions, rather than being treated as secondary to sport and recreation outcomes.

Recreation facilities access, inclusion & community wellbeing	Feedback indicates a strong desire for improved facilities and opportunities for youth, seniors, and women and girls in sport. Feedback also highlights the need for greater access to low-cost recreational activities, more evenly distributed across townships. Importantly, respondents recognise the significant role recreation plays in supporting mental health, wellbeing, and social connection.	This is reflected throughout the ROSS through a focus on inclusive and accessible recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities. The strategy identifies the need for additional youth recreation infrastructure, including skate parks, BMX and bike facilities, while also recognising the growing participation of women and girls in sport and the need for supporting infrastructure such as upgraded change rooms and lighting. The ROSS also promotes equitable access to recreation across townships through its Levels of Service and township-based actions, including new bike facilities in Clayton Bay, investigation of a skate facility in Middleton, and the review of multi-use recreation opportunities at Milang. More broadly, the strategy recognises the important role recreation, open space and sport play in supporting wellbeing, social connection and community participation.
Engagement and trust	Feedback indicates that some respondents perceive decisions to be predetermined, with community input not always clearly reflected in outcomes. As a result, there is a desire for more transparent engagement processes, including clearer communication of how feedback informs decisions and greater ongoing community involvement in the planning and delivery of projects.	The Draft ROSS demonstrates a clear commitment to community engagement, with processes such as Village Conversations, surveys, and stakeholder input forming a key foundation of the strategy. It emphasises that planning is informed by community feedback and includes mechanisms such as Levels of Service to support transparency, consistency, and accountability in decision-making. Ongoing engagement is also reflected through future actions, including further consultation, partnerships, and continued data collection to inform planning and delivery. It is also important to note that some projects, such as the Clayton Bay bike/pump track and elements within the Lot 10 Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct, were already progressing as a result of earlier engagement processes, with the Draft ROSS reinforcing and validating the need for these initiatives.

Meeting outcomes with Racing SA (Thursday 14 May 2026)

Discussed the following

- They have recently purchased land adjacent to the Strathalbyn Racing Club to support future redesign of the site and attract equine-related users to the area, particularly those being displaced from Morphettville due to increased medium and high density development.
- Currently the Strathalbyn location is only utilised for 6 months of the year due to drainage issues but would like to turn it into a all year round utilised facility.
- They are currently developing a timeline for infrastructure upgrades with a defined timeline and scope to be developed further in 2026/27.
- They will send through data for Strathalbyn.
- They will send through a high-level timeline for redesign and potential upgrades.
- Discussed that the Harness Racing Club are looking for a home and have funding.
- They will send through possible multi use opportunities with discussions of possible RV supporting infrastructure, soccer pitches or courts.

Received an Association survey response from Racing SA with feedback utilised in an update to the ROSS Appendices document and informed us that:

- They are based in North Plympton, with an infrastructure-focused role.
- The primary activity is horse riding and racing, representing a regional-level sporting body.
- That participation has increased over the past five years, indicating growing demand within the sector.
- Identifies an opportunity to better integrate racing and equine activities into Council planning to support participation, infrastructure development, and regional economic growth.
- Key gaps include limited planning recognition, insufficient infrastructure investment, and a lack of accessible, multi-use equine facilities to support both racing and broader community use.
- Highlights the need for multi-use equine infrastructure that benefits both industry participants and the wider community.
- Strategic priorities include:
 - Enhancing race day experiences and club strength
 - Supporting and promoting the reputation of racing
 - Attracting and retaining participants and audiences
 - Ensuring financial sustainability and revenue growth
 - Developing a skilled and sustainable workforce
- Indicates willingness to partner with Council through co-investment, planning support, and collaborative program delivery.
- Emphasises that horse racing and equine activities contribute to economic, social, and community outcomes, particularly in regional areas.
- Notes the sector's role in supporting local employment, tourism, and volunteer networks.

Meeting outcomes with Strathalbyn Racing Club (Tuesday 26 May 2026)

- Overview of the Draft ROSS was provided, with stakeholder input acknowledged.
- Feedback highlighted growing participation and membership within the racing and equine sector, including increased involvement from women.
- Identified opportunities to support economic development, tourism, and job creation through expanded facilities and complementary uses.
- Noted demand for additional supporting infrastructure such as accommodation and multi-use facilities.

- Strong interest in multi-use outcomes, including use of existing sites for broader recreation (e.g. infield activation, potential golf driving range).
- Opportunities identified to integrate recreation, sport, and tourism (e.g. links with rail and visitor experiences).
- Recognition of regional growth in equine activity, with potential for increased capacity and facility expansion.
- Over 500 members (48% growth) so the field is expanding. (especially female Jockeys)
- Emphasis on collaboration, with willingness to partner with Council and other clubs to maximise shared outcomes.
- Broader community benefits highlighted, including emergency response capability, events, and social uses (e.g. functions, conferences).
- General support expressed for the Draft ROSS direction and long-term planning approach.

This additional information from both Racing SA and Strathalbyn Racing Club has updated both information within the ROSS Appendices and Main ROSS document with actions within the Implementation Plan.

Presentation to the Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10) Advisory Group. (Tuesday 26 May 2026)

- Provided an overview presentation of the Draft ROSS to the advisory group, including its development, structure (two documents), and key actions linked to the Lot 10 project.
- A representative from the Strathalbyn Racing Club (advisory group) confirmed completion of the club survey, with follow-up to include updated membership details in the appendices.
- Identified a gap in stakeholder records, with the Model Air Craft Club not currently listed; they will be added and invited to complete the survey to ensure their details are captured.

Club survey returned from the Strathalbyn Aircraft Club

- Submission received from Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club, located at Lot 10, Strathalbyn.
- Activity identified as radio-controlled aircraft flying, representing a niche and specialised recreational use.
- Club is affiliated with Model Aerospport SA (MASA) and the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia (MAAA).
- Membership of approximately 45 members, predominantly senior, with limited junior and female participation; membership has remained stable over time.
- Club operates as a self-sufficient organisation, supported by volunteers and able to meet operational costs and contribute to facility improvements.
- Maintains a positive working relationship with Council, with governance structures and a strategic approach in place.
- Limited shared use of the site, with only occasional interaction with other users (e.g. hot air balloon group).

Facilities and operations:

- Site is owned by Council and managed by the club under current arrangements.
- Facilities are considered well maintained, with fees regarded as reasonable.
- Existing facilities are generally appropriate for current needs.
- Identified need for greater certainty around lease arrangements to support future investment in facilities.

- Additional facilities are accessed externally, including indoor flying at Cornerstone College (Mt Barker) due to specialised requirements.
- Indoor flying requires large, stadium-type facilities, highlighting gaps in local provision.

Club development and participation:

- Key factors for attracting and retaining members include:
 - Quality facilities
 - Social opportunities and events
 - A friendly, welcoming club culture
- Future development priorities focus on improved playing/flying facilities.
- Identified need for adequate leased space to support flying activities and future growth.

Support from Council:

- Primary support required is the provision of appropriate and adequate facilities.
- Broader opportunities exist for support in facility planning, lease arrangements, and access to suitable spaces for specialised activities.

General observations:

- Highlights the importance of recognising and planning for niche and non-traditional recreation groups.
- Demonstrates the need for flexible and multi-location facility access for specialised activities.
- Reinforces the value of incorporating a diverse mix of recreational users within open space and infrastructure planning.

Additional information was received from the Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club with updates to the ROSS main document (Implementation Plan action) and Club information within the ROSS appendices document.

Letter received from the Goolwa SLSC – Doc set 6191283

- Submission received from Goolwa Surf Life Saving Club (GSLSC), expressing strong support for the Draft ROSS direction.
- Recognition of Council's support and emphasis on continued collaboration with Council and community stakeholders.
- Strong alignment with ROSS themes including wellbeing, inclusive participation, youth engagement, shared-use facilities, and community connection.
- Identified evolution of surf clubs into year-round, multi-use community hubs, beyond traditional seasonal operations.
- Highlighted opportunities to expand community programs, social activities, and low-barrier recreation opportunities.
- Emphasised the importance of the coastal environment in supporting recreation, tourism, identity, and wellbeing.
- Strong support for increased activation of facilities and coastal spaces, particularly during off-peak periods.

Youth and community development:

- Focus on developing confident, capable young people connected to their community and environment, beyond competition pathways.
- Identified need to strengthen youth retention and engagement, particularly for ages 14–18.

- Opportunities to expand youth pathways to include leadership, mentoring, volunteering, and social connection.
- Support for partnerships with schools and youth organisations to improve participation and belonging.
- Emphasis on place-based youth development, building resilience, safety awareness, environmental understanding, and community connection.

Health, wellbeing and active ageing:

- Recognised opportunity to contribute to community wellbeing and active ageing outcomes.
- Identified benefits of coastal recreation for low-impact physical activity, social connection, and mental wellbeing.
- Suggested inclusive programs (e.g. "Silver Salties") to support older residents through social and recreational activities.
- Acknowledged broader community trends seeking connection, belonging, and informal recreation opportunities.

Environmental stewardship and identity:

- Strong emphasis on integrating environmental stewardship with recreation.
- Highlighted the coast as a key asset for education, connection to place, and environmental awareness.
- Recognised opportunities to promote cultural and environmental understanding, including First Nations connection to Country.
- Supported increased collaboration between clubs, schools, environmental groups, and Council.

Future direction and partnerships:

- Strong alignment with ROSS priorities including inclusive recreation, youth participation, year-round activation, environmental connection, and community resilience.
- Identified opportunity for GSLSC to play a greater role in community life while maintaining core surf lifesaving functions.
- Expressed willingness to continue partnering with Council and stakeholders to deliver community outcomes.

Feedback received outside of the Engagement period.

Email received from the Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club 12 June 2026

The Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club (SMAC) expressed strong support for the draft Recreation, Open Space and Sport Strategy (ROSS), describing it as a comprehensive and suitable approach to meeting the recreation, sport and open space needs of the Alexandrina region.

The club's primary feedback was that model aircraft clubs were omitted from the draft strategy's list of sporting and recreation clubs. SMAC noted that there are two radio-controlled aircraft clubs operating within Alexandrina, being SMAC at Strathalbyn and the South Coast Model Aerosport Club (SCMAC) at Clayton Bay.

SMAC highlighted its long-standing presence in the district, having operated in the Strathalbyn area since the 1970s and on its current site at Lot 10, Langhorne Creek Road, since 1997. The club submitted that radio-controlled model aircraft activities are both recreational and sporting in nature, aligning with CASA's classification of recreational users and including organised competitions and events.

SMAC requested that radio-controlled aircraft clubs be recognised and included within the ROSS, noting their contribution to the recreational, sporting, social and cultural life of the region.

Email received from the Mount Compass Tennis Club on 16 June 2026

Confirmation was requested of engagement with the club throughout the development and engagement of the draft ROSS and informed us that while he considers the draft to be well done overall, but believes the reported total of 32 tennis courts is misleading as it does not reflect court condition, playability, or the concentration of quality courts in Strathalbyn.

Email received from Cr Miller on behalf of resident on 30 June 2026

Email provided feedback on the accuracy of the draft ROSS open space analysis, including open space provision figures, population forecasts and the conclusion that Alexandrina has a surplus of functional open space. They sought clarification on the land types included in the calculations and whether township-level analysis would provide a more meaningful measure of accessibility. Concerns were also raised about access to open space in some areas, particularly Strathalbyn, the potential implications of identifying surplus Crown land, and the management and use of Council's Open Space Fund, including the application and expenditure of developer contributions.

Conclusion

The community engagement undertaken for the Draft Recreation, Open Space and Sport Strategy (ROSS) demonstrates strong overall support for the development of Alexandrina Council's first integrated strategic framework for recreation, open space and sport infrastructure. Feedback indicated majority support for adoption of the ROSS, with particularly strong support for the proposed Levels of Service for Recreation (79%), Sport (73%) and Open Space (73%). Participants supported the strategic direction, long-term planning approach and evidence-based decision-making framework proposed within the draft strategy.

The engagement process also provided valuable insights into community priorities and areas requiring further refinement. Key themes included the importance of equitable investment across all townships, improved transparency around prioritisation and funding, greater recognition of environmental and biodiversity outcomes, continued support for youth and unstructured recreation opportunities, enhanced trail connectivity, and ongoing collaboration with sporting clubs and community organisations. Respondents emphasised the need to balance the development of new facilities with the maintenance and renewal of existing assets, while ensuring future decisions remain informed by population growth, community need, participation trends, asset condition and financial sustainability.

The stakeholder submissions and meetings further strengthened the strategy by identifying opportunities relating to equine infrastructure, youth development, environmental stewardship, club partnerships, multi-use facilities and specialised recreation activities. As a result of the engagement process, updates have been incorporated into the main ROSS and ROSS Appendices documents to better reflect community and stakeholder feedback, strengthen environmental outcomes, recognise diverse recreation users, and provide greater clarity around future priorities and delivery.

Overall, the feedback received confirms broad community support for the strategic direction of the ROSS and provides Council with a strong foundation to progress the final strategy. The outcomes of this engagement will assist Council in making informed, transparent and evidence-based decisions that support accessible, inclusive and sustainable recreation, open space and sport opportunities for current and future generations across the Alexandrina region.

4. Self-nomination to participate

It is important to acknowledge that involvement in the public consultation process is voluntary, with participants self-nominating to contribute. As a result, the feedback gathered should not be regarded as statistically representative of all perspectives.

5. Consultation images



Strathalbyn drop-in session



Goolwa drop-in session

Alexandrina Council



Draft Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy 2026–2036



The Alexandrina Council and its communities acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk and Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of our Council district.



Image: Ngarrindjeri artist Cedric Yarcoe with his Lakinyeri sculpture at Goolwa Beach

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Introduction

Recreation, open space and sport are central to the lifestyle and wellbeing of the Alexandrina community.

Our parks, natural landscapes, sporting facilities and recreational spaces provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to be active, connect with others and enjoy our beautiful environment. These spaces foster community connection, support healthy lifestyles and help make Alexandrina Council a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

This Draft Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy (ROSS) recognises the different but complementary roles of recreation, open space and sport, noting the following:

- **Recreation** planning is informed by community input, participation data, and emerging trends at both national and local levels. These insights guide planning for current and future facility needs, as well as unstructured activities like walking or running on shared-use paths and using wheeled equipment at skate or bike parks.
- **Open space** planning is guided by the prioritisation of usable land parcels, categorised by function and hierarchy, alongside community feedback that informs service levels and shapes the inclusion of diverse features such as playgrounds, landscaped areas, and natural or conservation environments.
- **Sport** planning draws on sporting club and organisation feedback, participation data, national benchmarks, and local, national and international trends to inform current and future provision requirements. This includes structured and organised, club-based activities supported by facilities such as ovals, greens, swimming pools, courts, sports lighting and change rooms.



The intent of the ROSS is to establish clear functions, hierarchies and service levels to guide the planning, provision, maintenance and renewal of these spaces.

- For recreation, the priority is creating accessible, safe, and appealing spaces that encourage participation and lifelong activity, while assisting clubs in building capacity and supporting community needs.
- For open space, this means ensuring intergenerational access, quality maintenance, and amenities that support community use.
- For structured sport, it involves providing and upgrading facilities that meet the needs of clubs, competitions and future growth.

This strategy will be instrumental in shaping future development planning and asset management decisions, ensuring the sustainable development, maintenance and renewal of recreation, open space, and sport facilities across the Alexandrina Council region.

It is noted that by working in partnership with our community, clubs and regional partners, Alexandrina Council will deliver sustainable, accessible and enjoyable spaces that support healthy lifestyles, strengthen community connection and enhance the liveability of our townships.

Importance of participating in recreation, open space and sport

Recreation, open space and sport are essential functions of Local Government as they contribute to stronger, healthier, and happier communities by fostering social connections, improving physical and mental wellbeing, and boosting local economies.

Community benefits include:

Health and Wellbeing

Providing well designed community spaces and opportunities for active participation supports regular physical activity, which is fundamental to reducing the risk of chronic disease and improving overall health outcomes.

Social Connection

Participation helps people build social connections, reduce isolation, and foster a sense of belonging within the community.

Mental Health

Physical activity has a positive impact on mental health, reducing stress, anxiety, and depression.

Inclusive Communities

These opportunities create welcoming environments where people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can engage, connect, participate and belong.

Stronger Communities

Engaging in local activities helps build social connections and a sense of belonging, contributing to a stronger and more resilient community.

Crime Prevention

Youth involvement in constructive programs offers positive and constructive outlets for young people, reducing the risk of involvement in crime and other negative behaviours.

Economic benefits include:

Tourism and Event Economy

Hosting community-based and sporting events can attract visitors and strengthen the local economy through increased spending on accommodation, hospitality, and related services.

Business Investment and Employment

The industries generate employment opportunities and encourage business investment, contributing to broader economic growth.

Property Values

Neighbourhoods with high quality community spaces and well maintained facilities often experience increased property values, providing long term benefits to residents.



Alexandrina context

The Alexandrina region is uniquely positioned in the picturesque Southern Fleurieu Peninsula at the end of the River Murray and as a gateway to the Coorong wetlands of international importance. It is within an easy drive from metropolitan Adelaide, about an hour and a quarter or 85km south of Adelaide Airport.

The Alexandrina Council area covers 182,684 hectares, stretching from the north-western shores of Lake Alexandrina to the Murray Mouth and the western end of the Coorong. It encompasses river and lake communities such as Langhorne Creek, Milang, Clayton Bay, Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island and extends along the southern coastline to Port Elliot and Middleton, and inland to Mount Compass and Strathalbyn.

The Alexandrina community consists of multiple townships, with two primary service and activity hubs

being Strathalbyn, which is positioned to the north-east on the fringe of the Adelaide Hills, and Goolwa, which is located to the south at the mouth of the River Murray. These hubs function as key focal points for economic development, infrastructure planning, and community services within the region.

Alexandrina is one of the fastest-growing regional areas in South Australia. While noted for its high-quality agricultural production (the second largest industry in the region), the region is also renowned for its natural environments, heritage and lifestyle.

The ROSS has been developed in consideration of national, state and local level policy, strategic and legislative documents. Below is a high-level overview of the documents reviewed, which helped guide and support the development of the ROSS.



What is Alexandrina Council's role?

Alongside the community, Alexandrina Council plays a multi-faceted role in the planning, provision, support, management and renewal of all recreation, open space and sport facilities.

This is guided by the strategic principles noted within the Alexandrina 2040 Strategic Delivery Plan 2025–2035, which are: **Advocate, Deliver, Facilitate, Lead, Partner, and Regulate.**

Advocate

We advocate for recreation, open space and sport facilities by considering current and future population projections, both Council-wide and by township. This ensures that planning and investment decisions reflect the evolving needs of our communities. We also play a key role in promoting the value of recreation, open space and sport to other levels of Government and stakeholders with the potential for collaboration.

Deliver

We deliver sustainable assets, funded projects, and improvements that create long term value, in line with current set budgets and the financial planning frameworks that guide local government. This includes operating within annual budgets, long term financial plans, and asset management plans to ensure that the provision, maintenance and renewal of all recreation, open space and sports facilities—such as parks, playgrounds, sports fields, skate parks and natural environments—are delivered responsibly, transparently, and sustainably.

Facilitate

We facilitate outcomes by aligning recreation, open space and sport initiatives with the Alexandrina Community Plan and A2040 Strategic Delivery Plan 2025–2035. This ensures that policies and programs are community-driven and support broader strategic goals. We also support local sporting clubs and recreation groups through advice, communication, maintenance and assistance.

Lead

We lead by applying best practices and multi-use principles to ensure facilities are adaptable, inclusive, and maintainable into the future.

Leadership also involves bringing together stakeholders to address key issues collaboratively and championing innovation in recreation, open space and sport planning.

Partner

We partner with State Government, other Local Government areas, schools, clubs, developers and the broader community to promote all things recreation, open space and sport. These partnerships help deliver shared outcomes and strengthen community connections.

Regulate

We undertake stakeholder engagement and maintain up-to-date data to help inform decision making. This ensures transparency, accountability, and sustainability in how facilities and services are managed. Regulation also supports equitable access and responsible use of public assets.

The ROSS, ROSS appendices and the ROSS Implementation Plan will help Council Members, Council Administration, communities and stakeholders understand the priorities, allocate resources and encourage a way of working to ensure transparency, accountability and sustainability for the future. This improved process will encourage effective working relationships between site users and Council.

Alexandrina demographic - snapshot

30,887

Total Population



In **2041**, our forecast population will be **37,933** people, which is an increase of over **22.8%**

53 years

Average age



78%

People born in Australia

51.2%

of population is **female**



48.8%

of population is **male**



35.2%

households that own two vehicles



\$1,143

Median Weekly Household Income

4.5%

Unemployment rate



63

Homeless persons estimated

988

SEIFA Index of Disadvantage



6.1%

Medium/High-density housing in the Council area



74%

Buying or own their own home

29.7%

Households in the Council area that include children



28.5 %

Households in the Council area are lone-person households



Alexandrina demographic - overview

Current overview

- Lower proportion of children (under 18 years).
- Higher proportion of people aged 60 years and over.
- Expected increase in people aged over 65 years in the future.
- 7.9% of the Alexandrina community needs help with day-to-day tasks due to disability, which is an increase from 2016.
- 10.2% of households have young children, which is lower than the state median in South Australia.
- Lower proportion of medium to high-density residences compared to regional South Australia and South Australia.
- 58% have access to two or more vehicles, as longer travel distances are often required.
- Lower Indigenous population compared to broader South Australia.
- Higher percentage of people employed.
- High vehicle ownership means that people can travel further distances to access recreation, open space and sport facilities.
- Provide intergenerational open space by ensuring there are facilities for all ages, ranging from six months to 70 years+.
- Youth require activities and facilities to stay active, engaged and part of the community, particularly in regional areas where these opportunities can be limited.
- Ensure local facilities are well connected, as a proportion of the community will prefer to access facilities within their own township/community.

Future overview

- By 2041 there will be an estimated population growth to 37,933 people, which is an increase of over 22%.
- Main growth areas will be Goolwa and Strathalbyn.
- Additional demand to accommodate around 2,800 new dwellings.
- Additional housing will bring more families and younger children, changing the current demographic profile, which is older than the state average.

How do we plan for the future?

- Ensuring adequate programs and activities for the ageing population.
- Accessibility and access to facilities for the community are important.
- Ensuring Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards are addressed when possible and feasible.
- High employment means that the majority of the community can afford to access sport and recreation facilities.



*Information sourced from 2021 statistics for Alexandrina Council on Profile ID and the GARP

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ROSS strategy development

This overview outlines the steps taken to better understand the value and role of recreation, open space, and sporting facilities within the Alexandrina Council area.

By combining community feedback, data, surveys, research, benchmarking and stakeholder input, we have developed a clear approach to guide decision-making. Each stage builds on the last to ensure the final ROSS is well-informed, inclusive, strategically connected, aligned with community needs and best practices. See detailed Strategy overview diagram on the right:



Noting that the ROSS is an Informing Plan with priorities that will be integrated into the A2040 Strategic Delivery Plan 2025–2035 as shown:



Village Conversations

Alexandrina's Village Conversations were a key engagement process undertaken in two phases: first in May to October 2021 and again between October and December 2023.

These sessions were held across townships to capture community expectations, priorities, and ideas for future planning. Residents shared insights on how they utilise recreation, open space and sport facilities, as well as their aspirations for future improvements.

This process provided valuable qualitative data on themes such as accessibility, inclusivity, youth recreation opportunities, and the importance of preserving local character.

Feedback gathered throughout both engagement phases has helped inform the development of the ROSS document.

Full details of Village Conversation community feedback and themes are noted within the ROSS appendices document in Appendix A.



Review of open space

What steps did we take?

The ROSS commenced with a comprehensive review of Alexandrina Council's current supply of open space. All Council-owned and managed land parcels were assessed to determine their usability for community benefit.

Definition of Usable Open Space:

Land parcels that can support formal or informal recreation, play, sport, or serve as passive green spaces preserved for environmental conservation.

Following this assessment, usable parcels were categorised into four functional areas:

- Sport
- Reserve
- Environmental
- Recreation.

Then structured into a hierarchy to help define the characteristics and intended use of each space.

Building on this foundation, Levels of Service (LoS) were developed using insights from community engagement to better understand usage patterns and expectations. A gap analysis was then conducted using these LoS benchmarks, which informed the identification of future strategic needs and priorities for open space planning across the region.



Open space usage

Reviewing open space usage is essential for guiding decisions on where to invest and improve to deliver the greatest community benefit. We obtain this data by engaging with stakeholders and collecting feedback on how our community accesses and enjoys its open spaces.

Open Space Community Survey

A survey seeking feedback from the broader community on how they access and enjoy open space and recreation facilities within the Council area was placed out for a six week engagement process from 24 October to 4 December 2024.

The survey received feedback from 122 participants.

The majority of people who responded were either a resident, ratepayer or business owner of Alexandrina, with only two (2) participants being visitors to the area.

The feedback and themes from this survey were utilised to develop levels of service.

Full details of survey outcomes are noted within the ROSS appendices document in Appendix B.

Themes from the Open Space Community Survey



64% of participants are willing to travel between 2-10km to utilise open space, with over 60% travelling by car.



Shade, access to toilets, play equipment (mixture of natural and modern) and native vegetation are the most important requirements for open space.



They primarily use open spaces for exercise, socialising, or play.



Over 60% of participants indicated they are between very satisfied and neutral with our current playgrounds and parks.



Bristow Smith Reserve in Goolwa is the most utilised open space within Alexandrina, and participants would see this as a regional open space area.

Open Space – function

Through the open space strategic review, all usable open space parcels were assessed and then separated into four different function areas (Sport, Environment, Recreation and Reserve).



Sport

Organised sporting facilities like ovals, pitches, courts, greens, fields, aquatic centers, sports lighting and courses.



Environment

An area selected to preserve and or protect natural ecosystems or biodiversity, which can include: biodiversity sites (wetlands), environmental reserves and natural passive areas.



Recreation

Unstructured or leisure activity, which can include: skate, bike parks, water-based activities and walking trails.



Reserve

Open space that can include, playgrounds with supporting facilities, foreshore, dog parks and passive areas.

Open space, whilst it serves many different purposes, by arranging into function areas, it can help inform the following:

- Purpose
- Gap areas
- Allocation of appropriate resources
- Support long-term planning
- Strengthen decision-making.



Open space – function snapshot



To find the appropriate amount of open space recommended for Alexandrina Council, we utilised a national benchmark of **four (4) hectares per 1,000 people (population)**.

Therefore, currently, **an appropriate amount of usable open space benchmark would be 123.54 hectares** with an anticipated projected benchmark of 151.7 hectares by 2041 due to estimated population projections.

Function areas	Hectares
Sport	42.87
Environmental	481.42
Recreation	58.99
Reserve	225.61
Total	808.9

An analysis of open space within the reserve and environmental function categories reveals a **total of 707.03 hectares**, indicating that **Alexandrina Council currently maintains a surplus of functional open space**.

Open space data captured by ward and township mapping are noted within the ROSS appendices document in Appendix C.



Open space – hierarchy

Combined with the function of open spaces, informing a hierarchy ensures that planning and resources are aligned with the scale, purpose, and community benefit of each space, making open space networks more effective and sustainable.

Having a hierarchy helps define and identify characteristics that match the function of the open space, and are as follows:

Hierarchy and characteristics

	Local	Neighbourhood	District	Regional
Proximity	Within 1km or 10 mins walking distance	Within 3kms or 20 mins walking distance	Within 6kms or 40 mins walking distance/driving distance 10–30 mins	10kms+ or 30 mins driving distance
Length of stay	30 mins	30 mins – 1 hr	1–2 hrs	1.5 – 3 hr+
Services	Adjacent community	Local community	Township-wide surrounding community, including residents from other townships	Alexandrina region-wide and beyond
Provision (indicative only. May include more or less of these. Individual assessment required)	Seating, small play features, small irrigated grassed area, pathways, landscaping. Or natural passive areas.	Seating, picnic setting, play space with 1 special play item, natural shade, irrigated grassed area, pathways and landscaping Advanced-level reserve could include a shelter, but not always. Or a separate piece of unstructured sport, like a half pipe skate facility.	Seating, picnic settings, play space with 2+ special play items, built and natural shade, large irrigated grass or kick about area, pathways, BBQ, drinking fountain and landscaping. Advanced level could include unisex public toilets, change or club rooms, as well as sports lighting to a grassroots level. May also include unstructured recreation facilities like bike parks, pump track, multi-use court or skate facilities.	Destination play space with multiple play areas including fencing, multiple special play items, natural and built shade, large irrigated grass or kick about area, seating, picnic settings, pathways, lighting, BBQ, drinking fountain, landscaping and public toilets. May include one (1) or multiple aspects of unstructured play like bike parks, pump track, skate or court facilities. Regional walking trail/shared use path. Multi-use regional-level structured sports site could include home and away unisex change rooms, large oval, courts, clubrooms, car parking, sports lighting, fencing, public toilets and other supporting infrastructure.

Review of recreation and sporting facilities

What steps did we take?

To ensure the ROSS reflects the current and future needs of the Alexandrina community regarding recreation and sport facilities, we undertook a comprehensive review process, which involved the following key steps:

- **Data Analysis and Facility Snapshot**

We began by reviewing existing data on all sport and recreation facilities within the Alexandrina Council area. This included Council-owned, community-owned, and privately managed sites. The analysis provided a clear snapshot of the current provision distribution and the condition of facilities, helping us identify strengths and gaps.

- **Sporting Club and Association Surveys**

We undertook engagement with local sporting clubs, along with Local and State sporting associations. We gained feedback through targeted surveys, where we gathered insights on membership trends, facility usage, condition, and future needs. This feedback highlighted opportunities for improvement and informed priorities for infrastructure investment and support.

- **Benchmarking and Levels of Service**

We utilised National and State industry benchmarks to evaluate current provision and produced data that can be utilised alongside demographic profiling and community feedback to help guide Levels of Service (LoS) for sport and recreation facilities. LoS set clear expectations for quality, accessibility, and functionality, ensuring equitable and sustainable provision across the region.

The application of these key steps has helped inform the future needs and priorities for all recreation and sport provision across the region.

Alexandrina Council acknowledges the contribution of DG Planners in the preparation of the sport planning component of the Recreation, Open Space and Sport Strategy 2026–2036, including sport facility audits, participation analysis, benchmarking and strategic recommendations.



Difference between structured and unstructured recreation

Sport and recreation is often categorised into structured and unstructured pursuits. Examples of structured vs unstructured recreation:

- **Structured** - sport, club involvement, planned and scheduled like football, soccer or basketball.
- **Unstructured** - incidental physical activity, like BMX, skateboarding, walking and cycling.

Different facility ownerships within Alexandrina Council

Within Alexandrina Council there is a high percentage of community and non-council-owned sport and recreation facilities. Approximately 63% of facilities are owned by the Council and 37% owned by others. Types of ownership include:

- **Council** - Council-owned but operated by another entity generally through a lease, license or management agreement.
- **Community** - Owned and managed by the club.
- **Private** - Owned by a private organisation or individual, which is not a government department or an incorporated club.
- **Crown** - Owned by the State or Federal Government and can be managed by Local Government.
- **DECS** - Owned by the Department of Education and Children's Services.

The ownership and conditions within the lease, license or management agreement determine who is responsible for facility improvement and maintenance.



Local Government constraints

Councils must ensure that their facilities are underpinned by sound planning and that they are able to adequately maintain the asset over its lifetime.

The South Australian Regional Level Recreation and Sport Facilities Planning Guidelines outline five challenges that councils and the sport and recreation sector are currently facing:

- Facilities are ageing and in need of major redevelopment or, in some cases, replacement to remain fit-for-purpose, affordable and sustainable to operate and maintain.
- Inefficient provision and duplication.
- Increasing expectations from sporting bodies and the general community on councils to provide higher-standard facilities.
- Pressure on open space due to an ever-increasing demand for housing supply close to population and activity centres.
- Increasing budget pressures are becoming increasingly competitive and difficult to raise the capital required to deliver new infrastructure.



Community-owned facilities

Council remains committed to supporting the evolving needs of community-owned facilities by navigating the complexities involved through collaborative, transparent, and consistent approaches.

Community-owned facilities account for over 30% of the demand for sport and recreation. Community and Council-owned facilities are facing similar issues, and further work is required to determine how groups can be supported that is equitable, transparent and contributes to their sustainability.

An outcome of this strategy aims to review all facilities and existing Council support for community-owned sites, providing the basis for informed resource allocation, funding frameworks, and consistent service levels.

It is also important to review ground lease arrangements, as they can sometimes create uncertainty around building ownership. Clarifying these agreements will help support timely asset renewal and ensure facilities are maintained to a standard that meets community needs.

Sport and recreation facilities snapshot

A review was undertaken to develop an understanding of the sport and recreation provision within the Alexandrina Council. This included all Council-owned, community-owned and private facilities to develop a complete snapshot of what is available to the community. School facilities are not included. Within Alexandrina Council, there are:

	 60% Council owned 40% Non-Council Owned	 2 Model Aircraft Clubs	 1 Go Kart Club
65 Clubs/groups			
	 1 Horse Racing Facility	 7 AFL/Cricket Ovals	 1 Soccer Ground
4 Shooting Clubs			
	 16 Netball Courts	 32 Tennis Courts	 2 Rowing/ Dragon Boat
10 Bowling Greens			
 1 Indoor Basketball Facility	 3 Outdoor Basketball Courts	 3 Surf Life Saving Clubs	 4 Golf Courses
 2 Equestrian grounds	 2 Sailing/ Yacht Clubs	 2 Swimming Pools	 2 Table Tennis Clubs
 1 Archery Club	 3 Croquet Facility	 2 BMX Facilities	 3 Skate Parks

Local sport and recreation club survey

As part of the ROSS, a survey was conducted with sport and recreation clubs to gather insights into current membership trends, facility conditions, usage patterns, ownership structures, and opportunities for improvement.

The survey was conducted during April/May 2024 for a period of four weeks. A total of 55 responses were received. Themes of the feedback received from the survey:

Strengths – what clubs are doing well

Financial Sustainability

- Many clubs can meet operational costs and contribute to facility improvements.
- A significant number of clubs report being self-sufficient, therefore not reliant on external funding.

Volunteer Engagement

- Clubs are generally well supported by volunteers.

Collaboration and Relationships

- Clubs report having good working relationships with other clubs that share their space.

Strategic Planning and Governance

- Majority of clubs have a strategic plan guiding their development.

Facility Management and Suitability

- Most clubs believe their facilities are well-maintained.
- Many clubs feel their facilities meet their needs.
- Facility hire fees are generally considered reasonable.

Areas for improvement – challenges identified

Financial Constraints

- Some clubs are unable to meet operational costs or contribute to facility improvements.
- A portion of clubs have reported needing external funding and assistance.

Council Engagement

- Several clubs feel they do not work effectively with Council to develop their club.

Strategic Planning Gaps

- Several clubs do not have a strategic plan in place.

Facility Condition and Suitability Concerns

- Some clubs feel their facilities are not well-maintained.
- Others believe their facilities are not appropriate for their needs.

Outcomes of the Sport and Recreation club survey are noted within the ROSS appendices document in Appendix E.

Association and state sporting organisation survey outcomes

Survey themes:

Growth in Participation

- Significant increase in female and junior participation.
- Associations are prioritising the promotion and expansion of their sports within the Alexandrina region.
- Emerging sports and recreation activities continue to seek opportunities to grow participation and establish new programs within the Council area.

Facility and Infrastructure Needs

- Upgrades to change rooms and sports lighting are a common request, especially to support growing female participation and evening use.
- New ovals and access to additional playing spaces are required to accommodate expanding club memberships and new developments.
- Indoor court stadiums to meet rising demand and support regional competitions.
- Identify the need for future infrastructure upgrades to support increased utilisation, improve site functionality and long term growth in equine industries.

Regional Collaboration and Planning

- Interest in multi-purpose facilities that can serve various sports and community needs.

- Ongoing discussions with neighbouring councils (e.g. City of Victor Harbor) to explore shared infrastructure solutions, particularly for indoor sports like basketball.
- Interest in investigating complementary uses and shared infrastructure opportunities that could support recreation, community and sporting outcomes alongside racing activities.

Event and Tourism Opportunities

- Expressed interest in hosting more events.
- Emphasis on the need for updated facilities to attract and support such events.
- The potential for future redevelopment of the Strathalbyn Racing Club precinct to strengthen its role as a regional destination for equine, recreation and event-based activities.

Emerging and Under-represented Sports

- Expressed interest in establishing programs in Alexandrina, contingent on community demand.
- Seek access to suitable indoor venues for competitions and programs.

Sustaining and Growing Local Sport

- Emphasised the importance of sustaining current participation levels and expanding their presence in the region through promotion and development initiatives.

Association and State Sporting Organisation survey outcomes are noted within the ROSS appendices document in Appendix F



Sport and recreational themes

Through utilising club and association feedback, township-level analysis, AusPlay data, assessment of current trends, conducting benchmark analysis, and reviewing Local, State, and National strategies, the following themes were presented:

Master Planning and Infrastructure Renewal

There is a clear need for master planning at key recreation and sporting precincts to address ageing infrastructure and increased usage. This includes the development of site-specific plans to guide future investment and ensure facilities remain fit-for-purpose.

Planning for Growth Sports

Sports such as soccer and basketball are experiencing significant growth, particularly among juniors and females. Strategic planning is required to identify future facility needs, including additional pitches and indoor courts, in collaboration with schools, neighbouring councils, and state sporting bodies.

Facility Condition and Suitability

Several existing ovals and courts are underutilised or in poor condition. Targeted assessments are needed to determine whether these facilities should be upgraded, consolidated, or repurposed to better align with current and projected community needs.

Enhancing Amenities and Accessibility

Upgrades to change rooms, particularly to support female participation, and improvements to sports lighting have been identified as priorities across multiple sports. These enhancements will support increased usage, safety, and inclusivity.

Asset Optimisation and Repurposing

There is an opportunity to review under-utilised assets, such as older tennis and netball courts, and explore options for consolidation or repurposing into multi-use or alternative recreational spaces.

Co-location and Shared Use

The co-location of sports and shared use of facilities is emerging as a practical solution to maximise space, reduce duplication, and improve access. Partnerships with schools and other stakeholders are key to achieving this.

Support for Community-Owned Facilities

Many community-owned clubs are facing financial and infrastructure challenges. A consistent and transparent support framework is needed to assist these clubs in maintaining and upgrading their facilities, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Club Development and Capacity Building

Clubs are seeking support in areas such as governance, volunteer management, strategic planning, and promotion. Providing training and resources will help clubs become more resilient and self-sufficient.

Youth Recreation Opportunities

There is a recognised gap in unstructured recreation opportunities for young people in some townships. Investment in youth-focused infrastructure, such as outdoor multi-use courts, bike parks, and skate parks, is needed to support active lifestyles and community benefits.

Township Sport Analysis is noted within the ROSS appendices document in Appendix D, Aus Play data analysis is noted within the ROSS appendices document in Appendix G and Analysis of Local sport trends and findings, along with State and National trend and SA Games On Strategy is noted within the ROSS appendices document in Appendix H.

Determining appropriate provision

For the ROSS, we have utilised national sport and recreation benchmarks to help guide appropriate provision for sport and recreation facilities. These benchmarks are widely used and accepted by Local Governments, State Governments and State sporting organisations.

NB: National benchmarks provide an indication of provision and are to be considered in addition to other relevant information, including demographics, community engagement findings, membership and trends to support decision making.

Alexandrina sport and recreation provision

Through the analysis and national benchmarking of recreation and sport facilities within Alexandrina Council, the table below informs us of the current and future provision requirements. It is based on the recommended national benchmarks. The table includes all Council, private, community and State Government owned facilities. School facilities are not included.

Facility type	Provision requirement	Current provision	Need based on population (30,887)	2025 Surplus/ deficit	Future need forecast population 2041 (37,933)	2041 Surplus/ deficit	Current need met	Future need met	Comment
Football/ Cricket Ovals	1:5000	7	6	+1	8	-1	Yes	no	Adequate provision of ovals Council-wide. However, challenges with overall distribution. E.g. in townships with low population, some ovals are under-utilised. In the townships with high populations, ovals are at capacity (Goolwa, Strathalbyn). *Note: Finnis Oval has not been included in the current or future provision, as this oval is in very poor condition and cannot be used. Ashbourne Oval has also not been included as it is suitable for cricket only.
Soccer Pitch	1:6000	3	5	-2	7	-4	No	No	Only one dedicated soccer ground in Alexandrina Council (Strathalbyn -privately owned) that has 3 full-sized soccer pitches. Port Elliot and Mt Compass soccer clubs play on an AFL/ Cricket oval.
Netball Courts (outdoor)	1:5000	16	6	+10	8	+8	Yes	Yes	High provision of netball courts, therefore, no additional courts are required. This is acceptable as country netball is played at individual club courts rather than a centralised location.

Facility type	Provision requirement	Current provision	Need based on population (30,887)	2025 Surplus/ deficit	Future need forecast population 2041 (37,933)	2041 Surplus/ deficit	Current need met	Future need met	Comment
Basketball Courts (indoor)	1: 5000	1	6	-5	8	-7	No	No	Low supply of indoor basketball courts. Only one indoor court at Goolwa Sports Stadium. Additional basketball courts are required.
Tennis Courts	1:2000	32	14	+18	20	+12	Yes	Yes	High supply of tennis courts. Regional areas often have a higher supply of tennis courts due to the distances between townships.
Hockey Field (synthetic)	1:100,000 (based on an individual business case)	1 grass field (sports oval)	0*	0*	0*	0*	See comment	See comment	Not required based on population. But hockey currently utilises Goolwa Oval.
Athletics Tracks	1:75000	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	Not required based on population.
Bowling Clubs	1:30000	5	1	+4	1	+4	Yes	Yes	Regional areas often have a high supply of bowling clubs (often one in each township). With an ageing population, a high supply of bowling clubs is appropriate if well utilised.
Swimming Pool	1:75000	2	1	0	1	0	Yes	Yes	Adequate provision.
Skate Park	Neighbourhood – 1:7,500 District – 1:25,000 Regional – 1:50,000	3 neighbourhood	4	-1	5	-2	No	No	Currently have three skate parks catering for beginner to advanced skaters. Additional skate provision may be required in the future.
BMX	1:20,000	2	1	+1	2	0	Yes	Yes	Adequate provision of BMX. However, in townships where the youth population is higher and there is limited unstructured recreation for youth, community BMX tracks could be justified.

Levels of Service

Levels of Service (LoS) describe the standards of quality, functionality, and accessibility that we commit to delivering to our community. They define what services we will provide, to what standard, and for whom.

Why do we have LoS?

- To clearly set out what the community can expect.
- Ensure services are delivered fairly and to agreed standards.
- Help us prioritise resources, budgets, and projects based on community needs and available funding.
- Provide a benchmark against which performance can be measured and reported.

Our key Recreation Levels of Service

- Deliver more unstructured recreation for youth with the inclusion of an additional skate park and bike park facilities.
- Support equitable unstructured recreation access across townships.
- Maintain Council-owned recreation facilities by undertaking regular inspections and risk assessments to ensure they meet compliance and future developed service standards, whilst utilising this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrade needs.

Our key Sport Levels of Service

- Plan to maintain Sporting Hubs within Goolwa and Strathalbyn.
- Maintain Council-owned sports facilities to ensure they meet grassroots needs, including future developed service standards, while also promoting inclusivity and multi-use.
- Review facility provision in alignment with population growth, participation rates and catchment demand.
- Plan for shared use between schools, clubs, and community groups through multi-use facility design to maximise utilisation.
- Maintain sports facility data by undertaking regular inspections, audits and valuations and utilise this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrade requirements.

Our key Open Space Levels of Service

- Plan to have 1km distance between open spaces that are either a Reserve or Environmental function within largely populated areas with over 500 people population within a defined township boundary, or where possible.
- Maintain two regional open spaces within the Council area, which are Goolwa (Bristow Smith) and Strathalbyn (Soldiers Memorial Gardens, including Strathalbyn Lions Park playground on Colman Terrace).
- Plan to develop a framework to help guide future dog park provision within Alexandrina.
- Design reserves to be welcoming, inclusive, intergenerational and reflective of local character and apply universal design principles to promote accessibility and comfort for all users.
- Maintain accurate open space asset data by conducting inspections, audits, and valuations, and utilise this information to help guide future operational, renewal or upgrades priorities.
- Maintain reserves as per service standards for Parks and Reserves.
- Strengthen environmental outcomes across open space planning and management by supporting biodiversity, greening, shade, climate-resilient planting and the protection of sensitive coastal and environmental areas.

ROSS Implementation Plan

The Alexandrina ROSS outlines a 10 year implementation plan, designed to guide the planning, delivery, and management of recreation, open space, and sport infrastructure across the Alexandrina Council region. The Implementation Plan prioritises actions that align with Council's strategic objectives of creating a liveable, green, and connected community.

Liveable		Green	Connected	
Trusted & Financially Sustainable Council Alexandrina Council is a trusted, transparent and committed organisation that listens, advocates and delivers value for our community in a financially sustainable way	Well-planned Towns & Growth Alexandrina is a liveable region of well-planned towns and growth areas with coordinated infrastructure and opportunities that support our growing population, rural heritage and lifestyle	Climate & Environmental Stewardship Alexandrina is a climate resilient community that values its natural assets, adopts and encourages new ways to reduce environmental impacts and support circular economies	Inclusive & Thriving Community Alexandrina is a welcoming community and prosperous economy with places and opportunities that support the wellbeing, creativity, active participation and quality of life of all people	Transport connections Alexandrina is a region with accessible road, pedestrian, cycle and public transport networks that make it easy to get around, do business, commute and explore

No	Area	Category	Priority Action Title	Priority Action Statement	Council's Role	Strategic Connection	Timeframe (year 1-10)	Cost
1	Council-wide	Open Space	Undertake audits on Open Space infrastructure	Acquire up-to-date data on the condition and useful life of assets within the open space category, including but not limited to playground, softfall, shelters, seating, lighting, drinking fountains, jetties and irrigation.	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	1-10	BAU
2	Council-wide	Open Space	Review gaps analysis with regard to over-supplied open space areas	Undertake a review of all over-supplied open space areas utilising the service level to meet 1000m (1km) walking distance between open spaces that are either a Reserve or Environmental function within largely populated areas with over 500 people population within a defined township boundary, or where possible. This will help determine the need and inform of any potential parcels for potential future rationale.	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	1-10	BAU
3	Council-wide	Open Space	Undertake a 20-year implementation plan for Open Space	Utilise data on asset life, condition, gaps analysis and opportunities within growth areas to produce a 20-year implementation plan to help inform the future financial needs.	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	1-3	BAU

No	Area	Category	Priority Action Title	Priority Action Statement	Council's Role	Strategic Connection	Timeframe (year 1-10)	Cost
4	Council-wide	Recreation	Review renewal needs for all Recreation assets	Acquire up-to-date data on the condition and useful life of all recreation assets, including but not limited to skate, bike parks, pump track and walking trails.	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	1-10	BAU
5	Council-wide	Open Space	Establish a framework to set benchmarks for the future installation of dog parks within Alexandrina	Review previous feedback and council resolutions to develop a benchmark for the installation of future dog parks within Alexandrina. With the next dog park to be implemented within Strathalbyn.	Lead/Deliver	Connected	2-4	\$15k
6	Council-wide	Open Space	Open Space style guide	Produce a comprehensive Open Space Style Guide to be applied across all future provision of open space infrastructure, establishing a consistent yet flexible framework for planning, design, and delivery. The guide should define clear principles for materials, furniture, layout, and functionality while recognising that each township has its own unique character, context, and community needs, requiring place-based responses rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. It should embed best-practice considerations such as climate-resilient planting, provision of shade, and the enhancement of habitat values, alongside strong environmental protection principles, to support sustainable and resilient landscapes. The guide will ensure a cohesive identity, improve quality and durability, support accessibility and safety, and provide practical standards and tools for both Council and external stakeholders involved in the delivery of open space.	Lead/Deliver	Connected	4-6	\$15k
7	Council-wide	Sport and Recreation	Mapping of all sports and recreation facilities	Undertake mapping of all sport and recreation facilities, including community and privately owned.	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	2-3	\$10k
8	Council-wide	Sport and Recreation	Review renewal needs for all Council-owned sporting and unstructured recreation facilities	Undertake audits to obtain useful life, condition and replacement costs on all council-owned sporting and unstructured recreation facilities, including but not limited to irrigation, lighting, fencing, courts, practice nets, bike and skate parks.	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	2-3	\$20k
9	Council-wide	Sport and Recreation	Undertake a 20-year implementation plan for all Council-owned sport/unstructured recreation infrastructure	Utilise data on asset life, condition, gaps analysis and opportunities within growth areas to produce a 20-year implementation plan to help inform the future financial needs.	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	4-5	BAU

No	Area	Category	Priority Action Title	Priority Action Statement	Council's Role	Strategic Connection	Timeframe (year 1-10)	Cost
10	Council-wide	Sport	Community and Private-Owned Facility guidelines	Undertake further consultation with community-owned clubs and develop guidelines on the support Council can offer these groups, and the requirements clubs must meet to be provided support (e.g. community access, facility standards).	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	2-3	\$15k
11	Council-wide	Sport	Review Council's sporting club grants or funding access	Review payments or funding opportunities for all sporting facilities within Alexandrina (including community-owned facilities).	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	3-5	BAU
12	Council-wide	Sport and Recreation	Sport and Recreation Facility frameworks	Develop sport and recreation facility frameworks with guidelines for Council departments and Council Members on the management, leasing, upgrade and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities.	Lead/Deliver/Facilitate	Liveable	3-4	\$15k
13	Council-wide	Sport	Service standards for sport	Develop and implement service levels for buildings, sports playing surfaces, buildings utilised by sport and recreation providers and their associated facilities. Ensure standards are reflected in lease/license/management documents.	Lead/Deliver	Liveable	5-7	\$15k
14	Council-wide	Sport	Leases	Review all ground leases, where Council own the land and other parties own the infrastructure.	Lead/Deliver/Facilitate	Liveable	1-10	BAU
15	Council-wide	Open Space, Recreation and Sport	Joint use agreements	Advocate for long-term joint use agreements with developers, public and private schools, to gain shared sport facilities, especially near Strathalbyn, Goolwa and Port Elliot townships, to help complement Council facilities that have reached their capacity.	Partner Advocate	Liveable	1-10	BAU
16	Council-wide	Sport	A plan for growth in sports (basketball and soccer)	Review growth in soccer and basketball across Alexandrina Council and develop a plan on how we can meet the demand for these sports, working with schools, Football SA, Basketball SA, State Government and other Council regions.	Lead/Partner/Advocate	Liveable	3	\$20k

No	Area	Category	Priority Action Title	Priority Action Statement	Council's Role	Strategic Connection	Timeframe (year 1-10)	Cost
17	Council-wide	Sport	Club development	Produce a new Recreation Planner position to undertake planning, coordinating and guiding of the future for all sport and recreation clubs and facilities within the region, which will include the following: Deliver support for club development through targeted advice, training, and leadership initiatives to strengthen capacity, enabling clubs to effectively manage and promote their facilities and programs. Monitor club membership by undertaking an annual club survey. Maintain a club database with contact details for committees and membership data. Monitor trends to assess community needs to support participation and community wellbeing.	Lead/ Deliver	Connected	2027/28 - ongoing	\$100k Investigating internal resourcing through current FTE
18	Council-wide	Sport and Recreation	Promotion of Sport and Recreation	Promote both Council-owned and non-Council sport and recreation facilities, programs, and townships to encourage increased participation and visitation across the region.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Connected	1-10	BAU
19	Council-wide	Sport and Recreation	Partnerships	Develop and maintain partnerships with relevant funding bodies, peak bodies and other relevant stakeholders.	Partner	Liveable	1-10	BAU
20	Council-wide	Sport	Sports and Event Tourism	Develop a plan to attract sporting events to the region and to facilities/venues within the council area.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Liveable	6	\$15k
21	Council-wide	Sport and Recreation	Community access	Ensure the community has access to Council-owned facilities, including tennis and netball courts for casual use. Requirements for community access are to be included within future lease agreements.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Connected	1-10	BAU
22	Council-wide	Sport	Building and facility condition audits	Maintain Council-owned facilities in accordance with building and condition audits. Undertake a further audit of change room facilities at sites other than Strathalbyn Recreation Ground and Goolwa Recreation Ground. Also assess sports lighting conditions and LUX levels.	Deliver	Liveable	5-7	\$15k for council-owned lighting review.
23	Council-wide	Recreation	Wheeled Park Maintenance and Inspection Program (Skate, BMX and pump tracked)	Develop a maintenance and inspection program for wheeled park facilities to ensure these facilities are well-maintained and risk management issues are addressed.	Lead/ Deliver	Liveable	1-10	BAU
24	Council-wide	Sport	Tennis and Netball Court provision	Consider community needs and club membership prior to any asset renewal of tennis/netball courts. There is a potential high supply Council-wide, and future consolidation to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.	Lead/ Deliver	Connected	1-10	BAU

No	Area	Category	Priority Action Title	Priority Action Statement	Council's Role	Strategic Connection	Timeframe (year 1-10)	Cost
25	Council-wide	Open Space, Recreation and Sport	Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10)	Continue with the Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10) with Stage 1 being first priority. This project is a high priority for this region. Strathalbyn is known as a Sporting Hub that will continue to grow in population.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate/ Partner	Liveable	4-8	Partly funded through the A2040 Strategic Delivery Plan
26	Council-wide	Recreation and Sport	Aquatic Pool Service Review	Undertake an aquatic pool service review in line with Alexandrina's Continuous Improvement framework to help inform the future requirements for aquatic pool facilities for the region. This process should be guided by benchmarking data provided through the ROSS, while considering current and potential community use, anticipated community benefits, cost implications for renewal, and an assessment of infrastructure in neighbouring councils.	Lead/ Deliver	Liveable	9-10	\$20k
27	Council-wide	Recreation	Develop a Master Plan for Shared-Use Trails	Conduct a review of data relating to all shared-use paths and trails within Alexandrina Council. Then undertake an assessment to review their condition, accessibility, and connectivity to key destinations such as parks, wineries, and cultural sites. Produce a master plan to help inform future needs and develop material that can be utilised for the Council website for promotion.	Lead/ Deliver	Connected	4-7	BAU
28	Council-wide	Open Space	Identification of Sensitive Open Space Areas	Prepare a Council-wide mapping layer to identify areas of biodiversity significance, sensitive coastal environments and other vulnerable open space areas requiring protection, improved management and consideration in future planning and investment decisions.	Advocate / Facilitate	Liveable	3-6	BAU
29	Council-wide	Open Space	Identification of potential greening and shades areas	Prepare a Council-wide mapping layer to identify priority locations for future greening, tree canopy and shade improvements across the open space network, considering heat exposure, community use, accessibility, biodiversity value and opportunities to create cooler, more comfortable and climate-resilient public spaces.	Advocate / Facilitate	Liveable	3-6	BAU
30	Ashbourne	Sport	Ashbourne Oval	Seek further information on the use of the Ashbourne Oval from the cricket club. Consider how community-owned sites could be supported in the future to ensure their sustainability.	Facilitate/ Advocate	Liveable	1-10	BAU

No	Area	Category	Priority Action Title	Priority Action Statement	Council's Role	Strategic Connection	Timeframe (year 1-10)	Cost
31	Clayton Bay	Recreation	Bike facilities	Undertake engagement with the community on the type of bike facilities required and undertake construction on Island View Reserve near the playground.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Connected	1	Captured within the 2025/26 budget.
32	Finniss	Sport and Open Space	Finniss Sports Ground	Assess the future of the Finniss Sports Ground. This site is currently not suitable for sport or community use.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Liveable	2-3	BAU
33	Goolwa	Sport	Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct	Working in collaboration, support the Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct clubs to establish the Oval Management Committee and ensure successful management of the new facility. The Goolwa Oval is at capacity. Help facilitate the development of joint user agreements with schools to access ovals as overflow. Consider hockey in any future planning for soccer facilities.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate/ Advocate/ Partner	Liveable	1-2	BAU
34	Goolwa	Sport	Goolwa Rowing Club	Determine any opportunities for Goolwa Rowing Club to share with other clubs in the region.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate/ Advocate	Liveable	1-10	BAU
35	Goolwa	Sport and Open Space	Equine Facilities and Land Use review	Review equine facilities and associated land use within Goolwa to help inform future needs. The review is to include an assessment of current membership levels, the condition and capacity of existing facilities, projected future demand, compatibility with surrounding land uses, benchmarking against best-practice standards, and alignment with broader strategic planning objectives.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Liveable	1-10	BAU
36	Middleton	Recreation	Skate facility	Review suitable locations in Middleton for a new skate facility.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Liveable	1-3	BAU
37	Milang	Sport	Milang Oval	Work with clubs to ensure buildings are maintained, and the grounds are fit for purpose. Milang Oval has capacity for greater use and could assist other clubs in the Council area seeking additional ovals for training or games. Consider the medium-to-long-term future of Milang Oval in consultation with the clubs that use the facility.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Connected	2-4	BAU
38	Milang	Sport	Milang Tennis Courts	In consultation with the community, review the need for tennis courts at Luard Street. Consider consolidation and re-purposing courts by providing multi-use courts with tennis, basketball and other games, that can be used by the community and visitors.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Liveable	1	Captured within the 2025/26 budget

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No	Area	Category	Priority Action Title	Priority Action Statement	Council's Role	Strategic Connection	Timeframe (year 1-10)	Cost
39	Mount Compass	Open Space	Review open space requirements within Mount Compass	Due to gap analysis findings, there is a restricted amount of open space within Mount Compass. Undertake a review of open space within the township to develop options to increase usable open space for the community.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate/ Advocate	Liveable	1-10	BAU
40	Port Elliot	Sport	Port Elliot Oval	Prepare a master plan for Port Elliot Oval that prioritises the needs of all sports and informal recreation, with a focus on upgrading or providing additional change room facilities to support growth in participation, particularly among females. Produce a concept with cost estimates for upgraded change room facilities that can be utilised for available grant funding opportunities. Review the suitability of cricket and soccer sharing facilities given different types of use.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate/ Advocate	Liveable	1-2	Captured within the 2025/26 budget
41	Strathalbyn	Recreation and Sport	Basketball facilities	Continue to plan for the Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10) with the potential for Indoor basketball court facilities as they are a high priority; also consider opportunities for indoor courts within future residential developments in Strathalbyn. Work with schools and neighbouring Councils (e.g. Mount Barker District Council) in the short term to resolve the challenges in indoor basketball court provision.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate/ Partner	Liveable	2-8	Partly funded through the A2040 Strategic Delivery Plan
42	Strathalbyn	Open Space	Dog park	A dog park to be assessed for consideration within Strathalbyn (review with outcomes of Lot 10). Feedback from previous engagement to be reviewed and locations assessed. Develop a concept design for community engagement and construction.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate	Connected	2-8	Partly funded through the A2040 Strategic Delivery Plan.
43	Strathalbyn	Sport	Soccer facilities	Continue to plan for Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10) with the potential for soccer facilities. Soccer facilities in Strathalbyn are a very high priority. Consider opportunities for greater provision within future new residential developments in Strathalbyn. Also work with schools and neighbouring Councils (e.g. Mount Barker District Council) in the short term to resolve the challenges in soccer provision.	Lead/ Deliver/ Facilitate Partner	Liveable	2-8	Partly funded through the A2040 Strategic Delivery Plan

No	Area	Category	Priority Action Title	Priority Action Statement	Council's Role	Strategic Connection	Timeframe (year 1-10)	Cost
44	Strathalbyn	Sport	Strathalbyn Recreation Ground	Monitor use of Strathalbyn Recreation Ground to ensure the oval continues to be fit for purpose and not overused. Support the football and cricket clubs to access other facilities during times of high demand. This could be through agreements with schools or through the use of other under-utilised ovals (e.g. Milang Oval) within the broader Council area.	Lead	Liveable	1-10	BAU
45	Strathalbyn	Sport and Recreation	Strathalbyn Racing Club Precinct	Advocate for increased year-round utilisation of the Strathalbyn Racing Club precinct and associated facilities. Work collaboratively with Racing SA and the Strathalbyn Racing Club to identify opportunities that support broader recreation, sporting, community and event outcomes, improve asset utilisation outside of the racing season, and strengthen the role of the precinct as a prominent recreation and sporting asset.	Advocate / Partner / Facilitate	Liveable	1-10	BAU



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Alexandrina Council



Appendices

Draft Recreation, Open space & Sport Strategy 2026-2036



The Alexandrina Council and its communities acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk and Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of our Council district.



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Introduction

The Appendices document for the Alexandrina Council's Recreation, Open space and Sport Strategy (ROSS) provides the core supporting data that helped inform and produce the final strategic outcomes.

These supporting documents capture the voices of the community, the insights of the local area with regard to usable open space, club and association feedback, along with emerging trends in sport and recreation across the Alexandrina Council area.

Each appendix contributes a unique layer of understanding:

- **Appendix A** - provides detailed community feedback across Alexandrina's townships, highlighting recreation, open space and sport priorities and identifying barriers.
- **Appendix B** - summarises the findings of the Open Space Survey, showcasing how residents and visitors in the Alexandrina region use parks, playgrounds, and other recreational spaces.
- **Appendix C** - includes open space data by ward and township, categorising land use and function to identify gaps and opportunities, including township mapping.
- **Appendix D** - provides a detailed township-level sport analysis, identifying facility ownership, usage, and future needs.
- **Appendix E** - summarises local sport and recreation participation through club survey responses, offering a snapshot of membership, facility use, and club needs.

- **Appendix F** - captures strategic directions and feedback from State sporting organisations and associations, aligning local priorities with broader sector goals.
- **Appendix G** - Informs and analyses AusPlay data to understand participation patterns and physical activity levels across South Australia and the Alexandrina region.
- **Appendix H** - informs and reviews Local and National sporting trends, including insights from the SA Government's Game On Strategy, to associate Alexandrina's recreation landscape within broader demographic and social transformations.

Collectively, these appendices provide a strong foundation of evidence, community insights, and stakeholder input, ensuring the ROSS is strategically informed and supports a vision for inclusive, sustainable, and well-utilised recreation, open space, and sporting facilities across the Alexandrina region.

Alexandrina Council acknowledges the contribution of DG Planners in the preparation of the sport planning component of the Recreation, Open Space and Sport Strategy 2026–2036, including sport facility audits, participation analysis, benchmarking and strategic recommendations.

Background

This overview outlines the steps taken to better understand the value and role of recreation, open space, and sporting facilities within the Alexandrina Council area.

By combining community feedback, data, surveys, research, benchmarking and stakeholder input, we've developed a clear approach to guide decision making. Each stage builds on the last to ensure the final ROSS is well-informed, inclusive, and aligned with community needs and best practices.

While the ROSS document presents the strategic direction and outcomes, the appendices contain the supporting data, detailed findings, and community feedback that informed the development of the ROSS.

Strategy overview diagram



Appendix A

Village Conversations:

Community feedback and resulting themes (2021-2023)

Alexandrina Council's Village Conversations were a key engagement process undertaken in two phases: first in October 2021 and again between October and December 2023.

These sessions were held across townships to capture community expectations, priorities, and ideas for future planning. Residents shared insights on how they utilise recreation, open space and sport facilities, as well as their aspirations for future improvements.

This process provided valuable qualitative data on themes such as accessibility, inclusivity, youth recreation opportunities, and the importance of preserving local character.

Feedback gathered throughout both engagement phases has helped inform the development of the ROSS document.

Goolwa – Hindmarsh Island – Currency Creek Village Conversations 2021

- Preserve existing open space
- Short-term goal is to establish a pump track next to the nature playground at Bristow Smith Reserve
- Improve bicycle and walking paths with safe signage
- Establish a connection between the Beach Road car park and the Murray Mouth and connecting Cadell Street to the Goolwa Wharf Precinct
- Create a dog park
- Through development, keep green spaces.

Goolwa – Hindmarsh Island – Currency Creek Village Conversations 2023

Playgrounds visited

- Bristow Smith Reserve has something for every age
- Beach
- Skate park – Goolwa
- Liverpool Road
- Wharf area
- Jekejere Park
- Fishing – near Scout Hall/Amelia Park
- Sweetman Road Reserve.

Preventions of using Open Space

- Undeveloped reserves that are not inviting
- Dogs off lead

- Lack of seating
- Not enough equipment for older kids
- Not enough bins.

Informal recreation

- Walking/dog walking
- BBQ/picnic
- Reading
- Water sports
- Cycling/scooters/roller skating
- Horse riding
- Basketball
- Gym.

Dog experience

- Better signage for off-leash areas
- Need more dog parks.

Themes - Goolwa – Hindmarsh Island – Currency Creek

Bristow Smith Reserve is well used and popular, as well as the Goolwa Wharf Precinct and Goolwa Beach area.

Factors preventing the use of open space are a lack of seating and uninviting underdeveloped reserves. Improvements required are pathway access and wayfinding signage for walking and biking.

Popular recreation

- Walking/riding/scooter/cycling
- Water sports
- Basketball
- Picnics and BBQs.

Middleton Village Conversations 2021

- Middleton is a village green and open space, and is welcoming
- The community value the environment, keen to see it maintained, enhanced and protected, including beaches, nature reserves, open spaces and the green belt around town.
- Improve the natural environment through tree planting
- Build a community garden
- Improve the playground to cater for diverse ages and abilities
- The medium-term goal is to upgrade the playground to include natural components reflecting the surf and the whales
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Abbotts Reserve community garden upgrade and signage
- Native revegetation along the creek to prevent further erosion
- Middleton is relaxed, recreational and quiet
- Join up bike paths along the Esplanade.

Middleton Village Conversations 2023

Playgrounds visited

- Travel to Victor Harbor or Goolwa for nature play spaces
- Travel to Goolwa and Victor Harbor for skate facilities
- A beginner skate facility to be built at many unused grassy locations near the point
- More options needed for BBQ and parties as Abbotts Reserve isn't big enough
- Abbotts Reserve
- Newell Reserve for nature, running, native animals and walking
- Coast for running, cycling and walking.

Preventions of using Open Space

- Not looked after
- Poor maintenance
- Not developed
- No consultation
- Playgrounds need equipment for all ages
- Decent skate park/basketball court and area for scooter and roller skating
- Needs more BBQ and toilets
- More to be done with Morrison Reserve.

Informal recreation

- Water sports
- Walking/dog/beach
- Running
- Horse riding
- Picnic/BBQ/parties

- Bike/skate/scooter
- Basketball/netball/pickleball
- Reading/observing nature/bird watching
- Irrigated lawn for social sport
- Beach fire pits
- Surfing.

Dog experience

- Negative experience with dogs off-leash
- Can be hard at peak summertime with tourists.

Themes - Middleton

Middleton is a quiet beach township.

Residents would like play spaces with bigger irrigated kick about areas, more BBQs, toilets, playgrounds that cater for all ages and abilities, whilst incorporating natural elements.

Popular recreation

- Water sports
- Walking/running/dog/beach
- Horse riding
- Picnic/BBQ/ parties
- Bike/skate/scooter
- Basketball/netball/pickleball
- Reading/observing nature/bird watching
- Irrigated lawn for social sport.

Port Elliot Village Conversations 2021

- Green space is protected
- Build a nature playground
- Replant the cliffs near the Soldiers Memorial Garden
- Build a community garden
- Medium-term opportunity is to undertake a tree planting plan across town to increase the tree canopies and improve the aesthetic attraction of key business communities
- Medium-term possibility is to plant indigenous plants on the cliff face adjacent to the Bowling Club
- The medium-term undertaking is to provide all abilities beach access at Horseshoe Bay
- Intergenerational activities
- Decommission and activate the underutilised netball courts for community access and use
- Short-term opportunity is the installation of bike stands in The Strand precinct and the railway station
- Short-term opportunity is to decommission the 1 netball court and plant a community garden
- Medium-term possibilities are to develop a plan and deliver a connected walking and biking trail that connects and incorporates the Encounter Bikeway.

Port Elliot Village Conversations 2023

Playgrounds visited

- Lakala Reserve
- Foreshore – Horseshoe Bay, Commodore Reserve
- Ratalang (Basham Beach) Conservation Reserve
- Freemans Knob
- Harbour Masters Reserve lawn area
- Watson's Gap.

Preventions of using Open Space

- Not enough trees or shade
- Erosion
- Undeveloped reserve
- Unused court – no multi-use (basketball)
- No teenage playground or recreation facilities
- Access to water
- Lack of seating
- Sport facilities require an upgrade
- Unusable play equipment
- Footpath access – disability access
- Stairs in need of repair
- Skate facilities need upgrading.

Informal recreation

- Tree climbing
- Whale watching
- Walking
- Bike riding
- Pokémon Go
- Skate/scooter
- Sport – Soccer
- Picnic
- Basketball
- Gym
- Swimming.

Dog experience

- Not positive along the beach, especially unleashed
- Positive for dog park.

Themes – Port Elliot

It is a beach township with green and foreshore open space that is heritage protected.

Has well-utilised areas like Horseshoe Bay and Freeman's Knob Reserve.

Require upgraded open space with more shade, seating and equipment for all ages, especially teens. They also require upgraded access to water via footpaths that are built for all abilities.

Popular recreation

- Water sports
- Walking/riding/skate/scooter
- Sports/soccer/basketball
- Picnic/whale watching.

Mount Compass Village Conversations 2021

- Will continue as community-oriented and open spaces and environment-friendly
- Recreation ideas including jogging tracks, play and outdoor exercise equipment and all-weather and day and night sport facilities and toilets
- Interpreting places of cultural significance and developing history trails
- Protecting and revegetating the natural environment, conserving creeks and wetlands
- Recreation ideas include linking to the Heysen Trail, outdoor shaded exercise equipment, improved tennis court access, and upgraded play equipment
- Golf course to be retained as open space and not redeveloped
- Additional public toilets and BBQs required
- More play equipment at the new playground area
- Recreation ideas including jogging tracks, play and outdoor exercise equipment and all-weather and day and night sport facilities and toilets.
- Recreation ideas include linking to the Heysen Trail, outdoor shaded exercise equipment, improved tennis court access, and upgraded play equipment
- Improve recreational facilities with the community wanting new paths to support fitness and exploration, and to key upgraded playground equipment
- Improved access to tennis courts and an undercover all-year-round outdoor facility
- Installation of public toilets at the skate park is important
- More play and outdoor exercise equipment (with shade), tennis court access, and walking trails
- Covered recreation facilities, regional trail linkages (Heysen Trail), and golf course retained.

Mount Compass Village Conversations 2023

- Playgrounds visited
- Commercial Road park (near swimming pool, Strathalbyn)
- Burgess Oval
- Basin Reserve.

Preventions of using Open Space

- Missing planks at wetlands
- Walking distance
- Access to Roadman's Reserve
- No new reserve in new development
- Lighting.

Informal recreation

- Walking/dog
- Horse riding
- Basketball.

Dog experience

- Positive.

Themes - Mount Compass

Mount Compass is known as the gateway to the Fleurieu and is a country township surrounded by a natural open environment with wetlands.

Would like more green open space areas with playground, exercise equipment and shade. Would like access to the Heysen Trail and to preserve their wetlands and revegetate the natural environments.

Popular recreation

- Sports
- Walking/dog
- Horse riding.

Milang Village Conversations 2021

- Medium-term possibilities are to revisit our Open Space and playground revitalisation plan, and if possible, include outdoor activities, including a basketball ring, outdoor gym equipment and seating and charging stations
- The playground looks tired
- Place a pontoon on the lake
- More sand to make a beach
- Bike trail linking Langhorne Creek, Clayton Bay and Strathalbyn
- Basketball court
- Outdoor gym
- Shared use path through parklands.

Milang Village Conversations 2023

- Playgrounds visited
- Lakeside green area
- Dog park and oval
- Lakeside playground
- Goolwa nature play
- Under bridge playground.

Preventions of using Open Space

- No pathway from caravan park to jetty
- Oval toilets need replacement
- Grass surrounding the playground up to the lake
- Snakes on the foreshore and reeds area near the lake
- Caltrop control on grassed areas
- Lack of shade.

Informal recreation

- Tennis courts
- Fishing
- BMX
- Rage cage
- Walking.

Dog experience

- Positive.

Themes - Milang

It is a heritage lakeside community surrounded by nature and wetlands.

The community would like more irrigated grass areas, especially from the lake to the playground, with more maintenance and additional shade. Community would like an upgraded playground with a basketball ring on courts, outdoor gym equipment and shared-use path throughout parklands.

Popular recreation

- Court sports
- Fishing
- Walking/riding
- BMX.

Clayton Bay Village Conversations 2021

- The community appreciates their recreation activities, which include boating, sailing, swimming and walking trails
- There is a perceived lack of structured recreation facilities, like a skate park and basketball ring
- Medium and long-term opportunity is to undertake a planning process with children and young people to determine desired recreational activities and opportunities to socialise. Noting that engagement on development for BMX facilities was undertaken in late 2023 and approved in 2024, with funding resolved by the chamber in the 2025/26 financial year.

Clayton Bay Village Conversations 2023

- High requests for Terry Way Reserve to have either a dog park, walking trail/path, or more native planting.

Playgrounds visited

- Walking trail along the foreshore and walking trail along Island View Reserve due to wonderful planting for walking, exercising and views
- Oval for major design for children's play area, exercise and dog walking
- Boat club for events.

Preventions of using Open Space

- Need more shade, with shade sails installed within the 2024/25 financial year
- Too old
- Grass is full of burrs
- Limited access to water for swimming
- Walking trail too rough
- Smell due to misuse of bins
- Playgrounds need upgrading not set up for older kids.

Informal recreation

- Dog walking
- Trail walking
- Water activities.

Dog experience

- Quite positive.

Themes – Clayton Bay

It is a small township surrounded by waterways and a natural environment that appreciates its open space and supportive country atmosphere.

Would like open spaces with additional shade, a maintained and usable grass area, upgraded playground with equipment for older children, with a BMX track.

Popular recreation

- Dog walking
- Trail walking
- Water activities.

Strathalbyn and Ashbourne Village Conversations 2021

- Develop a community garden
- Plant more trees to create a shade canopy and reduce heat island effect, and encourage walking and cycling
- Reintroduce native flora and fauna
- Establish an interactive playground
- Bigger playgrounds with toilets
- Extend opening hours and season for the Strathalbyn swimming pool
- Short term – Recreation facilities (for example indoor facilities, improved playgrounds, increased time of year pool is open, shared facilities)
- Basketball court
- Joint-use facilities opportunities.

Strathalbyn and Ashbourne Village Conversations 2023

Playgrounds visited

- River/Central Park
- Near the swimming pool
- Pipers Crest
- Strathalbyn Oval
- Burnside Creek Reserve
- Playground at the railway station.

Preventions of using Open Space

- No toilets near playground (Pipers Crest, Strathalbyn)
- Pool not open after 8.30am (lap swimming, Monday to Friday)
- Footpath linkages
- Dogs off lead
- No access through rail yards
- New developments and not enough green space provided
- No nature play playgrounds.

Informal recreation

- Walking/running
- Sports.

Themes – Strathalbyn and Ashbourne

Rural communities with a country feel that value their picturesque landscapes, natural environment, and support local.

The community would like more trees planted to create a stronger shade canopy, to reintroduce

native flora and fauna, a bigger playground with nature play elements and toilet facilities. Whilst there are great facilities for sports within the township, there is a need for indoor basketball courts.

The township of Strathalbyn would like to make sure that, through its growth that usable open space is provided.

Popular recreation

- Walking/running
- Sports.

Langhorne Creek, Hartley and Woodchester Village Conversations 2021

- Short and medium-term includes improved playground facilities with possible nature play
- Improve recreation facilities such as walking, cycling and public toilets
- Would like improved recreational facilities like playgrounds.

Langhorne Creek Village Conversations 2023

Playgrounds visited

- Frank Potts Park
- Alfred Langhorne Park
- Mosquito Creek
- Ferries McDonald Park
- Sporting oval
- Courts.

Preventions of using Open Space

- Water point for public use at campground
- No toilet at Alfred Park
- Playground near school is not to school standards and is not being used.

Informal recreation

- Pickleball
- Tree planting
- BMX track
- Nature play at the sportsground
- Walking
- Basketball at the sportsground.

Dog experience

- Utilise the oval for dog walking.

Themes – Langhorne Creek, Hartley and Woodchester

They are rural and country towns known for their diverse agriculture and vines, which are settled along the Bremer flood plain with unique bird life and wetlands.

Would like more trees planted, improved recreational facilities with multi-use, upgraded playgrounds, and the creation of walking and cycling trails.

Popular recreation

- Walking
- Sports
- BMX
- Nature play.

Appendix B

Open space survey outcomes

A survey seeking feedback from the broader community on how they utilise open space and recreation facilities within the Council area was placed out for six weeks of consultation from 24 October to 4 December 2024.

The survey received feedback from 122 participants.

The majority of people who responded were either a resident, ratepayer or business owner of Alexandrina, with only two participants being visitors to the area.

The feedback and themes from this survey were utilised to develop levels of service.

The largest age groups who responded were:

- 46–60 years
- 24–40 years.

When asked why they utilise open space/parks or playgrounds, the top five responses were:

1. Walk
2. Exercise
3. Socialise
4. Access to nature
5. Play and have fun.

When asked what outdoor and play activities do you or your children participate in, the top five responses were:

1. Walking
2. Using playgrounds
3. Kicking a footy/soccer/casual cricket
4. Swimming
5. Events in the park.

Others highly specified

- Dog walking/exercise
- Soccer
- Cricket.

Top 10 parks or open spaces visited recently

Location	Amount
Bristow Smith Reserve	24
Horseshoe Bay	11
Port Elliot Oval	10
Dog Park Port Elliot/Oval	9
Goolwa Oval	6
Lions Park Strathalbyn (next to Strathalbyn Swimming Pool)	6
Milang (foreshore)	6
Strathalbyn Soldiers Memorial Garden	5
Pipers Crest Reserve	5
Angus River walk	5

The three most important things for you in the development of our parks were:

1. Shade
2. Toilet
3. Mixture of suitable play equipment.

Other:

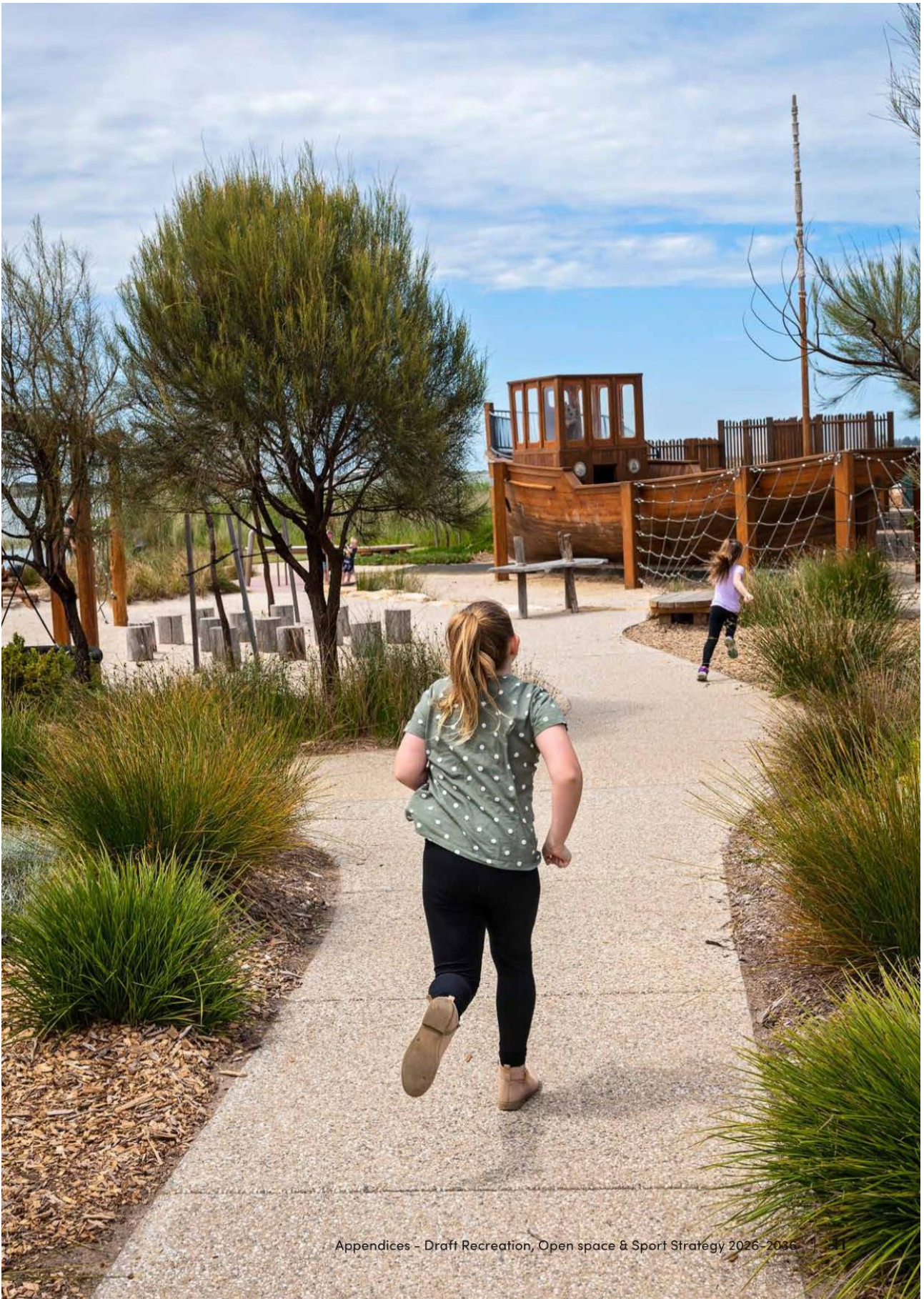
- Exercise equipment
- Pump track
- Mobility safe surfaces
- Off-leash dog parks
- BBQ
- Coffee.

Top five favourite parks and open space features were:

1. Shade
2. Toilets close by
3. Irrigated green space
4. Beautiful landscaping
5. Pathway network
6. Location.

Top five most important improvements needed for our open space/parks were:

1. Upgrade and improve existing sports facilities
2. Increase our maintenance of open spaces
3. Build new parks
4. Upgrade existing parks only
5. Provide more multi-use court facilities.



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Appendix C

Open space data captured by ward

North Ward

Suburb	No of reserve parcels	Total suburb land (ha)	open space (ha)	% of open space per suburb	No of sport function parcels	No of Environmental function parcels	No of Reserve function parcels	No of Recreation function parcels	Population 2021 (current data)	Townships that meet 500+ populations
Angas Plains	3	4140	4.15	.1%	3				81	
Ashbourne	2	5800	1.42	.02%			2		308	
Belvidere	1	2010	3.77	.18%					118	
Bletchley	2	2358	5.28	.22%		1	1		76	
Gemmells	1	1210	2.95	.24%			1		99	
Hartley	1	1610	4.67	.29%		1			149	
Highland Valley	8	2830	15.46	.54%		5	3		384	
Lake Plains	1	2990	4.22	.14%			1		48	
Langhorne Creek	11	16320	15.94	.09%		2	7	1	444	
Macclesfield	1	3750	1.41	.03%			1		1413	But not all in Alexandrina Council area
Nurragi		2140		0					30	
Paris Creek	1	2530	.74	.02%	1				206	
Red Creek	2	3220	3.42	.10%		1	1		145	
Salem		450		0					123	
Sandergrove	2	5060	9.42	.18%		1	1		98	
Strathalbyn	103	11700	153.51	1.3%	2	15	72	14	7246	Yes
Tolderol		428		0					21	
Willyaroo	4	12100	5.47	.04%		3	1		376	
Woodchester	3	3630	7.16	.19%		2	1		253	
Total	146	84276	238.99		6	31	92	15	11618	

South Ward

Suburb	No of reserve parcels	Total suburb land (ha)	open space (ha)	% of open space per suburb	No of sport function parcels	No of Environmental function parcels	No of Reserve function parcels	No of Recreation function parcels	Population 2021 (current data)	Townships that meet 500+ populations
Clayton Bay	30	3630	21.78	.6%		11	16	3	472	
Currency Creek	14	10930	17.90	.16%		2	11	1	443	
Finniss		10	10020	138.13	1.3%	1	7	2		293
Goolwa	47	1740	35.56	2.04%	9	16	21	1	2558	Yes
Goolwa North	12	790	1.93	.24%	6	3	3		1307	Yes
Goolwa South	15	1190	15.73	1.32%		5	10		1041	Yes
Hindmarsh Island	74	6680	47.72	.71%		42	32		1846	Yes
Milang	22	7510	44.15	.58%	3	5	12	2	962	Yes
Mount Observation		820		0					n/a	
Mundoo Island		1200		0					4	
Point Sturt	5	100	14.73	14.73%		5			64	
Total		44610	337.63		19	96	107	7	8986	

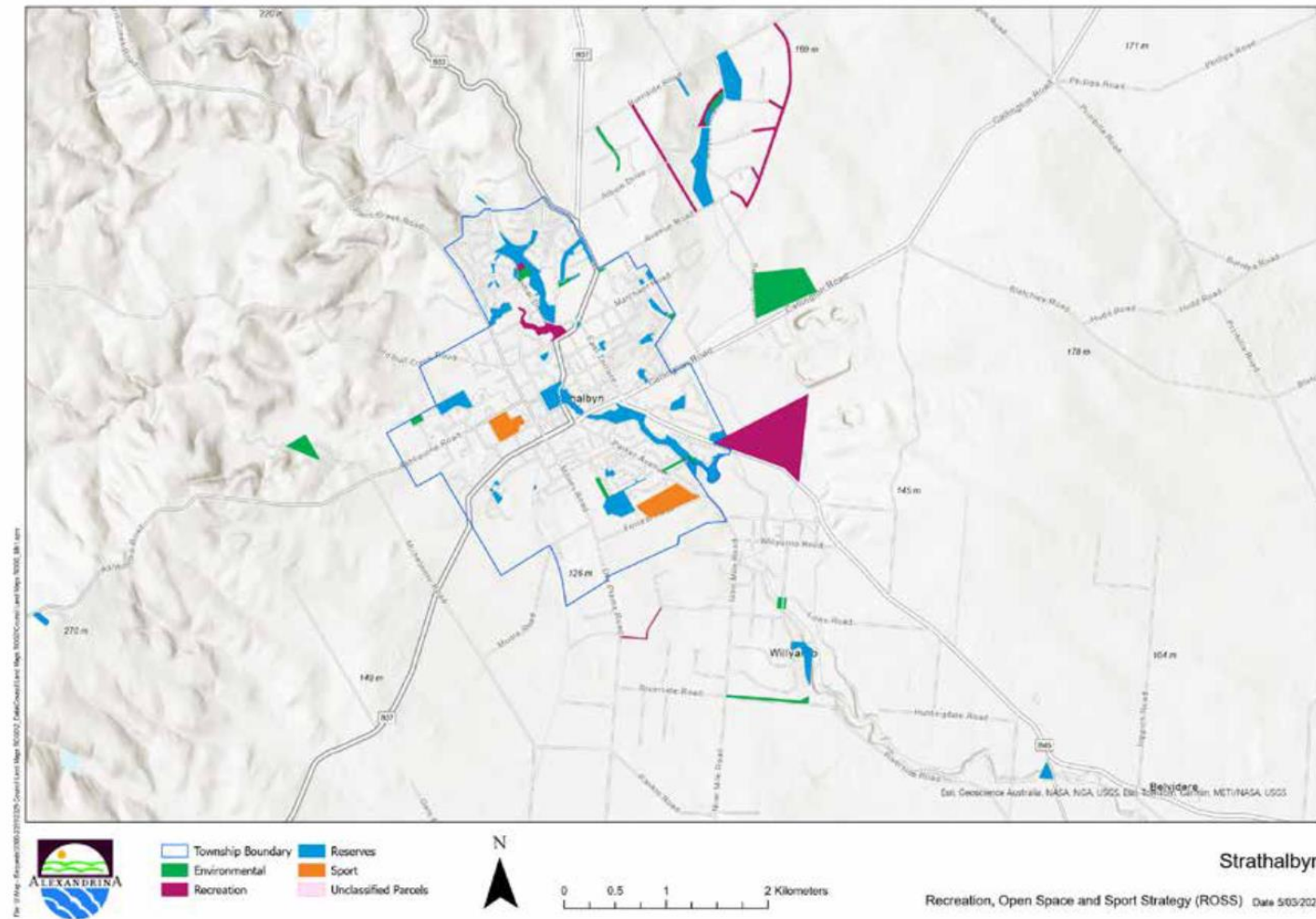
Yellow – townships with over 500 people population

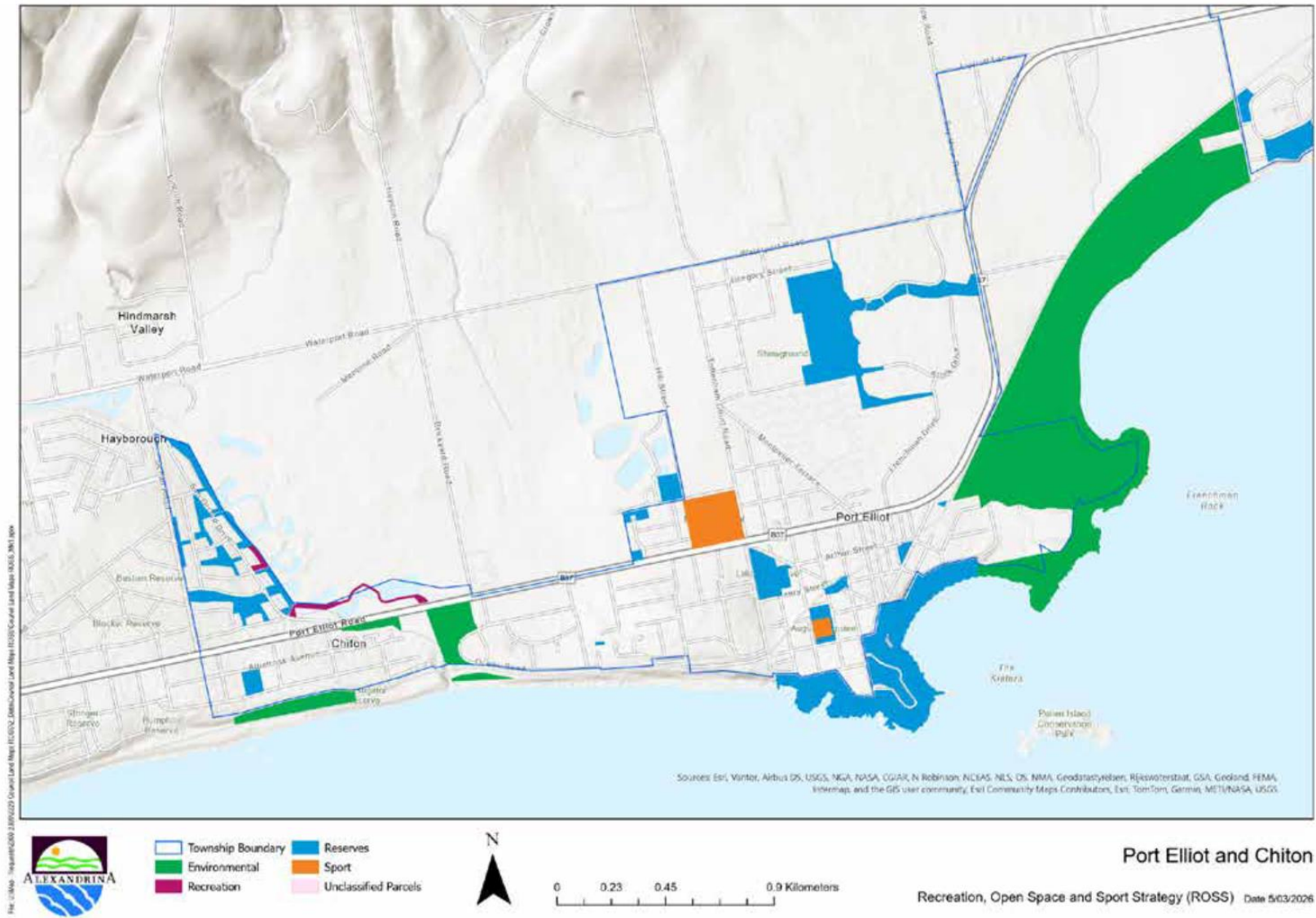
West Ward

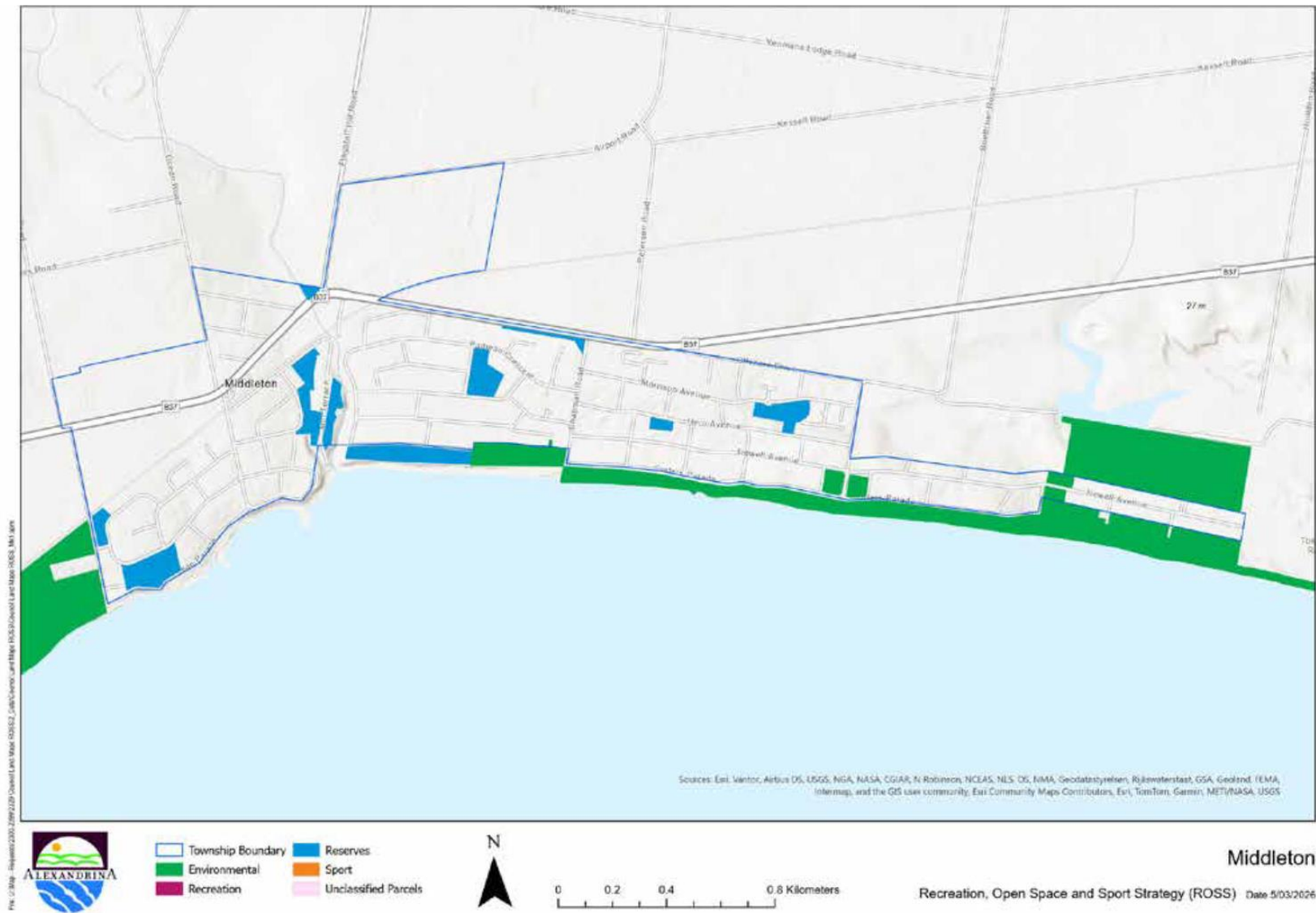
Suburb	No of reserve parcels	Total suburb land (ha)	open space (ha)	% of open space per suburb	No of sport function parcels	No of Environmental function parcels	No of Reserve function parcels	No of Recreation function parcels	Population 2021 (current data)	Townships that meet 500+ populations
Blackfellows Creek		780		0					28	
Bull Creek		1280		0					111	
Chiton	25	6700	13.23	.19%		10	13	2	440	
Dingabledinga	3	600	6.19	1.03%		1	2		80	
Goolwa Beach	36	430	38.70	9%		31	5		2222	Yes
Hope Forest		1230		0					143	
Kuitpo	4	5060	1.22	.02%			4		198	
Kyeema		1560		0					21	
McHarg Creek		1200		0					72	
Middleton	26	3540	54.20	1.5%		8	18		1298	Yes
Montarra		150		0					28	
Mount Compass	11	4480	14.58	.32%	2	2	7		1232	Yes
Mount Jagged		4430		0					155	
Mount Magnificent		1700		0					60	
Nangkita	1	2821	.78	.02%			1		242	
Pages Flat		2440		0					164	
Port Elliot	56	2170	94.09	4.33%	13	7	36		2251	Yes
Prospect Hill		1660		0					158	
The Range		1970		0					159	
Tooperang		4050		0					271	
Willunga Hill		1190		0					150	
Yundi	1	2210	.49	.02%			1		168	
Total	163	51651	222.99		15	59	87	2	9651	

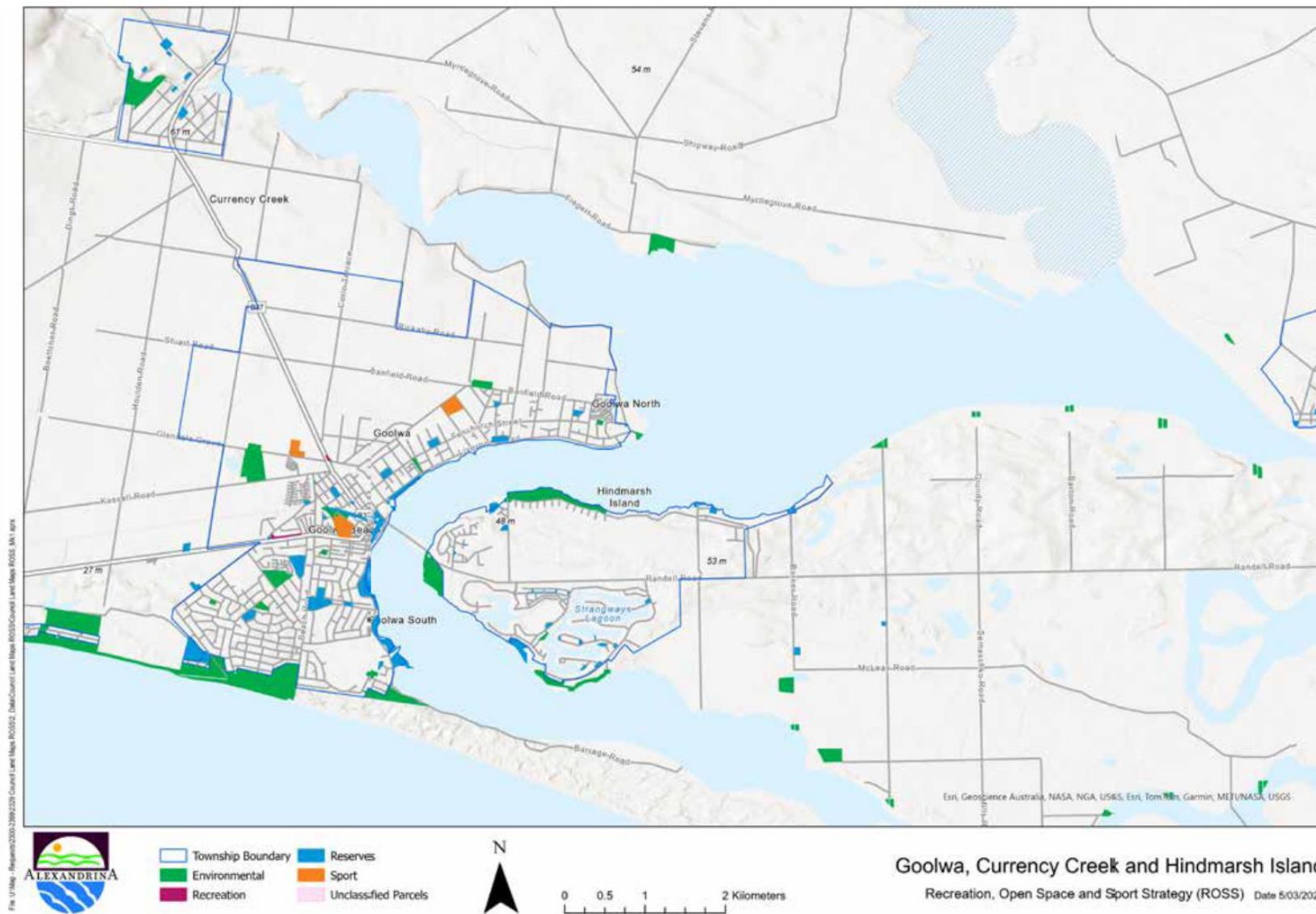
Yellow - townships with over 500 people population

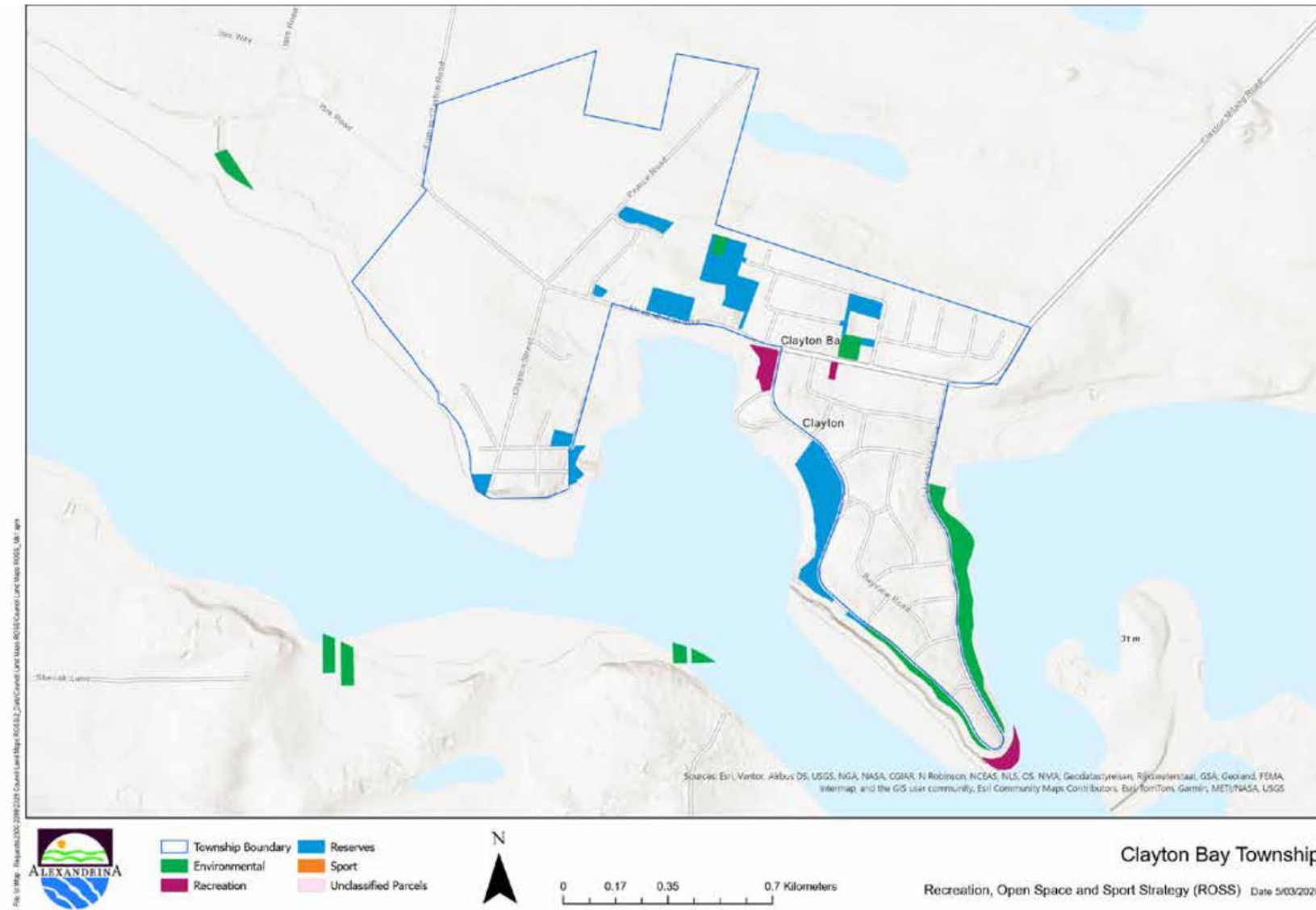
Open space data captured by township











Appendix D

Township sport analysis

The sport and recreation priorities for each township area are summarised in this section of the report.

Note – population growth projections to 2041 are not currently available for townships and smaller areas. ABS Census data with population forecasts to 2041 is only available for the broader LGA.

Strathalbyn, Finniss, Ashbourne

Overview

The total population is 7,846. The majority, approximately 6,675 people, live within the Strathalbyn township. Finniss and Ashbourne have a smaller population with a combined total of 601 people. Population growth in Strathalbyn is 2.53%, which is higher than the Alexandrina Council average growth of 1.94% in 2024.

Strathalbyn has new housing developments, and with families moving into the area, the demand for sport and recreation in this township is expected to increase. The community is seeking good quality facilities, and while the need for traditional sports such as AFL football, cricket, netball and tennis is currently being met, people are having to travel significant distances to access growth sports like basketball and soccer. Soccer and basketball are high-priority sports within this area, as there are limited and, in some cases, unsuitable facilities. Further to this, the soccer and basketball clubs in Strathalbyn have some of the highest memberships within the Council area, supporting the case for improved facility provision. The Strathalbyn Racing Club also maintains a strong membership base, further demonstrating the high level of community participation in sport and recreation and the importance of providing quality facilities to meet current and future demand..

Area 1 – Facility ownership

- 25% Council (4 sites)
- 31.3% Private (5 sites)
- 25% Community (4 sites)
- 12.5% DECS (2 sites)
- 6.3% Crown (1 site).

Facility findings

Strathalbyn:

- Strathalbyn Recreation Ground has very good quality facilities that are overall fit for purpose.
- The Strathalbyn Skate Park is in good condition and is well utilised.
- The Strathalbyn Racing Club facilities are well maintained and heavily utilised during the racing season, with racing activities occurring for approximately six months of the year. The club's strong patronage and membership demonstrate its importance as a sport and recreation asset
- Strathalbyn Strikers Soccer Club facilities are not suitable for their needs, especially with high usage and growth in the sport. Basic amenities such as toilets and change room facilities are not provided (only portable facilities on site).
- Strathalbyn Basketball Association utilise one local indoor school court in the township; additional courts are needed to meet the current membership, demand and growth in the sport.
- There is an adequate supply of tennis and netball courts in Strathalbyn. The Strathalbyn Tennis Club has nine courts used only for tennis. The Strathalbyn Netball Club and John Wesley Tennis Club share eight courts used for both netball and tennis.

Finniss:

- Finniss Sports Ground is in very poor condition, and all facilities are not suitable for sport.

Ashbourne:

- Ashbourne Oval is only used for cricket, has no lights or change rooms. This oval is only used for cricket.
- Site could have capacity for other cricket clubs to use as overflow.

Challenges:

- Challenges include the distribution of ovals, with ovals within Strathalbyn highly utilised, while ovals in smaller townships are under-utilised and have capacity for greater use.

Sport and Recreation facilities

Key sport and recreation facilities include:

Facility	What is there?	Ownership	Clubs and membership
Strathalbyn Recreation Grounds, Coronation Road and Ashbourne Road	One oval, clubrooms, 8 netball courts (multi-use – also for tennis)	Council and community owned	• Strathalbyn Football Club (250 members) • Strathalbyn Cricket Club (119 members) • Strathalbyn Netball Club (170 members) • Strathalbyn Softball Club (membership unknown) • John Wesley Tennis Club (membership unknown)
Strathalbyn Polo and Recreation grounds, Callington Road	One soccer ground, clubrooms, shed, grounds used for horse activities	Privately owned	• Strathalbyn Strikers Soccer Club (205 members) • Strathalbyn Pony Club (18 members) • Strathalbyn Show Jumping Club (70 members) • Adelaide Hills Dressage Club (84 members)
Strathalbyn Tennis Club, 2 Murray Street	9 tennis courts, clubroom	Community owned	• Strathalbyn Tennis Club (90 members)
Strathalbyn Bowling Club, 5 Colman Terrace	2 bowling greens, clubroom	Community owned	• Strathalbyn Bowling Club (72 members)
Strathalbyn Basketball Association, Eastern Fleurieu School	One basketball court	DECS	• Strathalbyn Basketball Association (412 members)
Strathalbyn Little Athletics, Eastern Fleurieu School	Oval used for activities	DECS	• Strathalbyn Little Athletics (membership unknown)
Angas Go Kart Club, 96 Nine Mile Road	Track and clubroom	Privately Owned	• Angas Go Kart Club (165 members)
Great Southern Archers (formerly Strathalbyn Target Archers Inc), Forrest Road	Archery grounds	Crown Land	• Great Southern Archers (62 members)
Strathalbyn Golf Club, Cox Road	Golf course and clubroom	Privately owned	• Strathalbyn Golf Club (150 members)
Strathalbyn Racing Club, 164 Dry Plains Road	Racecourse and associated facilities	Privately owned	• Strathalbyn Racing Club (499 membership)
Strathalbyn Harness Racing Club	Unknown	Privately owned	• Membership unknown
Ashbourne Cricket Club, Ashbourne Oval, Bull Creek Road	Hall and oval	Community owned	• Ashbourne Cricket Club (membership unknown)
Finniss Sports Ground, 4 Hamley Terrace	Oval, clubroom, 3 outdoor basketball courts, cricket nets	Council	• No clubs (all have folded)
Strathalbyn Skate Park, North Parade	Skate park, pathways, seating	Council	• Community use
Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club, Lot 10 167 Langhorne Creek Road	Model aircraft facilities	Community owned	• Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club (45 members)
Strathalbyn Community Swimming Pool, Colman Terrace	50m pool, toddler pool, kiosk and changing facilities	Council	• Great Southern Swimming Club (99 members) • General community use

- The Strathalbyn Football Club has a high membership with 250 players. Based on the SANFL benchmark of 175 club players to every oval, this ground is at capacity, which has also been demonstrated through the club survey in which both the Strathalbyn Football and Cricket Clubs stated they are seeking access to additional ovals for their sport.
- While the Strathalbyn Racing Club is a significant recreation and sporting asset with strong membership and patronage, its racing facilities are primarily utilised for approximately six months of the year. This presents an opportunity to investigate and advocate for increased year-round use of the site and its facilities, including complementary recreation, community, event and sporting activities that maximise community benefit and asset utilisation outside of the racing season.

Recommendations

- Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct (Lot 10) is a high priority for this region. Strathalbyn is a sporting hub that will continue to grow in population. The precinct could possibly include a flexible open space which includes soccer pitches, football/cricket oval and indoor basketball courts/facilities.
- Indoor basketball courts are needed in the Strathalbyn township. Continue to plan for a new basketball facility at Lot 10. Council to also consider opportunities within future developments and, in the short-term, work with schools and neighbouring Councils to resolve immediate challenges in basketball court provision.
- Soccer facilities within Strathalbyn are a very high priority with soccer pitches and a clubroom being a high priority for Lot 10. Council to actively plan for soccer facilities and work with schools and neighbouring Councils to ensure adequate provision into the future. Options at the soccer club's current home at the Recreation and Polo Grounds should also be considered. There may be benefits to reaching long-term agreements with the private landowner at this site, and for this to be further investigated by Council.
- Advocate for increased year-round utilisation of the Strathalbyn Racing Club precinct and associated facilities to maximise community benefit, improve asset utilisation outside of the racing season, and support the long-term sustainability of this important recreation and sporting asset
- Assist Strathalbyn football and cricket clubs to access ovals during times of high demand. This could be through joint user agreements with schools or the use of other ovals within the broader Council context.
- Work with developers through open discussions and negotiations to identify opportunities where possible to provide the facilities needed for sport

- within new residential developments in Strathalbyn.
- Strathalbyn Recreation Ground sports lighting to be assessed to meet 100 LUX minimum for football and cricket.
- Consider community needs and club membership before any improvements to tennis/netball courts – there is an adequate supply (potentially high supply) within the township.
- Community to have access to Council-owned tennis courts for casual use. This could be stated within future lease agreements, and Council to work with the clubs to facilitate access.
- Finniss Sports Ground is in very poor condition with the future of this site needing to be assessed as it is not suitable for sport use.
- Provide club development support to all clubs by providing advice, training and leadership to guide and build their capacity to manage and promote their facilities and programs for the benefit of the community.
- Ensure a maintenance and inspection program is implemented for skate and BMX facilities so that these facilities are well maintained and any risk management issues are addressed.

Port Elliot

Overview

Port Elliot is a quiet township, popular as a holiday destination while also close to Adelaide for day trippers and even commuters. The continued expansion of the Adelaide metropolitan area together with ongoing improvements to road links between the Fleurieu Peninsula and Adelaide has brought an influx of retirees. The town has a higher proportion of people aged over 60 years and lower proportion of children under 18 years old. Population in Port Elliot is 2,251 people.

Area 2 – Facility ownership

- 83.3% Council (5 sites)
- 16.7% non-council (1 site)

Facility findings

Port Elliot Oval:

- Port Elliot Oval is a key community facility with high club membership, particularly the Southern Breakers Soccer Club that has 286 members, the highest club membership in the area (apart from the Port Elliot Surf Lifesaving Club and Strathalbyn Basketball Association).
- The site includes the cricket club, soccer club and a skate facility

Sport and Recreation facilities

Key sport and recreation facilities include:

Facility	What is there?	Ownership	Clubs and membership
Port Elliot Bowling Club, The Cutting, Port Elliot	1 clubroom, 2 bowling greens	Community owned	Port Elliot Bowling Club (127 members)
Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club, The Cutting, Port Elliot	Clubrooms and surf lifesaving infrastructure	Non-Council	Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club (625 members)
Port Elliot Tennis Club, Mason Street, Port Elliot	6 tennis courts	Community owned	Port Elliot Tennis Club (127 members)
Port Elliot Oval, North Terrace, Port Elliot	1 oval (that includes 1 full-sized soccer pitch for seniors and three small pitches for juniors), clubroom, cricket nets, skate facility, and 1 netball court	Council	- Port Elliot Cricket Club (105 members) - Southern Breakers Soccer Club (286 members) - Also includes a skate facility
Port Elliot Half-Pipe Skate Facility (located next to Port Elliot Oval)	As above	Council	Community use
Great Southern Table Tennis, Port Elliot Institute Hall, 16 The Strand, Port Elliot	Hall	Council	Great Southern Table Tennis (144 members)

- Port Elliot Oval buildings are in a poor, ageing condition. There are no adequate change rooms especially for growing sports such as soccer or to help facilitate female participation.
- Sports lighting is in poor condition and requires a lighting LUX audit.
- The skate facility is also ageing and likely to receive limited use.

Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club:

- The club has very high membership with 625 members (highest in Alexandrina Council area).
- The facility is in good condition and is well utilised.

Port Elliot Tennis Club:

- High supply of tennis courts based on population; however, the club also has strong membership to support the provision. Consider membership and number of courts required when due for asset renewal.

Port Elliot Bowling Club

- Is in a prime location which is a benefit to recruiting members and attracting visitors and tourists to the club.
- Opportunity to attract sporting events.

Challenges:

- Some clubs expressed challenges with maintenance (due to coastal location) including the Port Elliot Bowling Club and seeking Council assistance in this area.
- Some clubs are seeking Council assistance with

longer term lease agreements, facility improvements and access to grant funding.

Recommendations

- Develop a master plan for Port Elliot Oval that considers the needs of all sports and unstructured recreation as a priority with an outcome on additional upgraded change room facilities to help with growth in sport especially female participation.
- There is potential to consider other clubs within the township and surrounding areas (eg Middleton) in the future planning for Port Elliot Oval. Multi-use facilities will be important.
- Review the suitability of cricket and soccer sharing facilities given different type of use.
- Work with Victor Harbor Council on opportunities for soccer across the region. The Southern Breakers Soccer Club is also using Endeavour College grounds in Victor Harbor.
- A skate facility that caters for both Port Elliot and Middleton could be considered given the close proximity of the two townships.
- Port Elliot is an area of high visitation and tourism, improved facilities would be justified.
- Engagement with clubs in this area on an ongoing basis will be required to understand any future challenges and to ensure they continue to thrive and be sustainable into the future.

Mount Compass

Overview

Mount Compass is a small township, traditionally supported by farming. It has an R-12 area school and a population of 1,232 people. Mount Compass has a high quality golf course that attracts many golfers across the state and country. The course is listed in the Australian Golf Digest top 100 courses in Australia. Mount Compass hosted the country's only Cow Race, the Compass Cup, for nearly 50 years starting in 1973. Originally conceived as a way to bring together the surrounding communities, it became a regional institution that attracted thousands of visitors to the town.

Area 3 - Facility ownership

- 50% Council (2 sites)
- 25% Community (1 site)
- 25% Private (1 site).

Sport and Recreation facilities

Key sport and recreation facilities include:
(see table below)

Facility Findings

- The town has a good quality recreation park with skate and BMX facilities.
- High quality golf course, privately-owned and redeveloped in 2016.
- High provision of sport facilities in the township, based on population.
- Very high provision of tennis courts (7 courts) based on population and membership numbers.
- Change rooms need to meet minimum standards in AFL Facility Guidelines.
- Sports lighting LUX audit is required at Mount Compass sports grounds to ensure minimum standard for sport is being met.
- High provision of ovals (2 in the township) based on population and known club membership numbers.
- Netball, football and cricket clubs all have good membership numbers.
- All clubs could benefit from club development support (eg strategic planning, governance, volunteer management).

Challenges

- Some of the community-owned clubs have expressed they have challenges funding improvements to facilities and meeting operational costs.
- All clubs are seeking more information and support with training, grant opportunities, volunteer retention and funding.
- The Mount Compass Netball Club and Mount Compass Tennis Club's would like to resurface their courts.
- The Mount Compass Sports and Social Club would like to upgrade toilet facilities to meet DDA standards.

Facility	What is there?	Ownership	Clubs and membership
Mount Compass Community Centre Oval, Peters Terrace	1 oval, sheds, public toilet and clubroom 3 asphalt netball courts and clubroom 7 tennis courts (acrylic) and a clubroom)	Community Owned	• Mount Compass Sports and Social Club (260 members) • Mount Compass Football Club (150 members) • Mount Compass Netball Club (141 members) • Mount Compass Tennis Club (30 members)
Mount Compass Burgess Oval, Burgess Drive	Clubroom and 1 oval	Council Owned	• Mount Compass Cricket Club (112 members) • Mount Compass Soccer Club (membership unknown)
Mount Compass Recreation Park	Skate park, BMX track, playground	Council Owned	• Community use
Mount Compass Golf Course	Driving range, greens, facilities including bar and restaurant.	Private	• Mount Compass Golf Club (80 members)

Recommendations

- Maintain Council-owned facilities to a good standard in accordance with condition audits.
- Consider any actions for Council-owned facilities that may come from the BCA audit.
- Support all clubs (Council and community-owned) by promoting the attractions and facilities of Mount Compass to encourage greater visitation to the township.
- Provide club development support, grant writing, communication and training opportunities to all clubs (both Council and community-owned).
- Further investigate how community owned clubs can be supported by Council to ensure their future sustainability in the medium to long term.

Milang

Overview

Milang is a small community, on the banks of Lake Alexandrina, with a population of 831 people. It is a quiet town, with the predominant age group being 60–69 years old. Households are mostly couples without children. In the late 19th century, Milang was the largest inland port in South Australia, providing a busy trade and produce hub for road transport from Melbourne. Now it is home to charming old buildings, a caravan park, and an attractive foreshore area.

Area 3 –Facility Ownership

- 75% Council (3 sites)
- 25% Community (1 site).

Sport and Recreation facilities

Key sport and recreation facilities include:
(see table below)

Facility Findings

- The town has had limited residential growth, and many of the clubs have folded including the Milang Tennis Club and Milang Netball Club.
- Other clubs have small memberships including the cricket club that currently has no members (but operating) and the football club with 42 members.
- Based on the SANFL benchmark of 175 club players to every oval, the Milang Oval is under utilised with only 42 football player members and 0 cricket members.
- Milang Oval change rooms do not meet the minimum standard and a lighting LUX audit is required at this site.
- The Milang Tennis Club courts and clubroom are no longer used.

Challenges

- Many clubs in this township are at risk of closing due to limited demand within the town.
- When clubs close often the facilities are handed back to Council (even if community-owned) which provides challenges for Council on what to do with the assets that may no longer be needed.

Recommendations

Milang Oval

- Work with clubs to ensure buildings are maintained, and the grounds fit for purpose. Consider outcomes of BCA audits.
- The Milang Oval has capacity for greater use and could assist other clubs in the Council area seeking additional ovals for training or games. Further to this, revenue could also be generated for the Milang clubs by hiring the facilities to other clubs who have ovals that are at capacity (e.g. Strathalbyn Football Club, Strathalbyn Cricket Club and Langhorne Creek Cricket Club).

Facility	What is there?	Ownership	Clubs and membership
Milang Oval, Luard Street	1 clubroom, change room (cricket and football), 1 oval, cricket nets, historical society building, Red Cross building, a toilet block	Council	• Milang Cricket Club (0 members – still operating) • Milang Football Club (42 members) • Milang Netball Club (0 members – has folded)
Milang Lawn Bowls Club, Daranda Terrace	1 clubroom, 2 bowling greens, carpark	Community Owned	• Milang Lawn Bowls Club (32 members)
Milang Tennis Club, Luard Street	5 tennis courts and a clubroom	Council	• No clubs (has folded)
Milang Regatta Club and Milang Search and Rescue, Foreshore Milang	Club facility	Community Owned	• Milang Regatta Club and Milang Search and Rescue (20 members)

- Consider the medium to long-term future of Milang Oval in consultation with the clubs that use the facility.

Milang Tennis Club – Courts and Clubroom

- In consultation with the community, review the need for the tennis courts at Luard Street.
- Consider re-purposing courts and providing other recreation use.
- Ensure two high quality multi-use courts with tennis, basketball and other games, that can be used by the community and visitors to the town.

Club Support

- Clubs in the town require club development support to help build their capacity and where possible, grow their memberships to improve future sustainability.
- Monitor Milang club membership trends closely and develop close working relationships with the clubs to build their capacity.

Middleton

Overview

Middleton is a coastal community with a small population of 1,057 people. It is located between Port Elliot and Goolwa, with the majority of the community accessing the neighbouring townships for structured club sport and recreation. Middleton is a popular location for surfing and has a number of surf schools located near the foreshore. The town has a higher proportion of children (aged under 18 years).

Area 5 –Facility ownership

- 100% Council (2 sites)

Sport and Recreation facilities

Key sport and recreation facilities include:

Facility	What is there?	Ownership	Clubs and membership
Middleton Tennis Courts, Abbotts Reserve	2 tennis courts	Council	N/A
Middleton Half-Pipe Skate Facility, Abbotts Reserve (Southern end)	1 half-pipe skate facility	Council	N/A

Facility findings

- The Middleton half-pipe is an older skate facility. There has been a petition in recent years seeking a skate park in Middleton. A skate park was also expressed in Middleton Village conversations.

Recommendations

- Review suitable locations in Middleton and the surrounding area for an upgraded skate facility.
- Promote the coastal lifestyle and unstructured recreation opportunities within this township that include surf schools and learn to surf programs.

Langhorne Creek, Hartley and Woodchester

Overview

The Langhorne Creek, Hartley and Woodchester area has a population of 847. Langhorne Creek is primarily a wine region with a history dating back to the 1850's. It has a higher proportion of young people aged between 15-19 years old than South Australia. The majority of the community is employed locally in the wine and grape growing industries.

Facility ownership

- 100% Community (1 site)

Sport and Recreation facilities

Key sport and recreation facilities include:

Facility	What is there?	Ownership	Clubs and membership
Langhorne Creek Oval, Murray Road	1 oval, 1 bowling green, 4 netball courts (multi-use with 6 tennis courts), clubrooms, playground, cricket nets	Community	- Langhorne Creek Bowling Club (membership unknown) - Langhorne Creek Cricket Club (115 members) - Langhorne Creek Football Club (150 members) - Langhorne Creek Netball Club (130 members)

Facility findings

- Strong club membership and successful clubs in the region.
- Clubs work well together, and are generally happy with their facilities.
- The site has high-quality and very well-maintained sporting facilities.
- This community sporting complex has acrylic netball courts in excellent condition, a good quality playground, oval with digital scoreboard, excellent quality cricket nets, sealed carparking, clubrooms for netball, bowling and football/cricket.
- SANFL facility audit showed that players' and umpires change rooms need upgrading to meet minimum standards, and the site requires a lighting LUX audit to ensure the site is meeting the minimum standards.

Challenges

The challenges expressed by the clubs in the survey included:

- Cricket:
 - Pressures meeting operational costs and financially contributing to improvements to facilities.
 - Access to ovals can be difficult, and also currently using Milang Oval and Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School for additional oval space.
- Netball:
 - Volunteer retention is a challenge.
- Football:
 - Stated they would benefit from training and support on club development topics such as volunteer management, governance, grant writing, and seeking sponsorship.

Recommendations

- Clubs in this area are self-sufficient and are supported by a strong local community.
- The clubs would benefit from communication and support from the Council on training opportunities available on relevant issues, such as retaining volunteers, strategic planning, and grant writing. Training is often available through the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and Clubs SA.
- Future Lot 10 Strathalbyn Recreation Precinct would also assist Langhorne Creek Clubs in the long term with additional oval space for overflow.

Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island and Currency Creek

Overview

Goolwa, Hindmarsh Island and Currency Creek have a population of 9,416 people. Goolwa is the largest central Hub within Alexandrina Council. Goolwa has had significant investment in sport and recreation facilities in recent years and is well provided for. Goolwa has a higher percentage of people aged 60-74 years than the average South Australian, and a low percentage of young and middle-aged people under 39 years old. Goolwa is a popular location for holidays and day trips and attracts many visitors from Adelaide throughout the year.

Facility ownership

- 73% Council (8 sites)
- 18% Private (2 sites)
- 9% Crown (1 site).

Sport and Recreation facilities

(See next page)

Sport and Recreation facilities

Key sport and recreation facilities include:

Facility	What is there?	Ownership	Clubs and membership
Goolwa Districts Pony Club, Washington Street	Pony club and clubroom, shed, toilets	Council (leased)	Goolwa Districts Pony Club (6 members)
Goolwa Aquatic Sailing Club, 92 Barrage Road	Clubrooms, function spaces, café	Council (leased)	- Goolwa Aquatic Sailing Club (118 members) - Coorong Dragons (39 members) - Goolwa Vintage Boat Club - Goolwa Speed Boats
Goolwa Sport Stadium, Glendale Grove Goolwa	1x indoor compliant full sized basketball court	Council	- Goolwa Magic Basketball Club (163 members) - Goolwa International Rules Basketball Club Inc (163 members) - Goolwa Badminton Club (30 members) - Great Southern Archers (62 members)
Goolwa Skate and Bike Park	Concrete skate facility, asphalt pump track facility, dirt jumps.	Council	General community use
Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct, Goyder Street	1 Oval 4 Cricket nets 3 Bowling greens 3 Tennis courts 3 Netball courts Clubrooms Sports lighting for all courts and oval Public toilet	Council	- Goolwa Bowling Club (150 members) - Goolwa Cricket Club (84 members) - Goolwa Croquet Club (membership unknown) - Goolwa Football Club (200 members) - Goolwa Hockey Club (50 members) - Goolwa Netball Club (164 members) - Goolwa Tennis Club (61 members)
Goolwa Pistol and Shooting Club, 59 Peel Road, Currency Creek	Clubroom and shooting ranges	Crown Land	Goolwa Pistol and Shooting Club (116 members)
Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club, 112 Barrage Road	Yacht club facility	Crown Land	Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club (membership unknown)
Goolwa Rowing Club, Coorong Quays, Tolarno Dr, Hindmarsh Island	Sheds	Private	Goolwa Rowing Club (48 members)
Goolwa Surf Lifesaving Club, Beach Road	Surf lifesaving club room and associated facilities	Crown Land	Goolwa Surf Lifesaving Club (membership unknown)
Fleurieu Aquatic Centre, 4 Ocean Road Chilton	25m indoor pool	Council Joint user with Victor Harbor Council	Great Southern Swimming Club (99 members)
Chilton Rocks Surf Lifesaving Club	Surf Lifesaving Clubrooms	Crown Land	Chilton Rocks Surf Lifesaving Club (203 members)

Facility findings

Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct

- There is a large number of user groups that use Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct.
- Goolwa Oval is highly utilised, and the oval is at capacity.
- The Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct clubs require support as they establish an Oval Management Committee and develop ways of working together and with Council.
- Goolwa Tennis Club is seeking a clubroom upgrade.

Goolwa Aquatic Centre

- Goolwa Aquatic Centre are sharing toilets with Bombora Restaurant – seeking separate toilet/change facilities.

Goolwa Rowing Club

- Goolwa Rowing Club would like a purpose-built facility for rowing.

Goolwa Pony Club

- Goolwa Pony Club has an ageing clubroom that appears to be in poor condition; further assessment required by Council, including space requirements.

Recommendations

- Working in collaboration, support the Goolwa Oval Recreation Precinct clubs to establish the Oval Management Committee and ensure the management of the new facility is successful.
- Review the need for a separate toilet and change facility at the Goolwa Aquatic Centre.
- Determine any opportunities for Goolwa Rowing Club to share with other clubs in the region.
- Review future needs of the Goolwa Pony Club, and assess the condition of their existing clubroom.
- The Goolwa Oval is at capacity for use. Develop agreements with schools to access ovals if further space is needed for clubs.
- Consider hockey in any future planning for soccer facilities.

Clayton Bay

Overview

A riverside town with a population of 536 people, Clayton Bay is a quiet destination that includes a caravan park and attracts visitors interested in eco-tourism, bird watching, sailing and boating activities. The township is also home to the South Coast Model Aerosport Club, which provides opportunities for model aircraft flying and contributes to the diversity of recreation activities available within the area.

Facility ownership

- 75% Council (2 sites)
- 25% Private (1 site)

Sport and Recreation facilities

Key sport and recreation facilities include:

Facility	What is there?	Ownership	Clubs and membership
South Coast Model Aerosport Club	Model aerosport facilities	Private	South Coast Model Aerosport Club (membership unknown)
Jetty Island View Drive, Clayton Bay	Jetty and boat ramp	Council	General community use
Clayton Bay Boat Club, Lot 270 Island View Drive	Boat ramp, marina berths, clubrooms	Council (leased)	Clayton Bay Boat Club (membership unknown)

Facility findings

- Recreation in this township includes boat and sailing activities

Recommendations

- Develop working relationships with clubs in Clayton Bay to support groups into the future.
- Undertake the delivery of a new bike park within the foreshore reserve as per council resolution.

Appendix E

Local Sport and Recreation Participation/Club survey outcomes

Data collected through the sport and recreation club survey provides a snapshot of sport participation across Alexandrina Council.

Top Participation Sports in Alexandrina	Total Club Membership (Council-Wide)	Township with the highest club membership
1. Surf Lifesaving	828	Port Elliot
2. AFL Football	792	Strathalbyn
3. Basketball	702	Strathalbyn
4. Netball	605	Strathalbyn
5. Cricket	535	Strathalbyn
6. Horse Racing	499	Strathalbyn
7. Soccer	491	Port Elliot
8. Tennis	308	Port Elliot
9. Bowling	252	Port Elliot
10. Golf	230	Strathalbyn
11. Sailing, Rowing, Dragon Boat Racing	205	Goolwa
12. Equestrian	178	Strathalbyn
13. Go Kart Racing	168	Strathalbyn
14. Shooting	156	Goolwa
15. Swimming	99	Strathalbyn/ Goolwa
16. Archery	66	Strathalbyn/ Goolwa
17. Hockey	50	Goolwa
18. Model Aircraft	45	Strathalbyn
19. Badminton	30	Goolwa

*The data provides a snapshot only, as not all clubs completed the survey. Membership figures have been updated where additional survey responses were received during the 2026 community engagement period. The data also does not include sports and recreation activities occurring outside of club structures, such as school sport, casual competitions, informal participation or general recreational use.

2024 Alexandrina Club Survey Results

A survey was undertaken with sport and recreation clubs to understand current membership/trends, facility condition, current usage, ownership, opportunities and areas for improvement. The survey was conducted during April/May 2024 for a period of four weeks.

A total of 55 responses were received:

About the respondents

- 36.4% (20 respondents) – President
- 34.5% (19 respondents) – Secretary
- 12.7% (7 respondents) – Treasurer
- 16.4% have another role on the club committee or within the club.

What sports did we hear from?

- 25.4% AFL football or cricket clubs (7 football responses and 7 cricket responses)
- 18.2% Lawn bowls and netball clubs (5 lawn bowl responses and 5 netball clubs)
- 14.4% Golf, basketball, surf lifesaving and table tennis clubs (3 responses received from each)
- 5.5% were from soccer clubs (3 responses)
- 36.5% responses received from other clubs (including hockey, archery, swimming, shooting, badminton, motor and go kart racing, paddle boarding, boating- sailing, yacht, rowing, dragon boating and marine rescue).

Where are the clubs located?

1. 29% Strathalbyn (16 clubs)
2. 23.6% Goolwa (13 clubs)
3. 14.5% Port Elliot (8 clubs)
4. 14.5% Mt Compass (8 clubs)
5. 5.4% Langhorne Creek (3 clubs)
6. 5.4% Milang (3 clubs)
7. 5.4% Other (including Chiton, Currency Creek and Hindmarsh 3 clubs).

Club membership statistics

The clubs represented a combined total of **6,165 members**, demonstrating the benefit that clubs bring to the well-being of Alexandrina Council residents and the community.

The clubs with the highest membership:

1. Port Elliot Surf Lifesaving Club – 625 members
2. Strathalbyn Basketball Association – 412 members
3. Southern Breakers Soccer Club – 286 members
4. Mount Compass Sports and Social Club – 260 members
5. Strathalbyn Football Club – 250 members
6. Strathalbyn Strikers Soccer Club – 205 members.

Over the past five years:

- 45.5% of clubs stated that their membership is increasing
- 18.1% said membership has decreased
- 29% have stayed the same
- 7.2% stated not applicable.

In Alexandrina Council, clubs have:

- 34.5% (19 responses) – mostly senior members with some junior-aged members
- 34.5% (19 responses) – equal representation of both senior and junior-aged members
- 18.2% (10 responses) – mostly junior members with some senior-aged members
- 10.9% (6 responses) – exclusively senior-aged members
- 1.8% (1 response) – other.

Club development

Clubs have said that the best way to grow and develop their membership is (in order of preference):

1. By providing a friendly, welcoming and supportive club culture
2. Providing good quality facilities
3. Social opportunities and events
4. Social media promotion
5. Social competitions
6. Modified competitions for beginners
7. School clinics.

Clubs consider the following as most important to the future development of their club (in order of preference):

1. Volunteer retention
2. More promotion of the club
3. Training and development for clubs on topics such as volunteer management, governance, grant writing and sponsorship
4. Improved playing facilities
5. Improved social facilities
6. Networking and collaboration with similar clubs.

Club operations

Financial:

- 63.6% of clubs (35 responses) strongly agree/ agree they are self-sufficient and don't rely on external funding
- 30.9% of clubs (17 responses) disagree/strongly disagree that they are self-sufficient and do need external funding and assistance
- 3.6% of clubs (3 responses) are unsure.

Operational costs:

- 67.2% (37 clubs) said they can meet all operational costs and can financially contribute to improvements to their club facility
- 18.1% (10 clubs) said they are unable to meet their operations costs and/or financially contribute to improvements to their club facility
- 7.2% (4 clubs) are unsure
- 3.6% (2 clubs) said not relevant.

Volunteering:

- 74% of clubs are well supported by their volunteers (41 responses)
- 16.3% of clubs don't feel they are supported by volunteers (9 responses).

Working with Council:

- 38% (21 clubs) agree/strongly agree that they work closely with Council to develop their club
- 45.5% (25 clubs) do not believe that they work with Council to develop their club
- 12.7% (7 clubs) stated not relevant
- 3.6% (2 clubs) stated they are not sure.

Working with other facility user groups:

- 81.8% (45 clubs) agree/strongly agree that they have a good working relationship with other clubs that share their space
- 3.6% (2 clubs) said they do not have a good working relationship with clubs that share their space
- 1.8% (1 club) said they are unsure
- 12.7% (7 clubs) said not relevant.

Strategic Plan:

- 61.8% of clubs (34 responses) have a current strategic plan
- 25.4% (14 clubs) do not have a strategic plan
- 7.2% (4 clubs) are not sure
- 1.8% (1 club) stated not relevant.

Club Facilities

Maintenance:

- 85% of clubs (47 responses) strongly agree/agree that their facilities are well looked after and maintained
- 10.9% of clubs (6 responses) disagree/strongly disagree that their facilities are well looked after and maintained
- 3.6% (2 clubs) are not sure.

Fit for purpose:

- 70.9% (39 clubs) strongly agree/agree their facilities are appropriate for their needs
- 23.6% (13 clubs) believe their facilities are not appropriate for their needs
- 1.8% (1 club) is not sure.

Hire fees and charges:

- 63.6% (35 clubs) strongly agree/agree that the fees to hire their facilities are reasonable
- 7.2% (4 clubs) do not believe that the fees to hire facilities are reasonable
- 9.1% (5 clubs) are not sure
- 18.1% (10 clubs) stated not relevant.

Using other facilities

- 40% (22 clubs) use other facilities/venues for training, competition and social sport
- 60% (33 clubs) do not use other facilities or venues.

The key reasons for using other venues:

- Catering for increased demand/club growth (7 clubs) – 31.8%
- We use other facilities during winter/times of inclement weather (6 clubs) – 27.3%
- The club believes it has outgrown its facility and needs more space (4 clubs) – 18.2%
- The club's home ground is not available when they need it (2 clubs) – 13.6%
- Other – 9.4%.

How could Council assist Clubs going forward?

The clubs selected which areas they would like support from Council. Responses in order of preference:

1. Access to Council grant funding (49 responses)
2. Assistance with information on grants and other opportunities (42 responses)
3. Provision of adequate facilities (24 responses)
4. Promotion of activities (20 responses)
5. Assistance with maintenance or operation of facilities (23 responses)
6. Business, club or strategic club planning support (14 responses)
7. Accommodating growth in membership (12 responses)
8. Committee support and training (3 responses).

Appendix F

State and Association Feedback

Survey Responses

In February 2025, a questionnaire was sent to State Sporting Organisations and Associations seeking information on the strategic directions for their sports and key priorities. A total of 14 responses were received from individuals representing nine of the 12 listed organisations contacted for feedback, including:

- Great Southern Football League
- SANFL
- Great Southern Cricket Association
- SACA
- Sailing Australia
- Badminton SA
- Goolwa Badminton
- Great Southern Basketball Association
- Softball SA
- Table Tennis SA
- Great Southern Netball Association
- Bowls SA.

Findings included:

Great Southern Football League/SANFL:

- Experiencing growth in females and juniors
- SANFL is seeking improvements to floodlighting and change rooms in selected locations
- SANFL Key facility targets for Alexandrina Council include:
 - 55% of player and umpire change rooms are female-friendly.
 - 60% of playing fields have match standard (minimum 100 LUX, ideally 150 LUX) lighting.

Racing SA

- Racing SA views the Strathalbyn Racing Club as a strategic regional asset and is actively investigating opportunities to improve infrastructure, increase year-round utilisation, and support broader community and recreation outcomes alongside racing activities.

Softball SA

- Currently no programs in Alexandrina
- Expressed that some Council areas have Softball programs and would be interested in developing in Alexandrina if there is interest.

Great Southern Cricket Association / SACA:

- Key priority is ovals in new developments and gaining access to spaces
- Development of change room facilities at ovals (other than Strathalbyn and Goolwa) and improvements to oval lighting for community cricket
- Both organisations are focused on strengthening girls'/women's participation and junior participation
- SACA would like to increase participation in the Goolwa, Mount Compass, and Port Elliot.

Great Southern Basketball Association

- Key priority is fit-for-purpose facilities, additional courts and securing an indoor stadium for the wider region to cater for growing participation (discussions currently taking place with Alexandrina and Victor Harbor Council).

Great Southern Netball Association

- Stated membership has increased
- Key focus is on promoting netball in the region and upgrading netball facilities.

Bowls SA

- They stated the Alexandrina Council area is popular for bowls and attracts many people due to the tourism benefits of the region
- Would like to see the Council area hosting more events and for clubs to secure funding support
- Also stated that updated facilities will be important in the future for clubs.

Table Tennis SA

- Interested in access to multi-purpose indoor stadium facilities if and when available for programs and competitions.

Other Associations:

- Key priorities included continuing with their sport, growing and promoting within the Alexandrina Council region.

*Information contained within this document has been updated to reflect additional feedback received from sporting and recreation associations during the 2026 community engagement period, including revised membership figures, facility needs and future planning considerations.

Appendix G

South Australian Participation – AusPlay data

AusPlay is a national population survey funded and led by the Australian Sports Commission. It is the largest and most comprehensive survey, and is widely considered the single-source participation data currency for government and the sport sector. In 2023, AusPlay released its latest survey results, which included 1,280,327 adults and 233,111 children in South Australia to determine sport and recreation participation across the State

Overall Participation

- 80% of the SA population participate in sport and recreation at least once a week
- 60% of the SA population participate in sport and recreation at least three times a week.

Child Participation

- 52.1% of children participate at least once per week
- 70% participate in sport related activities.

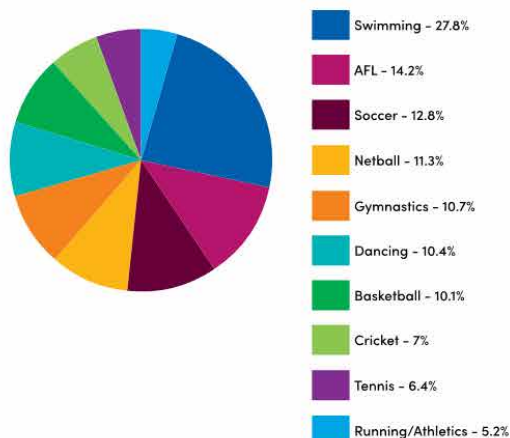
Physical Activity Guidelines

- 22.7% of people 65 years and over met the guidelines of 30 minutes of exercise everyday
- 36.1% of 18–64 year olds and over met the guidelines of 30 minutes of exercise everyday
- 26.1% of 15–17year-olds met the guidelines of 60 minutes of exercise everyday.

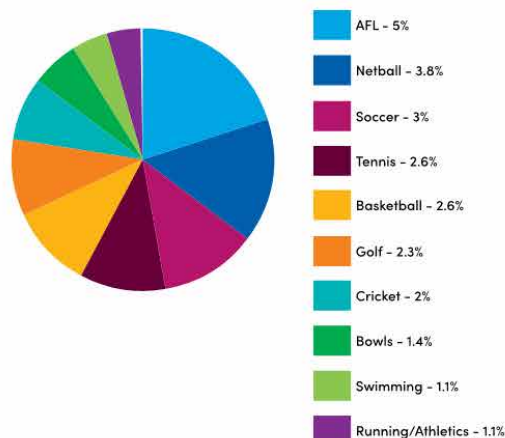
*AusPlay 2023 Survey Data provided by Australian Sports Commission and Clearinghouse for Sport.

AusPlay Data – South Australia

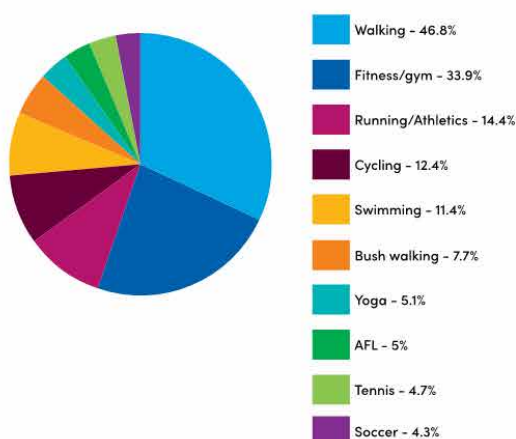
Activities most popular with children in South Australia:



Top activities for sport club participation in South Australia:



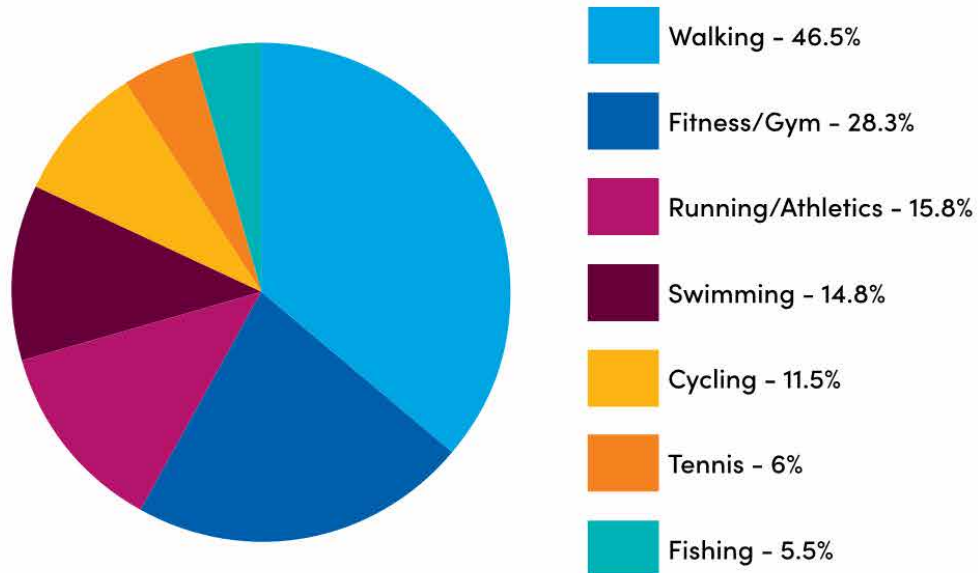
Activities most popular with adults in South Australia:



The 2023 AusPlay survey results showed that in South Australia, the most popular activity for children was swimming (27.8%), followed by AFL football (14.2%), soccer (12.8%) and netball (11.3%). The most popular activities for adults were walking (46.8%), followed by fitness/gym (33.9%). The top activities for sport club participation were AFL football (5.0%), followed by netball (3.8%), and soccer (3%).

*AusPlay 2023 Survey Data provided by Australian Sports Commission and Clearinghouse for Sport.

AusPlay Data - Alexandrina Council Area



The 2023 AusPlay survey results showed that for people living in the Alexandrina LGA the most popular activities included walking (46.5%), fitness/gym (28.3%), running/athletics (15.8%), and swimming (14.8%).

Appendix H

Local Sport Trends and Findings

From club survey results and analysis, Alexandrina Council has a total of 65 clubs and over 6,165 people involved in club sport and recreation. The local trends and findings include:

Surf Lifesaving

Surf Lifesaving plays a vital role in coastal towns by saving lives, promoting water safety, and fostering a sense of community through volunteerism, education, and sports programs. Alexandrina Council has high-quality surf lifesaving facilities, programs and significant community involvement. Surf Lifesaving is the highest participation sport in Alexandrina Council, with a total membership of 828 people. There are three surf lifesaving clubs in the region, Port Elliot Surf Lifesaving Club, the largest, with an impressive 625 members.

Football and Cricket

Football and cricket continue to be high participation sports within Alexandrina Council. Football has the second-highest participation in the region with 792 members. Cricket has 535 members and is one of the top five participation sports in the LGA. Most towns have a local oval, which is often the center of the community, with its own history and story. From research, it has been found that ovals located near the Strathalbyn and Goolwa hubs are at capacity, while in some townships with smaller populations, ovals have capacity for additional use. This presents a unique challenge with the current distribution of ovals.

Indoor Basketball

There is only one Council-owned indoor basketball court within the Alexandrina Council region, which is situated at the Goolwa Sports Stadium. Basketball has some of the highest memberships in the Council area. For example, the Strathalbyn Basketball Association has 412 members. The low provision of indoor courts available is a big challenge for the sport, limiting the number of people who can currently participate within the Alexandrina Council area.

Netball

Netball participation continues to be strong across Alexandrina, it is the fourth highest participation sport with 605 members. The clubs are well provided for with good provision of netball courts, based on the current and anticipated future population.

Soccer

Soccer is a relatively new growth sport for South Australia, and due to this, there are no purpose-built soccer facilities within the Council area. Soccer is being played on ovals typically used for AFL football and cricket. Soccer is rapidly growing, providing opportunities for all ages and genders. Soccer clubs in Alexandrina Council have some of the highest membership numbers. For example, the Southern Breakers Soccer Club in Port Elliot currently has 286 members. For comparison, the largest AFL football club in Alexandrina, the Strathalbyn Football Club, has 250 members. The rapid growth in soccer is not expected to slow down, and the limited provision is a significant gap.

Tennis Courts

While tennis remains popular with seniors, junior participation in tennis is declining. This is mostly due to competition from other popular sports such as soccer, basketball and AFL football. There was an overall 35% drop in tennis players in Australia between 2001 and 2016, indicating a declining trend. Alexandrina Council has a high supply of tennis courts, and there may be a case for consolidation of courts in some areas when assets are due for replacement or renewal.

Lawn Bowls

With an ageing population and many retirees living in Alexandrina Council, lawn bowl clubs have strong membership and are well utilised. Port Elliot is the largest bowling club in the region with 127 members.

Golf

Alexandrina has many golf courses, including the Mount Compass Golf Course, listed in the Australian Golf Digest top 100 courses in Australia.

Equestrian

The largest equestrian facility in Alexandrina is located at the Strathalbyn Polo and Recreation Grounds. A large facility, with a number of horse and pony clubs and a membership of 172 people.

Sailing, Yacht, Rowing and Boat Activities

Boating and sailing sports/unstructured activities are popular along the coast and lakeside at Goolwa, Port Elliot, Milang and Clayton Bay. These experiences are a drawcard to living and visiting the area, and there are many opportunities and high-quality facilities along the foreshore.

Horse Racing

Horse racing is a significant recreation and sporting activity within Alexandrina Council, centred on the Strathalbyn Racing Club. Updated membership information received through the 2026 community engagement process identified approximately 499 members, making horse racing one of the largest organised sporting and recreation activities in the Council area. The Strathalbyn Racing Club has recently expanded its land holdings and is investigating long-term infrastructure improvements to support increased utilisation of the precinct and attract additional equine-related activities. While racing facilities are currently utilised primarily during a six-month racing season, opportunities exist to support greater year-round use and strengthen the site's role as a regional sporting, recreation and events destination.

Model Aircraft / Aerosports

Model aircraft flying represents a niche but valued recreation activity within Alexandrina Council. The Strathalbyn Model Aircraft Club has approximately 45 members, based on updated information received during the 2026 community engagement process, demonstrating ongoing interest in specialised aerial recreation activities within the region. In addition, the South Coast Model Aerosport Club operates from Clayton Bay and contributes to the diversity of recreation opportunities available across Alexandrina; however, current membership information was not available at the time of writing. Together, these clubs provide unique recreation opportunities that cater to a range of ages, interests and skill levels, and highlight the importance of supporting diverse recreation pursuits alongside traditional sports.

Other Recreation Activities

Other activities that Alexandrina residents participate in include shooting, swimming, archery, hockey and badminton.

Sport and Recreation Clubs- Council Owned Facilities

Sport and Recreation Clubs are experiencing challenges in improving and upgrading their ageing facilities. Many clubs were built 50-60 years ago and are facing facilities reaching the end of their asset life. With the decline in volunteerism and in some cases club membership, it is becoming increasingly difficult to fund and resource the work

that is required to be undertaken. Clubs are seeking greater support from Council in regards to maintenance and grant funding to assist. Clubs are also seeking support with training, advice, assistance with volunteer retention and promotion of their club and facilities.

Community and non- Council Owned Clubs

Community and non-Council-owned clubs are experiencing the same challenges as Council-owned clubs. There have been recent examples of clubs folding (Milang Tennis Club and Finnis Cricket Club), and club facilities being handed back to the Council. Community and non Council-owned clubs are having difficulty meeting their operational costs and improving their facilities. As shown in the SANFL facility audit data, the majority of community-owned clubs require change rooms to be upgraded and lighting to meet the minimum standard. These clubs have the additional challenge that they often receive very little funding or support from external sources, even though they provide a valuable service to the community.

Ageing population

Alexandrina Council has an ageing community, and this impacts the community's overall involvement and participation in selected sports. However, this also presents opportunities, with participation and membership in sports such as golf and bowls increasing with age.

A Changing Community

Where we live and how we live are changing as housing affordability and availability place pressure on many South Australians. The full impact is still to be determined, but many families are moving further from Adelaide to be able to afford housing or for a lifestyle change. Strathalbyn is a community that is seeing more young people and families move into the area, and this will increase the demand for sport and recreation opportunities.

Unstructured Recreation

There is an overall trend of unstructured recreation pursuits increasing, such as walking, cycling, swimming, kayaking and recreational surfing. The Alexandrina Council area lends itself to these activities, particularly along the coast and lakeside.

Sports Tourism and Events

An opportunity for Alexandrina Council is increased sports tourism, where people travel to observe or participate in sporting events, encompassing both spectator and active tourism. It is a rapidly growing sector of the industry, generating significant economic benefits for the region. The unique townships, coastal holiday spots, and proximity to local wine regions make Alexandrina Council an ideal choice to host events.

State and National Sport Trends and SA Game on Strategy

In South Australia, soccer and basketball are experiencing significant growth, with soccer participation increasing by 11% and basketball rising as a top team sport nationally. Australian rules football continues to be popular in South Australia, and netball participation is also very strong.

This is also demonstrated through Alexandrina's sport and recreation club survey, where football, netball, basketball and soccer are all sports with some of the highest local club memberships.

Basketball:

- Basketball is experiencing phenomenal growth across Australia, with participation reaching new heights.
- The NBL (National Basketball League) is considered the fastest-growing sporting league in Australia.

Soccer:

- Soccer participation in South Australia increased by 11% to 126,934 participants.
- This growth is attributed to the success of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ and Australia's national teams, along with Football Australia's initiatives.
- There has been a rise in women and girls' participation nationally, increasing by 16% to 221,436 participants.
- Registered coaches and volunteers have also increased, reflecting a growing workforce to support the game.

Australian Rules Football:

- South Australia has 64,000 participants, and continues to drive strong participation numbers across all levels of football
- Women and girls also account for 20% of all community football registrations nationally.

Netball

- Netball in South Australia has over 35,000 participants
- The sport is actively working to grow participation and revenue, and has several initiatives to increase male and mixed-gender participation.

Cricket

Cricket is another of Australia's major team sports in terms of participation, with nearly 800,000 participants across the country, and more than 50,000 of these in South Australia. Cricket participation is dominated by younger age groups, though far less so than soccer and (especially) basketball. Unlike those sports, cricket is also far more likely to be played by males.

Other sports and activities:

- Tennis and golf also continue to be popular
- National and state participation trends show that participation in non-sport-related physical activities has increased. Participation in walking, running, swimming, cycling and fitness is the most popular activity.

South Australian Government Game On Strategy

The trends impacting sport and recreation participation have been sourced from the South Australian State Government Game On Strategy and include:

Family and work pressures:

- People are experiencing increased pressures associated with managing their time and finances.

On-demand everything:

- Consumers now expect instant gratification, tailored to their individual circumstances.

Ageing population:

- The population is ageing, creating the need for more choices to be physically active.

Active Travel:

- The most common method of travel to work for employed people was: car driver 66.0%, public transport 7.2%, car passenger 4.6% and employee working from home 4.4%.

Experiences and personalisation:

- The flexibility of unstructured outdoor activities and experiences is becoming increasingly important to people.

Broader and more diverse population:

- 28.2% of Australians were born overseas, almost 20% of Australians have some form of disability, and 3% of Australians may have a diverse sexual orientation or gender identity.

New technology:

- Technology is changing the way people get information and view sports. Data demonstrates that as physical activity levels decline, screen-viewing behaviours increase.

Decline in volunteering:

- The labour input of Australian volunteers in sport is estimated to be valued at \$4 billion annually.

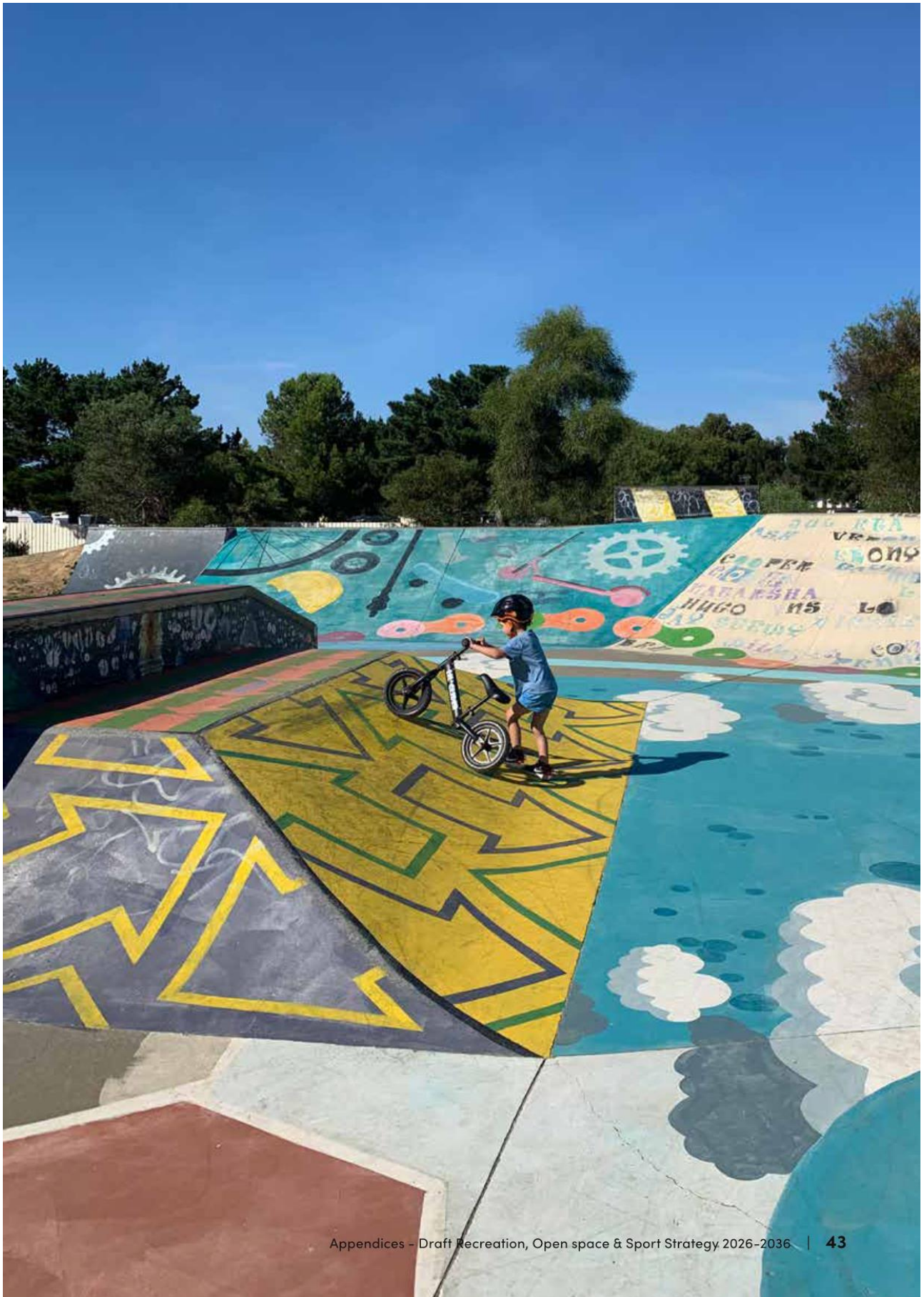
Urban planning infill:

- Urban planning infill is a key growth strategy to address changing demographics and affordability issues.

Megatrends in sport:

Six environmental factors are shaping sport into the future over the next 30 years.

1. A Perfect Fit
2. From Extreme to Mainstream
3. More than Sport
4. Everybody's Game
5. New Wealth New Talent
6. Tracksuits to Business Suits.





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