# Report Title

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| **Report**  **Type** | For information |
| **City Plan**  **Theme** | Community  Placemaking  Leadership |
| **Report**  **Author** | Social Planner (Corporate Services) |
| **Report**  **Summary** | This report provides a summary of the findings of the Inclusive Sports Facilities Assessment project. The data collected through this project will inform planning and decision-making about Council’s sporting assets for the next 10 years. |
| **Attachments** | Attachment 1 – Inclusive Sports Facilities Assessment Project: State of Play Report (under separate cover) |

## RECOMMENDATION

**Council resolves that:**

**1. The Director Corporate Services report titled *"Inclusive Sports Facilities Assessment Project"* be received and noted.**

**2. The following capital projects and funding be included for consideration in the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2021/22:**

**Greenacres Reserve – New clubrooms (scope and design) with funding of up to $271,200.**

**TK Shutter Reserve – Upgrade change rooms (scope and design) with funding of up to $162,700.**

**3. That it is noted grant applications have been submitted for the following projects identified as priority works within the audit:**

**Gepps Cross Reserve – Upgrade change rooms**

**Port Adelaide Reserve – New athletics throw cages**

**St Albans Reserve – New athletics throw cages**

**EP Nazer Reserve – Baseball fencing**

**Greenacres Reserve – Tennis Courts**

**Largs Reserve – Oval lighting**

**Port Reserve – Practice nets**

**Report**

Purpose

Council currently has in excess of 50 sport and recreation buildings across almost 90 sites. It spends $1.68 million on reserve maintenance and $1.39 million on building maintenance / renewal annually. Up until now, however, planning for capital upgrades and renewal has had limited strategic and evidence-based planning to support long term planning and development.

The purpose of the Inclusive Sports Facilities Assessment project is to provide an integrated, equitable and strategic direction for the improved planning, provision and development of community infrastructure for sporting facilities within the City of PAE. This project aims to ensure that all sporting facilities are fit for purpose, with a focus on change rooms and other essential infrastructure, and to maximise community participation.

The project addresses a desire expressed by both staff and Elected Members to better plan for the strategic upgrade of buildings and sporting infrastructure in a prioritised and evidence-based manner. The findings of the assessment will help ensure that investment in facility upgrades across Council is prioritised to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the PAE community, in an equitable manner.

Background

At the time that many of these facilities were built, sport and recreation activities were quite traditional in who played, how it was played and what was played. However, changes to the way we live and work, the changes in population in both age and diverse ethnicity, the proliferation of more individual and less structured activities and increasing equality across a range of traditional sports are all significant contributors to the change in sport and recreation.

The following provides an overview of what is driving the demand and the need to change to ensure facilities are more inclusive and fit for purpose:

* Requirements for modern, accessible change rooms and public amenities is increasing particularly with the increase in female participation in traditionally male dominated sports such as AFL;
* Changes in lux level standards for lighting for both training and competition;
* A need for more energy efficient buildings and infrastructure;
* Traditional sport being played across the 12 months of the year, for example demand for winter cricket as a result of the interest by multicultural communities;
* Demand for sporting activities like soccer, women’s AFL and basketball;
* Expectations and legislative requirements regarding health and safety;
* Customer expectations regarding the quality of experience, as greater competition for people’s time – the community are now looking to fit sport and recreation around their week with sport not necessarily the priority;
* Changing formats for sport and recreation;
* Greater need for shared facilities and reserves to maximize community participation, and
* Sporting clubs and groups needing to adapt to keep up with the pace of change

The Project

The Inclusive Sports Facilities Assessment Project aims to assist Council to work towards ensuring that all community sports and recreation facilities are fit-for-purpose, with a focus on change-rooms and other essential infrastructure, in order to maximise community use. This includes:

* Identifying gaps and opportunities in the development of community sporting and recreation facilities which will help Council to plan for the long term;
* Improving the quality and suitability of community sport facilities for participants and spectators;
* Creating accessible and inclusive facilities that maximise community participation for people of all abilities;
* Establishing a prioritised implementation upgrade program for community sport facilities that is supported by an evidence-based planning;
* Ensuring both the Council and Clubs are better positioned when applying for grant funding;
* Ensuring that facilities are sustainable, and
* Supporting the achievement of objectives within Council’s Sport Development Plan.

A key focus of the project has been to collect all relevant data on clubs and facilities across the City to provide a strong evidence base for planning, decision making and resource allocation. Data has been collected by a combination of Council staff and expert consultants. To develop a comprehensive picture of each facility information has been collected on the following:

* Condition of buildings and the adequacy of change-rooms. This work has been undertaken by Council staff and consultants Inside Edge who have developed a reputable Sports Facility Auditing tool that is being used by councils across Australia, as well as National and State sporting bodies. As part of the facility audit an assessment of key sporting infrastructure was also undertaken including interchange benches, scoreboards, cricket nets, athletics throw cages etc.
* Sports lighting assessment - Sports Lighting SA were engaged to undertake lighting assessments on facilities to identify current lux levels and whether they meet the required levels for training and playing.
* The carrying capacity of the grounds - IPOS Consultancy undertook an assessment of turf quality and usage to determine whether facilities are being overused or have the capacity for increased usage.

Clubs were also contacted and asked to complete a survey and provide participant data to assist Council in identifying where growth is occurring, current and future needs, the future directions of clubs and any support they may require.

Findings

In summary the assessment has found that:

* 28 of the 44 (64%) clubrooms are in good or excellent condition.
* Only 10 of the 28 (36%) change-room facilities are in good or excellent condition
* 58% of change rooms have an open shower and a further 17% have non-lockable cubicles, which means a majority of change-room facilities are not female or child friendly
* 43% do not have umpire facilities, and of the remainder only 24% are female friendly
* The playing surface condition was good or excellent for 53 of the 58 (91%) playing surfaces audited
* Of the reserves with sports lighting 13 met the standard for playing and training, 6 for training only, with 12 non-compliant for both training and playing. An additional 9 sites are still to be audited
* 8 of the 30 (27%) turf facilities had little or no capacity to expand the level of use
* It was also identified that a number of sporting infrastructure pieces did not meet current standards associated with their relevant sport or was not fit for purpose.

A copy of the audit report forms Attachment 1 (under separate cover) to this report

Next Steps

A prioritised program of capital works and non-financial actions has been prepared utilising the findings from the audit report. An action plan will be developed for each sporting reserve / site which outlines:

* Key audit findings for each site;
* Council’s proposed future works for buildings and sports infrastructure;
* Opportunities for undertaking further investigation where future facility needs are not yet clear, and
* Opportunities to actively manage capacity and overuse

Prior to finalisation of action plans, further analysis will be undertaken in relation to the funding requirements to achieve the identified capital works program over the ten year period. The investment required to achieve the identified works program totals $32.86 million over ten years, which is over and above the current adopted Long Term Financial Plan. A substantial portion of this additional cost relates to building upgrades ($23.53 million).

The Asset Management Plans for Buildings and Parks and Gardens will be updated to incorporate the additional works, and final action plans will be provided to Council for consideration and adoption.

In the interim, Council may wish to commence delivery of high priority capital projects as part of its 2021/22 Annual Business Plan and Budget, due to be adopted for public consultation on 30 March 2021. There are six projects identified from the audit findings for 2021/22.

On 8 December 2020 Council resolved to submit a grant application to the State Government for the following projects, which are supported by the audit findings:

* Gepps Cross Reserve – Upgrade change rooms
* Port Adelaide Reserve – New athletics throw cages
* St Albans Reserve – New athletics throw cages
* EP Nazer Reserve – Baseball fencing
* Greenacres Reserve – Tennis Courts
* Largs Reserve – Oval lighting
* Port Reserve – Practice nets

The capital budget for 2021/22 will be adjusted to cater for these projects if the grant funding is received (anticipated grant outcome notice in May 2021).

In addition, it is proposed that planning and scoping work be commenced for the following building upgrade projects in 2021/22, with construction to occur in subsequent years:

* TK Shutter Reserve – Upgrade changerooms (scope and design) – $162,700
* Greenacres Reserve – New clubrooms (scope and design) – $271,200 (this project was previously considered by Council at its 22 January 2019 Ordinary Meeting)

The following provides an overview of the next steps to be undertaken to further progress the findings of the facility audit:

| **Next Steps** | **Timeframe** |
| --- | --- |
| **21/22 Capital Projects**   * High priority projects identified and approved through 2021/22 Annual Business Plan and Budget | 2021/22 |
| **Adoption of Site Action Plans**   * Audit findings used to inform a prioritised 10 year capital works program * Assessment of financial requirements including maintenance/operating costs * Action plan prepared for each site, including non-financial actions (i.e. capacity management, further planning work) | April 2021 |
| **Update to Long Term Plans**   * Capital works program incorporated into Asset Management Plans for Buildings and Parks and Gardens | May 2021 |
| **Other Actions**   * Identify opportunities for external funding * Align project findings with relevant National and State Sporting Bodies strategic directions * Further information provided to Council as required | Ongoing |
| **Stakeholder Engagement**   * Develop a communication plan to inform sporting clubs of the findings * Continue to gather data from sporting clubs | July 2021 and ongoing |

**City Plan Relationship**

This project relates to the City Plan in the following ways:

* Community – providing safe and welcoming sporting facilities which promote health and wellbeing, encourage participation and support community connection. This project has been identified as a priority to achieve the Community Vision.
* Placemaking – supports the delivery of active places and spaces, working with local clubs and peak sporting bodies to provide a variety of well-maintained sporting opportunities for the community
* Leadership – development of an evidence-based program to ensure that Council owned sporting facilities meet the needs of the community now and into the future.

This project relates to the following Council strategic plans:

* Sports Development Plan
* Open Space Strategy
* Active Recreation Facilities Plan
* Asset Management Plan – Buildings
* Asset Management Plan – Parks and Gardens

**Legislative Context and Related Policies**

This project enables Council to more effectively prepare its Asset Management Plan – Buildings and Asset Management Plan – Parks and Gardens, as well as its long term Financial Plan to ensure that Council’s Sporting Assets are fit-for purpose, encourage participation, meet the needs of the community and address the standards required by various sporting codes.

**Stakeholder Engagement**

This project has involved a significant level of engagement with Clubs and sports providers who use Council’s many sporting facilities. This has included an initial information sheet to clubs about the project, an invitation to complete an on-line survey and provide data on current participation levels. Discussions via telephone and face-to-face have also occurred with a number a clubs through the course of the project.

Elected Members have been engaged throughout the project through Elected Member Workshops and Ward level briefings.

**Risk Management**

This project will assist in reducing risk to Council regarding the quality of its sporting facilities by enabling evidence based planning for the provision of fit-for-purpose assets which meet the current and future needs of the community.

**Financial Management**

The audit findings will enable Council to more effectively manage its community sporting assets through prioritisation and planned implementation of asset replacement and facility improvement works. A program of capital works has been developed in response to the audit findings. The program has been cross-referenced against Council’s existing forward works programs comprised within adopted Asset Management Plans. The proposed program will require substantial additional expenditure above the levels indicated within Council’s adopted Long Term Financial Plan.

The indicative financial impact of the identified works, in excess of adopted Long Term Financial Plan expenditure levels, is summarised as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Proposed Additional 10-year Financial Investment ($million) | | | |
| **Category** | **Replacement** | **New/Upgrade** | **Total** |
| Buildings | $4.09 | $23.53 | $27.62 |
| Parks & Gardens | $3.31 | $1.93 | $5.24 |
| **Total** | **$7.40** | **$25.46** | **$32.86** |

Further financial analysis will be undertaken to determine Council’s options for accommodating this additional investment (in context of funding demands of other future priorities) and this will be provided to Council in the near future. The analysis will include whole of life costs to assess Council’s funding capacity and ensure long term financial sustainability.

**Environmental and Social Impacts**

The outcomes of this assessment will support Council to make well informed and prioritised decisions regarding the adequate and appropriate provision of sporting facilities across the City. These facilities lay a vital role in promoting community wellbeing, physical activity and community connection.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

<<**PLEASE NOTE**

Only the 1ST PAGE of each Attachment Item requires numbering

(eg. Attachment 1, Attachment 2 etc.)>>