



SINGLETON COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2022-2032

“SETTING THE DIRECTION FOR SPORT IN SINGLETON”

PART A: STRATEGY – JANUARY 2022

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Singleton Council has commissioned the development of a Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy to guide and unify investment into sports grounds and recreation infrastructure across Singleton for the 2022 to 2032 period.

The purpose of the Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy is to provide sustainable recommendations relating to infrastructure provision and improvement that align with the priorities of potential investment partners.

A clear vision for sporting infrastructure that assists in the prioritisation of projects over the short, medium and long term is a key outcome.

The Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy has been separated into two separate parts for ease of reading.

PART A: STRATEGY

Provides the proposed strategic framework to guide future facility planning, investment and project prioritisation. It provides a 10-year capital plan with short, medium and longer-term priorities for each of the 14 community sport grounds and active recreation reserves that are the focus of the Strategy.

PART B: BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Provides background information, a summary of policy and strategy review and analysis of local and regional sport and associated future demand implications. A summary of stakeholder and community consultation undertaken is also provided. A summary of the site and asset audits undertaken (and relevant observations) for each of the 14 community sport grounds and active recreation reserves forms the remainder of Part B.

The overall objective of the Singleton Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy is to address both the current and future demand for sport and related facilities and guide the provision of and investment into infrastructure and service levels over the 10-year period from 2022 to 2032.

Desired outcomes and deliverables of the Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy include:

- Analyse and review the existing provision and hierarchy of sporting facilities and associated infrastructure in the Singleton Council area.
- Identify sporting needs and expectations of the community through a variety of engagement methods.
- Determine the limitations and gaps of existing sporting facilities, taking into consideration projected demographics and industry benchmarks for provision.
- Consider any issues and opportunities relating to Council's role in providing sporting opportunities to the wider community and provide advice, direction and recommendations.
- Develop a 10-year prioritised strategy for the future provision of sporting infrastructure incorporating a costed program which considers Council's funding constraints and the availability of external funding.

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METHODOLOGY

The Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy has been developed in accordance with the key three stages identified below. These stages outline a structured approach that includes broad community engagement and promotes collaborative delivery and implementation.

STAGE 1: REVIEW OF FACILITY PROVISION, USAGE AND RESEARCH

Undertake a review of all existing asset and inventory data, strategic plans and policy documentation and Council demographic information. Undertake site visits of all 14 Singleton sports grounds and recreation reserves.^[1]

KEY DELIVERABLE: State of Play Report

STAGE 2: CONSULTATION, GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES ANALYSIS

Undertake community and stakeholder engagement including community and sporting club surveys, stakeholder interviews and consultation with internal Council departments and the Singleton Sports Council. Develop an overall Gaps and Opportunities Report.

KEY DELIVERABLE: Gaps and Opportunities Report and engagement summary

STAGE 3: DRAFT AND FINAL STRATEGY

A Draft Strategy was prepared in 2021 with feedback provided by Council staff, Sports Council members and community members via public exhibition. The Final Singleton Community Sport Infrastructure Strategy's including public exhibition period and endorsement.

KEY DELIVERABLE: Draft and Final Strategy

In preparing the Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy, the following activities have been undertaken by project consultants and engagement methods have been utilised to inform the preparation of this report:

- **Site visits to 14 sports grounds** and recreation reserves were undertaken between 28th and 30th April 2021. Each field of play, training facilities and off-field amenities and associated buildings were audited to identify compliance of sporting facilities with recommended facility guidelines and best practice. Findings have been outlined for each of the 14 sites in Part B of this report.
- **Club questionnaires** were distributed to each sporting club that tenants or regularly uses one of the 14 sports grounds. Questionnaires were used to understand club participation trends, current facility limitations and constraints and future aspirations for facility provision and/or redevelopment. A total of 11 individual club questionnaires were completed and used to inform this report.

Additional club questionnaires were also sent to the remainder of Sports Council member organisations that occupy and use other sporting facilities across Singleton. This was conducted following the development of the initial Draft Strategy in order to broaden sporting club engagement.

- **On-site interviews** were conducted with clubs and user groups during site visits, with **additional telephone interviews** conducted with other clubs that could not attend a site visit. Interviews were used to further understand sports ground and facility use, current and future needs and demand for their sport and associated programs.
- An **online Community Survey** was conducted via the Singleton Council website during May, with the survey closing on 31st May 2021. In total 238 community survey responses were received and have been analysed to inform this report.
- **Public exhibition of the Draft Strategy** was conducted over November-December 2021, with 4 formal written submissions received.

[1] Detailed facility audits were only conducted at venues on Council owned and/or managed land. Other sites and sports facilities located on non-Council owned or managed land and those under management contract or lease were not audited and do not form part of the Strategy or the associated 10-Year Capital Plan.

DEFINING SPORT, RECREATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

In order to appreciate the range of activities and associated facilities this Strategy covers, it is important to define them and identify where they fit in the physical activity spectrum. **The focus for encouraging and supporting participation through this Strategy is “active recreation, social sport and traditional sport”.**

	DEFINITIONS	ASSOCIATED FACILITIES
High flexibility Low structure	PLAY Unstructured activity for the purpose of fun and enjoyment, particularly by children	Playgrounds, play spaces, schools, parkland
	ACTIVE LIVING Physical activity integrated into everyday living	Trails, waterways, commuter routes/roads
	ACTIVE RECREATION Non-competitive physical activity undertaken during leisure time, individually or in groups	Swimming pools, gyms, leisure centres, recreation reserves, trails, sports courts
	SOCIAL SPORT Social, semi-organised, non-competitive sport activity during leisure time	Sports grounds, recreation reserves, sports courts (indoor & outdoor)
	TRADITIONAL SPORT Sports competitions and events that follow traditional rules and structures	Sports grounds, recreation reserves, sports courts (indoor & outdoor)
Low flexibility High structure	ELITE SPORT State, national and international sports competitions and events following traditional rules and requiring qualification to compete	Stadiums (indoor & outdoor), sports grounds, sports courts - all provided to governing body requirements

The above definitions of physical activity are adapted from the VicHealth Doing Sport Differently resource (2020)

SINGLETON'S ACTIVE SPORTS GROUNDS, RESERVES AND FACILITIES

The Singleton and surrounding area is an active sporting community that offers a range of formal and informal sporting opportunities for its residents. Singleton has a generous provision of active and passive open spaces that encourage residents to engage in active sport and recreation activities to improve their health and wellbeing.

Thousands of Singleton residents of all ages participate in a diverse range of sport and recreation activities on a weekly basis, either via formal sporting club networks, social play or individualised participation. Analysis and consultation undertaken during this project indicates that the majority of sports in Singleton have experienced steady participation numbers in recent years, with a number also providing positive membership growth.

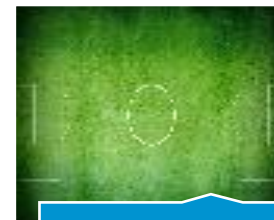
The focus of the Sports Strategy is to understand the needs of existing sporting clubs and organisations, and to deliver a facility improvement plan for the 14 outdoor community sports grounds, village recreation reserves and their associated facilities to enable clubs to deliver sport sustainably and effectively.

The Strategy also refers to a number of other sporting facilities provided across Singleton. These facilities fall outside the specific study scope, but are referenced due to their importance to the Singleton community and for their contribution to providing a range of sport and physical activity opportunities for residents and visitors.

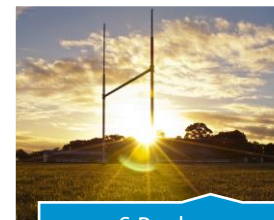
Singleton provides the following range of sports grounds and active recreation facilities.



25 Tennis Courts



3 Soccer Fields



6 Rugby
League Fields



12 Netball Courts



8 Cricket Ovals



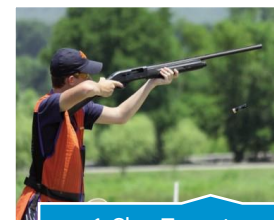
1 Athletic Fields



6 Touch Rugby
Fields



3 Rugby Union
Fields



1 Clay Target
Shooting Range



4 Squash Courts



1 BMX & 1 MTB
Track



1 Golf Course

SINGLETON'S OTHER LEISURE FACILITIES AND ACTIVE SPACES

In addition to the sporting facilities identified on the previous page, the Singleton area also has the following recreation, leisure and youth facilities and public open spaces.

While identified here, the future use, development and planning for these venues is not provided within the scope of this Strategy.

LEISURE AND RECREATION CENTRES

There are two leisure and recreation centres in Singleton.

Both of these centres are managed via Singleton Active, which represents a partnership between Singleton Council and Belgravia Leisure to deliver quality facilities and programs to promote the health and wellbeing of the Singleton community.

Singleton Gym and Swim Centre includes a health club, group fitness classes, a seasonal 50m outdoor swimming pool, an indoor heated 25m pool, a 12.5m indoor heated programs pool, a hydrotherapy pool sauna and spa.

Singleton Heights Sport Centre includes an indoor stadium with multi-use court, squash courts, kiosk, event and function facilities. Sports available to participate in include basketball, futsal, netball, gymnastics, squash and volleyball.

The Singleton Heights Sports Centre is 45 years old and reflects its age in appearance, configuration and maintenance requirements. Future redevelopment proposals to develop the Singleton Heights Sports Centre into a multi-functional, active recreation and sports centre will be considered via the Active Singleton partnership over the coming years.

A review of services, programs and long-term facilities required at the Singleton Gym and Swim Centre is also recommended to ensure it continues to meet community needs and expectations. However, this review falls outside the scope of this Report.

COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTRES

There are three Youth Centres in Singleton.

The Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) is a club open to all members of the community. It works with young people to help them be active and to reach their potential. The PCYC offers sport and education programs.

Salvation Army Youth Group (Singleton) provide a youth group for high school aged teens. They offer a range of activities including games and challenges as well as short outings.

Singleton Youth Venue caters for young people aged between 11 and 17. The venue provides a range of social and educational activities and programs.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Singleton Council has 74 Parks and Reserves. Singleton has 486 hectares of Open Spaces, and Singleton Council maintains 230 hectares of this Open Space.

MOUNTAIN BIKE (MTB) TRAILS AND FACILITIES

Singleton offers a range of sites that are used for a range of MTB activities. These include Travelling Stock Reserve (Maison Dieu) and Pioneer Road (Huntermuir). These sites, along with Bridgman Road (Singleton Heights) were the subject of a detailed *Singleton Council Mountain Bike Trail Feasibility Study in 2021*.

The future of these sites for MTB activities and the corresponding recommendations, adopted actions and associated budgets for implementation do not form part of this Report. However, they are worth noting within this Report and Council is encouraged to ensure adequate budgets are provided to support MTB.

FACILITIES BY HIERARCHY AND MANAGEMENT

The following sites and facilities provide for Singleton's sports, recreation and physical activities. Sites are categorised into Council's hierarchy of facilities (refer to page 18), with Village Recreation Reserves, and Local and District Sports Grounds only being included within the scope of the Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy. Only these 14 sites (numbered 1 to 14 below) have been visited, audited and included within the 10-Year Capital Plan (refer pages 28 to 32).

Site / Venue	Facility Hierarchy
1. Albion Park (Singleton)	Local Sports Ground
2. Allan Bull Reserve (Huntermuir)	District Sports Ground
3. Alroy Oval (Singleton Heights)	District Sports Ground
4. Broke Recreation Reserve (Broke)	Village Recreation Reserve
5. Bulga Recreation Ground (Bulga)	Village Recreation Reserve
6. Civic Park (Singleton)	District Sports Ground
7. Dunolly (Pirtek) Park (Dunolly)*	District Sports Ground
8. Gowrie Park (Singleton)	Local Sports Ground
9. Howe Park (Singleton)	District Sports Ground
10. James Cook / Rose Point Park (Singleton)	District Sports Ground
11. Jim Johnstone Park (Warkworth)	Village Recreation Reserve
12. Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground (Jerrys Plains)	Village Recreation Reserve
13. Stanhope Tennis (Stanhope)	Village Recreation Reserve
14. Victoria Square (Singleton)	Local Sports Ground

Site / Venue	Facility management
15. Country Tennis Club (Singleton)	Private land
16. Singleton Gym & Swim (Singleton)	Singleton Active managed
17. Singleton Clay Target Club (Warkworth)	Private land
18. Singleton Golf Club (Singleton)	Leased venue
19. Singleton Heights Sports Centre (Singleton Heights)	Singleton Active managed
20. Singleton Rugby Club (Singleton)	Private land
21. Singleton MTB Track – Travelling Stock Reserve (Maison Dieu)	Crown land not managed by Council

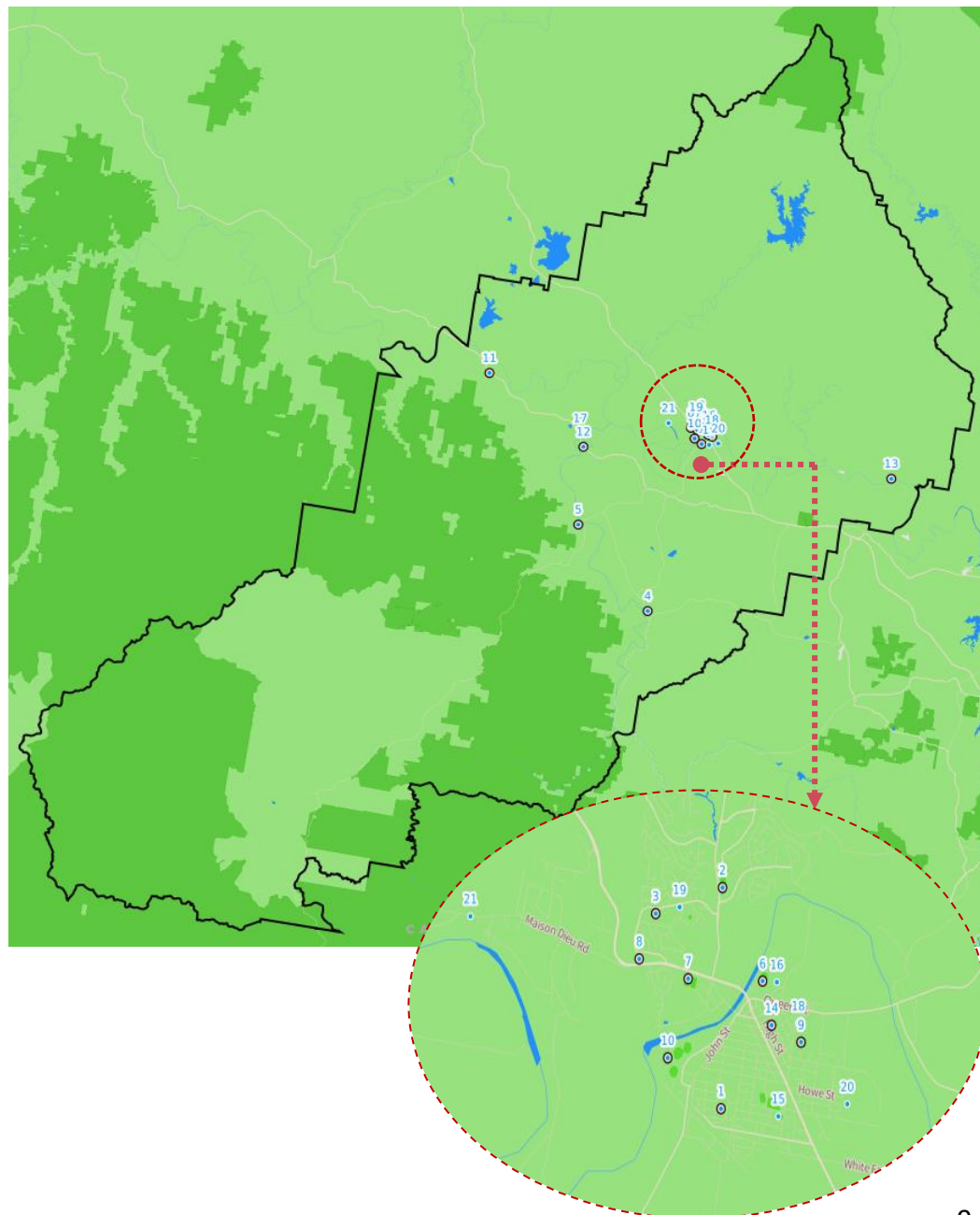
The sites listed above are referenced within this document to identify the range of sport and recreation facilities that exist across Singleton. As these sites are all used by Singleton Sports Council members they have been referenced as important facilities within this document. **However, as they are either located on non-Council land or are venues managed via lease or commercial arrangements, their future capital development has not been considered as a priority within the Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy.**

It is recommended that in-principle support for the ongoing capital improvement and development of these facilities is offered when land owners and venue managers seek non-Council investment from external partners.

* Dunolly (Pirtek) Park is also a leased venue with Council oversight and as such, forms part of the 14 sports ground and village recreation reserves.

SINGLETON'S ACTIVE SPORTING RESERVES AND FACILITY LOCATIONS

Site / Venue
1. Albion Park (Singleton)
2. Allan Bull Reserve (Hunterview)
3. Alroy Oval (Singleton Heights)
4. Broke Recreation Reserve (Broke)
5. Bulga Recreation Ground (Bulga)
6. Civic Park (Singleton)
7. Dunolly (Pirtek) Park (Dunolly)
8. Gowrie Park (Singleton)
9. Howe Park (Singleton)
10. James Cook / Rose Point Park (Singleton)
11. Jim Johnstone Park (Warkworth)
12. Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground (Jerrys Plains)
13. Stanhope Tennis (Stanhope)
14. Victoria Square (Singleton)
15. Country Tennis Club (Singleton)
16. Singleton Gym & Swim (Singleton)
17. Singleton Clay Target Club (Warkworth)
18. Singleton Golf Club (Singleton)
19. Singleton Heights Sports Centre (Singleton Heights)
20. Singleton Rugby Club (Singleton)
21. Singleton MTB Track (Maison Dieu)



SINGLETON SPORTS COUNCIL

The Singleton Sports Council is a Section 355 Committee of Council and provides a united voice for the Singleton sporting community. The Sports Council is made up of representatives from different sporting groups and clubs across the Singleton LGA.

The Singleton Sports Council is a forum to share ideas, resolve issues and promote sports in cooperation with Council to meet the collective needs of all sporting codes in Singleton. The Singleton Sports Council and its members have been actively engaged in the development of this Strategy.

The Sports Council was established for the following purposes:

- Increase communication between the sporting public and Singleton Council;
- Identify areas that may be suitable for sporting and recreational development;
- Cooperate with Singleton Council to ensure that sporting and recreation facilities are provided and maintained at an acceptable standard;
- Make recommendations to Singleton Council on sporting priorities;
- Make recommendations to Singleton Council from time to time on fees and charges for use of sporting facilities;
- Raise funds from any source to further the objectives of Singleton Sports Council and to promote the Singleton Sports Person of the Year award.

Of particular relevance to this Strategy, is the Singleton Council's Sports Grants program.

Singleton Council recognises the important contribution sport and recreation community organisations make in planning, developing and maintaining sport and recreation facilities and programs in their communities.

To support this contribution, Council's Sports Grants program offers opportunities twice annually to gain financial support on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Improving existing sporting infrastructure, increasing accessibility to facilities and professional facility planning are all priorities for grant funding and are specific objectives of this Strategy.

As at October 2021, the following sports were engaged in the Singleton Sports Council.

Sport / Activity
Australian Rules football
Cricket
Clay Target Shooting
Golf
Football (Soccer)
Mountain Bike Riding (Cycling)
Netball
Parkrun
Rugby League
Rugby Union
Squash
Swimming
Taekwondo
Tennis
Touch Football
Track and Field (Athletics)
Triathlon

OVERVIEW OF SPORTING CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION ACROSS SINGLETON

1250



TOUCH FOOTBALL

283



CRICKET

300



MTB RIDERS*

595



NETBALL

235



AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

300



GOLF

510



FOOTBALL (SOCCER)

170



RUGBY UNION – JUNIORS

100



CLAY TARGET SHOOTING

430



RUGBY LEAGUE

110



RUGBY UNION – SENIORS

350



TENNIS

125



ATHLETICS

* Due to the majority of MTB riders being casual or informal participants, and the relatively recent formation of the Singleton MTB Club in May 2021, estimates only of regular local riders are provided.

Cricket participants numbers only reflect those playing in the Singleton Cricket Association senior competition. Singleton Junior Cricket have not provided accompanying junior participation numbers.



COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

Howe Park, Singleton

INTRODUCTION

Singleton Council provides a range of community sports grounds, village recreation reserves and associated facilities that cater for more than 4,000 registered members and players, most of whom are Singleton Council residents. With this number representing just under 20% of the Singleton population, engagement in formal sporting activities, programs and competitions is significant.

While there is a trend towards greater diversity in the way in which people participate in sport and recreation activities, and a movement towards informal activities, sport remains central to the fabric of the Singleton community and an important contributor to everyday life for many.

Council has a responsibility to deliver community infrastructure and related services that promote and activate communities and support the sustainability of sporting clubs and the facilities they use.

Council's Community Strategic Plan seeks to achieve a long-term vision of being *vibrant, progressive, connected, sustainable and resilient*. The Singleton Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy contributes to this vision through the *continued support of sport and recreational services which support the activation of the community and improving health, social connectivity and well-being*.

The Community Strategic Plan also focuses on places. In particular, *the provision of safe and well-maintained facilities and infrastructure*. In addition, there is a requirement for Council to *facilitate land use planning and development outcomes which respect and contribute in a positive way to the environment and community*.

Singleton Council is located in an area that is not likely to experience significant growth or decline in population over the next decade. It's greatest changes will be experienced within the local demographics and the influences of local industry and available employment opportunities.

The need to support sport and recreation, improve existing amenities and promote a diversity of opportunities was also identified in the Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (2013). Research conducted in the development of the Singleton Community Sport Infrastructure Strategy found that while sporting infrastructure around Singleton was generally well provided, a number of improvement and embellishment opportunities including floodlighting, clubroom, changeroom and gender inclusive amenities are a focus for future investment.

Within the more localised villages and rural communities, the management and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities and assets will require an improved level of service in order to prolong the life of existing infrastructure. This will also add to the diversity of use to better activate facilities commensurate with the needs of users.

As formalised sport plays such an important role in the everyday life of the Singleton community and greater Hunter Region, Council has prioritised the delivery of this Strategy to ensure future evidence based planning responds to the changing and evolving needs of the community.

KEY FINDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS

Through a review of strategic information, facility audits, investment opportunities and stakeholder consultation, a range of observations and findings in infrastructure provision have been identified. Gaps and related observations are discussed in detail in Part B of the Singleton Community Infrastructure Strategy, with the following providing a high-level summary of gaps relating to Facilities, Participation and Use, and Planning, Investment and Partnerships.

FACILITIES

- Playing field lighting standards not being met, for training and competition.
- Lack of gender diverse changeroom amenities for players and officials.
- Off-field facilities not meeting minimum requirements of sporting facility guidelines.
- Limited clubroom and social amenities to support club sustainability.
- Limited provision of spectator accommodation and amenities at key sporting competition sites.
- Single purpose sporting facilities where shared use could promote increased use.
- Service levels not keeping pace with maintenance requirements at sporting facilities, predominately at Village Recreation Reserves.

PARTICIPATION & USE

- Limited population growth to support significant growth in participation and demand, therefore a focus on existing facility improvement is important.
- Need for regular and consistent collection of participant and club data via the Singleton Sports Council to inform future planning.
- Most sporting clubs have a strong localised catchment and most have stable participation to support financial sustainability and pathway development.
- Single purpose sporting facilities could be enhanced to promote shared and increased use, as demand evolves.
- Ground and court capacity can be managed in-line with the current network of facilities, with increased shared use and enhanced capacity via lighting and improved amenity.
- Use of sports grounds and related infrastructure is a mix of sporting use (60%) and recreational use (19%). Other uses include for events and by schools. Further infrastructure improvements and reserve embellishment will provide even greater opportunity for informal sport and recreational use.

PLANNING, INVESTMENT, PARTNERSHIPS

- Lack of long-term strategic site specific master planning has led to piecemeal site development over time, and inactivity in planning at other sites.
- Gaps in existing sporting infrastructure provision aligns with current funding priorities of sport and government (e.g. lighting, gender inclusive change rooms).
- Senior only clubs will need to retain strong links to junior clubs in order to sustain ongoing team numbers.
- Project readiness and “sinking funds” are required by clubs in order to promote their projects through Council processes – this is currently being done to varying levels.
- Sports club strategic planning is occurring spasmodically and needs to be at the forefront of each club and capital project development.
- Sporting club funds, combined with available government investment opportunities provide a strong basis from which to enhance existing infrastructure.
- Limited connectivity between state sporting organisations and capital project planning was evident via stakeholder consultation.

THE STRATEGY

WHAT DOES THE STRATEGY AIM TO ACHIEVE:

The overall objective of the Singleton Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy is to address both the current and future demand for sport and related facilities and guide the provision of and investment into infrastructure and service levels over the 10-year period to 2032.

Appropriately planned and managed, activated, sustainable, safe and fit-for-purpose facilities are central to the Strategy.

The following pages provide a Strategic Framework for the future support and delivery of community sporting infrastructure across Singleton. The framework summarises the vision, objectives, guiding principles and strategic priorities (the “why, what and how”) for the focus of Council and its stakeholders.

Strategic priorities have been developed to guide planning over the next 10 years, with key capital priorities identified for the short (within 3 years), medium (within 4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years) in the associated 10-Year Capital Plan provided.

Priorities have been prepared and aligned with the proposed vision, objectives and principles to assist in providing a strategic response to future planning and capital project investment.

Note: The Strategy provides a focus on the 14 community sports grounds and recreation reserves only. Sports facilities on private land and their development are not considered a priority for Council funds. However, Council and the Sports Council will in-principle, support their approach(es) for non-Council funding. Council’s “Singleton Active” venues and their future development will be considered more broadly by Council and as such are not included within the Strategy.

WHY WE NEED A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO PROVISION:

To ensure there is a network of sustainable sporting infrastructure that creates and supports sport and active recreation opportunities for the Singleton community and builds the capacity of clubs to continue to respond to evolving needs.

SINGLETON’S COMMUNITY SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE IS GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

Activated - providing greater access to a broad range of sport, recreation and physical activities for residents and visitors and be managed and maintained to ensure infrastructure provides the best possible and affordable experience for users.

Fit-for-purpose – enabling a range of facilities, programs and services to meet evolving needs. Fit-for-purpose infrastructure will create a social, diverse and inclusive culture for sport in Singleton and improve experiences for participants, families, spectators and volunteers.

Sustainable - by using improved technology (e.g. LED lighting, online booking systems). Flexible infrastructure designs will maximise the capacity of existing facilities and ensure amenities and spaces support the financial sustainability of the local sporting club network.

Multi-use – delivering facilities and amenities that can provide for a range of uses and are not constrained to a single sport will ensure equitable and diversity in use of community infrastructure.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

The following planning and development principles provided for each objective are proposed to guide the interpretation, consideration and preparation of the Strategy. These principles will underpin future directions and recommendations for community sporting infrastructure in Singleton.

1. ACTIVATED

- 1.1 Through occupancy agreements and associated fees and charges, incentivise the use and activation of sporting facilities.
- 1.2 Promote infrastructure improvements that provide new active recreation opportunities (in addition to sporting opportunities), particularly at village recreation reserves and local sports grounds.
- 1.3 Promote and support facility improvements that increase participation opportunities for girls and women, young people, older adults and those not traditionally engaged in regular sport and physical activity.

2. FIT-FOR-PURPOSE

- 2.1 Sporting facility and amenity design should cater for inclusive use, particularly all gender, accessibility and child safety.
- 2.2 Enhance and develop sporting facilities and amenities to suit their intended level of use (e.g. competition level, surface type, lighting level).
- 2.3 Promote projects that support the delivery of community, peak sporting body and other broader government objectives.

3. SUSTAINABLE

- 3.1 Ensure infrastructure projects contribute to the viability and sustainability of sporting clubs and provide opportunities for management / maintenance efficiency.
- 3.2 Where possible consolidate sporting infrastructure to reduce the maintenance and asset management responsibilities of clubs.
- 3.3 Sporting infrastructure development should deliver sustainable outcomes and be designed to meet the extreme local climatic conditions, including periods of drought and flooding.
- 3.4 Promote projects that engage multiple stakeholders and attract shared investment partners (e.g. education sector, all levels of government, peak sporting bodies, community organisations, private sector).

4. MULTI-USE

- 4.1 Playing fields and associated infrastructure should be planned and designed to meet a range of uses and maintain flexibility to allow for potential change in use over time.
- 4.2 Where playing field or facility capacity is challenged, identify existing venue alternatives that can accommodate additional use before expanding Council's existing asset base.
- 4.3 New sporting infrastructure offers a range of uses and provides multi-use opportunities that reach beyond individual sport needs.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

WHY DO WE NEED A STRATEGY?	To ensure there is a network of sustainable sporting infrastructure that creates and supports sport and active recreation opportunities for the Singleton community and builds the capacity of clubs to continue to respond to evolving needs.			
WHAT TYPE OF INFRASTRUCTURE DO WE WANT BY 2032?	Community Sporting Infrastructure objectives			
	ACTIVATED	FIT-FOR-PURPOSE	MULTI-USE	SUSTAINABLE
HOW DO WE GET TO WHERE WE WANT TO BE?	Strategic priorities – How will we achieve our objectives?			
	1. DEVELOP A FACILITY HIERARCHY	2. PRIORITISE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	3. RESERVE MASTER PLANNING	
	Adopt a clear facility hierarchy that guides the improvement, development and management of sports grounds and recreation reserves to meet their intended purpose and level of use	Build the capacity of sporting infrastructure through facility improvements and developments that meet collective needs and address identified gaps in the network	Build strategic partnerships with peak sporting bodies, user groups and local communities to ensure each sports ground and recreation reserve has an agreed long-term plan	
PRIORITY ACTIONS TO BE DELIVERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement and adoption of the facility hierarchy • Agreement on site management roles and service levels • Allocation of Council budget to implement levels of service that will promote increased asset use • Develop facilities that provide combined competition and training level amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement and adoption of the Project Prioritisation framework • 10-Year Capital Plan • Projects that support women and girl's participation • Increase capacity of existing infrastructure • Sports buildings to meet relevant sport specific and universal design guidelines • Improve lighting infrastructure via LED technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise planning for District Sports Grounds • Development of site-specific master plans that address long-term, flexible use • Formal engagement with relevant regional and state sporting bodies to define sport specific infrastructure requirements • Allocation of appropriate funding to support site planning 	

PRIORITY 1 – FACILITY HIERARCHY

OBJECTIVE

Adopt a clear facility hierarchy that guides the improvement, development and management of sports grounds and recreation reserves to meet their intended purpose and level of use.

RATIONALE

The establishment of a sporting reserve hierarchy provides a holistic approach to sports facility provision, use, development and management. It is required to guide future decision making as to the level of development and investment required at sporting reserves.

The hierarchy will be used to ensure both sport and community needs are met and sustainable models for allocation, provision and servicing can be implemented.

The adjacent table is the proposed venue hierarchy for Council's consideration. The following page outlines the core infrastructure and key activities that should be supported under each level of the hierarchy.

PROPOSED SPORTING FACILITY HIERARCHY

HIERARCHY	DEFINITION	LOCATIONS
District Sports Grounds	Multi-oval and/or multi-sport venues that deliver community sporting activities for a range of clubs and users. If required, they can also be configured to act as overflow sporting grounds or additional sites for regional level competitions or major events. District Sports Grounds provide higher level infrastructure and act as an aspirational pathway for sporting participants. Sites are typically managed by Council, but may also be leased to sporting clubs that can demonstrate sustainable management outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Bull Reserve • Alroy Oval • Civic Park • Dunnolly (Pirtek) Park • Howe Park • Rose Point Park / Cook Park
Local Sports Grounds	Mostly single or single purpose playing field sites that host summer, winter and/or overflow activities. Local sports grounds are used by schools and typically form community public open spaces when not in use for sport. Sites are managed by Council, with seasonal tenanted sports club use where required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albion Park • Gowrie Park • Victoria Square
Village Recreation Reserves	Localised recreation reserves that provide a mix of play and informal sport and recreation infrastructure suitable for use by local residents, schools, visitors and tourists. Sites will typically be managed by Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broke Recreation Reserve • Bulga Recreation Ground • Jim Johnstone Park • Jerry's Plains Recreation Reserve • Stanhope Tennis
Privately operated facilities	Sporting clubs and facilities on private, education, non-council owned or Crown land. Sports occupying, leasing or managing these sites are considered part of the Singleton Sports Council and should be supported to attract non-Council investment and encouraged to follow the project planning and development principles and processes outlined in this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Tennis Club • Singleton Bowls Club • Singleton Golf Club • Rugby Union (Seniors) • Singleton Clay Target Shooting • Singleton Swim & Gym Centre • Singleton Heights Sports Centre

PRIORITY I – FACILITY HIERARCHY

District Sports Grounds



Core aspirational infrastructure

- Multiple “premier” playing fields/courts of high-quality including drainage and irrigation
- Lighting to meet match conditions
- Community clubrooms and change facilities to suit diversity of use
- Spectator amenity
- Multiple parking opportunities
- Integrated passive recreational amenity to suit location and broader community use

Activities / Users

- Council managed / seasonal tenancy
- Caters for training, competition and events
- Greater Hunter population catchment
- Multi-user, multi-use facility

Local Sports Grounds



Core aspirational infrastructure

- Minimum one playing field / area
- Integrated passive recreational facilities such as recreational courts, hit-up walls, playground
- Access to changerooms, public toilets and basic spectator amenity (could be shared with other site user/s)
- Formal car parking preferred

Activities / Users

- Council managed / seasonal tenancy
- Caters for training activities and community level competition
- Provides opportunity for school use
- Flexible spaces, suits seasonal or casual use

Village Recreation Reserves



Core aspirational infrastructure

- Recreational facilities such as playing field or area / court(s)
- Floodlighting to recreational standard on court(s)
- Public toilets
- Shelter
- Playground

Activities / Users

- Council managed
- Informal recreation use
- School use
- Casual use by campers, tourists, visitors

PRIORITY 2 – PRIORITISE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

OBJECTIVE

Build the capacity of sporting infrastructure through facility improvements and developments that meet collective needs and address identified gaps in the network.

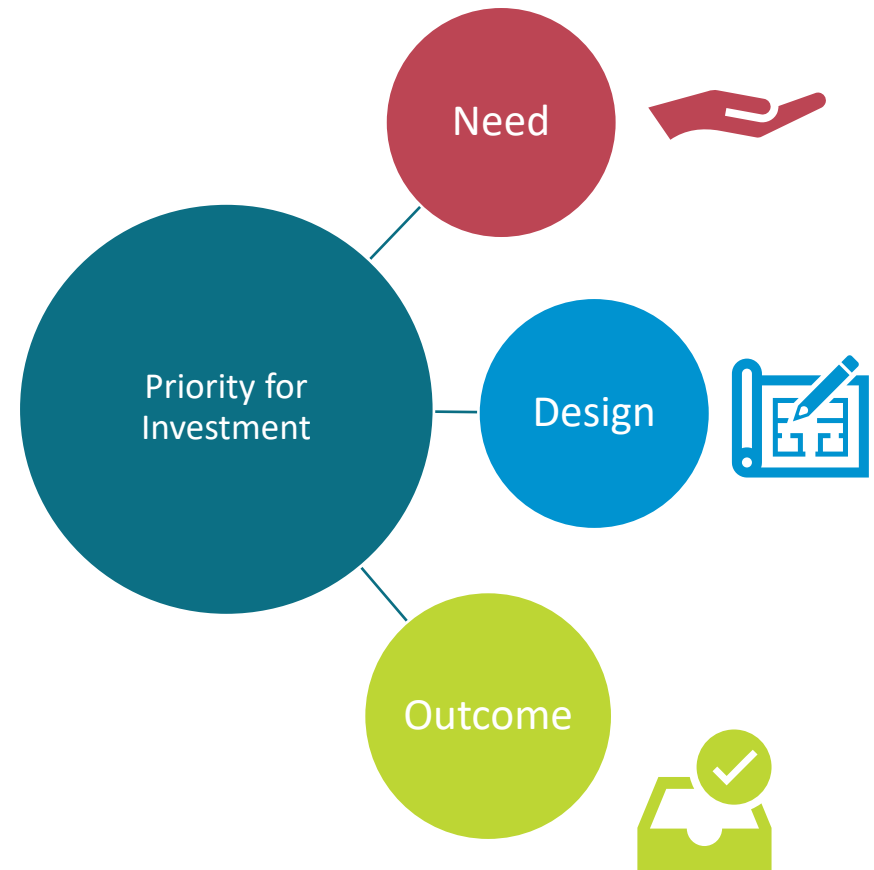
RATIONALE

The need to support sport and recreation, improve existing amenities and diversify their opportunities for use was identified in the Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (2013). The findings from research conducted in the development of the Singleton Community Sport Infrastructure Strategy found that while sporting infrastructure is generally well provided, a number of improvement and embellishment opportunities including floodlighting, clubrooms and gender inclusive changerooms should be a focus for future investment.

Contemporary, sustainable and welcoming facilities are necessary to generate and maintain interest and participation in sporting activities. To further enhance the quality, functionality and access to community sporting infrastructure and sporting clubs to 2032, capital projects will need to be prioritised in terms of the overall benefit and value for money.

To assist this process, Council and the Sports Council should adopt a project prioritisation framework. The framework (outlined adjacent) will ensure the need for projects is quantified, the design meets stakeholder and sustainability requirements, and clear and meaningful outcomes are delivered. The framework is supported by a prioritisation checklist that is presented on the following page and should be considered when assessing new projects.

PROPOSED PROJECT PRIORITISATION FRAMEWORK



PROJECT PRIORITISATION CHECKLIST – ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR EACH PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

PROJECT COMPONENT / CAPABILITY	YES	NO
NEED		
Project aligns with the Community Sporting Infrastructure Strategy.		
Facility condition and gaps in compliance with relevant sporting code guidelines have been identified.		
Project demonstrates alignment with broader Council, Government and/or Peak Sporting Body strategy or facility plan.		
Club or key user group(s) have a dedicated Strategic Plan highlighting the importance and impact of the project.		
Club has capability to financially co-contribute (financial and/or in kind) to the infrastructure upgrade.		
Project is likely to attract external funding contribution outside of Club and Council contribution(s) / Are external funding contributions available.		
DESIGN		
Draft concept plans and cost estimates for the project(s) have been developed by qualified professional in conjunction with the relevant State Sporting Organisation, Council and all seasonal users of the facility.		
Design meets the minimum standards and preferred guidelines of relevant State Sporting Organisation(s) / relevant Australian Standard(s).		
Infrastructure design development has considered Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) initiatives and can demonstrate outcomes such as lower operating costs, reduced emissions and drought tolerance.		
Design development has considered outcomes in relation to improving the viability and sustainability of tenant club(s) (e.g. increased operational capacity, addresses safety risk, improves opportunities to generate income through increase usage etc).		
Design development has considered Universal Design Principles that encourage usage of the facility by any person of any ability.		
OUTCOME		
Project outcomes can demonstrate positive impacts on participation, particularly for women and girls.		
Project outcomes increase the use, activation and/or capacity of an existing facility (new activity or increase of an existing activity)		
Project can demonstrate multi-use and/or dual-purpose outcomes.		
Project contributes to the use and activation of the site or venue for 12-months of the year.		

PRIORITY 3 – MASTER PLANNING

OBJECTIVE

Build strategic partnerships with peak sporting bodies, user groups and local communities to ensure each sports ground and recreation reserve has an agreed long-term plan.

RATIONALE

Long-term master planning of sites and related infrastructure should be led by Council's Recreation and Facilities Team. The planning of spaces to meet the evolving community and sporting club needs requires expertise in both planning and stakeholder consultation and engagement.

In order to support the implementation of the strategic framework and the proposed 10-year capital plan, all district sports grounds and local sports grounds should be master planned in order to identify long-term needs and evaluate the financial viability of delivering infrastructure improvements.

The presence of master plans will also provide some confidence to clubs and user groups as to how their site(s) and projects will be developed, in what likely order and in what timeframe. Master plan recommendations can also continually feed into annual refreshing of the Council's 10-year capital plan to ensure it remains current and reflective of priorities.

It will not be possible for Council to deliver on all aspects identified in master plans, but all elements including field of play (inc. level of use), clubrooms, landscaping, car parking and passive recreational elements should be built into site master planning.

A standard approach towards master plans should also be developed and adopted to ensure council, sport and community objectives can be addressed and aligned and a consistent output for each is delivered.

PRIORITY ORDER FOR MASTER PLANS

1. Implement the recently adopted **Alroy Oval Master Plan**.
2. Building expansion and improvement plans for **Dunnolly (Pirtek) Park** have been completed and a DA lodged. It focuses on building development and footprint, which could be complemented with broader site landscape planning to help complete remaining site embellishments, car parking and traffic flow.
3. Update the 2004 **Rose Point Park and Cook Park Master Plan**, considering the inclusion of Athletics, potential increase to winter sport training areas and floodlighting plan.
4. Promote the **Draft Howe Park Master Plan** through public exhibition in conjunction with DPIE and the current Draft How Park Plan of Management (POM). Ensure the master plan considers the overall proposed playing field and lighting upgrades, as well as the ideal building footprint, reserve and landscape embellishments and any potential integration with adjacent golf and tennis clubs.
5. Prepare a **Civic Park Master Plan** that considers the overall use and layout of playing fields and associated lighting provision, as well as the ideal building footprint and location, car parking and riverbank embellishments.
6. **Albion Park** is Crown Land and a Plan of Management (POM) is required to be developed by Council as the Crown Land Manager. A Master Plan will be undertaken in conjunction with the POM that considers the integrated use of the playing field, community garden and community building. A focus on community use should drive the development of this site plan
7. A **Master Plan for Victoria Square** that considers broader community needs (beyond an overflow winter sport training ground) and potential integration with the adjacent PCYC programs should be considered.
8. **Allan Bull Reserve** requires the integration of spectator elements in-line with overall broader reserve and landscape plans.
9. A community led **Master Plan for Gowie Park** that considers the needs of the surrounding community. This may identify an alternate use for the site and/or provide opportunities to re-engage with BMX riders and other users.

10-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN (2022-2032)

A range of infrastructure and amenity upgrades and reserve embellishments is the focus for the 10-year capital plan, along with recommended broader site and reserve master planning to guide future investment. It is important to note that projects that involve routine maintenance and general renewal of existing assets are not included in the capital plan.

All 14 Council owned sports grounds and village recreation reserves across the Singleton LGA were audited to inform the capital plan. Individual audit reports have been prepared and summarised within the Site Summary section of this Strategy. Facility provision, condition, dimensions and compliance (with sporting standards and guidelines) were all assessed for both field of play and off-field assets.

Infrastructure improvement projects that directly align with identified planning and development principles and partner investment objectives, as well as those that improve the overall quality and experience of users have also influenced capital project recommendations.

Recommendations and actions have been developed to guide project delivery over the next 10 years, with priorities identified for the short (within 3 years), medium (within 4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years) in the associated 10-Year Capital Plan provided.

The colour code below has been applied to each project to indicate short, medium or long-term recommendations. Following is a brief description of these priority levels.

- Short-term – deliver within 3 years
- Medium-term – deliver within 4 to 6 years
- Long-term – deliver within 7 to 10 years

SHORT TERM:

Important recommendation that underpins the future delivery of sport and community infrastructure initiatives. These are high priority projects that are considered to have the greatest potential of attracting external funding and require immediate planning to commence at the earliest opportunity.

MEDIUM TERM:

Recommended project(s) that strongly align with the proposed principles of the Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy and deliver on meeting the overall objectives outlined within the strategic framework.

LONG TERM:

Recommended project(s) that will contribute to the overall improvement of sport and community infrastructure in Singleton. Long term projects are not considered to be *immediate priorities* but are likely to be required into the future in order to continue to support sport and recreation clubs and activities.

Council and the Singleton Sports Council have a responsibility to continue to plan, invest and deliver improvement projects that can provide a range of participation opportunities and respond to the evolving needs of the local community.

Over the next 10-years (to 2032), an estimated \$23,516,000 investment into the development of existing and new sporting assets and planning for new and improved community sporting infrastructure has been highlighted.

The following pages provide a detailed summary of the proposed capital plan by priority level (short, medium and long) and by project category.

EXPLANATION OF PROBABLE COSTS

The following definitions have been used to provide the opinion of probable costs for the various capital planning projects. Costs are estimated based on industry knowledge, previous similar projects completed (locally and interstate) and from current industry sources including Rawlinsons Australian Construction Cost Guide. True final costs for projects will only be known via site specific planning and project cost estimations completed by qualified Quantity Surveyors. For most costs identified, they do not include elements such as cost escalations, planning and design fees and contingencies (unless specified in the definitions below).

Capital plan by project category	Definition of cost inclusions
Field of play infrastructure	
Court surface upgrade / new	Refers to the provision of a new or replacement of existing court area. If a replacement, costs assume like-for-like replacement of surface without additional consideration of base or sub-surface works. New courts would be developed to NSO / SSO compliance for size and consider full construction costs including design, preliminary site works, sub-surface drainage, pavement works, fencing and surface coating/covering. It does not include costs for floodlighting.
Grass playing surface upgrade / redevelopment	Refers to the provision of a new or replacement of existing grassed playing field. If an upgrade to existing surface, costs assume like-for-like replacement of surface without additional consideration of base or sub-surface works. New playing fields consider full construction costs including design, preliminary site works, drainage / irrigation, levelling and seeded surface provision. It does not include costs for floodlighting or fencing for upgrades or new playing fields.
Lighting upgrade / new installation (LED)	Upgrades assume the retention of existing poles and conversion from metal halide to LED fixtures. All new installations assumes provision and installation of LED system, poles and associated design and engineering. All proposed lighting projects are recommended to meet Australian Standards for the relevant sport and the associated minimum competition standards for community sport (refer to Council's Sportsground Lighting Audit for details). Major power or sub-station upgrades have not been included in cost estimates.
Recreation reserve / play space embellishment	Provides an allowance to include basic site embellishments such as landscaping, small range of "off the shelf" playground equipment, fitness equipment or multi-purpose active recreation courts. Allowances are general in nature and specific detail is not provided.

EXPLANATION OF PROBABLE COSTS

Capital plan by project category	Definition of cost inclusions
Buildings and supporting infrastructure	
Changeroom amenity upgrade	Changeroom upgrades refer to the conversion of existing player and official change facilities to provide for all gender use and access. This predominately includes retrofitting urinals to pan toilet cubicles and open showers to individual shower cubicles. Costs also include general improvements including flooring upgrade, lighting replacement and wall / ceiling painting.
Clubroom development / redevelopment	Clubroom developments and redevelopments assume a general m2 rate of around \$4,500 for single level buildings, including site assessment, planning, design, construction, contingencies and cost escalations. Costs also assume that buildings are provided to meet the size, dimensions and standards of relevant NSO / SSO guidelines for community level competition and are “future proofing” the sport.
Spectator amenity improvement / embellishment	Spectator amenity refers to built infrastructure, predominately covered concrete spectator terracing. It includes engineering design and construction costs.
Planning	
Site / facility master planning	Site master planning refers to a complete site plan prepared by a Landscape Architect (or similar) and should consider all elements including building footprint, field(s) of play / court areas, car parking and vehicle movements, lighting and general site landscaping. Facility master plan refers specifically to an individual building, clubroom, changeroom or public toilet facility and focuses on the built environment. It would typically include a basic concept plan or building floor plan.

CAPITAL PLAN BY PRIORITY LEVEL & PROJECT CATEGORY

The following table outlines the level of funding that will be required in the short, medium and long term to deliver the proposed capital plan.

Capital plan by priority level	Estimated capital budget
Short term recommendations	\$11,261,000
Medium term recommendations	\$8,655,000
Long term recommendations	\$3,600,000
Estimated total 10-year capital plan	\$23,516,000

The capital plan has been separated into three distinct categories to assist Council in identifying the areas that will require the most funding and to align projects with specific funding programs.

The three categories of the capital plan include:

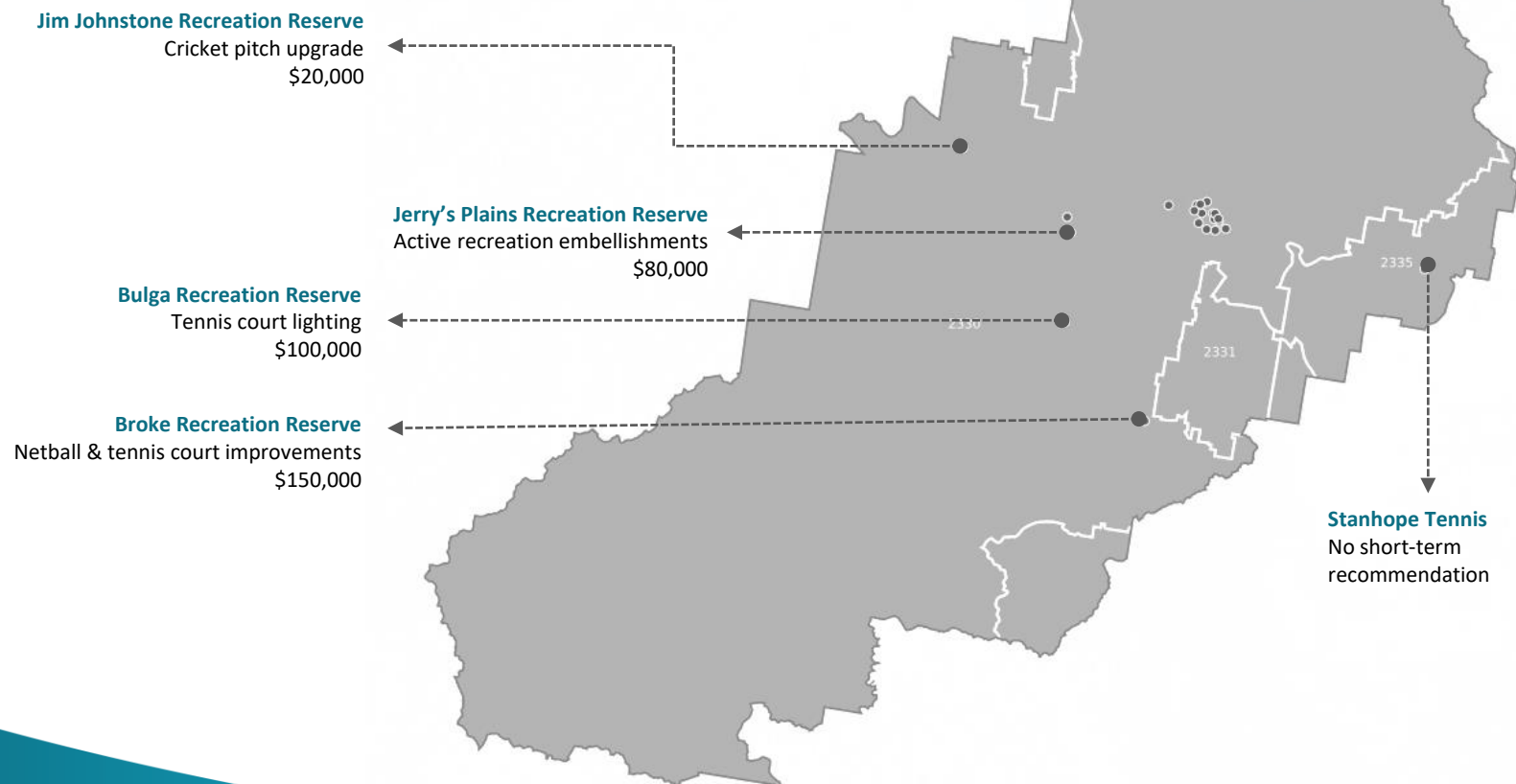
- 1. Field of play infrastructure** - Playing surface upgrades, lighting, new developments and reserve embellishments.
- 2. Building and supporting infrastructure** – Change room provision or upgrade, clubroom redevelopment and spectator amenity improvements.
- 3. Planning** – Site and facility master planning.

The following table outlines the level of funding that has been identified for each project category over the 10-year life of the capital plan.

Capital plan by project category	Estimated capital budget
Field of play infrastructure	\$10,956,000
Court surface upgrade / new	\$815,000
Grass playing surface upgrade / redevelopment	\$5,361,000
Lighting upgrade / new installation (LED)	\$1,990,000
Recreation reserve / play space embellishment	\$2,790,000
Buildings and supporting infrastructure	\$12,400,000
Changeroom amenity upgrade	\$900,000
Clubroom development / redevelopment	\$10,145,000
Spectator amenity improvement / embellishment	\$1,355,000
Planning	\$160,000
Site / facility master planning	\$160,000

The following pages provide an overall summary of the capital works program and recommended future planning required for each venue over the 2022 to 2032 period. In many cases, more planning, detailed design and professional costings will need to be completed to support the implementation of identified priorities. However, it is anticipated that the proposed actions will provide opportunity to address the range of gaps and priorities identified.

VILLAGE RECREATION RESERVES SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

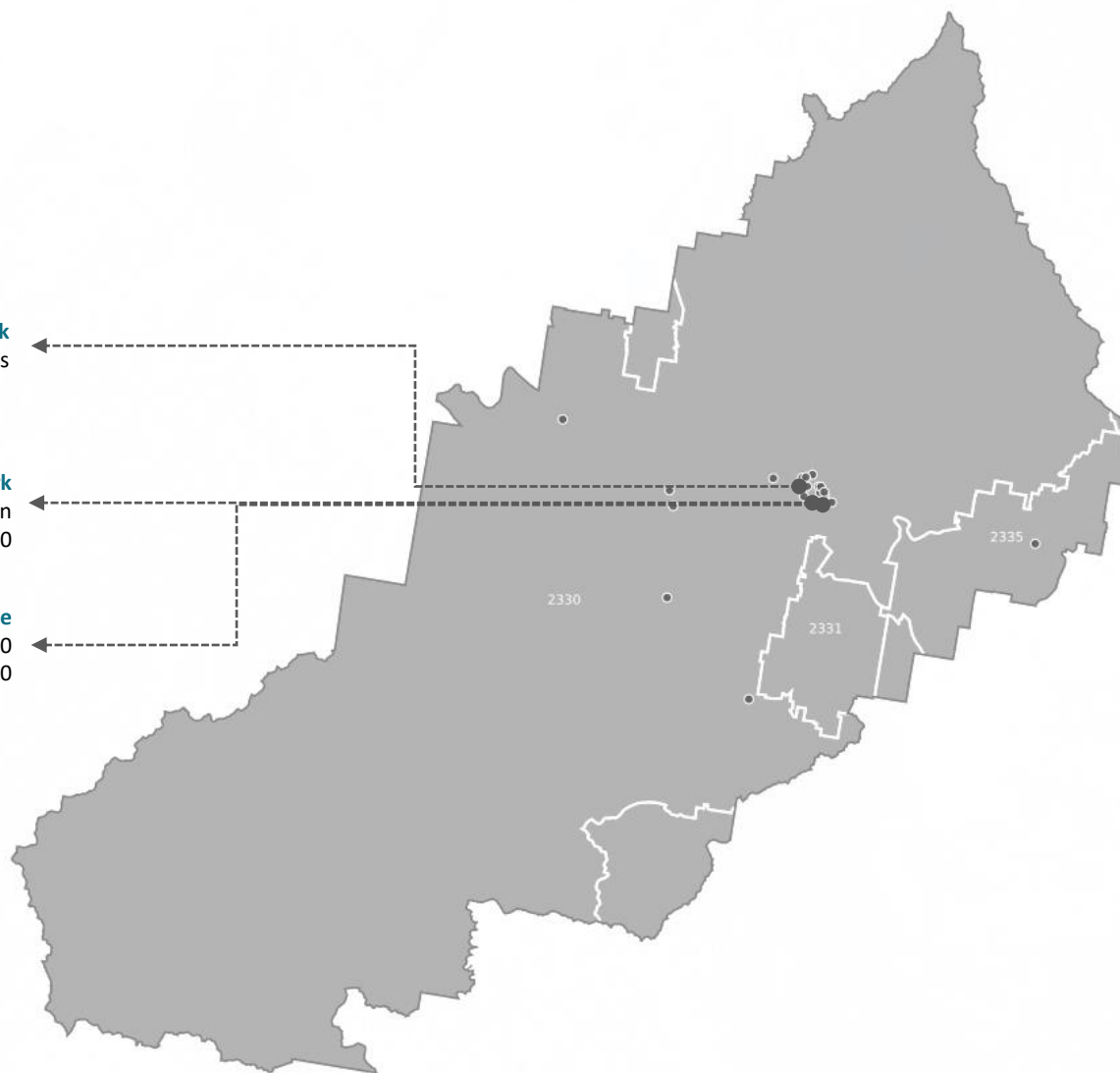


10-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN – VILLAGE RECREATION RESERVES

Project Type > Site Name	BROKE	BULGA	JERRYS PLAINS	JIM JOHNSTONE	STANHOPE TENNIS
Field of play infrastructure					
Court surface upgrade / new	Netball & tennis court \$150,000	Tennis courts x 2 \$160,000	Multi courts x 2 \$160,000	Cricket pitch upgrade \$20,000	Tennis court \$75,000
Grass playing surface upgrade / redevelopment				Oval upgrade \$100,000	
Lighting upgrade / new installation (LED)	All court lighting \$100,000	Tennis court lighting \$100,000	Tennis court lighting \$100,000		
Recreation reserve / play space embellishment	Playground upgrade \$100,000		Active recreation \$80,000	Playground upgrade \$100,000	
Buildings and supporting infrastructure					
Changeroom amenity upgrade					
Clubroom development / redevelopment	Expanded shade & shelter to replace clubrooms \$70,000				Building improvements \$100,000
Spectator amenity improvement / embellishment					
Planning					
Site / facility master planning					
TOTAL ESTIMATED 10-YEAR COST	\$420,000	\$260,000	\$340,000	\$220,000	\$175,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED 10-YEAR SPEND AT VILLAGE RECREATION RESERVES					\$1,415,000

LOCAL SPORTS GROUNDS SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

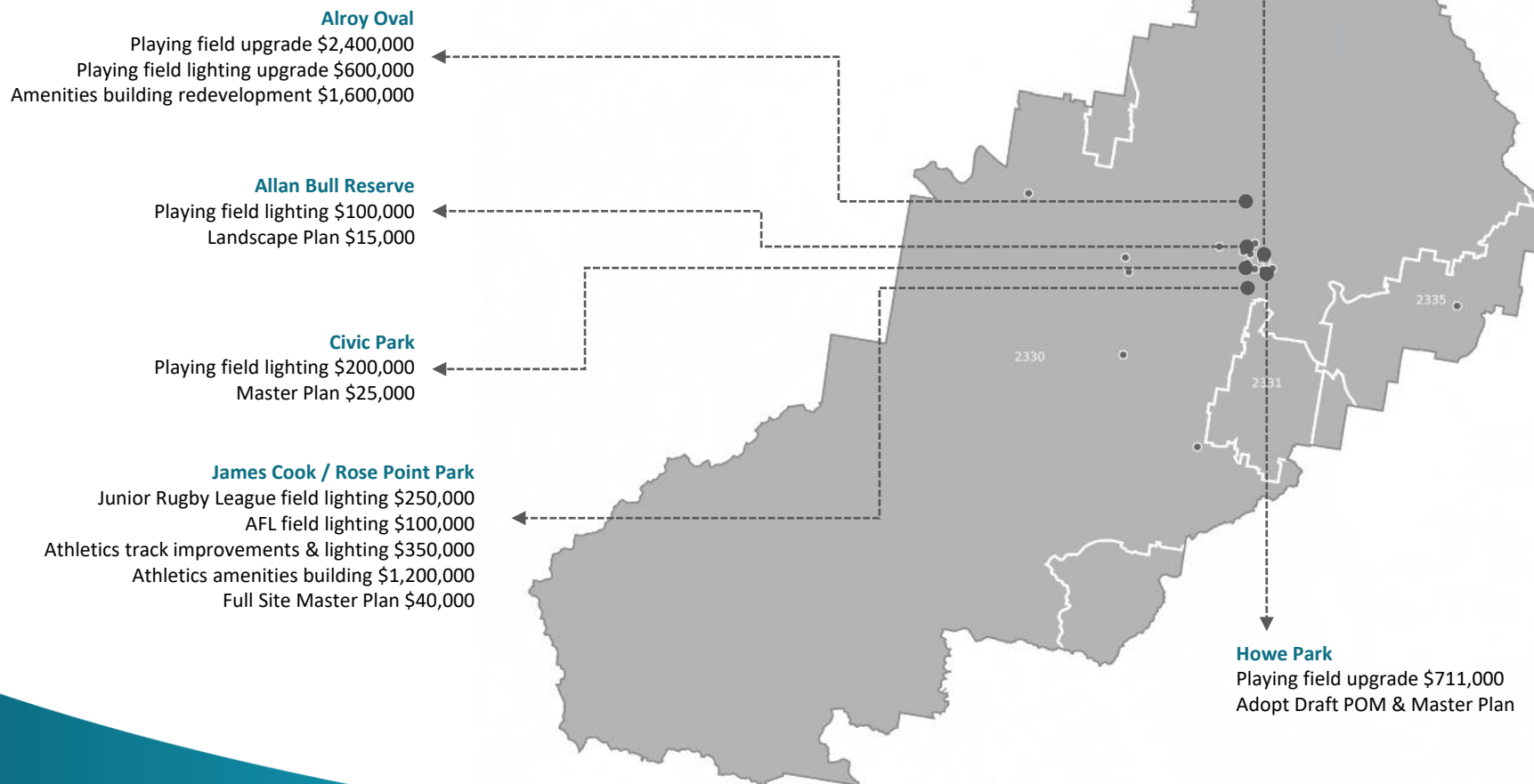
- Gowrie Park**
No short-term recommendations
- Albion Park**
Plan of Management and Master Plan
\$40,000
- Victoria Square**
Active recreation embellishments \$150,000
Master Plan \$15,000



10-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN – LOCAL SPORTS GROUNDS

Project Type > Site Name	ALBION PARK	GOWRIE PARK	VICTORIA SQUARE
Field of play infrastructure			
Court surface upgrade / new		Track improvements \$100,000	
Grass playing surface upgrade / redevelopment	Oval upgrade \$100,000		Field / Pitch upgrade \$100,000
Lighting upgrade / new installation (LED)			
Recreation reserve / play space embellishment		Active recreation \$80,000	Active recreation \$150,000
Buildings and supporting infrastructure			
Changeroom amenity upgrade			
Clubroom development / redevelopment			
Spectator amenity improvement / embellishment	Shade, shelter & toilets \$120,000		Shade and shelter \$50,000
Planning			
Site / facility master planning	PMO & associated Master Plan \$40,000	Feasibility / Master Plan \$10,000	Master Plan \$15,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED 10-YEAR COST	\$260,000	\$190,000	\$315,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED 10-YEAR SPEND AT LOCAL SPORTING GROUNDS			\$765,000

DISTRICT SPORTS GROUNDS SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS



10-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN – DISTRICT SPORTS GROUNDS

Project Type > Site Name	ALLAN BULL RESERVE	ALROY OVAL	CIVIC PARK	DUNOLLY (PIRTEK) PARK	HOWE PARK
Field of play infrastructure					
Court surface upgrade / new					
Grass playing surface upgrade / redevelopment	Field upgrade \$100,000	Field upgrade \$2,400,000	Field upgrade \$250,000	Field upgrade \$250,000	Field upgrade \$711,000
Lighting upgrade / new installation (LED)	Field lighting \$100,000	Field lighting \$600,000	Field lighting \$200,000	Field lighting \$200,000	Tennis lighting \$60,000
Recreation reserve / play space embellishment		Active recreation \$1,850,000	Active recreation \$80,000		
Buildings and supporting infrastructure					
Changeroom amenity upgrade	Changeroom upgrade \$300,000				**Commence planning in the short-term and deliver in-line with Management Plan.
Clubroom development / redevelopment		Amenities building \$1,600,000	Amenities building \$1,800,000	Club & changeroom replacement (2 level) \$2,900,000	Football / Cricket amenities building \$2,475,000**
Spectator amenity improvement / embellishment	Spectator viewing \$60,000	Spectator amenities \$200,000			Football / Cricket spectator amenities \$200,000
Planning					
Site / facility master planning	Landscape Plan \$15,000		Master Plan \$25,000	Landscape Plan to complement building designs \$15,000	POM / Master Plan already prepared, requires adoption
TOTAL ESTIMATED 10-YEAR COST	\$575,000	\$6,650,000	\$2,355,000	\$3,365,000	\$3,446,000

10-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN – JAMES COOK / ROSE POINT PARK

Project Type > Site Name	CRICKET	JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE	AFL	NETBALL	ATHLETICS
Field of play infrastructure					
Court surface upgrade / new	Cricket practice \$150,000				
Grass playing surface upgrade / redevelopment	Oval/Field upgrades \$1,100,000				Track & Field improvements \$250,000
Lighting upgrade / new installation (LED)		Field Lighting \$250,000	Field Lighting \$100,000	Court Lighting \$80,000	Field Lighting \$100,000
Recreation reserve / play space embellishment	Parkrun and car parking upgrades \$350,000				
Buildings and supporting infrastructure					
Changeroom amenity upgrade		Rugby changeroom upgrade \$100,000	AFL changeroom upgrade \$500,000		
Clubroom development / redevelopment					Athletics amenities building \$1,200,000
Spectator amenity improvement / embellishment		Spectator amenities \$400,000	Spectator amenities \$260,000	Spectator amenities \$65,000	
Planning					
Site / facility master planning	Master Plan \$40,000				
TOTAL ESTIMATED 10-YEAR COST	\$4,945,000				
TOTAL ESTIMATED 10-YEAR SPEND AT DISTRICT SPORTS GROUNDS					\$21,336,000

IMPLEMENTATION ROLES AND PARTNERS

The Strategy will rely on several key partners and stakeholders in its implementation and delivery.

COUNCIL AND SPORTS COUNCIL ROLES

Singleton Council will play a lead role in coordinating, driving, delivering, supporting and evaluating recommendations and priorities outlined within the Strategy. Council is responsible for facilitating, fostering and convening the Singleton Sports Council to engage, interpret and prioritise actions.

Whilst the Strategy will sit with the Recreation and Facilities team within Council, cross-departmental collaboration will ensure the Strategy's greatest chances of success. Another key role for Council will be to align investment and resources with recommended actions and to leverage external funding opportunities.

Council will also continue to be responsible for the approval of identified capital works and infrastructure projects, including supporting clubs and Sports Council members to ensure their projects are well planned and designed. Council is also encouraged to incorporate the directions and actions from this Strategy, where appropriate, into other future relevant Council strategies and policies.

PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER ROLES

All partners external to Council will be engaged to assist in Strategy delivery. Roles will vary for each stakeholder group, but will typically include:

- Investment support and attraction
- Policy direction
- Technical facility standard setting, guidance and compliance checking
- Data sharing, evidence preparation and benefits promotion
- Fostering collaboration and resource sharing
- Supporting facility use and participation activation.

Across the actions identified, the following organisations are considered critical in supporting the improvement of the Strategy.



HOW WILL THE STRATEGY BE RESOURCED?

Identified infrastructure improvement and development recommendations and the proposed 10-year capital plan provides a road map for addressing gaps in existing community sporting infrastructure across Singleton. In addition to using the proposed project prioritisation tool to assess recommendations against objectives and principles, the aspirations of clubs, committees, peak sporting body partners and the community must be considered.

Ultimately, implementation priorities will be heavily influenced and determined by the benefit and impact they will have on users and the local community, as well as the capacity of projects to be supported and funded by key partners and investors. When making decisions on priorities and their implementation, Council will need to consider the financial contributions available from a range of sources.

PARTNERSHIPS

Council recognises the valuable input from many organisations and individuals in delivering sporting activities, many of whom are reflected through this Strategy. Growing and supporting partnerships with sporting clubs and tenants of sporting infrastructure is imperative to delivering sustainable infrastructure that services the needs of the community.

The continuation of club and user group contributions towards funding infrastructure improvements will be critical, as will the need for “sinking funds” to be collectively managed between clubs and Council. This is a strong and valued mechanism for ensuring ongoing facility renewal is budgeted and planned for.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

Council has partnered with several NSW Government agencies and departments on many sporting infrastructure projects directly and via grant programs available to local government. Council will continue to work with State and Federal Government departments to secure funding for future projects. It is worth noting that funding programs and priorities of State and Federal Government can change regularly and flexibility in securing a range of funding sources will be an ongoing requirement.

Of major significance is the **NSW Government's \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund**. This fund has a range of categories relevant to Singleton, including:

- Resources for Regions
- Connecting Country Communities
- Stronger Country Communities

Known state or national sporting organisation funding dedicated towards community infrastructure also includes the following and should be explored for relevant projects:

- Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund (ACIF)
- Northern NSW Football Facilities Fund
- NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund
- Australian Football Facilities Fund.

PLANNING

The strategic framework in this document provides the mechanism to prioritise community sporting facility improvements and their planning. It will help to develop intelligent, robust plans for upgrading existing infrastructure and developing new facilities and amenities in-line with their intended purpose, compliance and evolving community needs.

CAPITAL WORKS

Many projects and recommendations represented within the 10-year capital plan can be funded through annual capital works allocations via efficient and prioritised planning. A whole of Council approach to allocating funding towards sporting infrastructure that supports growing participation opportunities should be taken.



SINGLETON COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY 2022-2032

“SETTING THE DIRECTION FOR SPORT IN SINGLETON”

PART B: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT – JANUARY 2022

An aerial photograph of Dunolly (Pirtek) Park in Dunolly. The image shows a large, rectangular green field, likely a sports field, with a small white building and a few parked cars nearby. To the left of the field is a large, rectangular, brownish area, possibly a pond or a dry lake bed. The surrounding area includes trees, a road with some vehicles, and other buildings. A semi-transparent teal banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND TRENDS".

STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND TRENDS

LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The following provides a high level overview of strategic documents which guide and support the development of the Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy. It should be noted that a number of these strategies may not reflect the recent impacts of COVID-19. These documents however still provide critical context from a policy perspective and will continue to guide and support future Strategy recommendations.

STATE & FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- National Sport Plan 2030
- Ausplay 2019-2020
- NSW Government - Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2018-2022
- NSW Government – Hunter Sport and Active Recreation Plan 2018-2023
- NSW Government – Her Sport, Her Way: Shaping the Future of Women’s Sport in NSW 2019-2023

SINGLETON COUNCIL

- Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027
- Singleton Council Open Space and Recreation Needs Study
- Singleton Plan of Management of Singleton Sports Grounds and Riverside Parks
- Singleton Sports Grounds User Guide
- Singleton Council Mountain Bike Trail Feasibility Study 2021
- Alroy Oval Master Plan 2021
- Rose Point and James Cook Park Landscape Master Plan 2004
- Community Sports Lighting Audit 2019

SPORT

- National Rugby League Preferred Facility Guidelines
- Rugby Australia National Facility Guidelines
- AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines
- Cricket Australia Community Cricket Facility Guidelines
- Netball Australia National Facilities Policy
- Tennis Australia Infrastructure Planning, Design and Delivery Resource
- NSW and Northern NSW Football Facility Guides
- NSW Football Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030
- Cricket NSW Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030
- AFL NSW/ACT Facilities Strategy 2020-2023
- Squash Australia Participation Plan 2016-2020

NSW GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING

OFFICE OF SPORT: STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2024

Developed by the NSW Government, the Office of Sport Strategic Plan aims to provide a consolidated approach to building more active communities through connections and opportunities in sport and active recreation.

The vision of the document will see *'sport and active recreation creating healthier people, connecting communities and making a stronger NSW'* through the following key focus areas:

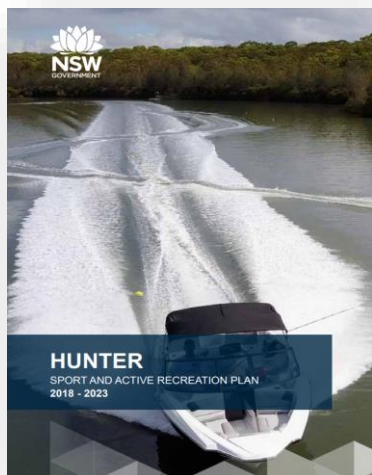
Participation: Everyone in NSW participating in sport and active recreation throughout their whole life. This includes increasing the percentage of people participating, improving retention rates across all age groups, creating greater awareness and improving opportunities for under-represented groups.

Places and Spaces: Everyone in NSW can access places and spaces for sport and active recreation. This includes increasing the number of fit for purpose sport and active recreation facilities and increasing the compatibility of facilities that are accessible and multi-purpose.

Sector Sustainability: The sector continues to grow sport and active recreation across NSW. This will be achieved by improving the sector's capability to respond to emerging trends and challenges, and help to create more safe and inclusive environments for all.

Partnerships and Investment: Partnerships and investment in sport and active recreation that maximise value for everyone in NSW. This is to be achieved by supporting a range of partners to work collaboratively to reach mutually beneficial outcomes. Increasing the number of programs and services that promote sport and recreation across all of government, including the number of programs delivered, and greater contributions from partners and stakeholders of the Office of Sport.





OFFICE OF SPORT: HUNTER SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION PLAN 2018-2023

This document provides a regional approach to the planning and delivery of sport and recreation in the Hunter Region. It outlines a series of outcomes to drive improved opportunities for sport and active recreation to 2023, including:

- Increased participation of adults and children in regular sport and active recreation
- Improved access to sport and active recreation for everyone in the region, regardless of background or ability
- Integrated performance pathways for participation in sport
- Fit for purpose facilities in the region
- Valued regional sporting events
- Improved collaboration within the sport and active recreation sector.



HER SPORT, HER WAY: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S SPORT IN NSW 2019-2023

The Her Sport, Her Way Strategy affirms the NSW Government's commitment to empower women and girls to have full access to opportunity and choice, be valued for their diversity, be recognised for their contribution, and be able to participate in all aspects of life freely and safely.

Focus areas identified within the Strategy include: **Participation, Places and Spaces, Leveraging Investment and Leadership.**

Indicators of success include:

- More women and girls playing sport
- Improved retention of adolescent girls in sport
- Sport facilities that meet the current and future needs of female participants
- Gender inclusive sporting cultures
- More women in leadership positions on and off the field
- Major women's sport events secured and showcased
- Increased investment in women's sport across the sector.

LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES



SINGLETON COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2027

This Community Strategic Plan outlines the approach to achieve Singleton's long term vision of being '*vibrant, progressive, connected, sustainable and resilient*'. This vision is set to be achieved through five pillars; those most relevant to the project at hand include:

Our People:

- Provide social, recreational and cultural services which educate, inspire and entertain
- Collaborate with government and other agencies to improve services relating to health, education, integration, connectivity, security and well-being
- Facilitate and support programs and activities which promote inclusion and celebrate diversity.

Our Places:

- Provide safe and well-maintained facilities and infrastructure
- Facilitate land use planning and development outcomes which respect and contribute in a positive way to the environment and community.

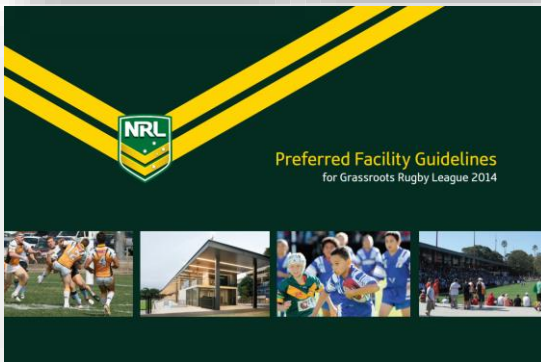
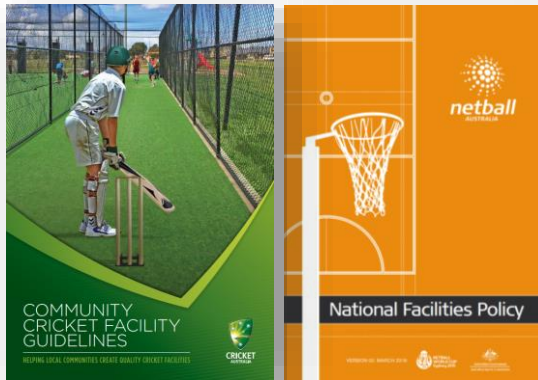


SINGLETON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS STUDY (2013)

The document provides guidance to the need, demand and supply of open space and recreational facilities within the Singleton municipality. The Study identifies the importance of recreation reserves in their contribution to the broader open space network.

Within the document there are a number of recommendations for improvements to sporting facilities to support and enhance their quality and capacity. These opportunities will be tested through the development of the project at hand. Where relevant, the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study has been referenced within individual sports ground site summaries within this report.

PLANNING FOR SPORT



SPORT FACILITY STRATEGIES, FRAMEWORKS & GUIDELINES

To support local, state and federal strategic planning, many peak sporting bodies have developed resources that help guide sustainable facility development and delivery. Across the many sports represented in Singleton, including tennis, touch football, cricket, football (soccer), athletics, rugby league, rugby union, netball and AFL, most offer guidelines or strategies of some description.

Common priorities and principles identified within these documents however, include:

Gender neutral amenities: Providing facilities that are welcoming, inclusive, accessible and encourage use by people of all-genders.

Multi-purpose facilities: Providing facilities that offer opportunities for multiple users and a variety of uses to generate greater community benefit and asset utilisation.

Growing venue capacity: Increasing the quality and capacity of existing facilities through innovative approaches (e.g. LED lighting, synthetic surfaces) that greater more programming opportunities.

Planning for growth and demand: Investment and prioritisation of facilities and infrastructure upgrades where greatest need and demand is demonstrated.

Partnerships and collaborative investment: Enhancing and maintaining relationships between all levels of government, industry partners and sport to promote collaborative investment into facility development.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

All levels of government provide facility development funding opportunities. Federal and State Governments provide funding via targeted grant programs that aim to increase participation and access to sport and recreation activities.

Local Government are the primary asset owner and manager of the 14 sports grounds included within this Strategy. Council also play an active role in other community sporting facilities and provide a range of funding opportunities through grants, capital works programs and operating subsidies.

Investment from local sources also contributes to progressing facility projects, often assisting in attracting and leveraging additional investment from funding partners. Partnerships between sport, community and government stakeholders will continue to be vital in delivering the facilities needed to support participation.

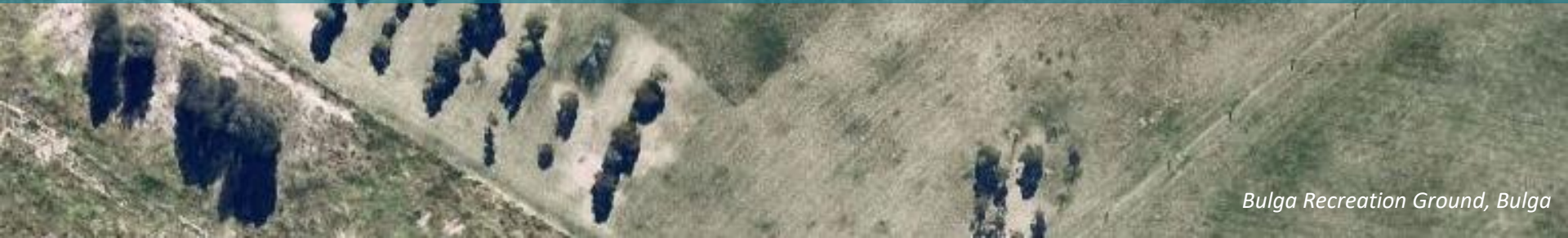
Prioritising local infrastructure projects should be measured against the recommendations within the future Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy, local government strategic planning, capital works budget cycles and external funding availability.

The Singleton Sports Council and its members also play a role in identifying broader priorities for sport locally. All Sports Council member organisations should be supported to prepare plans and become “project ready” in order to help identify and attract non-Council investment opportunities.





COMMUNITY PROFILE



POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

ABOUT SINGLETON

Singleton Council is located 200km north-west of Sydney in the heart of the Hunter Valley. The municipality is bordered by World Heritage Parks including Wollemi and Yengo and is powered by a variety of industries including tourism, mining, agriculture, hospitality and defence. Singleton spans over 4,893 square kilometres and is set along the banks of the Hunter River. The municipality is located on the traditional lands of the Wonnarua / Wanaruah people who have occupied the Upper Hunter for at least 30,000 years*.

POPULATION OVERVIEW AND DEMOGRAPHIC FORECAST

In 2021, the population of the Singleton Council area was approximately 23,800 people**. This is set to increase slightly to 23,900 in 2031 and then remain stable to 2036. The median age of people currently living in Singleton is 37 years. This population pattern is consistent with previous years which, from 2015, has also seen limited change in the number of persons living in Singleton.

In 2021, the highest number of people living in Singleton are aged between 5 and 14 years, followed by 20-29 and 45-54. To 2036# these age cohorts will not be as dominant, seeing a mostly even spread across all age groups. The 65+ age group will continue to be the smallest group of people represented in the municipality however will see some growth and change to 2036.

The bulk of competitive sport players are typically aged between 5 and 39 years. Around 50% of the local Singleton population falls within this category.

* Source: <https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/212/Aboriginal-History>

** Source: planning.nsw.gov.au

Age cohorts to 2041 were unavailable at the time of writing this report



23,800

2021 Singleton
population



Our People in 2021

0-9: 14%

10-19: 14%

20-29: 14%

30-39: 13%

40-49: 13%

50-59: 13%

60-69: 10%

70-79: 7%

80+: 3%



23,900

2036 Singleton
population



Our People in 2036

0-9: 12%

10-19: 12%

20-29: 12%

30-39: 12%

40-49: 13%

50-59: 12%

60-69: 11%

70-79: 9%

80+: 6%

MALE AND FEMALE POPULATION FORECASTS

Male and female population forecasts have been separated for further context and show changes from 2021-2036. For males, the trend line to 2036 is similar however there will be less males aged 0-39, but an increase in males aged 40-49 and those aged between 65-80. Females have a similar outlook with again a similar trend line however there will be fewer females aged 0-39 over the next 15 years, but more women aged 65+ to 2036.

For both males and females, given the overall population change is marginal, the fluctuations in age groups may see a slight decrease in demand for organised sports, and a higher demand for informal or unstructured recreation.

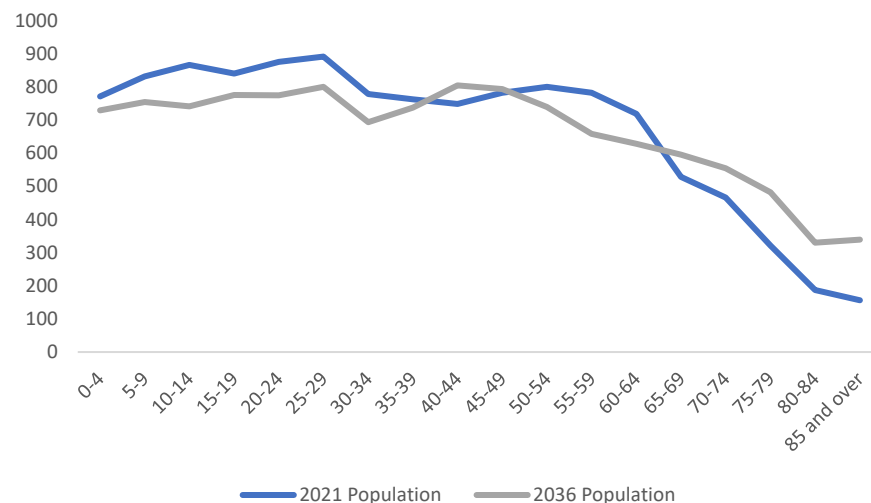
INDUSTRY AND WEALTH

Whilst the population of Singleton has remained, and will continue to remain stable to 2041, its Gross Regional Product has almost doubled from 2017 to 2019. Following a decline after 2012, Singleton's GRP increased over 60% from 2017 to 2018 and then an additional 10% in 2019. The municipality alone, through 16,300 jobs, generated \$12.7B dollars in output for the Hunter Region, constituting 12% of the entire region's output. Of the \$12B output, the mining sector makes the greatest contribution, at \$9B or 71% of total output. Those with access to greater disposable income are more likely to engage in sport and recreation activities more regularly.

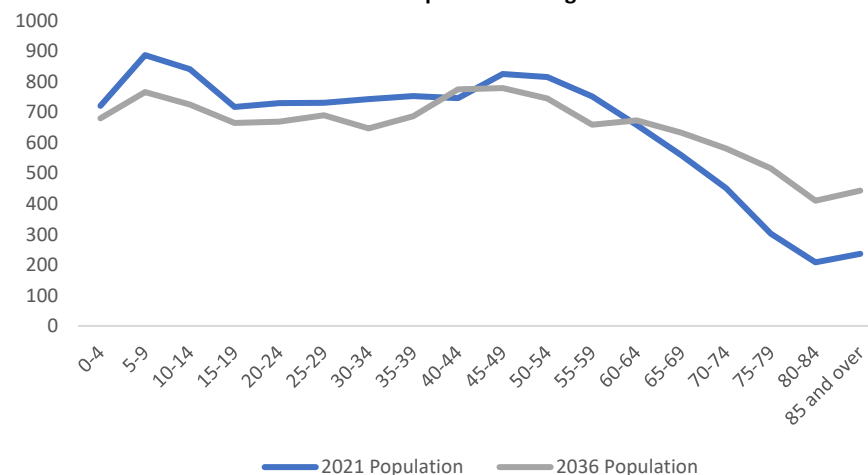
SETTLEMENT AND RESIDENTIAL PATTERNS

There are 16,300 residents working in Singleton, with the mining sector accounting for 40% of total employment within the region. Of those employed, 70% are aged between 25-54. This younger workforce is likely to be mostly attracted to jobs in the mining sector, and will likely call Singleton home over a short to medium timeframe. Many of these people have young families which is evident through the high numbers of children aged within the 5-14 age groups. This transient workforce and the ebb and flow effect it has on demographics sees, and will continue to see, fluctuating demand for sport and its programs and activities.

Male Forecasted Population Change 2021-2036

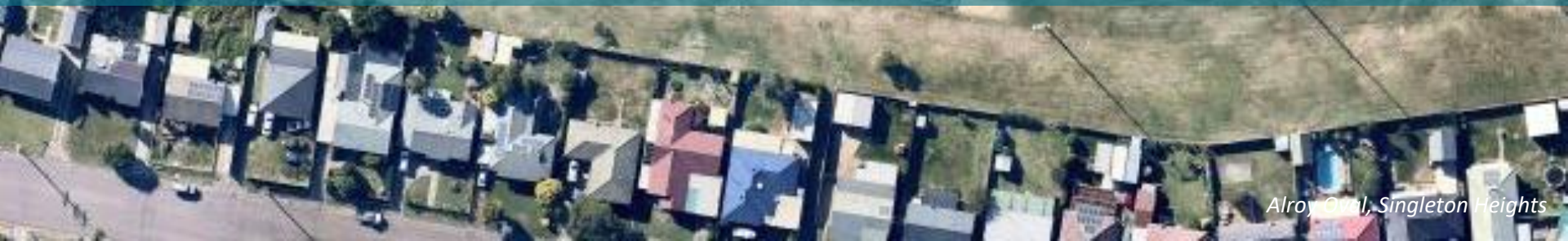


Female Forecasted Population Change 2021-2036





PARTICIPATION AND DEMAND



OVERVIEW OF SPORTING CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION ACROSS SINGLETON

1250



TOUCH FOOTBALL

283



CRICKET

595



NETBALL

235



AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

510



FOOTBALL (SOCCER)

170



RUGBY UNION – JUNIORS

430



RUGBY LEAGUE

125



ATHLETICS

350



TENNIS

Estimated participant numbers are only provided for the activities considered relevant to the 14 community sports grounds and recreation reserves referenced, audited and analysed within this Strategy.



Photo courtesy Singleton District Junior Cricket Association

Figures represent club data supplied for current (2021 winter) or most recently completed season (2020/21 summer). These figures represent seasons that were either directly impacted by COVID-19 in 2020 or the immediate season following and should be referenced as a guide to club representation only. Some sports at state and national levels are reporting post-Covid numbers higher than pre-Covid 2019 registrations.

Cricket participants numbers only reflect those playing in the Singleton Cricket Association senior competition. Singleton Junior Cricket have not provided accompanying junior participation numbers.

SPORT ACTIVITY TRENDS AND PREFERENCES

AUSPLAY (NSW)

The following information on activity preferences in NSW has been developed from Sport Australia's Ausplay data and annual statistical reporting. This information is used as a secondary to guide to identify potential state-wide influences and drivers of sporting participation and the associated trends in sport, club and activity preferences.

The tables below provide a summary of the Top 10 organised activities for children aged 5 to 14 and the Top 15 activities for adults aged 15 years and over in NSW.

The data relates to participation rates in each identified sport for the 12 months between January 2020 and December 2020. It should be noted that this calendar year was impacted partly due to COVID-19 outbreaks and restrictions. It is however acknowledged that while participation rates vary from year to year, generally the Top 10-15 activities have remained consistent over the life of the Ausplay survey.

TOP 10 ORGANISED PARTICIPATION IN CHILDREN (AGED 5-14 YEARS) BY ACTIVITY IN NSW (2020)

Top 10 Activities	Average	Boys	Girls
1 Swimming	37.3%	37.5%	37.0%
2 Football (Soccer)	21.4%	29.6%	13.3%
3 Gymnastics	10.9%	3.3%	18.4%
4 Dancing (recreational)	9.9%	1.1%	18.5%
5 Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	6.0%	5.4%	6.7%
6 Netball	5.5%	0.1%	10.7%
7 Rugby league	5.3%	9.9%	0.8%
8 Tennis	4.4%	5.5%	3.2%
9 Basketball	4.2%	4.3%	4.2%
10 Cricket	3.9%	6.7%	1.3%

TOP 15 ORGANISED PARTICIPATION IN ADULTS (AGED 15 YEARS+) BY ACTIVITY IN NSW (2020)

Top 10 Activities	Average	Males	Females
1 Walking (Recreational)	45.7%	35.3%	55.9%
2 Fitness/Gym	38.0%	34.9%	41.0%
3 Swimming	19.1%	17.6%	20.7%
4 Athletics, track and field (includes jogging and running)	18.8%	20.5%	17.1%
5 Cycling	11.3%	14.5%	8.2%
6 Bush walking	9.0%	7.7%	10.2%
7 Yoga	7.4%	1.9%	12.7%
8 Football (Soccer)	7.3%	10.5%	4.2%
9 Golf	6.0%	9.5%	2.6%
10 Tennis	5.8%	6.9%	4.7%
11 Basketball	3.6%	5.3%	2.0%
12 Pilates	3.6%	0.8%	6.2%
13 Surfing	3.5%	4.9%	2.1%
14 Netball	2.5%	0.7%	4.2%
15 Touch football	2.3%	2.8%	1.9%

AUSPLAY (NATIONAL)

The following information on activity opportunities in Singleton has been developed from Sport Australia's Ausplay data and annual statistical reporting (April 2021). National Ausplay participation rates for organised activities have been used here due to the low participation rates at the NSW level. This information has been provided to offer a comparison with the Top 10 activities for children aged 5 to 14 and the Top 15 activities for adults aged 15+ in NSW on the previous page.

The table below provides a summary of national participation rates for identified organised activities for adults aged 15 years and over and children aged 5 to 14. These activities have been identified as they are participated in and around the Singleton local government area.

ORGANISED PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY (NATIONAL PARTICIPATION RATES – APRIL 2021)

Activities participated in Singleton	Average (adults 15+)	Males	Females	Average (children 5-14)	Boys	Girls
MTB Riding	0.4%	0.7%	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.2%
Shooting / shooting sports	0.5%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%
Squash	0.7%	1.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%
Triathlon	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%
Volleyball (indoor & outdoor)	1.0%	1.1%	0.9%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%

While the average participation rate for Volleyball is considered low at 1.0% of the population, it does have a national participation rate of 8.2% for 15 to 17 year olds, making it a popular sport for secondary school aged children. Squash and Triathlon are also most popular with people aged over 25.

REGIONAL DEMAND OVERVIEW

Participation in sport and recreation can be measured in a variety of ways. For the purposes of the Community Sport Infrastructure Strategy, registered participants and active members of existing clubs have been used to guide the potential demand for activities and associated facilities over the next 10 years.

The identification of annual and seasonal trends have also been used to guide potential future demands and priorities for infrastructure improvement. Where possible, these trends and related potential demands have been qualified with strategic planning work of individual sporting bodies and via consultation with state and regional stakeholders.

The following sports have been included within the regional demand overview:

- Football (soccer)
- AFL
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Netball
- Athletics / running
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Touch Football
- MTB Riding
- Golf
- Squash

FOOTBALL (SOCCER)

In 2014, Hunter Valley Football had 5,953 registered participants. Between 2014 and 2019, the Association grew by almost 20% and in 2019 was providing for almost 7,050 registered participants. This was an average participation rate of 3.7% across the Hunter Valley Region (0.2% above the NSW regional participation rate).

Participation in football remains strongest in the 5-19 age groups in the region, however average participation rates by age are slightly under the NSW regional averages for these age cohorts.

Hunter Valley Football covers 6 local government areas from Cessnock and Maitland out to the Upper Hunter Shire. Participation in football is strongest the closer clubs are to Newcastle, with participation rates dropping slightly as you move further west into regional NSW. The Singleton LGA sits in the middle of the region with an estimated 680 participants residing within the Singleton area (3% of the population).

The Football NSW and Northern NSW Football SportsEye participation and demand model identifies that around 30% of local demand is being captured and converted into registered players, leaving around 2,000 potential additional participants not catered for. While 100% of latent demand can never be captured, the average conversion rate across the Hunter Valley Region is 41%. Using these local and regional averages, the potential latent demand for active football participants in Singleton could equate to an additional 220 players.

Of note across the region, is the greater number of clubs and venues used for football in adjacent areas. In Cessnock and Maitland alone there are 24 venues catering for club based football activities. Singleton provides two seasonal venues (providing 3 match pitches collectively) only and is catering for 510+ club participants. An estimated 170 players are also being lost to clubs that are based outside of the Singleton LGA.

REGIONAL DEMAND OVERVIEW

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL (AFL)

The Newcastle-Hunter Valley AFL Region has experienced significant growth from 2016 to 2019, with 2020 COVID-19 year numbers dipping. To 2019, numbers grew to over 12,500 at a rate of 50% growth. Projections for the current 2021 season are likely to exceed 2019 figures across the region, in-line with national AFL registrations.

AFL NSW-ACT registration data for the past 6 seasons indicates around 16% growth in total player numbers (+30 players). The club had grown steadily since 2016 and has maintained a strong base of over 200 active players for five years.

With a single AFL Club in Singleton providing 235 participants including Auskick, Juniors (boys and girls) and Senior men and women's teams, the Singleton Roosters Football Club is providing a strong base within the region. Overall future growth is likely to be close to plateau with limited population growth available to stimulate increased demand. Access to additional training space is likely to be required as the club currently exceeds the AFL's national benchmark of one full-size ground per 175 registered competition participants.

TENNIS

The Howe Park Tennis Club in 2020-21 had 352 members, which has seen a significant increase of around 150 members over the past three years following a change in coaching staff and an influx of social participants following COVID-19. As the main tennis competition and coaching venue in Singleton, a strong junior base of 62% of memberships will help to sustain demand in tennis into the future.

The private Country Tennis Club in Singleton also has around 140 members, but has been slowly declining over recent years. Collectively with an estimated 500 club based participants, this equates to around 2.1% of the local Singleton population.

NSW Ausplay data in 2020 identified state-wide participation rates in tennis were 4.7%, indicating that the Singleton LGA area may have some latent demand for tennis activities that are not currently being fulfilled.

Tennis NSW reported recent growth as a result of a restructured membership and affiliation process across NSW. This has translated in many clubs and venues reaffiliating with the sport. Demand for tennis and related activities are primarily venue led and coach driven, with recent trends toward more social based play through family and friends engagement.

Exact demand outside the formal registered participant base is also difficult to measure. However, Tennis NSW has worked extensively with the local government sector via its Tennis Restart program to establish baseline data across the region. This can now be built on annually to measure growth and demand in the future.

CRICKET

Cricket NSW's Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030 reports around 26,160 registered participants across the Greater Hunter Region, of which the Singleton Council is one of 10 local government areas. Regional participation rates in 2021 were around 6.9%, almost 2% lower than the average Regional NSW participation rate of 8.7%. At this regional participation rate, the Singleton LGA could be expected to have more than 1,600 registered participants. At around 400 local players engaged in the Singleton and District Cricket Association (seniors and juniors), the demand for cricket appears well under regional and state averages.

Greater Hunter Region participation is projected to grow in-line with a 12% population growth – at current levels of participation and a static population, Singleton is unlikely to experience the same rates of growth.

Using the regional average of 185 registered participants per pitch ratio (180 in regional NSW and 73 state-wide), Singleton provides around 57 participants per pitch. This indicates the supply is currently adequate to cater for current demand, as well as a 25% increase in future participation.

REGIONAL DEMAND OVERVIEW

ATHLETICS / RUNNING

The Singleton Track and Field Club has consistently had around 190-200 registered members for the past few years, dipping to 122 in 2020-21 with the club citing COVID-19 impacts as the primary reason. Historical numbers indicate some future demand that could be recaptured for formalised athletics activities, particularly following a move to Cook Park, closer to the main sports activity hub in Singleton.

Recreational running/jogging is consistently one of the most participated sport and recreation activity nationally according to Ausplay statistics. Around 60% of NSW residents regularly walk, jog or run for fitness and physical activity (this equates to almost 14,000 Singleton residents) Locally, Singleton Parkrun offers a formalised 5km weekly run for anyone interested in running and walking. Over the life of Singleton Parkrun, they have engaged 2,640 participants, with an average of 100 participants each week. The age demographic extends from ages 5 to 85 and offers an opportunity for anyone to engage in a regular fitness activity at Cook / Rose Point Parks (without the need for specialist skills, equipment or financial contribution).

Parkrun as an activity has shown significant growth nationally and 14% growth in Singleton since 2014. It could be expected that as further demand for recreational running and walking continues to grow, so too will the demand for Parkrun.

NETBALL

Netball NSW did not respond to consultation requests. As a result, no current peak body demand or demand estimates have been provided.

TOUCH RUGBY

Singleton Junior and Senior Touch Associations have retained strong and consistent participant numbers for the past five years – around the 1,000+ mark. Touch in Singleton has also been able to maintain a strong balance between male (55%) and female (45%) participation and cross sport promotion with other winter football codes operating within Singleton.

NSW Touch reported that Singleton Touch was in a healthy state participation wise and regularly contribute to regional and talent pathway programs. They are also of equivalent size to Touch Associations in Taree, Nelson Bay, Maitland and Forster Tuncurry.

With a strong and stable junior participation base, it could be assumed that Touch Rugby within Singleton will continue to produce stable numbers, as they have done in previous years. With the current facilities, growth in participation may only be driven via the improvement of lighting and an amenities building commensurate with being the largest sporting association in Singleton.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NSW Rugby League data identifies strong rugby league participation numbers (greater than 400 senior and junior participants) in Singleton since 2015, with almost 14% growth between 2015 and 2021.

With a consistent level of participation over the past 5 to 6 years and growth in junior rugby league prevalent (particularly in girls participation), future demand for the sport is likely to be present. The somewhat transient nature of senior players and the impact that shift working can have, limited growth is projected in senior rugby league numbers.

Should a further 10% growth be experienced in junior rugby league over the next five year period, rugby league could see as many as 500 players combined across junior and senior clubs.

REGIONAL DEMAND OVERVIEW

RUGBY UNION

Collectively the Singleton Junior and Senior Rugby Unions Clubs had almost 300 registered players for the recently completed 2021 season (178 juniors and 113 seniors). These numbers were equivalent to pre-Covid-19 registrations in 2019, and an increase of 20% on 2020 player registrations. This was a trend reported by Rugby NSW and was typical across most clubs in Country NSW.

Rugby NSW also reported an estimated 318 players were registered with the peak body who reside within the Singleton LGA, indicating that the vast majority (over 90%) of players live and play locally.

Similar to most sports in Singleton, significant increases in local demand are not projected into the future and player retention and broader diversity into girls and women's rugby is the best opportunity to grow and sustain the game. In 2021, only 8.5% of all registered players were female and the overall player retention rate from 2020 to 2021 was 59%. Retention however was impacted by Covid-19 from 2020 and higher levels of retention are projected in the coming years.

GOLF

Singleton Sports Council annual membership gathering identified an estimated 307 active financial members at the Singleton Golf Club in 2021. This equates to a membership penetration rate of around 1.6% of the local population aged over 15 years. However, these numbers do not take into account casual and social participation from non-members, which is likely to form around two-thirds of total round numbers based on NSW Ausplay data identifying a 6.0% participation rate in adults aged 15+.

In September 2021, Golf NSW reported surging membership rates over the preceding 20 months. The surge, reported as a 6.4% increase in Regional NSW has been attributed to the broader impacts of Covid-19 on other formal sporting activities. Throughout the Covid-19 period, Golf has been one of few activities that has been able to operate.

In national terms (excluding Victoria), Golf Australia has reported a 3% growth in competition rounds played by females and 4% growth by males between September 2019 and September 2020. It is unclear whether this jump in demand for golf will be maintained longer term.

MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDING (MTB)

The 2021 Singleton Council MTB Bike Feasibility Study identified that based on available AusPlay data, the NSW participation rate in mountain biking was at 1.3%. Multiplied across the population in Singleton, it was assumed that there are likely to be approximately 312 people in Singleton that ride regularly. Data provided by the newly formed Singleton MTB Club (in May 2021) appears consistent with this number of regular riders. However, they did also report that less than 10% of regular MTB riders participate in the activity via an organised club, therefore it is difficult to estimate figures with certainty.

A community survey undertaken through the Feasibility Study received a total of 160 responses. 28% of survey respondents indicated they currently ride in Singleton multiple times a week and 22% weekly.

The Feasibility study identified that the typical MTB rider was aged between 25-44, predominately male and mainly social and recreation riders. 98% of Feasibility Study survey respondents identified they would ride more regularly if there was an improved and formalized local trail network.

While MTB riding and associated facility recommendations are not specific outcomes of this Strategy, the continued support for the emerging club and the implementation of an integrated trail network are key recommendations of the 2021 Singleton Council MTB Bike Feasibility Study.

REGIONAL DEMAND OVERVIEW

SQUASH

Squash Australia via its Participation Plan 2016-2020 reported a significant decline in participation from the late 1990's to 2014. Over the course of this 16 year period, overall formal national participation declined from 321,000 players to around 105,000.

A number of factors influenced this decline, with the key influences being commercial land/centres being used for more financially beneficial projects (e.g. residential development or gym/fitness centre expansion), lack of pathways and participation programs, limited coaching opportunities and the ageing nature of facilities.

In regional areas, access to courts is a key influence on participation and demand. Singleton, via the Singleton Heights Sports Centre offers 4 squash courts. There appears to be an accessible local network of squash courts across the region, which may promote broader competition and event activities, in addition to local social and casual play in Singleton.

BASKETBALL, GYMNASTICS, VOLLEYBALL & FUTSAL

While not a specific focus for this Strategy, basketball, gymnastics, futsal and volleyball are all sports played out of the Singleton Heights Sports Centre. There are likely to be varying levels of state-wide and regional demand for these sports and activities.

Across Australia, all of these sports have significantly higher levels of participation by children, generally those aged 9 to 14. With the exception of Volleyball that peaks at the 15-17 year age group.

Historical Sports Centre reporting identifies an estimated 14% increase between 2020 and 2021 in terms of collective attendances at the Sports Centre. Much of this increase can be attributed to additional casual court hire and programming activities. An overall 33% decline in sports competition attendances was likely attributable to Covid-19 impacts and restrictions placed on formal indoor sports and the inability to conduct them at times throughout the year.

The drive and demand for these sports will come via the opportunities provided at the Singleton Heights Sports Centre and those that exist within local schools. With only one single multi-use court supplied at the venue and by the Singleton Council, it could be concluded that additional courts that support the expansion of indoor sporting opportunities through any future facility redevelopment would be worth investigating.

Indoor sports courts within school environments would also provide additional opportunities to grow and support these activities.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY

COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community survey was undertaken as part of the Singleton Community Sporting Infrastructure Strategy to gain an understanding of the community usage, and future preferences and priorities for sports grounds in Singleton.

The survey was open for a period of 3 weeks throughout May 2021 and received 238 responses. Of these responses, 94% were completed by Singleton residents.

Key findings from the community survey include:

- The majority of **Singleton residents use sports grounds between 1 and 4 times per week.**
- **60%** of survey respondents **primarily visit sports grounds to attend a formal sporting activity. 19% attend for passive recreation purposes**, including walking, spectating and family play. The balance of respondents visit to undertake social sport or physical activity, as well as community events and school sport.
- **52% of people believe the primary purpose of Singleton's sports grounds are for community sport** while 36% believe sports grounds should meet a variety of purposes including *for sporting, open space and community events.*

- The **top 5 most commonly used facilities** at sports grounds across Singleton include:

- Public Toilets (64%)
- Oval/Playing Field (62%)
- Seating (39%)
- Play Equipment/Play Space (38%)
- Sporting Club Rooms and Change Rooms (35%).

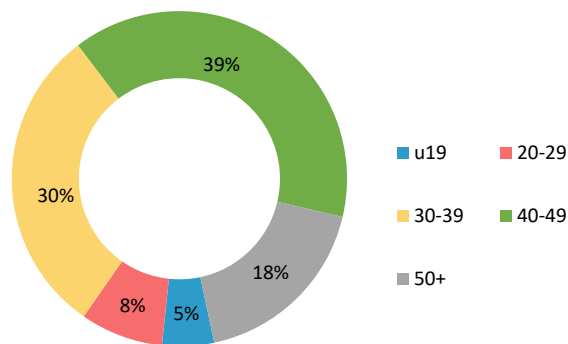
- The **top 5 first priority improvements for sports grounds** in Singleton include:

- ① Playing field Improvements
- ② Public toilets (improvements and provision)
- ③ Change room improvements
- ④ Shelter (for spectators, players and park users)
- ⑤ Car parking.

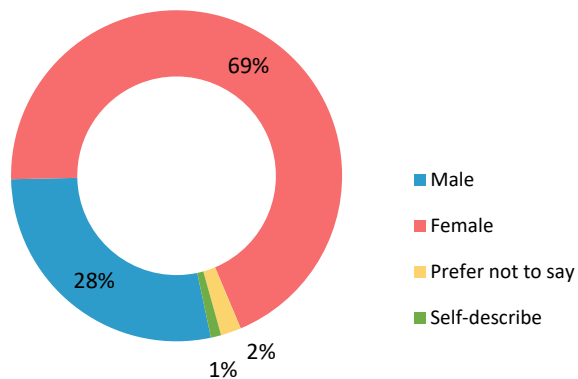


SURVEY RESPONDENT PROFILE

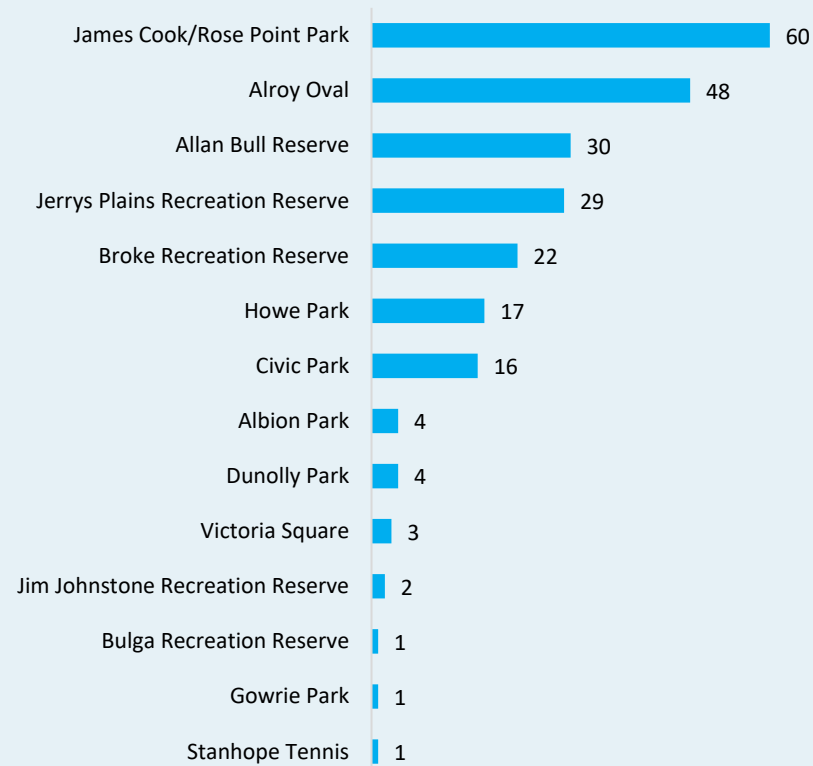
AGE (%)



GENDER (%)

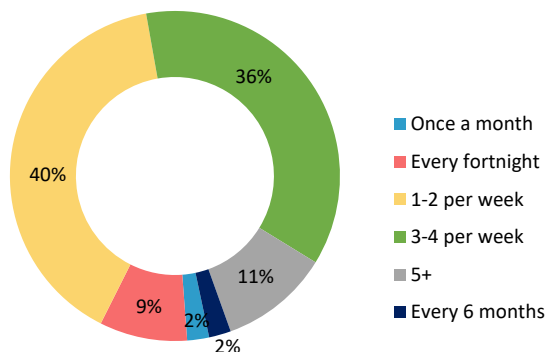


NAME OF SPORTS GROUND SURVEY IS COMPLETED FOR

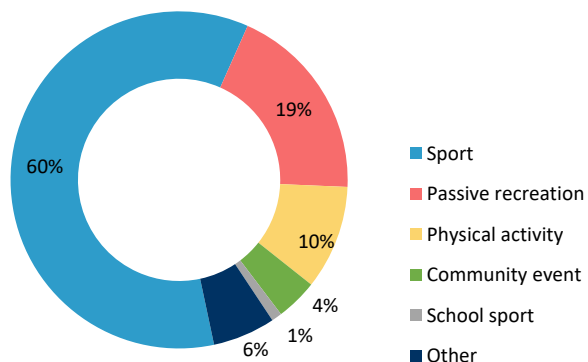


USE & PURPOSE

FREQUENCY OF SPORTSGROUND USE



PURPOSE FOR VISITING SPORTSGROUND



WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SPORTS GROUND?



Community Sport

52% of people believe community sport is the primary purpose of sports grounds



Community Open Space

7% of people believe the primary purpose is for community open space

36%

Combination of Sport, Events and Open Space

36% of respondents believe a combination of both sport and open space is the primary purpose of sports grounds



Community Events

3% of people believe the primary purpose is for community events

HOW DO YOU ACCESS THE SITE?



Car

61%



Walk

28%



Bike

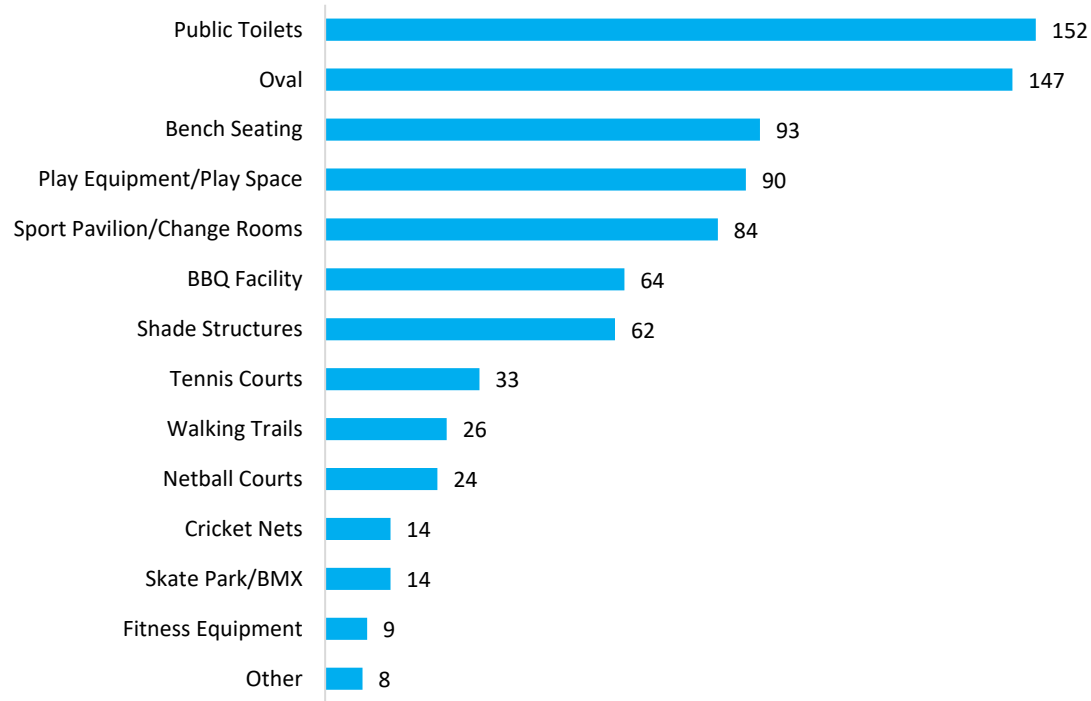
10%



Bus

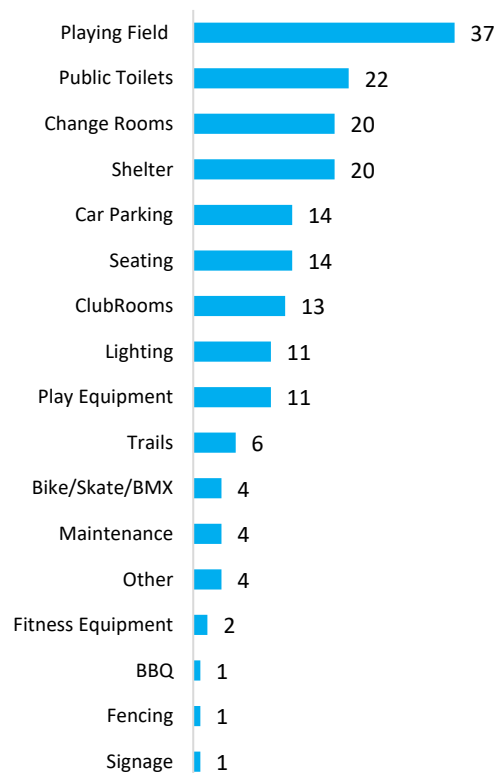
1%

FACILITIES USED AT SPORTSGROUNDS

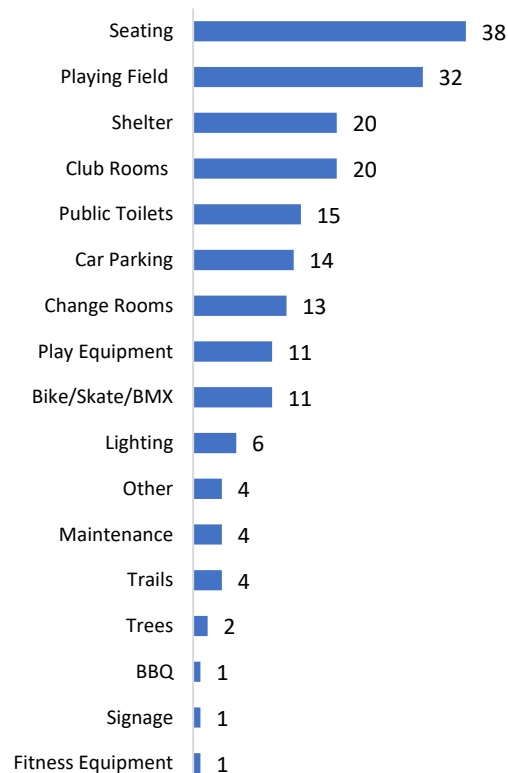


PRIORITIES FOR SPORTSGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

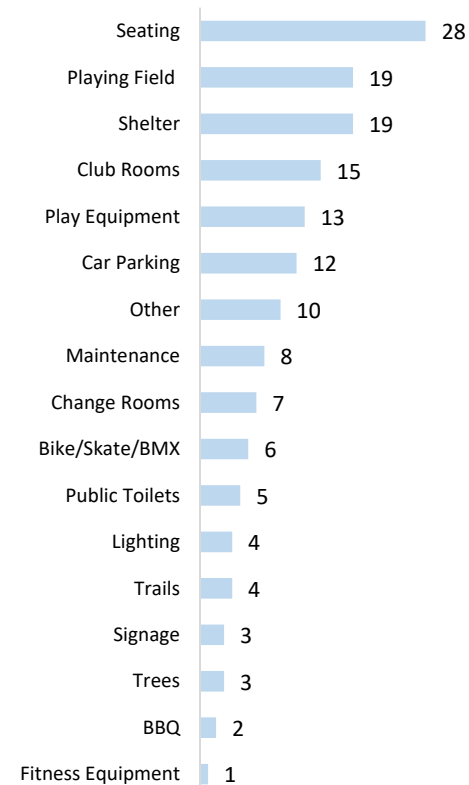
FIRST PRIORITY



SECOND PRIORITY



THIRD PRIORITY



An aerial photograph of Howe Park in Singleton. The image shows a large green baseball field on the right, a cluster of tennis courts on the left, and various park buildings and trees in the center. A semi-transparent teal banner is overlaid across the middle of the image.

SPORTS GROUNDS, FACILITIES & SITE SUMMARIES

Howe Park , Singleton

SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION & ASSESSMENT

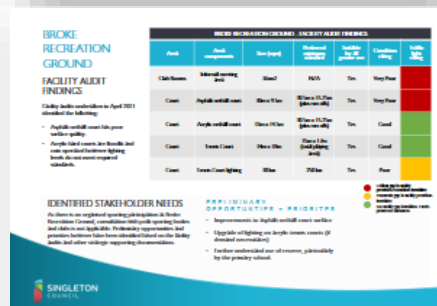
1



2



3



SPORTS GROUND SITE SUMMARIES

To understand more about the current provision, condition and usage of community sports grounds and facilities in Singleton, site visits and audits of the 14 village, local and district sports grounds were undertaken by project consultants in April 2021.

Detailed facility audits were only conducted at venues on Council owned and/or managed land. Other sites and sports facilities on non-Council owned or managed land or those under management contract or lease were not audited and do not form part of the assessment.

A summary of the findings from each site visit, as well as relevant support documentation, including master and management plans, site usage, participation and preliminary opportunities have all been considered and outlined in the following section of the report.

Each individual site summary contains:

1. An overview of the site including activities and key facility attributes.
2. A summary of the relevant planning overlays, strategic context and a further analysis of usage and participation.
3. An overview of the facility audit findings including provision and compliance with recommended sporting facility guidelines (if applicable).
4. A summary of consultation findings and strategic priorities for sport, tenants/clubs and an overview of preliminary opportunities and priorities.

*Note: Consultation findings summarised under each site have been derived from the individual club questionnaires and the community survey. Specific findings for each site are identified, with further analysis of the community survey to be undertaken and included as an appendix to this report.

SPORTS GROUNDS & ORDER OF SITE SUMMARIES

Site summaries appear in alphabetical order as follows:

1. Albion Park (Singleton)
2. Allan Bull Reserve (Huntermuir)
3. Alroy Oval (Singleton Heights)
4. Broke Recreation Reserve (Broke)
5. Bulga Recreation Ground (Bulga)
6. Civic Park (Singleton)
7. Dunolly (Pirtek) Park (Dunolly)
8. Gowrie Park (Singleton)
9. Howe Park (Singleton)
10. James Cook / Rose Point Park (Singleton)
11. Jim Johnstone Park (Warkworth)
12. Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground (Jerrys Plains)
13. Stanhope Tennis (Stanhope)
14. Victoria Square (Singleton)



Photo courtesy Singleton Junior Rugby Club

ALBION PARK

SITE SUMMARY Local Sports Ground



Cricket

1

Club (overflow facility)

1

Junior Playing Field

1

Synthetic Pitch



Playing Fields Rated in
'Good' Condition



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Albion Park is 2ha recreation reserve located approximately 1.5km from the Singleton town centre. It consists of a single cricket oval (with synthetic pitch) that is suitable for junior competition. The dimensions of the field would not be practical for senior cricket, as it falls short of recommended 50m boundaries square of the wicket.

The playing field is supported by a number of informal shelters that may be used for spectators, players and/or scorers, as well as general park users. The field of play is a mixed grass species without irrigation or drainage.

There is a building onsite (identified as the old tennis clubhouse) which is utilised by local community groups, however its suitability and access for cricketers is unknown. There is no other infrastructure that would support formal participation at the site. The area to the north of the reserve, which previously housed tennis courts, has been transformed into a community garden. There is no onsite parking however there appears to be adequate on street parking for the current levels of users and participants.

Albion Park is considered to be a local level facility.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Albion Park is zoned RE1 – Public Recreation zone and is situated within a flood planning area. It is located on Crown Land with Singleton Council the designated land manager. As the Crown Land manager of this reserve, Council is required to prepare a Plan of Management under the Crown Land Management Act 2016, which will include a more detailed master plan of the site.

PARTICIPATION

Singleton District Cricket Association utilise the reserve as an overflow competition facility for juniors. As the cricket plays across multiple sites and locations it is difficult to place an exact number of users of the sports ground. Consultation identified that the cricket pitch is used irregularly and only over cricket season. At other times it mainly acts as a community recreation space.



FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

During site inspections and facility audits undertaken in April 2021, Albion Park's playing surface was rated in good condition, as was the synthetic wicket.

There are no clubroom facilities at this venue, which does restrict adequate use for matches.

ALBION PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Surface	Playing Field	40m radius from centre wicket (at smallest side)	40m (junior) & 50m (senior) radius from centre wicket	Yes	Good	
Surface	Cricket Pitch	25m x 2.5m	25-28m x 2.4-2.8m	Yes	Good	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

Through consultation and desktop analysis, the following stakeholder priorities and needs have been identified for Albion Park:

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Cricket Australia identifies that for venues considered as overflow or satellite facilities for training and competition, that the following key amenity provision is required:

- 1 x playing field
- Access to public toilets
- Shade and weather protection for players, spectators and officials.

CLUB / USER IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Access to toilet facilities during matches
- More shade and seating for players, spectators and officials
- Ground irrigation improvements

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Access to public toilet facilities, not just when the community building is open
- Improved passive recreational infrastructure – seating, playground

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- Provision or negotiation of access to toilet facilities
- More shade and seating for players, spectators and community

ALLAN BULL RESERVE

SITE SUMMARY District Sports Ground



Rugby Union

1

Club

2

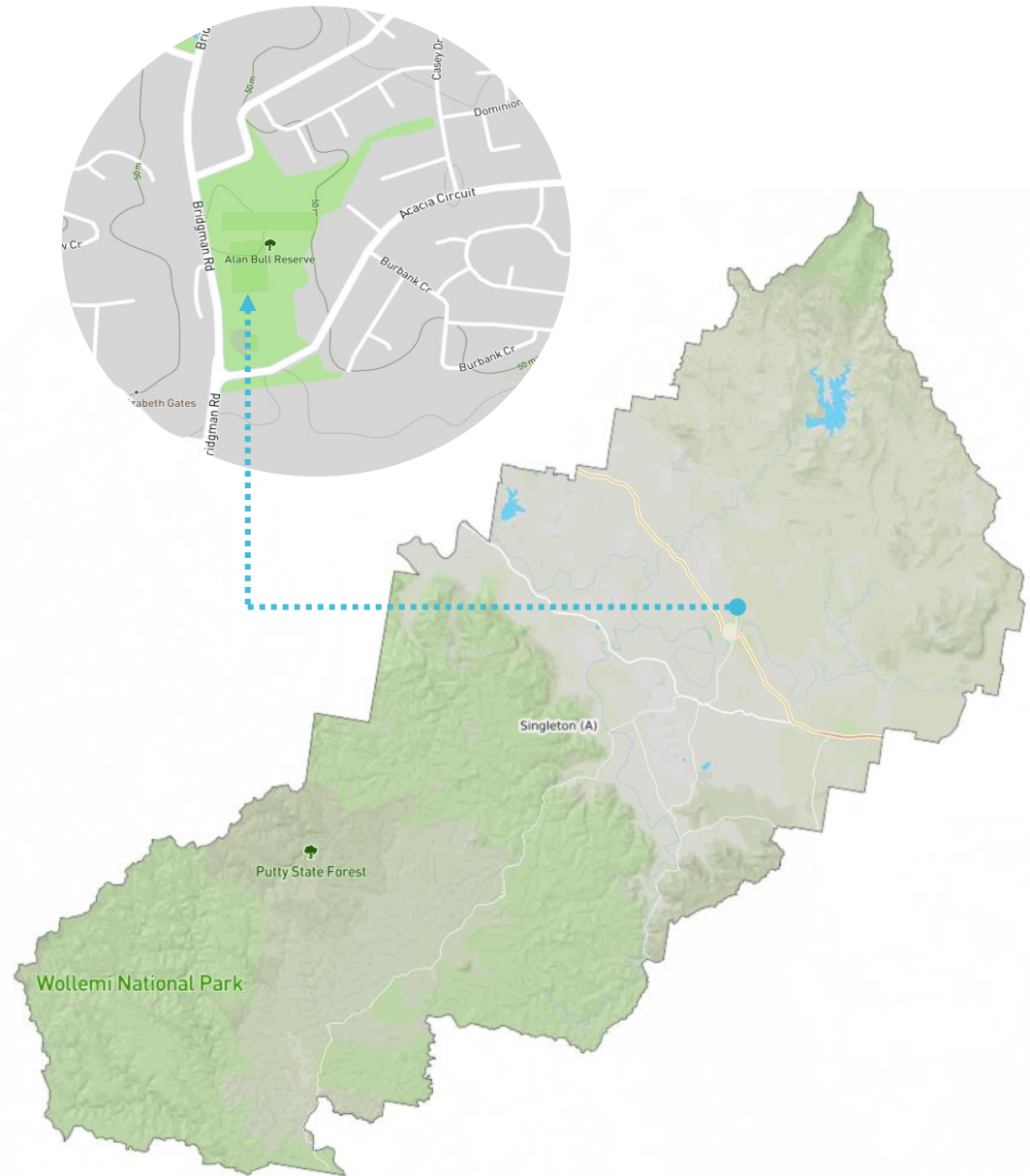
Junior Playing Fields



Playing Fields Rated in
'Moderate' Condition



20 lux sports lighting



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Allan Bull Reserve is located in Hunterview, 4-5km north of the Singleton town centre. It consists of two rugby union fields which are used for junior purposes only.

Both fields have good grass coverage with some provision of sports lighting, which has recently been audited and found to be approximately 20 lux (well under the recommended Australian Standards for training). The playing fields are supported by a small clubroom facility consisting of change rooms and toilets. The site has shared onsite car parking with the adjacent playground and skate park.

Allan Bull Reserve is considered to be a district level facility.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Allan Bull Reserve is zone R1 – General Residential and RE1 – Public Recreation. It is located within a flood planning, riparian lands and a watercourses area.

The Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified that the reserve is a well utilised community asset and that additional supporting infrastructure including park furniture and shelter should be developed.

PARTICIPATION

Allan Bull Reserve is used exclusively by the Singleton Junior Rugby Union Club who have a seasonal user agreement with Council. The table adjacent highlights the Club's recent participation levels, with numbers hovering around the 200 mark for the last three years. A slight increase from 11 to 12 teams since 2019 is evident. The club provides for junior participants only.



Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total	No. of Teams
2021	142	27	-	-	169	12
2020	188	30	-	-	218	12
2019	167	28	-	-	195	11

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

During the site inspection undertaken in April 2021, a number of facility gaps at Allan Bull Reserve were identified. Access to the clubrooms was not available at the time of visit and user club did not provide any insights into the adequacy of the building, hence this information is not included in the table adjacent.

A desktop analysis of the club facilities suggest that its age and size may present limitations in its ability to adequately accommodate the needs of the sport.

ALLAN BULL RESERVE – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Surface	Playing Fields 1 and 2	120m x 70m	120m x 70m	Yes	Good	
Lighting	Playing Field 1 Lighting	18 lux	50 lux (training)	Yes	Very Poor	
Lighting	Playing Field 2 Lighting	14 lux	50 lux (training)	Yes	Very Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

Through consultation and desktop analysis, the following stakeholder priorities and needs have been identified for Allan Bull Reserve:

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Rugby Australia identifies the following vision for its facilities to assist in driving participation:

- Safe and appropriate facilities that are inclusive for players, coaches and officials of different genders, backgrounds and ethnicities.

CLUB / USER IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Improved sports lighting and playing surface quality
- Seating and amenities for spectators, players and officials.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Playing field improvements
- More shelter and seating
- Clubroom improvements including public toilets.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- **Provision of adequate sports lighting to a minimum 50 lux training standard.**
- **Upgrading change facilities and amenities for players, officials and spectators that are consistent with those outlined for 'club level' venues as per the Rugby Australia National Facility Guidelines.**
- **Shelter options that could be accommodated within the western embankment should be considered.**

ALROY OVAL

SITE SUMMARY District Sports Ground



Football (Soccer)



Athletics

2

Home Clubs

600

Football & Athletics Participants

2

Senior Playing Fields (1 floodlit)

2

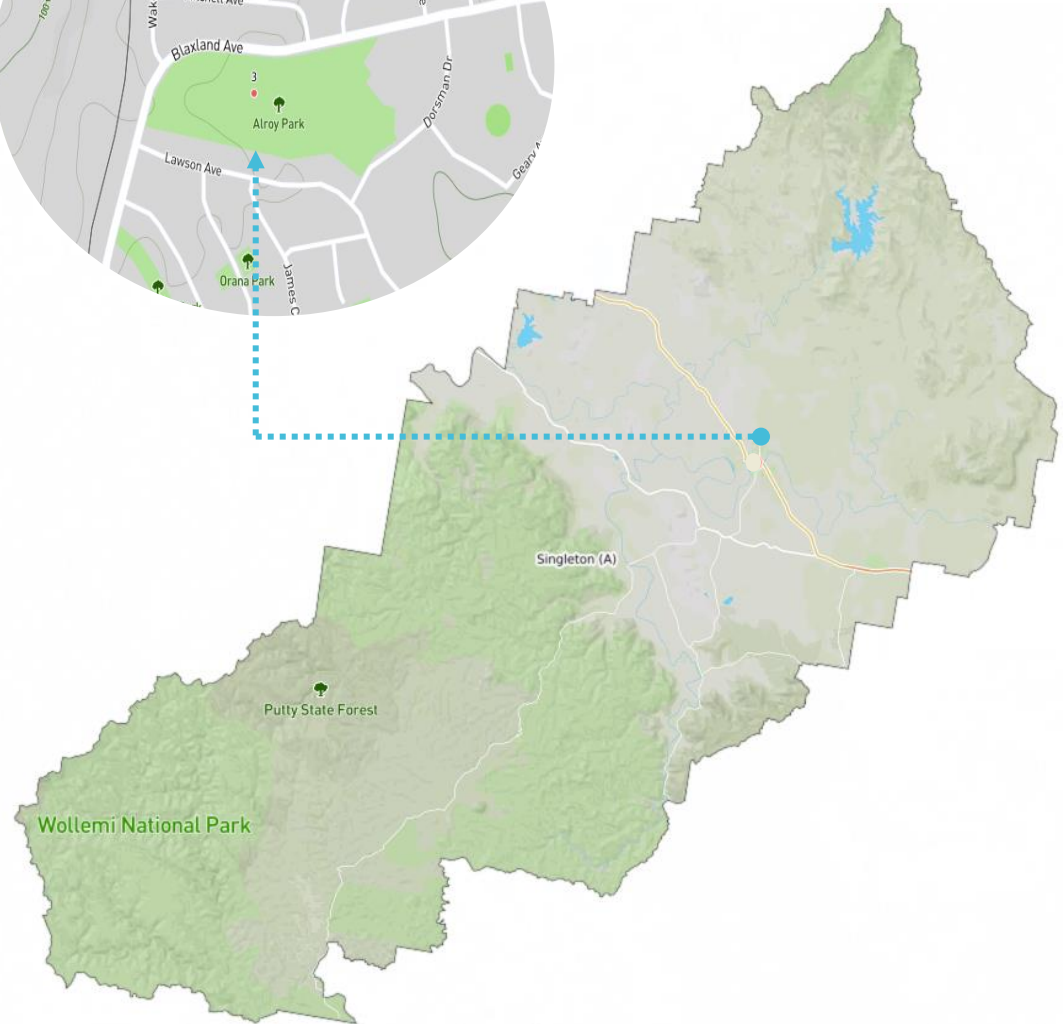
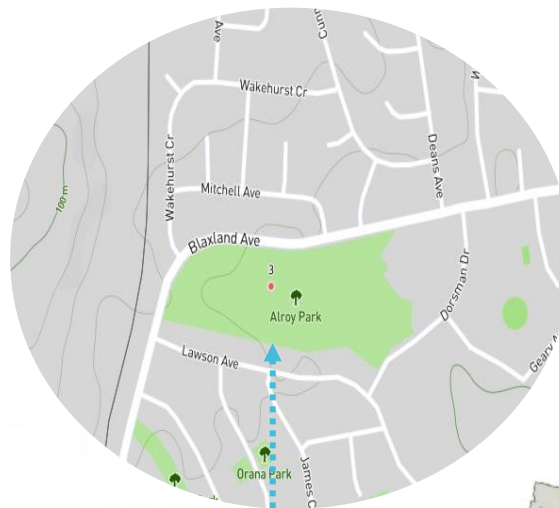
Clubroom Facilities



Playing Fields Rated In
'Moderate' Condition



No Gender Neutral Change Rooms



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Alroy Oval is currently home to football (soccer) and athletics. It includes a grass athletics track and multiple football playing / training pitches. There is floodlighting to half of the football fields and two separate clubroom / amenity buildings.

Alroy Oval is approximately 6ha in size and is supported by on-street car parking, open air shelter and playground. Additional sporting infrastructure includes discuss/shot put cage, long jump and triple jump pits and cricket nets (noting that formal cricket is no longer played at the site). The reserve is primarily used by the Singleton Track & Field Club and the Singleton Strikers FC (juniors and community level teams).

Alroy Oval is considered to be a district level facility.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Alroy Oval is zoned RE2 – Private Recreation zone. The Alroy Oval Master Plan was developed in 2021 to guide the future investment, use and direction of the site. The master plan identifies a preferred option of a three football pitch facility including clubrooms and amenities to support the future growth of the sport. The master plan also identifies the relocation of the Singleton Track & Field Club to Rose Point Park / Cook Park (#5 Oval).

PARTICIPATION

At the time of writing this report, Singleton Strikers FC had not returned their club questionnaire outlining their participation information. 2019 participation data however was available via the Football NSW SportsEye platform and is provided in the table adjacent. As demonstrated, there is approximately a 20% female participant base, this is consistent with state-wide averages for football.

Singleton Track & Field Club's participation is also provided however this information may also be considered within the James Cook/Rose Point Park context and summary given their impending relocation.

Singleton Strikers FC participation provided by Northern NSW Football based at Alroy Oval only.

Singleton Track & Field numbers for summer 2020/21 season were heavily impacted by Covid-19 interruptions.



Singleton Track & Field Club

Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total
2021	76	50	-	-	126
2020	105	82	5	5	197
2019	-	-	-	-	190

Singleton Strikers (junior only)

Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total
2021	472		-	-	472
2020	334	68	-	-	402
2019	304	88	-	-	392

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

An audit of Alroy Oval was conducted by Northern NSW Football in 2018-19 and updated by project consultants during site visits in April 2021.

The audit focussed on measuring the compliance of facilities against recommended guidelines. The information in the table adjacent is related to football facilities only.

Additionally, the Alroy Reserve Master Plan identified the following key facility constraints:

- Facilities are aged and in need of repair or replacement.
- No accessible toilet facilities available.
- Athletics storage inadequate.
- Significant fall on playing fields and athletics track.
- Cricket net facility unused.
- Ancillary buildings on site not well utilised.

ALROY OVAL – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (FOOTBALL)						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Clubrooms	Kiosk/Canteen	<20m ²	Site dependent	Yes	Good	
Clubrooms	Home Change Room	<20m ²	25m ²	No	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Away Change Room	<20m ²	25m ²	No	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Referee Change Room	<10m ²	20m ²	No	Very Poor	
Surface	Football Field 1	100m x 72m	100m x 68m	Yes	Moderate	
Lighting	Playing Field Lighting (Field 1)	110 lux (athletics area and football pitch 1)	50 lux (training) 100 lux (competition)	Yes	Good	
Surface	Football Field 2	95m x 60m	90m x 60m	Yes	Moderate	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

Through consultation and desktop analysis, the following stakeholder priorities and needs have been identified for Alroy Oval:

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Football NSW identifies the following priorities for its infrastructure to achieve its desired principles of “accessible, innovative, inclusive and sustainable facilities”:

- **Improve existing venue capacity** – maximise the safety, carrying capacity and activation of existing football grounds and venues.
- **Inclusive football facilities** – support diversity of game formats and participants through inclusive facilities.
- **Home of Football** – improve access to football programs, pathways and development services.
- **Planning for growth and demand** – plan to maximise participation through new and innovative venue opportunities.
- **Partnerships and investment** – develop and maintain relationships with all levels of government and industry partners.

CLUB IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Due to the proposed relocation of Athletics to Cook Park, detailed analysis of gaps and issues of Athletics facilities and amenities has not been undertaken. It has been assumed that appropriate track and field facilities and a suitable club amenities building will be provided to facilitate athletics activities in the future at Cook Park.

Through the development of the Alroy Oval Master Plan, which included extensive club consultation, the following priorities were identified:

- Football Club’s desire to have 3 full size pitches at Alroy Oval to support increased capacity, facilitate participation and combine training for juniors through to senior levels.
- New clubroom facilities including accessible amenities in a different location to maximise use for football.
- Additional parking.
- Track & Field Club’s desire to move to Rose Point Park / Cook Park (Oval #5) preferred as the master plan identifies a permanent athletics facility in south-western end of park.
- Both Club’s support and endorsed the 2021 Alroy Oval Master Plan.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Provision of more modern facilities for both sport and the community.
- Lighting improvements.
- Clubroom facility improvements including public toilets.
- Upgrade of playground, more seating, better car parking and general amenity improvement.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

Addressing facility gaps through the implementation of Master Plan recommendations, including:

- **Relocating Track & Field Club to Rose Point Park / Cook Park.**
- **Increasing number of soccer pitches and supporting amenities, including floodlighting of all pitches and improved surface quality.**
- **Change room enhancements for players and referees.**



BROKE RECREATION GROUND

SITE SUMMARY

Village Recreation Reserve



Open Space

1

Junior Playing Field



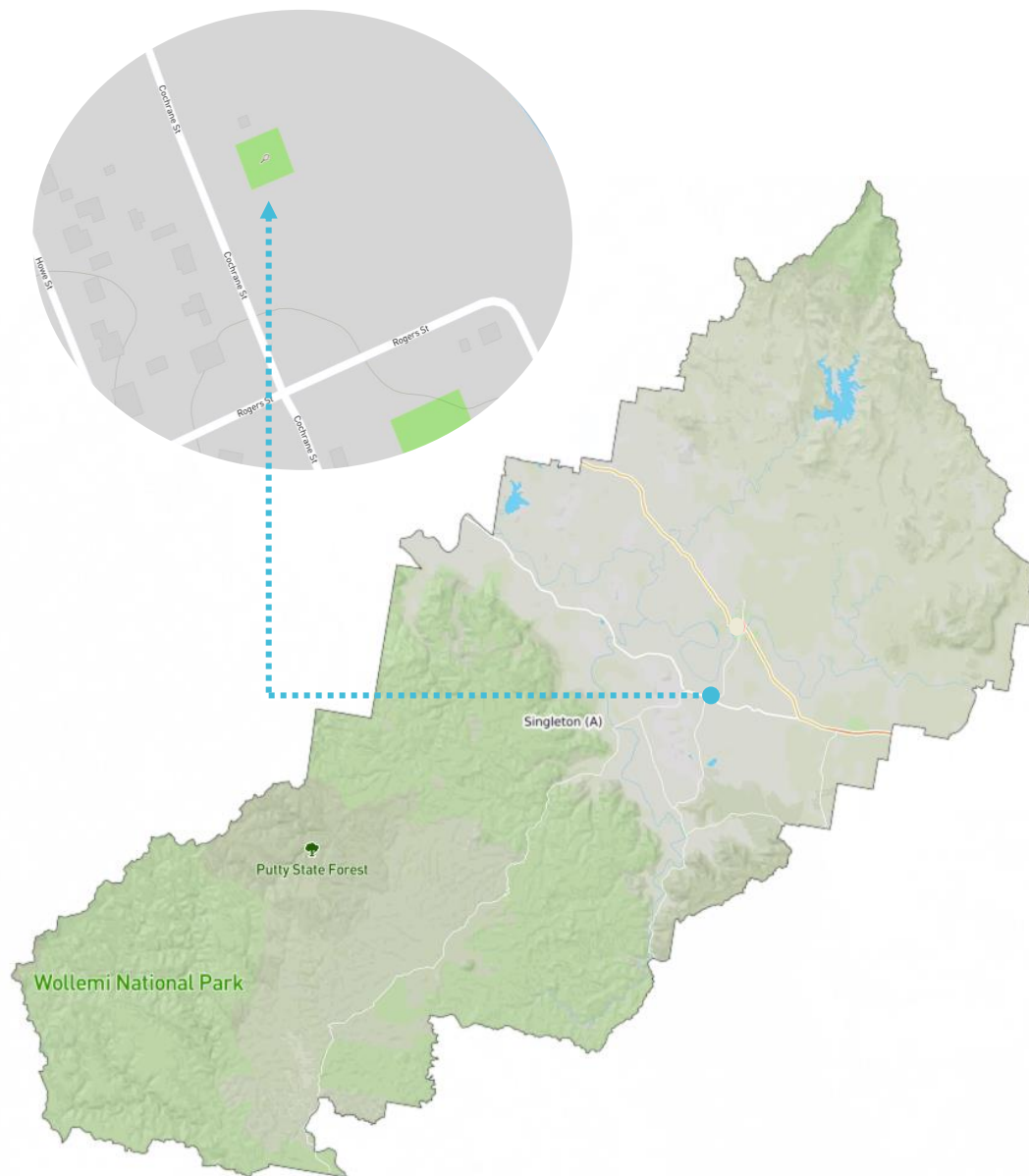
Community Tennis Court



Multi-lined Basketball Court



Community Netball Court



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Broke Recreation Ground is located 26km from Singleton and is classified as a **Village level recreation reserve**.

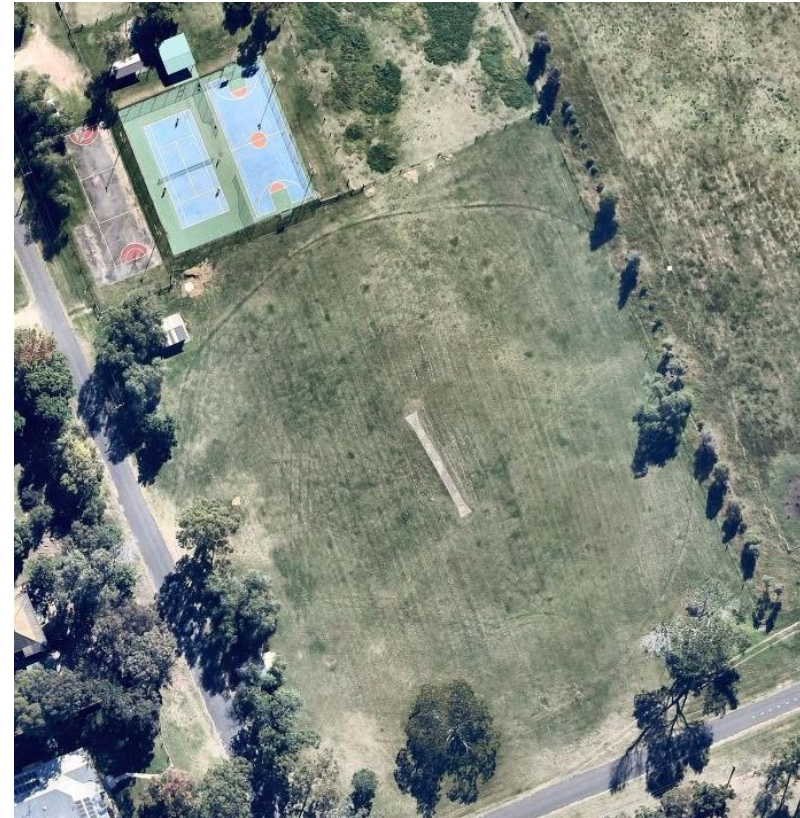
There is a variety of infrastructure utilised for informal recreation purposes, including small oval, tennis court and two multi-lined netball/basketball courts (one asphalt court and one acrylic). The site is supported by a small clubroom / kitchenette, open air picnic shelters, swing set and public toilet block. There are coin operated halogen floodlights on the tennis courts and eastern multi-lined court which, from recent audits, indicates that they provide approximately 30 lux (well below the minimum recreational playable standard of 250 lux).

PLANNING CONTEXT

Broke Recreation Ground is zoned RE1 – Public Recreation. It is managed and maintained by Singleton Council. The Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study (2013) identified the Broke Ground as the hub of sport and recreation within the township, and recommended that improvements, including the now completed tennis and multi-lined netball/basketball courts be delivered. It is also recognised in the Study the important contribution the facility makes as part of the the open space network in Broke.

PARTICIPATION

Participation information at the reserve is unknown as it is used for unstructured recreation and informal community participation. However, during the onsite inspections in April 2021, there was a personal trainer running regular group fitness classes. The site is also situated adjacent to Broke Public School who would likely use it regularly to support their physical activity programs. Anecdotally the site also used by casual campers in the area.



FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

Facility audits undertaken in April 2021 identified the following:

- Asphalt netball court is under-sized and is deteriorating significantly. There is tree root damage at the northern end and significant cracking and pavement issues throughout, resulting in very poor, bordering on unsafe, surface quality.
- Acrylic hard courts are floodlit and coin operated, however lighting levels are significantly below minimum Australian Standards for sports lighting.
- The oval and concrete pitch are unplayable for cricket and the condition and length of the grass detract from its use for casual play also.
- Fencing, goals, posts and nets are in usable condition but all require replacement within the next 5 years.
- All courts are suitable for casual or informal use only.

BROKE RECREATION GROUND – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Clubrooms	Informal meeting area	30m2	N/A	Yes	Very Poor	
Court	Asphalt netball court	30m x 9.5m	30.5m x 15.25m (plus run offs)	Yes	Very Poor	
Court	Acrylic multi-lined court	33m x 14.5m	30.5m x 15.25m (plus run offs)	Yes	Poor	
Court	Tennis court	34m x 18m	35m x 17m (total playing area)	Yes	Poor	
Court	Court lighting	30 lux	250 lux	Yes	Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards



Tennis court surface cracking



Netball court tree root invasion



Disused cricket pitch

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

As there is no organised sporting participation at Broke Recreation Ground, consultation with peak sporting bodies and clubs has not been undertaken. Preliminary opportunities and priorities however have been identified through findings from facility audits, community consultation and other strategic supporting documentation.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Upgrade to court surfaces.
- More shelter, natural shade and improved BBQ facilities.
- More play equipment.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- Improvements to asphalt netball court surface.
- Upgrade of lighting on acrylic tennis courts (if demand necessitates).
- Improvements to supporting amenities including shade and shelter.
- More activation opportunities for local residents (e.g. personal training).
- Further understanding of reserve use, particularly by the primary school and casual campers.



Public toilet facilities



Picnic shelter

BULGA RECREATION GROUND

SITE SUMMARY Village Sports Ground



Open Space

1

Junior Playing Field



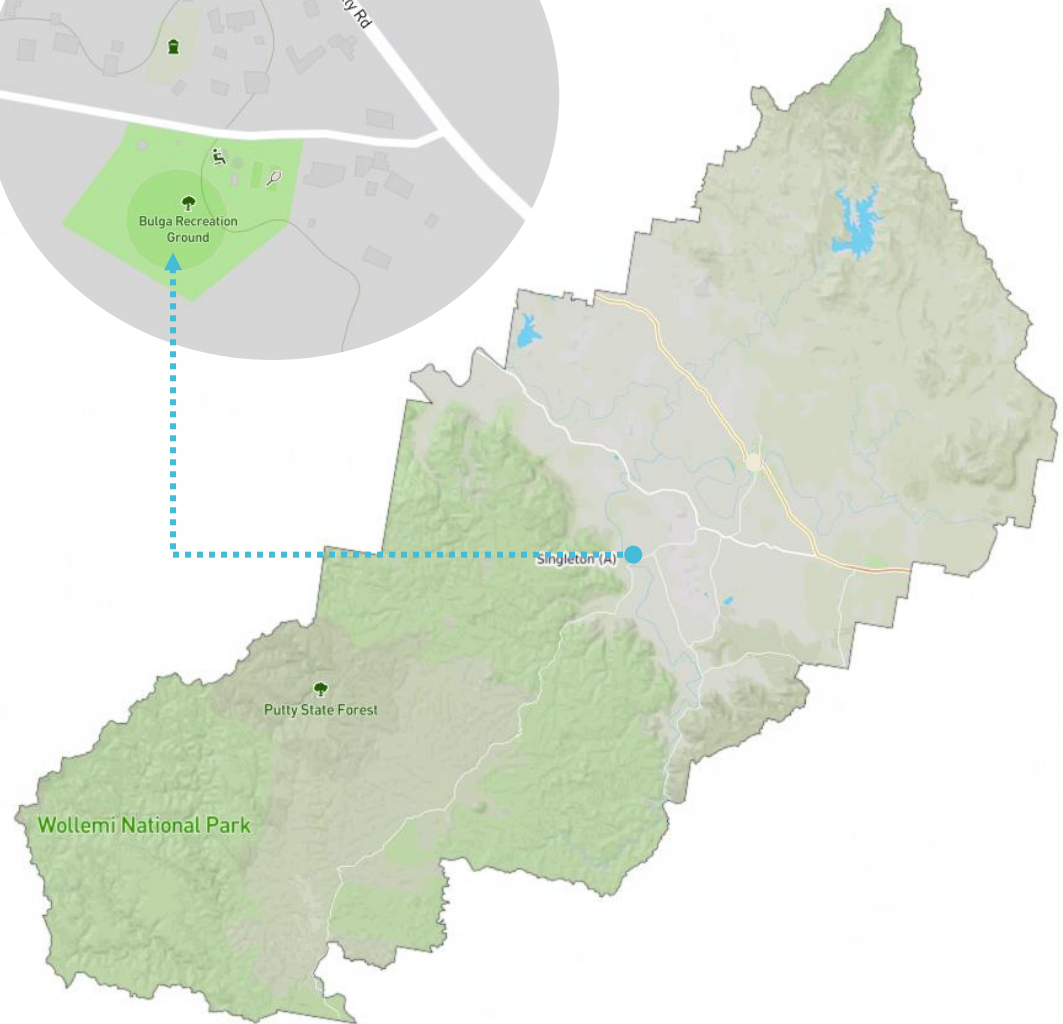
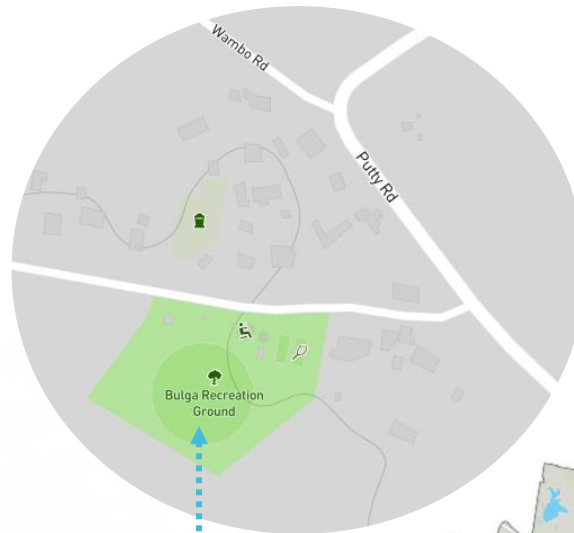
Community Tennis Courts



Camp Ground



Playground



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Bulga Recreation Ground is located approximately 20 minutes drive from the Singleton town centre and is an informal, **village level reserve**. It is a mixed use facility catering for community recreation as well as casual camping. The park is well serviced with two acrylic tennis courts, local level playground, public toilets, BBQ facilities and amenities. There is an old cricket pavilion on site that appears to be used as a “camp kitchen” for those staying on-site.

PLANNING CONTEXT

A NSW Government Property Search on Bulga Recreation Ground identified that the land zoning was classified as “DM – Deferred Matter”. There is no other information provided.

The Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified a need to improve amenities for visitors at the reserve including the establishment of wetlands.

PARTICIPATION

There is no formal or organised sport played at this facility. Participation information is unknown as the reserve is used for unstructured recreation and informal community participation.

During the onsite inspection in April 2021, it was noted that the Reserve was being lightly used by campers. According to population information in REMPLAN, the 2016 Census identified that there were 357 people residing in Bulga. It is likely that given the small population, the reserve will continue to play a role in servicing this market.



FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

Facility audits undertaken in April 2021 identified the following:

- Acrylic tennis courts and associated court infrastructure was observed to be in moderate condition.
- Courts appear mostly sound structurally but some surface delamination and cracking was observed throughout the court surface.
- Tennis courts have lighting for community use. Court 1 has a significantly higher lux reading (174) than Court 2 (44) however both are below recommended standard for recreation tennis (250 lux).
- The centre cricket pitch has deteriorated to an unplayable condition and campfires were observed on the pitch area.

BULGA RECREATION GROUND – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Court	Tennis Court 1	32.5m x 16m	35m x 17m (total playing area)	Yes	Moderate	
Court	Tennis Court 2	32.5m x 16m	35m x 17m (total playing area)	Yes	Moderate	
Lighting	Tennis Court 1 Lighting	174 lux	250 lux	Yes	Moderate	
Lighting	Tennis Court 2 Lighting	44 lux	250 lux	Yes	Poor	
Surface	Cricket Pitch	25m x 2.4m	2.4-2.8m x 25-28m	Yes	Very Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified - meets preferred standards



Old cricket clubrooms



Disused cricket pitch



Tennis court surface delamination



Tennis court cracking

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

As there is no organised sporting participation at Bulga Recreation Ground, consultation with sport and clubs was not undertaken. Preliminary opportunities and priorities have been identified through findings from facility audits, community consultation and other strategic supporting documentation.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Upgrade to facilities for campers.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- Improvements to tennis court lighting (if demand necessitates).
- Improvements/increase maintenance activities on facilities primarily used for visitors/campers.



Community playground



Picnic shelter and BBQ

CIVIC PARK

SITE SUMMARY District Sports Ground



Touch Football



Cricket

6

Touch Playing Fields

1

Cricket Oval



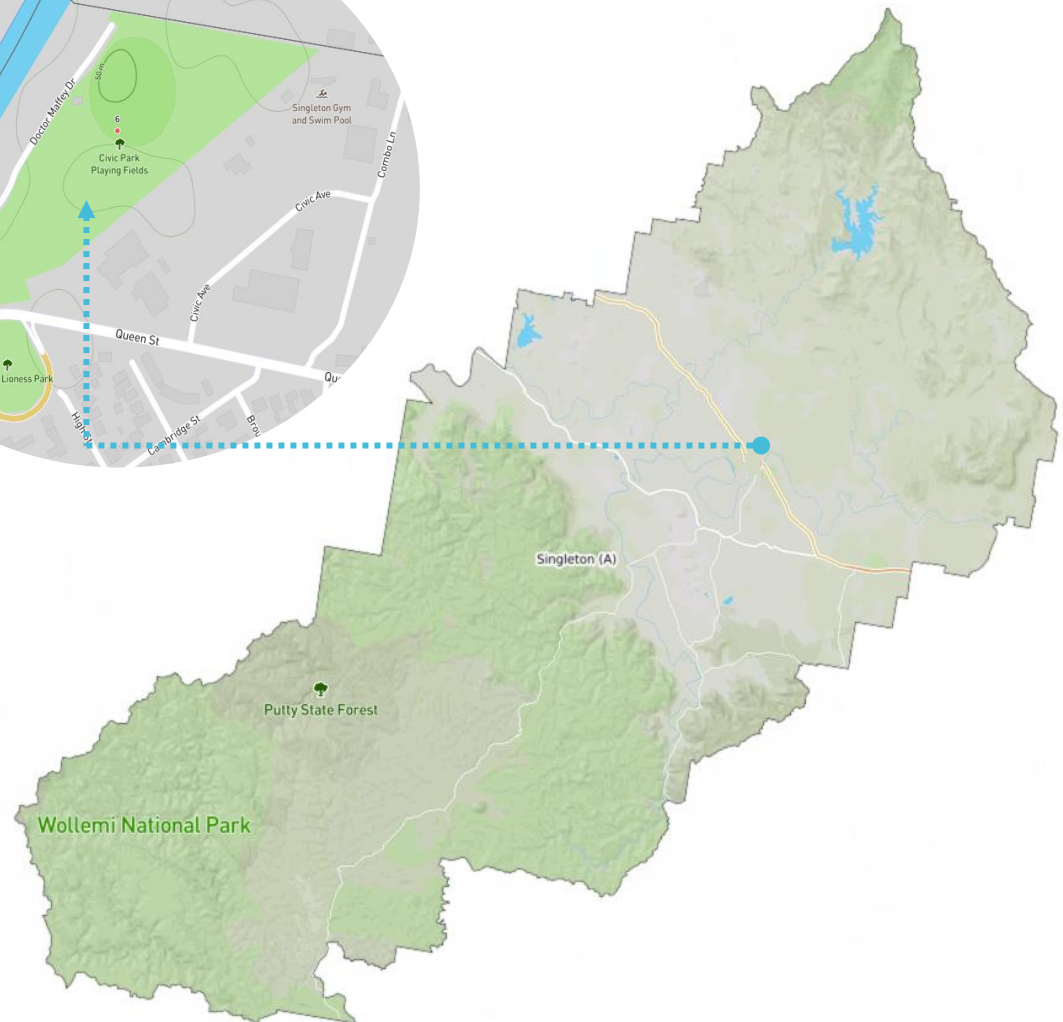
Playing Fields in 'excellent' condition



Average 60 lux lighting



No gender neutral change rooms



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Civic Park is located 2km from the Singleton Town Centre and is home to touch football and cricket. The site consists of one cricket oval (with synthetic pitch) and six touch fields. Civic Park provides a local level playground and picnic shelter, informal car parking and a toilet block that is used by sport participants. The playing surfaces are floodlit, which have a range of lux levels from 10 to 105 lux. The lower readings are due to a number of globes not in operation.

PLANNING CONTEXT

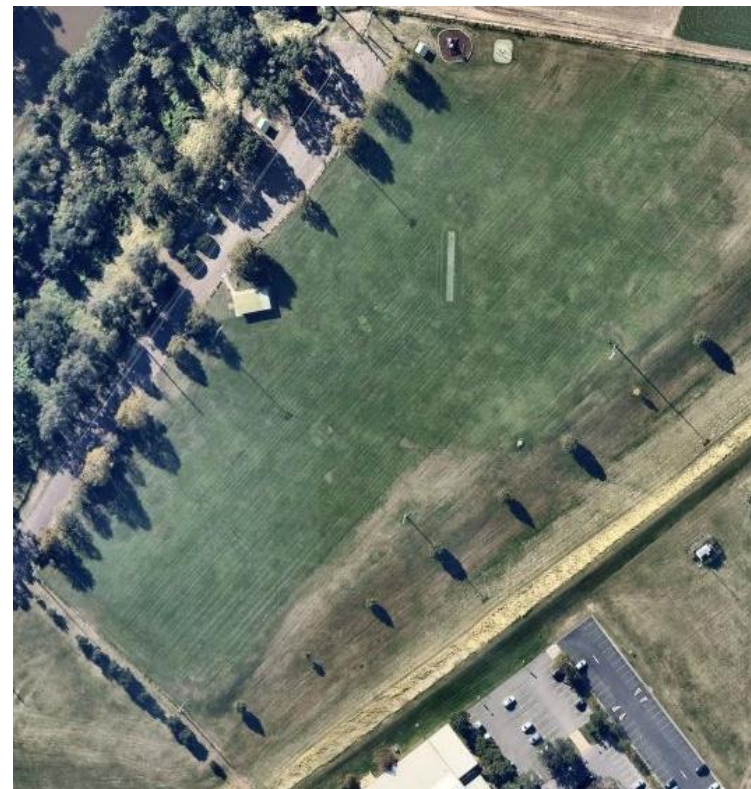
A NSW Government Property Search on Civic Park indicated that it is zoned both B5 – Business Development and RE1 – Public Recreation. The reserve is also located in a flood planning area adjacent to the Hunter River.

The Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified a high priority for the floodlighting of the facility for touch football which is now complete, however globe maintenance is required to maintain adequate lux levels.

PARTICIPATION

Singleton Touch is the primary tenant of the facility and has high participation numbers across junior and senior age groups and both genders. Singleton Cricket utilise the venue as an overflow venue - mostly in times when the turf wickets at their home facility is unplayable. Touch Football has a higher number of junior participants than senior, which is a healthy position for the sustainability and prosperity of the sport. Singleton Touch also facilitates training for representative squads and referees, providing a pathway for talent development.

Cricket participation information has not been included in the table adjacent, given that Civic Park is not its primary venue.



Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total	No. of Teams
2021	457	373	127	103	1,060	106
2020	Information not available					
2019	Information not available					

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

An audit of Civic Park was undertaken in the 2020 Cricket NSW State-wide Facility Auditing program. Whilst this audit primarily focussed on the venue's alignment with preferred cricket guidelines and standards, a further audit in April 2021 by project consultants reviewed the facility in terms of its suitability for Touch Football.

Key findings of the audits indicate:

- The off-field amenities are inadequate to attract, support and retain participation.
- Existing toilet block in very poor condition.
- Playing fields and synthetic cricket wicket were observed to be in good condition.
- The presence of the cricket pitch limits the width of the smallest field.
- Unsealed car parking, shared with reserve users requires improvement.
- Lighting audits indicated touch fields 1 and 6 were well below the required Australian Standard of 50 lux for touch football training and 100 lux for competition.

CIVIC PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Surface	Playing Fields (Touch)	4 Fields 70m x 50m 1 Field 70m x 45m 1 Field 70m x 40m	70m x 50m	Yes	Good	
Surface	Playing Field (Cricket)	53m radius from centre wicket	Min 50m radius from centre wicket (senior)	Yes	Good	
Surface	Cricket Pitch	25m x 2.5m	25-28m x 2.4-2.8m	Yes	Good	
Lighting	Playing Field 1 & 6 (Touch) Lighting	Field 1 – 37 lux Field 6 – 11 lux	50 lux (training) 100 lux (competition)	No	Very Poor	
Lighting	Playing Fields 2-5 (Touch) Lighting	Field 2 – 75 lux Field 3 – 57 lux Field 4 – 106 lux Field 5 – 80 lux	50 lux (training) 100 lux (competition)	Yes	Moderate	
Amenities	Toilet block	12m x 7m	N/A	No	Very Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified - meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

Through consultation and desktop analysis, the following stakeholder priorities and needs have been identified for Civic Park:

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Touch Football does not have its own facility guidelines outlining the preferred facility requirements for the sport. Given the strong alignment between Touch and Rugby League however, the NRL's facility guidelines can be used as a guide to understanding likely needs. These include:

- **Main pavilion/amenities** – The clubroom building should be a community focussed facility capable of catering for the needs of players, coach, referees, officials, volunteers and spectators.
- **Field of play** – A quality surface, including drainage is required along with ancillary facilities including lighting is required.

CLUB / USER IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Amenities building consists of a toilet with a small storage area only, there are no change facilities to support participation and the sustainability of the club.
- Touch Field 6 is in poor condition and rarely used, opportunity to improve quality and capacity.
- Lack of spectator amenities, seating and accessible access.
- Further investigations for additional touch fields to be considered on eastern area of reserve (significant technical investigations as to the drainage and flood mitigation requirements would be required).
- Support for ground management and line marking.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Improved clubroom facilities particularly change rooms and amenities.
- Improved access, play spaces, seating and shelter for active recreation users.
- Improved car parking and road surface quality.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

Addressing the following facility gaps at Civic Park will likely have the greatest impact on participation, including:

- **New clubroom/sporting pavilion facility including gender neutral change rooms and amenities for players, referees and spectators as well as kiosk/canteen.**
- **Addressing gaps in sports lighting to create uniformity and assist in building capacity of all playing fields.**
- **Enhancing the existing quality of all touch football fields will assist the club to fully maximise the use of fields at times where capacity is challenged.**
- **Improve supporting infrastructure suitable for passive recreation and broader community use (including river bank amenities).**
- **Improvements to car park, roadway and vehicle management initiatives.**

DUNOLLY (PIRTEK) PARK

SITE SUMMARY

District Sports Ground



Rugby League

1

Home Club

88

Participants

2

Senior Playing Fields

1

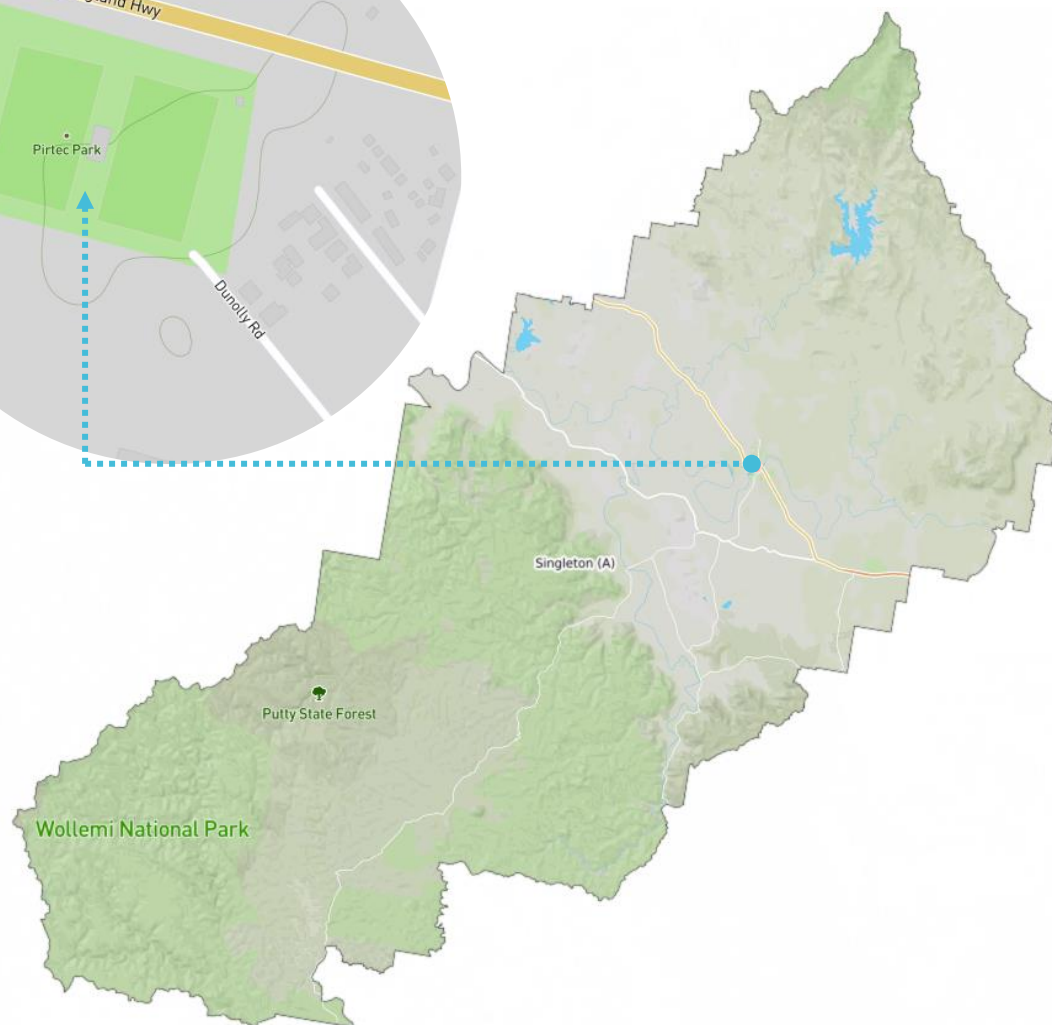
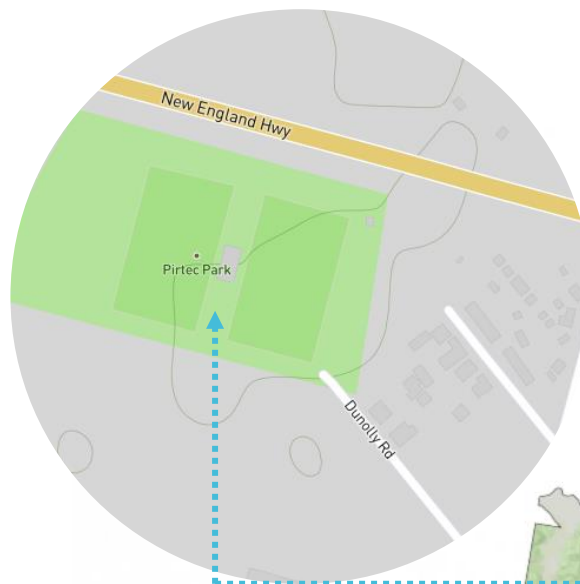
Clubroom



Playing Fields Rated in
'Good' Condition



No Gender Neutral Change Rooms



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Dunolly Park (also known as Pirtek Park) is 4 ha recreation reserve located approximately 2km from the Singleton town centre. It consists of two rugby league fields, club and changing room facility and car parking. The clubrooms are located centrally to the two playing fields and include change facilities, kiosk/canteen and small upstairs social area. A match day bar also operates from a shipping container adjacent the clubrooms.

Rugby League is the only sport played at the venue. There is no other sporting or play infrastructure on site. The venue is located adjacent to the Singleton Caravan Park to the east, residential housing to the west and farming land to the north-east. Dunolly Park is considered to be a **district level sporting facility**.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Dunolly Park is zoned RU1 – Primary Production (assumed to be from previous land use) and is within a flood planning area. The facility is leased exclusively to the Singleton United Rugby League Football Club (SURLFC) on a 30 year lease. The lease is current until the 5th March 2038.

PARTICIPATION

The SURLFC utilise the venue for both games and training. They have identified 88 active members registered for the current 2021 season, which is anticipated to increase prior to the cut off for registrations on 30 June.

In 2021, the Club had 5 teams across senior and junior age groups. The split of junior and senior players is approximately 41% (junior) and 59% (senior). The split of males and females is 17% (female) and 77% (male). The Club predicts that participation will increase and project's steady growth over the next 10 years.



Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total	No. of Teams
2021	21	15	52	0	88	5
2020	Data unavailable					
2019	Data unavailable					

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

During site inspections and facility audits undertaken in April 2021, Dunolly Park was identified as having playing fields that were in good condition.

- The hospitality area/social room within the clubrooms was considered to be in 'good' condition, however is small, not accessible and inadequate to the Club's needs.
- The kiosk/kitchen area was considered to be in 'moderate' condition, and is small but remains serviceable. Both home and away participant change rooms were considered to be in 'poor condition' with open showers and without ambulant and/or accessible toilets. The facility also includes a match day bar that operates from a shipping container.
- The clubrooms do not meet minimum standards for all gender use.
- Player benches require upgrading to benefit all users.
- The summary table adjacent provides a high level overview of the most immediate facility needs/gaps in provision.

DUNOLLY PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Rating
Clubrooms	Upstairs social room area	<50m ²	75m ²	Yes	Good	
Clubrooms	Kitchen / Canteen	<20m ²	20m ²	Yes	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Home Change Room	<44m ²	55m ²	No	Poor	
Clubrooms	Away Change Room	<40m ²	55m ²	No	Poor	
Clubrooms	Referee Change Room	<10m ²	15m ²	No	Moderate	
Surface	Playing Field 1	128m x 76m (including run off)	124m x 76m (including run off)	Yes	Good	
Surface	Playing Field 2	128m x 76m (including run offs)	124m x 76m (including run off)	Yes	Good	
Lighting	Playing Field Lighting	Unknown	50 lux (training) 100 lux (competition)	Yes	Moderate	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

Through consultation and desktop analysis, the following priorities and needs have been identified:

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The NRL identifies three key categories of facility components that are critical to support competition and participation programs:

- The clubroom building should be a community focussed facility capable of catering for the needs of players, coaches, referees, officials, volunteers and spectators.
- Field of play should provide a quality surface, drainage and ancillary facilities including player benches and lighting. The current lighting lux levels at Dunolly Park are unknown.
- Additional facilities (e.g. social facilities) are desirable to support both functional requirements of the game and enhancing the player, coach and spectator experience.

CLUB IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Upgrades to playing field lighting required to competition standard (i.e. 100 lux minimum, 150 lux preferred).
- Development of unisex change facilities for players and officials, as well as function/social room.
- Improvements to the playing surface on both playing fields.
- Construction of new grandstand seating and player benches.
- The SURLFC have prepared and submitted a Development Application (DA) for reconstruction of their clubrooms and associated change room, social and spectator amenities.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Additional spectator facilities.
- Improvements to changing facilities.
- Better kiosk/canteen facilities.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

Critical facility gaps that can enhance and support participation opportunities should be prioritised. Those which align strategically with government and sport planning should be strongly considered. For Dunolly Park, based on the facility audit findings, consultation and strategic review, these preliminary priorities include:

- **Player and referee change room upgrade/replacement**
- **Playing field lighting upgrade to competition standard**
- **Canteen/kiosk, social and spectator improvements.**

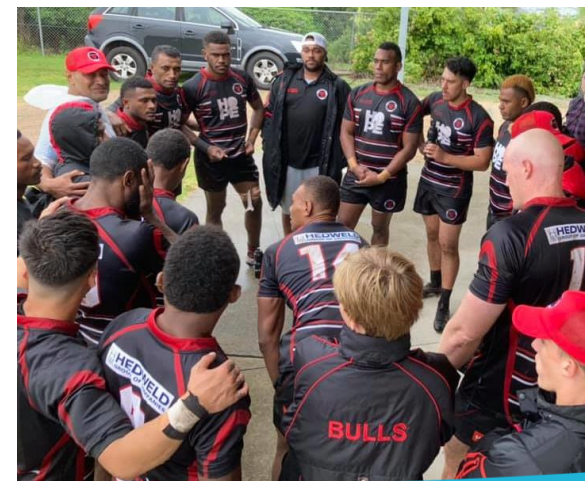


Photo courtesy Singleton Rugby Club

GOWRIE PARK

SITE SUMMARY Local Recreation Reserve



Active Open Space



BMX Track



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Gowrie Park in Singleton Heights consists of an open space area with a BMX track and concrete starting hill. There is a sealed asphalt car park via a narrow entrance off Blaxland Avenue. There are no supporting amenities.

The site is fenced and backs onto residential properties. The facility is adjacent to a shared trail which connects to the local street network but remains disconnected from the Singleton town centre and the broader open space network.

PLANNING CONTEXT

A NSW Government Property Search on Gowrie Park indicates that it is zoned RE1 – Public Recreation. The Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified that the BMX track is in poor condition and there is no club participation or usage. The Study identifies the track as a ‘specialised sport and recreation facility’ within Singleton.

PARTICIPATION

As the BMX track is no longer used by a formal sporting club, participation and usage is unknown. At the time of the site inspection, there appeared to have been some usage, however this would be of a limited and informal nature. The lack of supporting amenities on site would also contribute to limiting its use.



Various views across the BMX track

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

An audit of Gowrie Park was undertaken in April 2021. Key findings and observations of the facility included:

- The BMX track is in serviceable condition but does require regular intense maintenance to maintain its low level informal use.
- Access to the facility is reasonably difficult unless living within the local catchment area.
- The facility is fenced but still feels open and accessible to the community.
- The facility is bordered by the freeway and houses that back onto the reserve. This may limit the amount of passive surveillance available.
- There are no other amenities at the facility.
- The facility would offer little value in terms of its contribution to both the open space and sporting facility network.

GOWRIE PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Surface	BMX Track	320m Total length of track	Between 300m – 400m	Yes	Moderate	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

As there is no organised sporting participation at Gowrie Park, consultation with peak sporting bodies and clubs is not applicable. Preliminary opportunities and priorities have been identified based on the findings from facility audits, community consultation and other strategic supporting documentation.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Improved maintenance of the facility, including BMX track and open space areas.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- Consider the overall value and purpose of the BMX track in its current location and undertake consultation with local users and residents to either retain and upgrade or repurpose to alternate use(s).
- Consider improving linkages to shared trail network so that reserve can be considered a destination and/or resting point along the trail.
- Consider providing additional activations at the site that support broader use of the reserve and other activities other than just BMX.

HOWE PARK

SITE SUMMARY District Sports Ground



Cricket



Tennis



Soccer

1

Oval/Soccer Playing Field

14

Tennis Courts

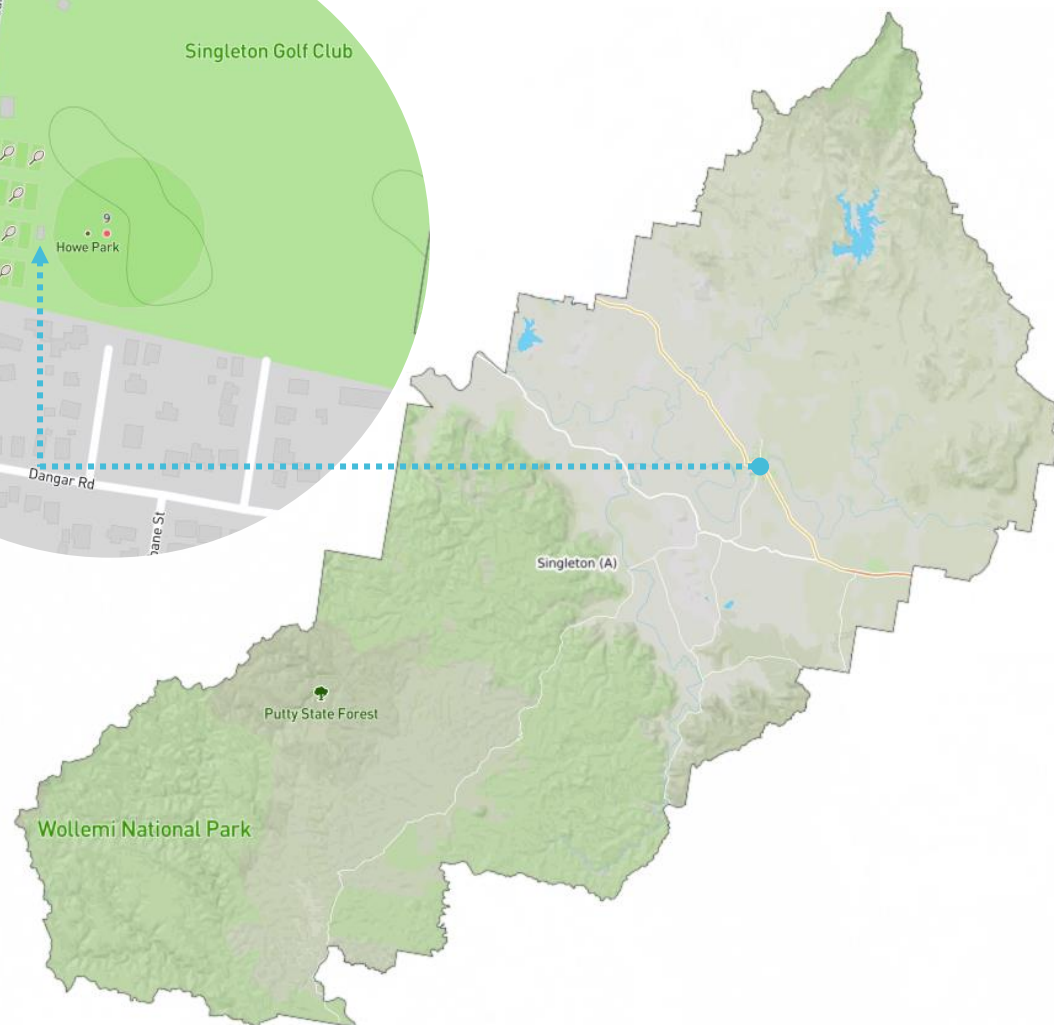
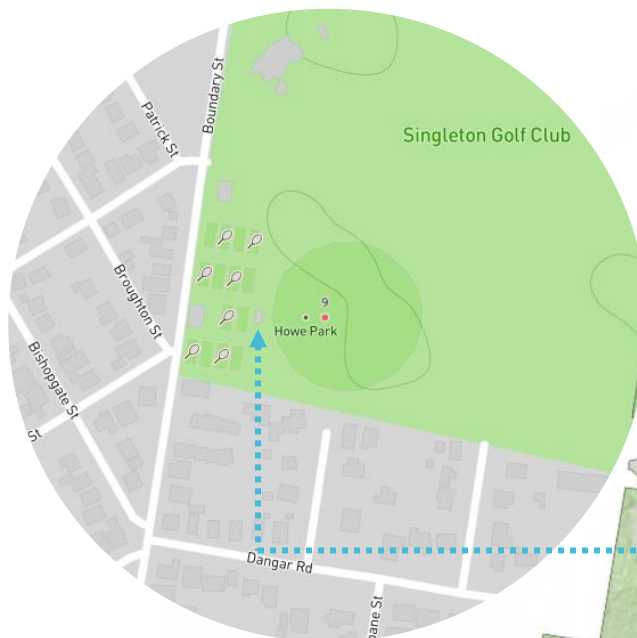
2

Junior Tennis Courts

450

Participants

Note: Howe Park is also home to the Singleton Golf Club, which shares land with the adjacent sporting facilities. However, the golf course does not form part of the study area or this Report. Refer to Page 8 for venue inclusions.



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Howe Park is located in the centre of Singleton and is one of its premier facilities with multi-sport offerings and a variety of infrastructure. The facility consists of one main playing field, primarily used for cricket and football (soccer). Adjacent is the Howe Park Tennis Club with 14 full size tennis courts (8 grass and 6 synthetic) and two acrylic mini-courts suitable for the Tennis Hot Shots program.

Both tennis and football/cricket facilities are supported by clubroom facilities of varying condition. The site is bordered by the Singleton Golf Course to the north and east and residential housing to the south and west. Access to the venue is via a unsealed entry road (suitable for single car, one way direction) from Boundary Street. On game days, cars park around the perimeter of the oval. **Howe Park is classified as a District level facility.**

PLANNING CONTEXT

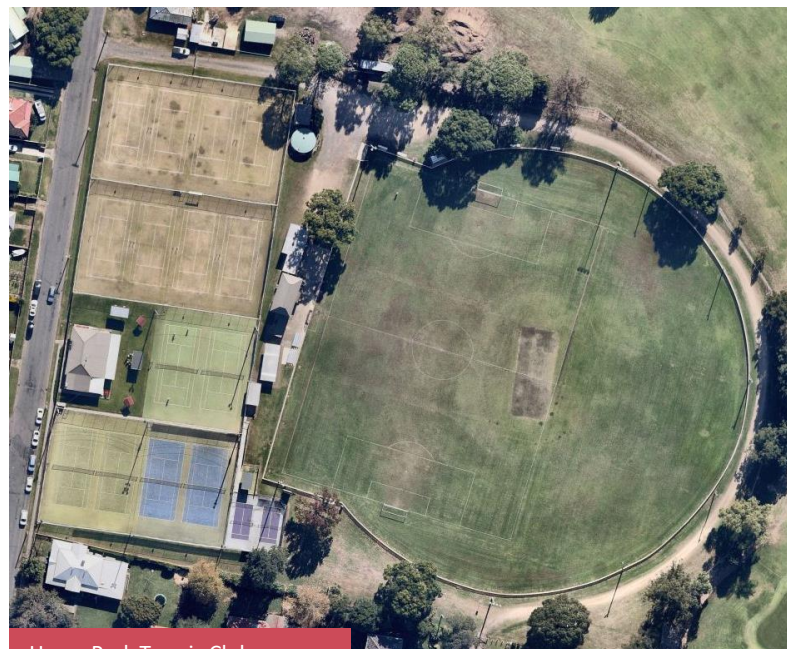
Howe Park is situated on Crown Land and is managed by Singleton Council with support from tenanting user groups. A NSW Government property search indicated that it is zoned RE2 – Private Recreation and is within a flood planning area.

The Draft Howe Park Management Plan (2020) has been developed to guide the future management of the Reserve and is a requirement under the Crown Land Management Act 2016. The Draft Plan outlined a vision for Howe Park as *‘one of Singleton’s premier sport and recreation assets with a wide variety of groups and high standard infrastructure to facilitate sport, social, leisure and community activities’*. The Plan also includes a high level master plan with a number of recommendations, which still requires DPIE and public endorsement.

PARTICIPATION

Participation at Howe Park is healthy and is reflected primarily through the Howe Park Tennis Club and Singleton Strikers FC (Senior Northern League 1 teams). Whilst the facility is important in terms of its capacity to host and facilitate cricket, participation information for the Singleton & District Cricket Association has not been included in the table adjacent, given that Howe Park is one of many venues utilised for cricket.

Note: Participation for cricket is not included as venue is one on many grounds used by the Singleton Cricket Association



Howe Park Tennis Club

Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total
2021	126	93	81	52	352
2020	97	75	57	34	263
2019	63	39	58	26	186

Singleton Strikers (Seniors)

Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total
2021	-	-	80	-	80
2020	-	-	101	-	101
2019	-	-	118	-	118

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (FOOTBALL & CRICKET)

Site inspections and facility audits were undertaken in April 2021 and high-level findings for both cricket and football (soccer) are provided below.

Football facilities have been audited in-line with Northern NSW Football NPL competition standards. In relation to clubroom and change rooms, criteria for room sizes and wet area provision are compatible between cricket and football and have been assessed for compliance with both sports.

- Player change rooms under-sized and would not cater for football squad or a cricket team with bags and equipment.
- Home change rooms have been recently painted with floor and wall tile replacement and present in better condition than Away change rooms.
- Open showers and urinals detract from all gender use.
- Separate internal storage areas, likely to be inadequate for user needs.
- Kitchen, canteen, bar area is serviceable, but infrastructure is outdated and functionally would be problematic to manage on busy match days.
- No social facilities provided in any of the buildings.

HOWE PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (FOOTBALL & CRICKET)						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall rating
Clubrooms	Home Change Rooms	< 20m2	25m2	No	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Away Change Rooms	< 20m2	25m2	No	Poor	
Clubrooms	Referee / Umpire Change Rooms	10-20m2	15m2-20m2	Yes	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Canteen / Bar	60m2	25m2	Yes	Moderate	
Surface	Playing Field	Football 103m x 82m (inc. runoffs) Cricket 65m radius from centre wicket	Football 110m x 75m (inc. runoffs) Cricket 60m radius from centre wicket	Yes	Poor for Football Good for Cricket	
Lighting	Playing Field Lighting	60 lux	Football training (50 lux) & competition (100 lux)	No	Poor	

- Playing field considered in poor condition for football, with no drainage.
- Recent exposed spectator seating added, with existing grandstand inaccessible and not meeting contemporary expectations.
- Field lighting inadequate for football or cricket activities.

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (TENNIS)

Site inspections and facility audits were undertaken in April 2021 and high-level findings for tennis courts and clubrooms are provided below.

- Clubrooms are aging and approaching the end of their functional life. Replacement is likely within the next 10-15 years.
- Newer pro-shop and kiosk provides good addition to building, with flexibility and capacity to serve externally.
- Grass courts are reaching the end of their functional life and will require reconstruction within 5 years to remain at a playable standard.
- Grass courts are not floodlit. Lighting grass courts is not recommended due to safety and seasonal usage limitations.
- All synthetic courts are non-compliant to minimum recommended club/recreational standard.
- Some court drainage issues observed along the Court 14 boundary.
- All existing court lighting exceeds minimum 250 lux standards for club/recreational use.
- Site presents neatly and is well laid out with ample space around courts and clubrooms for social activities and events.

HOWE PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (TENNIS)						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall rating
Clubrooms	Tennis Clubrooms	168m2	180m2	Yes	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Pro-shop/Kiosk	36m2	25m2	Yes	Good	
Surface	Tennis Courts (Grass Courts 1-4 & 5-8)	Enclosure (x2) 34m x 56.5m	Enclosure 34.75m x 61m	Yes	Poor	
Surface	Tennis Courts (9-10)	Enclosure 35m x 30m	Enclosure 34.75m x 33m	Yes	Good	
Surface	Tennis Courts (11-14)	Enclosure 34m x 56m	Enclosure 34.75m x 61m	Yes	Moderate	
Surface	Tennis Courts (Acrylic Mini Courts)	16.5m x 16.5m	N/A	Yes	Good	
Lighting	Court Lighting (9-10)	270-290 lux	250 lux (min)	Yes	Moderate	
Lighting	Court Lighting (11-14)	340-460 lux	250 lux (min)	Yes	Moderate	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS (FOOTBALL / CRICKET)

Through consultation and desktop analysis, the following stakeholder priorities and needs have been identified:

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Northern NSW Football and Hunter Valley Football identifies Howe Park as a Tier 2 Community Football Venue. The predominant user of football amenities at the site is the Singleton Strikers who play in the Northern League 1 competition. The key match requirements for this level of football includes:

- Pitch size of 100-105m x 60-68m (plus 3m runoffs)
- Pitch lighting exceeding 100 lux for night matches
- Player change rooms (minimum of 2, preference for 4) of 25m² minimum plus additional wet area including 3-4 cubicle showers and toilets
- Match officials change rooms and associated wet areas including 2 cubicle showers and toilets (minimum 30m²)
- First-aid room (minimum 10m²)
- Public toilets including male, female and accessible
- Spectator seating for an average of 500 people.

Cricket Australia identifies that a range of playing field attributes and supporting amenities are required to facilitate community cricket. The facility at Howe Park has been identified in Cricket Australia's facility hierarchy as a 'Community Club' venue.

Based on the facility audit, Howe Park meets on-field requirements to facilitate cricket matches, but similar to football, its off-field amenities fail to meet Cricket Australia guidelines. There are also no training facilities on-site.

CLUB IDENTIFIED NEEDS

At the time of writing this report Singleton Strikers FC had not provided specific requirements or needs for improvements to Howe Park. However, it was indicated through consultation that meeting the minimum facility requirements of Northern NSW Football / Hunter Valley Football is the priority.

The Singleton Cricket Association provided limited information on specific needs for Howe Park into the future. However planned ground and lighting upgrades would seek to deliver a better quality facility, as would a clubroom replacement.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- General improvement to facilities including change rooms and toilets.
- Additional seating around the perimeter of the main playing field.
- Improved traffic management and car parking.
- More spectator shelter and shade

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- **Upgrade playing field surface to meet shared football / cricket needs.**
- **Replace playing field lighting with 100+ lux LED lighting to accommodate night football matches (and training)**
- **Replace existing multiple buildings with new, compliant amenities that better accommodate football, cricket, public and spectator use.**
- **Implement other site recommendations identified in the Howe Park Plan of Management once adopted, which will address a number of other needs identified from the community survey.**

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS (TENNIS)

Through consultation and desktop analysis, the following stakeholder priorities and needs have been identified:

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Tennis Australia notes the following facility guidelines for district level tennis facilities (being 12+ court venues) include:

- A minimum of 8 courts
- 50% of courts to be floodlit to a minimum club competition standard of 350 lux.
- A set of 2 dedicated Tennis Hot Shot courts for introductory programs.
- Male and female change room facilities including showers.
- Café/kiosk and social facilities
- Administration offices.
- Onsite parking
- Outdoor shaded areas.

As the main provider of club and competition tennis in Singleton, the Howe Park Tennis Club typically operates as a large central for venue with a main catchment area of the Singleton LGA.

CLUB IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The Howe Park Tennis Club has aspirations to develop 8 ITF level hardcourts in order to attract tournaments and events. The Tennis NSW Regional Tennis Centre Strategy identifies the need for more ITF level venues across NSW, however venues positioned in Newcastle and Central Coast LGAs are identified as the preference for the Northumberland Tennis Region. The Singleton LGA did not meet any key criteria for a centre of this level.

Other local venue needs identified include:

- Updating the clubrooms with a more contemporary and compliant building with adequate toilets, showers and change rooms.
- Upgrade court lighting to LED to reduce operating costs and environmental impacts.
- Shared water resources and potential curator / greenskeeper with the Golf Club to share resources.
- Base and surface replacement for Courts 11-12 and surface replacement of courts 9-10 and 13-14 over time.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- General improvement to facilities including change rooms and toilets.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- **Grass court improvement / replacement plan.**
- **Develop lighting plan to replace lights with LED lighting, when existing lighting falls below minimum standards.**
- **Staged replacement of synthetic grass courts.**
- **Implement other site recommendations identified in the Howe Park Plan of Management once adopted, which will address a number of other needs identified from the community survey.**

JAMES COOK / ROSE POINT PARK

SITE SUMMARY District Sports Ground



Netball



AFL



Cricket



Rugby League

5

Playing Fields

12

Netball Courts



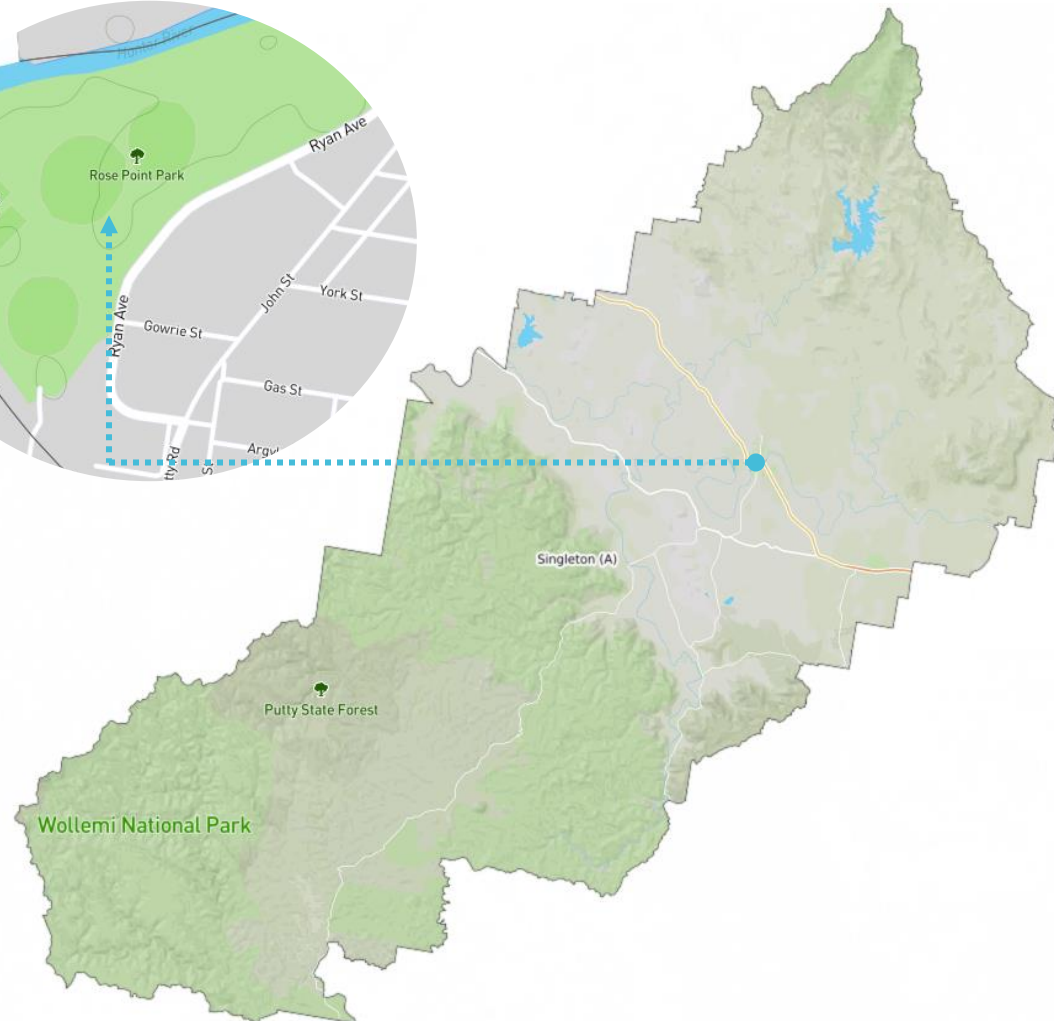
Playground



Park Run

800+

Participants



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

James Cook/Rose Point Park is centrally located in Singleton and is a **District level facility**. It is Singleton Council's largest and highest profile sporting venue. The site currently provides facilities for netball, AFL, cricket and rugby league and is also a designated Parkrun venue. The site will be the future home of the Singleton Track & Field Club who intend to relocate from Alroy Oval.

The precinct offers multi-use sporting opportunities across five ovals/playing fields and 12 netball courts. Four separate sporting pavilions are also provided for rugby league, AFL, cricket and netball. There are six synthetic cricket practice wickets and one turf practice facility (across three locations). Four of five ovals have turf centre wickets. Additional broader community benefits are also provided through the regional play space.

PLANNING CONTEXT

James Cook/Rose Point Park has an existing landscape master plan that was prepared in 2004. This Plan indicates a number of multi-use development opportunities that will bolster participation outcomes at the precinct. A number of these recommendations have been realised – including improved car parking and netball courts 7 to 12.

A NSW Government property search on James Cook/Rose Point Park shows that the facility is zoned RE1 – Public Recreation and RU1 – Primary Production and is within a flood planning area, riparian lands and watercourses zone. The site last experienced flooding in early 2021.

PARTICIPATION

James Cook/Rose Point Park is home to several sporting clubs with healthy participation numbers. These include Singleton & District Cricket Association, Singleton Roosters AFL, Singleton Netball Association and Singleton Junior Rugby League. Most of these clubs demonstrate strong junior and female participation rates which are reflected in the table adjacent. Parkrun also attracts an average of around a 100 participants per week.

Singleton Junior Rugby League

Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total	No. of Teams
2021	270	75	-	-	345	28
2020	249	86	-	-	335	17
2019	-	-	-	-	325	-

Singleton Roosters AFL Club

Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total	No. of Teams
2021	43	23	94	39	199	9
2020	65	2	103	33	203	8
2019	60	9	83	31	183	8

Singleton Cricket Association

Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total	No. of Teams
2021	18	1	260	4	283	-
2020	14	1	254	3	272	-
2019	17	-	263	2	282	-

Singleton Netball Association

Year	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Total	No. of Teams
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019	30	355	60	150	595	-

Note: 2020 Netball participation information unavailable due to COVID-19. 2021 Netball participation figures not yet finalised.



FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE)

Key observations from site inspections and facility audits undertaken in April 2021, include:

- Floodlighting on both fields does not light all playing areas and surrounds – only two towers provided to Playing Field 1 and 2.
- No social facilities provided within the main clubrooms.
- Storage areas are exceeding capacity and additional storage is likely to be required.
- Change rooms are of adequate size, but do not provide individual showers and are not considered gender inclusive.
- Playing fields were observed to be in reasonable condition, considering the flooding in the preceding weeks.
- Rugby Playing Field 3 is line marked slightly up the embankment, indicating some spatial constraints.
- Limited dedicated spectator amenities available.
- Large and fully stocked kiosk and merchandise area, provides strong focus point for team management and match / training day sales.

JAMES COOK/ROSE POINT PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE (COOK PARK FIELDS 1 & 2)						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall rating
Clubrooms	Home Change Rooms	30m2	30m2	No	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Away Change Rooms	30m2	30m2	No	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Referee Change Rooms	6m2	15m2	No	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Kitchen / Kiosk	50m2	20m2	Yes	Good	
Clubrooms	Storage	50m2	10m2	Yes	Poor	
Playing Fields	Rugby Field 1 (Cook Park Field #2)	100m x 68m	100m x 68m (Plus in goal area)	Yes	Good	
Lighting	Rugby Field 1 (Cook Park Field #2) Floodlighting	Less than 20 lux	50 lux (training) 100 lux (matches)	Yes	Poor	
Playing Fields	Rugby Fields 2-4 (Cook Park Field #1)	Field 2 100m x 68m Fields 3&4 68m x 30m (x2)	100m x 68m (Plus in goal area) 68m x 30m	Yes	Good	
Lighting	Rugby Field 2 (Cook Park Field #1) Floodlighting	Less than 20 lux	50 lux (training) 100 lux (matches)	Yes	Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (AFL)

Key observations from site inspections and facility audits undertaken in April 2021, include:

- Using the National AFL facility database and associated ratings, the venue for local AFL use scored 59% compliance against minimum requirements.
- Floodlighting fails to meet minimum training standards of 50 lux.
- Small storage area is exceeding capacity and additional storage is required.
- Change rooms are significantly under minimum size, have open showers, do not provide the minimum number of toilets and are not considered appropriate for all gender use.
- Change rooms would not adequately facilitate back-to-back games, particularly if matches were of different genders.
- Umpires change room does not cater adequately for all umpires or all gender use.
- Playing field was observed to be in reasonable condition (albeit very damp), considering the flooding in the preceding weeks.
- Limited dedicated spectator amenities available.

JAMES COOK/ROSE POINT PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL (AFL) (COOK PARK FIELD 4)						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall rating
Clubrooms	Home Change Rooms	< 45m2	45-55m2	No	Good	
Clubrooms	Away Change Rooms	< 45m2	45-55m2	No	Good	
Clubrooms	Umpire Change Rooms	< 20m2	20-25m2	No	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Kitchen / Kiosk	< 20m2	20m2	Yes	Good	
Clubrooms	Storage	6m2	20m2	Yes	Moderate	
Playing Fields	AFL Field (Cook Park Field #3)	157m x 130m	160m x 135m	Yes	Moderate	
Lighting	AFL Field (Cook Park Field #3) Floodlighting	23 lux	50 lux (training) 100 lux (matches) 150 (preference)	No	Poor	

- No timekeepers box or first-aid room provided.
- Player and coaching benches required temporary covering on match days.
- Well presented social area, bar and canteen provided, with a reconfigured merchandise room created recently.

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (CRICKET)

Key observations from site inspections and facility audits undertaken in April 2021, include:

- Limited dedicated clubroom facility and toilets across the five grounds. Access to other pavilion spaces including rugby, AFL and netball would be required to adequately cater for all grounds.
- The only location in Singleton with practice facilities, with the exception of Alroy Oval (where cricket is no longer played).
- Multiple practice facility locations creates inefficiencies in maintenance and renewal.
- Practice net facilities rated poor to moderate, but were inspected post flooding and during off-season where maintenance will be less intense.
- All playing fields are of adequate size for senior cricket with ample surrounding areas with good to excellent playing surfaces.
- Turf squares have 2-3 pitches on each, which may restrict some flexibility in preparation and use.
- No cricket ground has suitable lighting to facilitate cricket matches.
- Limited dedicated and shaded spectator viewing areas across all grounds.
- Synthetic pitch on Cook Park #5 meets minimum pitch length dimensions, but is slightly under the preferred 2.4m wide.

JAMES COOK/ROSE POINT PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
CRICKET (COOK PARK FIELDS 1-5)						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall rating
Clubrooms	Toilets	80m2	25m2	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Clubrooms	Storage		30m2	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Playing Fields	Cook Park #1 Oval (Turf)	60m (2 pitches)	60m boundary (minimum) measured from the middle of the centre wicket	Yes	Excellent	
Playing Fields	Cook Park #2 Oval (Turf)	60m (3 pitches)		Yes	Good	
Playing Fields	Cook Park #3 Oval (Turf)	65m (3 pitches)		Yes	Good	
Playing Fields	Cook Park #4 Oval (Turf)	70m (2 pitches)		Yes	Excellent	
Playing Fields	Cook Park #5 Oval (Synthetic)	60m (synthetic)		Yes	Moderate	
Practice	Practice Wickets 1 (inc. Turf)	2 Synthetic & Turf Nets	Various	Yes	Poor	
Practice	Practice Wickets 2 (inc. Turf)	2 Synthetic Nets	Various	Yes	Moderate	
Practice	Practice Wickets 3 (inc. Turf)	2 Synthetic Nets	Various	Yes	Very Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS (NETBALL)

Key observations from site inspections and facility audits undertaken in April 2021, include:

- Lighting on courts 1-6 is compromised due to the varied pole heights. Even though court lighting is exceeding minimum lux and uniformity averages, there are dark spots in some areas.
- Lighting on courts 7, 11, 12 fail to meet minimum 100 lux standards, with courts 8, 9, 10 only just complying.
- Some long-term court base issues on courts 4, 5, 6 that will require base rectification.
- Limited *covered* spectator viewing areas and seating provided to main court area.
- Limited path access to courts from the clubrooms, car parks and footpath network. Crossing over grass and damp areas drags mud and dirt onto courts.
- Clubrooms present neatly and well maintained and generally meet the needs of the Association.
- No umpire change rooms, but accessible toilets performing that function.
- Issues observed of vehicles driving on court area, some recent flooding, ongoing septic tank problems and building security.

JAMES COOK/ROSE POINT PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
NETBALL						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall rating
Clubrooms	Social	80m2	100m2	Yes	Good	
Clubrooms	Female Toilets	16m2	12m2	Yes	Good	
Clubrooms	Male Toilets	12m2	12m2	No	Moderate	
Clubrooms	Kitchen / Kiosk	40m2	30m2	Yes	Good	
Clubrooms	Storage	40m2	40m2	Yes	Good	
Clubrooms	Admin / Office	12m	20m2	Yes	Good	
Courts	Courts 1-6	Enclosure 103m x 40m	Enclosure 103m x 40m		Moderate	
Courts	Courts 7-12	Enclosure 103m x 40m	Enclosure 103m x 40m	Yes	Good	
Lighting	Courts 1-6	234-385 lux	100 lux (training) 200 lux (matches)	Yes	Moderate	
Lighting	Courts 7-12	78-113 lux	100 lux (training) 200 lux (matches)	Yes	Moderate	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

Through consultation and desktop analysis, the following stakeholder priorities and needs have been identified:

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The **NRL facility guidelines** identify three key categories of facility components that are critical to support competition and participation programs:

- Clubrooms should be a community focussed facility capable of catering for the needs of players, coaches, referees, officials, volunteers and spectators.
- A quality surface, including drainage is required along with ancillary facilities including player benches and lighting.
- Additional facilities to support both functional requirements of the game and enhancing the player, coach and spectator experience are important.

Cricket Australia identifies that a range of playing field attributes and supporting amenities are required to facilitate community cricket. The facility at Cook Park, as a five oval venue with multiple turf and synthetic wickets, has been identified in Cricket Australia's facility hierarchy as a Regional level facility.

A Regional level facility is seen as a venue that integrates community cricket pathways and provides connection between foundation and talent programs. These facilities also service home clubs, the broader cricket catchment and can facilitate cricket events.

The missing elements for a cricket venue of this scale is access to a dedicated clubroom with social facilities and change room and toilet amenities that caters for all grounds and all genders.

The **AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines** outline that to grow capacity of local level facilities and, in turn, participation the provision of the following infrastructure items are critical:

- Quality playing fields including sub-surface drainage, irrigation and drought resistant grasses. Supporting on-field amenities including interchange benches, coaches boxes and scoreboards along with regular maintenance regimes.
- Lighting of a minimum of 50 lux for training and 100 lux for competition (with a preference for 150 lux).
- Main clubroom facilities including social rooms, kitchens/kiosks, administration rooms, storage and public toilets are all considered crucial to support the viability of clubs and the game.
- Change rooms that are clean, modern and offer a welcoming and private environment suitable for all genders. This includes cubicle showers and lockable toilet cubicles.

The Singleton Roosters AFL facilities are failing to meet some basic level provision requirements. While structurally many of the required amenities are in place (including player and umpire change rooms), they fail to meet minimum size requirements and all gender use and lighting levels do not meet minimum requirements.

Netball Australia considers its facilities as playing a vital role in contributing to the vibrancy of sport and the community. The provision of high quality facilities to meet the needs and demands of netball are seen as critical. Quality venues will drive growth and sustain participation as well as support the viability of associations, leagues and clubs.

Key infrastructure items include:

Club facilities including unisex change facilities for players and umpires, public toilets, competition/administration office, first aid room, kiosk/canteen, social area and storage.

High quality compliant courts that offer a consistent playing surface and necessary run off requirements and floodlighting to a minimum 100 lux.

Similar to AFL, cricket and rugby league facilities at Cook / Rose Point Park, the vast majority of netball requirements are being met. However, some elements including court lighting and spectator amenities need to be resolved to improve the overall functionality of the venue.

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

CLUB IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The needs of clubs have been determined via club questionnaires, community surveys, site audits and independent face-to-face and phone conversations with club representatives.

SINGLETON JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

- Improve floodlighting to facilitate longer training hours and keeping participation at one venue (i.e. avoid having to rent Dunolly (Pirtek) Park for additional matches.
- Covered spectator accommodation.
- Additional equipment storage with capacity for drive in / drive out trailer storage.
- Change room refurbishment to create all gender use.

SINGLETON ROOSTERS AFC

- Clubroom improvements for greater accessibility for people with disabilities. Opportunity to also incorporate additional storage needs and spectator seating.
- Change room size/provision is inadequate, particularly with the increase in women and girls teams. Clashes are experienced when there are back to back games with change rooms preventing use by teams.
- Additional, more formalised car parking.
- Upgrades to floodlighting (LED preferable) to meet competition levels (100 lux) with switching down to 50 lux for training.

SINGLETON DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

- Requirement to improve drainage on ovals, including turf wickets to improve playability and maintenance.
- Greater provision of public toilets, particularly for females.
- More shade and shelter for participants, officials and spectators across the grounds.
- Consolidation and improvement of cricket practice nets.

SINGLETON NETBALL ASSOCIATION

- Current facility provision has the capacity to host additional participation with some minor improvements required.
- Access to courts, particularly those on lower levels, is difficult during winter and accessibility needs improvement.
- Improved covered spectator viewing accommodation.
- Address odour issues in toilets.
- Address the vandalism and external security lighting around the clubrooms.

SINGLETON PARK RUN

- Access to additional storage area.
- Regular maintenance of running course.
- Additional signage to indicate that Parkrun utilises the reserve regularly.

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

Enhancing the already high standard of infrastructure at James Cook/Rose Point Park will provide further opportunities for participation, support the sustainability of clubs, and ensure that facilities are meeting recommended standards of a District/Regional facility.

Preliminary opportunities and priorities include:

- **Update the site master plan to include a holistic approach to infrastructure provision and use, asset location, vehicle management and car parking and long-term strategic implementation.**
- **Improved floodlighting to a minimum training standard, with preference to match standard for Rugby League and AFL.**
- **Improved playing surface quality and drainage across the site.**
- **Enhanced clubroom facilities including flexible, multi-purpose change rooms that can accommodate concurrent teams and genders.**
- **Greater spectator/passive use amenity including shade, toilets and paths/access routes.**

JIM JOHNSTONE PARK

SITE SUMMARY Village Recreation Reserve



Active Open Space

1

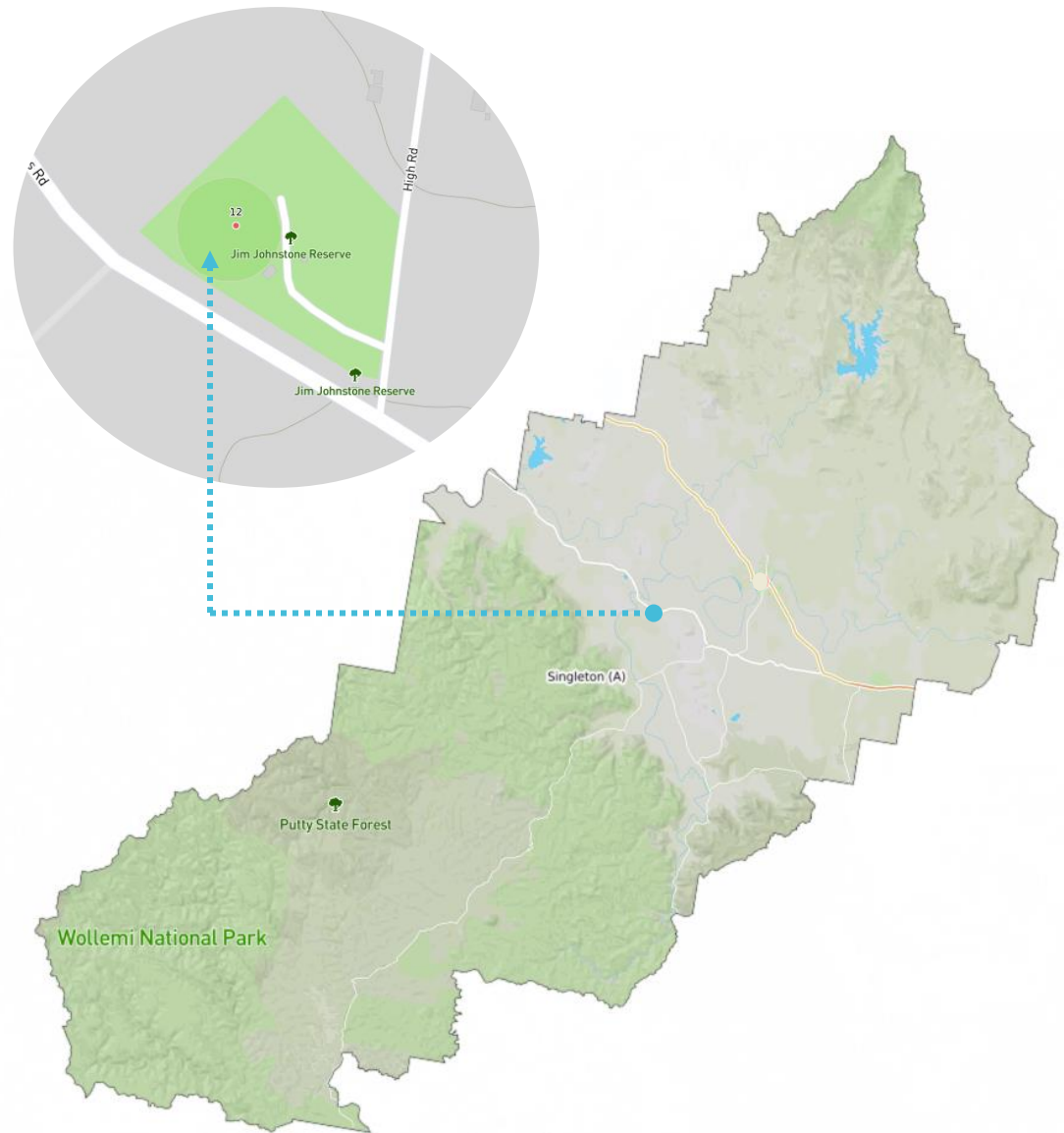
Playing Field



Public Toilet Block



Playground



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Jim Johnstone Park is an open space reserve with one playing field which is primarily used for informal recreation and camping. The Reserve is situated 20 km from the Singleton town centre and is supported by a public toilet block with male/female/accessible facilities and a local playground. The Reserve sits within bushland setting, with access via gravel driveway from main road and an open air shelter/pavilion area offers picnic amenities.

Jim Johnstone Park is classified as a **village recreation reserve**.

PLANNING CONTEXT

A NSW Government Property Search on Jim Johnstone Park indicates that it is zoned RU1 – Primary Production and is subject to the Singleton Local Environment Plan. There are no recommendations for Jim Johnstone Park within the Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study.

PARTICIPATION

Aside from use as a local rest stop and break area for local mining staff and for informal recreation activities, the only other anecdotal participation information was provided through the community survey in which a respondent noted that the facility *was utilised* as an overflow ground when turf wickets are unavailable. As at April 2021, the cricket pitch is considered unusable for any level of competitive cricket.

According to REMPLAN, the area of Warkworth had a population of 45 on Census Night in 2016. This represents 0.2% of the total population in Singleton. It is likely that the Reserve would see limited other passive use by the community.



Picnic shelter



Community playground



Disused cricket pitch

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

An audit of Jim Johnstone Park was undertaken in April 2021. Observations included:

- The oval surface considered to be in very poor condition due to vehicle traffic.
- Cricket pitch is not usable beyond informal recreational use.
- Open shelter with picnic tables for park users in poor condition with general maintenance and cleanliness an issue.
- Playground offers limited play value.
- Gravel / dirt vehicle roadways and car parking areas are likely to be subject to flooding and drainage issues.

JIM JOHNSTONE PARK – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Rating
Surface	Cricket Oval	50m radius from centre wicket	50m radius from centre wicket (seniors)	Yes	Very Poor	
Amenities	Toilet Block	5m x 5m	N/A	Yes	Very Good	
Amenities	Picnic Shelter	13m x 7m	N/A	Yes	Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

As there is no organised sporting participation at Jim Johnstone Park, consultation with peak sporting bodies and clubs is not applicable. Preliminary opportunities and priorities have been identified based on the findings from facility audits, community consultation and other strategic supporting documentation.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Desire to reinstate the cricket pitch as a suitable cricket venue in times when turf wickets are unavailable and as a recreational activity.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- **Improve maintenance regimes and upkeep of existing infrastructure to meet the needs of visitors and/or those using the facility as a rest spot.**
- **Obtain more data around usage of facility as an overflow sporting venue. Consider surface and centre wicket upgrades if demand is demonstrated.**
- **The Reserve offers limited value as a sporting asset, but offers open space or recreational play value to local residents and the local working population.**

JERRYS PLAINS RECREATION GROUND

SITE SUMMARY

Village Recreation Reserve



Open Space



Community Tennis Court



Community Multi-purpose Court



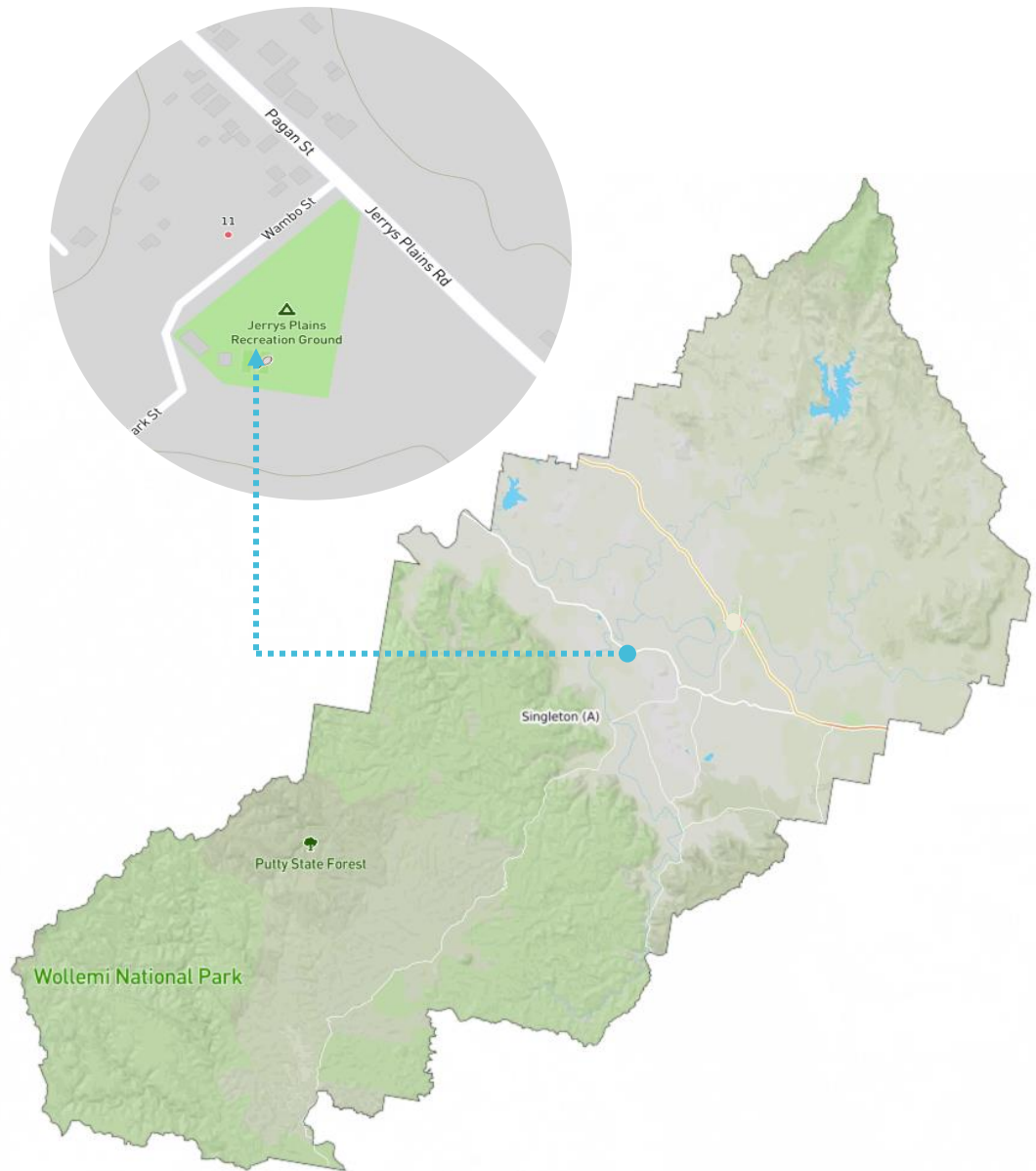
Camping



Playground



Public toilet block



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground is a well provisioned, community facility that is a popular location for casual camping. The venue has two acrylic hard courts – one for tennis and one for basketball/small sided soccer. Both are floodlit. In addition there is a local level playground and single cricket net, along with an open space area for camping / car parking. A small community pavilion consisting of a kitchenette and meeting area and amenities for campers including accessible toilets, picnic tables and BBQ facilities are also onsite. Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground is classified as a **village recreation reserve**.

PLANNING CONTEXT

A NSW Government Property Search on Jerry's Plains Recreation Ground indicates that it is zoned RU1 – Primary Production and is subject to the Singleton Local Environment Plan.

The Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified through community consultation that a community/school oval is a desired need to support school and local sport participation, as well as events and celebrations. The Study also notes that reserves such as Jerrys Plains are a hub for the community and provide for local formal and informal opportunities as well as facilities for visitors.

PARTICIPATION

Aside from use by campers and informal recreation, no other data or insights are available regarding use of this facility. Through community consultation, there was strong community sentiment regarding the reserve and many ideas for improvement that would increase visitation and informal participation.

According to REMPLAN, the area of Jerrys Plains had a population of 230 on Census Night in 2016. This represents approximately 1% of the total population in Singleton. It is likely that the use of the reserve sees a balance of campers/tourists and locals.



Community tennis court & clubrooms



Community multi-purpose court

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

An audit of Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground was undertaken in April 2021. Observations of the facility included:

- Acrylic courts are fit for purpose and mostly in moderate condition. Some cracking of the base and dirt build up on court surface is present.
- Lighting levels are insufficient and well below Australian Standards.
- The pavilion presents neatly and serves a local purpose for court users and casual campers accessing toilet and picnic amenities.
- A single concrete cricket practice facility is provided which is of an informal nature, designed for casual use.

JERRYS PLAINS RECREATION GROUND – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS						
Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Court	Tennis Court	35m x 18m	35m x 17m (total playing area)	Yes	Moderate	
Court	Multi-purpose Court	35m x 15m	N/A – multi purpose facility	Yes	Moderate	
Court	Lighting	18 lux – 35 lux	250 lux	Yes	Very Poor	
Surface	Cricket Practice Net	11m x 2m	20m x 3.6m	Yes	Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

As there is no organised sporting participation at Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground, consultation with sport and clubs is not applicable. Preliminary opportunities and priorities however have been identified through findings from facility audits, community consultation and other strategic supporting documentation.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- A strong desire for greater maintenance and upkeep of the facility.
- More recreation opportunities for older children (e.g. 9-14 years).
- More shelters and natural shade, including consideration for shade over the playground.
- Upgrade of open space area.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- Enhance overall maintenance activity of facility, particularly court cleaning.
- Create more play and informal recreation opportunities to enhance offerings for local participation.
- Enhance facilities to improve visitor experience.

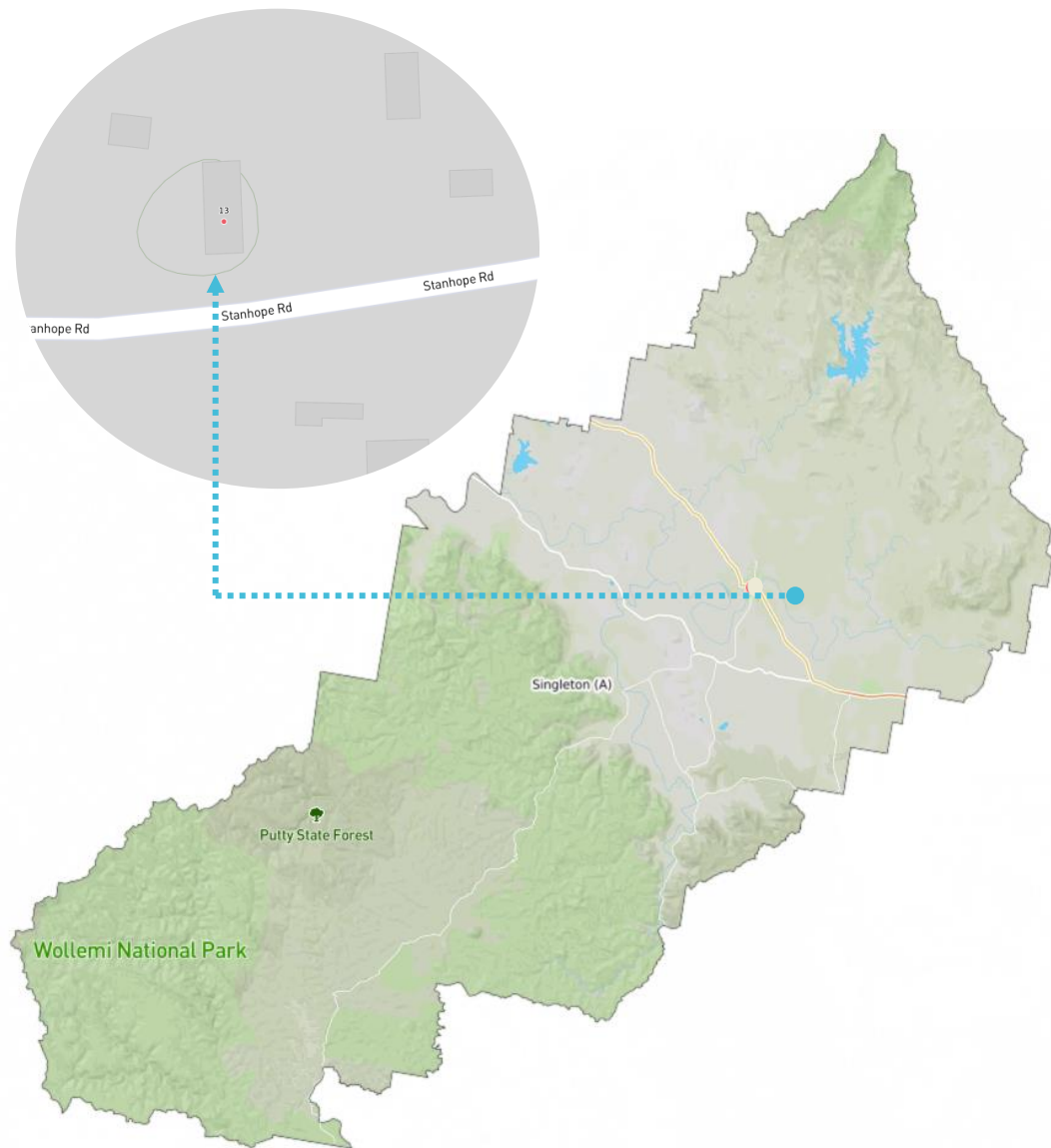
STANHOPE TENNIS

SITE SUMMARY

Village Recreation Reserve



Community Tennis/Multi-sport Court



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Stanhope Tennis is a single tennis court facility (floodlit – coin operated), with recessed fence suitable for small sided soccer games. It is located in the rural township of Stanhope. The Reserve is supported by a small seating area with BBQ and playground. The facility is situated on the same land parcel as the NSW Rural Fire Service. A small weatherboard community facility includes a small kitchen and meeting space.

Stanhope Tennis is classified as a village recreation reserve.

PLANNING CONTEXT

A NSW Government Property Search on the Stanhope Tennis facility indicates that it is zoned RU1 – Primary Production and is subject to the Singleton Local Environment Plan.

The Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified the facility as a “Tier 3” venue in the ‘open space provision tiers’ and notes that it would serve the Stanhope population adequately.

PARTICIPATION

No information on formal usage was available for this facility.

Access to the tennis courts and public toilets is available via the NSW RFS on request. The playground is accessible via an unlocked gate.



Community tennis court



Court surface cracking

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

An audit of Stanhope Tennis was undertaken in April 2021. Observations included:

- Acrylic court has significant cracking throughout the runoff areas and signs of pavement failure near the enclosure edges.
- Some repaired cracking on playing surface, likely to fail again over time.
- Acrylic surface has dirt build up that requires high pressure cleaning.
- Coin operated floodlighting exceeds recommended standards for recreational tennis.
- Soccer and basketball infrastructure built into fencing. Tennis court did not have a net at the time of inspection.
- Community building presented neatly and combined with outdoor area and playground offers basic community facilities.

STANHOPE TENNIS – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Court	Tennis Court	33m x 15m	35m x 17m (total playing area)	Yes	Moderate	
Court	Floodlights	370 lux	250 lux	Yes	Excellent	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

As there is no organised sporting participation at the Stanhope Tennis facility, consultation with peak sporting bodies is not applicable. Preliminary opportunities and priorities however have been identified based on the facility audits, community consultation and other strategic supporting documentation.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- No priorities identified via community survey.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- Gain a greater understanding of facility usage and access to guide priority improvements.
- Pressure clean court surface and patch surface cracking.
- Given high provision of floodlighting, there is opportunity for the facility to be well utilised year round, particularly in winter months.

VICTORIA SQUARE

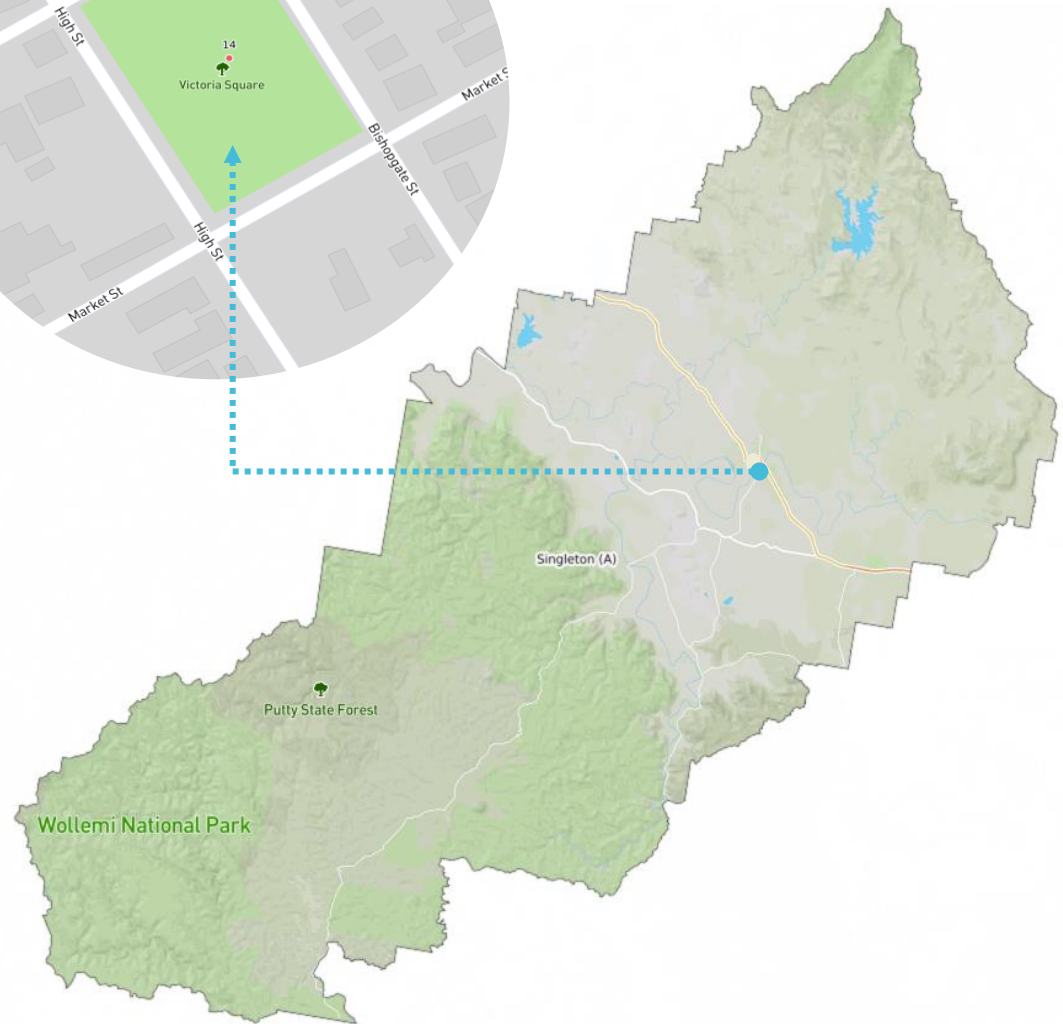
SITE SUMMARY Local Sports Ground



Active Open Space

1

Playing Field



SITE OVERVIEW AND USAGE

Victoria Square is centrally located in Singleton and consists of a small playing field with a centre cricket wicket suitable for junior use. It also provides a public toilet block (currently locked and unusable). The Reserve is bordered by natural shade trees and is located opposite the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC).

Victoria Square is classified as a local level facility.

PLANNING CONTEXT

A NSW Government Property Search on Victoria Square indicates that it is zoned R1 – General Residential and is subject to the Singleton Local Environment Plan. It is located within a flood planning area.

The Singleton Open Space and Recreation Needs Study identified that a suitable park, such as Victoria Square, could be further enhanced to provide the Singleton community with a higher quality and more diverse experience. The Study also identified that Victoria Square is under-utilised but is an important informal, informal kick-about space for local residents.

PARTICIPATION

Victoria Square experiences informal participation and casual use by the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC). The PCYC run a significant number of programs and consistently attract around 1,000 members (60% female, 40% male), with signs of growth in the past few years. Programs are generally conducted indoors at the adjacent centre, however overflow and holiday program activities are also conducted outdoors at Victoria Square.

The Singleton District Cricket Association has used the facility for juniors in previous years, however are not using the venue at this point in time.



Public toilet facilities



Community field

FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

An audit of Victoria Square was undertaken in April 2021. Observations of the facility included:

- Playing surface area would be suitable for junior sport due to its dimensions (37m boundary radius).
- Playing surface is in moderate condition, but doesn't appear to be maintained to sporting surface standard.
- Public toilet block situated in the south-west corner is outdated and locked.
- The centre cricket pitch is concrete (no synthetic surface) and boundary is 37m, meaning it only serves an informal and recreational purpose (ie. not competition standard).
- There is no floodlighting or other supporting amenities provided.

VICTORIA SQUARE – FACILITY AUDIT FINDINGS

Area	Area components	Size (sqm) / Performance	Preferred minimum standard	Suitable for all gender use	Condition rating	Overall Rating
Playing Field	Oval	100m x 67m (football) 37m radius from centre of wicket (cricket)	90m x 50m for football (soccer) 40m boundary radius for junior cricket	Yes	Moderate	
Playing Field	Cricket Wicket	25m x 1.8m	25m x 2.4m	Yes	Poor	
Amenities	Toilet Block	5m x 5m	N/A	Yes	Poor	

- Critical gap in facility provision/condition identified
- Moderate gap in facility provision identified
- No facility gap identified. Meets preferred standards

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

Consultation with the PCYC occurred through the club engagement process and their identified needs and limitation are listed below.

SPORT IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Whilst cricket has not been played at Victoria Square for a period of time, minor infrastructure improvements would see the facility playable again.

These include:

- Heightened levels of service/maintenance on playing field area including regular mowing.
- Covering of the centre wicket with a synthetic surface to meet preferred recommendations of the modern game.
- Widening the wicket to meet preferred standards as it currently falls short. This would also help facilitate junior participation where minimum width is recommended.

CLUB IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Approximate increase of 50 new members per year at the PCYC may encourage greater use of facilities.
- Due to current membership increases, PCYC indoor facilities are experiencing some capacity pressure, particularly outside of school hours.
- An additional overflow space is welcomed, but the current provision at Victoria Square has limited appeal and function.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- Upgrade toilets.
- Provide play facility.
- Improve quality of playing field/open space area.

PRELIMINARY OPPORTUNITIES + PRIORITIES

- **Ascertain role and function of Victoria Square, including whether its primary focus is an informal recreation or organised sporting facility.**
- **If organised sport/use of the cricket facilities is expected to see demand, address the centre wicket and playing surface to assist future participation. Upgrades to public toilets and basic spectator amenity is also recommended.**
- **If informal recreation is the focus of the site, consider recommendations proposed in the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study. Provide more multi-use opportunities for the community including a variety of play components, improved toilet facilities and more seating and supporting amenities. Some formalise hard-court provision along the High Street frontage could also be considered.**

An aerial photograph of Dunolly (Pirtek) Park in Dunolly. The image shows a large green sports field with a small white building and a red tractor nearby. To the left is a brown, dry field. A road with several cars is visible at the top. The bottom of the image shows more fields and some buildings.

OBSERVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY

OBSERVATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF SPORT AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN SINGLETON

Through a review of strategic information, facility audits, investment opportunities and stakeholder consultation, a range of preliminary observations and opportunities have been identified and will help to guide and inform the Draft Strategy and associated recommendations. Observations and opportunities have been categorised into Facilities, Participation and Use, and Planning, Investment and Partnerships themes.

FACILITIES

- There are varying levels of maintenance and facility upkeep, particularly between Village sites and active sporting facilities. A review of the existing facility hierarchy and associated levels of service should be considered to create a more consistent approach across the network of sport and recreation infrastructure.
- The off-field amenities at many active sporting reserves (ie. District level sites) are not meeting the needs of clubs/user groups or the recommended sporting provision guidelines. Most notably, core facility attributes, including gender neutral change rooms and amenities, referee/umpire change facilities and social rooms/kiosks/canteens are generally limited in provision and do not meet the expectations of their respective sports.
- On-field, the condition of playing surfaces at active sporting reserves is generally good and meets the needs of sport. In some instances, opportunities to further equip facilities to respond to the impacts of drought and flood events could be explored.
- At local level facilities, primarily those used for junior or overflow use, the availability of basic amenities, such as toilets and spectator shelter/shade, is limited. Opportunities to increase basic provision will support greater participation and use by informal sport and address a community desire for greater access to toilet facilities at sporting reserves.
- At most sports grounds there is a gap in the provision of sports lighting to meet minimum standards for training and/or competition. Adequate lighting will help to retain and attract participants as well as improve the programming and capacity of facilities. It will also address a clear need established through consultation that lighting is a top priority for both clubs and the community. At some Village sites, sports lighting is available for community use which has varying capability. Further understanding of usage and demand will assist in prioritising future investment.
- Village sites, as well as Albion Park, Victoria Square and Gowrie Park seem undefined in purpose. Community consultation indicates that there is a desire for the embellishment of these reserves to offer more informal recreational opportunities and greater enjoyment of passive spaces. Active and competitive sporting opportunities is not the key driver for use at these sites.
- Other Village sites, including Bulga, Jim Johnstone and Jerrys Plains facilities, service both recreational needs for townships as well as the camping/tourist/visitor sector. Provision levels that satisfy both roles need to be considered through future Council policy.
- Future infrastructure at District level sporting reserves should aim to meet the preferred guidelines outlined by peak sporting bodies (where applicable) and in-line with relevant facility hierarchy. Providing facilities that are above or outside of recommended guidelines may result in the need for greater levels of servicing by both Council and clubs, as well as potential asset underutilisation.
- Through the Community Survey, 64% of respondents indicated that the most frequently used infrastructure item at sports grounds is *public toilets* followed by use of *oval/sportsground* (62%).

OVERARCHING GAPS IN COUNCIL OWNED AND MANAGED FACILITY PROVISION

The following were identified as the critical overarching gaps in sporting infrastructure provision across the Singleton Council area. These gaps will form the foundation of future strategy development and will be the focus for related capital planning development recommendations.



Field of play lighting

Field of play lighting levels are inconsistent across many sites, with limited LED lighting systems in place. In some instances, minimum levels to support training are inadequate and few sites provide lighting for match conditions. The current level of lighting provision limits the capacity of grounds / courts and impacts the sustainability and operating costs of lighting.



Fit-for-purpose infrastructure

Existing pavilions and clubrooms are not fit for purpose, they provide limited social amenities and do not cater for all gender use. Existing buildings limit the capacity of clubs to conduct their activities, generate revenue and provide quality experiences for users and spectators. Venues such as Civic Park provide no access to clubrooms. The ability to attract and retain participants will be restricted over time if improvements are not made.



Single purpose use

Dedicated sporting facilities (predominately playing fields) and sites currently provide for single purpose use, with some limitations to seasonal or multi-use sharing. This increases the annual operating costs of sites where costs cannot be shared by multiple users. Where playing field capacity is challenged at peak times, greater opportunities for shared use could be explored prior to the development of additional playing fields.



Spectator accommodation

Few sports grounds provide adequate spectator viewing amenities (particularly covered viewing). This is often linked to the limited provision of clubroom and social facilities. This impacts the experience of parents, families and spectators, particularly at major sites that attract hundreds of people to weekly activities.



Maintenance and service levels

Maintenance levels, particularly at Village Recreation Reserves, are not keeping pace with service levels required to provide safe and functional facilities. Where levels of service are not being delivered, premature degradation of sport and recreation amenities are being experienced (e.g. court cracking, fencing deterioration, cricket net issues) and will require renewal within more regular intervals than expected. Site use and activation levels can also be impacted at sites where the quality and condition of infrastructure is lacking.

PARTICIPATION & USE

- There are many single purpose sporting facilities in Singleton, with some shared playing fields between sports. To assist in leveraging investment, as well as increased asset utilisation and participation, consideration towards greater programming of facilities could be investigated, where capacity constraints are identified.
- Local sporting clubs primarily service the Singleton Council area market, many with healthy participation figures including large clubs with significant (250+) memberships.
- Participation numbers in organised sport have been reported as generally stable. Any change is likely to continue in-line with population projections, which see limited overall change in the number of persons living in Singleton to 2036.
- A number of clubs indicated that there has been a decrease in participation due to the impacts of COVID-19. Monitoring of participation, including improved data collection and reporting methods, and support for clubs to re-engage participants should be considered a priority.
- Age cohorts within the Singleton population will see marginal fluctuations between 2021 and 2036. This includes small decreases across several younger age groups who are generally the target market for organised sport (5 to 39 year olds). These changes are likely to drive and influence activity preferences.
- This trend however does not appear to be an unusual circumstance in Singleton, due to the transient nature of the workforce, particularly for those in the mining and defence sectors. Many clubs through consultation indicated that demand for their activities and programs tend to change depending on employment status of participants (and parents of children) and also due to the pursuit of higher educational opportunities outside the immediate area. These trends pose some risk to the ongoing sustainability of sports clubs.
- Initial observations and assessment of sporting clubs is “there appears to be enough playing fields and courts” for the majority of the week, with some capacity issues at peak times. These capacity issues however are likely to be able to be addressed through increasing the capability of fields and varied approaches to programming and activity scheduling.
- A number of the smaller clubs in Singleton have limited junior and female participation which is considered critical to club sustainability. In contrast, the larger clubs offer greater diversity across genders and age groups. Reasons being may include activity type, competition structures, catchment population, facility provision or club governance and culture.
- Community consultation indicates that 71% people visit sporting facilities in Singleton between 1-4 times per week with 60% attending to participate in a formal sporting activity and 19% for passive recreation purposes.



Photo courtesy Singleton Track & Field Club

PLANNING, INVESTMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

- There is existing strategic planning in place for a select number of sites, such as master plans (e.g. Alroy Oval), which help set the future direction for these venues. Outside of these facilities, a lack of planning may inhibit the structured prioritisation of investment.
- The provision of facilities that are multi-use, gender neutral, accessible and offer opportunities for participation across the residential population's lifespan should be the future goal for facilities in Singleton. This will align more closely with the priorities of investment partners including State and Federal Government. Multi-purpose facility outcomes will ensure sites are flexible in their provision and better placed to meet a greater range and changes in demand into the future.
- There is a general sense of cooperation between sports and sporting codes, with opportunities to encourage greater dialogue and improved working relationships. Council may be able to play a role in assisting these discussions.
- A number of large scale building projects have been identified for future investment (e.g. new clubrooms and match day amenities at Pirtek Park). A prioritisation framework and the identification of a pipeline of infrastructure projects will be a key deliverable of the Strategy.
- Project readiness, including the preparation of concept plans and quantity surveys (ie. project cost plans), has been identified by Council as a requirement of clubs seeking large amounts of investment and/or to be considered as part of a grant funding application. Through consultation, it was identified that some clubs don't have a clear understanding of how to undertake this process and that further support by Council may be required.
- A number of sporting clubs indicated via consultation that they had prepared or were preparing strategic plans to their club direction and resource requirements. Continued assistance and completion of these plans for all clubs should be a focus moving forward.
- A number of NSW state sporting bodies (often supported by national bodies) have prepared State Facility Strategies (or similar) and/or related facility guidelines that identify key priorities for investment. Known State Facility Strategies with regional level directions have been completed by Football NSW / Northern NSW Football, AFL NSW-ACT, Cricket NSW.
- There are opportunities for significant investment via a number of partners and programs. Aligning strategic site planning and funding applications with those of partners and stakeholders will improve opportunities for success.
- A number of Singleton sporting clubs indicated that they have potential to provide financial contributions towards funding of infrastructure projects and grant applications. Investment into infrastructure sinking funds by clubs (where applicable) should continue to be encouraged.
- Investment opportunities which involve partnerships with State and Federal Government will require a demonstration of inclusivity and diversity across age groups and genders. Clubs that cannot demonstrate these outcomes will likely require further support to generate outcomes in these areas.
- Continuing and strengthening relationships between Council, Singleton's Sports Council, clubs, peak sporting bodies and other stakeholders including local, state and federal partners to collectively identify future funding opportunities and undertake further planning of Singleton's sporting facilities should occur.

