

Council

**GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL SPORT AND
RECREATION PLAN - ENDORSEMENT**

Great Southern Regional Sport and Recreation Plan

Executive Summary – Great Southern Regional Sport
and Recreation Plan

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Great Southern Regional Sport and Recreation Plan

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Acronyms

ALAC	Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre
CoA	City of Albany
CSRFF	Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund
CDO	Club Development Officer
DACCI	Denmark Aquatic Centre Community Inc
DAIP	Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
DDA	Disabilities Discrimination Act
DLGSC	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
DoE	Department of Education
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions
DoP	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
DoT	Department of Transport
ESD	Environmentally Sustainable Design
GSCORE	Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence
GSDC	Great Southern Development Commission
GSRFMG	Great Southern Regional Facilities Management Group
GSR	Great Southern Region
GSRCB	Great Southern Regional Cricket Board
GSRLG	Great Southern Regional Local Governments
HWA	Hockey WA
KLC	Katanning Leisure Centre
LG	Local Government
LGSEA	Lower Great Southern Economic Alliance
RSROP	Regional Sports and Recreation Officers network/partnership
SLSWA	Surf Life Saving Western Australia
SoBT	Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup
SoG	Shire of Gnowangerup
SoJ	Shire of Jerramungup
SKo	Shire of Kojonup
SD	Shire of Denmark
SoCr	Shire of Cranbrook
SKa	Shire of Katanning
SoP	Shire of Plantagenet
SoK	Shire of Kent
SoW	Shire of Woodanilling
SSA	State Sporting Association
TWA	Tourism Western Australia
TW	Tennis West
VROC	Southern Link Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils

WAFC
WACA

Western Australian Football Commission
Western Australian Cricket Association

1. The Great Southern Regional Sport and Recreation Plan

The Great Southern Region (GSR) consists of 11 local governments (LG's), comprising of the City of Albany and the shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet and Woodanilling. It covers an area of 39,007 square kilometres (1.5% of WA's land area and a population estimated at 54,000. The City of Albany is the regions administrative centre providing a range of medical, educational, communications and commercial services with a population estimated in 2016 at 37,399.

Each local government has developed a variety of facility plans related to sport and recreation infrastructure development. Many of these plans were developed prior to the development of the Department of Regional Development strategic planning processes, but all influence each local government's integrated planning and reporting framework for establishing local priorities.

The GSR Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan has been developed to consolidate priorities for resourcing and investing in sport and recreation infrastructure and to provide a high-level planning tool for each of the partnering local governments.



Figure 1: Great Southern Regional Area (Source: GSDC)

This plan has been developed having regard to emerging needs and trends and relative priorities for each local government and the region as a whole.

As a strategic document the recommendations contain a number of areas where further research will be required and a series of recommendations which challenge the traditional way of providing services to meet the needs of the resident population of the GSR. The plan identifies

future sport and recreation requirements through to 2036 in respect of both regional level infrastructure and services and the priorities for the development of localised infrastructure which supports the development of sport and recreation at the regional level. This process also highlights the issues associated with future viability and potential implications related to the co-location of infrastructure and potential land acquisition issues.

2. Strategic Influences

2.1 State Level Planning

The plan should not be seen in isolation but as a fundamental planning tool which underpins a variety of strategic planning outcomes undertaken at a state, regional and local government level. Some of the key influences are referenced below:

The Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint (Great Southern Development Commission October 2015)

A framework for growing the Great Southern. The plan identifies the following which will be delivered by 2040:

- A workforce of 60,000 highly skilled contractors and employees.
- Timely, effective and efficient infrastructure and services that are meeting the needs of the region's residents.
- The physical resources and social infrastructure to support a population of 100,000 that is continuing to grow.
- A mix of world class public and private sector options in health care, housing, recreation, sporting and cultural activities.

Success will be measured by:

- Sport and recreation infrastructure that meets Australian standards for core sporting codes.
- Hosting more than 12 national and/or international sporting events per year.
- Physical activity rates will be comparable with those for Western Australia as a whole.
- Over 30 per cent of the population will be engaged as volunteers in activities that benefit the community.

Arts and recreation services as an industry is growing and there is a need to develop the skills base. Tracks and trails are also identified as economic drivers which will support the regional growth and an extension to these or alternative provision is likely to be supported.

Great Southern Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework (WAPC December 2015)

The framework highlights the importance of providing adequate social infrastructure (including sport and recreation facilities) to retain a growing population in place. The choice of infrastructure is critical to ensure the continued economic growth of the region.

Lower Great Southern Strategy 2016

It incorporates the City of Albany and the Shires of Denmark, Plantagenet and Cranbrook. The following identifies the key implications of the strategy:

- The provision of sport and recreation infrastructure is identified as critical to the economic future of the region.
- High-quality, well-planned and sustainable recreational facilities are considered to be paramount to the health of a region.
- Regional recreational trails, such as the Bibbulmun Track, Denmark-Nornalup Rail Trail and the Munda Biddi trail to Albany, are referenced as needing to be identified in local planning strategies and protected.
- The strategy states that the sub-region has sufficient sporting and recreation facilities but an additional facility may be required in the long term.

- Opportunities for efficient provision of facilities are advised to be explored in initial planning stages, in accordance with Sport and Recreation, a division of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries joint provision and shared use guidelines. This emphasises the importance of engagement with schools and the Department of Education (DoE) in respect of joint provision.

Strategic Directions for the WA Sport and Recreation Industry 2016-2020 (SD6)

The strategy produced on behalf of the industry identifies the following which are important considerations in developing sport and recreation infrastructure in the Great Southern:

- Community-based sport and recreation organisations are increasingly reliant on public investment for their survival.
- The sport and recreation industry must optimise the value derived from public and private funding in tight fiscal circumstances.
- Improved participation rates in sport and recreation, and more broadly active lifestyles, will require innovative responses - A combination of expanding pioneering initiatives and adapting successful concepts from other jurisdictions can stimulate healthier and socially beneficial outcomes.

2.2 Partner Local Government Strategic Community Plans

Each of the 11 local governments have an adopted Strategic Community Plan, a plan in draft or are in the process of review. Common themes within the Strategic Community Plans include:

- A clear vision and strategic direction for the relevant local government area to service the needs of the community. This has been informed by extensive community consultation.
- An approach to developing and providing services to a diverse range of people with a diverse range of interests.
- Increasing recreational and sporting options including community led sporting infrastructure improvements and the development of strong sporting/community clubs/groups.
- Mechanisms for promoting and supporting community security, health and wellbeing.
- Maintain and renew assets in a sustainable manner by committing to develop a 10-year financial plan to effectively manage assets.
- References to ensuring the community feel welcome and connected/strengthening community spirit.
- Providing facilities for youth.
- Promoting the development of trails which need to be developed in partnership with neighbouring local governments.
- Focusing on annual events – both for residents and to attract external visitors.
- Investment in passive and non-sporting recreation infrastructure – a clear focus for a number of communities where there is an ageing demographic.
- The commitment to tracks and trails

In addition to the above there are a number of key themes which have emerged from the various strategic planning processes undertaken by state, regional and local government in the Great Southern:

- Population figures on which a number of planning documents have been based have been downgraded following the recent 2016 census data publication. The demand therefore and ability to resource new investment is likely to be modified and reviewed.
- Asset management systems and processes vary significantly across the 11 local government areas with the City of Albany being most advanced and some local governments having limited

knowledge of likely resourcing impacts of asset maintenance, upgrade and replacement. This is a significantly high risk in areas where the population base is low and continuing to decrease.

- Water management and water re-use will continue to be a significant influencing factor across all local governments in the continued provision of sport and recreation facilities, particularly in the provision of oval and public open space. The intensification of use and alternative management of limited water resources will need to be planned for.
- There is a strong commitment across the region for a number of cross boundary projects. These include:
 - o The Great Southern Centre for Outdoor Recreation Excellence.
 - o Development of Centennial Park in Albany.
 - o The regional motocross venue at Cranbrook.
 - o An integrated tracks and trails network. These underpin significant alliances which have been developed to facilitate the growth in tourism and provide significant economic benefit.
 - o A consistent approach to the development of a coordinated events plan to underpin tourism and economic development initiatives.
 - o The development of equine infrastructure. There is however the potential to integrate development more effectively between the City of Albany and Shires of Plantagenet, Katanning, Kojonup and Denmark where the majority of regional equine infrastructure and activity is based.
- The link between providing recreational infrastructure for an ageing community and for the youth is evident across a number of LG planning documents.
- A number of rural LG's are resource poor with limited additional capacity (both in terms of people and financial resourcing) and would benefit substantially from partnerships/alliances with the more progressive LG's. The ability to share learning and develop innovative solutions in facilitating the delivery of sport and recreation programs, services and facilities would benefit those which have limited available resources.
- Co-location and the sharing of resources (particularly with schools) should be a key focus for future investment in sport and recreation assets. Invariably the level of infrastructure available to local communities is good, but due to age and historic planning decisions lacks the flexibility to meet modern needs. This can only be addressed gradually through the replacement of infrastructure in accordance with a series of design principles.
- The ageing population and potential implication on volunteer support and succession planning is a critical concern across most LG areas. It is important for this aspect to be addressed in partnership to encourage the sharing of innovative solutions and available resources. This also needs to incorporate a greater commitment from SSA.
- The importance of investing in maintaining and improving sporting and recreational facilities is highlighted as being of significant benefit to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the regional population.
- Having access to limited budgets, most LG's within the region recognise the potential cost saving benefits of co-location and rationalisation of infrastructure.
- There is a need to develop innovative policies, practices and partnerships to deliver outcomes for the greater good of the regional area.

- LG's value the role that strategic alliances play within the region as a mechanism to effectively share resources and provide a stronger voice in promoting the region and providing regional advocacy to attract funding. These include:
 - o Southern Link Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC)
 - o Regional Tourism Alliances (including Hidden Treasures)
 - o Lower Great Southern Economic Alliance

2.3 State Sporting Facility Plans

There are a number of state sporting facility plans which have been developed over the past decade. Many of these plans have focused principally on Metropolitan Perth. There are however a number of key themes which emerge from these plans which are relevant to the development of the GSR Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan. Of these it is to be noted:

- The role of LG is critical to the implementation of the majority of recommendations in respect of facility development and there is no commitment to funding.
- Strategies have been developed in isolation with little regard to ground sharing, co-location and compatible uses.
- The DoE is highlighted as being a significant partner in delivering the facility development outcomes identified in the majority of strategic facility plans.
- The majority of the strategies are linked to funding available through CSRFF.

Those strategic facility plans which have regional implications include the Aquatic Strategic Facilities Plan; Western Australian Football Commission Strategic Facilities Plan; Netball Strategic Facilities Plan and the Basketball Strategic Facilities Plan. The following identifies the main considerations for the Great Southern:

- The Aquatic Strategic Facilities Plan does not identify sites for development outside of a hierarchy model which is focused on development at the top end of the aquatic industry (i.e. not community focused). In addition, no financial commitment is given to the delivery of the Facility Plan.
- Western Australian Football Commission Strategic Facilities Plan advocates a classification system within a football hierarchy, based on the sustainability of individual clubs that will serve as a basis to plan for future infrastructure provision and upgrades.
- Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre (ALAC) plays a critical role in the attraction and promotion of International netball and basketball with a strong alignment to tourism and economic development objectives.
- The importance of maintaining and replacing existing court assets for both basketball and netball is highlighted as being of critical importance for the future development of the sport in the region.
- The Great Southern region is recognised as a significant mountain biking hotspot and there is an immediate need for master planning to be undertaken in order to guide future mountain bike development. The connectivity across areas and establishment of accessible trails is important.
- Kojonup netball courts are identified for investment which is consistent with the shires recommendations.
- Katanning Leisure Centre (KLC) requires ongoing review to determine the need of additional/enhanced court infrastructure.

2.4 Key Strategic Alignments

The key planning documentation identifies a number of key themes which are consistent across LG boundaries. Whilst there are differences with respect to facilities and services provided within a LG, this is mainly due to the extent of resources on hand and the impact of the current resident population.

Sport and recreation infrastructure has a key role to play on a number of fronts:

- The most critical are in relation to the diversification opportunities in the service economy and the growth of tourism.
- The level of sport and recreation provision has a direct correlation to retaining and growing the resident population within the Great Southern.
- Access to high quality social infrastructure is consistently highlighted as an area which exiting residents and future migrants actively seek out when deciding to reside in an area.
- Within the more remote and relatively low populated areas, the role sport and recreation facilities perform is as a social conduit where the community can meet and socialise.
- Within the larger populated areas, in addition to the social integration role, they also provide opportunities for competition and developmental pathways for athletes wishing to perform at the highest level.

An ongoing consideration which is required to be addressed is the level of funding which needs to be set aside to manage, maintain and upgrade/replace existing facilities and develop new infrastructure which meets the emerging needs of the resident population. This has to be managed within decreasing budget margins by smaller LG's as a result of a gradually decreasing population base. In growth areas, sport and recreation infrastructure competes with other statutory services and must make the case for continued investment. The future management and investment of the infrastructure lies within the capacity and capability of the local population and volunteer network to invest time and financial resources into the sport and recreation infrastructure. This will also require a greater strategic investment from SSA's who have traditionally focused on Metropolitan Perth.

3. Demographic Influences

Current and Projected Population Factors

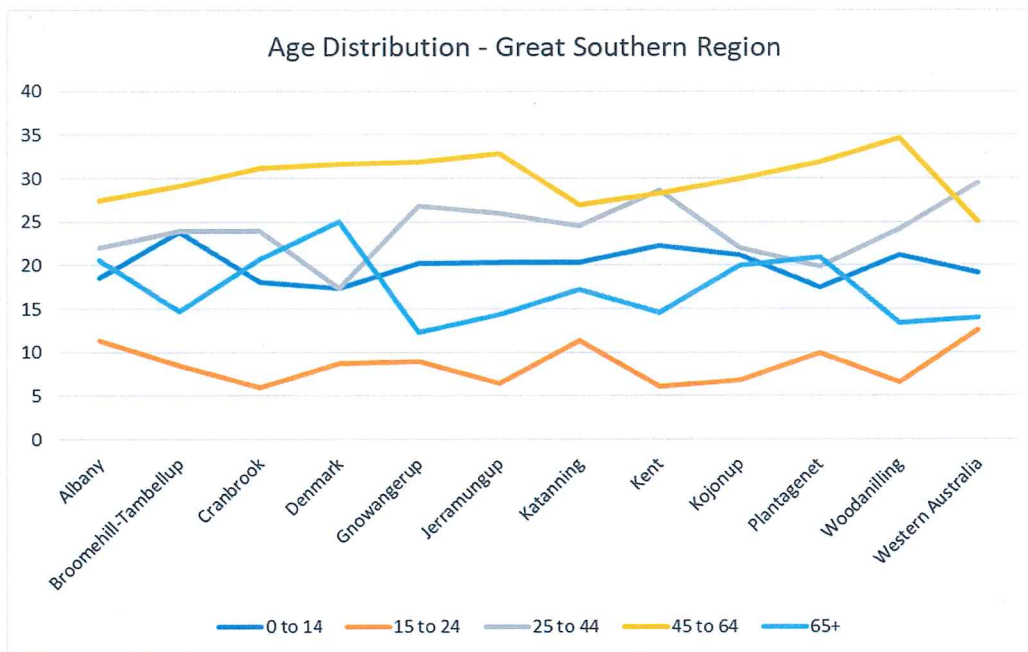
The 2016 population of the GSR according to ABS data is 60,319. This represents an increase of 3,079 persons since the 2011 Census. The largest LGA in the region is the City of Albany, with a population of 37,407 or 62% of the total regional population.

Projected population growth indicates that Jerramungup will experience significant growth, with its population more than doubling by 2026. Small growth is also expected in Denmark (+15.9%), Katanning (+14.1%) and Albany (+10.3%). The Shires of Kent (-18.9%), Cranbrook (-17.5%), Broomehill-Tambellup (-15.5%), Gnowangerup (-13.4%) and Kojonup (-11.1%) will experience declines.

Demographic Considerations

The age distribution: This highlights the 45-64 age range as being the predominant age of the resident population across all LG areas within the GSR with the exception of the Shire of Kent. As they are of core working age, they are likely to be employed locally within the core industries of agriculture, tourism and retail. The relatively low percentage of 15 to 24-year old's resident within the Great Southern highlights the drift of school age and university/TAFE age youths having to leave the regional area (with the exception of the City of Albany) to seek appropriate educational services.

Figure 2: Age Distribution across GSRLG's



There are however relatively high percentages of younger children within the regional area associated with young to middle age family units. These are generally comparable to or just above the WA average. It is also to be noted that the region as a whole contains a high percentage of over 65's which in most cases is above the state average. The City of Albany is the closest in number to the regional average, mainly because of the level of services that are provided within the City which are comparable to those services provided in most regional administrative centres.

Income: The median weekly household income for all LG areas in the Great Southern is lower than WA as a whole. Those areas with the lowest weekly household income include the Shires of Plantagenet, Denmark

and Cranbrook which are approximately 2/3rds of the average household income for WA. In all LG areas the average income is approximately \$200-\$300 lower per week than the WA average. The GS has a significantly higher proportion of low income households than WA as a whole. This highlights, indicatively, a potentially low ability to pay for discretionary services.

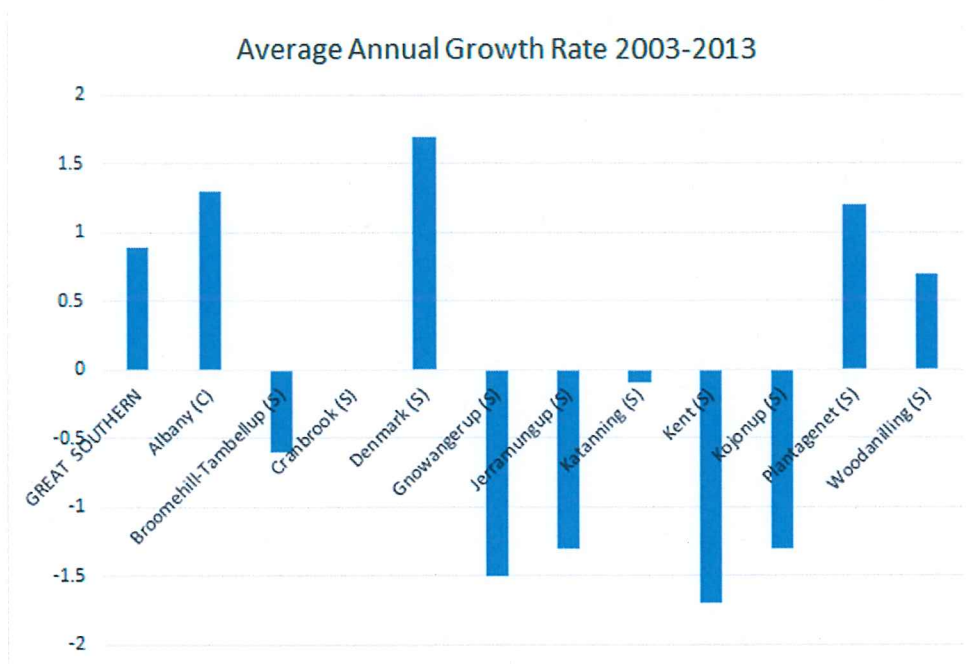
Conversely, however, the GSR has a higher proportion of high income households than WA as a whole indicating that there is a strong discrepancy between those who have potentially high levels of disposable incomes and those that do not. This is particularly relevant when considering an individuals or families ability to pay for discretionary services such as those associated with sport, leisure and recreation.

Family Composition: In all areas (apart from the Shire of Kent) the region has a lower percentage than the state average for couples with children and a higher number as a percentage of couples without children. This further emphasises the ageing demographic and potentially the ability to retain older children within the local areas.

Cultural Background: Broomehill-Tambellup has a significant proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (11.5%), followed by Gnowangerup (8.4%) and Katanning (7.6%). This compares with an ATSI population for the whole of WA of 3.1%.

The majority (72.8%) of people in the GSR were born in Australia, compared with 60.3% for Western Australia as a whole. Of those born outside Australia, England (6.9%) was the most common birthplace, followed by New Zealand (2.2%), the Philippines (1.2%) and South Africa (1.0%).

Figure 2: Average Annual Growth Rate (Source: Great Southern Region in Profile 2014)



Population Dynamics Influencing Future Sport and Recreation Provision

- The disparity across all LG's in respect to population growth and population decline, is marked with figures attributed to the period 2003 to 2013 and identifies the City of Albany being the main population growth centre with respect to resident numbers, whilst the Shire of Denmark experienced a high level of growth as a percentage of its current population. The general trend is for people to migrate from the more remote rural locations, where jobs are more scarce, and re-locate within the larger urban areas where employment and services are easier to access.

- Notwithstanding the above, if the gradual decline in the rural population is to be addressed, a minimum level of social infrastructure will be required in the main townships. From a sport and recreation perspective this has traditionally been:
 - o An oval (or ovals)
 - o Clubhouse with shaded spectator infrastructure and function area
 - o Bowling club
 - o Golf club
 - o Tennis courts/netball courts (combined)
 - o Indoor court hall (one or two basketball courts)

As a minimum, this level of infrastructure will need to be continually provided in the main administrative towns in rural areas. Additional infrastructure in or immediately adjacent to the larger population centres may include:

- o A swimming pool
- o 24-hour gym access
- o Additional oval space for a wider variety of seasonal sporting activities
- o Dedicated group fitness/multi-functional group activity facilities
- o Synthetic turf hockey pitch
- o Consolidated equine infrastructure
- o Provision for ballistic sports (preferably co-located)
- o Provision for motorsports (preferably co-located)
- o Tracks and trails which connect population centres and facilities (including mountain bike, dual use paths and off-road trails for equine use)
- o Informal bike tracks; the emergence of pump tracks and skate parks which can be adapted to a variety of skill levels

It is unlikely that given the population growth and changes in sporting provision that this minimum level of provision will dramatically change in the foreseeable future. The critical aspect is to ensure flexibility of space and the design of buildings to enable a range of sport, recreation and social activities and services to continue to operate from the infrastructure.

- The cost of providing sport and recreation infrastructure within regional WA is higher than would be expected within Metropolitan Perth due to the higher costs associated with local trades and specific capability locally. This is compounded by the availability of trades locally to undertake ongoing maintenance of buildings and oval/pitch surfaces. This is compounded further by the level of usage and ability for the local population to pay. Given that the average weekly income is lower than the Metropolitan Perth average and that of the state, the amount of local disposable income residents are able to expend on sport and recreation infrastructure will be low. The onus will therefore continually be on LG's investing in maintaining current infrastructure, managing the asset and the gradual enhancement, modernisation and replacement in due course.
- The relatively low percentage of 15 to 24 year old's which reside within the Great Southern is an indication that in areas other than the City of Albany, competitive sporting infrastructure is likely to be less in demand and a stronger focus is required on social recreation in those areas.
- The number and distribution of the Aboriginal community highlights a relative difficulty in providing dedicated services, programs and infrastructure across the Great Southern. In such circumstances the integration of the indigenous community requirements needs to be incorporated within the

existing infrastructure and will require ongoing assimilation and training of club volunteers/members in valuing diversity and equity of access.

- Future growth in the area is likely to be associated with tourism and in particular regional heritage, flora, fauna and accessibility to tracks and trails. Agriculture as an employer will still dominate but employment within the sector is likely to diminish based on current trends. A focus will therefore be on a growing service industry which as a general rule is low paid and requires access to affordable accommodation and social infrastructure. The opportunity to generate significant income to the GSR through this sector will be through visitors which will assist in underpinning the level of social infrastructure required.

4. Industry Trends and Benchmarking

4.1 National and State Participation Trends

The Australian Institute of Sport in December 2016 published the latest participation data for sport and recreational pursuits in Australia (AUSplay). This was subsequently supported by specific participation data related to Western Australia. The following highlights the key trends associated with sporting provision, participation rates and club development generally:

- Australian adults tend to play sports for longer durations than non-sport related physical activities. However, they participate in non-sport related physical activities more often than sport.
- Women are more likely to participate in sport or physical activity for physical and mental health reasons and to lose or maintain weight than men.
- Men are more motivated by fun/enjoyment and social reasons than women.
- For adults, up to middle-age, time pressure is by far the main barrier to participating in sport or physical activity. Poor health or injury then also becomes a main factor.
- Sport clubs are the primary avenue for children to be active (except for children aged 0–4, who are more likely to be active through other organisations).
- Sport clubs are not the main choice for participation in sport or physical activity in Australia for adults aged 18 years and over.
- The top ten club based (venue/organisation) activities for adults across Australia identifies golf as the main sport which is generally due to its membership based profile and the broad age range within which it is traditionally played.
- Football (soccer) is the 2nd club based (venue/organisation) participatory sport with tennis, cricket and netball all demonstrating similar participation rates amongst adults.
- When children are included in these figures participation in football (soccer) is highest for club based (venue/organisation) activities with golf, Australian Rules Football, netball and tennis experiencing similar participation rates. All club based sports with the exception of netball indicate a higher male participation rate.
- Boys and Girls out of school hours' (OSH) activity is dominated by swimming.
- The 2nd most popular OSH activity for boys is football (soccer) followed by Australian Football and cricket.
- The second most popular sport OSH activity for girls is Netball, closely followed by dancing and gymnastics.
- The most popular recreational activities by participation include walking (recreational) and fitness/gym where the gender balance indicates greater participation by females. 3rd is athletics (including jogging and running which indicates greater participation by males, whilst 4th is swimming and 5th is cycling.
- Organised participation by activity highlights swimming as the main sport which has both high male and female participation. Football (soccer) and Australian Football are identified as 2nd and 3rd under organised participation and are dominated by male participation whilst recreational dancing is 4th, gymnastics 6th and netball 8th and dominated by female participation.

In respect of Western Australian (WA) participation, the data indicates similar trends to the national data. Of particular note however is:

- For organisation/venue based sports in WA, with the exception of fitness/gym (27.1%) and swimming (7.4%) the majority of club based sports have a population participation rate of between

2.1% and 4.2% (golf, football (soccer), netball, Australian Rules Football, tennis, basketball, cricket and athletics).

- Sports with the highest level of venue requirements include golf, Australian Rules Football, football (soccer) and tennis. The primary focus is traditionally on club based activity for those sports, as it is for netball, basketball, cricket, hockey, bowls, athletics, touch football and volleyball.
- Cycling, swimming, jogging and running, fitness/gym and recreational walking are the highest activity participation rates with participation numbers significantly higher than club based activities for adults.
- Children's participation rates highlight the potential for significant growth in swimming, football (soccer), Australian Rules Football and recreational dancing. Basketball, gymnastics, cricket, netball and tennis have similar participation rates with projected upward increase to meet the future anticipated needs of the projected age profile.

4.2 Additional Participatory and Selected Sports Trends

During the SSA consultation process a variety of participation data was provided by the relevant bodies. There was a lack of consistency across all sports with respect to how the information was collated and therefore the key themes are referenced below for selected sports. Relevant information from the SSA's relating to facility infrastructure in the Great Southern is provided below.

Westcycle

Westcycle have recently developed the Western Australian Strategic Cycling Facilities Review to establish a high-level understanding of current provision and need for road, track and BMX facilities. Demographic data for Westcycle WA (road and track) and BMX Sports WA, including member numbers from 2011 to 2015 highlighted a number of key dynamics. Data collated by Westcycle in respect of 2015 member participation indicated a significant shift in demographic profiling between disciplines with:

- BMX being dominated by the 5-15 age range.
- Bicycle membership/participation peaks from 45 through to 79 years of age.
- The male female split is 80% male and 20% female.

Westcycle advocate the importance of ensuring connectivity and the provision of active transport modes (walking, cycling) to encourage all users to travel within and to towns by bike.

Westcycle in their strategic plan for the future of cycling within the state, advocate the need to increase the number of cycling facilities in regional areas. The Great Southern is identified as a hotspot for mountain biking and there is an immediate need for master planning to be undertaken in order to guide future mountain bike development.

Tennis West

Tennis Australia has published a range of strategic and facility plans over the past 5 years focused on two key foundations of facilities and facility management. The sport advocates for quality venues as being vital to the continued growth of the sport. The guiding principles include professional management with community oversight and strong levels of governance, commercial and community responsibility. Tennis West is currently undertaking its facility strategy for WA and strongly advocates the provision of consolidation of infrastructure and development of hard courts in preference to grass court infrastructure (to minimise maintenance expenditure and maximise capacity for use). Facilities within the City of Albany and surrounding area have been identified as having the potential to be rationalised and co-located at one centralised venue.

Western Australian Football Commission

The WAFC are seeking to develop a number of initiatives aimed at expanding the developmental base in the sport. The initiatives are intended to drive up participation and build the foundation for increased senior level game development. They are however focused principally on the growth of the sport in Metropolitan Perth.

The WAFC have identified the level and quality of active football club facilities within the Great Southern. The ratings are only to be used as a guide to identify a potential facility review or development.

It is to be noted that the facilities identified as being in need of further investment (i.e. falling below the 100% hierarchy assessment based on a set of performance criteria) are:

- Collingwood Park (which is identified as a priority for future investment by the City of Albany).
- Railways Oval (which is part of the Centennial Park redevelopment program).
- Jerramungup Town Oval (which has been identified by the Shire of Jerramungup for future investment).
- Boxwood Hill Oval (which has been identified by the Shire of Jerramungup for future investment).

Golf Western Australia

The concern with golf clubs within the Great Southern and broader regional area relates to accessibility and the relative strength of the volunteer management. They generally operate independently of LG and are self-sustaining, relying on the membership base to manage and maintain the course and greens.

The most notable fact associated with golfing infrastructure is the strength of membership within the main population centres of the City of Albany and the Shire of Denmark. All other golf courses have a membership of less than 100, with the majority of small rural area golf courses surviving with membership levels of less than 40.

Basketball Western Australia

Basketball membership growth across the state has seen substantial increase from 2012 to 2016 with junior participation over the period highlighting a 24% growth and senior participation a 9% growth

4.3 Sport and Recreation Facility Development Trends

The following table highlights those trends and the implication on provision within the Great Southern:

Trend	Detailed Consideration	Implication for the Great Southern
Financial Viability	<p>There is now a more acute focus on financial viability of all sport and recreation infrastructure.</p> <p>The importance of fully costing out asset management plans is becoming more critical.</p> <p>The cost of building new facilities to replace ageing infrastructure.</p>	<p>This re-enforces the requirements to establish effective asset management systems and processes across the Great Southern.</p> <p>With the increasing cost of replacing existing ageing infrastructure a planned and phased asset replacement process needs to be put in place to align with potential grant unding opportunities.</p>
The Design and Range of Facility Provision	<p>New and emerging design guidelines for sport and recreation facilities highlight the need to accommodate the capacity for the growth in women's sport, address equality of access and provide greater</p>	<p>The redevelopment/rationalisation/ replacement of infrastructure should accord with minimum design standards/principles focused on multi-functional use and minimising</p>

	<p>flexibility of use.</p> <p>The consolidation of storage, change, clubroom, public toilet and social meeting facilities in one multi-functional building maximises use and minimises ongoing operational costs.</p>	ongoing service costs.
Sporting Hubs, Co-location and Shared Use	<p>The elimination of single, stand-alone club and group facilities and integration/ co-location and sharing brings a range of different uses and users together.</p> <p>The opportunity to realise good partnerships through school use of proposed sports facilities, and community use of existing school facilities is emphasised as being an important focus for LG's.</p>	<p>The co-location of sport and recreation infrastructure should wherever possible be encouraged and facilitated through a planned process across the GSRLG's. This approach will need to be communicated to clubs/user groups to ensure club aspirations are effectively managed and controlled.</p>
Demographic Considerations	<p>The ageing demographic is necessitating greater consideration of non-contact sport and recreational activities with a higher level of casual social interaction.</p> <p>Where there is a high propensity of the population on low incomes it is important to provide sport and recreation facilities at an affordable price with equitable access to the community.</p> <p>Provision for youth needs to focus on providing a broader service which meets more diverse needs to break the norms of sport participation and needs to reflect technology as an integral part of young people's lives.</p>	<p>There is a need to provide a range of flexible infrastructure which caters for a broad demography, many of which have limited access to transport and limited discretionary expenditure.</p> <p>Infrastructure will need to cater for both the ageing community, families and youth and need therefore to be adaptable and flexible in their capability/use.</p> <p>A greater focus in future will need to be paid to Information Technology as a mechanism for engaging the community at all levels to maximise the use of infrastructure.</p>
Environmental Consideration and Sustainability	<p>Alternative water options are now being considered and need to be incorporated within any developmental solution.</p> <p>Facilities are now being designed and built to maximise access, safety and environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>Water management and environmental sustainability will continue to be a key focus for facility development and should be considered as a key development principle to be considered in all new or upgraded facility developments.</p>
General Participatory Trends	<p>There is a trend to move away from formalised club based sports in adulthood.</p> <p>The decrease in volunteering and associated succession planning compromises the ability to attract and retain members to sustain and develop clubs.</p>	<p>The role of sport and recreation infrastructure in more remote regional areas is changing to become the main focus for social activity where the sporting use is, at times, incidental. Investment in such infrastructure needs therefore to be seen in a broader community</p>

		development context.
Social and Economic Benefit	<p>Within regional areas, facilities provide opportunities to build volunteer capacity and to train and develop individuals in leadership and management capabilities.</p> <p>In some regional areas clubs and facilities have become a focus for addressing physical and mental health issues and in particular as a mechanism to educate and provide mentoring support for members of the community who have/are experiencing issues relating to drug and alcohol abuse.</p>	<p>The value to the local economy both from a training and development perspective and as a mechanism to address health issues (both physical and mental) should not be underestimated.</p> <p>In the GS, greater emphasis should be placed on the multi-functional opportunities such infrastructure provides in developing and sustaining a community in place.</p>

4.4 Implications of Current Trends on the Great Southern

The concluding implications of current trends associated with sport and recreation infrastructure provision for the Great Southern can be summarised as:

- The gradual diminishing role that organised sport is playing in remote regional areas, particularly in the Great Southern, is evidenced through the loss of clubs and competition structures. The role of clubs is now of critical importance as a catalyst for social interaction, skills development, health and wellbeing. The future expansion of club facilities and activities in small townships is likely to achieve a greater return on investment if it is aligned to a broader community service offer.
- The traditional approach of developing infrastructure has now changed. Cost effective and efficient co-location of infrastructure should underpin the rationale for future investment in infrastructure. Whilst a number of facilities within the GS have been developed on one site, there are still ad hoc developments with limited, ageing or inadequate supporting infrastructure which would benefit from being co-located with other activities. The gradual rationalisation and amalgamation of these sites would be beneficial.
- The traditional venue specific sports of golf, Australian Rules Football, cricket, bowls and hockey will continue to dominate provision within the more remote rural areas. In the larger and established population centres in the south (the City of Albany) and north (Shire of Katanning), they will likely experience a greater demand for broader sporting infrastructure associated with football (soccer), netball, basketball, athletics and volleyball where the competition structure is also likely to be sustained. In all circumstances, and wherever possible, the co-location of sports aligned to one service centre/multi-functional building should be sought.
- The role of traditional clubs in regional areas within the main population centres of the City of Albany and Shire of Katanning are likely to provide the main competition bases and therefore the focus will be on providing accessibility to the more remote rural communities for major events. The Shires of Plantagenet, Kojonup and Denmark as secondary regional administrative centres, are likely to continue to provide the secondary competition venues to be used as feeders for the two main centres.
- At present the complex nature of competition structures and financial expenditure associated with delivering high performing competitive teams, particularly for Australian Rules Football (by importing players), is damaging the delivery of sport at the local level. This will necessitate ongoing discussion with WAFC and clubs in developing a more effective hierarchical approach across the sport and the acceptance of this hierarchical structure which should be the feeder ground for local player development.

- Having regard to the above, it is recognised that SSA's are still working along traditional lines of provision. This has failed to achieve a growth in the sport in areas where population growth is diminishing. A significant change in delivery mechanisms and competition structure is required if this is to change. Growth has generally occurred state wide (or more particularly in Metropolitan areas) where the population has grown through net migration. This does not serve the needs of the GS, where sustainable intervention measures will be required to sustain clubs and club based developmental and competitive activity.
- Other infrastructure (referenced as non-traditional sports clubs) which are associated with unique locational characteristics and economic drivers, such as ballistics, equine and motorsport use, will be venue specific and are required to service a broader regional population. In these circumstances, a considered approach needs to be taken across all LG partners to determine the most effective and efficient regional and satellite feeder sites.
- The growth in women's sport has resulted in a different approach to the design and development of traditional sporting infrastructure. It is now important for all LG's within the GS to ensure wherever possible that flexibility underpins the design and potential use of sporting hubs. Any newly developed facility infrastructure will be required to provide flexible unisex changing and ablution infrastructure to a higher standard which inevitably has significant cost and ongoing asset management implications.
- There will be a continued need in all areas to provide access to opportunities for cycling, swimming, jogging and running, fitness/gym and recreational walking. In order to achieve an effective return on investment this infrastructure should be linked to broader economic development/tourism initiatives. The current plans and proposals for tracks and trails across the GS would assist in meeting these requirements.
- With respect to cycling specifically, it is recognised that the GS is a hotspot for mountain biking and there is an immediate need for master planning to be undertaken in order to guide future mountain bike development. This needs to be undertaken in partnership with Westcycle and across jurisdictions to ensure effective connectivity.
- Whilst the shared use of school infrastructure has achieved mixed results in the GS, the use of school infrastructure should continue to be pursued as a mechanism for offsetting ongoing operational costs and to avoid unnecessary duplication of provision.
- Financial management and viability concerns have been raised consistently as an issue which is facing all sporting infrastructure within the GS. It is important to prioritise strategic investment across the region and agree how this is to be delivered, funded and sustained. It is highly unlikely that a cost sharing model could be achieved. Nevertheless, relative priorities and support for investment decisions should be agreed across all LG's.
- Environmental sustainability underpins the majority of planning processes associated with Strategic Community Plans within the GS. This should be re-enforced with a consistent policy across all LG's.