



State Sport & Recreation Infrastructure Plan 2020-40



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing



3	Minister's message
4	Introduction
9	Potential benefits of Sport & Recreation Infrastructure
14	What we learned
16	Identified needs
24	Final considerations

Minister's message



The Marshall Government will lead our state into a sporting golden era through a bold new plan. From grassroots sporting groups to elite athletes and the facilities needed to support them, this plan sets out how we will change the game for sport and recreation in our state.

I am thrilled to present to you the State Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Plan (the Plan), which will position South Australia (SA) as a national and world leader in sport and recreation.

The Plan recognises that sporting facilities that are high quality, contemporary and support the attraction of significant national and international sporting events will show our competitors that we are open for sporting business and there is no better place for future athletes to live, train and compete than in SA.

Our recent investigation confirms that investment in local facilities is the key to laying a solid foundation to achieve our goal. Establishing these building blocks will help foster growth for our future athletes, lift the standard of training and competitions and encourage more South Australians to participate in sport.

The Plan represents our state's sport and recreation infrastructure priorities at this point in time; however, it is a dynamic document, enabling us to be nimble and respond to opportunities as they emerge. Planning is by its very nature constantly evolving. Inevitably projects may stall for a variety of reasons, and others will gain significant momentum quickly.

This plan is being released in the midst of the most significant public health and economic challenge of our lifetime. The financial impact of COVID-19 will mean that the State's investment decisions in the future will need to be measured, requiring sound business cases to support the prioritisation of limited resources. In this environment, the Plan's objectives represent our long term commitment to sport in the state.

The Government will investigate and seek to advance projects that drive investment, attract elite athletes and inspire young sportspeople to achieve their dreams.

This investment will boost construction and tourism and have a positive impact on the health, education and economy of our State. The Plan is also a call to action for government and stakeholders to get the SA community more active.

Infrastructure is the backbone of success which is why the State Government has already got the ball rolling with the completion of the Memorial Drive upgrade. This saw us successfully secure a five-year deal to host the Adelaide International starting in 2020, which was the first international tennis competition in Adelaide since 2008. The success of the International had a flow on effect, which saw Adelaide host the Davis Cup tie in March 2020.

A strategic approach to investment in sport and recreation infrastructure also helps to maintain our state's high liveability status. We want to develop facilities that fill current gaps, are accessible, and encourage all South Australians to live an active and healthy lifestyle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the individuals, sporting clubs, councils and other dedicated stakeholders for participating in consultation forums and providing feedback for the Plan. I would also like to thank the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) for leading the development of the Plan.

There is nothing stopping us from becoming the number one sporting state in the nation, but we all need to own this goal and play our part in achieving it. The Plan is an invitation to everyone to take a fresh look at the opportunities available for sport and sport infrastructure development. Together, we can take steps towards transforming this sector and stepping into our new role as a sporting leader in Australia and on the world stage.

Hon Corey Wingard MP
Minister for Recreation, Sport
and Racing

1 Introduction

Delivering economic growth and creating prosperity for all South Australians is a focus for the State Government. High quality sport and recreation infrastructure generates economic benefits, contributes to our high liveability standards, and provides opportunities to showcase SA as a first-rate tourist destination, as well as an exciting place to live, work, study and do business.

South Australians have a distinctive passion for sport and our growing population is increasingly keen to watch and participate in it. Therefore, the capabilities and quality of our sporting



Glenelg Beach, Adelaide
South Australian Tourism Commission
/Josie Withers

resources, facilities and venues are important to continue to inspire people and meet this demand. Central to the Plan is the identification of what South Australians need from their sport and recreation facilities, both now and in the future, so the State Government can lead the charge for change and investment.

Successful facility planning and development require corporate partnerships from a range of stakeholders, particularly councils, who are the heart and major provider of sport and recreation activities in our communities. We want to work with councils, as well as the private sector and individual investors, to develop strong partnerships that bring everyone's contributions together to maximise the outcome for our state.

During the research phase of the Plan, we discovered that obtaining supply and demand data from sporting organisations was very challenging with many gaps in the information needed. Despite the challenges, we identified over 200 projects with costs greater than \$2 million, providing a good indication of community needs.

The onset of COVID-19, and the unprecedented economic and social challenges it presents highlights the critical importance of sport to society and the economy. It is likely however, to impact the sector's ability to invest in infrastructure, particularly over the short-term. The Government is committed to working with sporting organisations and the private sector to ensure the State maximises its investment in key infrastructure wherever possible.

In order to predict the future demand and prioritise, the Government will work

with regions, councils and state sport and recreation organisations to develop infrastructure plans which will feed into future versions of the Plan. Pilot work is being undertaken with a range of sports using a platform and its metadata capabilities to predict potential areas of growth and opportunities to increase facility access and membership.

The Plan will completely change the dynamic for councils, associations, clubs and community organisations seeking State Government investment in sport and recreation infrastructure. Good ideas will no longer be considered ready for investment; proponents must undertake the necessary planning, feasibility and business case work before making representation for funding. This will ensure that we do not see a repeat of past practices which include projects failing to commence for many years after being funded, funding shortfalls because projects weren't properly scoped out or projects failing to be financially sustainable once built.

Technological advancement, changing human behaviours, population growth, ageing, and urbanisation are just some of the major forces impacting and influencing the demand for sport and recreation infrastructure, and the nature of facilities required.

Whether it be the introduction of new sport, demographics, rules, standards or formats, community needs and demands are everchanging. These changes require updates in infrastructure design in order to realise the full range of economic benefits available from a participation, viewer and spectator standpoint. The following were considered in the development of the Plan.

1 Socio-economic status and participation

People living in the highest areas of disadvantage have the lowest participation rates in sport and recreation. Therefore, consideration must be given to how we develop, upgrade and maintain infrastructure in areas facing disadvantage to enable equal participation from all people. We must also provide appealing recreation and open spaces that are low cost and unstructured.

2 Access for all

Older Australians, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) and people living with a disability are far less likely to participate in sport and recreation. To address this imbalance we will consider the following:

- Infrastructure must be flexible enough to satisfy the needs of multiple sporting codes and recreational activities, including catering for cultural requirements such as prayer rooms.

- Infrastructure must be built using the principles of universal design to ensure people with a disability are able to participate.
- Infrastructure must cater for the increase of female participation in 'traditionally male' sports and councils and sporting organisations need to show leadership and schedule equal access to facilities.

Modifications or adjustments could include reducing field dimensions, handicapping, limiting physical contact, changing the type of equipment used and reducing competition time.¹ Furthermore, an increased focus on place-based, recreational activities or non-competitive activities, with the objective of increasing participation or as a conduit to sport could also be a solution.

3 Connectivity and productivity

91% of Australians have a smartphone,² which changes the way people search, organise, play and watch sport. Event organisers are becoming more

connected with spectators thanks to technology-enabled advancements including improved camera angles, live decision review systems, better analysis and statistics, interactive mobile applications, virtual reality and social media.

Future sport and recreation infrastructure improvements must consider technology advancements to remain contemporary and appealing to spectators, viewers and participants at venues and at home. The recent addition of upgraded lighting and sound systems at the Adelaide Oval is an example of work to a key facility to ensure it remains contemporary in an evolving market. Furthermore, reasonably anticipated technological advancements will also need to be considered, including the ability to broadcast in various formats. For example, spider cameras that move both vertically and horizontally to expand viewing capacity are now being installed in major arenas around the world.



¹ Richards, Dr. R & May, C. (2019). *Mature-aged Sport and Physical Activity*. Available: https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/knowledge_base/sport_participation/community_participation/mature-aged_sport_and_physical_activity.

² <https://www2.deloitte.com/au/mobile-consumer-survey>

4 Work-life balance

Australians are finding it increasingly difficult to manage their work-life balance and access structured sporting activities whether it's for themselves or supporting others to do so. As a result, time-poor, health-conscious Australians are finding more convenient ways to exercise to maintain their health such as actively commuting to and from work or undertaking low-volume high-intensity training.

5 Customer choice

There has been an increase in health consciousness now that people are able to access their own fitness data. Smart watches track and monitor activity levels, set targets and provide tailored feedback regarding daily steps, workouts and energy expenditure. Technological advancements like this have the potential to move consumers away from traditional structured sport and towards recreational based activities.

Adventure sports are gaining popularity with younger people and those who connect to a counterculture of irreverence, freedom of expression and thrill seeking. Examples include skateboarding, kite surfing, inline skating, freestyle BMX and rock-climbing.³ While these activities are typically conducted in natural surrounds, there is a growing demand for specialised facilities to accommodate participation and competition.

6 Esports and technology

Esports is a new phenomenon sweeping the globe where competition is facilitated through video games. Major tournaments involve players competing in front of large crowds, both live and online, for increasingly large prizes.



A survey by Price Waterhouse Coopers of global sporting leaders overwhelmingly found that esports has the highest revenue growth potential of any sport, with the esports economy forecast to double in size by 2022 (from 2018 reference).⁴

For example, the 2019 Fortnite World Cup saw more than 40 million players from over 200 countries play off for a total prize pool of \$700 million. The top 700 finalists played at a sold-out Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York, watched by 79,000 spectators. While there is some contention around whether esports is truly a 'sport', it appears the sector is growing, and it is here to stay. As a result, there is demand for facilities and infrastructure that can house live audiences and meet internet speed demands. These facilities are often multipurpose and used for more traditional sports outside of esports tournaments.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) impacts nearly every professional sport through a range of smart technologies which mimic humans' ability to sense, think and act, continually learning and growing from previous decisions.



Sporting organisations use AI for talent identification and selection, training and coaching, injury management and recovery and post-game analysis and feedback. To ensure that elite athletes and sporting teams in SA remain competitive on a national and global stage, the infrastructure and technology used to test, train and compete must be world-class.

³ https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/564073/The_Future_of_Australian_Sport_-_Full_Report.pdf

⁴ https://www.pwc.ch/en/publications/2018/PwC%20Sports%20Survey-2018_web.pdf

Image top: Cricket World Cup 2015, Adelaide
South Australian Tourism Commission
/John Montesi

Image below: Arlington E Games Centre,
www.dfw.cbslocal.com



AFL Max, Adelaide
AFL Max/Rachel Jesse

7 Sport and entertainment precincts

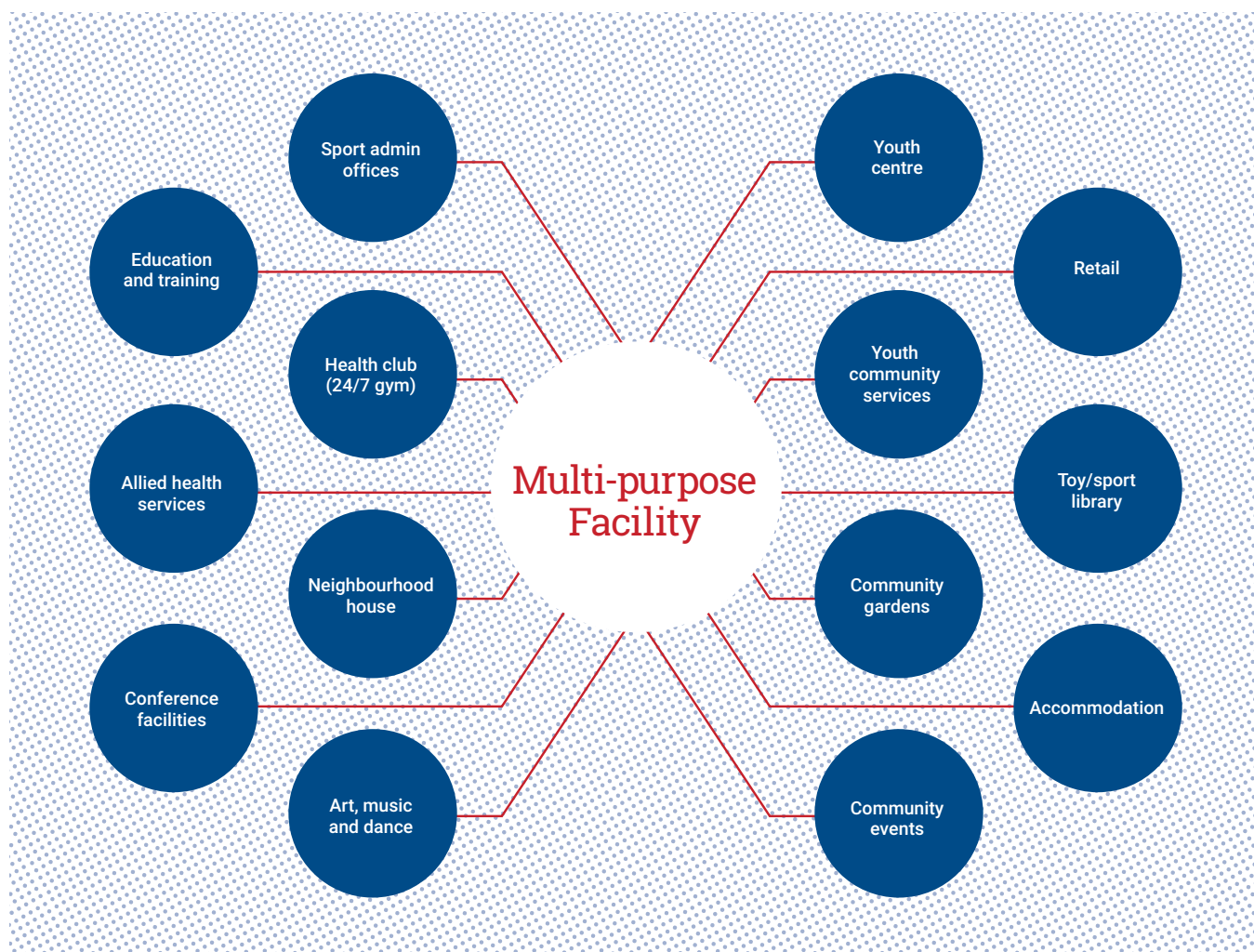
New sports fields and arenas are forming part of wider precincts that create sport or entertainment hubs. Sports arenas are being positioned nearby cinemas, restaurants, bars and retail outlets, with hotels, convention centres, bars and parklands also close by. Memorial Drive in SA is an example of a sports precinct and Central Park in New York is an example of a major entertainment precinct.

8 Complementary use of infrastructure

Councils and sporting organisations need to maximise infrastructure use to ensure their operating model is sustainable and the money invested results in maximum community benefit. Complementary uses for large-scale sporting facilities include concert venues, exhibition spaces

or esports arenas and for community sporting facilities, the local Country Fire Service, rotary club or health services can share use and keep costs down.

Urban consolidation, particularly in SA's inner metropolitan area, means there is insufficient green space to create new sport and recreation facilities. Therefore, public and private schools, and tertiary entities need to explore ways to share their facilities with the wider community. Planning for new, upgraded or smart infrastructure must also consider the needs of both sporting and education groups. The South Australian Government's *Parks 2025: Our Parks future* initiative takes advantage of the natural environment and will invest in creating more places for the community to connect with nature and be active.





2020 Adelaide International Women's
Singles Grand Final, Adelaide
Adelaide International



SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Adelaide
Source: ORSR

2 Potential benefits of sport & recreation infrastructure

The potential benefits of investment in sport and recreation infrastructure are best described under economic, health and social benefits.



Economic benefits

Infrastructure delivery and operation

The development of sport and recreation infrastructure creates jobs in planning, construction and ongoing operations and maintenance. For example, the Adelaide Oval redevelopment created 1,000 jobs in ongoing operations and maintenance.

The State Government's past investments in sporting infrastructure demonstrate the economic return of these assets. Following the opening of the new SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre in 2011, Events SA were successful in securing the most prestigious swimming events in the nation. In 2019, the venue hosted the Australian Swimming Championships and the Australian Age Swimming Championships, which generated an economic return of \$1.78 million and \$4.43 million respectively. Over the past eight years, the venue housed ten events including the Olympic Trials in 2012 and 2016 (which it will house again in 2021) for a total economic benefit of more than \$21 million to the South Australian economy.

Another example is an investment of \$50,000 from the State Government which was matched by another \$50,000 from Baseball SA, Softball SA, Diamond Sports SA and Adelaide Baseball which went towards upgrading the baseball field at West Beach. Immediately after the upgrades, the Lotte Giants, a professional baseball team from Korea, planned a trip to Adelaide and trained at the facility.

The Lotte Giants brought a total travelling group of approximately 80 including athletes, managers, coaches

and support staff. The group stayed at the Grand Hotel in Glenelg for the duration of their stay.

When the Lotte Giants were not training, they played tourists, going on fishing charters, playing golf across Adelaide and dining out at the restaurants and cafes in Glenelg. The group hired ten mini vans, a chef and staff for the provision of lunches at the facility. It is estimated that the Lotte Giants training camp generated an economic benefit of approximately \$1.12 million.

At a local level, the \$10 million invested by the State Government through grassroots football, cricket and netball grants programs has generated \$42 million in project outcomes and created an estimated 173 jobs in construction.

Events and tourism

Modern elite sport is as much about the fans as it is the athletes. Attendees often travel to sporting events, spending money on accommodation, ticketing, merchandise and entertainment, as well as indirect expenditure at cafes and retail outlets, with attendees often extending their stay to enjoy other SA tourist attractions.

Quality sporting infrastructure that is capable of servicing large crowds is a prerequisite for hosting major sporting events. SA is limited in such infrastructure with Adelaide Oval being the only world-class facility with a large spectator capacity. This creates challenges when the state seeks to secure major sport or entertainment events but must work around cricket and Australian Rules Football (AFL) games and seasons.

The 2019 Santos Tour Down Under delivered 826 hours of television broadcast and was screened across 190 territories, with a potential reach of 1.24 billion, which included 33.5 hours of domestic coverage. The 2019 Superloop Adelaide 500 was broadcast via Fox Sports and Network 10 to a live audience of more than 2.4 million. The media value of the Santos Tour Down Under and Superloop Adelaide 500 was \$230 million and \$116 million respectively, highlighting the opportunity these events can provide in promoting and marketing the state.

Well-located infrastructure is another catalyst for visitation by teams, athletes and fans alike, making it a key driver of the economic benefits delivered through event attendance. The relocation of AFL from AAMI Stadium to Adelaide Oval has resulted in attendance growth amongst both South Australian residents and a greater portion of travelling interstate tourists. This is thanks to the facility's iconic nature, central location and proximity to other tourism activities.

The State Government also understands the importance of recreational infrastructure to support activities such as walking, cycling, horse riding, canoeing, scuba diving and snorkelling and has invested \$11.8 million towards natural assets including walking paths and trails across the Fleurieu Peninsula and Glenthorne National Park. The South Australian Government's *Parks 2025: Our Parks future* initiative will drive eco-tourism and economic prosperity by ensuring these assets are accessible, high-quality and well promoted locally, nationally and internationally.

There is also a strong need to target sporting competitions in different markets that may have greater flow-on benefits. For example, attracting international college events which draw large crowds of people who are looking for a different level or type of sport to watch.

Sport diplomacy and business

Sport is a universal language that can provide important connections with trade and investment partners and help to grow SA's prosperity. As a city, Adelaide has a great deal to offer elite teams as a daily training environment or camp venue with great weather, affordable living and easy transport. With Queensland currently considering a bid for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, now is the time to consider the elite training facilities that could attract visiting nations to Adelaide.

Population growth and liveability

In 2019, the Global Liveability Index rated Adelaide the 10th best city in the world to live, with Melbourne ranked second and Sydney third. SA, and more specifically Adelaide, has many advantages in terms of its liveability as a safe, attractive and affordable city.

High-quality infrastructure that enables structured and unstructured participation in sport and recreation activities is an important contributor to liveability. With a State Government focus on the growth of nine key industries including space, energy and mining and defence, we will have the employment opportunities to reverse the migration trends of young people moving interstate, as well as attracting a greater number of overseas migrants.

For international students, quality places to play and perform are important considerations when choosing where to study. As an example, five of the most popular activities in China are running, basketball, football, table tennis and badminton. Adelaide offers an amazing array of running opportunities with endless flat land and coastal ground. Although table tennis and badminton are relatively minor in SA, there is an opportunity to strategically locate new indoor facilities on or near university grounds which could lead to students permanently moving to SA.



Ebenezer Place, Adelaide
South Australian Tourism Commission
/lan Routledge

**Local Sport Grants Program
has already generated**

\$42 million
in project
outcomes



Adelaide
South Australian Tourism Commission/Joshua Primiero

Education benefits from
sport participation equates to

\$5 billion
annually

Education

Participation in sport results in improved education outcomes with measurable economic benefits. Students who participate in sport are found to perform better at school and stay in education longer. These education outcomes lead to an economic benefit of approximately \$5 billion annually.⁵

Media, broadcast rights and sponsorship

Professional Australian sport competes on a global scale, with media outlets and sporting bodies who stream sports matches on TV and online. This is a big business that attracts a significant worldwide viewing audience, bringing revenue from broadcast rights and lucrative sponsorship deals. Sporting infrastructure contributes to these economic drivers by facilitating the quality of sport and the size of crowds, which enhances the credibility of the product and drives the demand of viewing audiences.

Health benefits from sport
participation equates to

\$29 billion
annually

⁵ BCG (2017) Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport 2017



Super-Drome, Adelaide
Source: ORSR

Health benefits

Obesity is a growing national and international concern that is linked to increased levels of preventable disease and mortality and comes at a significant cost, both personally and to the healthcare system. These issues are particularly relevant for children, with over 80% not getting enough physical activity and 27% aged 5 to 17 being overweight or obese.

There is a growing rate of diagnosed mental health conditions in Australia, and an expanding body of evidence suggesting that physical exercise builds individual and community resilience, improves sleep, reduces stress and symptoms of mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety. The net value of health benefits stemming from participation in sport is approximately \$29 billion annually. Benefits from participating in recreation activities are additional to this estimate.

Research by Professor Simon Eckermann in 2019 illustrated that active South Australian adults are less likely to utilise public health services in terms of frequency and extent of care. It also stated that the annual health

care cost for an active person was \$2,587 compared with \$4,211 for an inactive person. Professor Eckermann calculated that just a 5% decrease in the proportion of inactive South Australian adults will save \$111.3 million annually.

Social benefits

Sporting clubs invite social connection for people of every age. For example, football clubs are three times more useful for developing social networks than work, education or other community group networks.⁶ Social connectedness has a positive impact on mental health with members of sporting clubs giving greater social support to other members than through any other social networks.

Public speaking, problem solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, and engaging with people from CALD backgrounds are valuable life skills many people also learn from engaging with a local sporting club.

A good example of the social benefits that come from investment in sporting infrastructure is the Copper Coast Sport and Leisure Centre (SLC) which was upgraded and re-opened in 2018 following a \$10.3 million investment from State and Commonwealth Governments, local schools, businesses, clubs and the sale of community assets.

The Centre is in Kadina which has a population of 4,500 and services a wider regional community of 14,200. The SLC is also used by schools, kindergartens, pre-schools and healthcare providers and provides for exercise classes, conferences and exhibitions.

The Social and Economic Benefit Cost Analysis Tool developed by KPMG was used to analyse the benefits of this project which were calculated at \$1.33 for every \$1 invested. Surveyed members feel they are more active since the redevelopment with 50% stating they are moderately more active and 20% stating they are significantly more active.

⁶ La Trobe University Centre for Sport and Social Impact for AFL Victoria (2015) Value of a Community Football Club



Santos Tour Down Under 2019, Fleurieu Peninsula
South Australian Tourism Commission/Chris Auld

3 What we learned



Consultation

In developing the Plan, we carried out significant consultation with local councils, sport and recreation organisations and the wider community.

Key feedback provided via an online survey demonstrated the following insights:

- People are more interested in participating in unstructured physical activities.
- Parks, reserves, walking trails, paths and playing fields are considered important.
- Indoor facilities are viewed as the largest gap in provision.
- Social aspects of sport and recreation are important.
- Poor facility condition is considered the largest barrier to entry for participation, with location and distance closely following.
- Regional people indicated that distance is a bigger barrier than metropolitan people.
- Safe, high-quality, appropriate, well-maintained and operated facilities attract and retain participants and members.
- Physical facilities and infrastructure are critical for the survival of clubs.
- There is a lack of facilities that include and cater for all members of the community.
- There needs to be more multi-purpose facilities that support organised sport and unstructured activities.
- Low-cost or no-cost opportunities such as open space, playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment, bike paths and cycling trails are popular.
- Synthetic surfaces and line marking are needed to increase frequency and use.
- Infrastructure that supports active travel such as walking and cycling trails is important.
- There is a perception of inequity between the provision of and support for infrastructure in regional areas compared to metropolitan areas.
- The provision of infrastructure needs to be tied in with transport options.
- Schools offer an opportunity to provide increased accessibility and provision.
- Inclusion of technological elements is needed.
- Non-sport related activities should be catered for at multi-use facilities.
- A well-functioning, sustainable facility is more than its physical provision (i.e. governance, systems and processes).

Full details on the consultation can be found at www.orsr.sa.gov.au



Bay Sheffield 2016, Adelaide
South Australian Tourism Commission/James Elsby



Hermann Gass Bird Sanctuary, Murray River
South Australian Tourism Commission/John Montesi

4 Identified priorities

We could better position ourselves to leverage opportunities in order to maximise the best outcomes for SA. This requires the recognition of the contribution sport and recreation make to businesses, jobs, tourism, health, education, transport infrastructure, environment and human services.



Opportunities for further development and consideration:

- New national and international standard arenas for indoor sport (e.g. basketball and netball) and a stadium for field sport (e.g. football and rugby) would bring our facilities up to a world-class standard. The location, age and condition of the current facilities are not ideal.
- Upgrades to several standard state facilities will extend their lifespan and elevate them to modern standards following a period of minimal maintenance and improvement.
- Improvements in access to green spaces in built up communities across the state would increase community use.
- Better resourcing to help state sporting associations plan, deliver and sustain local and regional infrastructure, especially around multiple use indoor facilities.

It is important to note that the projects submitted for consideration represent the sport and recreation infrastructure priorities at a moment in time. Project planning will continue following the finalisation of the Plan along with the negotiations with potential funding partners, meaning the production of a prioritised list is simply not possible. An appropriate level of planning and due diligence must be undertaken before a project can be considered and will be assessed against a clear Investment Decision Making Framework. The ability of a proponent to secure additional investment may mean priorities change; we need to be nimble and respond to opportunities as they arise.

Across all levels of sport and recreation, from grassroots to elite, many projects were submitted through the consultation process, each at varying levels of preparedness and categorised in the following way:

Ready to proceed / near ready:

Projects have completed or almost completed the required planning work and are ready to be considered for investment. The alignment of these projects to this Plan will vary.

Planning/ business case development:

Projects require further planning work before they can be considered for investment.

Concept stage: Projects are in the early stages of planning and are not ready for investment.

While several projects are ready to be considered, the fluidity of the Plan means they could be overtaken by emerging projects as they are scoped out. This gives the opportunity for private investors and other stakeholders to engage and contribute financially to help and progress different projects.



Memorial Drive, Adelaide
Source: Tennis SA

Major Arenas

Facilities of national significance able to host international sporting competitions and events.

We have identified the following projects for further development and consideration of business cases in the future. The ability to proceed with projects (both major arenas and state facilities) will be dependant on economic opportunities and financial capacity of government. Infrastructure SA will play an important role in providing independent advice to the State Government on potential major projects.

Inner City Stadium

A facility or facilities, centrally located and able to host any combination of court sport, field sport, convention and entertainment events would enhance SA's ability to attract and retain international events, conventions and concerts.

The Adelaide Oval spectator experience demonstrates the associated benefits of positioning a sporting facility in an entertainment precinct, improving the overall match day experience and providing significant economic benefits to nearby businesses. Apart from Adelaide Oval and Memorial Drive, Adelaide has no other major sporting facilities that are accessible by public transport or next to the central business district, which are key requirements and considerations for the new multipurpose facility.



Memorial Drive Stage 2

The Memorial Drive Tennis Centre is the state's premier tennis facility thanks to the recent \$10 million redevelopment. A new roof transformed the precinct while retaining the site's heritage aspects. This redevelopment resulted in the attraction of the Adelaide International tournament, with media reports praising the success of the inaugural event. The night sessions on the last three days were sold out and securing the Davis Cup tie between Australia and Brazil was another significant outcome as a result of the redevelopment.

In order to retain the Adelaide International, attract additional international level tennis contests and provide a high-quality training environment for tennis athletes, further work is required. Key features of a potential development include increased seating capacity, areas for event activities, general function spaces, digital infrastructure, training and recovery facilities and potential improved access to the Adelaide Oval precinct.



SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre

Opened in 2011, this is SA's premier competition and recreation pool. The facility currently has 1.1 million visits per year, and now requires mid-life investment. This project involves an asset replacement program, centre redevelopment, carpark upgrade, installation of a security access control system and the development of elite training facilities.

Image top: SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Adelaide
Source: ORSR

Image below: Adelaide Oval, Adelaide
South Australia Tourism Commission/Russell Millard



SA Athletics Stadium, Adelaide
Source: ORSR



Netball SA Stadium, Adelaide
Source: ORSR

State Facilities

Facilities of state significance able to host national sporting competitions and events.

South Australian Sports Institute (SASI)

SA makes a significant annual investment as part of its commitment to develop high performance pathways for talented South Australians through SASI programs. SASI's facilities have been developed in an opportunistic and ad-hoc way, resulting in disjointed facilities that are now aged. Its facilities are below the benchmark of contemporary integrated sports institute facilities in other states and are inadequate to meet future standards and demands. A purpose-built sports institute facility located in a sporting precinct would address this need.

The development of a multi-sport precinct and new home for SASI would serve as a hub for elite and community athletes to train and compete as well as broader community use for other recreational activities.

World-class, elite, daily training facilities create an opportunity to attract universities, professional teams and countries to train in Adelaide, generating economic benefits. In the

lead up to the 2000 Olympics the *Prepared to Win* program actively targeted countries to use Adelaide as a training base. With Queensland considering a bid for the 2032 Olympics a similar opportunity exists, alongside the opportunity to attract professionals from key trading partners, particularly those from Asia.

Through quality infrastructure and investment in the right technology and people, SASI will help foster the next generation of elite athletes. Success at an elite level boosts participation in sport. An example of this is the increase in participation that was experienced in England after the successful 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics Games from both an event and medal perspective.

Thebarton Oval

Thebarton Oval is in the City of West Torrens. The facility is the administration and training base and grand final venue for the Adelaide Football League. The redevelopment project will deliver upgraded facilities and amenities including the realignment and upgrade of the oval to AFL women's standards, new lighting for AFL broadcasting and the installation of a second oval, gymnasium and recovery facilities.

SA Athletics Stadium

As the premier athletic facility in SA, this project would involve a service road, carpark and traffic management improvement, installation of a security access control system, track replacement, function room, change rooms, warm up area, grandstand upgrades, installation of solar panels, increased seating capacity, turf management and drainage improvements.

Netball SA Stadium

This project involves the redevelopment of the current site so it is better placed to manage the increasing number of patrons making use of the facilities, and to optimise its use as an indoor and outdoor stadium. The project will also modernise the facility to replace ageing assets such as the flooring, entry area, external courts, seating and services along with improved connectivity to the adjacent athletics facility.

Regional Facilities



Facilities of regional significance able to cater for state sporting competitions and events.

A significant number of submitted projects fall into the category of regional or local facilities. Given the vast majority of these facilities are local government owned, there is considerable fluidity in priority based on readiness, in particular co-investment from council or other stakeholders.

Local Level Facilities



Facilities able to cater for local level sporting competition and events.

Regional facility projects were submitted for consideration, with a number having done the planning and preparatory work and others either in the planning phase or the initial concept stage. Most projects had no funding secured, while others were part-funded.

A range of local facility projects were submitted for consideration, with projects at various stages of readiness.

Active Recreation



Facilities where the primary purpose is to support community use rather than organised or competitive sports.

Projects ranged in readiness for implementation. Most projects had no funding secured, while others were part-funded.

Active recreation projects were submitted for consideration. No funding has been secured for these projects at this time.



State Hockey Centre, Adelaide
Source: ORSR

Facility Aspirations

In some instances, issues were identified that require a solution, but a specific solution (i.e. a project) was not identified and submitted as part of the consultation process.

Ice sport

The Adelaide Ice Arena located at Thebarton is the home of ice sport including hockey, skating and broomball, and caters for recreational skating. This facility is privately owned and under lease to a not-for-profit manager until 2025. It is however, not fit for purpose as it is aged and at the end of its useful life. A solution is required by 2025 or South Australians will have no access to competition or recreational ice sport activity. While ice sport proposals were submitted, all required significant additional work.

Extreme and esports

The growth of both extreme sports and esports is well documented, but is currently relatively unsophisticated in SA. A proactive approach to planning and development of suitable facilities could see the state attract a different cohort of people to be active and secure hosting of significant global events.

Baseball

Adelaide Giants is exploring options to develop a stand-alone home facility for the club and has engaged a consultant to identify site options and develop a master plan and business case for consideration.



Image left: Kangaroo Island Cup, Kangaroo Island
Kangaroo Island Racing Club/Dean Willis

Equestrian facilities

Several proposals were received in this area and SA does not currently have a state equestrian facility. Partners varied across the projects and ranged from equestrian, polo, pony club, horse racing and tertiary institutions. The establishment of one state centre is supported however stakeholders need to resolve which facility will best service the community and deliver economic benefit.

A home for basketball

Titanium Security Arena is a privately owned venue located in Findon and has for many years served as the 'home of basketball' in SA.

It has previously been the home of the Adelaide 36ers and Basketball SA and is the current home of the Adelaide Lightning. With the move of the Adelaide 36ers to the Entertainment Centre, the owners of the facility are currently exploring selling the venue. This means that an alternative 'home' is required for community basketball and for the Adelaide Lightning. In terms of the Adelaide Lightning, irrespective of the owners' desire to sell, Titanium Security Arena has a capacity of 8,000 and in the 2019-20 season the average Lightning attendance was 1,000. A smaller, high-quality boutique showcourt would be a more appealing prospect for players, spectators and television viewers.



Image top: A.M. Ramsey Regatta Course, Adelaide
Source: ORSR

Image below: Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
Source: ORSR

Athletics

The SA Athletics Stadium is the only full synthetic track at present, with Bridgestone Reserve in Salisbury currently being built and Port Adelaide with a partially synthetic track. Given the gap and current facility locations, a track in the southern suburbs and strategic regional areas could be explored.

Indoor arenas

For a number of court-based sports (e.g. volleyball), a sport specific project was not necessarily identified however a general need for increased access was. It has been identified that there is a specific need for basketball in the south and inner south and generally across the metropolitan areas. To cater for the needs of people interested in basketball and other court sports, future developments should feature a minimum of four courts.

AFL and cricket ovals

The South Australian National Football League and the South Australian Cricket Association have worked collaboratively to identify facility upgrade requirements for the State level facilities they share. Costing circa \$93.8 million, these upgrades are required to meet the needs of both games in terms of infrastructure to support talent pathways and diversification of the game, particularly female participation.

Aquatic facilities

Many SA swimming pools, particularly in regional areas, were built in the 1950s. These facilities are now ageing and in need of major upgrades or complete replacement if they are to remain open. Due to increasing populations there is an identified demand for aquatic facilities within the City of Onkaparinga and District Council of Mount Barker areas. There is also an increasing demand on facilities to have the appropriate inclusive amenities e.g. ramps and chair lifts.

Environmental sustainability

It is recognised that changes in climate conditions need to be considered in terms of the potential impact on sport and recreation facilities. Environmentally sustainable design may include a number of energy efficiency initiatives including solar panels, water conservation and management, effective waste management, consideration of landscaping to reduce environmental impact and future proofing sites to cater for new technologies (e.g. power sources in car parks for electric cars). Given community engagement findings associated with desired indoor facilities and their ability to cater for potential climate impacts, these multi-use facility types will continue to be explored where relevant.

5 Final considerations



Planning

A key theme highlighted in the development of the Plan was the need for greater integrated planning across all stakeholder groups. As a result, ORSR needs to take a more proactive role in facilitating this planning before a grant application or project proposal is submitted for investment consideration. ORSR will work with applicants to determine what is required depending on the size and scale of the project.

Decision making framework

Through this process ORSR has developed a set of Guiding Principles for Investment Decision Making. These principles will be readily available and will provide transparency around how decisions are made. As part of the planning process ORSR will support applicants to respond to these principles, once again based on the size and the scale of the project.

Grants

The Plan only ever intended to explore projects in excess of \$2 million however it is important to note that many regional and local facility projects would be less than this. Projects under \$2 million will be supported through the government's formal grant programs. Planning support will still be provided and the investment framework will be consistent, albeit modified.

Closing Statement

Sport and recreation are critical to the overall growth and prosperity of SA and the new foundations cannot be subpar. In order to place SA strongly on the path to becoming a leader in this sector we need strong business and community partnerships.

Sport and recreation infrastructure cannot be delivered by State Government alone. The best and most cost-effective outcomes will be achieved when facilities are considered and delivered with contributions from multiple stakeholders involving collaborative efforts from public and private investment.

The private sector is a key contributor in realising the full potential of the Plan. Private investors and entities can contribute towards development and maintenance of sports facilities, including the establishment of modern stadiums and training centres.

Given the ever-changing sporting landscape and emerging opportunities around the delivery of sport and the business of sport, **the Plan must remain flexible and nimble**. This will ensure we are open to new opportunities as they arise, so that we can continue to engage South Australians to be active while delivering a wide range of infrastructure and other positive sport and recreation opportunities in our state.

This will place our state in an ideal position to use our strengths to collaborate with each other locally and deliver outcomes that will drive economic benefit and a healthier community.



Memorial Drive, Adelaide
Source: Getty Images



Government of South Australia

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing