



SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE SPORTS FACILITIES AND SERVICES PLAN

FINAL DRAFT REPORT
NOVEMBER 2013



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Shire of Esperance, in conjunction with the Department of Sport and Recreation, engaged A Balanced View (ABV) Leisure Consultancy Services to conduct the Shire of Esperance Sports Facilities and Services Plan. This study covers the sports facilities and services needs of the whole Shire including the major population centre of Esperance and the seven satellite towns: Condingup, Gibson, Scaddan, Grass Patch, Salmon Gums, Dalyup and Cascade.

Key components of this study include:

- Demographic analysis including population projections.
- Relevant trends and issues research.
- Facility Audit of all sports facilities in the Shire.
- Fees and charges review including comparison with other Local Government Authorities (LGA's).
- Local sports participation analysis.
- A comparative review of sports facilities and services provision in comparable LGA's.
- Extensive consultation with sporting groups, the Shire and other relevant organisations.
- Synthesis of all information collected and development of Needs Analysis for sports facilities and services.
- Prioritised recommendations for meeting the identified needs, with an indicative timeframe for implementation over the Short (2012 – 2016), Medium (2016 – 2026) and Long Term (2026 – 2036).

Some of the key factors identified in this Study that have had a significant bearing on the Needs Analysis and Recommendations sections of this report include:

- The Shire is setting a course for substantial population growth having been designated a 'SuperTown' by the State Government. The Shire is planning to support a future population of 25,000 by 2036, a two thirds increase from its current population of 15,000.
- Sporting clubs are facing significant challenges affecting their viability. Senior sports participation and the pool of volunteers has been affected through changes to working patterns including the increasing trends towards 12 hr FIFO and DIDO shift work and the increasing size of farms resulting in fewer persons available to commit to traditional club sports.
- Sporting clubs, run by volunteers, have a vital role in the provision of sporting activities and maintaining the social fabric of the Shire. It is recognised by all levels of government that a strong effort must be made towards reversing the declining volunteerism trend to ensure clubs remain viable in the future.
- The majority of the Shire's sporting facilities are under peppercorn lease arrangements with the relevant sporting clubs. The facilities are generally in good condition although there are some areas that require attention.
- The Esperance Skate Park is an important recreational and sporting venue for the Shire's youth. It is in poor condition and although large, it is somewhat basic in design. Refurbishment and modifications/improvements are warranted.
- The satellite town's sporting facilities are limited, however they are generally considered adequate given the very small populations they serve.
- There are limited opportunities for sharing school ovals due to their small size and generally poor condition.



- The planned redevelopment of the Greater Sports Ground (GSG) including additional active reserve space will ensure the Shire has sufficient capacity for field sports over the long term, without needing to develop new sporting ovals elsewhere.
- The redevelopment of the Indoor Sports Stadium as recommended in the Shire of Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility Study (EISSFS) Draft Report will allow the GSG redevelopment to progress as the upgraded facility will be able to accommodate the Badminton and Junior Netball clubs.
- The Shire's sports clubs report an overall stable participation trend over the past 5 years, and anticipate modest growth of around 10-20% over the longer term (10+ years). Some clubs are doing very well, with one of the key elements being a strong and active management committee, whilst some clubs are struggling due to declining membership and a lack of volunteers.
- Club Development Officers are widely considered to be very important in strengthening sporting clubs. They facilitate improved relationships with State Sporting Associations, facilitate/deliver training seminars for club volunteer development and strategic planning, and deliver markedly increased rates of grants won from applications. LGA's that do not currently have Club Development Officers are generally seeking to acquire them.

35 prioritised recommendations have been made within this report. The recommendations can be viewed with their supporting needs analysis in Sections 12 and 13 and within a recommendations summary table in Section 14 of this report.



CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	BACKGROUND	4
3	DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW	5
4	POPULATION PROJECTIONS	6
5	RELEVANT INDUSTRY TRENDS & ISSUES	8
6	FACILITY AUDIT KEY FINDINGS	19
7	FEEES FOR USE OF SPORTS FACILITIES AND ACTIVE RESERVES BENCHMARKING REVIEW	21
8	LOCAL PARTICIPATION TRENDS	26
9	COMPARATIVE REVIEW	31
10	CONSULTATION KEY FINDINGS	35
11	CONSIDERATIONS	44
11.1	SUPPORT FOR NEW CLUBS.....	44
11.2	ESPERANCE INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM FEASIBILITY STUDY, DRAFT REPORT FOR COMMENT V1, MARCH 2013.....	45
11.3	ESPERANCE FOOTBALL FACILITIES REVIEW	46
11.4	FUTURE ACTIVE RESERVE DEVELOPMENT PLANS	47
12	FACILITY NEEDS FOR SHIRE OF ESPERANCE	49
12.1	ACTIVE RESERVES.....	49
12.2	GREATER SPORTS GROUND	51
12.3	SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING	52
12.4	INDOOR SPORTS COURTS.....	54
12.5	CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES.....	54
12.6	ANCILLARY FEATURES.....	56
12.7	BALLISTICS SPORTS PRECINCT	56
12.8	TENNIS FACILITIES	57
12.9	GOLF FACILITIES.....	58
12.10	BOWLS FACILITIES.....	59
12.11	AQUATIC CENTRE.....	59
12.12	SATELLITE TOWN FACILITIES.....	61
12.13	ESPERANCE SKATE PARK.....	64
12.14	SPECIALISED SINGLE USE FACILITIES.....	64
12.15	ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES	65
13	SERVICES NEEDS FOR THE SHIRE OF ESPERANCE	67
13.1	DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW GENERATION OF VOLUNTEERS.....	67
13.2	CLUB DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SCHEME	69
13.3	COMMUNICATIONS	70
14	RECOMMENDATIONS	72
15	APPENDICES	76



1 INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Esperance, in conjunction with the Department of Sport and Recreation, engaged A Balanced View (ABV) Leisure Consultancy Services to conduct the Shire of Esperance Sports Facilities and Services Plan.

Key components of this study include:

- Demographics analysis including population projections
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- A comparative review of sports facilities and services provision in comparable LGA's
- Extensive consultation with sporting groups, the Shire and other relevant organisations
- Synthesis of all information collected and development of Needs Analysis for sports facilities and services
- Prioritised recommendations for meeting the identified needs, with an indicative timeframe for implementation over the Short (2012 – 2016), Medium (2016 – 2026) and Long Term (2026 – 2036)

This study has been underpinned by a broad consultative process that has enabled the community sporting groups and key stakeholders to express views and needs with regards to future sports services and facility provision.

This report will assist the Shire in providing a well planned, sustainable sports environment with a solid volunteer base at its core. The community, with some assistance from the Shire, has been responsible for developing a rich range sports opportunities within the Shire over many decades. The recommendations within this report aim to ensure that community groups remain at the heart of sports provision into the long term future.

2 BACKGROUND

The Shire of Esperance includes Esperance as the major population centre and seven satellite towns – Condingup, Gibson, Scaddan, Grass Patch, Salmon Gums, Dalyup and Cascade. There has been modest population growth over the past decade, however, Esperance has been identified as a 'Super Town' by the State Government which has set off an intense planning phase for the Shire to prepare for more rapid population growth as it evolves into a major regional growth centre. The population growth target is for the Shire to reach 25,000 by 2036, from its current 15,000.

This population growth will lead to increased pressure on existing sports infrastructure provision and require effective planning to ensure that resources are utilised to their maximum efficiency to meet the future needs of the community.

Within the Shire of Esperance, all sports programs are organised by sports clubs, and they have developed the vast majority of sporting facilities. The clubs are integral to the social fabric of the community and their long term sustainability is vital to a healthy sporting future for the Shire. Effective planning for sports in the Shire must include analysis of existing services provided to support sports clubs and determine whether modifications or additions are required to meet the significant challenges that clubs are facing.



3 DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

3.1 Shire of Esperance Demographics

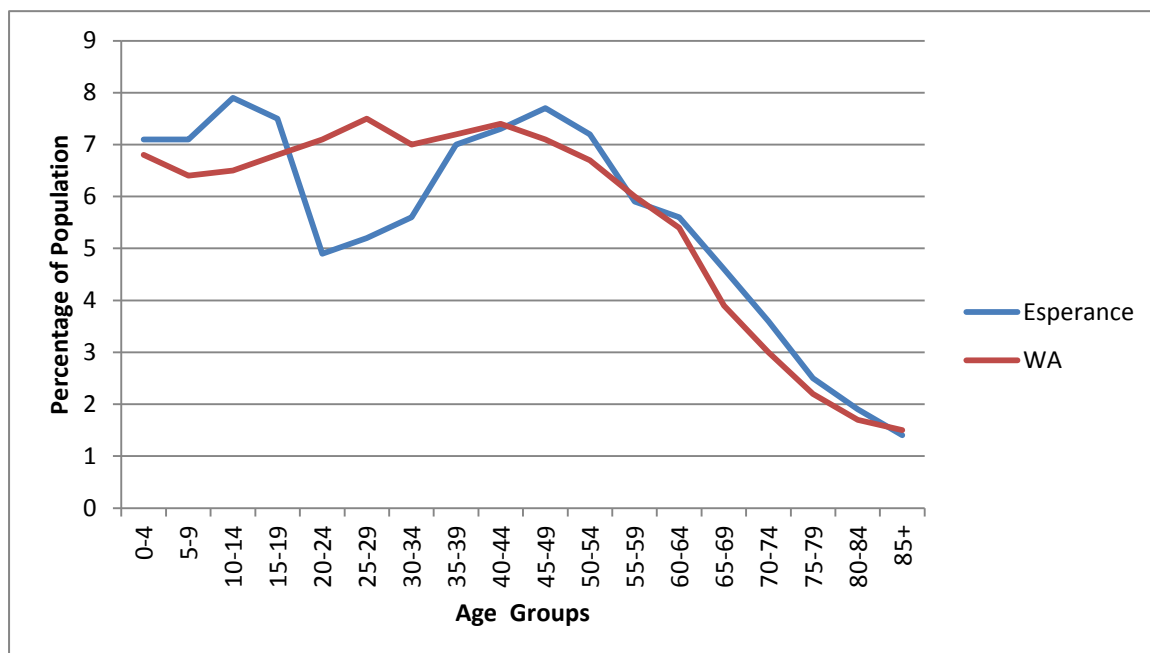
When comparing the Shire of Esperance as a Local Government Authority to the State overall, the following key comparisons can be made:

Table 1. Shire of Esperance Demographic Overview

Category	Shire of Esperance LGA	WA	Difference of Esperance LGA from WA
Population (Estimated Resident Population 30 June 2011)	14,740	2,349,325	-
Median Age	38	37	+1 year
Born in Australia	80.2%	62.9%	+28%
Median Weekly Household Income	\$1,138	\$1,415	-20%
Single Parent Families	14.4%	14.5%	-1%
Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage	57 th Percentile	-	-

* Compared to other West Australian LGA's, the Shire of Esperance ranks in the 57th Percentile (1 being the lowest, 100 being the highest).

Figure 1. Shire of Esperance Age Distribution Profile



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011. Regional Population Growth Australia, 3218.0 (ABS – March 2012)

Overall, the Shire of Esperance demographic statistics are reasonably consistent with other regional Shires including a lower median household income and a high percentage of persons born in Australia when compared to the West Australian average.

The Shire has an average Socio-Economic Advantage/Disadvantage percentile indicating that the Shire’s residents are not significantly advantaged or disadvantaged in participating in society.

The age profile of the Shire also shows a significantly higher proportion of school aged children and a significantly lower proportion of young adults. This is typical of many regional shires where young adults move to Perth for tertiary education and work.

3.2 Population by Town

The Shire of Esperance has one major town - Esperance, and seven satellite towns - Condingup, Gibson, Grass Patch, Salmon Gums, Scaddan, Dalyup and Cascade.

Town / Gazetted Locality	Usual Resident Population	Median Age	Median Weekly Household Income
Esperance	11,432	39	\$1,139
Condingup	438	36	\$1,172
Gibson	445	36	\$1,035
Grass Patch, Scaddan, Dalyup	492	29	\$1,312
Salmon Gums	160	38	\$722
Coomalbidgup (includes Cascade)	256	34	\$1,180

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011.

This table shows that the satellite towns have very small populations, with the largest - Condingup and Gibson, having approximately 440 each and the others would each likely have population under 200 if they could be counted separately. Esperance accounts for some 80 – 85% of the Shire’s population.

4 POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Between 2001 and 2011 the Shire of Esperance grew by 11%, from 13,315 to 14,740, representing modest growth of approximately 1% per year. Recently, the State Government has designated the Shire of Esperance as a ‘Super Town’ which prioritises Royalties for Regions funding for the Shire to enhance the facilities and services that are available. A key aim of the SuperTowns scheme is to enable these towns to support some of the major population growth that WA is experiencing. The recently completed report ‘*Planning Our Future: A Growth Plan for Esperance and the South East Region*’ reveals that Esperance has set an aspirational population target of 25,000 by 2036, as shown in the table below:

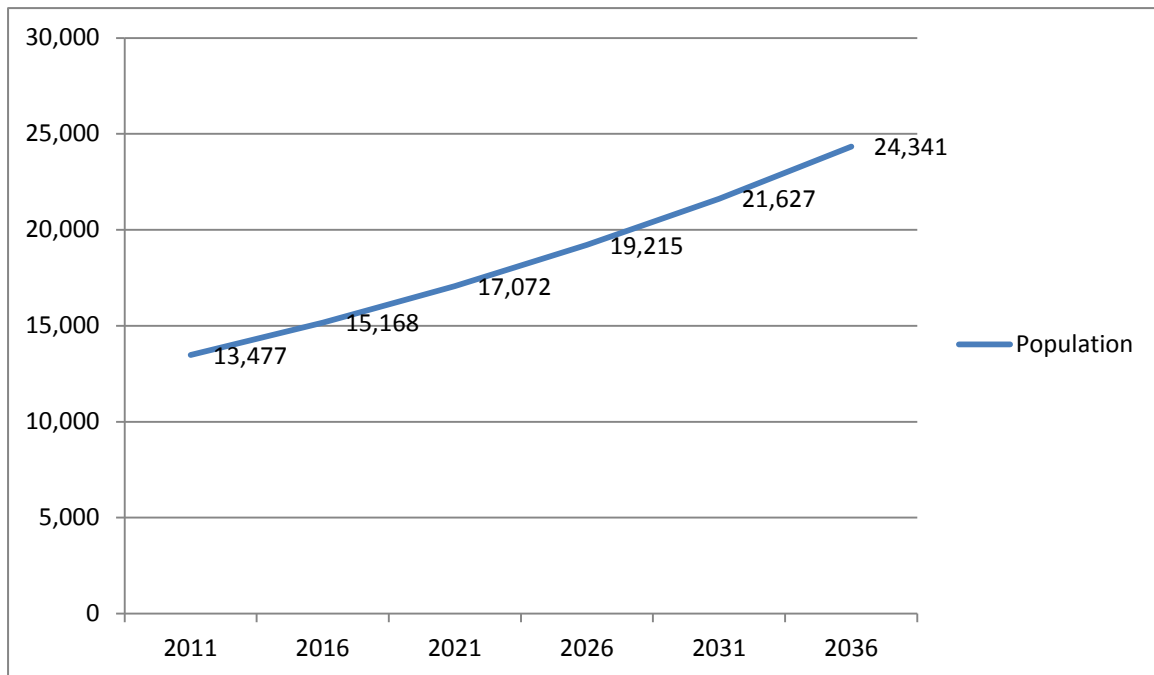
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Esperance Population Growth. Target 3% p.a.	13,477	15,168	17,072	19,215	21,627	24,341

Source: Planning Our Future: A Growth Plan for Esperance and the South East Region, October 2012.



This level of population growth requires an annual growth rate of 3% per annum – representing a tripling of recent population growth trends as shown in the graph below:

Figure 2. Esperance Population Projection Chart



With the current population at 14,740, this table shows growth of approximately 33% over the next 10-15 years and 66% to 2036.

The majority of this population growth will occur in and around the Esperance town site as this is where almost all the services and employment are located. The town of Gibson may experience some flow on population growth as it could be attractive for persons/families who wish to live further out of town and commute into Esperance as it is only a 15 minute drive.

Achieving a future population target of 25,000 will require proactive measures to increase the Shire’s capacity and generate employment opportunities. This will extend to a need for substantial improvements to the capacity and quality of the Town’s sport and recreation facilities.

The Planning Our Future report also reports that an ageing population is a challenge that the Shire will need to meet, although it does not go into specifics of how much the age profile is likely to change if these population targets are met. An ageing population is considered to have a negative impact on sports participation rates as it is the younger age groups that typically have the highest involvement in active sports.



5 RELEVANT INDUSTRY TRENDS & ISSUES

5.1 Benefits of Sport in Regional Communities

DSR commissioned a study into the benefits of sport for regional communities titled *Sport and Community Cohesion in the 21st Century*, Kim M. Atherley, University of Western Australia. This report reveals direct links between participation in sport and the development of cohesive social environments within communities. The report provides evidence of sport being linked to social benefits in the individual and community such as community integration, social bonding, cohesion, cooperation, and community identity and pride.

Local sporting clubs such as the local football, netball or golf club have played a key role in regional communities across Australia providing better physical and mental health outcomes for people of all ages. They also help teach values, volunteerism, cooperation, leadership, teamwork, and help in overcoming adversity.

All levels of government recognise the importance of local sport and recreation clubs for the well being of regional communities and the need to provide support to these groups to enable them to meet the significant challenges they face. This is exemplified in the recent announcement by DSR WA for a new \$20 million fund called *Sports for All*. This program includes financial support for membership fees for children from low income households, additional support for clubs to manage volunteers and support for clubs to utilise the latest in communications technology. DSR states that this new money is recognition of the great value of grass roots sport and recreation and that the State Government understands that investing in young people is a cost effective investment in the future.

Overall, there is a clear argument that investment in the capacity of local sports clubs is an important tool for improving the health and wellbeing of the community.

5.2 Regional Leisure Trends

Over the last decade ABV has participated in a variety of projects in regional and remote parts of WA. During this time a range of factual and anecdotal evidence has emerged through consultation with various local governments, regional sport and recreation groups, regional DSR staff, community members and other stakeholders.

A synthesis of this experience is provided here as a snapshot of the sport and recreation scene within the context of regional and remote WA.

The trends and information provided here are generic in nature but in general appear to have strong relevance to the Shire of Esperance.

Societal

- It is now highly recognised by all levels of government that sport and recreation in regional communities are integral to bringing people together and improving community cohesion, social capital and resilience. It is also recognised that sporting and community groups, the key providers of sport and recreation in regional communities, are facing enormous challenges to remain operational.



- The number of farming families is decreasing year on year as the pressure to increase economies of scale by creating larger and larger farms continues to grow. Farms once run by families are being taken over by corporations and often farmed with non resident managers and labour. This is resulting in population decline in many rural shires and is having a detrimental impact on the many sporting groups that had formed during the 1950's, 60's and 70's when farms were labour intensive and employed many young men with young families.
- In regional communities, sport and recreation providers are typically volunteers. For various reasons (e.g. declining populations, fly in fly out (FIFO), 12 hr shifts, volunteer burnout, compliance obligations) the number of people available to offer their services is diminishing. The Shire of Esperance, as with the majority of regional WA, has been heavily affected by these trends.
- Many regional communities are being affected by a drying climate. Sport and recreation is important during this time for social and emotional health. However, due to the financial and emotional strain from increasing frequency of seasons of poor rainfall, many individuals, families and local businesses are leaving these communities, which further contributes to declining memberships and reduced financial capacity of clubs.
- Society is ageing and there are also increasing numbers of people identified as having a disability (estimated at one in five). Sport and recreation programs increasingly need to cater for such demographics.
- With changing work patterns and declining numbers of clubs run by volunteers, there is often growing demand for casual sport and recreation opportunities free of obligations to assist with coaching, umpiring, administration etc. This is evident around many mining towns that have been hardest hit by FIFO, shift work and corporate farming.
- There is growing trend towards employment of local government sport and recreation personnel. "Experiences in Western Australia and throughout the world have reaffirmed the importance of dedicated salaried positions to coordinate and support community development efforts¹". The Club Development Officer program run by DSR in WA has proven to be highly successful with many LGA's on the waiting list to join the program.
- Smaller local governments typically have greatest need for external funding for sport and recreation programs / facilities. However, they often have limited available capacity to source, administer and acquit funding. Ongoing reliance on external funding is a significant frustration for local governments¹.
- A reduction in sport and recreation opportunities for youth is believed to contribute to an increase in juvenile crime and antisocial behaviour in regional communities.
- Cultural issues are an important consideration for sport and recreation in regional and remote communities, especially those with high indigenous populations. Unless properly accounted for, feuding and other family conflicts can impact negatively on the effective conduct of sport and recreation programs.
- Transient communities may experience reduced ownership of community sport and recreation programs.
- There is growing recognition of the economic impact of sport and recreation in some regional communities leading to more communities offering major events to attract sports tourism income e.g. Leonora Gift.



Participation

- There is an increasing trend of participation in non-traditional recreation by youth e.g. active recreation, 'electronic' recreation etc. Time spent on social media is becoming an increasing concern.
- Growing awareness of the need to engage people who do not traditionally participate in sport and recreation e.g. people with disabilities, teenage girls, culturally diverse groups. There is a greater need to offer opportunities to capture imagination and interest.
- With populations impacted by FIFO, irregular work patterns and transience etc there is often difficulty coordinating team sports. Growing trend towards more casual options requiring small groups of people and minimal coordination e.g. squash, racquetball, walking, cycling etc.
- Participation levels in regional communities do not reflect the state or national statistical averages. Sports that are popular in highly populated areas may not even exist in a country town. Regional communities tend to have significantly higher than average participation in a select few sports, and no participation in others that are not conducted in that town. Participation in regional sports is much more affected by the enthusiasm and dedication of local voluntary or paid sports administrators rather than national or state sporting trends.
- Physical activity participation levels in the more remote parts of a region may be even lower than the regional average (perhaps due in part to limited available sport and recreation personnel, volunteer numbers and quality of facilities). Sporting precincts located in the centre of town are better able to be attended by children after school and on weekends than those located even a short distance outside of town. This is particularly the case for children from disadvantaged backgrounds who do not have the same level of support in terms of vehicle transportation to sporting activities.
- Transportation is a significant impediment to participation in regional areas, emphasising importance of footpaths and cycle paths leading to facilities.
- Growing recognition that participation in sport and physical activity can have a positive impact on educational outcomes, school attendance, juvenile crime, antisocial behaviour, population health etc and are being specifically used as tools to improve outcomes in these areas.

Facilities / Infrastructure

- The cost to develop sport and recreation facilities has escalated rapidly in recent years however with the recent economic downturn this appears to have stabilised for the short term. Despite the stabilisation of construction cost escalations, building costs are still very high particularly in regional and remote locations.
- Due to the high construction costs, and with the added factors of higher building standards and increased regulation, sporting and community groups do not have the capacity to build sporting facilities on their own as they once did in the past. An indoor court or clubhouse facility now costs several million dollars to construct; therefore there is a very high reliance on Local, State and Federal Government support to fund the majority of new infrastructure developments.
- Local governments are increasingly considering co-location of sports facilities as a more financially sustainable option e.g. amalgamation of aquatic and dry facilities, multipurpose playing surfaces, sharing of changerooms / social facilities etc. This is often a condition of acquiring funding from State and Federal Government funding programs.



- The maintenance backlog with sport and recreation facilities continues to rise (recently estimated as \$1.75 billion in WA). With building cost escalations and trade shortages the cost to keep existing facilities alive in regional areas continues to grow.
- Water shortages in regional areas have significant impact on ability to maintain quality natural grass playing fields. By necessity this is causing local governments to increasingly consider alternative water sources, water conservation / harvesting and more efficient provision of grassed playing surfaces.
- Drought impact is also resulting in greater trend towards use of synthetic playing surfaces in regional and remote communities.
- Solar panels are rapidly becoming more affordable and are increasing in cost effectiveness to install. Large installations are being placed on recreation/aquatic centre roofs.

¹ Tania Wiley and Ann Larson (2008) *A Review of the Effectiveness of Community Development Officers in the Murchison*. Geraldton, WA: Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health.

5.3 Physical Activity Participation Trends

The following physical activity participation trends are on a national level and are provided to show general trends in sport and recreation. These statistics may indicate potential for increases or decreases in demand for various sports within the Shire; however, they are not intended to provide a basis for calculating how many participants of each type of sport there are likely to be at any given point in time.

Regional communities do not have the population base to support many of the sports listed in state and national participation rates. Furthermore, regional sporting trends are much more heavily influenced by local factors, not least of all including the availability of facilities, the presence of key sporting organisers in the community, and local socio-economic factors such as the challenges of long mining shift work hours. Sports participation in rural communities can be cyclical depending on a range of circumstances; therefore, the key for Shire planning is to provide facilities that are flexible in use.

The following national sports and physical activity trends are as follows:

5.3.1 Adult Physical Activity Participation

Research over the past five to ten years indicates that Australians are gradually lifting their physical activity levels. This correlates with the strong emphasis government and health organisations have placed on increasing physical activity levels as a means for reducing obesity and its related illnesses.

The Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) has been conducted by the Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport, Australian Government, annually from 2001 to 2010. It is the most detailed sport and physical activity survey to be conducted across the Australian population. ERASS collected information on the frequency, duration, nature and type of physical activities that are participated in by persons aged 15 and over with 21,603 surveys across Australia being collected in 2010.

Key findings of the various forms of physical activity are provided below.



Any Physical Activity

- An estimated 82.3% of the population participated in any physical activity in the 12 months prior to the survey, a rise of 6% from 2001 (77.8%).
- The median frequency for participation in physical activity was 2.5 times per week, with women having slightly higher participation frequency than men. This is a significant increase on 2001 levels of a median frequency of 1.9 times per week
- The regular participation rate (three times per week or more) for any physical activity is on a gradual upwards trend. The regular participation rate in 2010 was 47.7%. This is a significant increase of 28% from 2001 levels (37.2%).
- The regular participation rate for any physical activity among persons living in capital cities was slightly higher than for those living in the rest of the state (49.2% and 44.9% respectively).
- In both geographic areas, regular participation was higher for females than for males, reflecting the national pattern.

The implication for this data is that regular physical activity in general is increasing significantly, thus future facility planning will need to ensure appropriate levels of public open space and recreation facilities are provided for the community as the population grows.

Non Organised Physical Activity

- The regular participation rate for non organised physical activity in 2010 was 38.5%. This is a significant increase of 38% from 2001 (27.9%).
- Women had higher participation in regular non organised physical activity (41.5%) than men (35.3%)
- Regular participation in non organised physical activity gradually increased with age peaking at 55 – 64 yrs among women and 65+ among men.
- The top 10 non organised physical activities in 2010 (total number of participants) were walking, aerobics/fitness, swimming, cycling, running, bushwalking, tennis, golf, weight training, and fishing. Of these, walking, running and cycling are experiencing strong growth in participation.
- Regular participation rates in non-organised physical activity were slightly higher among people living in capital cities than elsewhere (39.9% and 35.9% respectively).

The implication for this data is that planning for pathways is particularly important in order to cater for four of the top ten most popular non organised physical activities being walking, cycling, running and bushwalking. The message for increasing physical activity appears to be reaching the community and it is important to ensure that recreation facilities are accessible to the public for casual / informal use.

Organised Physical Activity

- The regular participation rate for organised physical activity was 12.0% in 2010 having increased by 28% from 2001 (9.4%).
- On average, men have a slightly higher participation rate than women in regular organised physical activity.



- Regular participation in organised physical activity is highest amongst the 15-24 year olds, with participation tending to decline with age. The largest decrease is between the 15-24 age group and 25-34 age group. The decline in participation between age groups is very gradual from there-on, however participation changes from high intensity sports to low intensity sports as age increases.
- Regular participation in organised physical activity was equivalent in capital cities (12.0%) to regional (12.0%).

Participation trends in the major organised sports between 2001 – 2010 are shown in the table below.

Table 2. Organised Sports Participation (15yrs+), Australia, 2001 – 2010.

Sports	2001	2005	2010	% Change 2001 – 2010
Outdoors				
Athletics	0.5	0.4	0.5	0
Australian Rules	1.8	2.4	2.6	+44%
Baseball	0.3	0.3	0.1*	-66%*
Cricket (Outdoor)	1.8	2.0	2.1	+17%
Cycling	0.8	0.9	1.5	+88%
Hockey (Outdoor)	0.9	0.8	0.9	0
Lawn Bowls	1.8	2.1	1.9	+6%
Rugby League	0.8	0.8	1.0	+25%
Rugby Union	0.5	0.9	0.7	+40%
Running	0.9	0.9	1.5	+67%
Soccer (Outdoor)	2.5	2.7	3.4	+36%
Softball	0.6	0.3	0.3	-50%
Swimming	2.2	2.2	1.3	-41%
Tennis	3.6	3.4	2.4	-28%
Touch Football	2.3	1.9	2.3	0
Walking Bush	0.6	0.6	0.6	0
Walking Other	0.8	1.2	1.5	+88%
Indoors				
Aerobics/Fitness	6.4	9.4	7.1	+11%
Badminton	0.4	0.3	0.3	-25%
Basketball	2.4	2.4	2.3	-4%
Cricket Indoor	0.8	0.7	0.5	-38%
Dancing	1.4	1.8	1.9	+36%
Gymnastics	0.2*	0.3	0.2	0*
Hockey Indoor	0.2	0.1*	0.1*	-50%*
Martial Arts	1.7	1.7	1.6	-6%
Netball	3.5	3.2	3.1	-12%
Soccer Indoor	0.8	1.1	1.3	+63%
Squash/Racquetball	0.8	0.7	0.5	-38%
Table Tennis	0.2	0.4	0.3	+50%
Volleyball	1.0	0.9	0.8	-20%
Weight Training	1.0	0.8	0.8	-20%
Yoga	1.0	2.0	1.8	+80%



*Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

Source: ERASS 2001-2010, SCORS, Australian Government.

Note: Participation rates include all persons aged 15+ who have participated at least once in the organised sport in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Notable increases (increase of 25% or more) in organised sports participation rates between 2001 and 2010 include:

- Australian rules football +44%
- Cycling +88%
- Rugby League +25%
- Rugby Union +40%
- Running +67%
- Soccer (Outdoors) +36%
- Walking (other than bush walking) +88%
- Dancing +36%
- Indoor Soccer +63%
- Table Tennis +50%
- Yoga +80%

Notable decreases (decrease of 25% or more) in organised sports participation rates between 2001 and 2010 include:

- Baseball -66%
- Softball -50%
- Swimming -41%
- Tennis -28%
- Badminton -25%
- Indoor Cricket -38%
- Indoor Hockey – 50%
- Squash/Racquetball -38%

Overall, it is interesting to note that some of the major traditional sports such as football, soccer and rugby are experiencing significant growth in participation rate in a time when the population is ageing and one would expect a decrease in these more active types of sports.

There is also a high growth trend apparent in organised activities that are easily participated in by large sections of the community including cycling, walking and running. This reinforces the need for LGA's to place a high priority on the provision of dual use pathways to accommodate and further encourage this type of physical activity.

Swimming and tennis are high participation organised sports that have both experienced significant declines in participation. It is possible that some of the persons that are leaving these activities are taking up activities such as cycling, walking and running which have grown significantly over the same time period. The strong government emphasis on development of pathways and trails is likely to continue the growth in cycling, walking and running participation rates in the future.



Club Based Physical Activity

- Between 2001 and 2010 regular club based participation increased by 31% from 4.8% to 6.3% of the population.
- The strongest increases in total (participated in once per year or more) participation numbers have been soccer (56%), Australian rules (71%), and outdoor cricket (49%) over the 2001-2010 period.
- In 2010, the club-based activity with the highest regular participation rate was outdoor football (0.5%).
- The other club-based activities that attracted the greatest number of regular participants were Australian rules football (0.5%), cycling (0.4%), basketball (0.3%), outdoor cricket (0.3%), netball (0.3%), golf (0.3%), martial arts (0.3%), lawn bowls (0.3%), and horse riding (0.3%).
- In 2010, the regular participation rate in club-based physical activity was higher in regional parts of Australia (7.0%) than those living in capital cities (5.9%).

These increases in club based physical activity correspond with increases in organised participation as reported in the previous section. It provides evidence that despite the challenges facing community sporting organisations, government policies at the local, state and federal level to support community sporting clubs appears to be achieving positive results and lifting clubs sports participation rates. The implication for LGA's is that it is generating greater demand for facilities.

5.3.2 Children's Organised Physical Activity Participation

Children are by far the largest participant group in organised sports; it is a key component of childhood development in the western world. The Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities report (ABS, Cat. 4901.0, April 2012) measured the participation rates of children aged 5-14 years across a variety of cultural and leisure activities in the 12 months prior to April 2009.

The Study found that organised sport participation has increased slightly (7% greater) amongst both boys and girls from 59% in 2000 to 63% in 2009. This rate has remained steady since 2003. Boys recorded higher organised sport participation (70%) than girls (56%). 30% of children played two or more organised sports during the 12 month period.

The table below shows the participation rates of some of the most popular organised sports for children.

Table 3. Children's Participation in Organised Sport, 2000 - 2009

Sport	2000 (%)	2006 (%)	2012 (%)	% Change 2000 - 2009
Boys				
Athletics, Track and Field	3.9	2.6	3.2	
Australian Rules	12.6	13.8	14.9	
Basketball	8.8	7.4	9.2	
Cricket	9.9	10.1	8.6	
Gymnastics	-	-	1.7	
Hockey	2.3	1.7	1.3	
Martial Arts	5.4	6.1	7.8	
Rugby Union	2.7	3.9	4.0	
Soccer Indoors	1.4	3.3	2.5	
Soccer Outdoors	19.6	19.6	21.7	
Swimming/Diving	13.1	16.5	16.5	
Tennis	9.2	8.0	8.4	
Dancing	1.7	2.4	3.5	



Girls				
Athletics, Track and Field	4.0	3.2	3.1	
Basketball	6.3	5.7	6.6	
Gymnastics	-	-	8.1	
Hockey	2.5	2.2	2.0	
Martial Arts	2.5	2.9	3.7	
Soccer Indoors	0.3*	1.1	0.9	
Soccer Outdoors	2.9	6.4	6.5	
Netball	18.2	17.3	16.2	
Swimming/Diving	15.8	18.2	18.9	
Tennis	7.7	6.6	6.3	
Dancing	19.5	23.1	27.1	

Source: Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, ABS, 4901.0, 2000-2012.

Notable increases (increase of 25% or more) in organised sports participation rates between 2000 and 2009 include:

- Boys Australian Rules Football +27%
- Boys Gymnastics +89%, Girls Gymnastics +77%
- Boys Martial Arts +39%, Girls Martial Arts +48%
- Boys Rugby Union +41%
- Boys Indoor Soccer +207%, Girls Indoor Soccer +333%
- Girls Outdoor Soccer +114%

There were no large decreases of 25% or greater in any of the major organised sports for children; however, Boys athletics and hockey participation decreased by 23% and 22% respectively.

These statistics show that children's participation rates in organised sports are generally steady or growing and could indicate that even with a population that is not growing, an LGA could still experience increasing demand for sporting facilities if these trends continue into the future.

5.3.3 Children's Wheeled Recreation Participation

Wheeled recreational activities (skate boards, scooters, BMX, roller blades etc) is highly popular amongst children and youth. Riding a bike, skateboards, scooters and other types of wheels is a fun and energetic activity that almost all children can participate in almost anywhere and anytime, whether at home, on the way to school or shops, at a park, on a quiet street and at a skate park. Although the vast majority of participation is informal, wheeled recreational activities are also sports in their own right as evidenced by major international events such as the X Games and the increasing number of community competitions held at skate park venues around the State.

Actual participation rates in wheeled activities have been collected in several major State and National children's sport and recreation studies, however, as yet these statistics are not broken down into organised and non organised participation. Western Australian children's participation in wheeled recreation activities is as follows:



Trends in Physical Activity, Nutrition and Body Size in Western Australian Children and Adolescents: the Child and Adolescent Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (CAPANS) 2008. Be Active WA, Physical Activity Task Force.

In 2008, the Physical Activity Taskforce (Government of Western Australia) commissioned a survey into nutritional and physical activity habits of Western Australian primary school children in years 3, 5 and 7 and secondary school children in years 8, 10 and 11. A total of 34 schools were surveyed.

Key findings from the report are shown in the table below:

Western Australian Children’s Participation Rates in Wheeled Active Play Activities, 2008.

Type of Wheels used for ACTIVE PLAY*	Children in Years 5 & 7		Adolescents in Years 8, 10, 11	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Bike	66% ²	64% ⁵	41% ³	24% ⁴
Scooter	50% ⁶	47% ⁸	13% ⁶	6% ⁹
Skateboard	34% ¹⁰	18% ¹³	11% ⁷	3% ¹³
Roller Blade	16% ¹²	30% ¹⁰	2% ¹³	4% ¹²

*In 7 days prior to the survey.

¹ Ranking of most popular active play activities.

These statistics show that bike and scooter riding for play is very popular amongst boys and girls in primary school years 5 and 7.

Skateboarding for play was also participated in by 1/3 of primary school boys in the week before the survey, and amongst 18% of girls. The situation is reversed for rollerblading, where 30% of primary school girls’ roller blade compared to 16% of boys.

Participation in active play on wheels is substantially reduced amongst adolescents; however, bike riding is still participated in by 41% of boys and 24% of girls.

Of interest is that scooter riding drops from approximately half of all boys and girls in primary school to 13% and 6% for adolescent boys and girls respectively, thus showing scooters are much more popular amongst younger children. Note: anecdotal evidence suggests scooter riding has been rapidly increasing in popularity in recent years, thus today’s scooter participation rates could be substantially higher.

Skateboarding for play is reduced to 11% of adolescent boys and 3% of girls, and rollerblading is reduced to 2% and 4% respectively.

It is interesting to note that bike riding is on par with movement based video games amongst each group, and overall has only a marginally lower participation rate than the other highest ranking active play activities including playing with pets, walking the dog and playing on playground equipment. This signifies that skate parks should include special consideration of ramps/jumps for bikes.

Overall, these statistics show that skate parks should be considered as an integral recreational/sporting facilities for children and youth (and indeed young adults), as well as providing further justification for ensuring other sporting facilities are safely accessible via cycling, skating or scooter riding.



5.4 Trail Bike Riding

Western Australia is experiencing rapid growth in popularity of recreational trail bike riding, including motocross bikes. This trend clearly has an impact on regional areas where there is more space to ride trail bikes. The *State Trail Bike Strategy, December 2007, DSR WA* reports that sales of off road motorcycles and quad bikes increased by 66% between 2004 and 2006. The report estimates that around 50,000 trail bikes exist and are ridden in WA. Quad bikes are very popular with sales in WA representing 40% of total national sales.

The rapid growth of trail bike riding has not been met with an equivalent increase in designated off road vehicle areas. As such, the lack of designated areas has contributed to a significant increase in the development of unofficial and often illegal riding areas. Complaints from the community arise regarding the noise, safety concerns, conflict with other trail users and damage to the environment. The State Trail Bike Strategy contains a series of recommendations to deal with these concerns and develop a sustainable approach to the provision and management of trail bike facilities.

The Esperance Motorcycle Club has noted that it has concern about potential closure of off road areas. It has growing membership and would be expected to continue to grow into the future due to population growth, bikes becoming cheaper and the changing leisure habits of people. It has said that it will continue to liaise with DEC and the Shire to ensure that off road facilities continue to be available into the future.

Should the issue of lack of off road areas become a significant problem in the future, it would be beneficial for the Shire of Esperance to work with DEC and key stakeholders to produce an Off Road Recreation Facilities Strategy or similar.



6 FACILITY AUDIT KEY FINDINGS

The Facility Audit is attached as Appendix 1 to this report, including photos, a description, usage details and a SWOO analysis of each sporting facility within the Shire of Esperance. 46 venues were recorded. Key findings from the Facility Audit are provided below:

- Almost all sporting facilities within the Shire are under peppercorn lease arrangement whereby the Club is able to lease the land for a nominal fee (i.e. \$1 p.a.) but is responsible for its own facilities. The only exceptions are the sporting fields and the Bay of Isles Leisure Centre. Almost everything else is the responsibility of sporting clubs. It is broadly estimated the Shire's sporting clubs are responsible for some \$50 - \$100 million dollars worth of building facilities alone (based on replacement value).
- The buildings generally appear to have good integrity, although many could do with some refurbishment to bring them back to a high standard.
- An observation of the club facilities that are out of town (such as in motor sports precinct) is that the clubs are making use of cheaper construction methods such as portable buildings and steel clad buildings. These facilities do not have the same aesthetic appeal as traditional brick built clubhouses but enable clubs to have access to facilities that they could not otherwise afford.
- There is a need for a number of the facilities outside of the Esperance town site to conduct a site tidy up. A number of venues have significant amounts of scrap materials and old, disused equipment lying around that detract from the amenity of the facilities and could pose a safety hazard for users, particularly young children. Venues inside of Esperance do not appear to have this same issue, likely because they are much more visible to the community.
- The Greater Sports Ground has significant potential for improvements which have been identified in previous planning. This includes the upgrade of the ISS and the removal of the netball courts and Badminton Stadium to create more soccer/rectangular field space. There is also a strong need for a power upgrade at the GSG.
- The Shire's ovals are kept to a good standard.
- The Schools ovals have a very poor standard of turf. All school ovals are too small for community competition (except young juniors) apart from the Esperance Senior High School oval which meets minimum senior football requirements. The poor turf standard is due to the limited financial resources of the club, the limited turf maintenance equipment on hand and the limited staff experience in maintaining sports turf.
- The Town's skate park is in poor condition due to its age and extensive use. Refurbishment is required, and a potential opportunity is to upgrade it to include new features that would make it more interesting and challenging to use.
- A number of sporting clubs have built significant clubhouse facilities including the football clubs, golf clubs, Bowling Club, Yacht Club and Turf Club to name a few. Among these there are likely to be substantial opportunities for sharing their facilities with current or future sporting groups that do not have access to clubrooms.
- The Satellite Towns' facilities are quite basic which is a result of the small populations. Tennis courts are a key feature of the small towns; they are a recreational facility that encourages social bonding in the community. Cascade and Grass Patch have courts in very good condition; however the other towns' courts are in varying states of repair, with a number of them unusable.



- Golf features highly in the satellite towns, with Scaddan, Salmon Gums and Condingup each having a non reticulated, sand green golf course.
- Strategic planning is generally lacking but there is a high degree of interest from the clubs for developing Asset Management Plans and Strategic Business Plans if assistance could be provided.
- Cost is a major obstacle for identified facility development opportunities.

Maps showing the locations of sports facilities within the Shire of Esperance can be seen as Appendix 2 to this report.



7 FEES FOR USE OF SPORTS FACILITIES AND ACTIVE RESERVES BENCHMARKING REVIEW

Information was collected on fees and charges for sports club use of active reserves and other sporting facilities across 16 LGAs in WA. The full details can be found attached as Appendix 3 to this report. A range of population sizes were sought from small rural Shires to the large regional and metropolitan councils in order to identify patterns and trends and best practice examples occurring across the spectrum. Information was collected from:

- Shire of Esperance
- City of Albany
- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
- City of Busselton
- Shire of Gnowangerup
- City of Greater Geraldton
- City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
- Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
- Shire of Lake Grace
- Shire of Moora
- Shire of Ravensthorpe
- Shire of Roebourne
- Shire of Wagin
- City of Joondalup
- City of Rockingham
- City of Swan
- City of Wanneroo

Key findings revealed from the data are as follows:

7.1 Active Reserve Fees and Charges

- The small rural LGA's have a tendency to not charge clubs for use of their active reserves, or have a low annual fee per club.
 - The Shires of Gnowangerup, Lake Grace and Wongan-Ballidu do not charge for use of their active reserves.
 - The Shires of Moora and Wagin charge a set fee per club for use of the active reserves and building facilities per season. The football clubs pay the most \$1900 - \$2000 per club per season, whilst hockey and cricket pay \$650-\$850 per club per season.
 - The City of Kalgoorlie Boulder also charges on a per club basis (\$600 per club) for use of each of its ovals.
- The larger regional and metropolitan LGA's tend to charge on a per person or per team basis. The fee typically includes 2 training sessions and 1 game per week.
 - The Cities of Greater Geraldton, Albany and Swan each charge a per Senior player fee of \$20, 29 and \$48 pp respectively, and a per Junior player fee of \$8, \$17 and \$8 pp respectively.
 - Albany has higher fees for cricket as the Council maintains turf wickets, and a number of its ovals are leased and fully maintained by the sports clubs themselves.



Whilst the Shire of Esperance is currently utilising a fees and charges method for active reserves that the City of Greater Geraldton has rejected due to complexities and conflicts arising from its implementations, SoE officers report that these issues have not been experienced. Shire officers report that the overall the system is working well and suits the needs of the Shire of Esperance by ensuring an appropriate cost recovery rate for maintenance of its active reserves. One area that has been identified for improvement is implementing a summer invoice for summer sporting clubs and a winter invoice for winter sporting clubs rather than once annually, so that clubs are better able to manage their finances.

This review suggests that the Shire of Esperance's fees and charges for active reserves are suitable for the Shire's current needs, albeit with consideration being given to invoicing twice annually. As the population grows into the future the Shire should continue to monitor the suitability of the existing arrangements and consider alternative fees and charges options such as a per player or per team, per season charge.

Should the need for an alternative fees and charges system be required in the future, the Shire could opt for a simple flat team fee for all sports, or it could vary the fee depending on how many players are in the teams and how much impact they have on the surface. The variable team fee could be considered to be more equitable than the flat team fee as it enables the Shire to charge different teams at a rate that better reflects their proportionate usage of that facility.

The Shire would also need to determine the % of the senior rate that it would wish to charge juniors. Furthermore, the Shire may wish to consider a different rate for sub-juniors (U9's or similar) as they often play in smaller teams on smaller fields, and do not train twice per week. The Shire may also wish to devise a fee for small sided versions of the game, such as 5 a side soccer which also have less players, smaller fields and typically no training.

If the Shire wishes to adopt a per team, per season fee or other fee methodology it will need to adapt it to better reflect the local circumstances in Esperance, taking into account historical revenue levels and its future aims. Care would need to be taken to ensure that the change in fee methodology does not unduly burden a particular club with a sudden spike in usage costs as this could have a significant negative impact on the club's participation numbers.

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance consider invoicing active reserve users according to their seasons – summer and winter, to assist with management of club finances.



7.2 Sports Facilities Fees and Charges

Information was sought regarding fees and charges for sporting facilities other than active reserves from the 17 LGA's included in the analysis. The following key findings were identified:

- Peppercorn lease arrangements are widely used throughout regional/rural LGA's. The LGA leases the land to the club for a nominal fee (i.e. \$1) and the club is responsible for managing and maintaining any structures on it.
 - Peppercorn lease arrangements are a key feature in Esperance, with the Shire only managing and maintaining BOILC. The City of Greater Geraldton also has almost all of its sporting facilities provided on peppercorn lease arrangements.
 - Some of the most generous arrangements for buildings and other facilities occur in the smallest LGA's.
 - The Shire of Lake Grace does not charge sports club for use of any facilities
 - The Shires of Wongan-Ballidu and Gnowangerup assist lessee clubs with maintenance on their facilities.
- Indoor Court Hire Fees – where available, are around \$30-\$40 per hour. There is a \$5-\$10 difference between peak and off peak rates.
 - The Shire of Moora charges the Netball Association \$650 p.a. for use of the indoor courts.
- Only the Cities of Wanneroo and Joondalup and the Shire of Roebourne have outdoor court hire fees available. They include:
 - City of Joondalup
 - Basketball/Netball/Tennis Club or Association Court Hire Per Court, 1 Hour per week for a full year:
 - Peak (After 6pm) \$159.32
 - Off Peak (Before 6pm) \$145.96
 - Shire of Roebourne
 - Netball Association - Number of uses per week x number of players per team x number of weeks booked x \$0.70c /4 (number of courts)
 - City of Wanneroo
 - Senior Club Basketball per team per season \$206.15
 - Senior Club Netball per team per season \$265.05
 - Tennis Courts Club Use per person per annum \$58.85
- Regional LGA's largely do not manage clubhouse facilities as they are mostly leased facilities, with the exception being a few of the small regional LGA's and the Shire of Roebourne.
 - Shire of Lake Grace does not charge for clubhouse use by sporting clubs.
 - Shires of Moora and Wagin's seasonal charge to users of the main oval includes use of the clubhouse and amenities.
 - Shire of Roebourne: Clubs pay applicable community group hourly rate for the desired facility (approx \$23 p/h, 30% for juniors).
- The metropolitan LGA's have fees for pavilion use at their active reserves including the following:



- City of Swan: \$225 p.a. Includes use of clubrooms, storerooms, changerooms and toilets
- City of Joondalup: Clubs pay Community Regular User Rate for hall facilities at the sporting ground (\$22-\$32 p/h depending on size). 100% discount for juniors.
- City of Wanneroo: \$15 - \$33 p/h depending on size.
- City of Rockingham: \$20 - \$35 p/h depending on time of day and type of use.

These fees for other sporting facilities show that the Shire of Esperance predominantly charge a peppercorn lease fee in return for sporting clubs being responsible managing and maintaining the facilities, and this is a common feature of the rural and regional LGA's.

The Shire fee for use of the BOILC indoor court of \$30 p/h is at the lower end of the range of \$30-\$40 per hour, suggesting it is a reasonable fee.

Although the Shire does manage any clubhouse facilities at the current time, if it were to do so in the future, a fee of around \$20-\$30 p/h should be considered.

The Shire does not currently charge for use of the outdoor netball courts; it appears this is a common occurrence in rural and regional LGA's. It would likely be difficult to implement a fee structure similar to the metropolitan LGA's as it would result in a cost of several thousand dollars to the Netball Association that it does not currently budget for, thus would be required to significantly increase membership fees to cover this new cost. This would likely have a negative impact on netball participation.

Overall, there does not appear to be a clear demonstrated need for the Shire to overhaul its fees and charges methodology for sports facilities other than active reserves.



8 LOCAL PARTICIPATION TRENDS

The following specific local sports participation data has been received through the consultation process:

8.1 Shire of Esperance Sports Club Participation Data, November 2012

Club	Current Participation	Change Past 5 Yrs	Next 10+ Yrs
Esperance Netball Association			
Sub-Juniors	142	0	+10%
Juniors	120	0	+10%
Seniors	184	0	+10%
Veterans			
Esperance Hockey Association			
Sub-Juniors	66	0	0
Juniors	230	-10%	0
Seniors	150	0	+10%
Veterans	55	+10%	0
Esperance Bay Gun Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	3	0	+30%
Seniors	30	0	+50%
Veterans	5	0	+10%
Esperance Rifle Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	1	+50%	+50%
Seniors	21	+100%	+50%
Veterans	6	+50%	+75%
Esperance Cricket Association			
Sub-Juniors	90	+10%	+10%
Juniors	110	0	0
Seniors	150	0	0
Veterans			
Esperance Eq/Pony Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	25 (approximately)		
Seniors	25 (approximately)		
Veterans			
Pink Lake Golf Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	1	-50%	-25%
Seniors	60	-50%	-25%
Veterans	40	-50%	-25%
Newtown Tennis Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	83		
Seniors	24		
Veterans			



Club	Current Participation	Change Past 5 Yrs	Next 10+ Yrs
Esperance Tennis Club			
Sub-Juniors	28	+50%	+75%
Juniors	64	+50%	+75%
Seniors	109	+20%	+40%
Veterans	39	+30%	+40%
Esperance Bowling Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	102	0	
Veterans			
Esperance Kart Klub			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	40 (seniors and juniors)	+10%	+10%
Veterans			
Esp District Football Assn			
Sub-Juniors	210	+10%	+20%
Juniors	320	+10%	+10%
Seniors	240	0	+10%
Veterans			
Salmon Gums Gun Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	10		
Veterans			
SSAWA Salmon Gums Branch			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	7		
Veterans			
Cascade Town Recreation Assn			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	50-100		
Veterans			
Esperance/Goldfields Surf Life Saving Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	100 juniors and seniors		
Veterans			
Esperance Motorcycle Club			
Sub-Juniors	15	-10%	+20%
Juniors	55	+20%	+20%
Seniors	30	-10%	+30%
Veterans	30	+10%	+30%
Esperance Mountain Bike Club			
Sub-Juniors			+10%
Juniors	5	-10%	+10%
Seniors	10	0	+10%
Veterans	10	+10%	+10%



Club	Current Participation	Change Past 5 Yrs	Next 10+ Yrs
Esperance Soccer Association			
Sub-Juniors	45	+30%	+20%
Juniors	188	+40%	+30%
Seniors	66	+50%	+40%
Veterans			
Esperance Speedway Assn.			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	10	>-50%	+20%
Seniors	30	-10%	+30%
Veterans	5	-10%	+10%
Esperance Bay Yacht Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	80	+20%	+30%
Seniors	120	+30%	+30%
Veterans			
Esp. Basketball Assn. Seniors			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	270	0	+30%
Veterans			
Esp. Deep Sea Angling Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	12	0	+10%
Seniors	72	-10%	+10%
Veterans			
Ports Cricket Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	6		
Seniors	25	+100% or more	+20%
Veterans			
Esperance Triathlon Club			
Sub-Juniors		0	+20%
Juniors		+10%	+30%
Seniors		+20%	+30%
Veterans		+10%	+20%
Esperance Amateur Swim Club			
Sub-Juniors	10	+20%	+20%
Juniors	25	+30%	+20%
Seniors			
Veterans			
Esp Taekwondo Academy			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	70	+10%	+10%
Seniors	40	+10%	+10%
Veterans			
Esp District Badminton Assn.			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	12	-25%	+10%
Seniors	20	-10%	+10%
Veterans	10	0	+10%



Club	Current Participation	Change Past 5 Yrs	Next 10+ Yrs
Esperance Little Athletics			
Sub-Juniors			+20%
Juniors	95	-	+20%
Seniors			
Veterans			
Esperance Rugby Union Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	20	-25%	+20%
Veterans			
Ports Football Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	120	+20%	+10%
Seniors	60	+10%	+10%
Veterans			
Esperance Dive Club			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors			
Seniors	24	-10%	+20%
Veterans			
Esperance Twilight Aerials Gymnastics Academy			
Sub-Juniors			
Juniors	123	+30%	
Seniors			
Veterans			
Esperance Squash Club			
Sub-Juniors	10	+10%	0
Juniors	50	+20%	0
Seniors	190	0	0
Veterans			
Esperance Volleyball Assn.			
Sub-Juniors			+50%
Juniors	20	0	+30%
Seniors	160	+20%	+20%
Veterans			+10%

8.2 Local Participation Key Findings

The following observations that have significance for this report can be made from the local participation data:

- As revealed in the Consultation Key Findings, the Shire's sports clubs report an overall stable participation trend over the past 5 years, and anticipate modest growth of around 10-20% over the longer term (10+ years).
- Over the past 5 years, significant growth (30% or greater) has been recorded for:
 - Esperance Rifle Club
 - Esperance Tennis Club
 - Esperance Soccer Association
 - Esperance Bay Yacht Club Seniors
 - Ports Cricket Club Seniors
 - Esperance Amateur Swim Club Juniors



- Esperance Twilight Aerials Gymnastics Academy
- Over the past 5 years, significant decline in participation (decline of 25% or greater) has been recorded for:
 - Pink Lake Golf Club
 - Esperance Speedway Association Juniors
 - Esperance District Badminton Association Juniors
 - Esperance Rugby Union Club
- Over the next 10+ years, the following clubs anticipate significant growth (30% or greater):
 - Esperance Bay Gun Club
 - Esperance Rifle Club
 - Esperance Tennis Club
 - Esperance Motorcycle Club Seniors and Veterans
 - Esperance Soccer Association
 - Esperance Speedway Association Seniors
 - Esperance Basketball Association Seniors
 - Esperance Bay Yacht Club
 - Esperance Triathlon Club
 - Esperance Volleyball Association Sub-Juniors, Juniors
- Over the next 10+ years, the Pink Lake Golf Club is the only sports club to anticipate a decline in participation (-25%).

This participation data informs the Facility Needs for Shire of Esperance section of this report (Section 12). The data demonstrates that future participation growth is unlikely to be evenly spread based on trends over the past five years and the future expectations provided by the clubs.



9 COMPARATIVE REVIEW

A Comparative Review of other medium and large LGA's was conducted to gain an understanding of trends and issues that may have relevance to the Shire of Esperance and can assist in guiding future decision making. Five LGA's were interviewed for this Review including: City of Albany, Shire of Roebourne, City of Busselton, City of Greater Geraldton and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

9.1 Comparative Review Results

The results from the Comparative Review are as follows:

Health of Sports Clubs

- In general the sporting clubs of each of the LGA's are relatively healthy, although a decreasing pool of volunteers was raised as an issue by three of the respondents.
- Junior soccer was reported as having good-strong growth by three of the respondents.
- There were no concerns that any clubs were about to fold, each of the respondents expect the majority of their sporting clubs to remain resilient or improve.

Major Sporting Facility Developments

- City of Albany: Centennial Park Sporting Precinct Plan currently being undertaken – includes focus on playing surfaces, lighting upgrades, shared changeroom and pavilion facilities.
- Shire of Roebourne: Karratha Leisureplex is currently being constructed, to be completed April 2013. Includes:
 - Aquatic Centre with 50m pool with dividable boom, 25m leisure pool with beach entry and 4 swimming/walking lanes, splash pad.
 - 2 playing fields catering for 1 AFL oval, 1 cricket oval, 3 rugby fields, 3 soccer fields, clubhouse and playground
 - 3 indoor courts and three squash courts
 - Crèche and kids gym
 - 6 outdoor basketball/netball courts/3 futsal courts with roofs.
 - Fitness Centre
 - Café, Commercial office space, meeting facilities, function room and commercial kitchen.



Karratha Leisureplex under construction

- City of Busselton:
 - Development of a district level rugby, cricket and soccer facility
 - Development of a regional tennis facility including 14 grass courts, 12 hard courts, 4 synthetic grass courts and a new pavilion with grandstand seating.
 - Planning redevelopment of the Geographe Leisure Centre including the expansion of the gym, splitting the water bodies to allow differential heating, install geothermal heating and make more user friendly overall.
- City of Greater Geraldton:
 - The City has developed the Draft Sporting Future Plan which plans the long term facility plans for the City.
 - The Wandina Sports Precinct will be the next major sporting reserve developed.
 - Towns Oval will have a new 500 lux system installed in 2013 to be suitable for untelevised professional cricket and football.
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder:
 - Ray Finlayson Sports Complex - \$16 million sports precinct development including high-quality grounds and amenities for soccer, rugby league and rugby union, cricket, squash and equestrian sports.
 - The first stage of the project is under way, which requires the relocation of the Goldfields Equestrian Club track and stable facilities to an adjacent block.
 - DR Morrison Oval to be upgraded including new clubrooms and changerooms.
 - All sports lighting across the City has been upgraded.
 - The City's skate park is being upgraded to serve as a regional facility, to be completed 2013.

Shared Use of School Ovals

- The LGA's interviewed do not have shared use arrangements for ovals on DET land; however, these options are on the horizon for some including the City of Albany and the City of Busselton as these are experiencing a lack of open space.
- The Karratha Leisureplex is collocated with the new high school development so that the high school can make use of all Leisureplex facilities.

Premier Level Facilities

- Each of the LGA's are able to host some or most sports at the elite level.
- The Cities of Albany, Kalgoorlie and Greater Geraldton are able to host most sporting events including football codes, cricket, netball, basketball and hockey.
- The City of Albany cannot host elite level tennis tournaments as their existing clubs facilities are fragmented (multiple small/medium clubs) and do not meet the requirements for professional tournaments.
- The City of Busselton is developing a regional tennis facility that will be the premier tennis venue for the South West Region.
- The Equestrian Centre redevelopment as part of the Ray Finlayson redevelopment in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder will be capable of hosting international equestrian events.

Leasing Arrangements with Sports Clubs

- Each LGA has significant levels of peppercorn lease arrangements with sports clubs. It is a principal method for the provision and management of sports facilities in these regional LGAs.



- There is generally little Council oversight of leased Clubs facilities as they are the responsibilities of the Clubs that hold the lease, however, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, City of Busselton and Shire of Roebourne each conduct annual inspections on leased facilities to ensure Clubs are upholding the conditions of their lease arrangements.

Support Services for Sports Clubs

- The LGA's reported a variety of different ways in which they supported sports clubs. These include:
 - Rates and insurances relief
 - Peppercorn lease arrangements
 - Access to community grants for facility development and sending participants to State/National competitions.
 - Employment of a Club Development Officer/Sports Coordinator
 - Grant writing
- The LGA's reported a number of issues related to efforts to improving the capacity of sports clubs including:
 - Declining volunteerism is a major issue the LGA's are trying to turn around.
 - Clubs only tend to do planning when they need to do so to be eligible for a grant.
 - Clubs see little need for governance training; it is difficult to get them to attend these seminars.
 - Overall, the strategic planning that clubs are being asked to conduct are onerous to the Clubs, and apart from various planning guideline documents there is little help for the clubs to conduct these plans. Club Development Officers try to assist however not all feel competent in this area.
 - High committee member turnover is an ongoing problem when trying to build capacity in sporting clubs through training of committee members.
 - Aim is to facilitate clubs doing their own work as opposed to doing it for them (i.e. grant writing, strategic plan development) by running workshops and providing relevant materials.
 - There is an understanding that small clubs from outer lying communities require greater assistance than the bigger clubs from the major population centres. Often they simply do not have the capacity to take on tasks that are not related to their immediate survival.
- The City of Kalgoorlie Boulder is happy with its Sports Coordinator; it is helping the Goldfields clubs remain strong.
- The Shire of Roebourne is recording very good success from the appointment of a Club Development Officer. The Clubs are providing very good feedback about the assistance the CDO is providing including acquiring substantial grants. Since the appointment of a CDO, the Shire has noticed a very large increase in the number of clubs applying and being successful for grants.
- The Cities of Busselton and Albany are keen to obtain a Club Development Officer, potentially shared with neighbouring LGA's. All of the LGA's interviewed recognise CDO's as valuable assets and see this as the key method, in terms of services provision, for improving the strength and sustainability of sports clubs.



9.2 Key Findings

Key findings from the Comparative Review Results are as follows:

- The relative good health of the sports clubs within the interviewed LGA's is similar to the experience of the Shire of Esperance, although there is acknowledgement of the increasing pressures they face, particularly in regards to attracting/retaining volunteers.
- There are a number of LGA's planning or in the midst of constructing major sports facility projects, signalling the intent of the larger LGA's to provide high standard regional level facilities that are capable of hosting elite sporting competition. The planned redevelopment of the GSG in Esperance is in keeping with this trend.
- There are limited shared use arrangements for community use of school sporting ovals occurring in regional LGA's, however, LGA's with increasing demands feel it is on the horizon. A common issue is that existing school ovals are often too small for full size sporting fields, and have limited or no amenities available to the public. Comprehensive shared use arrangements with schools are being planned with the development of new high schools so that these design and facility provision issues are addressed and adequately accommodate community use.
- Peppercorn lease arrangements are a core feature of sports facility provision in regional LGAs, as is the situation in the Shire of Esperance. This is the predominant way in which sporting facilities, in particular sporting pavilions, are provided in regional areas. Regional LGA's do not have the same population catchments and rate payer bases as metropolitan LGAs do, and therefore tend to offer little in the way of sports facility provision other than ovals, an aquatic centre, and some providing an indoor sports hall.
- Club Development Officers are considered to be very important in strengthening sporting clubs. They facilitate improved relationships with State Sporting Associations, facilitate/deliver training seminars for club volunteer development and strategic planning, and deliver markedly increased rates of grants that are applied for and grants won. LGA's that do not currently have Club Development Officers are seeking to acquire them.

The Shire of Esperance has a Club Development Officer, and by all accounts the CDO has had a significant impact in assisting local sporting clubs achieve their aims.



10 CONSULTATION KEY FINDINGS

Extensive consultation was undertaken for this project including:

- Shire staff
- Shire of Esperance sporting clubs and associations
- Schools
- Relevant Agencies including the Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre, WA Police Firearms Unit and Lotterywest
- Regional Department of Sport and Recreation offices across WA and interstate
- Rural, Regional and Metropolitan LGA's

The full Consultation Document can be seen attached as Appendix 4 to this report. LGA consultation is provided within the Comparative Review (Section 9). Key findings from the consultation are as follows:

10.1 Shire Staff Consultation

Consultation with relevant Shire Staff was conducted through the course of the Study. The following key points were raised:

- The Shire of Esperance has been identified as a Super Town – meaning it has been identified as a regional growth centre. A Growth Plan has been prepared showing a long term population growth target of 25,000.
- The outer lying towns have generally shown to declining population trends, however, these populations may fluctuate depending on the occurrence of mining activities that may occur in their vicinity.
- In general, farms are getting bigger, requiring less full time workers to run them, therefore these outer-lying towns that have generated approximately 50 years ago due to farming activity have been seeing declining populations and fewer sports participants/organisations as a result.
- There are several gun clubs in the Shire (various disciplines) in separate locations. Ideally they would be collocated in one precinct for gun related sporting activities, sharing facilities where practical.
- Motor sports are well catered for with a number of clubs collocated in a precinct approximately 10km north of Esperance.
- Currently the Shire has an Asset Management Plan for Shire managed facilities but not for leased facilities – most sporting club facilities are leased.
- The Leisure Centre requires improved disabled changerooms by the Hydrotherapy Pool.
- The aquatic centre is in reasonably good condition. Other than general maintenance of the facilities and equipment, there are no major issues with the facility.
- The pool is heated with free gas from a local energy company, which is the equivalent of \$200,000 p.a. This agreement runs out in 2022. BOILC is looking at alternative energy sources to reduce the potential energy bill after this time. An energy audit has been completed.
- Usage levels reach towards capacity during peak times of the day, but overall is ok. Some additional pool space may be required in the future, and better utilisation of lane space (i.e. encouraging multiple swimmers per lane).



10.2 Schools Consultation

The Esperance Senior High School (ESHS) was consulted in regards to community usage of its facilities and its facility needs for the future. The following information was revealed:

- The School's facilities are already open for considerable community use.
- Junior basketball and netball teams (made up primarily of school students) train on the school's indoor and outdoor courts on weekdays after school until 4-5pm, and the courts are hired for tennis coaching (associated with the Newtown Tennis Club).
- There is substantial parking available in various locations around the school, and the coach has a key for the toilets.
- The outdoor tennis & multi use courts are left open for the community to use at their leisure outside of school hours and on the weekends free of charge.
- The oval turf is in poor condition. The School has a limited budget for turf maintenance.
- Club cricket teams make use of the recently built cricket nets at the school.
- The oval does not have a wicket due to the cost of maintaining it and covering/uncovering it each year.
- A multi-use outdoor sand court has recently been developed for a variety of sports such as beach volleyball, beach netball etc.
- The school makes use of community facilities such as Esperance Cricket Ground, Pink Lake Golf Course and the Esperance Bowls Club for various programs or carnivals.

10.3 Sports Clubs Consultation

The Shire's sporting clubs were consulted via an online survey and one on one meetings and phone interviews where possible. A total of 42 sports clubs and associations were captured within the consultation process. The following information was revealed:

Sports Participation Trends

Sporting Clubs were asked about their participation trends within the club survey. They provided the following information:

- The Shire's sports clubs are generally reporting having had stable membership numbers over the past 5 years.
 - 32% clubs report having no change in participation.
 - 62% of clubs report having participation change within the range of -10% to +10%.
 - 28% of clubs report having experienced participation increases of 20% or greater.
 - 10% of clubs report having experienced participation decreases of 25% or greater.
- Reasons given for clubs that experienced significant **increases** in participation over the past 5 years include:
 - Active committee members
 - Improved facilities
 - Appointment of a Club Professional (Tennis)
 - High quality voluntary coaching staff
- Reasons given for clubs that experienced significant **decreases** in participation over the past 5 years include:
 - Decreased interest in the sport (golf)
 - Participants are ageing, not being replaced by younger participants
 - Lack of facilities



- Rising costs
- Over the long term (10+ years), the Shire’s sports clubs generally expect to have modest participation growth when taking into consideration the various factors influencing demand (i.e. population growth, changing work and leisure trends, ageing population etc).

The clubs report anticipating the following change over the next 10+ years:

- 51% of clubs anticipate growth of 10-20%
- 26% of clubs anticipate growth of 30% or greater
- 18% of clubs anticipate no growth in participation
- 5% of clubs anticipate a decrease in participation
- Reasons given for clubs anticipating significant **increases** in participation over the next 10+ years include:
 - Population increase driving additional demand
 - Improved junior development
 - Improved promotion and management
 - Recent appointment of Club Professional (Tennis) to continue to drive additional demand
 - Increased commitment amongst members to provide better services
 - Improved facilities
 - Improved awareness and interest in their sport

Facilities Needs for the Future

The Shire’s sports clubs were asked to list their perceived sports facility development needs. Approximately 90% of clubs reported a need for facility upgrades. They provided the following information:

- The predominant expressed facility need is for new or upgraded clubroom facilities. Approximately 1/3 of respondents to the club survey reported a need for clubroom improvements in some way, including improved social areas, bar and kitchen areas, storage, changerooms and toilets.
- Other desired new or improved facility developments reported by clubs include:
 - Sports lighting
 - Spectator shade/shelter
 - Court playing surfaces
 - Training facilities (shooting, cricket)
 - Equipment/maintenance sheds
 - Dedicated areas (taekwondo, gymnastics)
 - Additional sporting fields (soccer)
 - Playground equipment
 - Track modifications/extensions (motor sports)
- Numerous requests were also made for assistance with purchase of various sporting equipment, however it does not fall within the scope of this plan.
- Almost all sporting clubs report the need for grants to assist in funding their future facility plans.

Asset Management Plan / Asset Replacement Fund

- Approximately 20% of club survey respondents reported having an Asset Management Plan.
- Of the 80% that do not have an Asset Management Plan, 70% reported they would be interested in preparing one if assistance was available.



- Two thirds of surveyed sporting clubs report setting aside funds for asset replacement.

Strategic Business Plan

- Approximately 45% of surveyed clubs report having a strategic business plan that sets out aims and objectives for the club and forward budget estimates for the next 3-5 years. 55% said they did not.
- Of those clubs that do not have a Strategic Business Plan, 90% report they would be interested in receiving assistance to develop one. Several clubs noted they are beginning the process of strategic planning and the Club Development Officer is providing assistance.

Greatest Challenges

The Shire's sporting clubs were asked to list the greatest challenges they are facing that affect their future sustainability. The following responses were provided by the sporting clubs:

- Maintaining or increasing participation numbers (40%)
- Rising costs, maintaining a healthy financial position (30%)
- A lack of volunteers (25%)
- Inadequate facilities (lack of or substandard) (25%)
- Other issues raised – urban encroachment, insurance and regulations, and securing longer lease agreements

Assistance to Meet Challenges

The sports clubs report the following types of assistance would help them in meeting the challenges they have listed:

- Improved facility provision (new or upgraded facilities, or ability to keep equipment permanently set up in existing facilities) (33%)
- Volunteer development – how to find them, ongoing support, training (20%)
- Increased assistance from State Sporting Associations (15%)
- Promotion assistance (15%)
- Other forms of desired assistance reported by clubs include: grant writing, ongoing funding support for operating costs and usage fees reduction, event planning, longer lease agreements, merger of clubs and attracting sponsorship.

10.4 Relevant Agencies

10.4.1 Regional Department of Sport and Recreation Offices

Regional Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) Offices were contacted across Western Australia and Victoria (SRV) to ascertain the types of services that are being provided to support and strengthen the sporting clubs in their local areas. Within Western Australia the managers of the Great Southern, Mid West and Pilbara DSR offices were interviewed as well as the Perth Head Office, and from Victoria the Barwon South West and Grampians office managers were contacted. Key findings from this consultation are as follows:



Western Australia

The WA DSR offices report that the Club Development Officer (CDO) scheme is the key tool they are using to support sports clubs in their regions. Club Development Officers are yielding good results where they are implemented.

- The DSR Managers are noticing the following effects from the CDO scheme:
 - Clubs are applying and being successful for more grants as they are becoming more aware of them and are being given direction and assistance on how to apply for them. The quality of grant applications is significantly improving.
 - Stronger links are being created between clubs and the Council, DSR and their State Sporting Associations, and between the clubs themselves.
 - CDO's are also helping to facilitate shared use of facilities between sporting clubs. They are able to gain the trust of clubs and have some influence on their decision making as they are seen as partially removed from the Council with whom not all clubs have a strong relationship.
 - There are numerous LGA's that have significant interest in becoming involved in the CDO scheme due to the benefits that are apparent.
 - State Government funding for this scheme is limited, therefore any LGA's that wish to employ a CDO would have to fully fund the position themselves, or delay the appointment until the State Government decides to continue and expand the scheme into the future, if at all.

An issue that some are noticing is that CDO's are being asked to do more and more, but their remuneration has not been increasing to reflect their expanded roles, thus it can be hard to fill the positions with people adequately qualified to do all they are being asked to do.

An important aim of the CDO scheme is to benchmark the health of the clubs in their area via the Club Health Checklist available from the DSR web site and then up-skill them accordingly via training workshops etc.

In future, the DSR Regional Office Managers see the Club Development Officer scheme continuing to be the primary method by which support is provided to sports clubs, and ideally this scheme could be expanded upon if funding permits. It is via the CDO scheme that DSR is able to efficiently implement the various programs and support packages it provides for sporting clubs.

The recent implementation of the \$10 million DSR WA **Kids Sport** program is proving to be highly successful at increasing participation amongst children from disadvantaged backgrounds, through the provision of vouchers to pay for sports club membership fees. The Midwest Office has estimated in that 55% of all recipients of the Kids Sport program have never been part of a sports club before. Many regional LGA's are signing up to this program.

DSR WA is also implementing the **Community Volunteer Project (CVP)**. This project aims to address the following key areas:

- Educate, retain and train existing and potential volunteers.
- Ensure appropriate recognition and rewards for volunteers.
- Roll out volunteer workplace planning support to sport and recreation bodies that have significant volunteer systems to make it easier for volunteers to be involved.



- Develop volunteers with new skill sets in sectors of our community that are not involved e.g. young people, low socioeconomic, remote, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) and Aboriginal.

DSR is conscious that it is critical that volunteers are consistently and continually supported to get involved and stay involved in the future. Volunteers are recognised as being crucial to the delivery of sports in local communities whose equivalent economic contribution far outweighs the value of contributions from Local Government or any other funding body.

CVP has recently conducted a small grant program where sports clubs put together a simple volunteer management plan document, and if successful, CVP awards up to \$2,000 to implement some of the identified strategies. This may include funds to engage a local provider to run workshops for club volunteers or paying for travel and enrolment fees for a club volunteer to attend a course.

DSR WA does not provide funding for clubs to engage professional assistance to prepare a strategic business plan, which is a requirement for clubs to be eligible for large facility grants. DSR feel it is an important capacity building exercise for clubs to develop their own plans and they will have greater ownership of the document. It is noted that Lotterywest do provide grants to community groups to engage a consultant to prepare a strategic business plan, however, sporting clubs are not eligible to apply.

Victoria

Within regional Victoria, the Victorian Government supports community sports clubs via Regional Sports Assemblies (RSAs). The RSAs have a similar purpose to the Club Development Officer Scheme in WA. They are volunteer based organisations established to support the growth, development and promotion of sport and recreation at the grass roots level. RSAs provide a link between local clubs and state and national bodies including Sport and Recreation Victoria, VicHealth, Local Government and health agencies to meet the needs of the region.

The RSAs in Victoria and CDOs in WA have some similar methods for improving the capacity of sports clubs. They include:

- Using a checklist survey (see www.clubhelp.org.au) – similar to the Club Health Checklist utilised by DSR WA, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the clubs and link the clubs with the specific support they need to strengthen and grow.
- Providing training workshops and seminars for a range of topics including governance, grant writing, strategic planning, marketing and promotion etc.
- Conducting a club volunteer development project, called the ‘Club Leadership Project,’ to develop the next generation of club volunteers.

Phil Currie, Community Development Coordinator for Barwon South West reveals that in the past, support for grass roots sports had a one size fits all approach and was primarily about delivering seminars and newsletters. However, it was found that this approach helped the high performing clubs become stronger whilst the smaller clubs were missing out as they do not have the same willingness or capacity to undergo the training required to complete strategic business plans, asset management plans, volunteer management plans and the many other worthwhile components of developing a strong club.



Support for sporting clubs is now much more targeted. Any club seeking support is directed to fill out a Club Help survey, which provides the Regional Sports Assembly with the information they then use to provide targeted support including one on one assistance with RSA staff.

10.4.2 Lotterywest

Lotterywest was consulted in regards to potential support for sporting clubs to undertake strategic business planning.

Grant Consultant Faye Baxter reveals that Lotterywest provides extensive support for organisational development for community groups both large and small, with grants typically ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to undertake various strategic planning exercises including the preparation of strategic business plans.

However, sporting groups are not eligible to apply for organisational development funding. As a general rule, Lotterywest does not provide funding that falls under DSR's 'jurisdiction,' and this applies to grants for strategic business planning even though DSR does not provide funding to sports clubs for this area either.

10.4.3 Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre

The Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre (EVRC) was consulted to ascertain the type of assistance it provides to sports clubs, the issues affecting club volunteerism and how these might be addressed in the future. The following information was provided by EVRC Coordinator Erica Austen:

- The EVRC provides the following services:
 - Maintains a list of local volunteer positions for individuals
 - Provides a referral service for volunteer involving agencies
 - Provides regular volunteer training sessions
 - Assists and provides guidelines to agencies
 - Acts as the central point for volunteer recruitment drives and major recognition celebrations such as National Volunteer Week and Thank a Volunteer Day.
- Sports clubs have traditionally had little involvement with the EVRC, there may be a perception amongst sports clubs that EVRC is only for other community groups and not sports.
- Very high turnover is a significant issue for sports club committees, as any skills that have been developed in committee members can quickly be lost as committee members come and go.
- A key need for sports clubs volunteers is for general administrative support, i.e. support for treasurers, secretary, bookings officers etc to undertake their roles. Many people do not feel they have the skills to take on these roles and thus do not volunteer. Providing new volunteers with support may encourage more people to become involved on club committees.
- General administrative support may take the form of a support person, someone local, who can help set up procedures for sporting clubs to make club volunteer positions easier to manage and to hand over to new members
- Over the past couple of years EVRC has been collaborating with the Club Development Officer to try and get sports clubs more involved, which is starting to show some improvement.

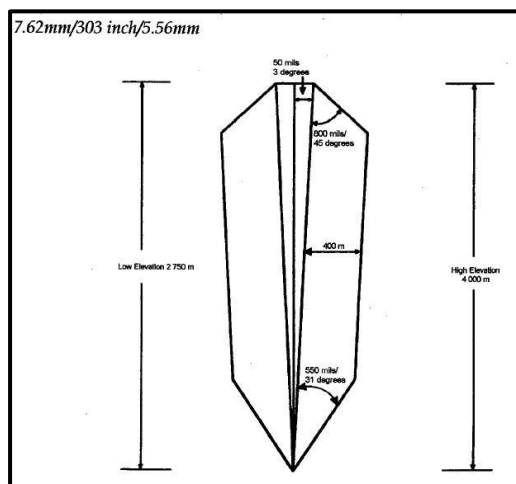


10.4.4 Ballistics Sports Relocation

The Shire of Esperance raised the issue of the potential development of a ballistics sports precinct to allow for the relocation of the ballistics sports that are located close to and within the Esperance town site. Contact was made with the Esperance Gun Club, the Esperance Rifle Club and the WA Police Firearms Unit.

The following key information was provided:

- The Esperance Bay Club would be open to discussion to the prospect of relocating to a ballistics sports precinct; however, the Club would likely be reluctant to do so as it would likely mean moving a long way out from Esperance.
 - Shot guns have much smaller fall out land area requirements as opposed to rifle and pistol clubs.
 - The Gun Club has one of the largest carnivals in WA, attracting 100-110 shooters each year. This brings in a significant amount of revenue for the Club. This is due in part to the Club's good facilities and proximity to town.
- The Esperance Rifle Club would be open to discussing relocation. It would require an area that meets the fall out area requirements. It should also have a 1,000 yard range with at least 5 targets width.
 - The Arboretum has previously been discussed as a location, however, the DEC has reportedly ruled out this possibility.
 - The Geelong Rifle Club facility layout is worthy of consideration and would minimise impact on sensitive bushland.
- The WA Police Firearms Unit reports the following:
 - A very large footprint is required for rifle ranges to ensure an adequate safety buffer is created (called the Danger Zone). It is approximately 1km wide and 2750m long – see diagram below:



- The shooting club must obtain firing rights on the property on which the danger zone occupies. If it is crown land, then permission must be obtained by the relevant department, i.e. the Department of Environment and Conservation if in State Forestry.



- Land features may reduce the size of the footprint required, which will be at the discretion of the Police Licensing Services. A large steep hill or sand dune would be an effective stop butt.
- Danger area templates can overlap if multiple clubs are collocated. Danger areas should not cover another shooting disciplines firing range so that both sports can operate at the same time.
- The Darwin Rifle Range and Belmont Rifle Range (QLD) are examples of sports shooting precincts with multiple shooting disciplines collocated.
- When considering an area of land that is flat, and is required to collocate clubrooms and other firing disciplines, an area of over 300ha could be required.

Comment received from the City of Greater Geraldton reveals that they were unable to relocate a Gun Club (shot guns) from the outskirts of the City as they were unable to find a piece of land large enough that had suitable characteristics for shooting. It was determined that although it was not ideal to have the Gun Club so close to the City (across the road from main sports precinct), the land it was situated on was unsuitable for alternative development being an old rubbish tip, and surrounding land uses are to be industrial as opposed to residential.



11 CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 Support for New Clubs

One of the challenges facing all LGA's is the management of requests from newly formed sporting organisations for LGA support for new facilities. New sporting groups arise for a variety of reasons including:

- No similar sporting groups existing within a particular catchment area.
- Existing club(s) unable to cater for any further growth in participation.
- A section of membership splitting from an existing club due to differences of opinion such as the future direction of the club.

From time to time the Shire of Esperance has and will continue to experience requests for assistance with the establishment of new club facilities, particularly as the population is expected to grow in the future, thus increasing the likelihood of people with new ideas and new sporting interests becoming involved in sports.

Each occurrence of a new club forming and seeking to establish its own facilities needs to be carefully considered by the Shire on a case by case basis to ensure that incidences of duplication of facilities are minimised and there is sufficient justification for Shire support of new sporting clubs with new facilities.

Unnecessary duplication of facilities can potentially have a number of negative impacts including:

- Limited resources being spread too thinly, resulting in multiple lower standard facilities being developed rather than fewer facilities (i.e. one regional facility) being developed to a high standard.
 - This in turn can affect the ability of the Shire to attract high level sporting events and may impact on junior development.
 - It can also result in decreased lifespan of eth facility costing more money in the longer term.
- Difficulty in attracting funding from State Government bodies if it is determined that the development of additional facilities will have a negative impact on sustainability.
- Decreased viability of sporting organisations due to a limited catchment of participants and volunteers being spread across multiple clubs.

This Report strongly supports the Shire's continued application of best practice facility planning principles when assessing newly formed sporting clubs requests of support for establishment. The Shire cannot stop new clubs forming, however, it can decide on whether or not to provide support to that club to establish itself or to find new premises. The Shire must consider the short, medium and long term consequences that could arise from supporting new sporting club facility developments to ensure that the overall sustainability of the sport in question is strong and able to withstand current and future challenges such as declining volunteerism and changing work patterns.

Where support for new clubs is found to be warranted, all opportunities for shared use facilities with compatible user groups should be explored to maximise sustainability outcomes.



11.2 Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility Study, Draft Report for Comment V1, March 2013

The Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility Study (EISSFS) Draft Report V2, October 2013 report examines the feasibility of three options for meeting the current and future needs of the existing and potential user groups of the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium (ISS).

Option 1 is the Greater Sports Ground Redevelopment Committee Preferred Layout. This option is based on the rationale of accommodating growth in participation and the inclusion of additional user groups at the ISS whilst retaining the existing sports scheduling practices of hosting all competition in one session of one day.

Option 2 considers options for meeting the current and future needs of the user groups through greater utilisation of the existing indoor courts. It also assumes that the Gymnastics Association will continue to operate at its own venue due to the advantages it gains from occupying a sole use facility. Similar to Option 1, this option also includes provision of supporting club facilities, outdoor courts and upgrades to the existing courts.

Option 3 has been developed after key stakeholders were able to provide feedback on the Option 1 and Option 2 proposed developments. It is similar to Option 2 in that it is also a 4 indoor court development, however, it includes the development of a new full size multi-use indoor court and redevelops the interior of the Noel White Pavilion to include a shared use sports club social and administration areas and a large multi-use activity room. This Option also includes a second set of changerooms on the western side of the ISS that can service the new indoor court and the overflow camping area used during peak holiday season.

Option 1 is the preferred facility development proposal for the current and potential user groups; however, the construction cost estimates show that this development option would require a very large capital outlay of \$13.7 million Ex GST.

The EISSFS demonstrates with Option 2 and Option 3 that new sporting groups can be collocated at the ISS, and that future participation growth of all sporting groups can be accommodated at the ISS without the development of additional indoor courts. The development of shared club facilities, upgrades to the existing courts and the development of two to three outdoor courts is sufficient to cater for the current and future needs of the user groups, however, it may require some adjustment to current scheduling practices and/or willingness to use the outdoor courts.

Option 2 and Option 3 have been costed at \$4.8 million and \$8.0 million respectively; however, the final cost of all options cannot be determined until a building dilapidation report of the current ISS facility has been conducted. The dilapidation report will identify a list of the remedial works required, including cost estimates, to ensure the building is functional for the long term. If the dilapidation report was to find serious issues with parts of the ISS building, then this could have a significant cost implication for the ISS redevelopment, and consideration would need to be given whether replacement or refurbishment of the relevant section of the building would be the most cost effective solution for the future.

In conclusion, this Study finds that Option 3 is the preferred facility development proposal as it provides a significantly upgraded, modernised 4 court stadium that will accommodate additional user groups and allow the GSG redevelopment to progress. Unique to Option 3, it also includes a large multi-use activity room that can accommodate a range of activities that will arise in the future as the population grows with Esperance being a SuperTown, therefore satisfying a more diverse range of needs in the community as well as the needs of the existing major user groups.



11.3 Esperance Football Facilities Review

In October 2011, ABV Leisure Consultancy Services completed the *Esperance Football Facilities Review (EFFR)*, on behalf of the West Australian Football Commission.

This purpose of this Review was to inform the Shire of Esperance's future sports facility planning through the identification of the specific needs of the football clubs and recommending potential solutions that the Shire could adopt for the long term benefit of local football and the whole community.

The key findings from the EFFR relating to the football facility needs for the Shire of Esperance are as follows:

- The four football ovals in and around the Esperance town site are required to accommodate the four football clubs in the EDFA including the senior and junior teams. The fifth oval - Condingup Oval, is located over 60km from Esperance and should be seen in context as a recreation facility for the local Condingup community rather than as an oval specially designated for football.
- In general, each of the four football clubs has sufficient facilities at their home grounds to adequately accommodate their training, competition and social needs. Some areas for improvement include changing facilities for females and upgrades to training lighting.
- The football clubs provide important social benefits in the individual and community such as community integration, social bonding, cohesion, cooperation, community identity and pride. A home base for each of the four clubs is an important part of football culture. Sharing facilities with other football clubs is uncommon; however, sharing often occurs with other sports such as cricket.
- The GSG Interim Layout Plan contains sufficient active reserve space for the long term needs of the various sporting groups whilst still retaining the oval. A decision by the Shire to retain the oval at the GSG for the long term would give the Ports Football Club the certainty it requires to plan for future facility upgrades and save considerable expense in developing an alternative venue for the Club to relocate to.
- The GSG Oval should be retained and upgraded into a multi-use premier football facility for the Shire. The GSG is the primary sports precinct for the Shire that is centrally located and has the greatest capacity to hold large events. A new shared use premier level pavilion could be developed or the existing Ports Football Club pavilion could be upgraded.

In summary, the EFFR finds that the long term football facility needs of the Shire can be appropriately met through the retention of the existing home ground football facilities and the GSG oval being upgraded to a multi-use premier level football venue. It recommended that the Shire of Esperance review the Revised GSG Master Plan and consider amending the site plan to include the retention and upgrade of the existing oval for the long term.

Subsequent to the presentation of the EFFR to Council, it has been decided that the Ports Football Club should remain at the GSG for their long term future in keeping with the GSG Interim Layout Plan.



11.4 Future Active Reserve Development Plans

The Shire of Esperance has undertaken extensive planning for the long term provision of active reserves. The focus of the planning is on the Greater Sports Ground (GSG) located within the town centre of Esperance. Prior to the Esperance Football Facilities Review (EFFR), there were two plans directing the future development of active reserve space at the GSG, they were:

- *The Revised Greater Sports Ground Master Plan, March 2011* (See Appendix 5); and
- *The Greater Sports Ground Interim Layout Plan, March 2011* (See Appendix 6).

A summary of the key details is provided below.

11.4.1 Revised Greater Sports Ground Master Plan

The Revised GSG Master Plan was the long term vision for the future development of the GSG. The plan shows the following developments affecting active reserve provision:

- A large rectangular space for six senior soccer fields. This is an increase of over 300% from the current provision of 1 senior field and 1 junior field. It is based on the relocation of badminton and netball into the proposed expanded indoor sports stadium.
- A large rectangular space for nine natural turf hockey fields. This represents a 50-80% increase on the existing space for 5-6 fields.
- The large rectangular areas would also continue to accommodate tee ball, softball, cricket and other sports as the need arises.
- The development of the two large rectangular fields would require the removal of the oval. This requires the relocation of the Ports Football Club to an alternative venue which was not identified.
- A centrally located multi-use sports pavilion with large car parks to the north and south are indicated in place of the oval.

The Plan also shows the collocation of an expanded indoor stadium (4-6 multi-use courts) and aquatic centre and modifications to the layout of the agricultural show sheds. These developments do not impact on the active reserve turf areas.

Overall, the Revised GSG Master Plan shows a very large increase in rectangular sporting field provision which would have been enabled by the relocation of the Ports Oval.

11.4.2 Greater Sports Ground Interim Layout Plan

The GSG Interim Layout Plan is effectively the Shire's short-medium term concept plan for the development of the GSG. The developments contained within the Interim Plan are consistent with the long term vision of the Revised GSG Master Plan.

The oval is still located at the GSG in the Interim Plan. The other key differences to the Revised GSG Master Plan are as follows:

- The soccer field area to the east of the oval has been expanded to four senior fields as opposed to six (currently 1 full size field and a $\frac{3}{4}$ field). A large rectangular area for four fields can be achieved with the relocation of badminton and netball into the proposed expanded indoor stadium (4-6 multi-use courts).



- The hockey field area to the west of the oval retains space for 5-6 fields; however, some modifications have been made to better fit six regulation sized fields and includes additional parking to the north of the oval.
- There are no plans for a shared pavilion or large parking areas located centrally due to the retention of the oval.

The Interim Layout Plan still shows the potential location of the expanded indoor court stadium collocated with the aquatic centre, and the modified layout of the agricultural show sheds.

Overall, the key difference of the GSG Interim Layout Plan from the Revised GSG Master Plan is that the oval is retained, the hockey field area remains in a similar form to its current layout, and the soccer area is increased to 4 fields as opposed to 6.

Subsequent to the presentation of the Esperance Football Facilities Review to the Shire of Esperance Council, it was decided to retain the Ports Oval at the GSG. Therefore, the GSG Interim Layout Plan has effectively become the Master Plan for the GSG, pending any recommended changes that may be adopted by Council from this Study.



12 FACILITY NEEDS FOR SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

This Study aims to provide the strategic direction for facility provision in the Shire of Esperance to meet the needs of the community over the long term.

The strategies proposed within this report to address the identified areas of facility need in a manner consistent with one of the key challenges identified in the Western Australia sport and recreation industry planning framework document - **Strategic Directions 5 (SD5), 2011 – 2015**. Challenge 1 of 'Places and Spaces' states:

Affordable and sustainable provision models must be applied to manage the long-term impacts of the strong investment in sport and recreation infrastructure and spaces in regional WA.

This challenge, or principle, identified within SD5 is congruent with Guiding Principle 3 from the Shire's growth plan document - **Planning Our Future, November 2012**, which states:

Development will make the best use of existing infrastructure and services to maximise efficiency, minimise the cost to public funds, improve accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

With these principles in mind, this report seeks to make facility development recommendations that are cost effective and practical to implement, making the best use of the extensive array of facilities that are already available as opposed to proposals for extensive new facility developments.

The identified facility needs, and the strategies recommended to meet these needs, are proposed as follows:

12.1 Active Reserves

12.1.1 Needs Analysis

Active reserves are integral pieces of sporting infrastructure to all Australian communities. The Shire of Esperance has the following active reserves that are currently operational:

- 5 single football/cricket ovals that are currently active, 3 of which are located in the satellite towns of Cascade, Condingup and Gibson.
- The Greater Sports Ground, consisting of:
 - 5 Hockey fields, with space for finals fields to be marked out
 - A single senior size soccer field and a ¾ junior soccer field. The senior field is also utilised for occasional rugby games.

In addition to these current active reserves, the Shire also has plans to expand the amount of sporting field space available at the GSG as identified in the GSG Interim Layout Plan (see Appendix 6) which is the current template being used to guide development at the GSG. The Interim Layout Plan shows:

- The soccer field area to the east of the oval has been expanded to four senior fields. A large rectangular area for four fields can be achieved with the relocation of badminton and netball into the proposed expanded indoor stadium.
- The hockey field area to the west of the oval is optimised to enable six regulation sized fields to be marked and includes additional parking to the north of the oval.



The Esperance Football Facilities Review (EFFR), October 2011, prepared by ABV Leisure, includes a detailed Active Reserve Needs Analysis (see Appendix 7). The key finding of the EFFR is that with the development of the additional active reserve space as outlined in the Interim Layout Plan, the Shire will have sufficient active reserve space to meet its future needs. This key finding remains valid.

The EFFR Active Reserves Needs Analysis reveals that there is sufficient capacity within existing active reserve provision to meet the long term needs of Australian rules football, athletics and hockey.

Australian Rules Football

The football clubs are unlikely to ever add additional senior teams, and each of the ovals has capacity to add 4 junior teams in the future (total 10 teams per club) – which would be an increase of 100% in the juniors. This is significantly in excess of the 10% increase in participation predicted by EDFA and the 66% long term population growth target for the Shire.

Athletics

Athletics will always remain a single association and will only ever require one athletics venue, although in future some small groups may decide to do some training at a local school or park in their area.

Hockey

Hockey has capacity for an additional 10 teams based on a 5 field layout, or 18 teams based on a 6 field layout (based on 8 teams per field, competition currently having 30 teams). This represents growth potential of 33-55% within the existing active reserve provision. With the implementation of the Interim Layout Plan, hockey will have access to 6 fields. This will allow over 50% increase in participation growth, which is significantly in excess of the 0% growth anticipated in Juniors and Seniors, and 10% growth in Veterans anticipated by the EDHA. Should the EDHA ever experience very high participation growth in the future, the development of a synthetic surface could be considered as a means for providing additional capacity without developing new sporting fields.

Diamond Sports

Limited information has been provided for diamond sports, however, diamond sports are traditionally a non mainstream sport in regional areas and participation rates can move up and down by significant margins based largely on whether there is a core group of committed individuals that are willing to promote and coordinate the sport. Softball is currently played on the hockey fields, and it is anticipated that this will be sufficient for its long term needs. With the planned expansion of the GSG active reserves area, additional diamonds could be marked out if ever required. T-Ball can be played on any oval, thus finding sufficient space, whether on Shire or school ovals, will not be an issue in the future.

Soccer

The Esperance Soccer Association has experienced significant growth in recent years, and is anticipating continued strong growth into the future including a 30% increase in juniors and 40% increase in seniors into the future (see Section 8). This level of participation growth is considered reasonable given that it is only in recent years that Soccer has made a concerted effort to develop the competition. The Interim Layout Plan more than adequately accommodates this anticipated growth with an increase in soccer field space of over 100%. Soccer currently has 1 and ¼ fields available for use, and the Interim Layout Plan provides for 4 full size soccer fields.



Rugby

Rugby currently consists of 1 team that travels to play other teams on an occasional basis. Given the competition with football and soccer, it is unlikely that rugby will become a major local sport in the future. Access to one of the soccer fields (with posts for rugby) for several games per year will likely be sufficient for rugby's long term needs.

Cricket

Cricket currently has 10 senior teams, 10 junior teams and Milo cricket. There are 6 wickets. Competition is played mostly on Saturdays although some games are played on Sundays. There are a number of opportunities for additional wickets to be developed to cater for future growth including 2 wickets on the expanded soccer grounds as per the Interim Layout Plan for the GSG. An additional wicket could also be developed on the Esperance Senior High School Oval; however, this would require the Shire to take on maintenance responsibilities for the oval as the School does not have the funds or expertise to maintain the oval to a standard suitable for community competition.

Three additional wickets would increase capacity by 50%, which is significantly in excess of the ECA's expectations (0% long term growth). Further capacity could be provided through altering scheduling practices to include more Sunday competition.

Overall, the redevelopment of the GSG active reserve space according to the Interim Layout Plan including the retention of the Ports Oval in the centre, the expansion of the soccer fields to the east and the optimisation of the hockey fields to the west is likely to have the capacity to accommodate all growth in participation into the long term (2036).

This Study does not find a need to develop new active reserves beyond the ovals that are currently available and the additional space proposed in the GSG Interim Layout Plan. Ideally, the GSG would be redeveloped in the Short Term (1-3 years) to accommodate the growth of soccer which is now near capacity, however, the expansion of the soccer fields cannot occur until the upgrade of the ISS is complete to enable the removal of the badminton stadium and outdoor the netball courts.

12.1.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance

- Retain existing sports ovals and implement the active reserve development proposals in the GSG Interim Layout Plan.

12.2 Greater Sports Ground

12.2.1 Needs Analysis

There is significant rationale for the development of a new Master Plan for the Greater Sports Ground.

The original Greater Sports Ground Master Plan was conducted in 2004, and revised in 2011. In 2012 the Shire resolved to retain the Ports Football Club at the GSG, which is a further departure from the Master Plan.

The GSG is the major sports hub of the Shire and accommodates the majority of all traditional team sports clubs in Esperance. It has significant capacity for improvement to increase capacity and meet the future needs of the community.



The new Master Plan should use the GSG Interim Layout Plan as a guiding document, as this plan has been shown to be appropriate for meeting the long term sporting field needs of the user groups. It should also take into consideration the findings from this report and Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility Study.

Within the Master Plan – a significant issue will be the long term clubhouse/amenities requirements for the multiple users of the reserve. Given the high construction costs regional WA (approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000m² for a completed building project), it will be necessary to examine the feasibility of different options to meet the clubhouse/amenities needs of the user groups including rationalising existing facilities and building new multi-purpose facilities, or making upgrades to existing facilities to increase their shared use potential.

12.2.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Commission the preparation of a new Greater Sports Ground Master Plan to take into account the latest developments and research findings affecting the precinct.
- Within the Greater Sports Ground Master Plan, conduct a Clubhouse and Amenities Facilities Feasibility Study that examines multiple options for meeting the long term need of the user groups.

12.3 Sports Field Lighting

Sports field floodlighting is widely considered to have a positive social impact for the community. Good lighting allows clubs to maximise use of their facilities and playing surfaces through providing more opportunities to train and play, supporting year round activity and encouraging more people to participate. Some clubs have reported increased membership since installing lights and also increased gate takings. Social functions are also enhanced by being able to provide a lit area for children to play safely (Football and Netball Lighting Guide 2008, Government of Victoria).

The increased flexibility of use provided by lighting leads to greater use of the facilities which in turn leads to increased participation rates in the community and promotes health benefits such as reducing childhood obesity and reducing crime and vandalism (Focus Paper: Indoor and Outdoor Lighting 2009, DSR WA).

Recent research into liability of LGAs with regards to lighting standards has shown that the Australian Standards produced for lighting levels of sports grounds is best practise and is provided as a guide only. Therefore LGAs are not obliged to improve current lighting levels to Australian Standards. However, the Shire should endeavour to progressively upgrade sub-standard lighting to Australian Standards over time as finances allow in order to meet community expectations.

The Shire currently has a number of sporting fields that are lit for competition including the Esperance and Newtown football ovals and the senior soccer field at the GSG. Limited levels of training lighting (not to Australian Standards) are available at Gibson Oval, Ports Oval (GSG) and a hockey field (GSG).



There is justification for the Hockey Fields at the GSG to have at least one field lit to competition standard as it increases the ground's flexibility of use (i.e. mid week competition), improves the quality of training in the evenings and improves the ability of the GSG to host regional hockey tournaments. A 500 lux system is required for A grade club hockey competition. 250 lux is required for ball training/low grade competition.

The Ports Football Oval is the premier football facility for the Esperance region and has recently hosted a WAFL game. It also has a cricket pitch located on it and is used by the Ports Cricket Club. There is justification for the provision of 250 lux lighting to the oval, with 300 lux level over the cricket wicket. This level of lighting meets the Australian Standards for semi-professional football, thus a WAFL game could be scheduled at night, and provides a significantly enhanced quality of lighting for both spectators viewing the game, and for participants viewing the ball and other player at high speeds. This level of lighting also meets the British Standards for low grade cricket competition and training – thus it could be used for social competitions such as 20/20 matches and the like.

Lighting of a hockey field should take into consideration whether the current lit hockey field site is optimal or a different section of the reserve would be preferable, as it would be best located on a field that can achieve full size dimensions. Positioning of the poles should minimise impact on the middle of the reserve so that other sports and activities are not unduly impacted by light pole obstructions. It would be preferable to determine the optimal position within a new master plan for the GSG.

The Gibson Football Club has already conducted necessary power upgrades and acquired light fittings for an upgraded training lighting system. It will seek funding for the supply and installation of the poles to mount the lights on. There is justification for the Shire to support this development as it will provide a significantly improved training environment for the players.

12.3.1 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Support the Esperance Hockey Association for the development of a competition level hockey lighting system for a hockey field, with consideration given to a 500 lux system, to be planned within a new master plan for the Greater Sports Ground.
- Support the Ports Football Club for the development of competition level lighting of the oval, with consideration given to a 250 lux system with 300 lux over the cricket wicket.
- Support the Gibson Football Club for the development of upgraded training lights at Gibson Oval.



12.4 Indoor Sports Courts

12.4.1 Needs Analysis

The indoor sports court facility needs for Esperance has been assessed in detail through the *Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility Study, Draft Report V1, March 2011*. In summary, it identifies two options for meeting the future needs of indoor sports in Esperance.

Option 1 is a major facility upgrade including a new premier show court to replace an old one, upgrades to an existing court, a second new court (total 5 courts), a permanent gymnastics space, new offices, social facilities and amenities and three outdoor courts. Option 1 has been costed at \$13.7 million Ex GST.

Option 2 is a modest facility upgrade including upgrades to the floor surfaces of the two hard courts, refurbishment of the amenities, retention of the existing Agricultural Society Offices, development of modest club social and administration facilities and three outdoor courts. Gymnastics is presumed to stay in its new privately leased facility. Option 2 has been costed at \$4.8 million Ex GST.

Option 1 is the preferred model for the identified user groups, and allows all clubs to grow whilst retaining their traditional scheduling practices.

Option 2 demonstrates the ability to accommodate the needs of indoor sports for the long term future, however, it would require some changes to scheduling practices for competitions to grow beyond existing levels, which a number of sports representatives have expressed as not being a viable option in the country.

With a capital cost estimate being \$8.9 million less than Option 1, and having significantly lower lifecycle costs, Option 2 is the more financially sustainable option for meeting the indoor court needs of the community for the future.

12.4.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Support Option 2 as the preferred model for development of the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium, subject to the findings of further investigations as recommended within the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility Study.

12.5 Clubhouse Facilities

A large proportion of the facility development needs expressed by the sporting groups during the consultation phase of this project include upgrades to clubhouse facilities. Sports clubs require facilities from which the administrative and social functions of the club can be conducted and provide the supporting features necessary for the conduct of the activity such as toilets, changerooms and a kiosk.

All clubhouse facilities within the Shire are based on peppercorn lease agreements, with the clubs taking responsibility for management and maintenance. This is advantageous for the Shire in that it has the effect of creating a user pays method of facility provision. Each facility has been developed, upgraded and maintained over time largely at the expense of the user groups, with some assistance provided by the Shire through its community development funding processes.



This form of facility development has the advantage of generating strong social capital in the community, as these facilities have been developed through members of the community working together to build facilities that may not otherwise be available to the community.

Overall, clubs have built facilities that are appropriate for their needs. Large clubs have developed larger facilities whilst small clubs have developed more modest facilities, and therefore clubs have had access to facilities that have been manageable for them to operate and maintain over long periods of time.

It is reasonable for the Shire to continue to support requests for assistance in refurbishing or upgrading facilities through its community development funding processes including supporting DSR WA's CSRFF program and self supporting loans for significant capital works. The application of the principles of the CSRFF program will ensure that funding will be targeted towards projects that are sustainable and focus on increasing participation. This will result in a greater emphasis being placed on support for shared clubhouse facilities in the future.

Rationalisation of some clubhouse facilities will likely be a factor when considering developing facilities to meet multiple user groups' needs. The Esperance ISS Feasibility Study is one such example of rationalising some facilities and meeting the needs of several groups in a shared facility. It includes the rationalisation of the Badminton Stadium and the development of 3 outdoor courts in place of the existing 8.

Some opportunities for sharing of clubhouse facilities may have been missed in particular areas for the foreseeable future, for example at the motor sports, equestrian, mountain bike and model aero club precinct, however, as major clubhouse facilities reach the end of their lifespan, new opportunities may arise where the Shire can leverage its funding support to facilitate the development of shared clubhouse facilities.

Development of multiple clubhouses for single user groups on single ovals (i.e. football and cricket) should not be supported, even if a group is proposing to fund the development entirely. All avenues for sharing of the existing facility, and making necessary upgrades and extensions to enable sharing to occur, should be explored. This may include features such as additional storage space and administration space if the existing space is insufficient. Upgrades to security and the locking systems may also encourage more clubs to be willing to share their facilities.

12.5.1 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Support refurbishments and upgrades of existing clubhouse facilities according to principles in keeping with the Department of Sport and Recreation WA's Community Sports and Recreation Facilities Fund where it is cost effective to do so.
- In cases where a clubhouse is nearing the end of its lifespan and it is not cost effective to refurbish or upgrade, investigate and prioritise multi-user group options for development of new clubhouse facilities.



12.6 Ancillary Features

12.6.1 Needs Analysis

There are numerous ancillary features that enhance the useability of sports facilities. These can include items such as spectator shelters, bench seating, drinking water fountain, practice nets, playground equipment etc. These features often have the purpose of making the facilities more comfortable and inviting for spectators who are an important component of community sports.

Participation can be affected by the provision of some ancillary features. A small playground at a reserve can make it significantly easier for a parent to participate in an activity if the parent has some form of entertainment for their children whilst the parent is playing/training in a sporting activity. It also assists families with multiple siblings. It can reduce barriers for poorly represented groups such as young single mothers.

These features make sporting facilities more user friendly for organised sports participants and spectators, and also for general recreational users of the facilities. An oval with a playground and water fountain is a more attractive and interesting venue for children and families to visit than an oval that is not supported by such features.

There is rationale for the Shire to support requests for ancillary feature provision at sports facilities.

12.6.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Continue to support requests for ancillary feature provision at sports facilities through existing community development funding processes.

12.7 Ballistics Sports Precinct

12.7.1 Needs Analysis

A need has been identified for the development of a Ballistics Sports Precinct for the ballistics clubs based in and around the Esperance town site. At the current time, most clubs have their own facility, with only the SSAAWA Esperance Branch sharing some leased farm land with an archery group. The Esperance Rifle Club, Esperance Bay Gun Club and Esperance Pistol Club each have their own facilities which take up considerable portions of land close to the Esperance town site, which impedes future development opportunities.

Consultation with the WA Police Firearms Unit reveals that approval for the development of a new outdoor firing range facility will require a very large area of land with exclusive firing rights for the clubs, and access suitably restricted to walkers, trail bike riders etc.

The major benefit of collocating all of the ballistics sports in one area is that the fall out buffer zones are allowed to overlap, provided they do not cross over another disciplines' firing positions. There would also be potential for sharing of facilities including clubhouse facilities and other supporting amenities.

However, as revealed in Section 10.2.4, Ballistics Sports Relocation, an area of some 300+ ha would be required (approximately rectangular area of 3,000m x 1,000m). The Clubs involved will expect that they will have a similar level of facilities provided including clubhouse and caretaker facilities in addition to the firing range facilities they require.



The Esperance Bay Gun Club and Esperance Rifle Club have leases that run to 2030 and have expressed a desire to remain at their facilities.

Overall, it is likely to be a difficult task to identify an available area of land that meets the minimum requirements for approval from the WA Police Firearms Unit, and costly to develop new facilities. A precinct site should be sought within 50km radius from the Esperance town site to maximise opportunities for identifying a suitable piece of land, however, it is likely that the Esperance clubs would be highly dissatisfied with a location that approaches the outer limits of that radius. As a major land holder of large tracts of land in the region, the Department of Environment and Conservation should be consulted as a matter of priority to determine if there are any opportunities.

All Esperance based ballistics sports require some certainty from the Shire in regards to future plans for ballistics sports, in particular, if relocation will be required. This will enable the clubs to adequately plan for the future.

12.7.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Conduct a detailed investigation for potential sites to accommodate a Ballistics Sports Precinct.
- Upon identification of a preferred Ballistics Sports Precinct Location, conduct a Ballistics Sports Precinct Feasibility Study which should take into account the relocation of the SSAAWA Esperance Branch, Esperance Pistol Club and Archery group in the short-medium term, and the relocation of the Esperance Bay Gun Club and Esperance Rifle Club in the long term.

12.8 Tennis Facilities

12.8.1 Needs Analysis

Tennis court facilities are provided in Esperance as well as almost all of the satellite towns. Within the Esperance town site, the Esperance Tennis Club provides a regional standard facility with 13 hard courts (6 well lit), and a clubhouse. The Esperance Senior High School Courts are also available and free to use by the public out of school hours.

There is little justification for an expansion of tennis facilities within the short, medium or long term future.

Within the Satellite towns, there is justification for upgrading of some courts, and rationalisation of others that have fallen into disrepair. This is discussed in the Satellite Towns Facility Needs section of this report (Section 12.12).

Within Esperance, sustainable provision of tennis facilities will be maximised through supporting the Esperance Tennis Club as a regional facility for the Shire and maintaining and improving the existing facilities. Future increases in membership will improve the financial capacity of the Club to maintain and upgrade its 13 courts, pavilion and supporting infrastructure (lighting, spectator infrastructure etc).



The GSG Interim Layout Plan shows the addition of three tennis courts which would replace some parking area and the netball/soccer clubrooms. The justification for an additional three courts is limited. According to the report by Tennis Australia - *Tennis 2020: Facility development and management framework for Australian tennis*, a facility of 12+ courts is justified for regional areas of populations with 50,000+ within a 30km radius. Esperance is only predicted to reach half this population within its long term population growth target.

12.8.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Continue to support the Esperance Tennis Club as a regional facility for the Shire.
- Continue to support improvements to the existing facilities at the Esperance Tennis Club through its traditional community development funding processes.

12.9 Golf Facilities

The Shire of Esperance is well serviced with golfing facilities. There are 5 courses, three of these are non reticulated with sand greens and are located in the satellite towns of Condingup, Salmon Gums and Scaddan. Esperance has two 18 hole golf courses with reticulated fairways and grass greens.

The need for the sand green courses is discussed in the Satellite Town Facilities section.

In regards to the two fully reticulated golf clubs within the Esperance town site – Pink Lake Golf Club and the Esperance Golf Club, two courses is considered a duplication of resources. The Esperance town site would be adequately served with one high quality golf course, which would be more sustainable to run as it would benefit from increased membership and patronage.

The Esperance Golf Club has 250 members whereas the Pink Lake Golf Club has 100. The Pink Lake Golf Club reports having lost significant numbers of members over the past 5 years, whereas the Esperance Golf Club has reported a modest decline in juniors and seniors, and an increase in veterans.

The viability of two fully reticulated clubs in Esperance is an issue that may require the attention of the Shire in coming years should issues regarding club volunteerism and membership continue to affect the clubs. Any future Shire support for the two golf clubs in Esperance should be made with a view to the long term sustainability of the sport overall.

12.9.1 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Monitor the situation of the Shire's two fully reticulated golf courses and consider the long term sustainability implications for golf when assessing any future request for funding support from the Shire.



12.10 Bowls Facilities

12.10.1 Needs Analysis

The Shire of Esperance has three bowling facilities – 1 in Esperance, 1 in Condingup and 1 in Scaddan. The Condingup and Scaddan facilities are discussed in the Satellite Town Facility Needs section (Section 12.12).

The Esperance Bowling Club has 2 synthetic bowling greens, 1 croquet green and a green converted to sand for beach volleyball.

The Esperance Bowling Club has its facility needs met. It has good quality playing facilities and a large clubhouse used extensively for community functions. It is shared with Croquet, Beach Volleyball and Darts groups. The facility is used daily and the Club is financially sound.

There have been plans made in the past for the Bowls and Tennis clubs to share a clubroom in the long term given the close proximity of the two facilities; however, there is limited rationale for this proposal based on grounds of practicality. The Esperance Bowling Club is concerned about this situation as they are opposed to the idea of sharing a facility with Tennis.

The Bowls Clubhouse is already used extensively by multiple groups and the community, to add another user large user group such as tennis, whose peak season is also summer, would still require extensive duplication of facilities – effectively requiring the design of two clubhouses back to back. This would come at a significant cost, when it is significantly more cost effective to retain the existing bowls and tennis facilities, which both appear viable in to the long term future.

12.10.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Support the retention of the Esperance Bowling Club Clubhouse facility within long term planning to meet the needs of the Esperance Bowling Club and other compatible user groups.

12.11 Aquatic Centre

12.11.1 Needs Analysis

The Facility Audit and consultation process reveal that the aquatic centre is in relatively good condition and other than general maintenance of the facilities and equipment; there are no major issues with the facility.

It provides a very good array of facilities for a regional facility, including: 8 lane 25m lap pool; hydrotherapy pool; leisure pool with turbo pool, spa and dolphin fountain; and a sauna and 2 spas. They cover the therapeutic, recreational, training and competition needs of the community.

It is reported that usage levels reach towards capacity during peak times of the day in peak season, but overall the usage levels are moderate. It is noted that lap swimming capacity could be improved within the existing pool space through encouraging multiple swimmers per lane, which at the present time users try to avoid.

The steep escalation in pool and building construction costs over the past decade has made building new indoor aquatic centres cost prohibitive for many regional LGAs.



The existing Bay of Isles Leisure Centre (BOILC) aquatic facilities are considered adequate for at least the next 8-12 years assuming an adequate maintenance and renewal program is adhered to. Expansion or replacement of the facility will be a highly costly exercise, and result in significantly increase maintenance and operating costs, including energy costs, and therefore, the existing facility should be used to its maximum potential. Building new should only occur when it is no longer cost effective to continue to maintain the existing facility.

Improvements should continue to be considered by Shire staff and implemented where cost effective to do so, to BOILC by the Shire that reduce operating costs, make the facility more accessible to all persons, and respond to the emerging trends in aquatics to maximise patronage to the centre.

A major consideration should be for a renewable energy source to heat the pools and potentially generate electricity for light and pump use, as energy costs continue to rise and place further burden on the Shire's budget. BOILC staff are currently undertaking such investigations and an energy audit has been completed. Solar hot water systems are due to be installed to the changerooms in 2013/14. It is understood that BOILC currently receives free gas (equivalent of \$200,000 p.a.) for the heating of the pools, however this arrangement is due to expire in 2022, and it is noted that further discussions need to occur with the gas supply company to formally recognise the agreement and plan for future heating needs.

Disabled access changerooms should also be considered for development adjacent to the hydrotherapy pool where there is the greatest need.

At such a time in the future (around 2021 or beyond) that replacement of BOILC does become an option that requires serious consideration, relocation to the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium should be assessed within a feasibility study. As per current planning, land adjacent to the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium (to the east and south) should remain open for the development of a new aquatic centre at such a time that it is required.

12.11.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Retain space at the Greater Sports Ground adjacent to the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium for the potential relocation of the Bay of Isles Leisure Centre in the medium to long term (2021 or beyond) or beyond.
- Plan for the implementation of an alternative, cost effective source of pool heating that reduces reliance on costly fossil fuel consumption and have it implemented prior to the current free gas supply agreement finishing in 2022.



12.12 Satellite Town Facilities

12.12.1 Needs Analysis

The Shire of Esperance has seven satellite towns - Condingup, Gibson, Grass Patch, Salmon Gums, Scaddan, Dalyup and Cascade.

Each of these town sites has provision of some recreation facilities. The following facility needs are identified for each town site:

Condingup

Condingup is one of the larger satellite towns (population 438) and is very well provided for with recreation facilities including:

- A sports ground with:
 - Single indoor court
 - High standard sports clubhouse/community function facilities
- A country club with
 - 4 tennis courts
 - A synthetic bowling green
 - 18 hole golf course (non reticulated, sand greens)

There is also the Primary School which has a small oval and outdoor hard court.

There is limited rationale for the provision of any additional recreation facilities for the Condingup population given the level facilities already provided and the low population.

Consideration should be given to the consolidation of some facilities that appear no longer utilised. These include the western two tennis courts at the Condingup Country Club and the two outdoor courts at Condingup Oval. These old features are dilapidated and detract from the aesthetics of these community facilities. If these facilities were removed the community would still have access to two good tennis courts at the Country Club and the indoor court at the Oval. The population size of Condingup does not justify the upgrade of these facilities to make them active again.

The outdoor courts at the Oval could potentially have dilapidated old court hardware and fencing removed, and lines marked on for parking which would be of benefit during community events and wet weather.

Gibson

Gibson has a similar population size to Condingup (445); however, it is only a 15 minute drive from Esperance. It has a single football/cricket oval with a high standard, recently upgraded clubhouse.

There are no other recreation facilities for this town; however, due to its close proximity to Esperance, there is limited justification for support the provision of additional facilities.

Scaddan

Scaddan is a small town with a population of approximately 200, located approximately 50km north of Esperance, and 25km from Grass Patch and Gibson. The recreation facilities located in the Townsite are the bowling green, golf course and clubhouse which are all in good condition.



There is also the Scaddan Primary School which houses an outdoor partly covered hard court and a small oval.

Given the small size of the community, and that it is within 15 min drive of both Grass Patch – where tennis courts are available, and Gibson – where a full size football/cricket oval is available, the residents can be considered well serviced with recreation facility options. Therefore there is limited rationale for the provision of additional recreation facilities.

Grass Patch

Grass Patch is located 75km north of Esperance, located between Scaddan and Salmon Gums (15 min drive each way). It has a population of approximately 200.

Recreation facilities include a Tennis Club with 3 recently refurbished tennis courts and a small shelter, a community hall and a disused, unmaintained oval. There is also a small primary school with a small oval and partially covered outdoor court.

The level of facilities provided is appropriate for the size of the community, and considering that golf and bowling facilities are available within 15 min drive, and a full sized oval within 30min drive.

The tennis club is separated by 40m from the community hall and disused oval. When future redevelopments for the courts are required, consideration should be given to moving the courts adjacent to the Hall, to encourage greater use of this facility, and players benefitting from improved access to toilets, kitchen and social facilities.

Salmon Gums

Salmon Gums is a small town with a population of approximately 160, located 105 km north of Esperance. Its recreation facilities include a four court tennis club (with an old basketball/netball court) and a golf course. There is also a primary school with junior oval and basketball/netball court available, and a Gun Club and Sporting Shooters on the opposite side of Town.

The golf clubhouse is a small basic structure, and the tennis shelter and storage is in poor condition. The four tennis courts are in good/average condition although some maintenance work on them will be required in the short term as large cracks are developing. The basketball/netball court is in poor condition.

The Shire is supporting funding applications for the development of a multi-purpose community centre at the site to cater for the Salmon Gums Golf Club, Salmon Gums Tennis Club, P&C, Playgroup, Emergency Services, Mallee Farm Improvement Group and CWA (See All Purpose Committee Meeting Agenda 18 Sept 2012). Plans have been drawn up with the facility including a social/function room, bar, kitchen, offices, toilets and showers, a play room and an outdoor entertaining area.

This proposed new facility will replace several small facilities including the golf and tennis club buildings, and will be the community focal point for meetings and social gatherings. Whilst the Shire is providing its support for this development, funding from other agencies is required to progress this project.

This project has significant justification based on a single shared facility being developed for all community groups in town, thus significantly improving the sustainability of future facility upkeep in Salmon Gums.



The Gun and Sporting Shooters clubs in Salmon Gums have very small membership numbers (10 & 7 respectively). They have basic but adequate facilities and do not require any upgrades.

Given the small population of the Town, there is limited rationale for provision of additional recreation facilities.

Cascade

Cascade has a population of approximately 200 and is located 100km to the north west of Esperance and is not located near any other significant towns. Its sporting facilities consist of a senior sized oval (used by Cascade Cricket Club), a clubhouse used by the community, 2 recently refurbished synthetic tennis courts with lighting and cricket practice nets. There are also an additional two tennis courts that are dilapidated and in an unusable state and should be removed or potentially converted into parking.

The Primary School is well located adjacent and opening out to the oval. It has one basketball and one netball court side by side, both in good condition.

The oval turf quality is average, however, given its limited use of several club cricket games per year, it is considered adequate.

Overall, Cascade is considered well provided for with recreation facilities.

Dalyup

Dalyup is a locality with a population of approximately 100. It is located 35km to the west of Esperance. Although it was gazetted in 1962, there is no actual town site. There is a community hall with four tennis courts however. The hall appears to still be in use and in good condition however the tennis courts and outdoor areas including a practice wall area are falling into disrepair. 1 court is unusable and another court is in very poor condition, two courts are useable but in average condition.

Given that there is no town site in Dalyup, and that it is in close proximity to the Esperance town site, there is limited rationale for the Shire to support the refurbishment of the courts or the hall. The Shire should consider liaising with and supporting the removal of facilities and equipment no longer utilised by the community including the two courts in poor/unusable condition and the external features such as the practice wall area.

12.12.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Liaise with and support the Condingup Country Club to remove the two western tennis courts.
- Liaise with and support the Condingup and Districts Recreation Association to remove the outdoor hard courts or convert to a parking area.
- Support the development of the Salmon Gums Community Facility.
- Liaise with and support the Cascade Recreation Association to remove the two old tennis courts or convert to parking.
- Liaise with and support the Dalyup Progress Association to remove dilapidated and unused facilities external to the hall including removing the two tennis courts.



- Support requests for minor improvements to the Satellite town facilities that improve sustainability and accessibility.

12.13 Esperance Skate Park

12.13.1 Needs Analysis

The Esperance Skate Park is a large facility (1,000m²), however it is fairly basic in terms of the skateable/rideable features provided, and it is deteriorating with many large cracks evident and the steel tube coping being heavily degraded in places.

It is well located at the Adventure Park, near the beach and cafe facilities. Whilst skate parks are predominantly a recreational facility, they can also be significant sporting facilities and host skate/scooter/BMX clinics and competitions.

There is rationale for a major upgrade of the skate park including making repairs as well as potentially modifying, expanding or adding ramps, a bowl and other features to provide more interesting and challenging experiences and ensure maximum safety for participants. This could potentially be a significant capital works undertaking; therefore, a needs assessment and feasibility study is warranted.

12.13.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Commission a Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study for the Esperance Skate Park.

12.14 Specialised Single Use Facilities

12.14.1 Needs Analysis

Within the Shire of Esperance there are numerous specialised single use facilities such as the Motorcycle Club, Kart Klub, Equestrian Club, Aero Club, Yacht Club, Golf Clubs and many more.

These clubs and facilities have come about through groups of people with similar interests coming together, acquiring a peppercorn lease agreement on a suitable piece of land and developing their facilities largely self funded and with extensive voluntary labour.

Up to the present time, Shire involvement in many of these facilities has been minimal. Given the number and range of facilities that the numerous groups have developed over the decades, it is not feasible to for the Shire to expand its level of support to these specialised clubs in a significant way. These specialised sports clubs will need to continue to be almost entirely self sufficient to remain functional in the future.

As with all sports, the specialised clubs are also facing significant challenges that affect their future viability. These clubs facilities rely on volunteers to manage and maintain them, and conduct fundraising where significant funds are required, however, volunteers are coming harder to come by and the existing volunteers are suffering from burnout.



The key need for specialised sports clubs (and indeed all clubs) to enable them to maintain their existing facilities and progressively upgrade in the future is for new and energetic volunteers to join their committees and working groups. A committee with committed and energetic volunteers has far greater willingness to undertake strategic planning and take advantage of the various forms of assistance designed to increase the capacity of clubs which may be onerous in the short term but have significant, long lasting benefits over the long term.

Shire support for encouraging and supporting a new generation of volunteers is discussed in the Services Needs for Shire of Esperance section.

With regards to direct support from the Shire to specialised single use facilities, (i.e. funding for new or redeveloped facilities), this report finds that the status quo should remain - where support may be provided for minor upgrades through traditional community development funding processes, as opposed to major facility redevelopments.

12.14.2 Recommendations

No new strategies are recommended regarding direct support for facility provision for specialised sports clubs.

12.15 Accountability for Maintenance of Facilities

12.15.1 Needs Analysis

Overall, the Shire's sporting clubs have demonstrated their capacity over several decades to build, maintain and progressively upgrade their facilities and continue to do so. The overall appearance of the facilities is not of the same standard as facilities that are managed commercially or by the Shire which is to be expected due to the not for profit, volunteer basis of the sporting clubs.

However, the site visits to the numerous sports facilities located throughout the Shire revealed that a number of the facilities had old and unused items and scrap materials lying around the premises. Whilst the majority of major structures looked to be in adequate condition or better, a number of facilities showed signs of deterioration, with one such example being the pedestrian overpass at the Speedway. This presents poorly to potential new members, and can raise questions to potential funding agencies as to the future viability of the organisation and their capacity to undertake significant new projects.

The venues with the most obvious issues were the ones located outside of Esperance, and the reason for the accumulated scrap and deteriorating or dilapidated equipment and facilities etc may be because of declining voluntary labour levels within the clubs and because they are out of the public eye, thus, the state of the venue is allowed to deteriorate further prior to action being undertaken to resolve these issues.

Ensuring the leased facilities are neat and tidy and well maintained is entirely the responsibility of the lease holder according to the Shire's lease agreements.

There is justification for the Shire to undertake annual inspections of leased club facilities as other larger LGA's are doing, to allow the Shire to monitor the condition of the facilities and prompt the leaseholders to undertake remedial actions for any significant issues.



The inspection may simply be a walkthrough of the facility with any visually obvious issues noted and recorded by the Shire, with feedback provided to the leaseholder. An increased presence by the Shire at these facilities that are otherwise out of sight and out of mind should improve the accountability of these clubs, and encourage a higher standard of upkeep without needing to be prompted by the Shire. Internal Shire staff discussions should resolve which department is best suited to carrying out this function (Corporate, Development or Engineering Services).

12.15.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Consider the implementation of an annual inspection of all sports club leased facilities through the appropriate department, including provision for feedback to be provided to clubs where significant issues exist.



13 SERVICES NEEDS FOR THE SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

In addition to the analysis of future sports facility requirements for the Shire of Esperance, this Study has also investigated the types of services that are required in the Shire to move sports clubs on to a path of increasing sustainability and self sufficiency. It is suspected that without concerted action by the Shire, the challenges that sports clubs are facing will continue to reduce their capacity to provide sports facilities and programs, and ever increasing demands are likely to be placed on the Shire to take over these roles traditionally undertaken by sports clubs within the Shire of Esperance.

13.1 Development of a New Generation of Volunteers

13.1.1 Needs Analysis

As stated on the Department of Sport and Recreation website, “*Volunteers are crucial to the culture of Western Australia and form the backbone of delivery in local communities.*” (<http://clubsonline.dsr.wa.gov.au/community-volunteer-project>)

The rich range of sporting activities that are available in Esperance are due to groups of like minded people coming together and voluntarily working very hard together to build facilities and run programs which, over several generations, have become part of the fabric of the local community.

The overall health of sports clubs in the Shire is directly linked to the health of the culture of volunteerism. Unfortunately, it is well documented in State, National and International literature that the culture of volunteerism is facing major challenges. Many clubs in the Shire have reported a lack of volunteers as a major concern. With increasing demands on peoples’ time, the easy option of simply paying for a service, rather than joining and being committed to a club, is becoming increasingly popular. The culture of volunteerism is being lost in the younger generations everywhere. This is a trend that needs to be reversed for the Shire to maintain a wide array of healthy and sustainable sports clubs into the future.

The development of a new generation of volunteers is a major focus of the West Australian Government, having been identified as a key challenge in DSR’s ***Sport and Recreation Industry Strategic Directions: 2011-2015*** document (SD5) from which the ***Community Volunteer Project*** has emerged, tasked with this specific objective.

The development of a new generation of volunteers is crucial to the long term health of sports clubs in the Shire of Esperance. It is self evident that clubs with vibrant and committed volunteers to sit on committees, coach the participants and coordinate the activities are the ones that enjoy strong membership bases and have remarkable capacity to plan, fundraise, seek sponsorship and grants, and call upon internal resources to build and maintain substantial facilities.

In acknowledging the vital role that sports club volunteerism has in the Shire of Esperance, and acknowledging that culture of volunteering is in decline, it is clear that the area of greatest need for Shire support within the sporting sphere is volunteer development.

There is already a large degree of volunteer development support provided to sports clubs and to not for profit community organisations in general, however, there is a significant gap that needs to be overcome.



Sports clubs are able to access a wide range of volunteer training resources through the Department of Sport and Recreation including the *Community Volunteer Project*, the *Clubs Online* website and through the jointly funded *Esperance/Ravensthorpe Club Development Officer* who regularly organises training seminars for club volunteers as part of his Club Development role.

The Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre also provides a information and training opportunities for not for profit groups of all types, as well as providing a volunteer position referral service for volunteer involving agencies and acting as a central point for volunteer recruitment drives and major volunteer recognition celebrations.

The major issue with the support that is currently provided to sports clubs to develop their volunteer base is that it requires significant effort from the clubs' existing volunteers to take advantage of the support on offer. However, in many cases, the smaller and weaker clubs have volunteers that are simply there to keep the doors open and the club operational. They do not have the time or willingness to attend training sessions, expand their role into volunteer coordinators, and undertake volunteer management plans and the like. The clubs that take advantage of the volunteer development support on offer are the stronger clubs that already have enthusiastic committee members, whilst the weaker clubs are left behind.

The crucial ingredient for clubs to take advantage of the wealth of support that is available for volunteer development, and indeed almost all other forms of club development support available to sports clubs, is the recruitment of enthusiastic committee members. This is where the gap lies. **In order to increase the strength and capabilities of clubs, this Study has identified a strong need for a significant increase in the Shire's involvement in volunteer recruitment for sports clubs.**

It is considered that the Shire will achieve the greatest outcomes in volunteer development through the commitment resources towards having someone locally on the ground working with sports clubs to recruit new volunteers. Part of this role should also include supporting these new volunteers as they learn the various responsibilities of their position to ensure their successful transition into volunteering.

Providing direct support to new volunteers is considered integral to recruitment in the younger generations, as it means that the sports clubs can attract people with little or no experience in volunteer capacities and give them confidence that they will be well supported as they make their first foray into the coordination of sporting club activities.

Support may include such things as being available on the phone and in person to discuss issues as they arise, provide materials directly relevant to the volunteer's new role, and provide assistance with specific tasks as they are encountered by the new volunteer recruits for the first time.

Recruitment activities would be undertaken in partnership with the sports clubs, and it is anticipated that the relevant staff members would trial innovative new ways of converting club members into volunteers.

It is anticipated that the Shire's investment in recruiting and supporting new volunteers will have a multiplying effect for sports club development in the Shire. Clubs with vibrant committees will have greater willingness and capacity to:

- Undertake volunteer training and development opportunities provided by DSR
- Develop Strategic Business Plans
- Work with the Club Development Officer to achieve key club development outcomes
- Seek funding and grants from a wide range of sources, both public and private



- Respond to changing needs of members and drive future participation growth
- Seek greater support from State Sporting Associations
- Improve management of their facilities through development of Asset Management Plans
- Take advantage of shared use opportunities

Consultation should occur with key stakeholders (including the Shire of Ravensthorpe and DSR) regarding the provision of additional human resources for the purpose of volunteer recruitment and support, potentially through the expansion of the Club Development Officer role. The Shire of Ravensthorpe is currently considering a similar proposal as the issue of declining volunteerism is equally important to them, therefore there may be an opportunity to combine resources to provide additional resources towards volunteer recruitment and support across both Shires in a similar fashion to the Club Development Officer Scheme which also covers both Shires.

With the spotlight that is currently placed on the impact on declining volunteerism and decreased club capacity in regional WA due to a variety of social and economic factors, there may be opportunities for public and private funding partnerships for this initiative.

13.1.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Recognise the need to recruit and support the next generation of sports club volunteers.
- With key stakeholders, consider allocating resources specifically to the task of recruiting new volunteers and providing them with direct support as they learn their new roles.
- Seek public and private funding partnerships for the costs associated with the allocation of resources towards volunteer recruitment and support.

13.2 Club Development Officer Scheme

13.2.1 Needs Analysis

The Shire of Esperance, in conjunction with the Department of Sport and Recreation, Shire of Ravensthorpe and the Esperance District Recreation Association, employs a full time Community Development Officer (CDO), Shane Tobin, who role is to support the 126 clubs in the Esperance/Ravensthorpe region.

The CDO's responsibilities include:

- Initiate contact with EDRA, Clubs, Sporting Associations and Shires of Esperance and Ravensthorpe to develop and implement plans to deliver development programs
- Work to support clubs with funding, workshops and programs on offer
- Update and maintain a club database
- Coordinate Sports Star of the Year with the EDRA committee
- Create Annual Sporting Calendars
- Help identify club needs and provide continued support
- KidSport contact in the Shire of Esperance & Shire of Ravensthorpe

Consultation within the Shire of Esperance, other regional LGA's and regional DSR Offices confirms that the CDO is of key importance to the Shire's sports clubs. Some of the reported benefits include:



- More clubs are applying for facilities grants and the quality of grant applications is improving.
- Stronger links are being created between clubs and the Council, DSR and their State Sporting Associations, and between the clubs themselves.
- Facilitation of shared use of facilities between sporting clubs.

Many regional LGA's have observed the benefits that CDO's provide and are seeking to appoint their own through the same CDO scheme that DSR provides. Given that the CDO position is co funded by DSR, there is a degree of uncertainty about the long term future funding of this position.

This report finds that the CDO scheme is of high value to the Shire of Esperance, and this position should be continued into the long term future even if DSR were to cease their contributions at some point in the future.

The Shire should also ensure it has a high degree of involvement in strategic club development planning for the region undertaken by the Department of Sport and Recreation Goldfields Office to ensure that future modifications and improvements to the CDO scheme and other club development initiatives are considerate of the needs of the Shire's sporting clubs.

13.2.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Recognise the importance of the maintaining the Club Development Officer position in to the long term future to support the continued development of the Shires sports clubs.
- Liaise with the Department of Sport and Recreation Goldfields Office to ensure the Shire has a high level of contribution to future club development strategic planning for the region.

13.3 Communications

13.3.1 Needs Analysis

Effective communications between the Shire and the sports clubs is an integral component of club development. Poor communications has not been raised as a significant issue during the consultation process, likely due in part to the significant efforts of the Club Development Officer to maintain a club database and regularly contact the clubs with regards to various meetings, programs and initiatives being undertaken.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there are sports clubs that have been 'off the radar' of the Shire's officers, this is due to mainly to the concerned clubs keeping to themselves and not seeing a need to make contact with the Shire.

Whilst communications in general between the Shire and clubs are good, it can always be improved. Facebook and other social media are becoming more and more entrenched in the way in which Western Society communicates, and this will need to feature in the CDO's communication methods in the future.



The use of online surveys such as Survey Monkey is also an effective communication technique. It significantly enhances the ability of the Shire to quickly and effectively collect and analyse information from clubs or the general community, whether it is simply seeking RSVP's to training seminars, updating contact details or conducting a comprehensive club survey seeking a wide range of club information.

Clubs also have a lot to benefit from taking advantage of the latest advances in communication. Effective communication techniques can help them better respond to members needs and promote their clubs in the community. Effective communication is an area of club development that DSR has a strong focus on, as demonstrated with its Club Talk initiative which is tasked with rolling out cost effective information communication technology to all not for profit sporting organisations. Further information can be found at <http://www.clubsonline.dsr.wa.gov.au/clubtalk>.

There is rationale for the Shire to consider the development of a *Sports Communications Strategy*, updated annually, that focuses on improving communication between the Shire and the sports clubs and the general community, and between the sports clubs and their members and the general community, to ensure that the latest technologies and techniques are being used to their full advantage.

13.3.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance:

- Develop a Sports Communications Strategy, updated annually, for the purpose of improving communications between the Shire, sports clubs and the general community.



14 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table presents the recommendations proposed within this report to meet the needs of the community. The recommendations are prioritised Low, Medium, High and Very High so as to provide some guidance for the Shire on setting priorities when developing an Action Plan for the implementation of these Recommendations. The proposed timeframes are aligned with the Shire's Growth Plan Document – Planning Our Future, which are as follows:

Short Term	2012 - 2016
Medium Term	2016 - 2026
Long Term	2026 - 2036

Area	Recommendation	Priority	Timeframe
Facilities			
Active Reserves	1. Retain existing sports ovals and implement the active reserve development proposals in the GSG Interim Layout Plan.	High	Medium Term
Greater Sports Ground	2. Commission the preparation of a new Greater Sports Ground Master Plan to take into account the latest developments and research findings affecting the precinct.	Very High	Short Term
	3. Within the Greater Sports Ground Master Plan, conduct a Clubhouse and Amenities Facilities Feasibility Study that examines multiple options for meeting the long term need of the user groups.	Very High	Short Term
Sports Field Lighting	4. Support the Esperance Hockey Association for the development of a competition level hockey lighting system for a hockey field, with consideration given to a 500 lux system, to be planned within a new master plan for the Greater Sports Ground.	Medium	Short / Mid Term
	5. Support the Ports Football Club for the development of competition level lighting of the oval, with consideration given to a 250 lux system with 300 lux over the cricket wicket.	Medium	Short / Mid Term
	6. Support the Gibson Football Club for the development of upgraded training lights at Gibson Oval.	Medium	Short term
Indoor Sports Courts	7. Support Option 2 as the preferred model for development of the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium, subject to the findings of further investigations as recommended within the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium Feasibility Study.	High	Short Term



Area	Recommendation	Priority	Timeframe
Facilities			
Clubhouse Facilities	8. Support refurbishments and upgrades of existing clubhouse facilities according to principles in keeping with the Department of Sport and Recreation WA's Community Sports and Recreation Facilities Fund where it is cost effective to do so.	Case by Case Basis	Ongoing
	9. In cases where a clubhouse is nearing the end of its lifespan and it is not cost effective to refurbish or upgrade, investigate and prioritise multi-user group options for development of new clubhouse facilities.	Case by Case Basis	Ongoing
Ancillary Features	10. Continue to support requests for ancillary feature provision at sports facilities through existing community development funding processes.	Case by Case Basis	Ongoing
Ballistic Sports Precinct	11. Conduct a detailed investigation for potential sites to accommodate a Ballistics Sports Precinct.	High	Short Term
	12. Upon identification of a preferred Ballistics Sports Precinct Location, conduct a Ballistics Sports Precinct Feasibility Study which should take into account the relocation of the SSAAWA Esperance Brach, Esperance Pistol Club and Archery group in the short-medium term, and the relocation of the Esperance Bay Gun Club and Esperance Rifle Club in the long term.	High	Short Term
Tennis Facilities	13. Continue to support the Esperance Tennis Club as a regional facility for the Shire.	Very High	Ongoing
	14. Continue to support improvements to the existing facilities at the Esperance Tennis Club through its traditional community development funding processes.	High	Ongoing
Golf Facilities	15. Monitor the situation of the Shire's two fully reticulated golf courses and consider the long term sustainability implications for golf when assessing any future request for funding support from the Shire.	Medium	Ongoing



Area	Recommendation	Priority	Timeframe
Facilities			
Bowls Facilities	16. Support the retention of the Esperance Bowling Club Clubhouse facility within long term planning to meet the needs of the Esperance Bowling Club and other compatible user groups.	High	Short Term
Aquatic Centre	17. Retain space at the Greater Sports Ground adjacent to the Esperance Indoor Sports Stadium for the potential relocation of the Bay of Isles Leisure Centre in the medium to long term (2021 or beyond) or beyond.	High	Ongoing
	18. Plan for the implementation of an alternative, cost effective source of pool heating that reduces reliance on costly fossil fuel consumption and have it implemented prior to the current free gas supply agreement finishing in 2022.	High	Medium Term
Satellite Town Facilities	19. Liaise with and support the Condingup Country Club to remove the two western tennis courts.	Low	Short Term
	20. Liaise with and support the Condingup and Districts Recreation Association to remove the outdoor hard courts or convert to a parking area.	Low	Short Term
	21. Support the development of the Salmon Gums Community Facility.	High	Short / Mid Term
	22. Liaise with and support the Cascade Recreation Association to remove the two old tennis courts or convert to parking.	Low	Short term
	23. Liaise with and support the Dalyup Progress Association to remove dilapidated and unused facilities external to the hall including removing the two tennis courts.	Low	Short Term
Esperance Skate Park	24. Support requests for minor improvements to the Satellite town facilities that improve sustainability and accessibility.	Medium	Ongoing
	25. Commission a Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study for the Esperance Skate Park.	Very High	Short Term
Accountability for Maintenance of Existing Facilities	26. Consider the implementation of an annual inspection of all sports club leased facilities through the appropriate department, including provision for feedback to be provided to clubs where significant issues exist.	High	Short Term



Area	Recommendation	Priority	Timeframe
SERVICES			
Volunteer Development	27. Recognise the need to recruit and support the next generation of sports club volunteers.	Very High	Short Term
	28. With key stakeholders, consider allocating resources specifically to the task of recruiting new volunteers and providing them with direct support as they learn their new roles.	Very High	Short Term
	29. Seek public and private funding partnerships for the costs associated with the allocation of resources towards volunteer recruitment and support.	Very High	Short Term
Club Development Officer Scheme	30. Recognise the importance of the maintaining the Club Development Officer position in to the long term future to support the continued development of the Shires sports clubs.	Very High	Short Term
	31. Liaise with the Department of Sport and Recreation Goldfields Office to ensure the Shire has a high level of contribution to future club development strategic planning for the region.	Very High	Short Term
Communications Strategy	32. Develop a Sports Communications Strategy, updated annually, for the purpose of improving communications between the Shire, sports clubs and the general community.	High	Short Term
OTHER			
Active Reserve Fees and Charges	33. It is recommended that the Shire of Esperance consider invoicing active reserve users according to their seasons – summer and winter, to assist with management of club finances.	Medium	Short Term
Action Plan	34. Develop an Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations listed within this report.	High	Short Term
Annual Review of the Sports Facilities and Services Plan	35. Review the Shire of Esperance Sports Facilities and Services Plan on an annual basis to monitor progress of the implementation of the recommendations and to account for any changes within the financial, social, environmental or political operating environments that may impact on the sports facilities and services needs of the community.	Very High	Ongoing



15 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Facility Audit

Appendix 2 Sports Facility Location Maps

Appendix 3 Fees for Use of Sports Facilities and Active Reserves Benchmarking Review

Appendix 4 Consultation Document

Appendix 5 Revised Greater Sports Ground Master Plan, March 2011

Appendix 6 Greater Sports Ground Interim Layout Plan, March 2011

Appendix 7 Esperance Football Facilities Review Active Reserve Needs Analysis



APPENDIX 1 SHIRE OF ESPERANCE SPORTS FACILITIES AUDIT

1	ESPERANCE MODEL AERO CLUB	3
2	ESPERANCE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL.....	4
3	BAY OF ISLES LEISURE CENTRE.....	5
4	CASCADES OVAL.....	6
5	CASCADE PRIMARY SCHOOL.....	7
6	CONDINGUP COUNTRY CLUB.....	8
7	CONDINGUP OVAL.....	9
8	DALYUP TENNIS CLUB.....	10
9	CONDINGUP PRIMARY SCHOOL.....	11
10	ESPERANCE EQUESTRIAN GROUNDS	12
11	ESPERANCE BOWLING CLUB	13
12	ESPERANCE TENNIS CLUB	14
13	ESPERANCE CRICKET GROUND.....	15
14	ESPERANCE GOLF CLUB	16
15	ESPERANCE RIFLE CLUB	17
16	ESPERANCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL.....	18
17	ESPERANCE GOLDFIELDS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	19
18	ESPERANCE BAY TURF CLUB	20
19	GIBSON FOOTBALL CLUB OVAL.....	21
20	GRASS PATCH OVAL	22
21	GRASS PATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL.....	23
22	GRASS PATCH TENNIS CLUB.....	24
23	HOCKEY, SOFTBALL & ATHLETICS FACILITIES, GREATER SPORTS GROUND.....	25
24	ESPERANCE INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM.....	27
25	ESPERANCE KART KLUB	29
26	ESPERANCE MOTORCYCLE CLUB.....	30
27	ESPERANCE MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK.....	31
28	OUTDOOR NETBALL COURTS, GREATER SPORTS GROUND	32
29	SOCCER GROUNDS, GREATER SPORTS GROUND.....	33
30	NEWTOWN OVAL	34
31	PINK LAKE GOLF COURSE.....	35
32	PORTS FOOTBALL CLUB OVAL.....	36
33	ESPERANCE SPEEDWAY	37
34	SALMON GUMS GOLF CLUB.....	38
35	SALMON GUMS GUN CLUB.....	39



36	SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA, SALMON GUMS BRANCH	40
37	SALMON GUMS PRIMARY SCHOOL.....	41
38	SALMON GUMS TENNIS CLUB.....	42
39	SCADDAN COUNTRY CLUB.....	43
40	SCADDAN PRIMARY SCHOOL.....	44
41	SCROLLY PARK VELODROME AND BMX TRACK.....	45
42	ESPERANCE SKATE PARK.....	46
43	ESPERANCE BAY YACHT CLUB	47
44	ESPERANCE DEEP SEA ANGLING CLUB	48
45	ESPERANCE DISTRICT BADMINTON CLUB	49
46	ESPERANCE SQUASH CLUB	50



1 ESPERANCE MODEL AERO CLUB



Location	Myrup Road (driveway 100m from Coolgardie Esperance Highway intersection), 11km north of Esperance CBD (straight line).	
Description / Condition	Tin shed shelter, disabled toilet and cleared paddock with gravel driveways and model plane runways. Good condition.	
Usage	Monthly meets and by members as required.	
Strategic Planning	No strategic plan. Club is small, financial and has all needs met.	
Strengths Facilities are well kept, meet current and future needs of the Aero Club	Weaknesses	
Opportunities Potential for sharing some facilities with other special interest groups that may form in the future that only have basic facility requirements.	Obstacles	
Management	Peppercorn Lease	
Comments	Club is financial and satisfied with facilities, low outgoings.	

2 ESPERANCE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Tennis Courts



Playing Fields – poor turf



Rectangular Field



EACS Aerial View



Multi-use court

Location	5 Griffin Street, Esperance	
Description / Condition	Private Anglican High School (Yr's 8-12) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Single outdoor multi-use court (basketball/tennis/netball), hard court acrylic surface – Good condition but evidence of poor water runoff. ▪ 2 tennis courts, hardcourt acrylic. Good condition ▪ Rectangular sports field (Approx 95m x 55m), very poor turf quality. 	
Usage	School use for lunch time play and organised sporting activities.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Sports field meets minimum soccer dimension requirements. Three hardcourts are in good condition	Weaknesses The courts have poor water runoff, particularly the multi-use court.
Opportunities	The school sporting facilities may provide potential overflow capacity for clubs that outgrow existing facilities.	Obstacles The condition of the turf is very poor and would need some improvement for community sporting use.
Management	The Esperance Anglican Community School Council are responsible for the governing the School on behalf of The Anglican Schools Commission Inc. (ASC) in accordance with a School Constitution and policies established by the ASC. The Principal is responsible for the day-to-day management of the School.	
Comments	The school has made its facilities available for Little Athletics in the past.	

3 BAY OF ISLES LEISURE CENTRE



Hydrotherapy Pool



Multi Use Hall



Spa and Sauna



Gymnasium



Function room



External View

Location	Black Street, Esperance. Opposite Greater Sports Ground.	
Description / Condition	Has the following facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 25m, 8 lane pool, good condition. ▪ 290m 2 free form leisure pool, good condition ▪ Hydrotherapy pool, good condition ▪ Spa and Sauna, good condition ▪ Aquatics male, female and disabled m/f changerooms. Fair/Good condition, some refurbishments required. ▪ Multi-purpose hall (one court size), fair condition – ageing. ▪ Function room with prep room, good condition ▪ Gymnasium, good condition ▪ M/F toilets with disabled, good condition ▪ Crèche, good condition 	
Usage	Open to the public 7 days per week. Hall used for gymnastics, martial arts, fitness classes etc.	
Strategic Planning	Feasibility Study for gym expansion to be completed 2013.	
Strengths Good range of facilities for a health and fitness centre	Weaknesses Insufficient disabled changing facilities in the aquatic area. Gymnastics unable to permanently set up equipment. Lack of dedicated fitness class room.	
Opportunities Indoor stadium upgrade may provide potential for changes to BOILC including relocation of gymnastics and martial arts. Would provide ability for a larger gym and dedicated fitness class rooms to be provided. Develop disabled access changerooms near the hydrotherapy pool.	Obstacles Dependent on Stadium upgrade plans being implemented	
Management	Managed by Shire of Esperance.	
Comments	Indoor Stadium and Gym Expansion Draft Reports currently being considered by Shire.	

4 CASCADES OVAL



Clubhouse Bar Area



Tennis Courts



Cricket Practice Nets



Aerial View



Oval

Location	50 Wirra Place, Cascade	
Description / Condition	Cascade Oval consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football/Cricket Oval 160m x 115m. Turf quality is average. Synthetic Wicket is good. ▪ 2 synthetic tennis (with 5 a side hockey court marked) courts near Clubhouse with lighting, very good condition. ▪ 2 disused tennis courts. Unusable, requires removal. ▪ Clubhouse including bar and social area, amenities, hall and covered barbeque area, ageing (32 years) but good condition. ▪ Cricket practice nets (2 synthetic wickets), poor/average condition. 	
Usage	Oval is used by the Cascade Cricket Club (1 team) and the Cascade Primary School.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Oval meets minimum AFL and cricket requirements. Two synthetic tennis courts are lit and in very good condition. Towns sporting facilities and primary school collocated in the one area.	Weaknesses The oval turf quality is average. The two disused tennis courts detract from the aesthetics of the reserve.
Opportunities	Old tennis courts should be removed to improve the safety and amenity of the reserve. Decommission one of the cricket practice wickets and improve the other.	Obstacles
Management	Managed and maintained by Cascade Town Recreation Association, with some	

	assistance from the Shire. Peppercorn lease arrangement.
Comments	Cascade is unlikely to require an expansion of sporting facilities in the future due to low population. Focus should be on the improvement of the quality of the existing facilities and removing disused facilities.

5 CASCADE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Bitumen Netball Court



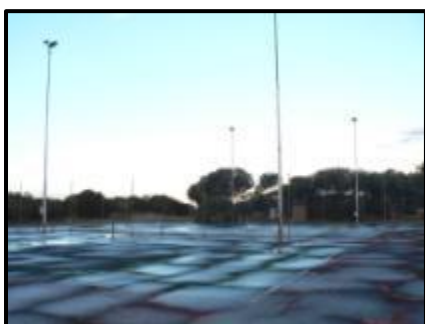
Bitumen Basketball Court



Cracks in Bitumen Surface

Location	50 Wirra Place, Cascade, adjacent Cascade Oval.	
Description / Condition	Small primary school with 2 bitumen courts side by side – 1 basketball and 1 netball. Good condition although there is some cracking.	
Usage	Used by school students. 2013 enrolment 29 students.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Sufficient for school's needs. Courts are open, children are able to access the basketball court out of school hours if they wish. Good collocation with town's recreation facilities.	Weaknesses
Opportunities		Obstacles
Management	Public primary school, owned and managed by DET.	
Comments	The school and recreation ground facilities meet/exceed the needs for the school children.	

6 CONDINGUP COUNTRY CLUB



Eastern 2 Tennis Courts



Western 2 Tennis Courts



Clubhouse



Bar/Social Area



Synthetic Bowling Green



Golf Course

Location	Reserve 27363, Corner Fisheries Road and Ridgeland Road, 2km east of Condingup town site.	
Description / Condition	<p>The Country Club has the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4 tennis hardcourts (acrylic), western 2 in very poor condition – appear to be disused. Eastern 2 courts are in poor condition but appear to be used. The courts have a basic level of lighting. Overall tennis infrastructure is old and in need of renewal/replacement. ▪ Clubhouse including bar/social room, amenities and undercover barbeque area. Ageing but good condition. ▪ 18 hole non reticulated sand green golf course (turf tee boxes). Good condition ▪ 1 synthetic bowling green with lighting, X years old, good condition. 	
Usage	Used by club members for bowls, golf and tennis. 35 capitated bowls members in 2011/12.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Bowling green, golf course and Clubhouse are in good condition.	Weaknesses Tennis courts are in poor condition.
Opportunities	Rationalisation from four courts to two may justified, and two courts improved to a good standard.	Obstacles
Management	Condingup Country Club Management Committee, peppercorn lease arrangement with the Shire.	
Comments	Condingup is a farming based town which has been affected by the trend towards larger farms/less workers, thus a decrease in population and sports participants. The Town is unlikely to require an increase in facilities in the future, therefore the focus should be on maintaining/improving the facilities that are currently available and being well utilised.	

7 CONDINGUP OVAL



Former Hockey Field



Indoor Court



Oval & Community Centre



Condingup Oval Aerial View



Outdoor Courts

Location	303 Sutcliffe Street, Condingup	
Description / Condition	Condingup Oval consists of the following facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football Oval 165m x 130m with basic level training lighting, good turf condition. ▪ Hockey field – no longer used – on minimal maintenance levels to keep tidy. ▪ 2 outdoor bitumen multi-use courts, poor condition. ▪ Condingup Community Centre Building including social facilities, changerooms, crèche and indoor court. Very good condition. 	
Usage	Oval used for 3 senior football fixtures each year by the Newton/Condingup FC. Community uses the building for functions and events, social basketball played on indoor court on a weekly basis.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Condingup Community Centre is very well equipped, one of the best clubhouse's in the Shire.	Weaknesses Outdoor basketball courts and hockey field no longer used.
Opportunities	Removal of the outdoor court hardware may be warranted, and bitumen marked for parking which may be of benefit for community events.	Obstacles
Management	Condingup and Districts Recreation Association, peppercorn lease arrangement with the Shire.	
Comments	Condingup is a farming based town which has been affected by the trend towards larger farms/less workers, thus a decrease in population and sports participants. The Town is unlikely to require an increase in facilities in the future, therefore the focus should be on maintaining/improving the facilities that are currently available and being well utilised.	

8 DALYUP TENNIS CLUB



Dalyup Progress Association Hall



Hall Interior



2 of the better tennis courts



Hit up wall with netting/shading



Tennis court in very poor condition



Puff Balls penetrating court surface

Location	Dalyup Road, Near South Coast Hwy intersection, Dalyup.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dalyup Progress Association Hall, good condition. ▪ Four acrylic hardcourt tennis courts – 2 in average condition, 1 poor condition, 1 very poor/unusable condition. ▪ Hit up wall with netting/shading – poor condition. <p>Overall the site is not being well kept and has very poor aesthetics.</p>	
Usage	Courts appear to receive little use.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	The Hall is in good condition.	Weaknesses Outside the hall, the site has a 'neglected' appearance.
Opportunities	The need for a tennis club within a 30min drive from Esperance is questionable. Rationalisation of at least 2 courts, if not all, may be justified	Obstacles
Management	Dalyup Progress Association has the lease?	
Comments	Anecdotal evidence suggests some people in nearby farms have installed their own tennis courts.	

9 CONDINGUP PRIMARY SCHOOL



Condungup Primary School Aerial View

Location	Lot 87 Sutcliffe Street, Condingup. Adjacent Condingup Oval.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small playing field 90m x 50m with wicket. ▪ Single multi-use hard court. 	
Usage	Primary School use. 81 students in 2013	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Meets basic needs of the school children.	Weaknesses
Opportunities		Obstacles
Management	DET owned and managed.	
Comments	Facilities of limited use to the general community.	

10 ESPERANCE EQUESTRIAN GROUNDS



Clubhouse



Equestrian Grounds



Cross Country Track with Jump



Aerial View



Junk Area

Location	Pony Road, Myrup. At corner of Myrup Road. Part of Reserve R31708	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubhouse with social area and basic amenities, average/good condition ▪ Large open field 460m x 260m, good condition, but scrap building materials being accumulated in a junk area. ▪ Cross Country trails. 	
Usage	Used by Esperance Pony Club and Esperance Equestrian Centre. Approximately 50 members total.	
Strategic Planning	No strategic plan but are seeking CSRFF funds for upgrades which will require some level of planning.	
Strengths Large open area allows high flexibility of use. Access to cross country trails.	Weaknesses Scrap materials being accumulated in a junk area, may pose a public safety risk and detracts from the aesthetics of the facility.	
Opportunities Site clean up will improve the amenity of the area and public safety. Club reports needs for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrades to clubrooms inc linking, a verandah, new doors. ▪ All purpose sand arena approx 70m x 50 with fencing. ▪ 60m x 20m arena with fencing for juniors to learn on. ▪ Lean to extension for the shed for the equipment trailers. ▪ New rainwater tank. 	Obstacles	
Management	Peppercorn lease to Equestrian Centre	
Comments		

11 ESPERANCE BOWLING CLUB



Clubhouse and Natural Turf Croquet Green



Beach Volley Ball Courts



2 Synthetic Turf Greens



Esperance Bowling Club Aerial View



Social Room

Location	Greater Sports Ground, Esperance	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubhouse with social facilities and amenities, good condition – recently reroofed. ▪ 2 lit synthetic greens in very good condition. ▪ 1 croquet green in good condition. ▪ 1 green converted to beach volleyball, good condition. ▪ Note – some light poles are new, some are very old and may need replacement. 	
Usage	Facilities used for bowls, croquet and beach volleyball, facilities used on a daily basis. Also used for a wide variety of community and corporate functions. 102 capitated members in 2011/12.	
Strategic Planning	The Club is setting aside substantial funds for asset replacement/upgrades including replacement of synthetic greens.	
Strengths	Facilities used by three compatible user groups. Facilities are in good condition, club has invested in significant upgrades in recent years including kitchen upgrade and solar panels	Weaknesses
Opportunities		Obstacles
Management	Peppercorn lease to the Bowling Club.	
Comments	Club is financially strong and membership is stable.	

12 ESPERANCE TENNIS CLUB



Clubhouse



Recently resurfaced courts



Kitchen



Aerial view of Esperance Tennis Club



Social Room

Location	Greater Sports Ground, Esperance	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 13 hard court tennis courts – acrylic surface, very good condition ▪ 6 courts closest to Clubhouse have very good lighting, 3 courts to the east have average lighting. There is insufficient power supply to upgrade the lighting any further. ▪ Clubhouse with social room and amenities, recently upgraded, very good condition. 	
Usage	Recently hosted a Pro Tour tennis event. 28 sub-juniors, 64 juniors, 109 seniors, 39 veterans. Social and pennants tennis. Full time Professional Coach.	
Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Asset Management Plan but would like to do one, club is setting aside funds for a facilitator to help with this process. ▪ The Club is currently putting together a strategic business plan. ▪ Have recently completed a major objective of acquiring a full time Professional Coach. 	
Strengths Facility are in very good condition.	Weaknesses Power supply limiting any additional court lighting being developed.	
Opportunities Power upgrade would allow further lighting of courts. Club has plans to surface an outdoor entertaining area and resurface 6 courts which are 20 years old.	Obstacles Power upgrade can be costly.	
Management	Peppercorn lease to Esperance Tennis Club. Club has Professional Coach with exclusive use of courts.	
Comments	Club is going very well with improving membership and facilities.	

13 ESPERANCE CRICKET GROUND



Football Clubhouse



Oval with match lighting



4 wicket practice nets



Esperance Football Club



Social Room and Bar

Location	Corner Sims Street and Pink Lake Road, Esperance.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football/Cricket oval, 170m x 120m in very good condition. ▪ Lighting to oval for football competition, good condition. ▪ Synthetic Cricket wicket, very good condition. ▪ Clubhouse with social facilities and H&A changerooms, good condition. ▪ Cricket practice nets, four synthetic wickets, very good condition. 	
Usage	Use for club football in winter and club cricket in summer, junior and seniors.	
Strategic Planning	Cricket would like assistance with developing an Asset Management Plan. It is currently setting aside funds for asset replacement.	
Strengths Lit for night competition, allows for flexibility of use. Large clubhouse that caters for the operational and social aspects of club activities.	Weaknesses Cricket does not get full access to clubroom facilities.	
Opportunities Improved sharing arrangements between cricket and football.	Obstacles Significant administrative hassle for football to share facilities with other organisations. Limited volunteer capacity.	
Management	Oval maintained by the Shire. Clubrooms and lights on peppercorn lease to the Esperance Football Club.	
Comments	The Oval is a relatively complete sporting facility with a full complement of facilities for playing and socialising. Changing facilities for female players and umpires would be desirable.	

14 ESPERANCE GOLF CLUB



Clubhouse



Social Room with Bar



Golf Course



Esperance Golf Club Aerial View



Golf Course

Location	Dickerson Road, off Coolgardie Esperance Highway, Esperance.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 18 hole golf course with reticulated fairways and greens, very good condition. ▪ Clubhouse with social room and amenities, good condition. 	
Usage	Members competitions throughout the week, open to public. 10 juniors, 200 seniors, 40 veterans.	
Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Club does not have an asset management plan but would like assistance in developing one. ▪ The club does have a strategic business plan. 	
Strengths Is a scenic golf course is in very good condition	Weaknesses Is in competition with another fully irrigated 18 hole golf course in Town	
Opportunities Close Pink Lake and merge with Esperance GC	Obstacles Opposition from Pink Lake members.	
Management	Peppercorn lease to Esperance Golf Club.	
Comments	Club reports decreasing membership. It would like to see Pink Lake GC closed and members moved across.	

15 ESPERANCE RIFLE CLUB



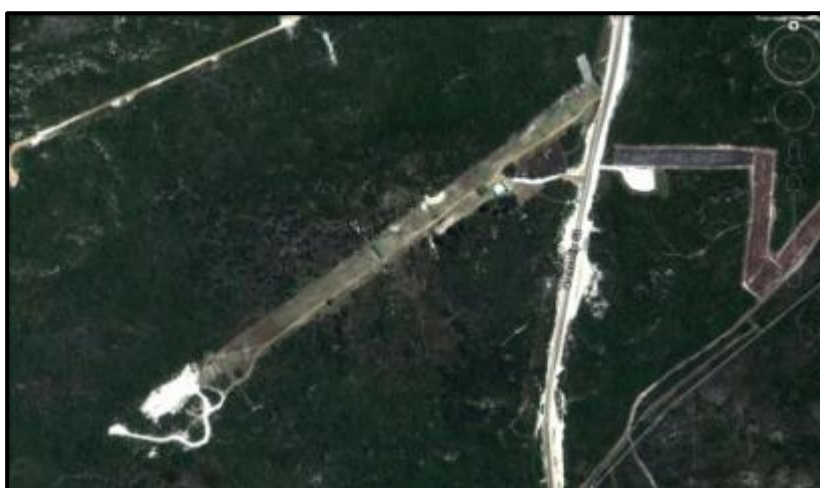
Clubhouse



Spectator Shelter



Storage



Esperance Rifle Club Aerial View



Rifle Range

Location	Connolly Street, Esperance	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 650m rifle range, good condition Basic clubhouse facilities – average condition 	
Usage	1 junior, 26 seniors, 6 veterans. Weekly competition and training.	
Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Club does not have an Asset Management Plan but would like some assistance developing one. The club is setting aside funds for replacement of assets 	
Strengths		Weaknesses Orientation means afternoon sun may be an issue Not ideally located, being close to residential housing and popular beaches. Noise and safety issues may become bigger issues if housing continues to develop in this area.
Opportunities Ideally a single ballistics sports precinct would be created to house all gun clubs in an area that would not affect residents. Club is planning to upgrade the roof and kitchen.		Obstacles Finding a suitable large area that meets the needs of all user groups may be difficult to identify.
Management	Peppercorn lease to Esperance Rifle Club	
Comments	Club is open to relocation but notes it would be difficult due to size of land area that is required.	

16 ESPERANCE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Multi-Use Courts



Football Oval



Junior Oval



Cricket Practice Nets

Location	Doug Murray Drive, Esperance.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football oval 150m x 120m, poor turf condition. ▪ Junior oval 130m x 75m, average turf quality. ▪ Cricket practice nets four wickets, very good condition. ▪ 4 bitumen multi-use courts (BB, NB, Tennis), good condition ▪ 4 bitumen tennis courts, good condition. 	
Usage	School use for organised sports and lunchtime play. School has 850 students.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths Hard courts are in good condition Football oval meets minimum senior requirements, suitable for older juniors.	Weaknesses Turf is in poor condition, not suitable for community competition.	
Opportunities Oval could be used as an overflow football venue if required in future, or for other sports if the need arises.	Obstacles Shared use arrangement would need to be negotiated, and Shire would need to upgrade the quality of the turf to ensure player safety.	
Management	DET owned and managed.	
Comments	The school is open to sharing arrangements in the future.	

17 ESPERANCE GOLDFIELDS SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB



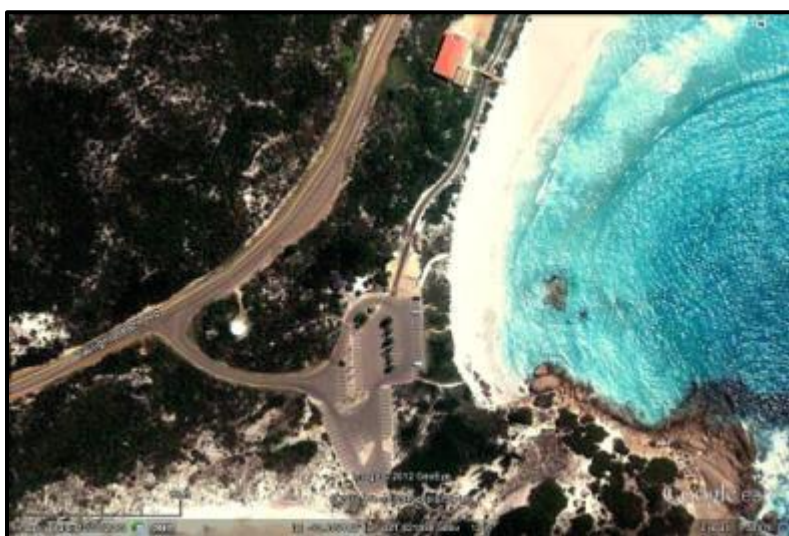
Surf Life Saving Club Building



Front view of building



Rusting Storage Shed



Twilight Beach

Location	Twilight Beach Road, Twilight Beach, 6km west of Esperance	
Description / Condition	Club Building in good condition although the shed is showing significant signs of rust.	
Usage	Surf Club use during summer. 100 members including 60 active. Has a Nippers program.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Building is raised for good viewing.	Weaknesses Off grid water and power. Nippers shed showing signs of heavy rusting.
Opportunities	Club has plans to demolish Nippers shed and incorporate into the Clubhouse building.	Obstacles Acquiring sufficient funds to do so.
Management		
Comments	High maintenance required due to corrosive environment on the beach.	

18 ESPERANCE BAY TURF CLUB



Race Track



Tote Facilities



Clubhouse Social Facilities



Social Facilities being upgraded

Location	Corner Fisheries Road and Bandy Creek Road, Esperance.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1900m fully turf race track with dirt training track on interior, very good condition. ▪ Clubhouse Facilities, undergoing upgrades, good to very good condition. ▪ Other infrastructure including steward/jockeys facilities, stables and public toilets – average to good condition. Some facilities are showing obvious signs of age. 	
Usage	Used for races and training throughout the year. 320 members.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Fully turfed track with training track on interior.	Weaknesses Located in a developing area.
Opportunities	<p>May be some sharing opportunities with other organisations in the future, large area not being utilised within the centre of the track.</p> <p>Club reports a need/desire for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More stables for visiting trainers ▪ Upgrade entrance gate area ▪ Construct breakaway inside rail ▪ New toilet block for members ▪ New commercial kitchen. 	Obstacles Turf clubs can be difficult to share facilities with due to the need to protect the track for horses safety.
Management	Peppercorn lease to Esperance Bay Turf Club	
Comments	Club reports being in a strong and healthy position	

19 GIBSON FOOTBALL CLUB OVAL



Oval with wicket sown over



Recently Upgraded Clubhouse



Large Kitchen



Gibson Football Club Oval Aerial View



Social Area and Bar

Location	Starr Street, Gibson	
Description / Condition	Football/Cricket Oval 175m x 125m, good condition. Training lights are basic, not to Australian Standard. Clubhouse, recently upgraded including substantial indoor and outdoor social facilities. Changeroom facilities are ageing not up to modern expectations.	
Usage	Used for club football and cricket, seniors and juniors.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Oval is in good condition. Substantial social facilities.	Weaknesses Changerooms are ageing and do not meet modern expectations. Training lighting is not up to Australian Standards.
Opportunities	Lighting can be upgraded, Club has already acquired come infrastructure and upgraded the power.	Obstacles Installation by a professional contractor can still be expensive.
Management	Peppercorn lease to Gibson Football Club	
Comments	The Oval is a relatively complete sporting facility with a full complement of facilities for playing and socialising. Changing facilities for female players and umpires and Australian Standard training/competition lighting would be desirable.	

20 GRASS PATCH OVAL



Community Hall



Oval (currently unused)



Sheds



Aerial View of Grass Patch Oval



Shaded playground equipment

Location	Shepherd Street, Grass Patch	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oval not in use, has been partly fenced and currently has some horses grazing on it. Not being reticulated. 140m x 135m. ▪ Community Hall is ageing but is in good condition. 	
Usage	The oval is not currently used for sports, the hall is being used for community functions and activities.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Community Hall is in good condition.	Weaknesses The oval is not in a usable state.
Opportunities		Obstacles
Management		
Comments	There does not appear to be sufficient demand for reactivation of the oval. The trend towards larger farms/less workers suggests it is unlikely to require reactivation in the future.	

21 GRASS PATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Partially covered outdoor court



Manually watered oval



Covered playground



Grass Patch Primary School Aerial View



Tennis hit up wall

Location	Corner Freeman Street and Shepherd Street, Grass Patch	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 basketball/netball outdoor bitumen court, partially covered, good condition. ▪ Hit up wall on side of court. ▪ Roof is relatively low height for a sports court. ▪ Grassed area approximately 100m x 20m, poor turf quality. 	
Usage	Used for school activities and play, currently 18 kids enrolled.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Cover over court provides all weather play.	Weaknesses Poor turf quality
Opportunities		Obstacles
Management	DET owned and managed	
Comments	School numbers fluctuate depending on the families living in the area, but it is unlikely to ever reach the point where additional sports facilities are required.	

22 GRASS PATCH TENNIS CLUB



Recently Refurbished Courts



Small Clubhouse



Spectator Shelter



Aerial View of Tennis Courts (pre-refurbishment)



Playground Equipment

Location	Corner Shepherd and Freeman Street, opposite Primary School	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Hard court tennis courts (2 acrylic, 1 bitumen) and basketball ring with bitumised area. Tennis courts are in very good, near new condition. The two acrylic courts have a basic level of lighting. Small tin shed shelter, average/good condition. 	
Usage	Use by locals for social tennis. Gates are left open and tennis racquets available in the shelter.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	<p>Courts are in very good condition.</p> <p>Free to use for the community (small annual membership fee - \$25 p.a.).</p>	Weaknesses
Opportunities	<p>Separated by 40m from the community hall and oval.</p> <p>When future redevelopments for the courts are required, consideration should be given to moving the courts adjacent to the Hall, to encourage greater use of this facility.</p>	Obstacles
Management	Community facility open for members to use at all times.	
Comments	Grass Patch is a small community and unlikely to require increased level of sports facility provision in the future.	

23 HOCKEY, SOFTBALL & ATHLETICS FACILITIES, GREATER SPORTS GROUND



Shared Clubhouse



Jump Pit



Lit Training Field



Aerial view of reserve containing hockey, softball and athletics.



Looking towards southern end of reserve.

Location	Greater Sports Ground, Esperance	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large L shaped active reserve area consisting of 4 full sized competition hockey fields, a lit 5th hockey field that is slightly short (approx 85m long) used for senior training, and a 6th field that is used for the grand final (encroaches over parts of other hockey fields). ▪ Softball diamonds are marked out in the summer. ▪ Athletics have recently moved to the hockey grounds at the GSG. Recently installed jump pit (good condition). ▪ The fields are in good condition, the lighting is not to Australian standards for hockey training/competition. ▪ Synthetic cricket wicket between two hockey fields in north west, good condition. ▪ Shared clubhouse (hockey/softball), with social room, toilets, kitchen and verandah, good condition. Modest size. 	
Usage	Used by the Esperance Hockey Association for training and competition, 15 senior teams, 12 junior teams and 40 sub juniors. Athletics and softball use grounds during the summer.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Large area sufficient for current and future hockey requirements.	Weaknesses Clubhouse looking west into afternoon sun.

<p>Opportunities</p> <p>Development of hybrid synthetic surface(full or half size) to reduce water usage and provide elite playing surface for juniors to develop skills on.</p> <p>Enclose verandah area for increased internal social area.</p>	<p>Obstacles</p> <p>Synthetic surface may be cost prohibitive if unable to be programmed heavily. The Association is wary that synthetics has resulted in decreased participation in some other locations.</p>
<p>Management</p>	<p>The Multi Sports Pavilion Management Committee has a 5 year peppercorn lease for the building and light towers as per the Standard Lease for Community and Sporting Groups.</p>
<p>Comments</p>	

24 ESPERANCE INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM



Eastern Side of Stadium



2 Multi-Purpose Wooden Courts



Hard Court BB/NB



Aerial View of Indoor Stadium



Shed Converted to Hard Court

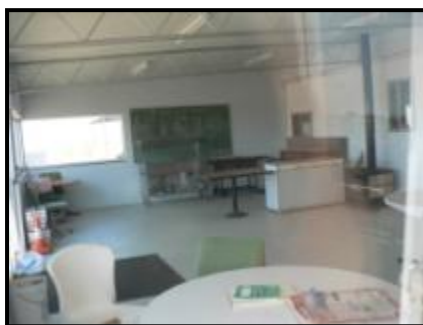
Location	Greater Sports Ground, Esperance
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4 court stadium built in several stages including the following 4 courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2 sprung wooden courts constructed 1985, good condition (Courts 1 & 2). Total court area is 36m x 40m. Grand stand seating with storage underneath was added in 1996 – 8m extension to northern side of courts (8m x 40m) – Bitumen hard court (Court 3), 20m x 30m, added on to west side of wooden court stadium. Has some flooding issues during heavy rain. – Noel White Pavilion Court, part of Noel White Pavilion 50+ years old that has been upgraded over time. Good concrete floor, painted and marked for basketball, measuring approximately 17m x 40m. Roof is low, approximately 4m high. Ageing but structurally sound. Roofing material is asbestos sheeting. ▪ Agricultural Society offices and meeting room totalling approximately 200m². Good condition. ▪ Large Kitchen (65m²) built on to western end of Noel White Pavilion. Large area with limited equipment. Structurally sound, basic interior. ▪ Large Changeroom and Toilet Block – 215m² total. The changerooms can be locked off from public toilet section, but does not have its own toilets. Constructed in 1980's, in working condition but in need of refurbishment, i.e. re tiling, new fixtures and fittings etc.

	At the present time, the actual structural condition of the existing building and the actual works required for its continued operation for the next 20+ years are unknown. A detailed assessment of the building by a structural engineer is required in order to determine the level of works that would be required to retain the existing building for the long term.	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Predominant users are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Esperance Basketball Association (Juniors and Seniors) in the summer and Senior Netball Association in the winter. ▪ Also used by Volleyball Club, Soccer Club for indoor soccer, and Hockey Club for indoor hockey. ▪ Schools utilise courts for various sports programs throughout school year and in school times. ▪ Agricultural society uses their offices throughout the year and have exclusive use of the ISS for the month of October 	
Strategic Planning	Feasibility Study for its upgrade has been conducted. Requires a decision on which option, if any, the MC/Shire/Council would like to pursue.	
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The building appears structurally sound. ▪ It offers 4 courts under cover, 2 are fully sprung wood in good condition ▪ Ample car parking availability in good proximity to court entrance (including recent bitumised area with drainage) ▪ Large Changeroom/toilet block. 	Weaknesses
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Insufficient power for all lights to be operated at the same time. (Will be addressed as part of GSG redevelopments). ▪ Court run off widths are less than ideal. Safety risks due to very short run offs on hard courts is an issue. Does not meet minimum requirements for hosting elite competition. ▪ Lack of social facilities for key user groups to access. ▪ Changerooms/toilets are 30 years old, require refurbishing of tiles, paint, fixtures and fittings.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indoor Stadium Feasibility being undertaken to look at necessary and potential redevelopments to meet current and future needs of the key user groups and community. The plans seek to include junior netball, badminton, taekwondo and gymnastics as potential new user groups. ▪ Major opportunity to develop a facility that satisfies the long term needs of community for indoor sports ▪ Potential site for multi-purpose leisure centre including aquatics (when current site has reached its usable lifespan) 	Obstacles
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial constraints ▪ Ongoing ability to afford appropriate asset maintenance ▪ Compromise and cooperation required to ensure equitable access to the facility amongst a greater range of user groups. ▪ Utility costs increasing
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building is managed by the Indoor Stadium Management Committee (ISMC). It has a 5 year peppercorn lease as per Council adopted Standard Lease for Sporting and Community groups. ▪ Bookings are taken by BOILC for a small fee, which has reduced burden on volunteers and increased income. 	
Comments		

25 ESPERANCE KART KLUB



Clubhouse



Clubhouse Social Area



Kart Shed



Esperance Kart Klub Aerial View



Race Track

Location	Myrup Road (driveway 100m from Coolgardie Esperance Highway intersection), 11km north of Esperance CBD in straight line.	
Description / Condition	650m bitumen track, good condition. Basic clubhouse facilities (tin shed type construction) good condition Kart shelter, good condition	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Race days held monthly, members can practice anytime. ▪ 40 licensed drivers plus marshalls, starters, stewards and families (total around 100-120 on race days. Good size for Shire's population. 	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Facilities are in good condition.	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Club has a desire for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signal lights (currently use flags) ▪ Extend track by 400m to allow multiple configurations (currently 655m) ▪ Ideally – night lights. 	Obstacles
Management	Peppercorn lease to Esperance Kart Klub	
Comments	EKK is in good financial health, membership is growing.	

26 ESPERANCE MOTORCYCLE CLUB



Map of Track



Clubhouse and Amenities



Spectator Shelter



Aerial View of Moto Cross Track (includes speedway and kart track)



Officials Box and Track Area.

Location	Myrup Road (driveway entrance 100m from Coolgardie Esperance Highway intersection), 11km north of Esperance CBD in straight line.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubrooms with veranda ▪ 1.6 km track ▪ Amenities block with Male/Female showers, toilets and disabled access toilets 	
Usage	8 meetings per year plus weekly training. Junior development oriented. 2 state level events.	
Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Club does not have an asset management plan but would like assistance to develop one. ▪ The Club is setting aside funds for asset replacement. ▪ The Club does have a strategic business plan 	
Strengths	Facilities are in good condition.	Weaknesses
Opportunities	<p>There may be opportunities for sharing of facilities with speedway and/or Kart Klub in the future given they are all located next to each other.</p> <p>Club reports a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children's play area ▪ Sheds for equipment storage ▪ Changes and extensions to Moto Cross track ▪ Purchase of track building equipment. 	Obstacles
Management	Peppercorn lease to Esperance Motorcycle Club	
Comments	Club is growing and is experiencing significant success in juniors.	

27 ESPERANCE MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK



Mountain Bike Park Map



Mountain Bike Track



Area of Mountain Bike Park Aerial View



Mountain Bike Track

Location	Myrup Road (driveway entrance 100m from Coolgardie Esperance Highway intersection), 11km north of Esperance CBD in straight line.	
Description / Condition	Tracks running through bushland within the reserve that also contains the motor sports clubs, aero club, and equestrian club. No built facilities.	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 25 participating members ▪ Several times a week for individual training rides ▪ At least once a week for group rides ▪ Once a month for races 	
Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has a strategic business plan ▪ Would like assistance in developing an asset management plan 	
Strengths	Weaknesses	No amenities available
Opportunities	Obstacles	Would likely need approval from DEC for trail access to other bush areas.
Management	Track is maintained by the Esperance Mountain Bike Association	
Comments	Club is small, needs are basic.	

28 OUTDOOR NETBALL COURTS, GREATER SPORTS GROUND



Netball Clubhouse



Good Netball Courts (6)



Old Netball Courts (2)



Aerial View of Netball Courts

Location	Greater Sports Ground, Esperance	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 Bitumen courts total, 6 in good condition, 2 in poor condition. ▪ 4 courts have training lighting, reportedly very limited. ▪ Basic clubhouse building including toilets, storage, kiosk and shelter, good condition. 	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Used for junior and sub junior training and competition – games on Saturday mornings from 9-12:30. ▪ 142 sub junior players, and 120 junior players. 	
Strategic Planning	Feasibility Study being conducted for the Indoor Sports Stadium, which is considering the relocation of all netball to the stadium. Netball Association has a strategic plan.	
Strengths		Weaknesses
Opportunities	Courts to be removed and all netball to be played in redeveloped Indoor Sports Stadium as per GSG Master Plan. Consideration should be given to the retention of the Netball Clubhouse for use by soccer.	Obstacles The GSG Master Plan shows tennis courts being added over the netball clubhouse site.
Management	Facilities leased to the Netball Club on a 5 year peppercorn lease as per the Standard Lease for Sporting and Community Groups.	
Comments		

29 SOCCER GROUNDS, GREATER SPORTS GROUND



Little Lords Pitch with Competition Lighting



Junior Pitch with Toilet Block



Aerial view of soccer pitches.



High use area of turf

Location	Greater Sports Ground, Esperance	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 senior sized pitch 100m x 65m with competition level lighting (est 200 lux), has multi-use soccer/rugby goals. 1 junior sized pitch 85m x 55m. Turf is generally in good condition apart from high use areas around the goals. 	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used for junior soccer and senior soccer (recently formed after lighting was installed) training and competition. 	
Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Sports Ground Master Plan shows expansion of the soccer area into a large rectangular space after the removal of the netball courts, badminton shed and livestock pens. Soccer Club is setting aside funds for asset replacement and has strategic plan. 	
Strengths Good size senior pitch with semi professional level lighting	Weaknesses Junior pitch is too small for older juniors and seniors competition.	
Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSG Master Plan will significantly increase the amount of soccer space. Consideration should be given to the retention of the Netball Clubhouse building for use by soccer after Netball has been relocated to the Indoor Stadium. 	Obstacles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSG master plan shows netball clubhouse being replaced with additional tennis courts. 	
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grounds maintained by Shire, lights owned and maintained by the Soccer Club. Soccer hires clubrooms from Netball Association. 	
Comments		

30 NEWTOWN OVAL



Newtown Condingup FC Clubhouse



Oval and Surrounds



Missing Tiles on Clubhouse



Newtown Oval



Cricket Clubhouse

Location	Wylie Road, Esperance (north eastern outskirts of town, accessed via Fisheries Road)	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football/Cricket Oval with competition level lighting 100+ lux), turf in good condition. 175m x 130m. ▪ Synthetic cricket wicket in good condition. ▪ Newly constructed cricket practice nets with two wickets. ▪ Football Clubhouse with social facilities, changerooms and amenities, generally good condition but some maintenance currently required on the roof tiles. ▪ Cricket Clubhouse (basic tin shed type structure) in very good condition on opposite side of the oval 	
Usage	Used by the Newtown Condingup FC and Newtown Cricket Club seniors and juniors.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths Good size oval with competition level lighting	Weaknesses Two separate clubhouse facilities as opposed to one shared building.	
Opportunities Bush area to the east of the oval has potential for development of a second oval to cater for future population growing in this area.	Obstacles	
Management	Peppercorn lease to Newtown-Condungup Football Club	
Comments		

31 PINK LAKE GOLF COURSE



Clubhouse



Social Area and Bar



Golf Course



Pink Lake Golf Course Aerial View



Scenic Views

Location	Eleven Mile Beach Road, Esperance (on western outskirts of town, overlooking Pink Lake).	
Description / Condition	18 hole golf course with reticulated greens and fairways, good condition – fairways not as well reticulated as the Esperance Golf Club Large clubhouse with social facilities and amenities, good condition.	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubhouse use - Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat each week. Clubhouse is also popular for functions and is a significant source of revenue. ▪ 60 seniors, 40 veterans, 1 junior 	
Strategic Planning	The Club has a strategic business plan, an asset management plan and is setting aside funds for asset replacement.	
Strengths	Large clubhouse Reticulated greens and fairways	Weaknesses The fairways are not as well reticulated as the Esperance Golf Club
Opportunities	Limited, membership is decreasing, the golf course is becoming unsustainable to operate.	Obstacles
Management	Peppercorn lease to Pink Lake Golf Club	
Comments	Funding support may be difficult to acquire for either of Esperance's golf clubs as they would regard two fully reticulated golf courses as a duplication of facilities for the town.	

32 PORTS FOOTBALL CLUB OVAL



Ports FC Clubhouse



Oval Northern End



Oval Southern End



Aerial View of Ports Football Club Oval



Ports Home Changeroom

Location	Greater Sports Ground, Esperance	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Football/Cricket Oval with basic level of training lighting (not to Australian Standard), turf is in good condition. Oval is 175m x 130m. ▪ Synthetic cricket wicket, very good condition (installed 2011). ▪ Clubhouse, good condition. 	
Usage	Football during winter, cricket during summer.	
Strategic Planning	Club has plans for the upgrade of the clubhouse which it now wishes to progress as Council has resolved for the Club to remain in this location for the long term.	
Strengths Good size oval. Oval and Clubrooms shared with cricket.	Weaknesses Poor lighting, not to Australian Standards for training or competition. Clubhouse is not family friendly. Social room upstairs is not inviting for women or children. Lack of spectator shelter.	
Opportunities Could be designated the Shire's premier multi-use sports oval.	Obstacles Power upgrade is likely required for any lighting development at the GSG.	
Management	Building is leased to the Ports Football Club	
Comments		

33 ESPERANCE SPEEDWAY



Track and Clubhouse



Clubhouse Social Room and Bar



Track fencing showing signs of ageing



Aerial View of Esperance Speedway.



Old portable buildings on site

Location	Myrup Road (driveway entrance 100m from Coolgardie Esperance Highway intersection), 11km north of Esperance CBD in straight line.	
Description / Condition	Dirt speedway track, good condition. Fencing is rusting and may need replacing in the coming years. Clubhouse with social room and bar, basic tin shed type construction, good condition. Supporting infrastructure including pit area changerooms, public toilets, spectator stands and a pedestrian bridge. Multiple buildings/structures on site, some showing significant signs of ageing i.e. rust.	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Club has approximately 12 speedway meetings a year, ▪ Members can practice at any time ▪ Clubrooms are used regularly for social occasions. 	
Strategic Planning	Club does not have strategic or asset management plans but would like assistance for these.	
Strengths Collocated with other motor sports on same reserve.	Weaknesses Some facilities on site are showing significant signs of ageing.	
Opportunities Possible long term infrastructure sharing possibilities with Moto Cross and/or Kart clubs.	Obstacles Lack of club finances.	
Management	Peppercorn Lease to Esperance Speedway Association.	
Comments		

34 SALMON GUMS GOLF CLUB



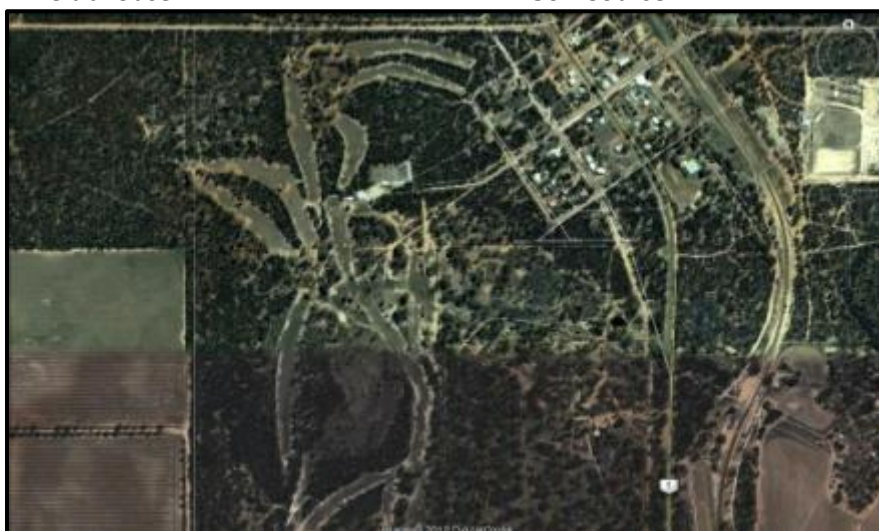
Clubhouse



Golf Course



Golf Course



Aerial view of Salmon Gums Golf Course



Social Room

Location	End of Moore Street, west of Coolgardie Esperance Highway, Salmon Gums.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural non reticulated, sand green golf course, 18 holes. Course is in good condition. ▪ Clubhouse has social room and amenities. It is ageing, average condition. ▪ Second building (portable structure) next to Clubhouse is in very poor condition. 	
Usage		
Strategic Planning	The Shire is supporting funding applications for the development of a multi-purpose community centre at the site to cater for the Salmon Gums Golf Club, Salmon Gums Tennis Club, P&C, Playgroup, Emergency Services, Mallee Farm Improvement Group and CWA. (See All Purpose Committee Meeting Agenda 18 Sept 2012)	
Strengths	Course is in good condition.	Weaknesses The Clubhouse is ageing, second building is in very poor condition.
Opportunities	Development of a multi-purpose community centre as per the plans being put forward for funding by the Shire.	Obstacles
Management	New lease arrangement will be developed pending the outcome of the proposed Multi-Purpose Community Centre plans.	
Comments	The development of a multi-purpose community centre at the golf course site meets the best practice principle of facility sharing to minimise duplication of resources.	

35 SALMON GUMS GUN CLUB



Clubhouse and Shed



Social/Meeting Room



Outdoor Covered Social Area



Salmon Gums Gun Club Aerial View



Clay Target Shooting Range

Location	121 Salmon Gums East Road, Salmon Gums (driveway entrance 300m from Coolgardie Esperance Highway intersection).	
Description / Condition	Basic clubroom facility (brick shed type construction), good condition. Clay Target Shooting Range with two bunkers.	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly Shoots ▪ Small club around 10 members. Only 2 are from Salmon Gums. Others are from Esperance and elsewhere that are supporting the SG Club. 	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Collocated on same reserve as the SSAA WA Salmon Gums Branch.	Weaknesses Close to town site, may cause noise and safety issues.
Opportunities	Relocate further away from town.	Obstacles Very difficult to acquire suitable size pieces of land.
Management	Land is not vested in the Shire, not leased by the Gun Club. The Shire is seeking vesting orders to be able to lease the land to the Club.	
Comments		

36 SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA WA, SALMON GUMS BRANCH



50m Firing Range



Clubhouse



Aerial View of SSAA WA Salmon Gums Branch



Clubhouse Interior.

Location	121 Salmon Gums East Road, Salmon Gums (driveway entrance 300m from Coolgardie Esperance Highway intersection).	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic clubhouse (small tin shed structure) ▪ 50m outdoor firing range with earth banks. 	
Usage	7 members with monthly shoots.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Weaknesses	
Basic facilities, easy to maintain for a small club.		
Opportunities	Obstacles	
Management		
Comments	Club has very low outgoings and therefore is highly financial.	

37 SALMON GUMS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Basketball/Netball Court



Basketball Netball Court



Aerial view of Salmon Gums Primary School



Oval

Location	Corner Mann Street and Coolgardie Esperance Highway, Salmon Gums	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small Primary School with junior oval 100m x 45m (poor turf condition) and outdoor bitumen hardcourt (BB/NB), average condition. ▪ Oval has a concrete wicket with no synthetic turf covering. 	
Usage	7 children currently attending the school.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Weaknesses Facilities are basic.	
Opportunities	Obstacles	
Management	Department of Education property.	
Comments	Unlikely the school has the need or capacity to improve its sporting facilities due to the small number of students.	

38 SALMON GUMS TENNIS CLUB



Clubhouse



Tennis Courts



Basketball Rings



Aerial View



Cracks Developing

Location	End of Moore Street, west of Coolgardie Esperance Highway, Salmon Gums.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Four tennis courts (hardcourt acrylic surface), cracks developing – average/good condition. ▪ Two tennis courts have lighting, good condition. ▪ Basketball/netball hardcourt, acrylic surface, poor condition ▪ Basketball rings are in poor condition (heavily corroded). ▪ Hit up wall in very poor condition – major cracking with wide gaps, requires re-construction as it poses a safety hazard. ▪ Small clubhouse (shelter with small rooms), poor/average condition. 	
Usage	Social community use	
Strategic Planning	The Shire is supporting funding applications for the development of a multi-purpose community centre at the site to cater for the Salmon Gums Golf Club, Salmon Gums Tennis Club, P&C, Playgroup, Emergency Services, Mallee Farm Improvement Group and CWA. (See All Purpose Committee Meeting Agenda 18 Sept 2012)	
Strengths	Lighting is in good condition	Weaknesses Overall the facility is in a poor state.
Opportunities	Incorporation of the Tennis Club into a Multi-Purpose Community Centre as per current Shire plans.	Obstacles Dependent on successful grant applications.
Management		
Comments		

39 SCADDAN COUNTRY CLUB



Clubhouse



Location	Corner Kendall Road and Coolgardie Esperance Highway, Scaddan.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 18 hole non reticulated golf course with sand greens, good condition. ▪ Single synthetic bowling green with lighting, very good condition. ▪ Clubhouse with social room, bar and amenities, good condition. 	
Usage	37 capitated bowling club members.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths Modest shared clubhouse facility, easy to manage and maintain. Good condition.	Weaknesses	
Opportunities	Obstacles	
Management	Peppercorn lease to Scaddan Country Club.	
Comments	Good example of rural community recreation facility managed and maintained to a good standard by the user group.	

40 SCADDAN PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Oval with Cricket Wicket



Oval and Part Covered Hard Court



Aerial View of Scaddan Primary School



Non watered part of the oval.

Location	Kendall Road, Scaddan	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Junior Oval 140m x 60m, part watered. Watered centre section is in good condition, outer parts of oval are sandy, sparse turf coverage. ▪ Hard cricket wicket with synthetic turf top. ▪ Bitumen hard court with cover over one half. 	
Usage	Currently 28 students.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Facilities suitable for a small school.	Weaknesses Oval turf is poor around the outer parts.
Opportunities		Obstacles
Management	DET owned and managed land	
Comments		

41 SCROLLY PARK VELODROME AND BMX TRACK



Velodrome Clubhouse



Degraded Velodrome Track



Old Storage Sea Container



Aerial View Velodrome Track and BMX Track



Old BMX Racing Track
Grown Over

Location	Thomson Street, Esperance (driveway entrance is 300m west of Connolly Street intersection).	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The BMX Track is almost completely grown over and is unusable. Would have to be entirely rebuilt to be used again. ▪ The velodrome bitumen track is highly degraded and has plants growing through it, requires full resurfacing. ▪ The Velodrome Clubhouse is small and in poor condition. ▪ Old storage sea container is in poor condition. 	
Usage	Neither facility is currently used.	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Competitive cycling facilities are collocated. 	Weaknesses
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Velodrome track could be resurfaced and BMX track rebuilt if demand for these facilities returned. ▪ The Clubhouse could possibly be refurbished to provide basic shelter and amenities. 	Obstacles
Management	Land is vested in Shire. Facilities are not being maintained by anyone.	
Comments	There does not appear to be demand for these facilities give the lack of racing BMX or Cycling clubs in Esperance.	

42 ESPERANCE SKATE PARK



Skate Park North East View



Skate Park East View



Coping flattened with sharp edges



Skate Park Aerial View



Cracks developing in concrete

Location	Adventure Land Park, on the Esplanade near the Emily St intersection.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large concrete skate park approximately 1,000m². Poor/Average condition – large cracks developing, coping is flattened and has sharp edges in places. Approximately 15 years old. Design does not appear to offer a lot of variety and challenge for more advanced skaters. The skate park is well lit (2 towers with 2 lights each). 	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal use by the community for all wheeled sports (skate, scooters, bmx etc) 	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths Good location for families with park, beach and cafe/restaurant nearby.	Weaknesses Skate park is ageing and showing significant signs of wear and tear. Lack of challenging features and variety for more advanced skaters.	
Opportunities Skate park could be refurbished, additional components could be added on for more advanced skaters, and potentially a BMX specific set of jumps.	Obstacles The site is a little bit constrained but additions could potentially occur to the south or west.	
Management		
Comments	Justification for a Needs and Feasibility Study to be conducted to guide the future development of the facility.	

43 ESPERANCE BAY YACHT CLUB



Esperance Bay Yacht Club Aerial View

Location	The Esplanade, Esperance Bay (Adjacent Adventure Park)	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large ocean front clubhouse with large lawn area ▪ Function area for 230 with a Bar & Galley ▪ Boat shed ▪ Marina 	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saturday - training in morning, racing in afternoon, social and prize giving afterwards. ▪ National, State, World Titles 	
Strategic Planning	The club has an Asset Management Plan and Strategic Business Plan	
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent foreshore location with large function facilities. 	Weaknesses
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand facilities to enable membership growth in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial and environmental considerations.
Management		
Comments	Club is recording strong growth and is financially sound.	

44 ESPERANCE DEEP SEA ANGLING CLUB



Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club Aerial

Location	Daw Street, Bandy Creek	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubrooms with kitchen and licensed bar ▪ Fish cleaning facilities 	
Usage	Facilities are used every week, club venue once a month	
Strategic Planning	The Club does not have an Asset Management Plan or Strategic Business Plan but would like assistance in developing these.	
Strengths		Weaknesses Facilities are ageing, in need of refurbishment. Club does not have a long term lease with Department of Transport
Opportunities		Obstacles
Management	Club has a short term lease on clubroom land through Department of Transport.	
Comments		

45 ESPERANCE DISTRICT BADMINTON CLUB



Entrance



Office



Court Area

Location	Greater Sports Ground, Esperance.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 courts with bitumen surface ▪ Kitchen and meeting room (with trophy cabinets) with toilets 	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 times a week. Monday evening social, pennants and competition. ▪ Tuesdays - Juniors training ▪ Wednesday morning - ladies social. ▪ Thursday is allocated to table tennis. 	
Strategic Planning		
Strengths	Facility meets basic needs of the club.	Weaknesses Ageing facilities. Club would like more courts.
Opportunities	Incorporate Badminton into redeveloped Indoor Stadium	Obstacles
Management	Peppercorn Lease by Badminton Club.	
Comments	Badminton could benefit from access to higher standard facilities at the ISS.	

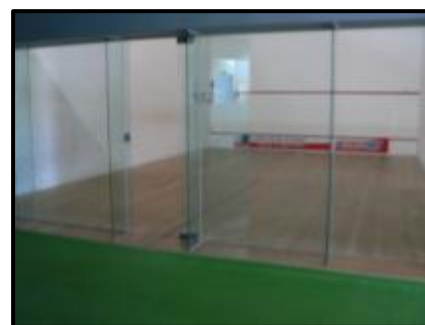
46 ESPERANCE SQUASH CLUB



Entrance



Mezzanine Social Area



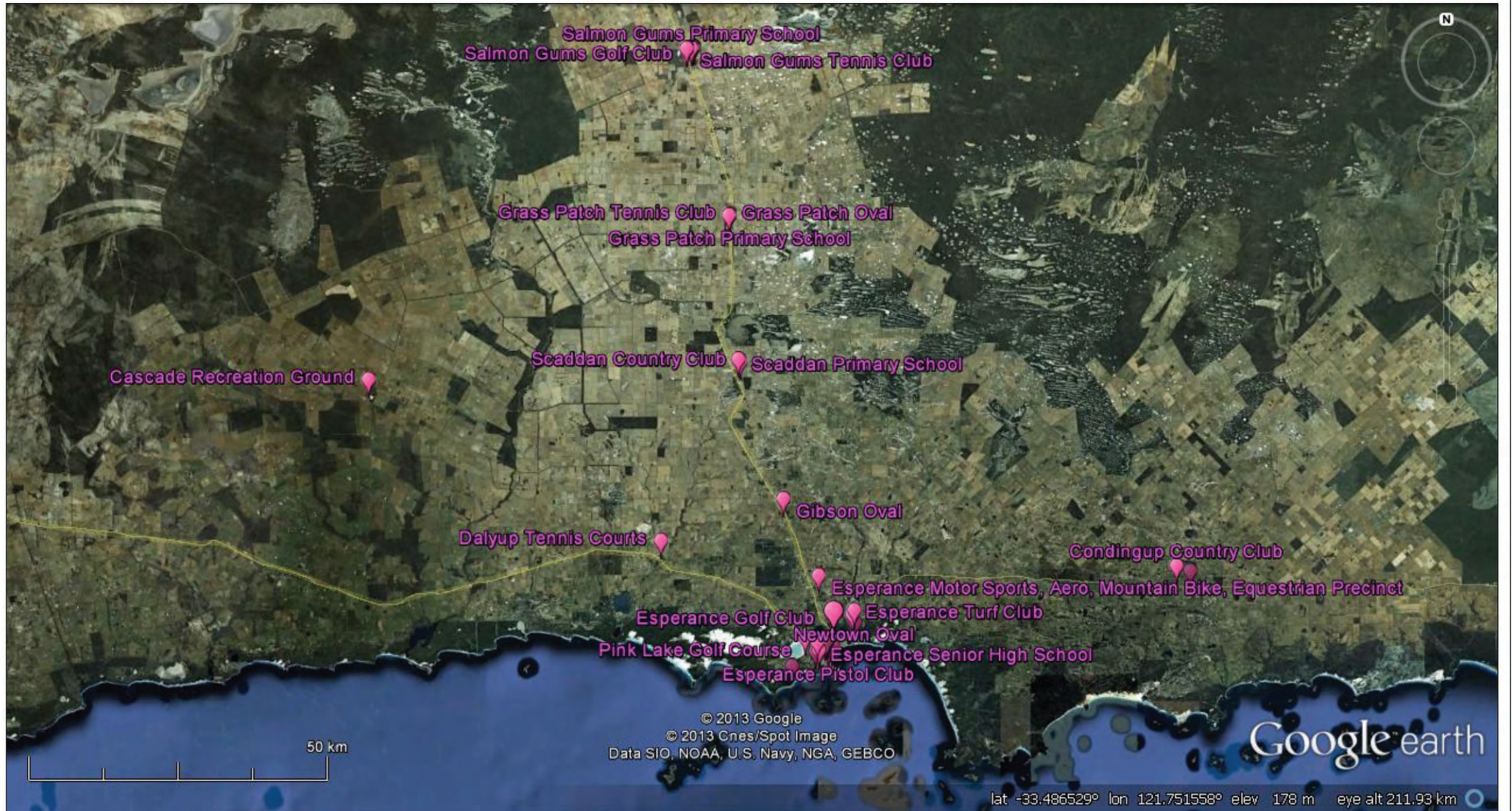
Glass Back Squash Court.

Location	Corner Black Street and Ring Road, near GSG/BOILC facilities.	
Description / Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 squash courts, very good condition ▪ Mezzanine Social Area with bar and kitchen ▪ Toilets and showers. 	
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is used every day. 3 nights a week are ladies, men & junior pennants 	
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thursday morning for mixed pennants 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Socially, training & TDS Squad 	
Strategic Planning	Club does not have an asset management plan or strategic business plan but would like assistance to develop these.	
Strengths Very good facilities overall.	Weaknesses Extensive power upgrade and both toilet / shower areas need to be refurbished.	
Opportunities Upgrade power and refurbish showers and toilets.	Obstacles Expensive to do so.	
Management	Peppercorn lease to Squash Club.	
Comments		

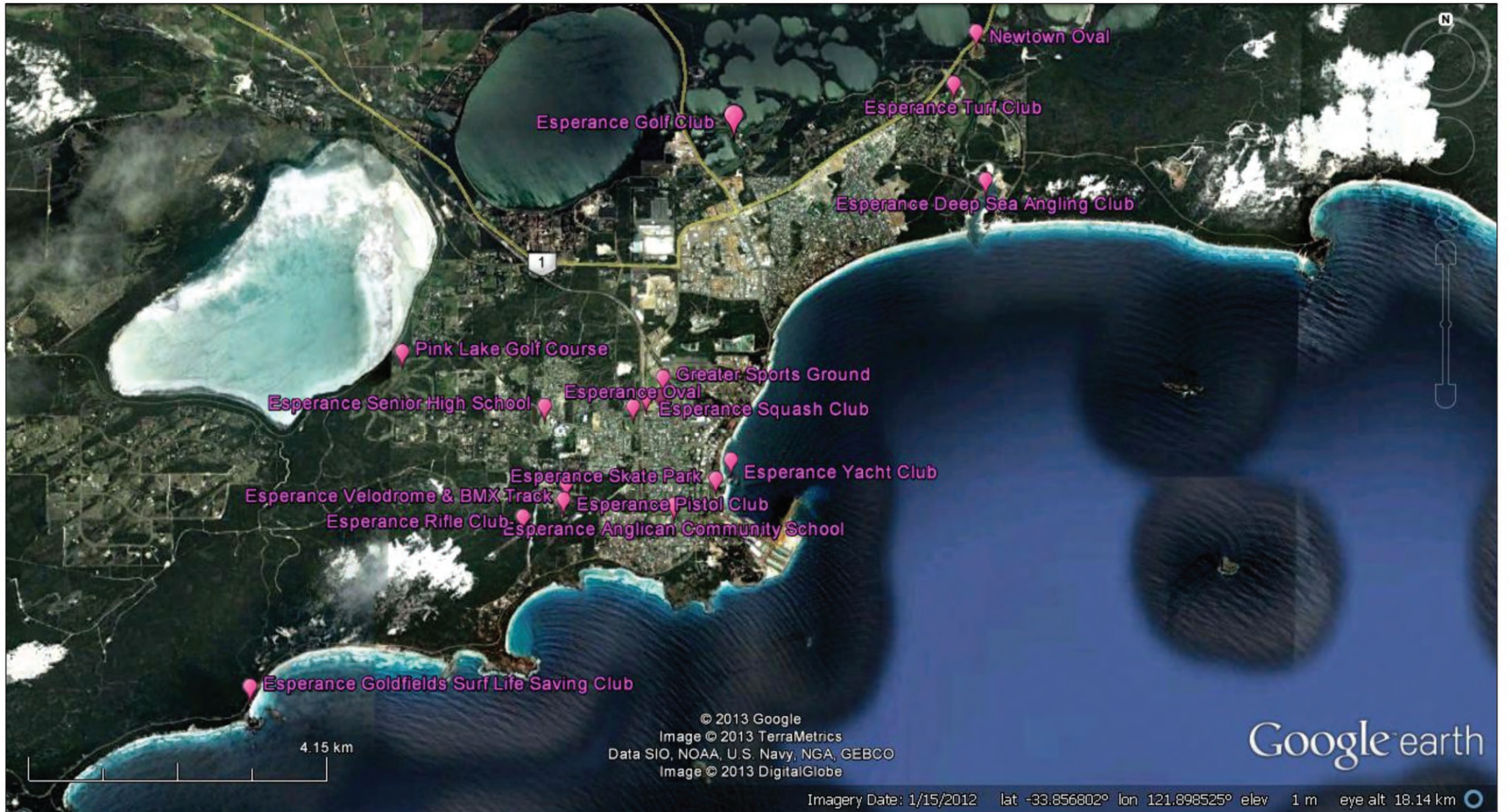
APPENDIX 2 SPORTS FACILITY LOCATION MAPS

Map 1	Shire of Esperance Overall Sports Facilities
Map 2	Esperance Town Site Overall Sports Facilities
Map 4	Esperance Town Site South Sports Facilities
Map 3	Esperance Town Site North Sports Facilities
Map 5	Greater Sports Ground Sports Facilities
Map 6	Motor Sports, Aero Club, Mountain Bike and Equestrian Precinct
Map 7	Cascade Sports Facilities
Map 8	Condingup Sports Facilities
Map 9	Dalyup Sports Facilities
Map 10	Gibson Sports Facilities
Map 11	Grass Patch Sports Facilities
Map 12	Salmon Gums Sports Facilities
Map 13	Scaddan Sports Facilities

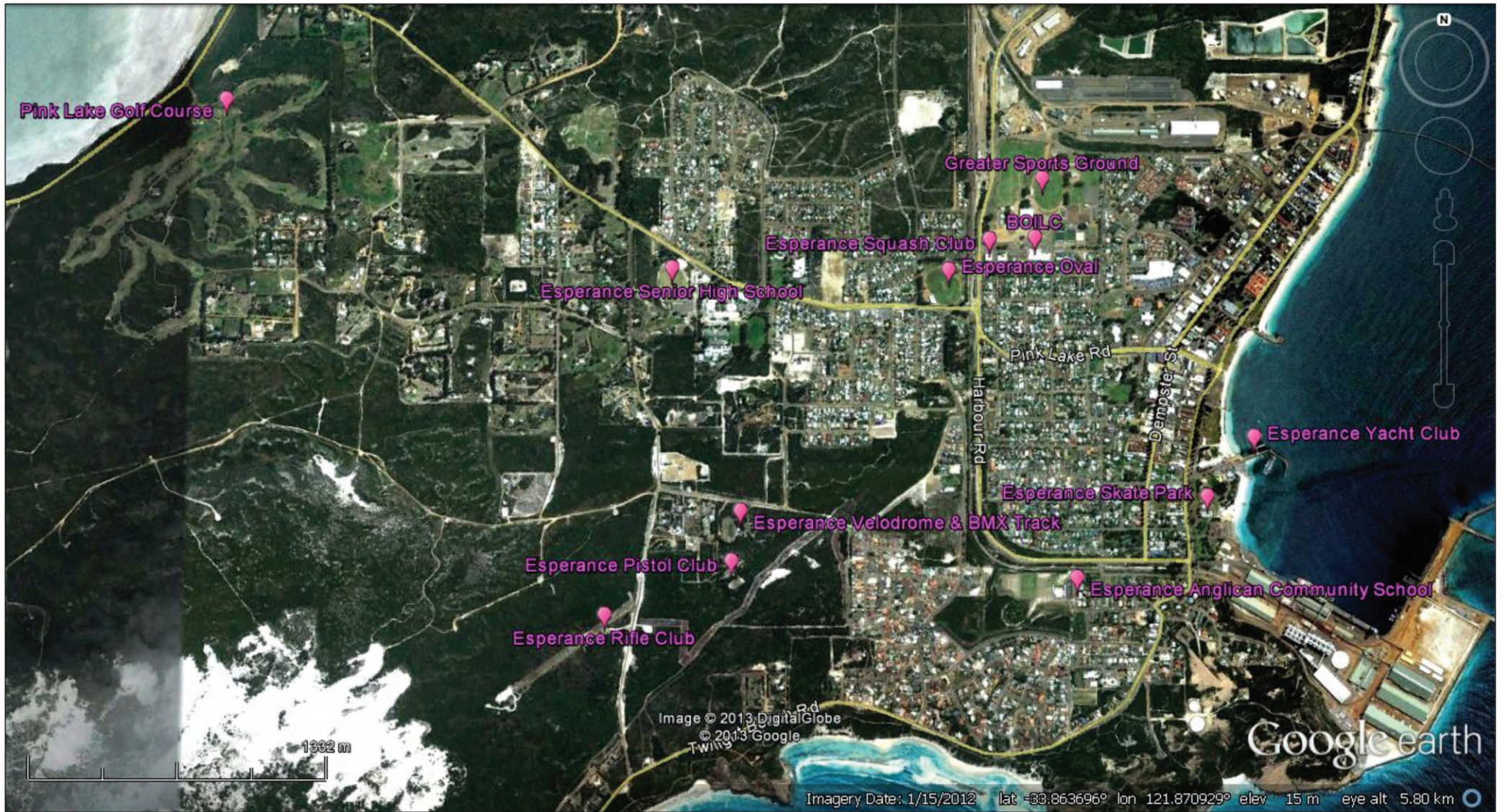




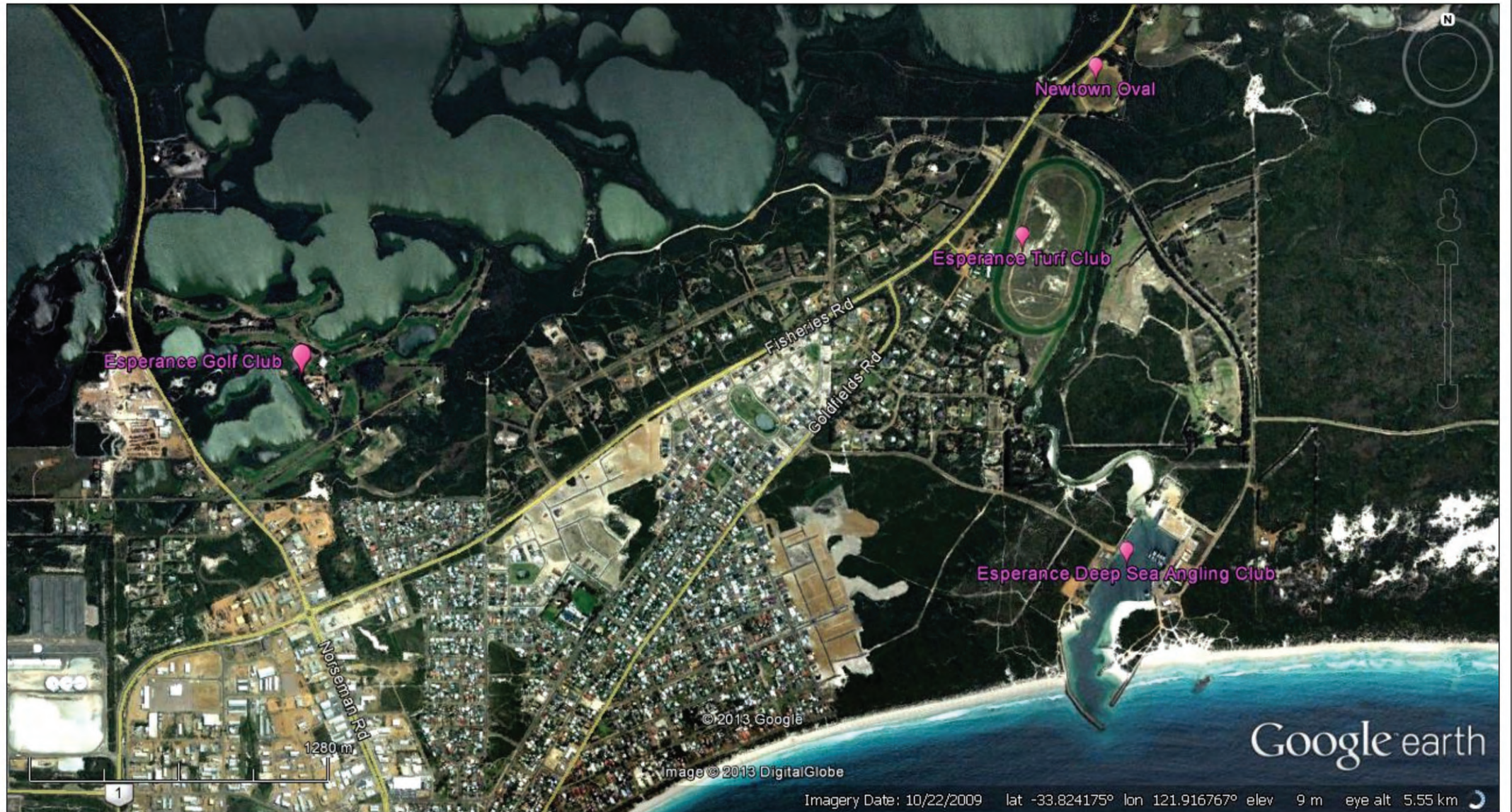
SHIRE OF ESPERANCE OVERALL SPORTS FACILITIES



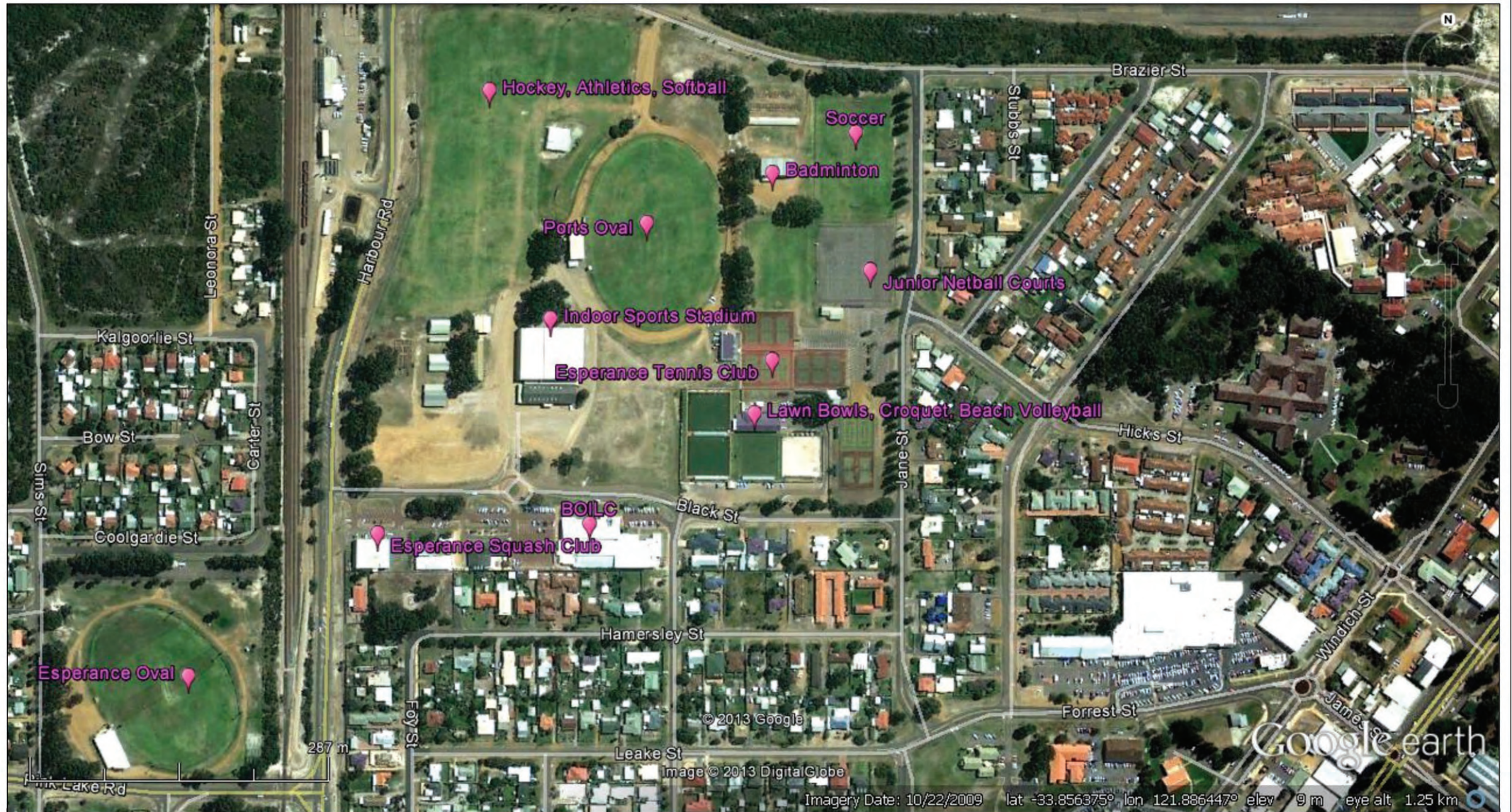
ESPERANCE TOWN SITE OVERALL SPORTS FACILITIES



ESPERANCE TOWN SITE SOUTH SPORTS FACILITIES



ESPERANCE TOWN SITE NORTH SPORTS FACILITIES



GREATER SPORTS GROUND SPORTS FACILITIES



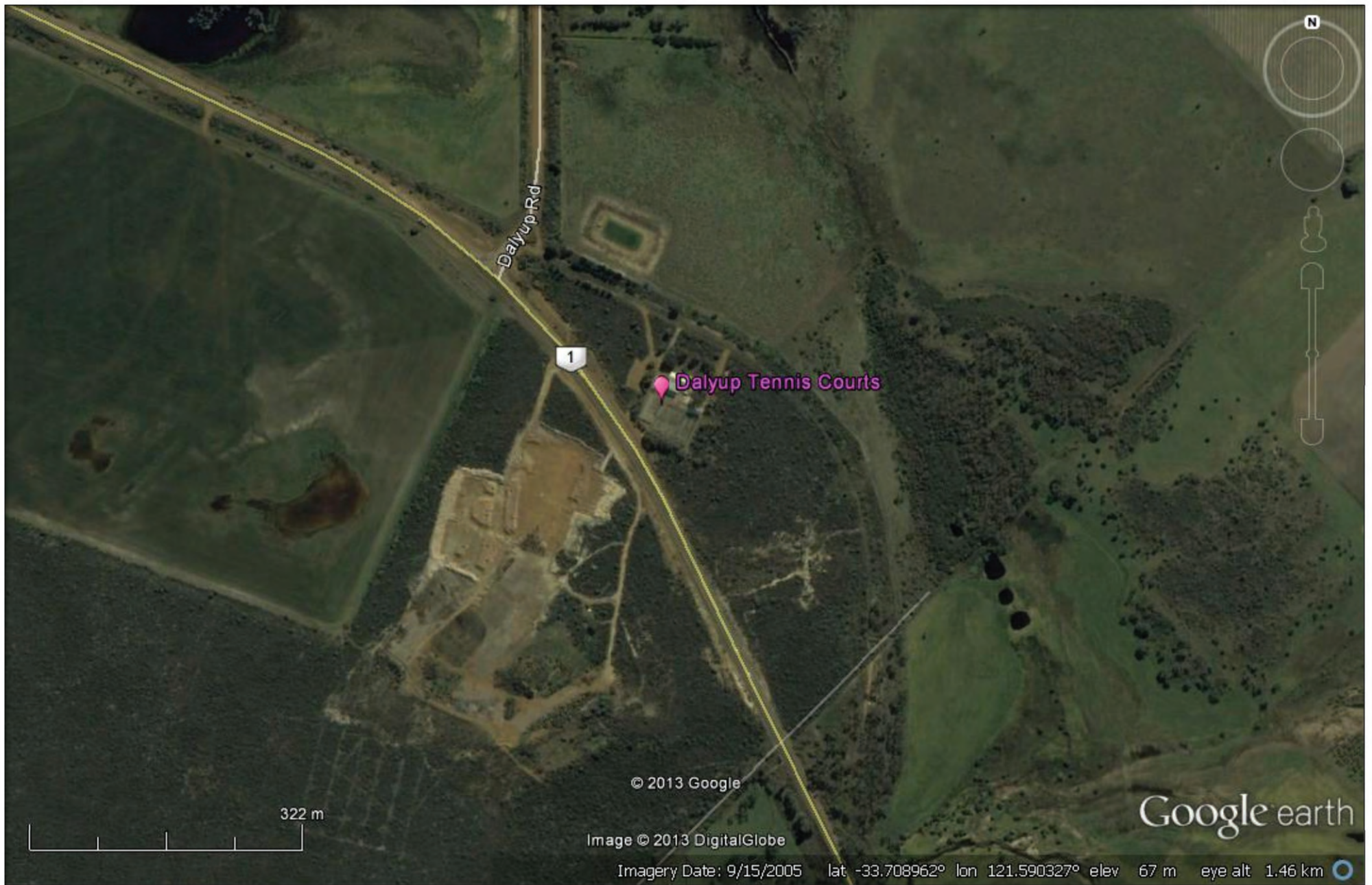
MOTOR SPORTS, AERO CLUB, MOUNTAIN BIKE AND EQUESTRIAN PRECINCT



Cascade Sports Facilities



CONDINGUP SPORTS FACILITIES



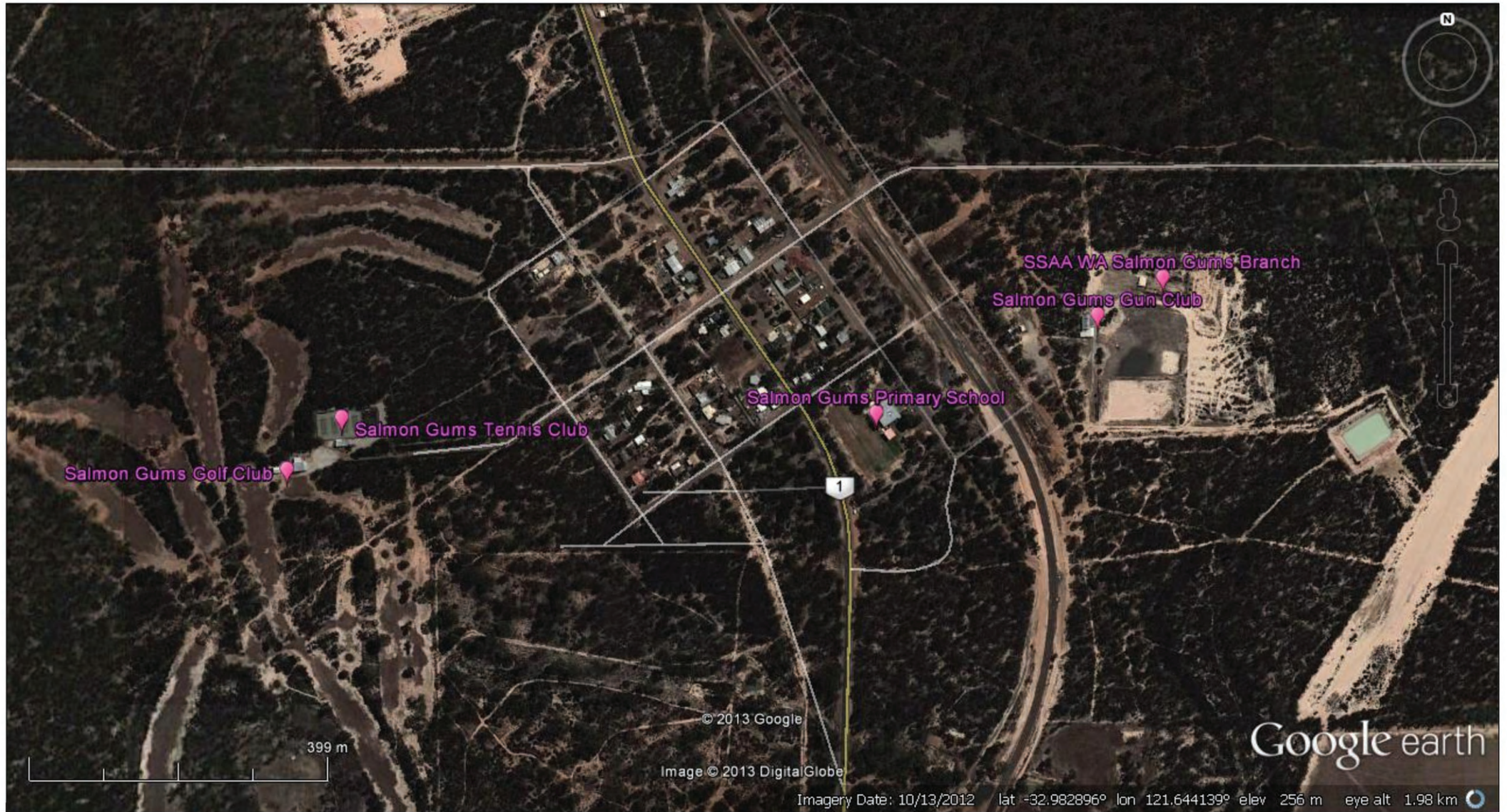
DALYUP SPORTS FACILITIES



GIBSON SPORTS FACILITIES



GRASS PATCH SPORTS FACILITIES



SALMON GUMS SPORTS FACILITIES



SCADDAN SPORTS FACILITIES

APPENDIX 3 FEES FOR USE OF SPORTS FACILITIES AND ACTIVE RESERVES BENCHMARKING REVIEW

1	ACTIVE RESERVES	2
1.1	SHIRE OF ESPERANCE	2
1.2	CITY OF ALBANY.....	2
1.3	CITY OF BUSSELTON.....	3
1.4	SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP	3
1.5	CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON.....	3
1.6	CITY OF KALGOORLIE BOULDER	4
1.7	CITY OF JOONDALUP	4
1.8	SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE.....	4
1.9	SHIRE OF MOORA	4
1.10	CITY OF ROCKINGHAM	5
1.11	SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE	5
1.12	SHIRE OF ROEBOURNE.....	5
1.13	CITY OF SWAN	5
1.14	SHIRE OF WAGIN	5
1.15	CITY OF WANNEROO.....	6
1.16	SHIRE OF WONGAN-BALLIDU	6
2	SPORTS FACILITIES.....	7
2.1	SHIRE OF ESPERANCE	7
2.2	CITY OF ALBANY.....	7
2.3	SHIRE OF AUGUSTA-MARGARET RIVER.....	7
2.4	CITY OF BUSSELTON.....	7
2.5	SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP	8
2.6	CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON.....	8
2.7	CITY OF JOONDALUP	8
2.8	CITY OF KALGOORLIE-BOULDER.....	8
2.9	SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE.....	9
2.10	SHIRE OF MOORA	9
2.11	CITY OF ROCKINGHAM	9
2.12	SHIRE OF ROEBOURNE.....	9
2.13	CITY OF SWAN	10
2.14	SHIRE OF WAGIN	10
2.15	CITY OF WANNEROO.....	11
2.16	SHIRE OF WONGAN BALLIDU.....	11



Fees and charges for sports club use of active reserves and sporting facilities have been collected from regional and metropolitan councils in Western Australia and interstate to enable comparison against the fees and charges set by the Shire of Esperance. Key findings from this benchmarking review are contained within the main report.

1 ACTIVE RESERVES

1.1 Shire of Esperance

Sporting Association Ground Fees

- Football, Hockey, Softball, Soccer, Cricket, Junior Cricket, Tee Ball, Dog Club are required to pay 10% of the previous year's ground maintenance expenses to the Shire.
- The Sporting Clubs are required negotiate with the other shared users of the ground to ascertain how much each club will contribute to the total 10%.
- Identified as a Shared Benefit (public and private benefit), thus eligible for partial cost recovery.

1.2 City of Albany

Synthetic Hockey Turf Use

- Senior Team Sheet \$67.10. Juniors -\$54
- Off Peak Training Half Field \$45 p/h. Peak \$60 (after 5pm)
- Off Peak Training Full Field \$89 p.h. Peak \$120
- Prices include levies for Lower Great Southern Hockey Association

ALAC Active Reserve Sports Association Season Fees

- Seniors (All except cricket) \$29 pp
- Juniors (All except cricket) \$17 pp
- Cricket Seniors \$48 pp
- Cricket Juniors \$28 pp

Other Active Reserves

- Several leasing arrangements developed on historical basis. Leases are peppercorn including rate subsidies. Some leases extend over full active reserve area with all ground maintenance responsibility of the lessee.

Comments

- Some clubs are struggling with their lease agreements, the City is conducting a property review which will consider more appropriate management/hire arrangements.
- The City is planning to conduct a fees and charges review which will re-examine fees and charges for active reserve use. The City notes that the City of Joondalup has a good example of fees and charges.



1.3 City of Busselton

Seasonal Ground Hire Levies

- Senior Sports Teams \$220 per team per season, + \$53 where special ground preparation is required (i.e. turf cricket wicket).
- Junior Sports Teams \$110 per team per season
- Plus power costs where applicable.

1.4 Shire of Gnowangerup

- No fees charged for use of sporting ovals by sporting clubs.

1.5 City of Greater Geraldton

All Sports Seasonal Fees for Active Reserves

- Under 9 Free
- Juniors 10-17 yrs \$8 pp
- Seniors \$20 pp
- Exemptions for clubs on private sporting grounds, to be discussed with Community Development Department.

Comments

- CGG has recently changed to a flat fee per person from an arrangement whereby active reserve users were required to form an association, and the City charged the association 8% of ground maintenance fees from the previous year. The association was responsible for ground bookings and for working out how much each club should pay towards the ground usage charge.
- This previous arrangement caused significant problems for the user groups and the City. There were various points of friction including opinions on what constituted capital upgrades and what was maintenance, some clubs contributing towards upkeep of the grounds wanting discounts, confusion over where club responsibilities starts and ends, bitter conflicts between user groups during negotiations of how much each should pay, and new clubs being charged exorbitant prices by the existing tenants when wishing to use the reserve.
- The City now charges a flat fee per person which has removed all of these points of conflict. The Finance Department also reports it has saved them considerable time and effort as they no longer have to work out how much is the proper amount that each association should be contributing for each reserve.
- Furthermore, the City is now responsible for bookings at all reserves. These changes have removed a great deal of burden from the sports club volunteers, with one club administrator claiming that it has saved them over 60 hours of time each year as they no longer have to negotiate bookings and usage fee contributions with the other user groups.



1.6 City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Active Reserve Usage Fees

- \$600 per Club for regular training and competition uses for the season, all sports.
- No specified hours allotted. Local sporting associations determine ground usage requirements for each club. City is not involved in bookings.

1.7 City of Joondalup

Regular Season Hire Fees

- Maximum 2 training sessions and 1 game per team per week
- Ground Use Fees High Maintenance (Football, Rugby League/Union, Soccer), \$472.75 per team per season.
- Ground Use Fees Low Maintenance (Hockey, Cricket, Lacrosse, Athletics, Softball, Baseball), \$369.29 per season.
- 60% of base for max 2 training sessions only per week.
- 40% of base for max 1 game only per week.
- 100% discount for juniors.

1.8 Shire of Lake Grace

Active Reserve Usage Fees

- Shire does not charge sporting clubs for use of active reserves.

1.9 Shire of Moora

Sports Grounds and Pavilion Fees

- Football and Rugby, \$2,000 p.a. (Includes Meetings, Kitchen Use, Home Game Socials, Player Teas, oval & lighting)
- Hockey, Cricket, \$650 per club per annum for use of buildings and grounds.



1.10 City of Rockingham

Reserve Hire Fees Per Team Per Season

Senior Teams Per Season	(\$ Per Team	Junior Teams (under 18) Per Season	(\$ Per Team
Football	480	Football	90
Soccer	305	Soccer	56
Rugby Union	410	Rugby Union	75
Cricket	305	Cricket	56
Softball/Baseball	255	Softball/Baseball/Tee-ball	47
Hockey	305	Hockey	56
Rugby League	355	Rugby League	65
Gridiron	305	Gridiron	47

1.11 Shire of Ravensthorpe

Active Reserve Use Charges for Sporting Clubs

- No Charges for use of the ovals.

1.12 Shire of Roebourne

Active Reserves Seasonal Club Bookings

- Various Users - Number of Uses Per Week X Number of Players Per Team X Number of Weeks Booked X \$0.70
- Juniors @ 30% of Adult rate.

1.13 City of Swan

Playing Fields Basic Charge

- Maximum 2 training sessions and 1 home game per week, for 25 week season.
- \$48 per senior player per season, \$8 per junior player per season
- Training or Matches, \$23 per senior, \$4.50 per junior
- Minimum team numbers are set for each sport.

1.14 Shire of Wagin

Use of Recreation Centre and Grounds Fees Inc Electricity

- Wagin Football Club \$1,900 per season
- Wagin Cricket Club \$850 per season
- Wagin Hockey Club \$850 per season

1.15 City of Wanneroo

Ground Hire Fees Per Team Per Season

- Rugby Union \$500.65
- Rugby League \$441.75
- Australian Rules \$589
- Soccer, Cricket, Hockey \$382.85
- Turf Wickets \$2,677.35
- Athletics \$29.45 per person
- Softball, baseball, tee ball \$323.95
- 5 a side \$147.25
- Pre Season per player per week \$1.55

1.16 Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

Sports Oval Club Usage Fees

- No charge to sporting groups for use of the Shire's ovals.



2 SPORTS FACILITIES

2.1 Shire of Esperance

Sports Facilities Fees and Charges

- The Bay of Isles Leisure Centre is the only Shire managed sports facility in the Shire. It charges \$30 p/h for use of the indoor court area.
- All other sporting facilities including indoor stadium, bowls club, tennis club, golf clubs, gun clubs, motor sport clubs etc are under peppercorn lease arrangements, with the lessees being responsible for all management and maintenance costs.

2.2 City of Albany

Sports Facilities Fees and Charges

ALAC Indoor Courts

- Court Hire \$30 per hour

Other Sporting Club Facilities

- Other sporting facilities are on peppercorn lease arrangements with clubs being responsible for all management and maintenance of the leased areas.

2.3 Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

Indoor Court Fees

- \$37 per hour peak

Other Sporting Club Facilities

- Clubs pay a levy, Shire to advise what levies include.

2.4 City of Busselton

Indoor Court Hire

- \$42 p/hr Peak, \$33 p/hr Off Peak.

Other Sporting Club Facilities

- Other sporting facilities are on peppercorn lease arrangements with clubs being responsible for all management and maintenance of the leased areas.



2.5 Shire of Gnowangerup

Lease Fees

- Most sporting facilities are under peppercorn lease arrangements. Some community facilities are leased to an association which takes on responsibility for managing the facility.
- The Shire assists in the maintenance of the facilities, clubs/associations are responsible for the outgoings.

2.6 City of Greater Geraldton

Lease Fee for Sporting and Community Groups

- \$328 p.a. Lease Fee for sporting and community groups.
- City has many facilities that are leased to sporting groups including sporting pavilions (bowls, tennis, football etc), basketball stadium, badminton stadium, netball stadium, gun clubs, equestrian facilities etc.

2.7 City of Joondalup

Hall Hire at Sporting Grounds

- Clubs pay Community Regular User Rate for hall facilities at the sporting ground (\$22-\$32 p/h depending on size). 100% discount for juniors.

Outdoor Sports Courts Hire for Clubs/Associations – Basketball, Netball, Tennis

- Court Hire Per Court, 1 hour per week for full year Peak After 6pm \$159.32
- Court Hire Per Court, 1 hour per week for full year Off Peak Before 6pm \$145.96

Indoor Sports Court Hire Craigie Leisure Centre

- Community User Full Court \$45.10 per hour
- Community User Half Court \$20.30 per hour.

2.8 City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Lease Fees

- Many sports facilities are under peppercorn lease arrangements. Clubs are responsible for all maintenance and upkeep. This includes basketball, netball, hockey and various other clubs.
- Most pavilions are under lease agreements with sporting clubs. A new facility being planned for Ray Finlayson Reserve will come under a new management arrangement however, with details yet to be determined by the City.
- City will assist with upgrades on a case by case basis, through CSRFF and other funding processes. Recent examples include hockey, golf and bowls.



2.9 Shire of Lake Grace

Shared Use Facilities Fees

- There are no charges for use of shared community/sporting buildings. Shire conducts the maintenance, bookings are managed by the management committee made up of the key user groups.
- A review for fees and charges and management of facilities is being undertaken.

2.10 Shire of Moora

Sports Facilities Fees and Charges

- Use of pavilions included in fee for oval use.
- Netball and Basketball Associations \$650 p.a.
- Squash Club \$630 p.a. (6 months per year, 3 nights per week)

Other Sporting Club Facilities

- Other sporting club facilities are on peppercorn lease arrangements with clubs being responsible for all maintenance including bowls and equestrian.
- Some facilities are owned outright by the Clubs including tennis, golf and the rifle clubs.

2.11 City of Rockingham

Outdoor Netball Courts

- Seniors \$205 per team per season
- Juniors \$37 per team per season

Indoor Court Hire

- The City's main indoor court centre (7 courts) is managed by the YMCA.
- Baldvis Indoor Court is hired for \$25ph off peak, \$30 p/h peak.

Other Sporting Club Facilities

- Other sporting facilities are on peppercorn lease arrangements with clubs being responsible for all management and maintenance of the leased areas.

2.12 Shire of Roebourne

Pavilion/Hall Hire at Shared Facilities

- Clubs pay applicable community group hourly rate for the desired facility (approx \$23 p/h, 30% for juniors).

Indoor Courts

- Seasonal Club use fees as per agreement



Outdoor Netball Courts

- Netball Association - Number of uses per week x number of players per team x number of weeks booked x \$0.70c /4 (number of courts)

Other Sporting Club Facilities

- Tennis Club per season – as per agreement
- Horse and Pony Club per season – as per agreement

2.13 City of Swan

Pavilion Use

- Includes use of clubrooms, storerooms, changerooms and toilets
- \$225 per club per annum
- Several Pavilions are under separate licence agreements and managed independently by these clubs.

Netball/Basketball

- Altone Park (3 Courts)
 - Off peak rate \$33.00 per hour (9am-4pm Monday-Friday without lights)
 - Peak rate \$40.00 per hour (all other times or with lights)

2.14 Shire of Wagin

Pavilion Use For Sporting Clubs

- Use of built facilities for sporting clubs (i.e. hockey, football, cricket etc is included within overall fee for use of sporting facilities.
- Shire does all maintenance on these facilities.

Other Sporting Club Facilities

- Peppercorn leases held with Golf, Tennis, Riding, Kart, Gun and Aero clubs. Clubs responsible for all maintenance.

Comments

- Shire satisfied with current arrangements.



2.15 City of Wanneroo

Community Pavilion/Hall Hire

- \$15 - \$33 p/h depending on size.

Kingsway Indoor Stadium Court Hire

- Senior Club Use Court Hire per hour \$42.50, Juniors \$37.50

Outdoor Courts

- Senior Club Basketball per team per season \$206.15
- Senior Club Netball per team per season \$265.05
- Tennis Courts Club Use per person per annum \$58.85

2.16 Shire of Wongan Ballidu

- Most sporting club facilities fall under peppercorn lease agreements.
- Shire assists with maintenance.



APPENDIX 4 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1	CONSULTATION DOCUMENT	2
1.1	SHIRE OF ESPERANCE STAFF	2
1.1.1	<i>Meeting With Relevant Shire Staff and Department of Sport and Recreation Goldfields Manager, 24 September 2012</i>	<i>2</i>
1.1.2	<i>Wayne Willey, Operations Coordinator (Bay of Isles Leisure Centre - BOILC).....</i>	<i>3</i>
1.2	WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL COMMISSION	3
1.3	WEST AUSTRALIAN POLICE, FIREARMS LICENSING SERVICES	3
1.4	SCHOOLS	4
1.4.1	<i>Esperance Senior High School</i>	<i>4</i>
1.5	SPORTS ORGANISATIONS	5
1.5.1	<i>Esperance Netball Association</i>	<i>5</i>
1.5.2	<i>Esperance District Recreation Association</i>	<i>7</i>
1.5.3	<i>Esperance Hockey Association</i>	<i>8</i>
1.5.4	<i>Esperance and Districts Agricultural Society.....</i>	<i>9</i>
1.5.5	<i>Esperance Bay Gun Club</i>	<i>10</i>
1.5.6	<i>Esperance Rifle Club.....</i>	<i>11</i>
1.5.7	<i>Esperance Cricket Association.....</i>	<i>12</i>
1.5.8	<i>Esperance Junior Cricket Association</i>	<i>13</i>
1.5.9	<i>Esperance Model Aero Club</i>	<i>14</i>
1.5.10	<i>Esperance Equestrian Club</i>	<i>14</i>
1.5.11	<i>Pink Lake Golf Club</i>	<i>15</i>
1.5.12	<i>Newtown Tennis Club</i>	<i>16</i>
1.5.13	<i>Esperance Tennis Club</i>	<i>17</i>
1.5.14	<i>Esperance Bowling Club.....</i>	<i>18</i>
1.5.15	<i>Esperance Bay Turf Club</i>	<i>19</i>
1.5.16	<i>Esperance Kart Klub.....</i>	<i>19</i>
1.5.17	<i>Esperance District Football Association.....</i>	<i>20</i>
1.5.18	<i>Esperance Goldfields Surf Life Saving Club</i>	<i>20</i>
1.5.19	<i>Esperance Motorcycle Club</i>	<i>21</i>
1.5.20	<i>Esperance Mountain Bike Club</i>	<i>22</i>
1.5.21	<i>Esperance Soccer Association</i>	<i>23</i>
1.5.22	<i>Esperance Speedway Association</i>	<i>24</i>
1.5.23	<i>Esperance Bay Yacht Club.....</i>	<i>25</i>
1.5.24	<i>Esperance Basketball Association (Seniors).....</i>	<i>26</i>
1.5.25	<i>Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club</i>	<i>27</i>
1.5.26	<i>Ports Cricket Club.....</i>	<i>28</i>
1.5.27	<i>Esperance Triathlon Club</i>	<i>28</i>
1.5.28	<i>Esperance Dog Club</i>	<i>29</i>
1.5.29	<i>Esperance Amateur Swim Club.....</i>	<i>30</i>
1.5.30	<i>Esperance Taekwondo Academy</i>	<i>31</i>
1.5.31	<i>Esperance District Badminton Association</i>	<i>32</i>
1.5.32	<i>Esperance Little Athletics.....</i>	<i>33</i>
1.5.33	<i>Esperance Rugby Union Club</i>	<i>33</i>
1.5.34	<i>Ports Football Club</i>	<i>34</i>
1.5.35	<i>Esperance Dive Club</i>	<i>35</i>
1.5.36	<i>Esperance Twilight Aerials Gymnastics Academy.....</i>	<i>36</i>
1.5.37	<i>Esperance Squash Club</i>	<i>37</i>
1.5.38	<i>Esperance Volleyball Association.....</i>	<i>38</i>
1.5.39	<i>Esperance Golf Club.....</i>	<i>39</i>
1.5.40	<i>Salmon Gums Gun Club</i>	<i>39</i>
1.5.41	<i>Salmon Gums Development Group.....</i>	<i>40</i>
1.5.42	<i>Sporting Shooters Association of Australia WA, Salmon Gums Branch.....</i>	<i>40</i>
1.5.43	<i>Grass Patch Community Development Association</i>	<i>40</i>
1.5.44	<i>Cascade Town Recreation Association</i>	<i>40</i>



1 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1.1 Shire of Esperance Staff

1.1.1 Meeting With Relevant Shire Staff and Department of Sport and Recreation Goldfields Manager, 24 September 2012

A meeting was held with relevant Shire Staff and the Manager of the Department of Sport and Recreation Goldfields Office to gain an understanding of the background information and issues relating to sports facilities and services provision in the Shire. Key points raised in this meeting were as follows:

- A Growth Plan (GP) for the Esperance town site is being prepared and will be available by mid October (2012). This document will provide details on plans for the future development of the town.
- The GP is likely to identify an aspirational population target of around 25,000 for the Shire (currently 15,000).
- The GP will show residential expansion to the east and infill occurring to support growth in population.
- The outer lying towns have generally shown to declining population trends, however, these populations may fluctuate depending on the occurrence of mining activities that may occur in their vicinity.
- Gibson – located 15 mins from town, near the airport, may show population growth in the future due to its close proximity to Esperance whilst being able to offer potential residents the rural setting.
- In general, farms are getting bigger, requiring less full time workers to run them, therefore these outer-lying towns that have generated approximately 50 years ago due to farming activity have been seeing declining populations and fewer sports participants/organisations as a result.
- The Shire of Esperance has 5 golf courses, with 2 located in Esperance. They are all managed and maintained by the lessee clubs on peppercorn arrangements.
- The Esperance Tennis Club recently had a split, and a second club has now formed and is playing on the Esperance SHS courts.
- There are several gun clubs in the Shire (various disciplines) in separate locations. Ideally they would be collocated in one precinct for gun related sporting activities, sharing facilities where practical.
- Comment was made that the Esperance town site may benefit from making some tennis courts freely available to the public as occurs in some of the outlying towns. Currently the Esperance Tennis Club courts are locked.
- Motor sports are well catered for with a number of clubs collocated in a precinct approximately 10km north of Esperance. The Esperance Motor Cross Club has a 5 Year Plan and is progressing well with its objectives.
- Previous Shire consultation with youth has revealed that the youth report a lack of things to do as an issue.
- Asset Management is currently being addressed by the Shire as it is a necessary part of its Integrated Strategic Planning Framework that all Western Australian LGA's are required to prepare for July 2013.
- Currently the Shire has an Asset Management Plan for Shire managed facilities but not for leased facilities – most sporting club facilities are leased.
- The Leisure Centre requires improved disabled changerooms by the Hydrotherapy Pool.



- Lack of suitable water for watering of active turf is an issue in particular areas in town. Recycled water is extensively used, however it is currently being used to maximum capacity.
- The social impacts of synthetic surface development should be considered prior to any recommendation for such a facility. Synthetic surface development in some regional communities such as Albany and Narrogin have led to participation declines. Sports in country towns seem to suffer if they have to move away from traditional fixturing practices which is often a necessary result of synthetics due to the need to make it financially viable. Residents of outer-lying communities find it difficult to attend sports in non traditional times, and it significantly increases volunteer resources required to run the sports, which are already stretched in the current environment.
- Kidsport Program has worked well. 240 vouchers were given out to 180 kids. 42% were new to organised sport.

1.1.2 Wayne Willey, Operations Coordinator (Bay of Isles Leisure Centre - BOILC)

- The aquatic centre is in reasonably good condition. Other than general maintenance of the facilities and equipment, there are no major issues with the facility.
- The pool shells require some painting and patching of the floor/walls surfaces within the next 2 years.
- The plant room is 12 years old but is functioning well.
- The pool is heated with free gas from a local energy company, which is the equivalent of \$200,000 p.a. This agreement runs out in 2022. BOILC is looking at alternative energy sources to reduce the potential energy bill after this time. An energy audit has been completed.
- Usage levels reach towards capacity during peak times of the day, but overall is ok. Some additional pool space may be required in the future, and better utilisation of lane space (i.e. encouraging multiple swimmers per lane).

1.2 West Australian Football Commission

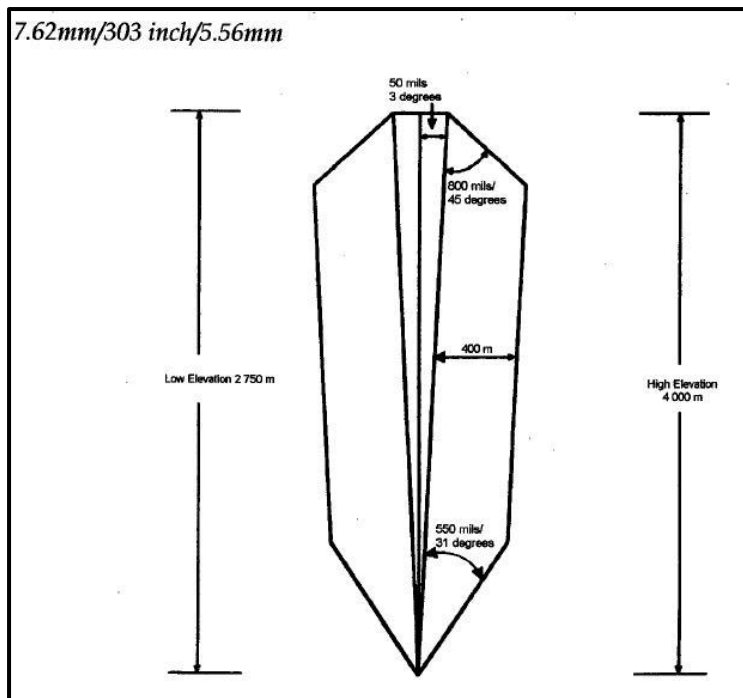
1.3 West Australian Police, Firearms Licensing Services

Alex Timms, 1/C Sgt 4863

Sergeant Timms provided the following information in regards to land area requirements for ballistics sports:

- A very large footprint is required for rifle ranges to ensure an adequate safety buffer is created (called the Danger Zone). It is approximately 1km wide and 2750m long – see diagram below:





- The shooting club must obtain firing rights on the property on which the danger zone occupies. If it is crown land, then permission must be obtained by the relevant department, i.e. the Department of Environment and Conservation if in State Forestry.
- Land features may reduce the size of the footprint required, which will be at the discretion of the Police Licensing Services. A large steep hill or sand dune would be an effective stop butt.
- Danger area templates can overlap if multiple clubs are collocated. Danger areas should not cover another shooting discipline's firing range so that both sports can operate at the same time.
- The Darwin Rifle Range and Belmont Rifle Range (QLD) are examples of sports shooting precincts with multiple shooting disciplines collocated.

1.4 Schools

1.4.1 Esperance Senior High School

Andrea Parker, Head of Physical Education

The Esperance Senior High School (ESHS) was consulted in regards to community usage of its facilities and its facility needs for the future.

- The School's facilities are already open for considerable community use.
- Junior basketball and netball teams (made up primarily of school students) train on the school's indoor and outdoor courts on weekdays after school until 4-5pm.
- A tennis coach (associated with the Newtown Tennis Club) hires the outdoor courts for coaching lessons for 14.5 hrs per week @ \$10 per hour.
- There is substantial parking available in various locations around the school, and the coach has a key for the toilets.
- The outdoor tennis & multi use courts are left open for the community to use at their leisure outside of school hours and on the weekends free of charge.

- The School would not consider adding lights to the courts as it has no need for lighting and would result in additional maintenance responsibilities.
- The School is happy to hire courts to the Newtown Tennis Club as per the current arrangements, however, school student use of the courts will always take priority.
- The school does not use the aquatic centre except for its annual faction swimming carnival. The fees are too high for the school to consider taking students to swimming lessons there.
- The oval turf is in poor condition. The School has a limited budget for turf maintenance. It would be open to discussing a shared arrangement with the Shire where the Shire could assist with maintenance of the turf and the community sporting teams could make use of the oval.
- Club cricket teams make use of the recently built cricket nets at the school.
- The oval does not have a wicket due to the cost of maintaining it and covering/uncovering it each year. It would be willing to consider one as part of a suitable sharing arrangement.
- A multi-use outdoor sand court has recently been developed for a variety of sports such as beach volleyball, beach netball etc.
- The school makes use of community facilities such as Esperance Cricket Ground, Pink Lake Golf Course and the Esperance Bowls Club for various programs or carnivals.

1.5 Sports Organisations

1.5.1 Esperance Netball Association

Lesla Blackham, Sponsorship Officer, Former President 2007-2011; Corrine Waight

The following comments and information are provided on behalf of the Esperance Netball Association:

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	142	0	+10%	Over the past decade membership has been steady with around 26-29 teams in the senior competition, and 25 junior teams (10-16 yrs old) and 80 sub-juniors (5-9 yrs old).
Juniors	120	0	+10%	
Seniors	184	0	+10%	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- The netball season runs from April through to September.
- Seniors typically play from 1:30pm – 7:30pm on Saturdays on three indoor courts, and occasionally have a split fixture with games played from 5:30pm – 9:00pm on Friday nights and 1:00pm to 4:00pm on Saturdays afternoons.
- Games are 1:00hr long with 15min gaps between fixtures.
- Juniors play on the 6 good condition outdoor courts on Saturday mornings from 9:00am to 12:30pm.
- Sub-juniors play on the two older outdoor courts from 9:00am – 10:30am (45 minute games).
- Senior training occurs on all three indoor courts on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30pm – 8:30pm. Each team trains on half a court for a 1 hour session.



- Junior training occurs on all 6 outdoor courts. Training sessions are 1 team per court for 1 hour.
- Wednesdays are the preferred training day, with training occurring up to 6:30pm, followed by Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Sub juniors do not train.
- The lights on the outdoor courts are a very low level and not suitable for competition.

Facility Needs

- Resurfacing of outdoor courts depending on time frame of GSG move. Resurfacing of court 3 in the stadium. It is slippery all the time, not just when a bit wet, very dusty.
- There is a need for four indoor courts and 3 outdoor courts (minimum of 7) to accommodate the current and future needs of netball in the Shire. An eighth court would allow the competitions to be run as per the current arrangements.
- There is a need for facilities for the club to call home, such as a shared clubroom where memorabilia can be displayed and participants/spectators gather after games as well as permanent storage space, office space and kitchen/kiosk facilities.
- An equipment storage space of approximately 30m² is required.
- An improved level of lighting in the stadium is required to meet Australian Standards. A power upgrade is required to achieve this.
- There needs to be sufficient space between courts for some bench seating and the required runoff around all courts.

Facility Plans

- Club has upgraded the kitchen over the 12/13 summer.

Asset Management Plan

- Club does not have an asset management plan

Asset Replacement Fund

- Club has a small 15 year term deposit for future upgrades.

Strategic Business Plan

- The club has a strategic business plan

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Volunteer burnout, same core of people doing all the work.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Better facilities may entice more participants or encourage others to keep playing.
- Any help in the volunteer area would be greatly appreciated by the club. i.e.: how to find them.

Additional Comments

- Netball is competing with an increasing number of other activities that girls also like to participate in such as dancing and gymnastics. The number of other activities available may increase as the population grows. Therefore, there may not be a very large increase in netball participation as the population increases in the future.
- It difficult to schedule games outside of traditional timeslots, which have developed over time to best suit the requirements of country participants. The Shire has many residents in outer-lying towns and farms that travel into Esperance to participate in netball and football.



It is important to keep the junior competitions aligned to minimise family travel and time spent away from home, and not to clash with senior football competition (Sundays) as many wives/partners are key volunteers and organisers of the football competition which has a higher priority to them than participating in netball themselves.

- Enabling competition to occur all in one place at one time also provides a very important social function for families living outside of Esperance, as it allows them to mix with the rest of the population. If game times were to spread out across a variety of days/times, country residents would find themselves participating amongst themselves in the timeslots that best suit them.
- The Saturday morning junior fixtures, and Saturday afternoon senior fixtures has evolved as the most suitable days/times for netball competition in Esperance as it is in most other country areas. Expansion into other days/times could possibly occur but is unlikely to be a major development in the future given the circumstances of country participation. If netball was required to move away from Saturday netball, it could result in significant declines in participation.
- These participation issues also apply to other sports such as hockey and soccer.

1.5.2 Esperance District Recreation Association

Lesa Blackham, President

- As the population grows, new sports are likely to arise, thus participation in existing traditional sports may not experience participation increases to the same levels.
- Ultimate Frisbee is an example of a sport that has recently formed in Esperance.
- A lot of facilities are outdated and have only been receiving stop gap maintenance. The organisations that lobby the council the most are the ones that receive the most assistance.
- There is a gap between the amount of funds required to provide and maintain high level facilities and the amount that community sporting clubs can afford. Fees are kept as low as possible to maximise participation rates, therefore there is little surplus for facility upgrades.
- In addition, club committee volunteers have little capacity for devoting much time and effort into facility management. Often they are members of several committees as well as having full time jobs and family responsibilities.
- High level facilities provide significant benefit for the Shire. It enables Esperance to attract high level events. The Tennis Club is hosting a Pro Tour tennis event as it has recently refurbished high quality tennis courts from which to host such an event. The upgrade of the Stadium should also endeavour to have facilities suitable for attracting high level teams to play games and conduct clinics in Esperance.



1.5.3 Esperance Hockey Association

David Green, Vice President; Ben Curtis, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	66	0	0	
Juniors	230	-10%	0	
Seniors	150	0	+10%	
Veterans	55	+10%	0	

- There are currently 8 women's teams and 7 men's teams, 6 high school aged junior teams and 6 primary school aged junior teams. There are 30-40 sub junior players.
- Participation has been relatively stable. Future population growth may see some additional teams added. There is potential that the Association could grow to approximately 10 men and 10 women's teams and add a third junior division (6 teams).
- The Indoor competition is a preseason social competition held from February to April. One court is marked across the 2 wooden indoor courts at the stadium, with removable boards, nets put up. There are four men's teams and four women's teams. Juniors mix in. The Association does not expect this competition to grow significantly in the future.

Facility Usage

- Hockey competition is played on four full size fields marked out at the GSG. There is also a training pitch with training lighting (slightly undersize), and a new pitch is marked out for the grand final which partly overlays 2 other pitches.
- Juniors play on Saturday mornings, seniors in the afternoon. Training occurs weekday evenings.

Facility Needs

- The number of turf hockey fields is adequate for the current and future needs of the Association.
- The Association would at least like to see the development of a half field hockey turf (ideally full turf) to assist junior development into the highest levels of the sport, as synthetic turf experience is critical.
- The surface of the indoor stadium should be able to withstand indoor hockey use (recently used varnish coating scuffs easily).
- One indoor hockey court will be sufficient for current and future needs. Storage requirements will also remain the same.
- The Multi-Sport Pavilion used by Hockey during the winter requires expansion of the indoor social area as it becomes crowded on match days and for club related functions. Doubling of the social area could be achieved by enclosing the verandah area.
- The wet areas (kitchen and changerooms) are in need of some refurbishment.
- Improved vehicle access to the pavilion to avoid driving on the ground.

Facility Plans

- There are plans being developed for the upgrade of the lights to enable night competition. Currently there is one night event per year for which temporary lights are brought in to achieve the required lux level. Permanent lights will improve the quality of training and enable more night events to be held.



Asset Management Plan

- The Assoc does not have an Asset Management Plan but would like some assistance to do so.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Assoc has significant savings it sets aside for this purpose.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Assoc has a strategic business plan but would like assistance to improve it.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Keeping player numbers up.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- A vibrant committee. Assistance in ensuring that we have the tools to manage this.

Additional Comments

- It is important for Hockey and other sports in the Shire to retain existing competition times. Country regions such as Esperance do not have the capacity to expand significantly into other time slots due to residents of outer-lying communities not being able to participate at these times, and the difficulty in acquiring officials and volunteers to enable this to happen.
- Whilst the Association would like to be able to play on a synthetic turf, it is wary of it as the developments of synthetic turfs at other places such as Narrogin and Albany has reportedly led to a drop in participation in these places. It is believed this is because these associations have been expected to heavily program these facilities and move away from the traditional Saturday only competitions, using less natural turf fields to conduct their competitions. Participation has dropped due to the circumstances of country participants finding it difficult to play outside of traditional time slots.

1.5.4 Esperance and Districts Agricultural Society

Ewin Stewart, President

The Esperance and Districts Agricultural Society has made the following comments in regards to the potential redevelopment of the Stadium:

- Overall, the Agricultural Society would like improved facilities on what it has now if it is required to move, and must maintain its current usage levels of the stadium and the reserve.
- The Agricultural Society has built much of the Stadium which sporting groups today enjoy the use of.
- The Esperance Agricultural Society is one of the largest in the State and one of the only ones that is growing.
- In 2011 the show had 9,000 visitations, mostly of local residents which is very good considering the population is around 15,000.
- The Society requires 200m² of office and meeting space which it would continue to share with the Brass Band. The meeting/band room should be at least 80m² + storage space for the Band's equipment.
- The Society uses the office weekly and holds monthly committee meetings.
- Large storage space is required for the carpets that are used to cover the courts for the annual show.
- The latest sketches of the Stadium expansion are not the Society's preference, but are acceptable to them.



- The Society is ok for its sheds to be moved to make better use of the space of the reserve, however, it is concerned about who will pay for the redevelopment of the stadium and sheds. Several Agricultural Society and Basketball members acted as guarantors for the loan that paid for the development of the Stadium.
- If gymnastics, taekwondo and other like activities are to move over to the Stadium, they will require a dedicated space that equipment can be permanently set up in.
- In regards to sports participation in the Shire of Esperance overall, Ewin Stewart makes the observation as an individual that it is vital for sports to remain Saturday based competitions as many families have long distances to travel and do not have the capacity to make multiple trips for various sporting activities.

1.5.5 Esperance Bay Gun Club

Terry Maloney, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Expecting future membership growth from improved management and promotion, junior development and facilities upgrades.
Juniors	3	0	+30%	
Seniors	30	0	+50%	
Veterans	5	0	+10%	

Facility Usage

- Monthly Training
- Fortnightly Competition
- Annual Easter Carnival (100-110 shooters)

Facility Needs

- Clubhouse refurbishment
- New shooting tower
- Sporting Clays Facility
- Junior Training Facilities
- Shooting layout upgrades
- Grounds maintenance equipment

Facility Plans

- Kitchen upgrade almost complete
- Clubhouse upgrade
- New tower facility
- Ground maintenance equipment
- Financed through club funds and hopefully grants

Asset Management Plan

- Asset Management Plan being developed, would be interested in assistance developing it if is available.

Asset Replacement Fund

- Club has just used some of the funds for the kitchen; the Committee is discussing an amount to set aside each year for future upgrades.



Strategic Business Plan

- Strategic business plan is under development, the Club would greatly appreciate assistance.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Maintaining and/or increasing membership.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Assistance with grants
- Facilities upgrades
- Promotion and membership drive

Additional Comments

- The Club would be open to discussion to the prospect of relocating to a ballistics sports precinct; however, the Club would likely be reluctant to do so as it would likely mean moving a long way out from Esperance.
- Shot guns have much smaller fall out land area requirements as opposed to rifle and pistol clubs.
- The Gun Club has one of the largest carnivals in WA, attracting 100-110 shooters each year. This brings in a significant amount of revenue for the Club. This is due in part to the Club's good facilities and proximity to town.

1.5.6 Esperance Rifle Club

Mick Welke, President; Graham Donovan, Publicity Officer

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				New shooters have been attracted because of improved range facilities including electronic targets. The Club offers a sport for all to compete in at all levels up to international level
Juniors	1	+50%	+50%	
Seniors	21	+100%	+50%	
Veterans	6	+50%	+75%	

Facility Usage

- Weekly competition training and coaching given to all new members and visitors.

Facility Needs

- Improve the club house, raise the roof and improve the kitchen area.

Facility Plans

- Improve the club house, raise the roof and improve the kitchen area.

Funding for Facility Plans

- Hoping to fund with for some grant money and using club money and labour.

Asset Management Plan

- Club does not have an Asset Management Plan, would like some assistance to develop one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club is setting aside funds for clubhouse renovations.



Strategic Business Plan

- The Club has a Strategic Business Plan

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Urban encroachment close to the range.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- A long term lease would give a positive future for the club.

Additional Comments

- The Club is healthy which has been significantly boosted by the addition of electronic scoreboards.
- The Club would be open to discussing relocation. It would require an area that meets the fall out area requirements. It should also have a 1,000 yard range with at least 5 targets width.
- The Arboretum has previously been discussed as a location, however, the DEC has reportedly ruled out this possibility.
- The Geelong Rifle Club facility layout is worthy of consideration and would minimise impact on sensitive bushland.

1.5.7 Esperance Cricket Association

Wayne Martin, Secretary

Wayne Martin provided the following comments on the needs for cricket in Esperance on behalf of the Esperance Cricket Association (ECA):

- Senior cricket could do with an additional cricket wicket. Some wickets have been lost due to school buildings encroaching on their oval space. Some games are being played on Sundays which is not popular amongst a number of the players.
- Most of the cricket clubs have poor access to clubhouse facilities. Whilst the football clubs are letting the cricket clubs use their facilities, access can be inadequate and unreliable at times, including access to toilets and changerooms.
- The ECA would like the opportunity to develop a home base facility at the Esperance Oval that would accommodate the ECA, the EJCA, the Esperance Cricket Club and other clubs that are looking for a home facility such as the Darts Association.
- The Darts Association is having difficulty finding a venue for its competitions; clubs are not willing to open up their facilities to them.
- The ECA feels that cricket is being blocked from having a home facility as it is not able to negotiate full usage rights of the existing clubhouse at the Esperance Cricket Ground for the cricket season, and is not permitted to develop its own facility.
- The ECA feels that if given permission to develop a facility it would find the means to do so as it has significant capacity for facility development within its membership. It would also be very willing to seek facility sharing opportunities with other organisations to share costs.
- It is very important for the cricket clubs and the association to be able to display memorabilia, have office space, have permanent storage facilities and have good access to toilets, changerooms social facilities and first aid facilities.
- Cricket has been played in Esperance at the Esperance Ground for over 100 years. It is overdue to have a home facility of its own.
- The new boundary fencing around the Esperance Cricket Ground is a serious safety issue. There are no gates apart from the one adjacent the club house. The fence is quite high,



there have been many incidents of players attempting to jump the fence and tripping and falling, incurring minor injuries as the attempt to get the ball that has cleared the fence. More access gates around the ground are required.

- The ECA would very much like turf wickets, with a preference for them to be located at the Esperance Ground which is widely considered as the home of cricket. It is where the Shire has located the main training nets for the association. It would also be good to have a second turf wicket at the GSG on the Ports Oval so that all first grade games could be played on turf.
- The ECA would ideally prefer the Shire to maintain the wickets, but would be willing to consider taking responsibility for maintaining them itself.

1.5.8 Esperance Junior Cricket Association

Shane Tobin, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	90	+10%	+10%	
Juniors	110	0	0	
Seniors	150	0	0	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- U13's & U16's x 4 teams train and play once a week at the same nets but 4 different match day venues.

Facility Needs

- None

Facility Plans

- None

Asset Management Plan

- Not required, EJCA does not manage any facilities.

Asset Replacement Fund

- Not required, EJCA does not manage any facilities

Strategic Business Plan

- EJCA just raises enough funds to get by each season and send kids to country week.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Player Participation going forward and development pathway.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Getting a Cricket Development Officer in Esperance - More WACA support

Additional Comments

- With the primary Schools getting royalties money (and building) the EJCA has 2 fewer Ovals available. Playing Saturday morning is a must for the EJCA. If the EJCA runs out of ovals it will may have to schedule games on Sundays which hasn't worked well in the past.

1.5.9 Esperance Model Aero Club

Mark Johnston, President

Mark Johnston provided the following comments regarding the current state of the Club and potential future needs:

- The current facilities meet the basic needs of the club. It includes a gravel runway strip and a specially designed shelter (cantilevered roof) with concrete floor for the planes to take off from.
- The Club has also recently installed a disabled toilet.
- The Club is in a strong financial position; its outgoings are low as it only pays a peppercorn lease to the Shire and insurance.
- The Club would very much like a bitumised runway, however this is a luxury that it cannot afford, and the existing gravel runway is satisfactory.

1.5.10 Esperance Equestrian Club

Anna Holt, President (and Funding Officer for Pony Club)

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Approximately 25 Equestrian Club Members, and there is some joint Pony Club/Eq Club members. There are about 50 members total between the two clubs.
Juniors				
Seniors	25			
Veterans				

Facility Needs

- Upgrades to clubrooms including linking, a verandah, and new doors.
- All purpose sand arena approx 70m x 50 with fencing.
- 60m x 20m arena with fencing for juniors to learn on.
- Lean to extension for the shed for the equipment trailers.
- New rainwater tank.

Facility Plans

- Seeking DSR funding for clubroom upgrades

Additional Comments

- The Club is small but in good financial health. Covers day to day costs but relies on grants for special projects.



1.5.11 Pink Lake Golf Club

Cliff Spencer

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Less youth participation, decreased interest in golf, increasing age of the majority of golfers. Juniors and their parents are difficult to attract because of their commitments to other sports such as football, hockey, cricket etc.
Juniors	1	-50%	-25%	
Seniors	60	-50%	-25%	
Veterans	40	-50%	-25%	

Facility Usage

- Clubhouse use - Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat each week. Clubhouse is also popular for functions and is a significant source of revenue.

Facility Needs

- Ongoing maintenance of the 18 hole grassed greens and fairways

Facility Plans

- Hope to seal driveways around the clubhouse. Reticulation maintenance, mower replacement.
- To be financed through club income and grants.

Asset Management Plan

- The Club has an Asset Management Plan

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club is setting aside funds.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club has a strategic business plan

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Declining participation and lack of funding.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Assistance with course maintenance e.g. mowing of fairways

Additional Comments

- Club would be open to any opportunities for sharing of the facilities with other clubs that needed a venue.
- There is some concern about the long term viability of the Club given the declining membership base. Within the past year the Club has stopped employing a paid green keeper and now relies on volunteers to maintain an 18 hole, grass fairway and greens golf course. The volunteers are ageing and unless replaced, will not be able to continue doing these services.



1.5.12 Newtown Tennis Club

Kath Ashby, Secretary

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Started 2012, club reports that it is going very strong and that if given access to sufficient court facilities it would grow strongly in the future.
Juniors	83			
Seniors	24			
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- Lease the High School courts on a per term basis for coaching.
- Courts are free for casual use – school leaves gates open.
- The courts are used Monday to Friday from 3pm till 6pm and on Saturday mornings from 8am till 11a, for coaching and pennants.
- Not available during week days and without lights are not suitable for evenings.

Facility Needs

- Want access on to Esperance Tennis Club courts, currently being blocked from doing so.
- School facilities are very basic, does not have things such as lights, storage, club facilities etc.

Facility Plans

- Seeking to acquire an adequate home base.

Asset Replacement Fund

- Club is successfully applying for funds for equipment and storage and will use membership funds and other fundraising to build this.

Strategic Business Plan

- Club has an initial 3 year plan but it cannot be implemented until they have secured use of adequate courts and facilities.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Maintaining numbers without being able to offer adequate courts and facilities. The challenge is to convince the Esperance Tennis Club and the Shire of Esperance that co-sharing the existing facility will benefit all parties in the long run.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Ongoing support of our Club by way of recognizing that Esperance can comfortably accommodate two Clubs and that co-sharing facilities is a positive means of promoting and growing the sport of tennis.

Additional Comments

The Club reports: It is vital that for the future of tennis in Esperance that a minimum of two Clubs exist. With one Club, one management style and one choice of coach problems will be ongoing. The NTC now established and affiliated brings another list of objectives to the sport which is essential for healthy competition and Club relationships going forward. It is paramount that the Newtown Tennis Club has the support of the Esperance Shire and DSR. The vision to grow the sport of tennis via healthy interclub competitions which occurs in all other towns will not be possible without this support. The geographical location of the existing tennis facility means that another facility will



never be built and therefore the only option for another Club to succeed is to co-share the existing facility.

1.5.13 Esperance Tennis Club

Annette Edwards, Committee Member

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	28	+50%	+75%	Appointment of Club Professional Coach who is highly skilled and qualified to assist the Management Committee to promote the game and plan programs
Juniors	64	+50%	+75%	
Seniors	109	+20%	+40%	
Veterans	39	+30%	+40%	

Facility Usage

- Every day for training/coaching/pennant fixtures in school terms.

Facility Needs

- Resurface and repair of 6 courts which are 20 years old.
- Extend lighting program, requires power upgrade to GSG to increase power supply.

Facility Plans

- Surfacing of raised area adjacent to clubhouse for a practice court and function area.
- To be financed through club funds and grants.

Asset Management Plan

- The Club does not have an asset management plan but would like to develop one.
- Management Committee is currently seeking funding for a facilitator to assist this process.

Asset Replacement Fund

- Club is setting aside funds for asset replacement. Wants to formalise it as part of the Asset Management Plan

Strategic Business Plan

- Management Committee have just begun this process and are fully supported by the recently appointed Club Professional Coach in developing this.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Securing a longer lease in the near future from the Shire to apply for funding.
- Undermining the Club Professional Coach and the model of operation.
- Lack of respect, by a minority, for the decisions of the elected Management Committee.
- Sustaining a high level of volunteers to coordinate programs.
- Training and information for members on Management Committee.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Support and recognition from Shire that we are running a valued club for the community with volunteers.
- Funding for training.
- Funding for administration to communicate with our community.
- Assistance from Tennis West with running programs.

Additional Comments

- The ETC has an exclusive contract with the new Club Professional for coaching on the courts, which is the major reason the Newtown Tennis Club cannot use its courts.
- Towns with one strong club do better than towns with multiple clubs. Esperance held a very successful Pro Tour tournament, whereas Albany is unable to as it has multiple small clubs.
- The Club estimates the Pro Tour event had an economic benefit of \$1.5 million for the town.

1.5.14 Esperance Bowling Club

Peter Birch, President

Membership

- 2011/12 there were 71 male and 31 female capitated members. This has remained steady over the past 5 years.
- Corporate bowls is popular.
- There are also around 120 beach volleyball players and 20-30 croquet players that have facilities at the bowls club.

Facility Usage

- Facilities are used daily for bowls, beach volleyball, croquet and darts, as well as being a fully licensed function venue for the Town.

Facility Needs

- Club is satisfied with its facilities. Its main concern is that it does not want to be relocated, as there have been previous discussions on sharing a facility with the Tennis Club.

Facility Plans

- To remain in its current location.
- Has recently spent \$100,000 on kitchen upgrades and photovoltaic solar panels.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club is setting aside substantial funds for asset replacement/upgrades including replacement of synthetic greens.

Additional Comments

- The Club is financially strong and membership is stable.
- It would strongly resist any move to collocate with Tennis. The Club is already highly multi-user with croquet, beach volleyball and darts using their facilities. There would be significant problems in attempting to share a facility with another major club such as tennis.
- The Club has invested large sums of money into its facilities in recent years. The Club would be significantly disadvantaged if moved into a facility that did not provide the same level of facilities and the same level of access to them.



1.5.15 Esperance Bay Turf Club

Robin Hill, Secretary

Membership

- The Club currently has 320 members which is much higher than 5 years ago (was 120). This is likely due to improvements to facilities and a pro-active management committee.
- Membership numbers expected to continue to increase.

Facility Usage

- Used for racing and training over the summer season.

Facility Needs

- More stables for visiting trainers
- Upgrade entrance gate area
- Construct breakaway inside rail
- New toilet block for members
- New commercial kitchen.

Facility Plans

- Next project on the list is for a new kitchen to be built, although specific plans for it have not yet been made.
- Pavilion upgrades recently completed – interior has now been lined.

Additional Comments

- The Club is in a strong and healthy position, and is seeking to build on its current success.

1.5.16 Esperance Kart Klub

Delcia Hubble, Secretary

Membership

- 40 licensed drivers plus marshals, starters, stewards and families (total around 100-120 on race days. Good size for Shire's population.
- Numbers have been gradually increasing and may continue to do so with population growth.

Facility Usage

- Race days held monthly, members can practice anytime.
- State Championships were held at Esperance on October 13th.

Facility Needs

- Signal lights (currently use flags)
- Extend track by 400m to allow multiple configurations (currently 655m)
- Ideally – night lights.

Facility Plans

- Next priority is for signal lights.

Additional Comments

- The Club is in a healthy financial position.

1.5.17 Esperance District Football Association

Jeff Sparrowhawk, President; Taryn Wittorf, Secretary

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	210	+10%	+20%	Growth expected to arise from Town population growth.
Juniors	320	+10%	+10%	
Seniors	240	0	+10%	
Veterans				

- Four Club competition with League, Reserves and Colts.
- Association tries different things to keep the competition strong.
- Juniors are strong.

Facility Usage

- Training Tues/Thurs and comp on Sundays, sometimes on Saturdays under lights at Newtown or Esperance ovals.

Facility Needs

- The Ports facilities are in need of upgrading including the clubhouse facilities

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Insurance costs is a big issue for the clubs. Adequate insurance helps participation levels given that there is a risk of injury.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Assistance in procuring cheaper insurance for players would be highly welcome.

Additional Comments

- Committees are relatively healthy.
- The Association will experiment with super Sundays – where all games are played at one oval on a Sunday.

1.5.18 Esperance Goldfields Surf Life Saving Club

Chris Brien, President

- Approximately 100 members including 60 active.
- Nippers meet on Sunday mornings during summer season.
- The Club sends competitors to occasional carnivals and events around the State.
- There are plans to demolish the existing Nippers Shed and incorporate it into an extension on the existing clubhouse which is about 10 years old.
- The Club is 'Off Grid' and uses solar power and water from a bore.



1.5.19 Esperance Motorcycle Club

Tim Hawkey, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	15	-10%	+20%	Growing population and changing demographics are likely to benefit the club.
Juniors	55	+20%	+20%	
Seniors	30	-10%	+30%	
Veterans	30	+10%	+30%	

Facility Usage

- 8 meetings plus practice weekly. 2 state level events.

Facility Needs

- Children's play area
- Sheds for equipment storage
- Changes and extensions to Moto Cross track.
- Purchase of track building equipment.

Facility Plans

- Installation of children's play area and small storage shed.

Asset Management Plan

- Does not have one, but would like assistance in developing one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The club is putting away funds for asset replacement

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club has a strategic business plan.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Threat to off road riding areas being closed will diminish the potential club members. Increased regulation and insurance issues.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Continued co-operation with Esperance Shire and DEC

Additional Comments

- The Esperance Motorcycle club is affiliated with Motorcycling WA and promotes an active and healthy lifestyle. A large number of our junior riders travel to State championships with very good success. The club is primarily focussed on the Junior participants and club membership is significantly higher than the participant numbers in Q2.



1.5.20 Esperance Mountain Bike Club

Rob Sudmeyer, Secretary

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors			+10%	Participation growth will occur through interest in mountain biking and biking in general and better public knowledge of facility.
Juniors	5	-10%	+10%	
Seniors	10	0	+10%	
Veterans	10	+10%	+10%	

Facility Usage

- Several times a week for individual training rides
- At least once a week for group rides
- Once a month for races

Facility Needs

- Trail access to other bush areas

Facility Plans

- Develop a skills area
- Have secured \$500 shire funding and volunteer labour.

Asset Management Plan

- The Club does not have an asset management plan but would like assistance in developing one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club does not have an asset replacement fund.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club does have strategic business plan.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Attracting volunteers to maintain the track and sit on the committee.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

1.5.21 Esperance Soccer Association

Carmel Creed, Treasurer/Special Projects

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	45	+30%	+20%	The sport has really only just got properly established here. There is now a greater depth of commitment among members to provide better coaching, refereeing and a larger Senior competition. This will mean that we will not have as high attrition in our older juniors.
Juniors	188	+40%	+30%	
Seniors	66	+50%	+40%	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- Winter- every afternoon for training and all day Sunday.
- Out of winter currently 2 nights per week plus some training.
- There are plan to hold a carnival and also to eventually host a State team such as the Glory or Glory Women's team.

Facility Needs

- The smaller field needs enlarging to full sized.
- There are plans for another 2 fields and it would be ideal if one of these were also full sized and lit to increase training space and opportunity for night games.
- The other proposed field, near the club rooms could be smaller and would ideally be geared to use by the younger juniors who use multiple 30m x 30 m fields.

Facility Plans

- Kitchen and electrical upgrade has recently occurred to the netball clubrooms, shared by soccer. Jointly funded

Asset Management Plan

- The Club does not have an asset management plan but would like assistance in developing one.
- The Club keeps an asset register but it is only recently that it has become the owners of significant assets with the completion of the lights.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club keeps aside the same amount it pays for power for future maintenance of the lights.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club has a strategic business plan but no forward budget estimates. It would like some assistance in this regard.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Getting the balance right between affordable fees and being able to meet rising costs, while also improving the clubhouse amenities to make it more attractive from a social and functional aspect.



- The Club is an inclusive organisation and tries to provide an avenue for all people who would like to play to be able to at an affordable price. Most people in Esperance play several sports and this limits the hours members can volunteer to fundraising and operating the association to its best advantage.
- The Club has noticed a steady decline in our end of year balance as it has become more established and branched out into more activities.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Grants for facilities and volunteer aids and training have and continue to be of great assistance, as is the new Kidsport initiative.

Additional Comments

- There is a great positive atmosphere in this club despite the limited opportunity the Club has to properly develop talented players and officials. The new lights have seen an explosion in interest from adults, which was always part of the Club's plan to provide a future pathway for kids and a new source of volunteer officials and older players. To capitalise on this it will be vital that there is a gradual expansion in available fields and that the Club has a 'clubhouse' that it can make more hospitable for social and training gatherings.

1.5.22 Esperance Speedway Association

Amelia Fitzgerald, Promotions/Treasurer

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				No comments provided.
Juniors	10	>-50%	+20%	
Seniors	30	-10%	+30%	
Veterans	5	-10%	+10%	

Facility Usage

- The Club has approximately 12 speedway meetings a year,
- Members can practice at any time
- Clubrooms are used regularly for social occasions.

Facility Needs

- Cool room needs to be repaired or a new one installed ASAP.

Facility Plans

- Changes to the corporate boxes and public viewing years are scheduled in the five year plan as well as modifications to the clubrooms.
- To be funded through club fundraising and securing of grants.

Asset Management Plan

- Assoc does not have an Asset Management Plan but would like assistance developing one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Assoc is not setting aside funds for asset replacement.

Strategic Business Plan

- Assoc does not have a Strategic Business Plan but would like assistance developing one.



Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Financial pressures are affecting the Club. The cost of insurance is very high.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Sponsorship and successful grant applications.

1.5.23 Esperance Bay Yacht Club

Christopher Wells, Vice Commodore

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				The juniors are growing because of coaching and the clubs training boats, seniors because of a larger cruiser fleet.
Juniors	80	+20%	+30%	
Seniors	120	+30%	+30%	
Veterans				The Club will continue with training and increase the number of cruisers and other senior fleets.

Facility Usage

- Saturday - training in morning, racing in afternoon, social and prize giving afterwards.
- National, State, World Titles

Facility Needs

- Larger marina
- Replace asbestos on junior boatshed
- Shade areas.

Facility Plans

- Enlarging galley
- New administration
- Function & storage areas
- Front deck area
- General building facelift
- Upgrades will be funded through Club funds, grants membership funds, functions revenue.

Asset Management Plan

- The Club has an Asset Management Plan.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club has an asset replacement fund. It is mostly self funding the extensions

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club has a Strategic Business Plan

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Maintaining membership growth. Increasing function use.
- Expanding training programme.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Grants to improve and enlarge marina



- Another coach boat
- Replace pacer fleet
- Replace asbestos on boatshed

Additional Comments

- EBYC has a premium spot in town and is working hard to make improvements, all assistance is welcome.

1.5.24 Esperance Basketball Association (Seniors)

Ann Green, Administrator

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Unchanged over past 5 years because cannot fit any more teams in the competition. Future growth will occur from improved facilities, population growth and high proportion of juniors coming through.
Juniors				
Seniors	270	0	+30%	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- During the basketball season nearly every day of the week for competition, training, coaching and umpiring clinics.

Facility Needs

- Need at least one new court and existing asphalt court to be recovered in a better playing surface.

Facility Plans

- For many years the Assoc has held discussions regarding new facilities and have been hoping they will come in the near future.
- Facility upgrades will be funded through Esperance Shire, grants and user group funding.

Asset Management Plan

- The Assoc has an Asset Management Plan

Strategic Business Plan

- The Assoc has a Strategic Business Plan.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Sub standard playing facilities restricting the number of teams able to play. Constant complaints regarding the asphalt court and/or late time slot.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Construction of the new facility

Additional Comments

- New facilities have been required and the Assoc has held discussions with the Shire and other user groups for many years but there doesn't appear to be any progress made past the planning stage.

1.5.25 Esperance Deep Sea Angling Club

Brett Thorp

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				No comment provided.
Juniors	12	0	+10%	
Seniors	72	-10%	+10%	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- Facilities are used every week, club venue once a month

Facility Needs.

- Require larger clubroom and need to renovate and repaint

Facility Plans

- Repainting facilities and redesigning entry to club
- Hope to be assisted with a grant

Asset Management Plan

- The Club does not have an Asset Management Plan but would like assistance in developing one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club is setting aside funds for asset replacement.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club does not have a Strategic Business Plan but would like assistance in developing one.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Unable to secure a long term lease on the land the clubrooms are located on

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Liaise with Dept of Transport on a longer lease

Additional Comments

- Club is focussing on education and fishing for the future.

1.5.26 Ports Cricket Club

Stephen Baker, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Added another team to the club & attracted junior members.
Juniors	6			
Seniors	25	+100% or more	+20%	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- Once a week during summer.
- No training facilities at the ground. We train twice a week.

Facility Needs

- Training nets x 4

Facility Plans

- None

Asset Management Plan

- None

Asset Replacement Fund

- None

Strategic Business Plan

- None

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Attracting young cricketer to the game

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Promotion of cricket and continuing to provide good facilities for the sport.

1.5.27 Esperance Triathlon Club

Brian Sylva, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors		0	+20%	Growth being driven from increased TV coverage of professional events.
Juniors		+10%	+30%	
Seniors		+20%	+30%	
Veterans		+10%	+20%	

Facility Usage

- Use public roads once a fortnight over summer.



Facility Needs

- Having a club house or sports ground usable by all athletics groups

Facility Plans

- Refurbishment of shire own cycling velodrome has been spoken about.

Asset Management Plan

- None

Asset Replacement Fund

- Club is setting aside funds for asset replacement.

Strategic Business Plan

- None

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Lack of members- high membership cost.
- Road traffic management.
- Shire approvals

1.5.28 Esperance Dog Club

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				
Juniors				
Seniors				
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- Obedience training & agility once a week

Facility Needs

- Club rooms and storage

Facility Plans

- None

Asset Management Plan

- The Club has an Asset Management Plan

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club is setting aside funds for asset replacement but would need additional funding from elsewhere.

Strategic Business Plan

- None

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Recruiting more trainers

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- funding for trainer workshops

1.5.29 Esperance Amateur Swim Club

Trina Parker, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	10	+20%	+20%	Club is growing from having a more active committee. Growth will continue through popularity of swimming as a key component of several sports. E.g. triathlons, surf club and open water swimming.
Juniors	25	+30%	+20%	
Seniors				
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- BOILC used twice a week for club nights and then used individually by members for additional training.

Facility Needs

- Would like a dedicated area within BOILC to act as Club House / office.

Facility Plans

- None

Asset Management Plan

- Not applicable

Asset Replacement Fund

- Small amount of funds set aside for replacement of equipment.

Strategic Business Plan

- There has been a Goldfields regional swimming strategic plan created.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Access to suitably qualified coaches

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- More support from Swimming WA

1.5.30 Esperance Taekwondo Academy

Peter McCleave, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				
Juniors	70	+10%	+10%	
Seniors	40	+10%	+10%	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- 2-3 times per week training / competition

Facility Needs

- Dedicated area with matts left in place approx 30mtr by 20mtr also larger lockable storage area

Facility Plans

- None

Asset Management Plan

- None

Asset Replacement Fund

- Club is setting aside funds for asset replacement

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club has a Strategic Business Plan

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Dedicated training area
- Shire fees for non for profit clubs

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Dedicated training area
- Lower fees for non for profit clubs



1.5.31 Esperance District Badminton Association

Trish Jones, Treasurer

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Play all year which means fluctuating numbers depending on other sports on at the time. Not enough Courts. Growth to come from population increase and differing age groups wanting to try something new.
Juniors	12	-25%	+10%	
Seniors	20	-10%	+10%	
Veterans	10	0	+10%	

Facility Usage

- 3 times a week. Monday evening social, pennants and competition.
- Tuesdays - Juniors training
- Wednesday morning - ladies social.
- Thursday is allocated to table tennis.

Facility Needs

- More courts, upgraded social facilities, toilets and showers.

Facility Plans

- The Club has had facility development plans but have put them on hold for nearly ten years waiting for GSG upgrade.
- Upgrades would be funded through fundraising and grants.

Asset Management Plan

- The Club has an Asset Management Plan

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club has an Asset Replacement fund, and is holding on to these funds pending the outcome of the GSG upgrade plans.

Strategic Business Plan

- Club does not have a Strategic Business Plan, it is awaiting outcome of the GSG upgrade plans.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Providing better facilities and training / coaching
- Keeping existing days and times for play as they currently fit in with a lot of other clubs.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Adoption of a multiuse sporting pavilion
- Help from Badminton WA for updating skills.

Additional Comments

- Have already indicated that the sale of the existing sheds can go to the shire to help with the GSG upgrade



1.5.32 Esperance Little Athletics

Andrea Richards

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors			+20%	No comment provided.
Juniors	95	-	+20%	
Seniors				
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- Train one day per week and compete one day per week.

Facility Needs

- Club would benefit from Clubrooms

Facility Plans

- None

Asset Management Plan

- Club does not have an Asset Management Plan but would like assistance to develop one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- Club sets aside funds to replace equipment

Strategic Business Plan

- Club is in the process of developing a Strategic Business Plan

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- lack of volunteers

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- No response

1.5.33 Esperance Rugby Union Club

Chris Kirwan, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Itinerant flow of players coming to Esperance to work in the rural industries. Growth could come from Potential commencement of Junior participation, less reliance on season worker flows.
Juniors				
Seniors	20	-25%	+20%	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- Potentially each 3rd weekend April - August playing visiting teams from Goldfields, and week night lit training.

Facility Needs

- Upgraded Greater Sports Ground toilet/change room. Not specific to rugby but all clubs.

Facility Plans

- Shire has plans to upgrade GSG, this should include upgraded ablutions.

Asset Management Plan

- None

Asset Replacement Fund

- Not required, equipment replaced from recurrent funds.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club does not have a strategic business plan but would like assistance developing one.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Senior player availability for games and progressing junior initiatives.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

Additional Comments

1.5.34 Ports Football Club

Mark Watson, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				
Juniors	120	+20%	+10%	
Seniors	60	+10%	+10%	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- 4 nights per week for training
- Junior games on Saturday
- Senior games on Sunday
- Looking at Friday night junior fixtures

Facility Needs

- Lighting upgrade for the oval
- Lift for the clubrooms

Facility Plans

- The Club has plans to develop lighting and a lift, it will require funding support.

Asset Management Plan

- The Club has an Asset Management Plan

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club has an Asset Replacement Fun

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club does not have a strategic business plan but would like assistance to develop one.



Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Attracting people to the Club
- Maintaining a healthy financial situation
- Loss of junior players

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Financial support for lights so the Club can attract people to night football which will increase canteen and bar turnover and provide the right environment for the playing and supporting population.

Additional Comments

- The Club feels it has a vital role in attracting young people to the Club and offering them the right culture to help them progress in life.

1.5.35 Esperance Dive Club

Rod Hilton, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Concern over an increase in the number of shark attacks has resulted in fewer club members diving and a reduction in club memberships.
Juniors				
Seniors	24	-10%	+20%	The Club is endeavouring to promote Esperance as a premier scuba diving location.
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- Club has no facilities. The Club contracts the services of a commercially operated boat for diving activities.

Facility Needs

- The club would eventually like to purchase its own dive boat

Facility Plans

- Installation of a dive trail off the Tanker Jetty to promote Scuba Diving and to provide an all weather dive location
- This will be funded Club resources, Lotterywest and sponsorships.

Asset Management Plan

- Not applicable

Asset Replacement Fund

- Not applicable

Strategic Business Plan

- Club does not have a Strategic Business Plan

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- To attract new members to Scuba Diving as it is only through numbers that we can negotiate affordable charter rates to hire the local dive boat

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Support to host diving events to promote Esperance as a premier dive location - event planning and management and funding.

Additional Comments

- As a dive location Esperance has huge potential for growth as the water is clear and the underwater scenery spectacular.

1.5.36 Esperance Twilight Aerials Gymnastics Academy

Monica Liebeck, Assistant Coach

Membership

- The club has 123 registered participants from the age of 2 to 17 years, participating during all 4 school terms all year round.
- There is currently a wait list for Kinder and Beginner Classes, with approximately 10 children on each list.
- The number of members has increased by 30% in the last 5 years. Reasons being there have been more coaches available for classes.
- Participation will now be able to increase significantly higher since moving into a facility of their own, providing flexibility to add more classes.

Facility Usage

- Gymnastics classes are held on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons.

Facility Needs

- Club has recently moved into privately leased facilities and upgraded it to meet its needs.
- The Club needs to have a permanent space where it does not have to set up and pack up its equipment on an ongoing basis. It is too much of a drain on volunteers as it is very time consuming, and shortens the life expectancy of expensive equipment.

Facility Plans

- Stay in current facility for at least 5 years.
- Consider moving into ISS depending on facilities provided.
- Explore building own facility in the future

Asset Management Plan

- The Club does not have an Asset Management Plan but would like assistance develop one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club is setting aside funds for asset replacement and future plans.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club is in the process of developing one.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Was the setup and pack up of equipment, but this has now been resolved with the move to the Club's own premises.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- The Club has achieved this important goal on its own.

1.5.37 Esperance Squash Club

Kirsten Raszyk, Secretary

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors	10	+10%	0	Not expecting future growth but hopefully will have an increase.
Juniors	50	+20%	0	
Seniors	190	0	0	
Veterans				

Facility Usage

- It is used every day. 3 nights a week are ladies, men & junior pennants
- Thursday morning for mixed pennants
- Socially, training & TDS Squad

Facility Needs

- We need an extensive power upgrade and both toilet / shower areas need to be refurbished.

Facility Plans

- Club is planning for the power upgrade and toilet/shower refurbishment and has just completed renovating 2 courts.
- Club is hoping to fund future improvements with revenue from potential new sponsors.

Asset Management Plan

- Club does not have an Asset Management Plan but would like assistance to develop one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club is setting aside funds for future asset replacement, including set up of a term deposit.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club does not have a Strategic Business Plan but would like assistance to develop one.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Costly upgrades

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- External funding and continued sponsorship.

1.5.38 Esperance Volleyball Association

Nick Wells, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors			+50%	The Club is looking to target players at a younger age therefore predict that our participation will rise within the sub juniors category and hopefully continue on through the system.
Juniors	20	0	+30%	
Seniors	160	+20%	+20%	
Veterans			+10%	

Facility Usage

- Indoor Volleyball May - September Twice a week, one day competition and one day training.
- Beach Volleyball November - March Twice a week. One day a week competition and one training with casual games on weekends

Facility Needs

- The indoor courts do not have the required clearance to the ends of the courts.

Facility Plans

- With the beach volleyball the Club is always looking to improve the facilities to be up to a State standard.
- Association funded, grants and sponsorship

Asset Management Plan

- The Club does not have an Asset Management Plan but would like assistance to develop one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club is setting aside funds for replacement of assets/equipment.
- For both beach and Indoor the Club has an equipment replacement plan consisting of 4 new balls a year, replacing nets every 5 years and Poles every 10 years. \$1200 is allowed for every year to replace beach sand.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club does not have a strategic business plan but would like assistance to develop one.

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Getting committee members to take on jobs and not just a select few.

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Executive committee training

1.5.39 Esperance Golf Club

Ron Padgurskis, President

Membership

	Current	Past 5 Years	Next 10+ Years	Comments
Sub-Juniors				Golf is time consuming, affecting participation.
Juniors	10	>-50%	+10%	
Seniors	200	-10%	0	
Veterans	40	+20%	+20%	

Facility Usage

- Club has 4 major tournaments as well as traditional competitions, and open to the public.

Facility Needs

- Club does not have any facility needs; it is highly satisfied with its clubhouse and course.

Facility Plans

- The Club does have plans for a solar powered auto watering system to be installed.
- Seeking government funding.

Asset Management Plan

- The Club does not have an Asset Management Plan but would be interested in receiving assistance to develop one.

Asset Replacement Fund

- The Club does not have an asset replacement fund.

Strategic Business Plan

- The Club does have a strategic business plan

Greatest Challenges Facing Club

- Decreasing membership is the greatest challenge facing the Club

Assistance Required to Meet Challenges

- Close Pink Lake Golf Club as the town does not need two clubs.

1.5.40 Salmon Gums Gun Club

Brian Sheer, President

Membership

- Small club around 10 members. Only 2 are from Salmon Gums. Others are from Esperance and elsewhere that are supporting the SG Club.

Facility Usage

- Monthly shoots.

Facility Needs

- It is a small club, does not require additional facilities.



1.5.41 Salmon Gums Development Group

Christine Graham

The Salmon Gums Development Group was consulted in regards to its plans for a multi-use community hall.

- Plans have been drawn up for a new community hall to replace the existing hall as well as the golf and tennis buildings. It will accommodate almost all community groups based in Salmon Gums.
- It has council support for the development, but needs to acquire funding from other agencies to progress with the development.
- The building plans include a social/function room, bar, kitchen, offices, toilets and showers, a play room and an outdoor entertaining area.
- Consolidation of three buildings into one will save a substantial amount of money for the user groups, including only paying one building insurance fee as opposed to three.
- The SGDG is very keen for this project to go ahead as it will give the town one modern, well utilised community facility.

1.5.42 Sporting Shooters Association of Australia WA, Salmon Gums Branch

Donald Henderson, President

- The Club has 7 active members. It has all the facilities it requires.
- It meets once a month and is financially very sound as they have very low outgoings.

1.5.43 Grass Patch Community Development Association

Steve Roland, President

The Grass Patch Community Development Association was consulted in regards to its views for the recreation facility needs for the Grass Patch community.

- Tennis is a popular social activity – it is keeping people in town on weekends.
- A fourth bitumen court would be beneficial to allow more people to participate.
- The Hall gets used for a variety of community activities and social functions. Some grass near the hall would add to the amenity of the Hall and be beneficial for children playing whilst social events are on. The GP community used to have a sprinkler on a cable at the Oval however it is no longer there. A new sprinkler would be required.
- The oval is not used on a regular basis. An annual community event called the Yabbie Classic is held at the Oval/Hall. Every 5-10 years a game of football or cricket might be held between the Grass Patch and Salmon Gums Towns.

1.5.44 Cascade Town Recreation Association

Greg Kernot

The Cascade Town Recreation Association was consulted in regards to views for the recreation facility needs for the Cascade community.

- The CTRA is seeking a grant to fix the floor in the Hall and for a new shade sail over the playground. A solid shade structure would be preferred as it is a similar cost and will not be ruined as easily in the strong winds.
- The CTRA is also seeking to redevelop the toilets and changerooms to bring them up to modern standards that meet disabled access requirements.
- The Oval is in good condition.

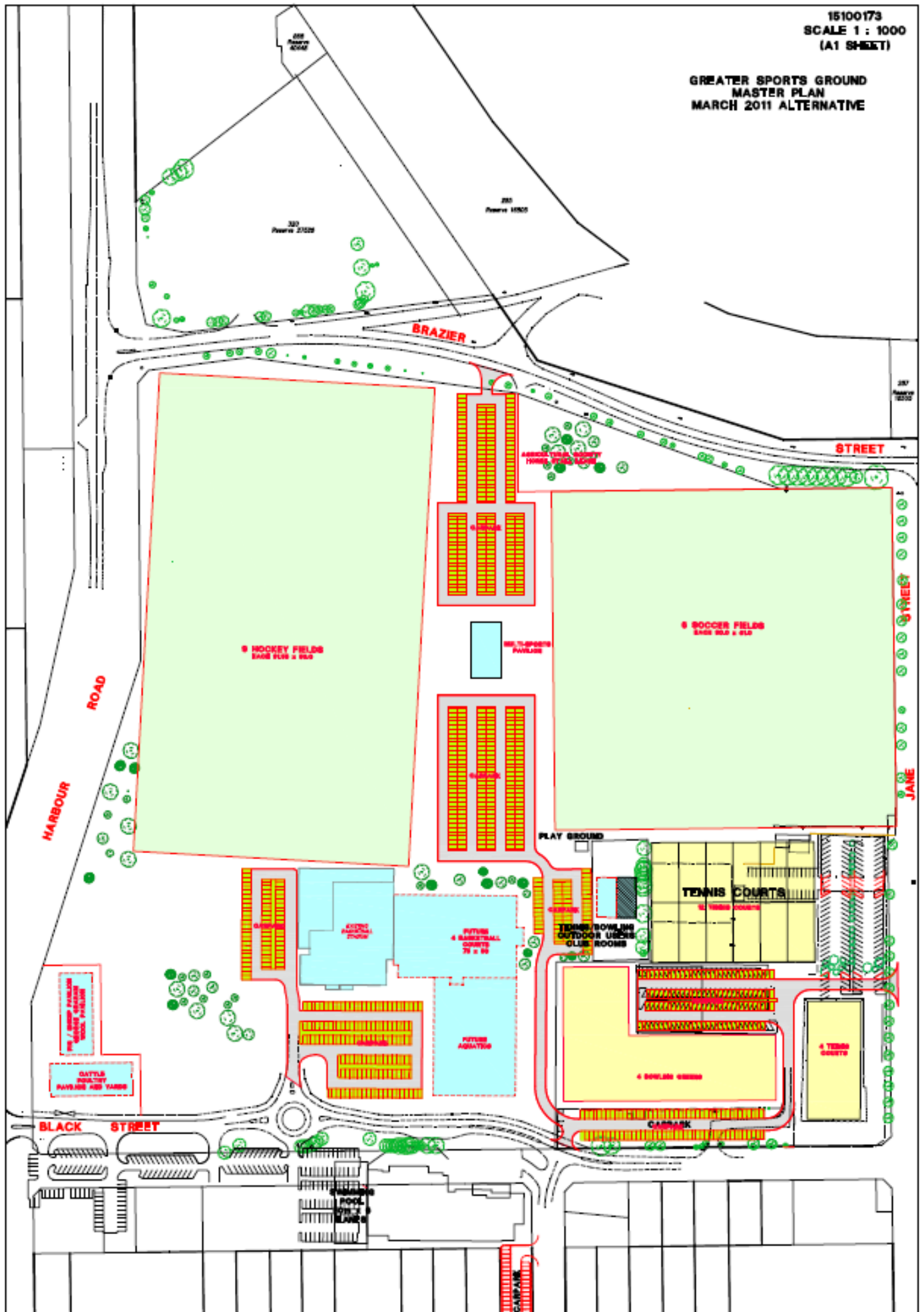


- The tennis courts are very good, approximately 5 years old. The lighting needs a bit of maintenance.
- There are about 50-100 members of the CTRA, numbers seem to have risen over the past few years due to good committee management.

APPENDIX 5 REVISED GREATER SPORTS GROUND MASTER PLAN, MARCH 2011



GREATER SPORTS GROUND
MASTER PLAN
MARCH 2011 ALTERNATIVE



APPENDIX 6 GREATER SPORTS GROUND INTERIM LAYOUT PLAN, MARCH 2011



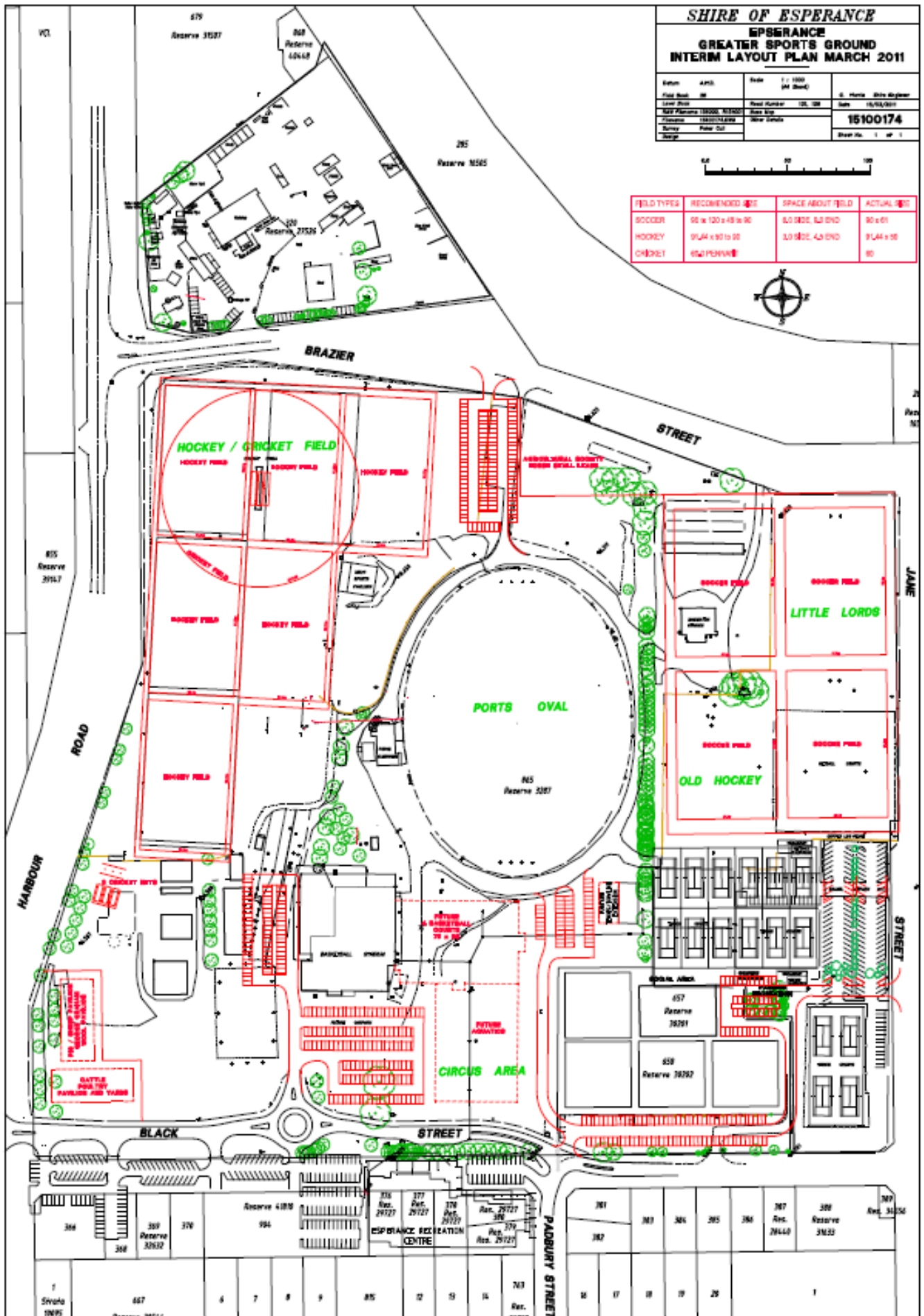
SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

ESPERANCE
GREATER SPORTS GROUND
INTERIM LAYOUT PLAN MARCH 2011

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FIELD TYPE	RECOMMENDED SIZE	SPACE ABOUT FIELD	ACTUAL SIZE
SOCCER	90 x 120 x 45 to 90	5.0 SIDE, 6.0 END	90 x 60
HOCKEY	91.4 x 90 to 90	3.0 SIDE, 4.5 END	91.44 x 90
CRICKET	91.4 x 149.3		90



APPENDIX 7 ESPERANCE FOOTBALL FACILITIES REVIEW ACTIVE RESERVE NEEDS ANALYSIS

1	ACTIVE RESERVE NEEDS ANALYSIS.....	2
1.1	FOOTBALL.....	2
1.2	SOCCER.....	3
1.3	HOCKEY	3
1.4	CRICKET	4
1.5	DIAMOND SPORTS.....	5
1.6	ATHLETICS	5
1.7	ACTIVE RESERVE NEEDS ANALYSIS KEY FINDING.....	5



1 ACTIVE RESERVE NEEDS ANALYSIS

ABV has analysed the active reserve needs of the Shire of Esperance based on a synthesis of the information collected in this report. The needs for each of the major field based sports are discussed in this section.

1.1 Football

The Shire of Esperance has four fully functional ovals that are required to accommodate the four football clubs in the EDFA including senior and junior competition. The four primary football ovals are the Ports, Esperance, Newtown and Gibson Football Club's ovals which are well utilised for football in winter and cricket in summer.

The four football clubs have 6 teams each. Four ovals are required to service four football clubs of this size. If two clubs were to ever share an oval as a home ground, a secondary reserve would be required to accommodate a large portion of the training as 12 teams (6 seniors and 6 juniors) could not be accommodated on one ground due to the severe impact it would have on the turf.

The fifth oval, Condingup Oval, is located over 60km outside of the Esperance town site. It is being maintained by the Shire as a service to the Condingup community. The Newtown-Condungup Football Club (NCFC) utilise this football oval for three senior fixtures per year as a commitment they have made to the Condingup community at the time of the merger of the two clubs. The Club will continue to play at the Condingup Oval for as long as the oval remains active and they continue to maintain the majority of the building. The juniors do not play here due to the excessive distance from Esperance.

If the Shire was to close Condingup Oval, the NCFC would simply play all home games at the Newtown Oval. The reverse situation would not be feasible for the NCFC as the majority of players are from Esperance. It would be too costly and time consuming for Esperance based players to travel over 60km to Condingup for training and games each week.

Whilst DSR views five ovals for four clubs as a duplication of facilities under standard circumstances, the Condingup Oval should be seen in context as a recreation facility for the local Condingup community rather than as an oval specially designated for football. If the Condingup oval was to be decommissioned, there would be no remaining active green space for Condingup residents. The continued provision of an oval at Condingup does not reduce the need for the other four football ovals in and around the Esperance town site.

This review identifies a need to retain four ovals in and around the Esperance town site for the continued operation of the EDFA senior and junior competitions. The Condingup Oval is not required from a football competition perspective; however, there is rationale for the Shire to keep the oval active from a social capital perspective as the hosting of senior football fixtures helps to create and maintain community bonds amongst the local community. Ultimately it is a value judgement for the Shire to determine if it is prepared to maintain an oval to competition standard for the benefit of the Condingup community.



25% growth in football participation in the long term could potentially see the addition of 1-2 teams per club. Each club oval would be able to absorb this; however, additional use of the grounds may require some increased level of maintenance. ABV's research indicates that up to 10 teams (3 senior teams, 7 junior) can be accommodated on an oval provided the oval has very good drainage, receives a high level of maintenance and is managed appropriately (shifting goal posts, appropriate rest periods etc), otherwise the surface will become degraded and increase the risk of injury to players.

1.2 Soccer

The 230 junior soccer participants should be relatively easily accommodated on their existing full size and three quarter size fields; however, significant growth of 25% (total 288 participants) in the long term could see the need for additional space.

Three full size soccer fields would accommodate sufficient future growth in soccer participation. This would allow for approximately 360 participants based on ABV's assumption of 120 participants (8 teams of 15 persons) per rectangular field. This allows for over 50% growth in participation from current levels.

The Revised GSG Master Plan shows space for six full size soccer fields once badminton and netball have been relocated into the indoor stadium and the football/cricket oval has been removed. It is unlikely the junior soccer club would require a 300% increase in playing field space for a 25% increase in participation.

The GSG Interim Layout Plan shows the provision of four full sized soccer fields with the netball and badminton facilities having been removed, however, the oval has been retained. This would be sufficient for up to 480 players – this allows for over 100% increase from current participation levels. Provision of four soccer fields would appear to be more appropriate for soccer's future requirements than six fields. There would also be spare capacity for other sports such as cricket, athletics and rugby.

1.3 Hockey

Hockey currently play their weekly competition of 30 teams on four natural turf fields, plus have space for an additional two fields which is used for finals.

The ability for the Hockey Association to reserve two fields for finals use only reveals there is significant capacity for growth in hockey participation within the existing provision of playing fields. In the long term, assuming 25% growth (+7 teams = 37 teams) 6 natural turf fields should still be sufficient for the association. At a rate of 8 teams per field, 6 fields should be adequate for up to 48 teams provided the turf is well maintained.

The Revised GSG Master Plan shows the provision of up to 9 natural turf hockey fields. This is in excess of hockey requirements based on current and future expected hockey participation levels.

The GSG Interim Layout Plan, however, shows the current layout of 6 hockey fields. This would appear to be quite appropriate for the long term needs of the Association.



At some point in the future, the Shire and the Hockey Association may wish to consider the provision of a fourth generation synthetic hockey surface which does not require water, but plays like a water filled pitch and does not have the abrasive qualities of traditional sand filled pitches. Synthetic pitches can accommodate very high levels of use. The number of teams that can be accommodated is only limited by fixturing schedules.

The provision of one synthetic field and 3 natural fields would likely be able to accommodate current and future hockey participation, therefore one synthetic pitch and the remaining 5 natural pitches would be more than adequate. At least two of these fields could be made multi-use if required. The provision of a synthetic field would also enable Esperance to attract high level hockey teams for exhibition matches and assist the development of talented youth.

It is noted that the latest synthetic hockey turfs are also able to meet high level soccer requirements, thus the synthetic pitch could take on a multi-use role for the community as required as well as reduce the Shire's water consumption.

1.4 Cricket

There are currently 10 senior cricket teams and 10 junior cricket teams plus a Milo cricket competition. The current cricket venues are the GSG, Esperance Oval, Newton Oval, Gibson Oval and the Cascade Oval.

The Esperance Cricket Association reports that the cricket pitches in Esperance are nearing full capacity. Some junior games are being scheduled on Sunday mornings due to limited pitches for games to occur all on a Saturday. The ECA reports several cricket pitches for juniors have been lost due to new school buildings extending on to the school ovals.

Given that 1 pitch can host 2 games of cricket on one day, 20 teams would require 5 pitches for most games to be played on a Saturday. Currently there are 6 pitches (including two that are now available at the GSG as of the 2011/12 season).

It is noted that on the Interim Layout Plan there would be an opportunity for two additional wickets to be located between the four soccer fields which could bring the total number of cricket pitches to 8. This would allow 16 games (32 teams) to play on a Saturday which is 60% above the current requirements. This is significantly greater than the 25% increase in cricket participation that could be expected from population growth.

The ECA could also schedule more games on Sundays to generate additional capacity within the existing fields. Additional cricket pitches could be developed with the full implementation of the Revised GSG Master Plan; however, the future requirements of the ECA are unlikely to justify more than a total of 7 or 8 wickets being available within Esperance.

The cricket clubs are closely aligned with the football clubs. The cricket clubs have full utilisation of the football facilities, thus the four football club facilities located in and around the Esperance town site are well utilised throughout the year.



1.5 Diamond Sports

Softball and t-ball are currently accommodated at the GSG. It is also known that there is a baseball club wishing to start up.

With the potential for year round diamond sports being played, it would be advantageous for these sports to have two dedicated diamonds which is approximately half the size of an oval.

Alternatively, the current arrangements could remain in place, and baseball could be accommodated by adding a corner to one of the football ovals so that a permanent back net and pitching mound could be developed, but the oval used as the outfield. There are several examples of this in Perth.

1.6 Athletics

The Esperance Little Athletics Club (ELAC) has recently started in Esperance which conducts its activities at the Esperance Anglican School oval, and may be using the GSG oval in 2011/12. They currently have 100 participants. Should the Club continue to develop there would be justification for the provision of a full sized running track and jumping pits as well as providing access to pavilion facilities including public toilets, changerooms and shelter. The development of the soccer field area into space for four fields in the Interim Layout Plan would provide sufficient space for a full sized athletics track to be developed.

1.7 Active Reserve Needs Analysis Key Finding

The key finding of Active Reserve Needs Analysis for the Shire of Esperance is that the GSG Interim Layout Plan has sufficient capacity for 25%+ participation growth in both hockey and soccer, and also for other sports including athletics and cricket. This is achieved without removing the Ports Football Club oval as per the Revised GSG Master Plan. This presents an opportunity for a more cost effective solution for the future redevelopment of the GSG to meet the Shire's active reserve needs.