

Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy

Project Background

The Melbourne East Region incorporates the seven Local Government Areas of Maroondah City Council, Knox City Council, Shire of Yarra Ranges, City of Monash, City of Whitehorse, Manningham City Council and the City of Boroondara.

These LGA's are being supported by the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI) and Regional Development Australia to develop the **Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy**.

This project will investigate the needs and future demands for regional sport and recreation facilities and shared trails across the Eastern Region for the next twenty years.

Like many other areas around the State, Melbourne's Eastern Region is experiencing significant growth and requires a strategic approach to the provision of high quality sport and recreation facilities for current and future residents.

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy will deliver stakeholders and key decision makers with a strategic framework for the planning of sport and recreation facilities and shared trails across the Eastern Region that promotes healthy and active communities.

Local Government plays an essential role in the development and management of sporting and recreation facilities, significantly contributing to the physical, social and well being of the communities they serve. The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy will align individual Sport and



Recreation Strategies developed by the seven participating Councils in the Region and propose a set of regional development principles and key recommendations to guide the future provision of sport and recreation facilities and shared trails.

The aim is to develop a strategy for the Region that:

- Increases participation in sport and recreation activities.
- Provide facilities that can accommodate future demand.
- Provide increased opportunities to bid for and host regional, state and national sporting events resulting in economic benefits to communities.

EASTERN REGION QUICK FACTS

COUNCILS:

7 Local Government Authorities

AREA:

2,964 Square Kilometres

POPULATION:

1.03 million people (26% of Melbourne population)

HOUSEHOLDS:

Young families with children under 15 comprise 32% of households



Map of the Melbourne East Region

- Provide access to a wider range of quality facilities.
- Avoid duplication of facility service provision across Council boundaries.
- Ensure sports facilities are financially viable and sustainable.

What is a Regional Sports Facility?

For the purposes of this study a regional sports facility is broadly defined as a sporting venue or precinct;

- with the capacity to host regional level competitions such as league or association finals matches;
- is able to attract participants from broader catchment areas and across multiple municipal boundaries;
- can be used for a range of activities and supports sporting competition pathways.
- is generally managed by a sporting league, association or external provider rather than a local club.

Examples of existing regional facilities within the Melbourne East Region include Knox Regional Sports Park, Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Maroondah Indoor Sports Centre, Freeway Reserve, Morack Golf Course and Kilsyth Sports Centre.

What is the Melbourne East Sport and Recreation Strategy?

The intention of the Melbourne East Sport and Recreation Strategy is to guide the future planning, provision and development of regional sport and recreation facilities and shared trails throughout the eastern region.

The project involves the delivery of four key objectives:

1. Where we are now?

Through consultation with participating LGA's and demographic analysis, review how adequate existing regional sport and recreation facilities and shared trails are across the Melbourne East Region.

2. Where do we want to be?

Investigate trends in the provision of recreation, sporting facilities and shared trails and identify deficiencies and future aspirations for regional facility provision.

3. What are our options?

Identify options to address community needs including upgrades to existing facilities and new facility development.

4. How will we get there?

Prioritise options for upgrades and new facility development with recommended actions and funding opportunities.

Project Governance

We understand the importance of working together on regional planning strategies and the need to engage with all levels of government, sport and community partners and stakeholders.

To ensure the strategy engages with a range of stakeholders at key stages throughout the project, a governance structure has been developed to guide project deliverables and meet communication and consultation expectations.

Representatives from the 7 participating LGAs, Melbourne East RDA and DTPLI will form the **Project Steering Group (PSG)** providing strategic knowledge and advice and high level direction on project issues.

An **External Reference Group (ERG)** is also being established with representatives from the sport and leisure industry, peak sporting associations and government agencies. The role of the ERG will be to provide input into industry trends, facility development principles and community sport and recreation information.

How can I get involved?

The project will be delivered in 7 Stages with completion of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy anticipated by August 2015.

Project consultants will be engaging with state, regional and local government agencies, state sporting bodies, regional sporting leagues and associations and current and potential future user groups through a range of consultation methods including face to face meetings, phone interviews, online surveys and stakeholder workshops. Local communities, sporting clubs and interested stakeholders will be kept up to date with key project findings and progress via individual Council websites.

Contact Us

For more information please contact:

Gavin Jordan
insideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning
 (03) 9680 6370 | E: info@ieslp.com.au
 www.ieslp.com.au

or

Tim Cocks, Manager Leisure, Culture and Youth
 Maroondah City Council
 (03) 9298 4598 | E: tim.cocks@maroondah.vic.gov.au