

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY | MAY 2019 - UPDATE

Project Update

@leisure Planners have undertaken an in-depth assessment of demand and supply of indoor sports in City of Whitehorse. Over 630 people have been consulted and the majority of indoor court facilities have been visited, including some school sites. The facilities condition and geographic distribution have been assessed and compared with demand. A summary update of the progress to date is provided below.

Consultation findings

Household survey

More than 630 people were contacted or completed surveys during this project. This included all the peak bodies for indoor sports, facility providers, schools and clubs. Some 77% (262 of 352) of respondents said there is a need for additional indoor sports facilities. The highest demand was for the following sports – in descending order of frequency:

- Basketball
- Table tennis
- Netball
- Badminton

The results illustrated:

- Considerable demand for inclusive competition and better-designed facilities for people using wheelchairs.
- Older people and those with a disability sought more options to participate.
- There was overwhelming support for existing facilities to be upgraded and extended.

Projected participation

The projected organised indoor sports participation has been estimated for City of Whitehorse based on demographic influences, current club/organisation membership and state average participation rates now and for the forecast population in 2036.

Although not all participation data could be sourced for City of Whitehorse, especially from social venues, it appears sports such as badminton, squash, fencing, table tennis and volleyball appear to have lower than state average

participation. Basketball, indoor cricket and gymnastics have a higher than the state average participation.

Provision of facilities need to reflect where demand is very strong and likely to continue growing and in some cases, where participation is less than state participation rates and facilities are poor or non-existent that this may be limiting opportunities for the sports to grow.

Indoor sports facilities in City of Whitehorse

There is a good range of indoor sports facilities in City of Whitehorse including those in school, and private centres. Having a mix of club managed facilities supporting a pathway to higher level competitions as well as Council managed centres that accommodate a range of social and club competitions, hire and casual use (Sportlink and Aqualink Box Hill) is a great strength and should be maintained.

Options to address the demand for additional courts

Following the assessment of demand and current provision of indoor courts, the priority sports and development options have been analysed. This has included establishing a set criteria to highlight priorities, such as high participation rates identified for a particular sport.

The analysis determined that the priorities for additional or redeveloped facilities are basketball, table tennis and netball. If additional courts are provided for these sports, other sports will be able to utilise these facilities and continue to grow.

Appropriately sized courts should be provided so that multiple sports such as netball, basketball and table tennis can be catered for. These additional courts should be provided relatively equitably across City of Whitehorse. Additional courts should be constructed at existing locations where there is either a management presence or established competition.

Site capability and design options

@leisure Planners will undertake additional investigation on specific Council owned or managed sites around capability and ability to expand. Council Officers will contact stakeholders for further information as required.

Next steps

Stakeholders and clubs will be contacted further as part of the consultation process on the draft Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study at the time of public release.

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