



Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan

Consultation report

September 2026

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Executive summary

The City of Newcastle (CN) is undertaking a review and update of its Strategic Sports Plan, originally adopted in 2020, to provide a long-term framework to guide investment in outdoor sports and recreation facilities across the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA).

A key component of the review is undertaking detailed community and stakeholder engagement. This has occurred across two phases:

- Phase 1 – In early 2026, initial engagement with state and national sporting associations and organisations was undertaken to collect data that has contributed to research and analysis to guide Phase 2 engagement activities. This included:
 - 29 respondents of a local user survey.
 - One interactive workshop with approximately 30 sporting association and organisation representatives.
 - One interactive workshop with approximately 75 local club and association representatives during CN's annual Sports Summit.
- Phase 2 – between 1 April and 11 May 2026, community consultation was undertaken with local users, the community, and external stakeholders to identify challenges and collaborate on exploring future directions. Engagement activities included a dedicated Have Your Say webpage, widespread promotion through flyers, signage, social media, newsletters, media and partner campaigns, and six pop-up stalls across the city. This resulted in:
 - 5,779 project webpage visits.
 - More than 90,000 social media impressions.
 - 1,193 community survey respondents.
 - 228 attendees across six pop-up events across the LGA.
 - 199 responses to the community poll.

While the survey was opt-in and not statistically representative of the broader population, it provided a substantial and diverse body of qualitative and quantitative feedback that will inform the development of a refined Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan.

What we heard

Key stakeholder engagement findings:

- Sporting participation is growing across most codes, with many clubs approaching or exceeding capacity, resulting in approximately half of clubs operating at capacity and some turning participants away.
- Facility access, condition and capacity are the primary constraints on growth, with access to suitable playing space consistently identified as the most significant barrier.
- Weather impacts are a critical issue, with ongoing disruptions to training and competition due to poor drainage and prolonged rainfall, significantly affecting seasonal continuity.
- Drainage, playing surfaces and lighting are the highest priority infrastructure investments, consistently identified as essential to improving capacity, reliability and quality of use.

- Existing amenities are widely viewed as outdated, undersized and not fit-for-purpose, particularly in supporting female participation and inclusive use.
- Clubs are adapting through modified formats and flexible programming, supporting participation growth but reinforcing underlying infrastructure constraints.
- There is strong support for shared use of facilities to optimise existing assets, including partnerships with schools, the university and other organisations, although operational challenges (e.g. scheduling and facility wear) remain.
- Stakeholders identified the need for improved CN coordination and communication, including more streamlined processes, clearer points of contact and improved administration systems.
- Barriers to participation for priority groups, including culturally and linguistically diverse communities, highlight the importance of inclusive facility design, improved communication and targeted engagement approaches.

Key community engagement findings:

- Participation in sport and recreation is high and frequent, with strong use of both organised sport and informal recreation across a wide range of facility types.
- There is a strong perception that existing facilities are not keeping pace with demand, with many participants identifying limitations in quality, capacity and availability.
- Facility condition and modernisation are the most prominent issues, with ageing infrastructure, poor maintenance and outdated amenities impacting user experience across the network.
- Drainage and surface performance are key concerns, with wet weather regularly limiting access to fields and reducing participation opportunities.
- Lighting and safety are key priorities, with demand for increased lighting to support evening use, improve safety and extend facility capacity.
- Female participation is increasing, with strong demand for inclusive, safe and equitable facilities, particularly modern, female-friendly amenities.
- Demand is diversifying beyond traditional field sports, with gaps identified in infrastructure for emerging and growing activities such as pickleball, basketball and cycling.
- The community places strong value on high-quality, accessible and safe facilities, with health, social connection and enjoyment identified as key participation drivers.
- Key barriers to participation include facility availability, condition and weather impacts, alongside access-related challenges such as transport and parking.
- Across all engagement activities, there is consistent prioritisation of playing surface improvements, lighting and amenities upgrades as the most critical areas for future investment.

Next steps

City of Newcastle will continue to review and analyse the outcomes of community consultation and incorporate community feedback into the Strategic Sports Plan review process.

The project has now progressed to the next stage, with the Demand Analysis, Preliminary Directions and Opportunities Assessment (Phase 3) completed and the Draft Plan Development (Phase 4) currently underway. These stages have built on the findings from community engagement, technical investigations and stakeholder feedback to help shape the future direction of sport and recreation planning across Newcastle.

Following completion of the draft plan, it will be placed on public exhibition providing the community with another opportunity to have their say.

Feedback from the public exhibition will then be considered before finalising the plan and reporting to Council for adoption.

City of Newcastle will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses and will provide further opportunities for community participation at key stages of the plan's development, including during the public exhibition period.

1. Background

City of Newcastle (CN) is undertaking a review and update of its Strategic Sports Plan, originally adopted in 2020. The plan provides a long-term framework to guide investment in outdoor sports and recreation facilities across the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA).

Since its introduction, the Strategic Sports Plan has been used by CN to inform future programs of work and capital investment planning. It has also supported sporting clubs, associations and other stakeholders by providing an evidence base to strengthen grant applications and advocacy for facility upgrades. Many of the original plan's recommendations have now been delivered or progressed.

The purpose of the current review is to refresh the plan so it continues to respond to population growth, changing community needs, and evolving participation trends in organised sport and recreation. Updating the plan will help ensure Newcastle's sports infrastructure remains accessible, inclusive and fit for purpose, both now and into the future, while supporting CN's commitment to delivering equitable, community-focused facilities.

2. Engagement objectives

Community engagement was undertaken between April and May 2026 to gather insights and seek feedback on how they use recreational facilities, what they value and how they could be improved.

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- Inform and educate
 - Inform the community, key stakeholders and user groups about the project and its objectives.
 - Improve understanding of Strategic Sports Plan, its role and it guides long term recreation and sports planning.
- Engage early to enable meaningful influence
 - Engage the community, key stakeholders and user groups early in the process so they have a genuine opportunity to shape the development, assessment and refinement of the Strategic Sports Plan.
 - Demonstrate how early input will be used to guide the next stages of technical work, refinement and evaluation, reinforcing that engagement is iterative and influence is greatest at the beginning of the process.
- Support informed input and decision making
 - Empower the community and stakeholders with the knowledge required to contribute meaningfully to decision-making.
 - Share the decision-making dilemma and explain the process used to evaluate and options, including how community preferences and criteria are considered.
 - Ensure the community understands that feedback is one of several inputs used to inform the final options that will be presented in the draft Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan.
- Understand community values and preferences
 - Gather feedback from diverse coastal user groups to inform refinements and updates to the Strategic Sports Plan.
 - Develop an understanding of community values, uses and the acceptability of management options.
 - Understand community and stakeholder attitudes to risk and trade-offs.
- Build relationships and trust
 - Strengthen relationships and build trust with community members, key stakeholders, interest groups and public authorities.
 - Continue to develop strong working partnerships with community and stakeholders.
 - Build community confidence in the technical information through transparent communication
- Inform internal decision making
 - Support City of Newcastle management and Councillors to understand community and stakeholder perspectives.

The engagement approach was guided by best practice Engagement Institute (formerly IAP2) principles and City of Newcastle's commitment to meaningful community participation, as outlined in the [Community Engagement Strategy](#).

3. Communication and promotion

During the engagement period a communications campaign was implemented to raise awareness of the Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan and promote the opportunity for community members and stakeholders to provide feedback on the how they use, what they value and what could be improved in recreational facilities across the LGA.

Key communications activities are summarised on the following page, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in Appendix I.

Summary of promotional activity and reach

Key communications activities are summarised below, and key pieces of communications collateral are available in Appendix I.

Channel	Description	Reach
 Have Your Say webpage	A dedicated project webpage was created on CN's Have Your Say landing page. The page provided information about the SPP and encouraged participation in the online survey.	5,779 visits
 Flyers and signage	Flyers and digital signage were on display at CN libraries and other facilities and were distributed to local businesses across the city. Additional flyers were also distributed at community engagement pop-ups held during the campaign. Signage was also installed at key recreational locations throughout the LGA to promote the campaign and encourage feedback.	1,500 flyers at CN facilities, local businesses and at pop-up events 80 corflutes
 Organic social media	Organic and paid social media campaigns ran between 1 April to 11 May 2026. The posts provided key project information and encouraged viewers to visit the Have Your Say webpage to find out more and have their say.	5,009 Views 7,263 Social media users reached 74 Post engagements (shares, reactions, saves, comments etc.)

 Paid social media	Two paid social media campaigns ran between 1 April to 11 May 2026. The posts provided key project information and encouraged viewers to visit the Have Your Say webpage to find out more and have their say.	90,475 Impressions 38,662 Social media users reached 340 Link clicks
 Newsletters	Articles on the Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan were included in the Newcastle Connect and Community Sector e-Newsletters throughout the consultation period.	4,676 recipients 382 opens
 Media coverage	A media release issued on 1 April generated substantial coverage across multiple outlets.	118 media contacts notified 8 touchpoints across multiple channels (TV, Newspaper and Radio)
 Partner campaign	A feature blog post, email marketing and social advertising collaboration with Newy with Kids was delivered.	160 page views on the blog post 29,055 impressions 29,055 views 3,684 engagements
 Pop up stalls	Pop-up stalls were held at the following locations: • Stevenson Park, Mayfield, 28 April 2026 • No.1 - No.6 Sportsgrounds, Newcastle West, 1 May 2026 • Corroba Oval, Stockton, 5 May 2026 • Novocastrian Park, New Lambton, 6 May 2026 • Bar Beach Kiosk, Bathurst Way, 7 May 2026 • Federal Park, Wallsend, 7 May 2026 Locations and times were selected to support club training sessions or popular recreation areas.	6 pop up stalls 228 individual engagements
 Key stakeholder emails	Identified key stakeholders such as sporting groups, associations, community groups, schools and community groups were sent an email encouraging them to participate in the key stakeholder survey.	75 schools 176 sporting clubs

		Community Sector e-news - 1,000 contacts
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4. Key stakeholder engagement activities

A range of activities were undertaken across the two engagement phases.

In early 2026, phase 1 engagement involved consulting with state and national sporting associations to obtain participation numbers and feedback on the Plan. The purpose of this engagement was to provide early findings and inform the second engagement phase regarding key gaps in data.

As part of this the state or national sporting organisations and regional associations whose jurisdiction includes the Newcastle Local Government Area were contacted, and their participation data, facility improvements, and insights were sought. The following organisations and associations provided input as part of the Phase 1 engagement:

- Australian Rules Football
- Cricket NSW
- Hunter Junior Rugby League
- Junior Hunter Rugby
- Newcastle and District Softball Association
- Newcastle Netball Association
- Northern New South Wales Football
- NSW Rugby League.

Consultation with neighbouring councils was undertaken, including responses from Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, and Maitland Council representatives.

To raise awareness about the Plan's renewal, and test early options, an interactive workshop with associations and clubs was delivered on 11 March as part of the Newcastle Sports Summit at McDonald Jones Stadium. Approximately 75 club members and representatives attended this session.

A targeted survey was distributed to local sporting groups to identify membership levels, trends, facility upgrades, and challenges they may face in the LGA. A total of 29 surveys were completed, and additional information was provided via email from some responding clubs.

Sporting organisations and associations

Sport associations and national or state sporting organisations were contacted in December 2025 to obtain data and insights into key facility challenges and priorities. Key findings are summarised below.

Australian Rules Football

- AFL NSW/ ACT provided affiliated participation data for the 2023 to 2025 seasons.
 - Growth is steady, with a net growth of 63 members between 2023 and 2025.
 - Participation is spread between senior and junior competitions and Auskick programs.
- Sites with significant challenges in quality and/ or capacity:
 - Pat Jordan/ Connolly - quality, size and capacity
 - No 1 Sportsground - capacity

- Hawkins Oval – a request to gain access again.
- Specific infrastructure priorities:
 - Pat Jordan/ Connolly - expansion to accommodate all CN Junior teams in all age groups
 - No 1 Sportsground - Stage 2 upgrades to allow for elite content as well as expanded community use
 - Hawkins Oval - AFL presence returned to spread senior club load at No 1 Sportsground.

Cricket

- Cricket NSW – Newcastle LGA affiliated membership data for 2023 to 2025 was provided:
 - LGA-based participants have grown by 243 (11.6%) since 2023.
 - Senior participants (15+) represent 55.9% of all participation on average over three years, followed by junior (34.5%) and entry-level club (9.7%) participants.
 - Participation of clubs in the LGA has grown. There are 3,147 participants across 29 clubs in the LGA. This has grown by 6% since 2023.
- Site-specific challenges within the LGA have been identified:
 - Growth of inner-city Newcastle, Lambton and Broadmeadow clubs.
 - Accommodating growth of junior, female and shorter format senior participation through access to quality sporting fields with drainage, irrigation, synthetic cricket pitches and minimum standard amenities.
- Specific infrastructure priorities:
 - Completion of upgrades to No.1 Sportsground to meet Cricket Australia Venue Guidelines to deliver Tier 2 and Tier 3 Competitions.

Football

- Northern NSW Football provided affiliated participation data for the 2023 to 2025 seasons across winter, premier, and summer competitions.
 - Football is the sport with the highest participation in the LGA.
 - The 2025 season's 13,965 members across the three competitions are lower than the 2024 numbers (14,124) but represent an increase compared to 2023 (13,767).
 - There are higher proportions of female (average of 39% over three years) participants in summer competitions, while juniors dominate the winter seasons (average of 60% over three years).
- Sites with significant challenges in quality and/ or capacity:
 - Novocastrian Park – Drainage- prone to washouts
 - Federal Park – Drainage – prone to washouts
 - Myamblah Field – Drainage, quality and capacity as shared use with the cricket club impacts the surface.
- Specific infrastructure priorities:
 - Novocastrian Park – improve drainage.
 - Smith Park – improve and refresh amenities to make it suitable in comparison to its recently renovated surface upgrade.
 - Adamstown Park – complete upgrades as per the Master Plan.

Netball

- Newcastle Netball Association provided affiliated participation data for the 2023 to 2025 seasons.
 - Their premier competition is considered one of the strongest in the state.
 - There are 19 affiliated clubs and NetSetGo programs in the region that together have collectively achieved 3,000+ members in the last three years.
 - 2025 membership of 3,415 is their highest over this period – 96% of participants are female.
- Key challenges and priorities at the National Park Netball Complex
 - Court lighting for Courts 15–30 to:
 - Increase safe and equitable training opportunities
 - Expand competition scheduling options
 - Enable growth in Twilight competitions held pre- and post-season - currently, Newcastle Netball is forced to turn teams away due to insufficient capacity.
 - Amenities – Upgrade amenities as they are inadequate for the volume of players, officials, spectators, and visitors attending competition days. Existing amenities do not provide for player or official changing spaces.
- Trees:
 - Tree roots are cracking the courts, resulting in ongoing and costly annual maintenance.
 - Overhanging branches render several courts unusable; currently, four courts are unplayable due to tree branch interference.
 - Indoor Facilities – No access to indoor facilities, with reference to being the only regional association without an indoor facility.
- Other notes:
 - Newcastle Netball Association has been self-funded for over 70 years, investing substantially in maintaining and upgrading the park, courts, and buildings.
 - Newcastle Netball events bring between 15,000 and 20,000 people into the LGA on each game day, generating significant economic benefit through spending in surrounding suburbs.
 - The most recent Park Plan of Management review recommended:
 - Transferring all courts to the Union Street side; and
 - Creating additional parking in the area currently occupied by courts 21 to 30.
- A review of online community feedback indicated limited opposition to this proposal.

Oztag

- Newcastle Oztag Sports Association provided approximate participation and demographic information for 2023 to 2025.
- Participation increased from approximately 4,500 participants in 2023 to 5,925 participants in 2025, representing growth of approximately 32%.
- Junior participation increased from approximately 1,500 participants to 2,400 participants, while senior participation increased from approximately 3,000 participants to 3,525 participants.
- Female participation has increased significantly, particularly within senior competitions. The association attributes this growth to Oztag being an affordable and accessible sport suitable for participants of varying ages and abilities.
- Oztag competitions cater for participants aged 4 to 75 years, demonstrating broad community appeal.

- Access to adequately lit playing fields was identified as the primary barrier to growth, with teams regularly turned away due to limited field space and usable lit areas.
- Additional priorities include improved clubhouse facilities, changerooms, amenities, storage areas and venue security.
- Security lighting was specifically requested at Waratah Park to improve safety during evening use.

Rugby league

- NSW Rugby League (NSWRL) provided affiliated participation data for the 2023 to 2025 seasons.
 - The region has experienced steady growth over the three previous years, with 2,738 in 2025 representing growth of 353.
 - Approximately one-fifth of participants are female. Within the LGA, female members have increased 40% between 2023 and 2025.
 - NSW trends for rugby league demonstrate participation is growing strongly across the state.
- Sites with significant challenges in quality and/ or capacity:
 - Kentish Oval – The facility requires significant drainage improvements, as it consistently experiences the highest rate of ground closures within the Hunter JRL area.
 - Ford Oval – The venue is assessed as the second most closure-prone ground in the Hunter JRL area, primarily due to inadequate drainage. Over the past two seasons, West Newcastle JRL has consequently lost approximately half of its allocated home-game fixtures. This reduction in hosting capacity has resulted in significant financial impacts, with the club forfeiting thousands of dollars in potential revenue.
 - Learmonth Oval – South Newcastle have simply outgrown the amenities available at the ground, but understands that there is limited green space available in the area, so they aren't looking to relocate. But it desperately needs amenities upgraded and lighting sufficient for night games to help them cater for all their participants. They regularly have issues with the large fig trees around the ground, and whilst we understand they are protected and cannot have major works done, CN did state around 18 months ago they would look at trimming them to restrict the impact on lighting and encroachment on the ground.
- NSWRL Infrastructure Strategy (released November 2024) is underpinned by four strategic pillars.
 - Elevate Facility Playing Fields - Enable a safe playing experience across all NSWRL clubs.
 - This includes surface quality, irrigation and drainage.
 - Create More Inclusive Facilities - Create more inclusive environments across all rugby league clubs.
 - The development of gender-neutral facilities is a key priority for NSWRL. The female game is expanding rapidly, and facilities are falling behind. Females need a safe space to change and prepare for training and competition.
 - Unlock Additional Capacity – Grow the capacity of rugby league facilities to enable future growth
 - With the continued growth of rugby league, there is a need to identify and pursue opportunities in growth areas across NSW

- Create a More Connected Network - Create a more connected and aligned environment between NSWRL, clubs and the government
- Infrastructure priorities for CN:
 - Lighting - With continued growth in participation across all age groups, available field space on Saturdays is becoming increasingly constrained. While Sunday scheduling is an option, shifting fixtures to that day would create conflicts with AFL and rugby union, both of which utilise the same venues. To alleviate pressure on Saturday scheduling, we have explored expanding the use of Friday night and mid-week fixtures. However, this requires grounds to be equipped with appropriate and compliant lighting infrastructure, something many venues currently lack.
 - Amenities - The significant increase in female participation, along with overall participation growth, has highlighted the inadequacy of many existing amenities blocks. Older facilities were not designed to accommodate the number of teams, match officials, and community users now utilising these venues each week. Upgraded, modern amenities are essential to support inclusive participation, meet contemporary standards, and ensure a positive game-day experience.
- Other comments:
 - NSWRL is currently conducting a Facilities Audit across NSW. We are yet to complete the audits of all CN venues. We expect the audit to be completed by April 2026. Once we complete the audit, we can provide some of our findings on CN venues, including:
 - Number of venues with:
 - Lighting and what lux level
 - Drainage and irrigation
 - Gender neutral player changerooms
 - Gender neutral referee changerooms
 - And other key areas of the facility.
 - Advice regarding the three rugby league districts within the LGA being Hunter Junior Rugby League, Newcastle Rugby League and Newcastle Hunter Rugby League.

Hunter Junior Rugby League (HJRL) also provided affiliated participation between 2023 and 2025.

- The association had 1,424 members in 2025, representing growth of 15.9% from 2023 and 8.2% from 2024.
- The proportion of female participants has increased to 19% from the average of 15% between 2023 and 2024.
- The association's site-specific priorities are:
 - Learmonth Oval – Player change room facilities are not suitable for gender diversity and growth, and upgrades to spectator facilities.
 - Ford/ Kentish Ovals – Drainage issues preventing prolonged use of the oval, player changeroom facilities not suitable, spectator facilities are below a suitable standard.
 - Empire Park – Lighting needed and spectator facilities in a highly visible corridor.
- Specific infrastructure priorities for rugby league in the LGA include:
 - Opportunity for HJRL to assist with shaping the proposed plan for Waratah Oval, with an opportunity to redevelop this into a tier 2 rectangular sports venue.
 - Lighting at fields to accommodate modified competition and training times associated with the sports' growth.

Softball

- Newcastle and District Softball Association provided three years of recent membership data:
 - Memberships have decreased by 47% between 2023 (1,110 members) and 2025 (597 members).
 - The sport is female-dominant, with an average female participation rate of 55% over this time period.
- The association's site-specific priorities are:
 - Desire to offer a winter program one night a week that would require sufficient field lighting at Stevenson Park, the only venue softball uses in the LGA.
 - Adequate fencing, lighting and diamond size and layouts are lacking.
 - Only five of their eight diamonds are suitable for younger age groups.
- Specific infrastructure priorities for softball in the LGA include:
 - Improve the lighting at Stevenson Park to meet minimum nighttime training standards, with preference for them to also offer a winter competition program. Funding for this upgrade is being pursued through grant applications and event hosting to raise revenue.
 - Fix the foul ball fences at Stevenson Park. This would involve raising the height and adjusting the angles of the existing foul ball fences to create a safer experience for other park users.
 - Improve the drainage and irrigation of the fields to improve their quality and capacity to host tournaments.

Rugby union

- Rugby Union provided association data for Hunter Junior Rugby between 2023 and 2025.
 - 1,197 participants from Newcastle LGA-based suburbs in 2023, 1,297 in 2024 and a drop to 939 in 2025.
- Analysis of gender proportions identifies that on average, 77% of participants were male and 23% were female.
- 2025 data provided junior and senior breakdowns. 71% were junior (under 14), and the rest were over 15 years old.

Neighbouring Councils

Neighbouring Councils were asked to provide feedback regarding their strategic planning, provision, challenges, and trends in sport and recreation. Cessnock, Maitland and Lake Macquarie Councils kindly responded. Their insights are provided in the below table.

Theme	Cessnock	Lake Macquarie	Maitland
Strategic Plan for Sport	Yes	Yes	Yes
Challenges Meeting Demand	Need for flexibility in user groups' preferred time slots. Sharing of amenities, storage, and canteens is a higher challenge than field space.	Demand for investment in sports facilities, capacity issues and increased participation.	Demand for fields
Strategies Implemented to Address Demand	The allocation procedure determines priorities and allocations where challenges exist.	Optimise existing assets through lighting, field reconfiguration, scheduling, strategic planning, and land-use planning for future growth areas.	Increase field capacity through floodlighting, irrigation and drainage.
Shared-use Management	Yes	Yes, historically. A delegated authority model of management assists.	Encourage the culture of shared facilities where possible
Shared-use Arrangements (education)	Not currently	Nothing formal. Schools make occasional bookings.	Not currently
Addressing Climate	Irrigation is controlled through an app. Summer fields watered as required. Field drainage to be upgraded when funding is available.	Ensure new or upgraded facilities are equipped with drainage, irrigation and wear-tolerant grass.	Increase field capacity through floodlighting, irrigation and drainage.
Synthetic Fields	Council remains open to them should its effective cost recovery be demonstrated.	Council will consider their use. Two synthetic fields are present in the LGA, owned	None

Theme	Cessnock	Lake Macquarie	Maitland
		and managed by NNSWF	
Regionally Significant Facilities to Note	None	Hunter Sports Centre	District sized expansion to Maitland Aquatic Centre and future development of new aquatic facility in the LGA's east.
Trends	Winter sports are increasing in popularity, as is pickleball. Tennis and cricket are declining. Population growth in the north has increased demand for the local pool.	More participation. Longer season lengths and earlier pre-seasons.	Higher populations, more people playing sport, decrease in organised sport.
Equitable Access and Inclusion	The allocation procedure identifies access and equity.	Prioritising use for traditional users each season and identifying alternative venues for pre-season use. New and emerging sports are allocated to venues with capacity.	DIAP, which informs how to prioritise facilities for equitable access.
Other	Winter seasons are starting earlier and finishing later, creating competing demands with summer users. The expansion of winter sports is increasing demand for floodlit fields.	Need for a framework through a sports strategy for continued and systematic investment in sports facilities to keep them up to date, fit for purpose, and to accommodate additional participation.	

The provision of sports facilities was also provided. The quantity of senior playing fields, netball, and tennis courts was also shared:

Neighbour LGA	Senior Rectangular Fields	Number of Netball Courts	Number of Tennis Courts
Cessnock	12	30	24
Lake Macquarie*	101	106	70
Maitland**	46	40	31

*Includes football and rugby league fields as per the Sports Strategy 2021-2031.

**Includes both full-sized football and rugby league fields as per the draft Community Infrastructure Strategy.

Sport and association workshop

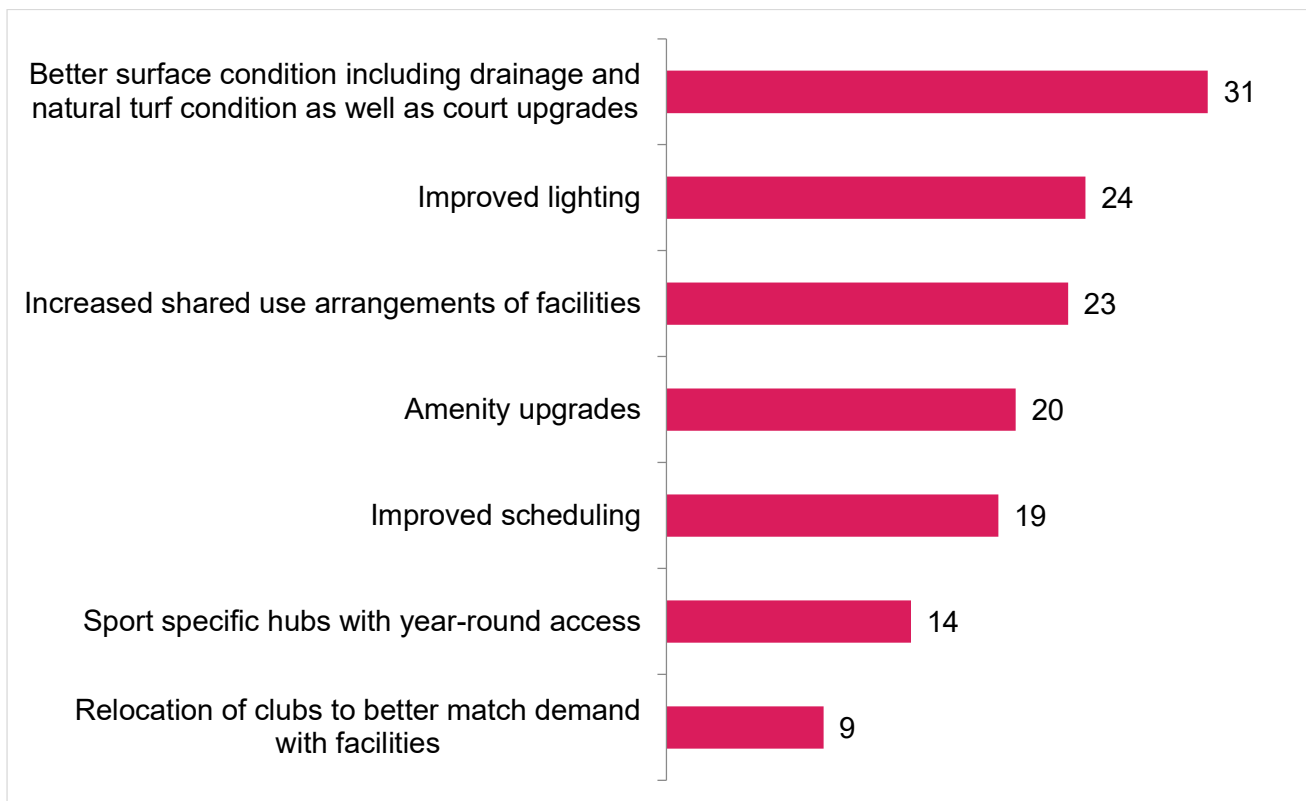
An interactive workshop with Newcastle LGA-based sport associations was held on 11 March 2026. This workshop tested scenarios involving five tables, each composed of representatives from different sports. Invitations were extended to:

- New South Wales Rugby League
- Hunter Juniors
- Cricket NSW
- Newcastle Cricket
- Newcastle Football
- NSW Oztag
- Newcastle District Softball Association
- Newcastle Baseball
- Newcastle Rugby League
- Hunter Rugby
- Newcastle District Cricket Association
- Northern NSW Football
- Australian Rules Football
- Newcastle Netball
- NSW Touch.

Attendees were grouped with different sporting codes and asked to discuss the questions and submit their answers as a collective.

Scenario 1: Maximising use without major expansion

When asked to rank options from MOST to LEAST effective in increasing usable sport time, the results revealed the following:



- Playing surface upgrades received four votes, and lighting received one, when groups were asked which investment would deliver the biggest benefit to optimise utilisation. Amenities, management and access improvements received zero votes.
- When asking who would most benefit from improved capacity, four groups identified that multiple user groups would benefit most from improved capacity at their venue, while the other group voted for juniors.

Scenario 2: Funding allocation

A hypothetical \$10m budget per table was provided to be split among lighting, fields, and amenities. The findings below show that:

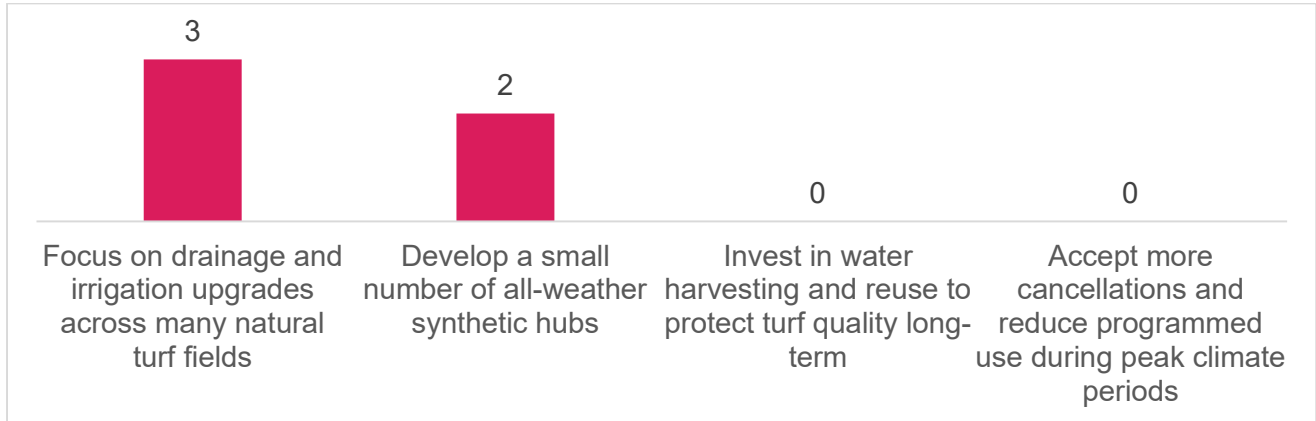
- Fields (52%) and lighting (40%) received most of the funding.
- Three groups chose to upgrade both courts and fields.
- Amenities received just 12% of the funding, with three tables allocating \$0 to this section.
- The total spend was 104% of the budget, as one table lost count.
- 80% of groups tried to achieve increased participation capacity, and 20% to spread investment across many venues.

The funding allocation scenario outcomes are detailed below:

Category	Number of Votes	Total Spend
Lighting		\$20,000,000 (40%)
0 fields – \$0	0	-
All 15 courts – \$2m	3	\$6m
2 fields – \$2m	1	\$2m
4 fields – \$4m	3	\$12m
6 fields – \$6m	0	-
8 fields – \$8m	0	-
10 fields – \$10m	0	-
Fields		\$26,000,000 (52%)
0 fields – \$0	0	-
2 fields – \$2m	1	\$2m
4 fields – \$4m	0	-
6 fields – \$6m	4	\$24m
8 fields – \$8m	0	-
10 fields – \$10m	0	-
Amenities		\$6,000,000 (12%)
0 sites – \$0	3	\$0m
1 site – \$3m	2	\$6m
2 sites – \$6m	0	-
3 sites – \$9m	0	-

Scenario 3: Weatherproofing sport

When asked which major climate resilient investment City of Newcastle should make, groups were split between one major climate resilient investment, focusing on drainage and irrigation across many natural turf fields (3), or to develop a small number of all-weather synthetic hubs (2).



When asked to choose between two field upgrade options:

1. replacing two fields with synthetic surfaces
2. upgrading the natural turf of 10 playing fields

Participants unanimously voted for the natural turf upgrades.

Scenario 4: Access and standards

When asked to rank four statements about access and standards from one (strongly oppose) to five (strongly agree), results revealed the following (note - results are listed in order of most agreement, with average scores included):



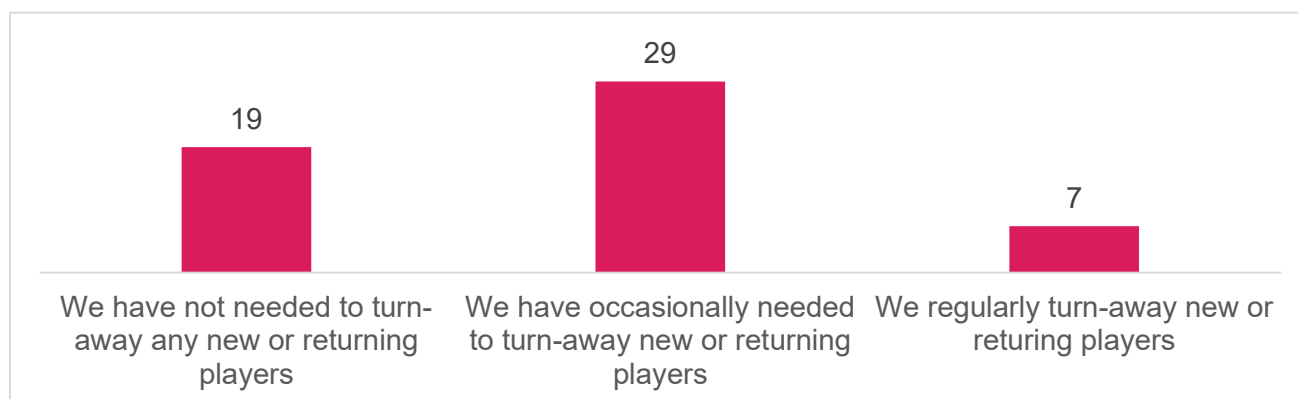
1 = strongly oppose

5 = strongly agree

Newcastle Sports Summit

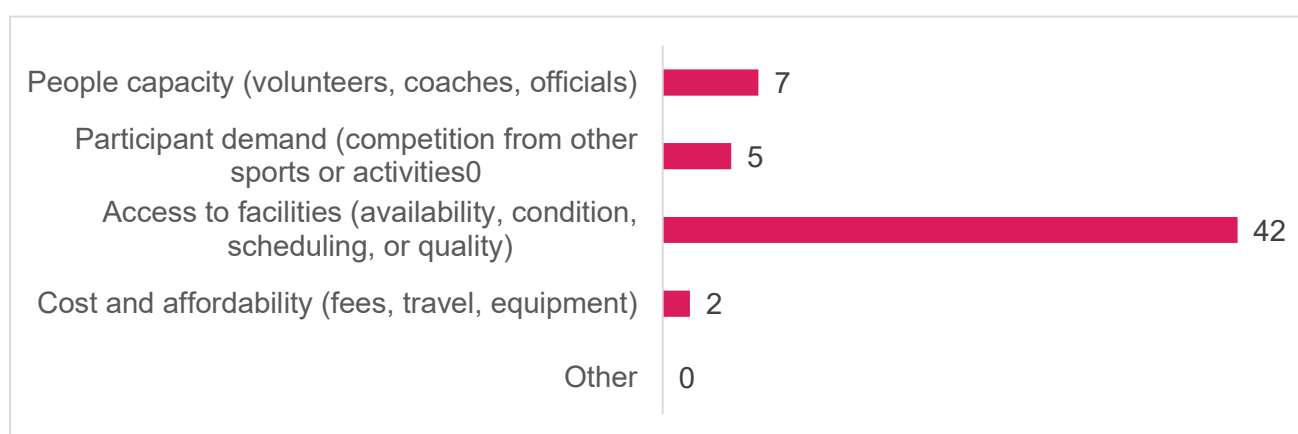
Otium presented at the annual Newcastle Sports Summit on the evening of 11 March 2026 and hosted an interactive workshop. Six questions were asked, and representatives of the various local sporting clubs submitted live responses. There were between 55 and 57 respondents to each question:

Over the past three years, which statement would best describe your club's capacity?



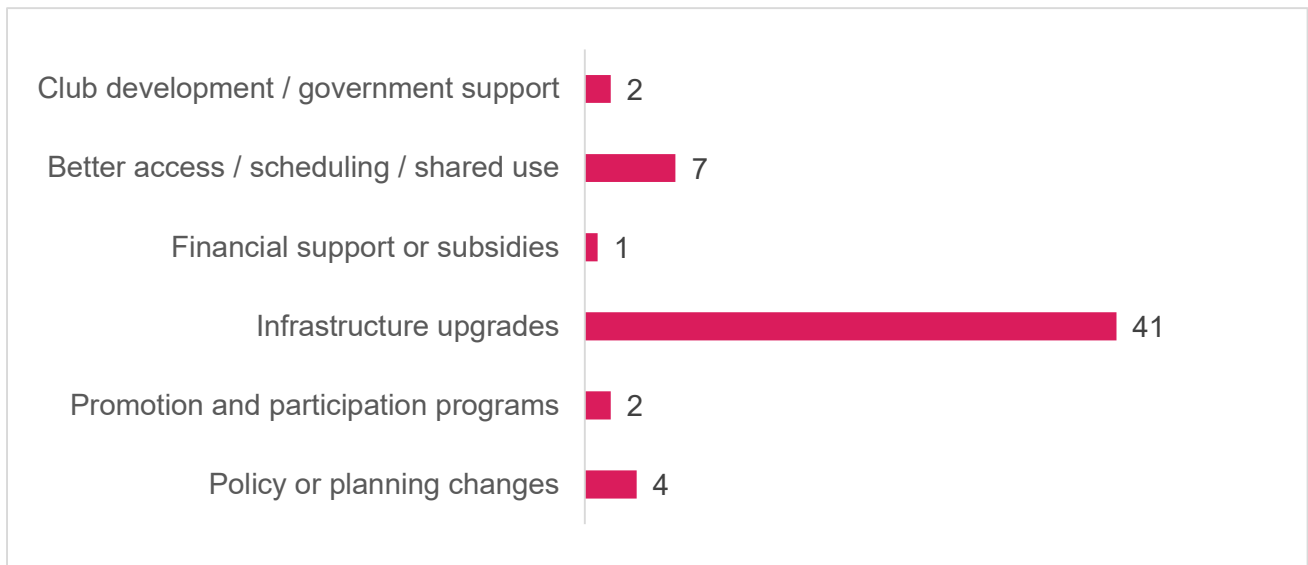
Total respondents: 55

The single largest barrier to your club's ability to grow over the next 5-10 years is:



Total respondents: 56

Which of the following would most help reduce this barrier?

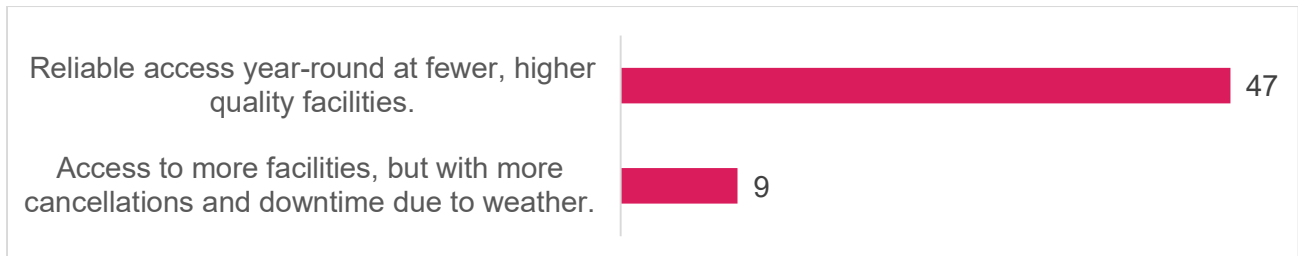


Total respondents: 57

Participants were asked to provide feedback on solutions to key barriers:

The willingness to share facilities more often if it resulted in better quality playing surfaces and amenities averaged a score of 3.8, where 1 = not willing at all, and 5 = very willing.

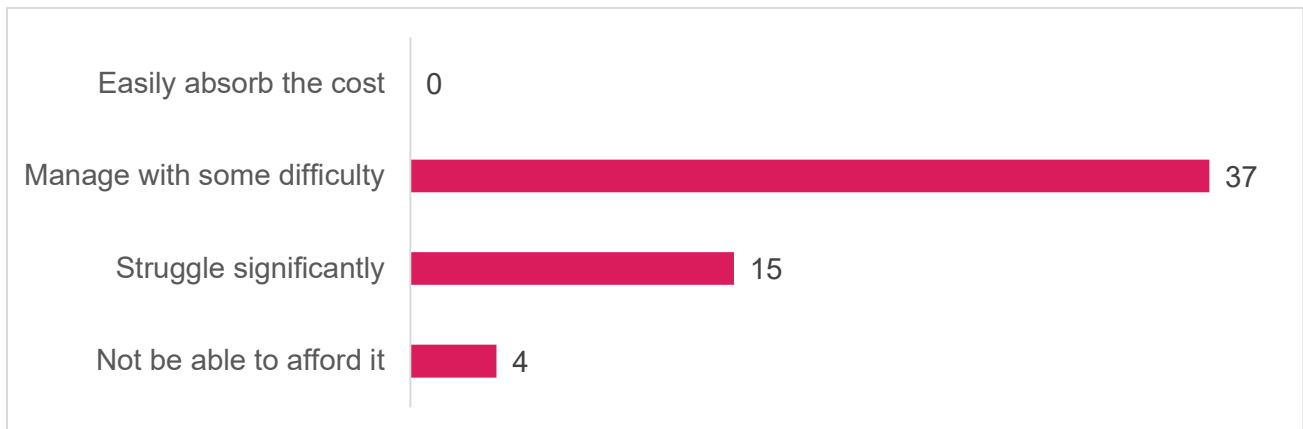
Reliable access year-round at fewer, high-quality facilities (84%) matters more than access to more facilities, but with more cancellations and downtime due to weather (16%).



Total respondents: 56

When asked about fee increases associated with higher quality facilities, participants indicated that clubs would:

- Manage with some difficulty (66%)
- Struggle significantly (27%)
- Not be able to afford it (7%)
- None could easily absorb the cost.



Total respondents: 56

User groups surveys

A targeted survey for the sporting user groups in Newcastle LGA, or those who use facilities in the LGA, was published on 24 March 2026 and closed on 28 April 2026. The survey received 29 submissions, 25 of which were answered in full.

A copy of the survey questions is available in **Appendix IV**.

Who we heard from

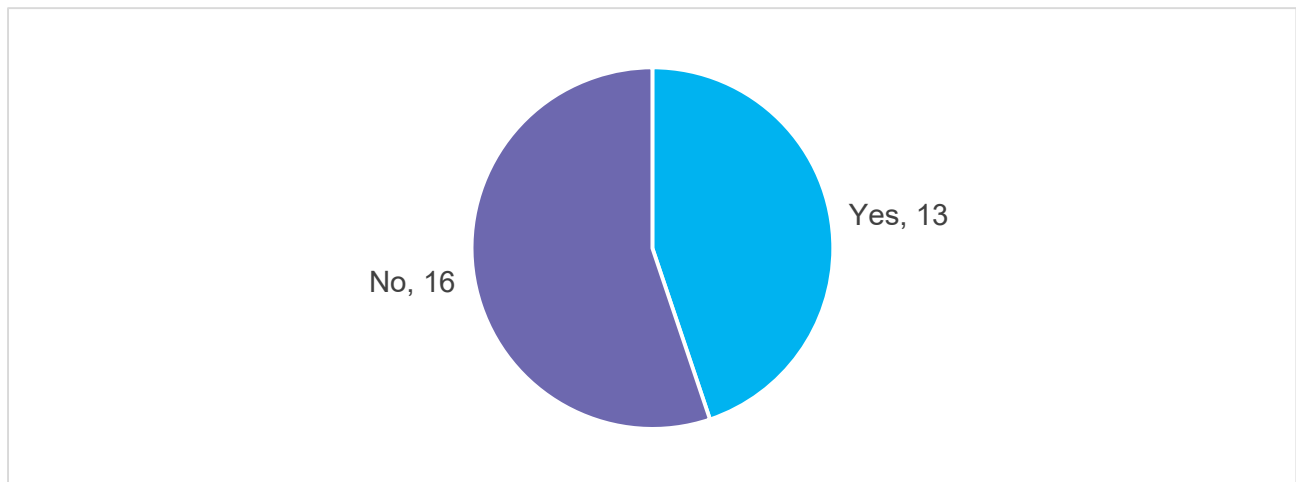
The table below provides an overview of the sport user group survey respondents, including the main sport or activity.

Name of Club/ Organisation	Main Sport/ Activity	Main Facility Used
Newcastle City Junior AFC	Australian Rules Football	Connolly Park
Hunter AFL Masters	Australian Rules Football	Connolly Park
White Sox Baseball Newcastle	Baseball	Hope Street Reserve
Mayfield Boomerangs Baseball Club	Baseball	Stevenson Park
Merewether District Junior Cricket Club	Cricket	Lugar Park
Newcastle City Cricket Club	Cricket	
Waratah Mayfield District Junior Cricket Club	Cricket	Waratah Park
Newcastle District Cricket Association	Cricket	
Stockton Newcastle District Cricket Club	Cricket	Lynn Oval
Wallsend District Cricket Club	Cricket	Wallsend Park
Hamilton Wickham Junior Cricket Club	Cricket	Thomas Armstrong Oval
Greater Hunter Coast Premier Cricket Club	Cricket	Mitchell Park
Wanderers Rugby Football Club	Cricket, Basketball	No 2 & No 5 National Park
New Lambton Eagles Football Club	Football (Soccer)	Alder Park
Merewether Advance Senior Football Club	Football (Soccer)	Jesmond Park
New Lambton Football Club	Football (Soccer)	Novocastrian Park

Newy Girls Football Academy	Football (Soccer)	Mandalong Oval
Fletcher Football Club	Football (Soccer)	Federal Park
Merewether Advance Senior Football Club	Football (Soccer)	
Merewether United Football Club	Football (Soccer)	Myamblah Crescent Oval
Wallsend Football Club	Football (Soccer)	Wallsend Park
Shortland United Junior Football Club	Football (Soccer)	Tuxford Park
West Leagues Netball Club	Netball	Kentish Netball
Newcastle Oztag Sports Association (seperate email)	Oztag	Waratah Park
South Newcastle Junior Rugby League Club	Rugby League	
Kotara Seniors Rugby League	Rugby League	Hudson Park
Wallsend Maryland Tigers Rugby League Football Club	Rugby League	Grange Oval
Cooks Hill Brown Snakes	Rugby Union	Empire Park
West Newcastle Rugby Club	Rugby Union	Bill Elliot Oval
Strikers Softball Club	Softball	Not provided

Note - The Wanderers Rugby Football Club and Merewether District Junior Cricket Club sent further emails to complete their submissions.

Does your club/ organisation have a strategic or business plan?



Total respondents: 29

Memberships and Participation

Please enter the total number of participants or memberships your club/ organisation had in each of the past three years, and identify the gender breakdown for your club/ organisation in 2025 (or the most recent year available):

Name of Club/ Organisation	Number of Members			Gender Breakdown (2025) *		
	2023	2024	2025	Male	Female	Other
Cooks Hill Brown Snakes	56	102	140	66%	44%	-
Fletcher Football Club	145	182	197	82%	18%	-
Greater Hunter Coast Premier Cricket Club	18	35	45	7%	93%	-
Hamilton Wickham Junior Cricket Club	29	69	170	90%	10%	-
Hunter AFL Masters	80	73	67	99%	1%	-
Kotara Seniors Rugby League	60	75	89	56%	44%	-
Mayfield Boomerangs Baseball Club	166	178	208	90%	10%	-
Merewether Advance Senior Football Club	98	101	115	100%	0%	-

Name of Club/ Organisation	Number of Members			Gender Breakdown (2025) *		
	2023	2024	2025	Male	Female	Other
Merewether District Junior Cricket Club	369	342	335	79%	21%	-
Merewether United Football Club	550	605	450	70%	30%	-
New Lambton Eagles Football Club	360	360	420	62%	38%	-
New Lambton Football Club	1,119	1,120	1,317	63%	37%	-
Newcastle City Junior AFC	418	472	466	65%	35%	<1%
Newy Girls Football Academy	0	45	208	0%	100%	-
Shortland United Junior Football Club	418	401	380	70%	30%	-
South Newcastle Junior Rugby League Club	520	572	551	80%	20%	-
Stockton Newcastle District Cricket Club	145	151	162	88%	12%	-
Wallsend District Cricket Club	100	130	190	90%	10%	-
Wallsend Football Club	150	180	300	75%	25%	-
Wallsend Maryland Tigers Rugby League Football Club	145	184	264	81%	19%	-
Wanderers Rugby Football Club	426	465	411	70%	30%	-
Waratah Mayfield District Junior Cricket Club	90	126	138	83%	17%	-
West Newcastle Rugby Club	1	1	30	70%	30%	-
White Sox Baseball Newcastle	107	111	129	95%	5%	-
West Leagues Netball Club	569	519	575	1.4%	98.6%	-

Total respondents: 25

*The gender breakdown has been calculated to reflect a percentage of male, female and other participants, where a total number was instead provided.

Have you noticed any trends in participation?

A summary of the feedback received is listed below:

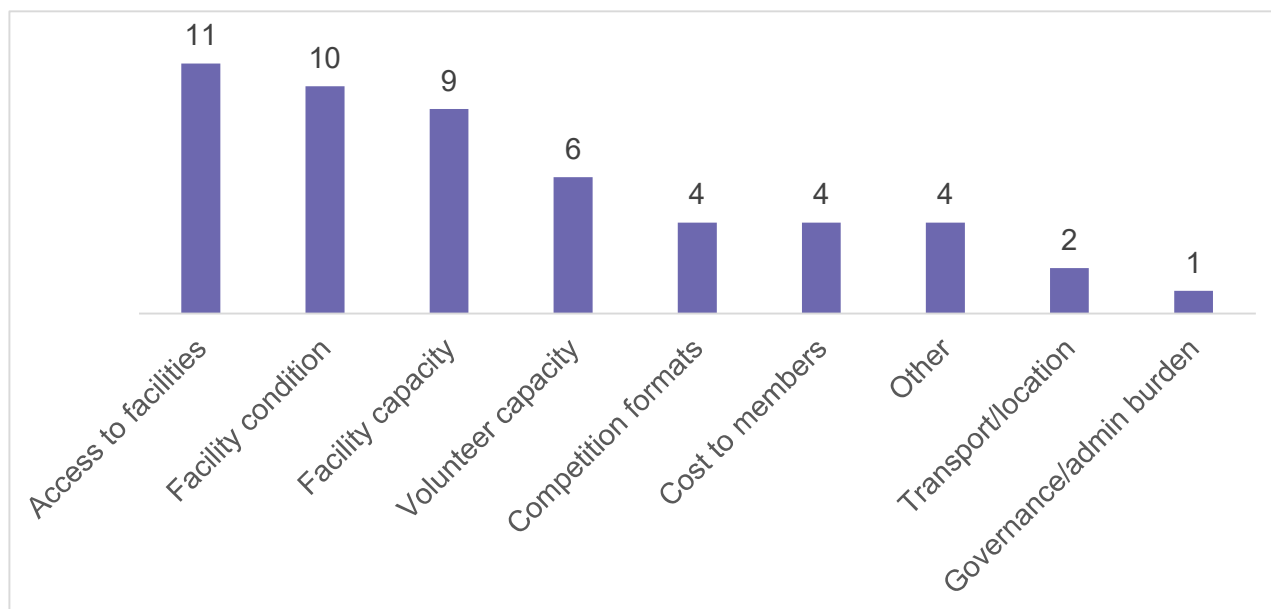
- Overall participation trends across sports demonstrate growth over the previous few years, while some sports, such as softball, are in decline.
- Several clubs and associations are operating at capacity, with some needing to turn away players and others noting they have reached the maximum number of teams they can accommodate within available playing slots.
- Facility access and capacity constraints are consistently identified as the primary barrier to growth.
- Junior participation is a key growth area for multiple sports, with several clubs highlighting strong demand in younger age groups.
 - Some challenges are faced in retaining these players once they reach an age where they narrow down their sporting choices.
- Female participation is increasing across multiple codes and competitions, including reported growth in female rugby league participation and steady increases in female participation in junior cricket. This is attributed to strong efforts to expand girls' pathways and participation opportunities.
 - Unfortunately, this is not representative of all sports, of which many are seeing a decline in female participation.
 - The presence of women's competitions in the older age groups and at multiple grades is essential for encouraging their participation and progressing their development in sports.
- Clubs that have improvised modified offerings away from their traditional season are seeing less of a drop-off than they normally would during seasonal creep.
- Weather impacts and field conditions are reported as direct drivers of reduced participation or disrupted seasons and contribute to dissatisfaction where grounds are frequently closed or partially unavailable.
- Some clubs or organisations have been proactive in recruitment strategies through schools, which is resulting in strong junior participation increases.
- Increased training loads place additional pressure on surfaces, supporting facilities, and volunteer time.
- The demographics of participants seem to be expanding with higher representation of people from culturally diverse communities, which presents changes in preferred participation formats and playing schedules.

Total respondents: 25

Is your club/ organisation and/ or teams currently operating at capacity?

Of the 25 respondents to this question, 44% indicated they are operating at capacity.

What barriers (if any) are currently limiting your club/ organisation's growth? Please select all that apply.



Total respondents: 11

The four 'other' barriers include:

- Rapid growth, impacting increased demand on competition and training infrastructure.
- Limited parking during competition days.
- Transport and location barriers resulting in up to 30min drives to access alternate facilities.
- Public toilets and change facilities are being run down, some are inaccessible, outdated, and not friendly for female participants experienced across various venues.

Facility Utilisation

The following table presents the results for the following questions:

- Please select the main facility your club/ organisation uses.
- How many hours do you use this facility for competition and training? Please enter the number of hours per day.

Name of Club/ Organisation	Facilities	Weekly Competition Utilisation							Weekly Training Competition						
		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Newcastle City Junior AFC	Connolly Park							7.5		3	4	3	3.5		

Name of Club/ Organisation	Facilities	Weekly Competition Utilisation							Weekly Training Competition						
		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	Pat Jordan Oval							6.5		2	4	4	2	3.5	
Hunter AFL Masters	Connolly Park													1.5	1
	Hawkins Oval								6						
	Waratah Park									6		6			
	Empire Park												4		
White Sox Baseball Newcastle	Hope Street Reserve						8+	8+				4			
	Private Commercial Facility										3				
Mayfield Boomerangs Baseball Club	Stevenson Park						8+	8+			3.5				
Merewether District Junior Cricket Club	Competition Venues*						3.5								
	Lugar Park									1	2.5				
	Adamstown Oval									1.5	2		2		
	Townson Oval									2			2.5		
	Connolly Park					3.5									

Name of Club/ Organisation	Facilities	Weekly Competition Utilisation							Weekly Training Competition						
		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	Smith Park					2									
	Wallsend Park					2									
	Empire Park	3.5													
Waratah Mayfield District Junior Cricket Club	Waratah Park						4		2	2	3	2			
	Richardson Park							4							
	Cook Park							4							
	Heaton Park							4							
Stockton Newcastle District Cricket Club	Lynn Oval			5					2	3	1	3	2	8+	8+
	Ballast Oval					3			3	3	3			8+	
	Griffith Park											3			
	Corroba Oval					3									
Wallsend District Cricket Club	Wallsend Park			3			8+	8+		4		4	2		
	Upper Reserve						8+								
Hamilton Wickham Junior Cricket Club	Thomas Armstrong Oval						8+		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		
	Passmore Oval								2	2	2	2	2		

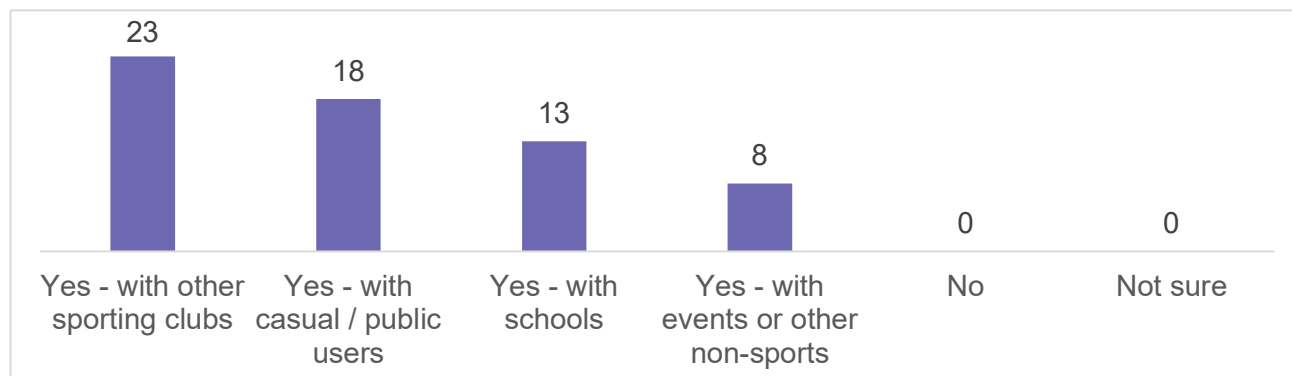
Name of Club/ Organisation	Facilities	Weekly Competition Utilisation							Weekly Training Competition						
		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Greater Hunter Coast Premier Cricket Club	Mitchell Park							8+							
	National Park							8+							
Wanderers Rugby Football Club	No 2 & No 5 National Park					4	8+			3		3			
							7		3	4	3	4			
New Lambton Eagles Football Club	Alder Park (Primary)						8+	8+	4	4	4	4	4		
	Novocastrian Park (Secondary)								4	4	4	4	4		
Merewether Advance Senior Football Club	Jesmond Park						5	6	2	2	2	2			
New Lambton Football Club	Novocastrian Park					2	8+	8+	5	5	5	5	2		
	Regent Park						4		1.5	1.5		1.5	1.5		
	Kotora Park										5				
Newy Girls Football Academy	Mandalong Oval								2		2				
Fletcher Football Club	Federal Park														
Merewether United Football Club	Myambalah Crescent Oval					2	8+	6	4	4	4	4	2		
	Adamstown Park								4	4	4	4	4		

Name of Club/ Organisation	Facilities	Weekly Competition Utilisation							Weekly Training Competition						
		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Wallsend Football Club	Wallsend Park					3	3	1	3	3	3	3			
	Greyhounds (Private Venue)						5								
Shortland United Junior Football Club	Tuxford Park					4.5	8+	6		5	5	4			
West Leagues Netball Club	Kentish Netball								5	5	6	4			
	National Park Netball Courts					3	9								
South Newcastle Junior Rugby League Club	Learmonth Park						8+		4.5	4.5	4	4.5	4		
Kotara Seniors Rugby League	Hudson Park						6			2		2			
Wallsend Maryland Tigers Rugby League Football Club	Grange Oval						8+		2	3	2	3	2		
Cooks Hill Brown Snakes	Empire Park					2.5	3			1.5		1.5			
West Newcastle Rugby Club	Bill Elliot Oval														
	National Park							1.5		1					

Total respondents: 25

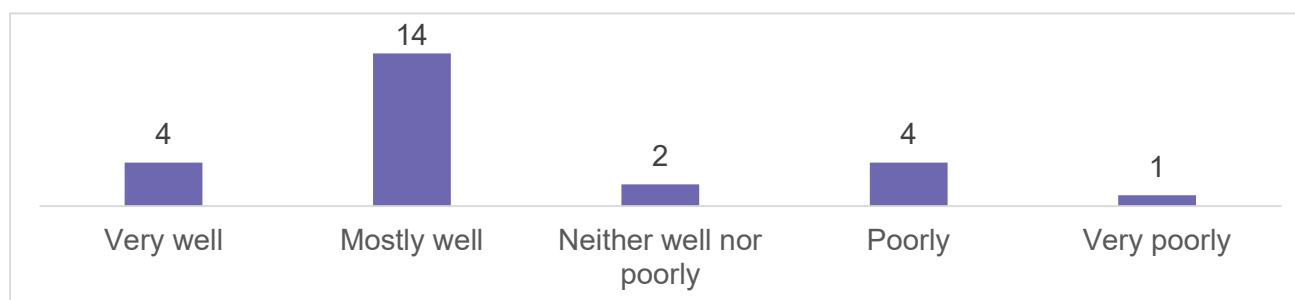
*MDJCC had 22 teams for the 2025/26 cricket season, spread across Connolly Park, Empire Park, Adamstown #4 and #5, Nesbitt Park, Hudson Park, Kotara Park, and Wanderers Park. Several neighbouring LGA fields were also used.

Does your club/organisation share this facility with others?



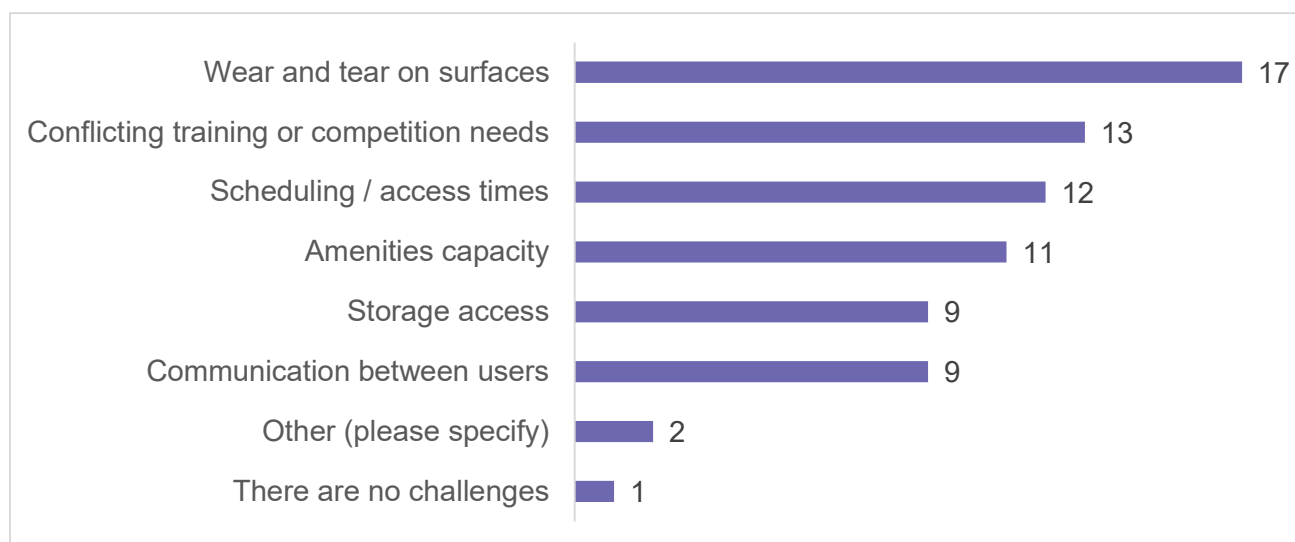
Total respondents: 25

How well do the current shared-use arrangements work at this facility?



Total respondents: 25

What aspects of shared use are the most challenging? Select all that apply:



Total respondents: 25

Facility priorities

Are there any facility upgrades you would like to see at this site?

Club/ Organisation Feedback	Priorities by Club	Priorities Summary
Adamstown Park		
Wallsend Football Club (Secondary)	1. Drainage, as the field could only be used for 1-week last season. 2. Irrigation. 3. Facility block/ storage.	• Drainage and field surface improvements • Irrigation • Toilet and amenity upgrades.
Merewether District Junior Cricket Club	1. Toilet upgrades. 2. Playing surface upgrades. 3. Drainage upgrades.	
Alder Park		
New Lambton Eagles Football Club	1. Install lighting. 2. Make female- and male-friendly changerooms. 3. Playing surface.	
Bill Elliot Oval		
West Newcastle Rugby Club	1. Mitigation levee to prevent flooding from the adjoining creek. 2. Subsoil drainage to manage soil moisture content. 3. Access to a grassed parking area for events and games.	
Blackey Oval		
Merewether District Junior Cricket Club	1. Toilet upgrades. 2. Playing surface upgrades. 3. Drainage upgrades.	
Cook Park		
Wallsend Football Club (Secondary)	1. Lighting. 2. Fencing.	

Club/ Organisation Feedback	Priorities by Club	Priorities Summary
Connolly Park		
Newcastle City Junior AFC	1. Field expansion to senior AFL size. 2. Drainage and resurfacing. 3. Changeroom, social room and canteen upgrades.	• Expand field to senior AFL dimensions • Upgrade playing surface and improve drainage. • Update toilets, changerooms, and amenities.
Hunter AFL Masters	1. Changerooms. 2. Playing surface. 3. Toilets.	
Merewether District Junior Cricket Club	1. Toilet upgrades. 2. Playing surface upgrades. 3. Drainage upgrades.	
Corroba Oval		
Merewether District Junior Cricket Club	1. Toilet upgrades. 2. Playing surface upgrades. 3. Drainage upgrades.	
Empire Park		
Cooks Hill Brown Snakes	1. Women's changerooms. 2. Drainage and upgrade of the field playing surface. 3. Canteen/ function/ clubhouse space.	
Federal Park		
Wallsend District Cricket Club	1. Resurfacing of synthetic wickets, both Upper Reserve & Federal Park 1 & 2. 2. Top dressing of outfields.	• Field levelling, drainage and topdressing. • Irrigation • Cricket wicket resurfacing • Lighting
Fletcher Football Club	1. Lighting. 2. Irrigation and drainage upgrades.	

Club/ Organisation Feedback	Priorities by Club	Priorities Summary
	3. Field levelling.	
Grange Oval		
Wallsend Maryland Tigers Rugby League Football Club	1. Upgrade lighting to 100 lux. 2. Upgrade changerooms. 3. Top dressing of playing fields.	
Harold Myers Oval		
Waratah Mayfield District Junior Cricket Club	1. New synthetic wicket.	
Heaton Park		
Waratah Mayfield District Junior Cricket Club	1. New synthetic (no. 1).	
Hope Street Reserve (Col Curran/ Plattsburg no.1)		
White Sox Baseball Newcastle	1. Playing field lights upgrade (existing lights are insufficient for high-end training). 2. Amenities block upgrade (storage is a premium, with also having two containers onsite). 3. Permanent batting cage built.	
Hudson Park		
Kotara Seniors Rugby League	1. Field lighting. 2. Amenities. 3. Parking and access.	
Jesmond Park		
Mereweather Advance Senior Football Club	1. Field drainage upgrade. 2. Amenities upgrade for female and junior participants. 3. Spectator grandstand.	
Kentish Netball		

Club/ Organisation Feedback	Priorities by Club	Priorities Summary
West Leagues Netball Club	1. Increased parking. 2. Toilet upgrades. 3. Lighting.	
Learmonth Park		
South Newcastle Junior Rugby League Club	1. Lighting. 2. Facilities. 3. Drainage, seating, shelters and community use items, i.e. BBQ.	
Lynn Oval		
Stockton Newcastle District Cricket Club	1. The dressing room and canteen building are archaic. 2. Limited training facilities. 3. Long-term drainage issues.	
Lugar Park		
Merewether District Junior Cricket Club	1. Improve cricket nets and surface. 2. Install uniform signage. 3. Safe and accessible amenities.	
Mandalong Oval		
Newy Girls Football Academy	1. Major drainage upgrade at Mandalong Oval to ensure reliable access for girls' programs, especially during wet weather. 2. A small, secure storage facility to hold essential NGFA equipment on-site, improving safety and reducing transport burden. 3. Female-friendly change rooms so girls can change into their NGFA jerseys with dignity (currently relying on toilet facilities).	
Myamblah Crescent Oval		

Club/ Organisation Feedback	Priorities by Club	Priorities Summary
Merewether United Football Club	1. Facility block - female-friendly, expanded canteen, referee facilities. 2. Drainage, including surface realignment. 3. Irrigation.	
National Park		
Wanderers Rugby Football Club	1. Upgrade scoreboard and PA system. 2. Club room/ hospitality area. 3. Provide power to the container. 4. Improve ground drainage (eliminate use for overflow retention) and lighting. 5. Upgrade male & female changeroom.	No.1 • Change rooms to be female-friendly • Drainage upgrade • Relay cricket wicket block • Air con for the scorers' room. No.2
Wallsend District Cricket Club	1. No.1 Oval dressing sheds to support female participation. 2. Drainage No.1 Oval. 3. Relaying of the No.1 Oval wicket block.	• Upgrade PA system and scoreboard • Power for the container • Ground drainage • Changerooms female-friendly
Greater Hunter Coast Premier Cricket Club	1. Amenities are not old and ratty. Upgrade desperately. 2. Electronic scoreboard. 3. Air con in scorer's room.	ALL • Upgrade amenities and surface drainage. • Toilet upgrades • Lighting upgrades
West Leagues Netball Club	1. Upgraded toilets. 2. Lighting.	
Novocastrian Park		
New Lambton Football Club	1. Field Drainage. 2. Second set of changerooms.	

Club/ Organisation Feedback	Priorities by Club	Priorities Summary
	3. Improved storage and meeting spaces.	
Passmore Oval		
Hamilton Wickham Junior Cricket Club (secondary)	1. Upgrade batting nets.	
Pat Jordan Oval		
Newcastle City Junior AFC (Secondary)	1. Field Size upgrades to AFL standards. 2. Field drainage and resurfacing. 3. Move the road or add speed humps and a crossing area between here and Connolly.	
Regent Park		
New Lambton Football Club (Secondary)	1. Lighting at Regent Park. 2. Fencing for safety at Regent Park. 3. Drainage and irrigation at Regent Park.	
Richardson Park		
Waratah Mayfield District Junior Cricket Club	1. Upgraded cricket wicket. 2. Upgraded toilet facilities.	
Stevenson Park		
Mayfield Boomerangs Baseball Club	1. Development of a shared amenities building to provide essential storage, improve operational capacity, and offer undercover spectator seating. 2. Installation of competition-standard field lighting to enable safe evening training and fixtures.	

Club/ Organisation Feedback	Priorities by Club	Priorities Summary
	3. Construction of an additional batting cage to meet increasing participation demand and alleviate pressure on existing training infrastructure.	
Thomas Armstrong Oval		
Hamilton Wickham Junior Cricket Club	1. Replace the synthetic cricket wicket.	
Townson Oval		
Greater Hunter Coast Premier Cricket Club	1. Regular cleaning of the seating in the grandstand. 2. Reversible Sightscreens - to easily change from white to black for red ball and white ball cricket requirements. 3. Electronic Scoreboard.	
Tuxford Park		
Shortland United Junior Football Club	1. Drainage. 2. Security Lighting on the drive/ footpaths for safety.	
Upper Reserve		
Wallsend District Cricket Club	1. Resurfacing of synthetic wickets.	
Wallsend Park		
Wallsend Football Club	1. Wallsend Oval - Gutters at the bottom of hills for drainage.	
Waratah Park		
Waratah Mayfield District Junior Cricket Club	1. New Synthetic on cricket wicket on No 4 & access to junior turf wicket.	

Club/ Organisation Feedback	Priorities by Club	Priorities Summary
	2. Better change room facilities. Nowhere to put kit bags out of the weather. 3. better shaded seated areas.	

Total respondents: 25

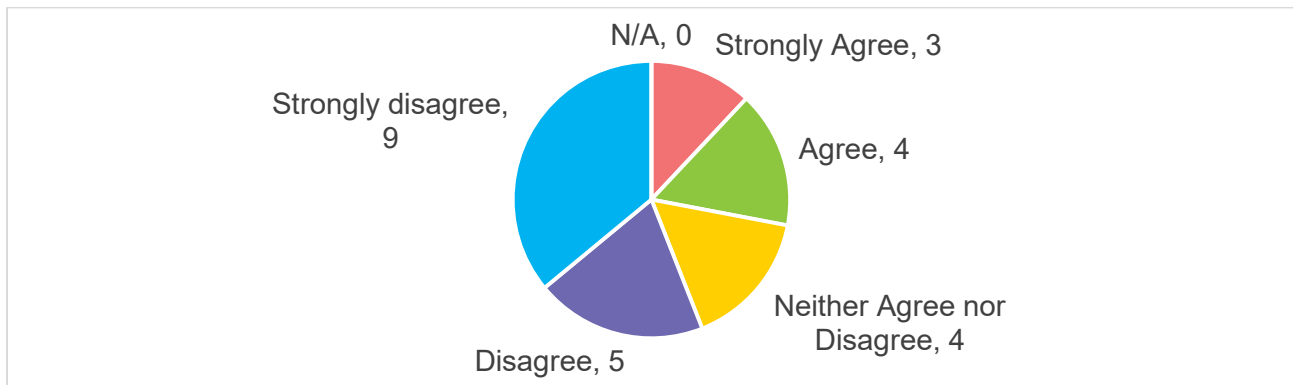
Analysis of these upgrades displays several trends in the key infrastructure priorities across CN sportsgrounds:

- Playing field surfaces require better drainage and irrigation.
- Amenities appear outdated and unsuitable for female use.
- Lighting improvements are common.
- Specialised maintenance and infrastructure, i.e. cricket nets, batting cages, and synthetic wickets, require better care.

Satisfaction with current facilities

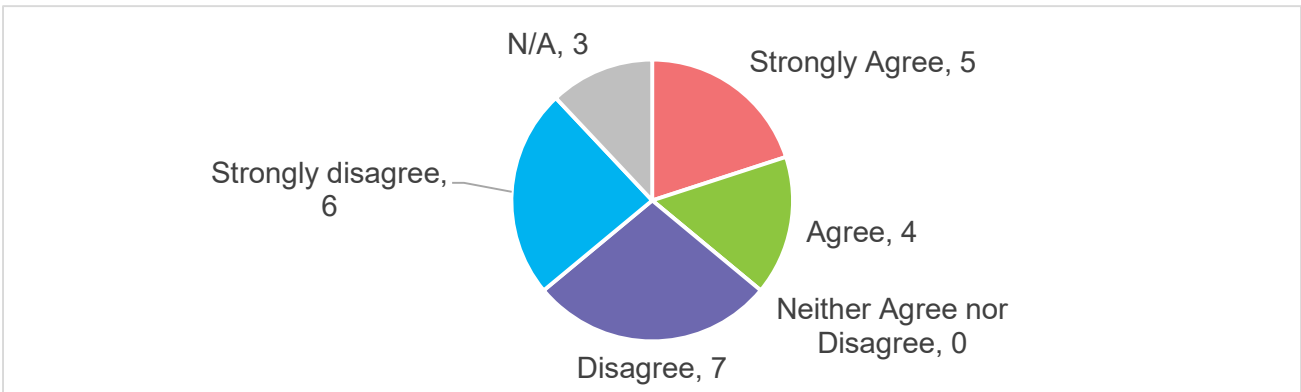
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the facility components of your main venue:

The activity surface (field, court, etc) we use is of good quality:



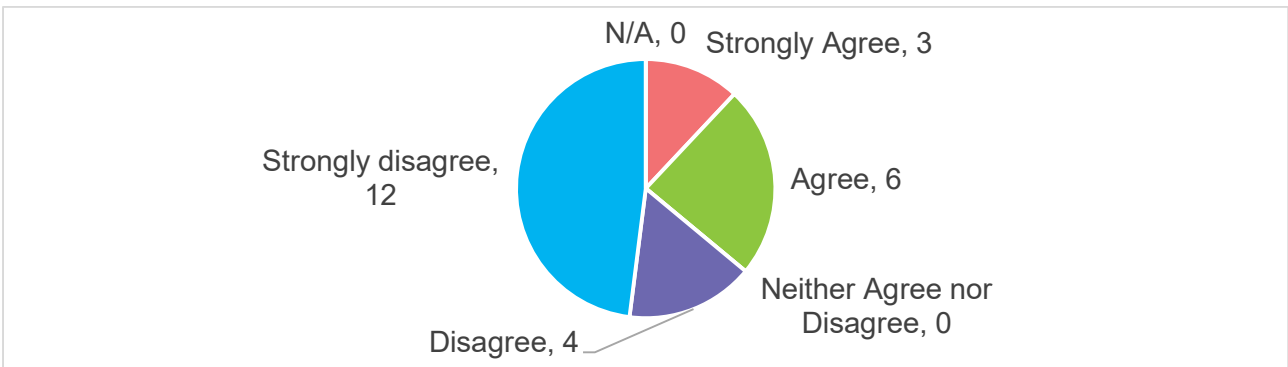
Total respondents: 25

Lighting at the facility is suitable for our desired use:



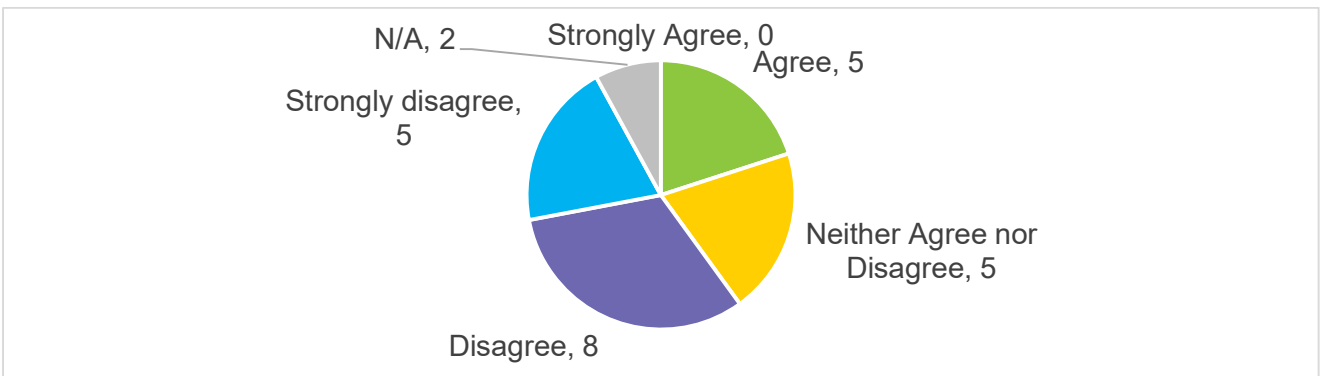
Total respondents: 25

Amenities are fit for purpose:



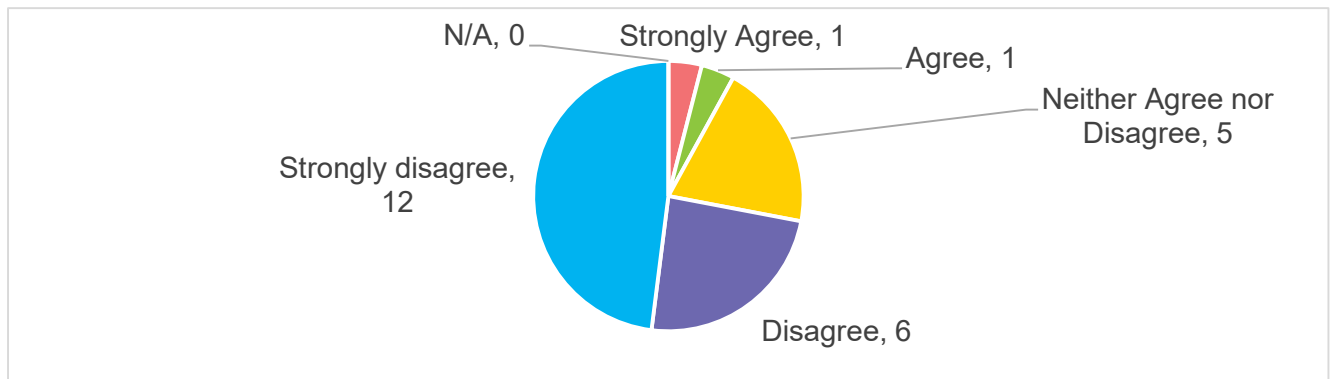
Total respondents: 25

There is sufficient storage space:



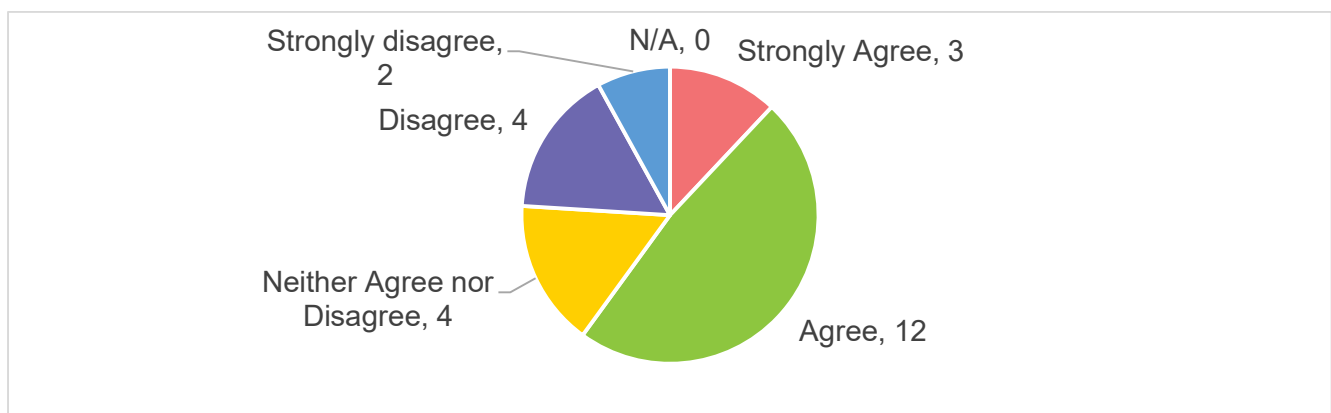
Total respondents: 25

Supporting infrastructure such as parking and spectator areas are adequate:



Total respondents: 25

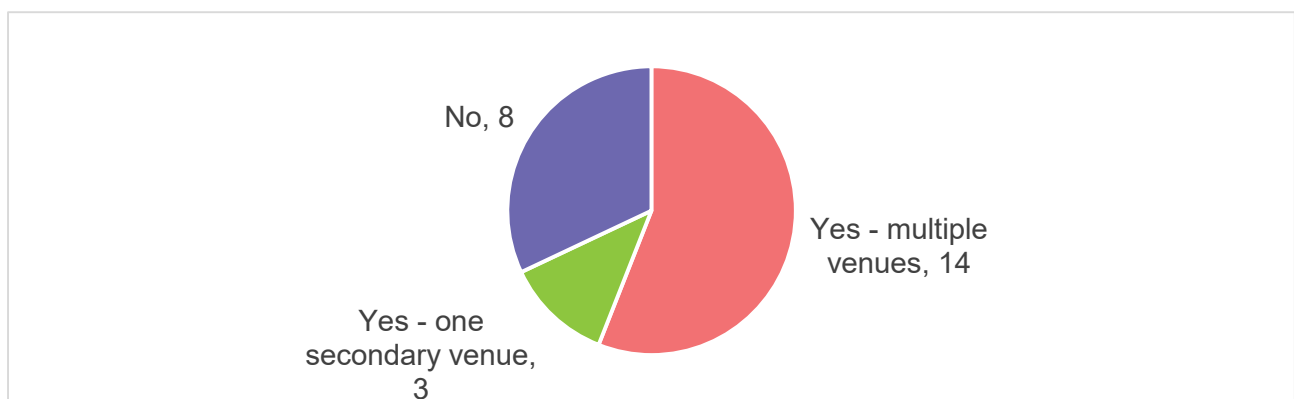
Our club can access the facility when needed:



Total respondents: 25

The component with the highest agreement is facility access when needed. Lighting and storage space are generally mixed.

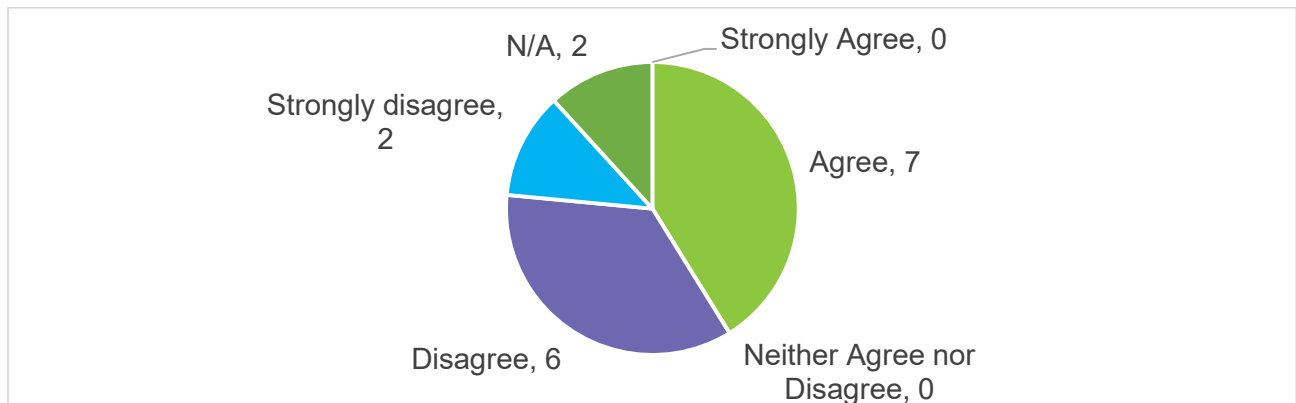
Does your club use a secondary venue for competition or training purposes?



Total respondents: 25

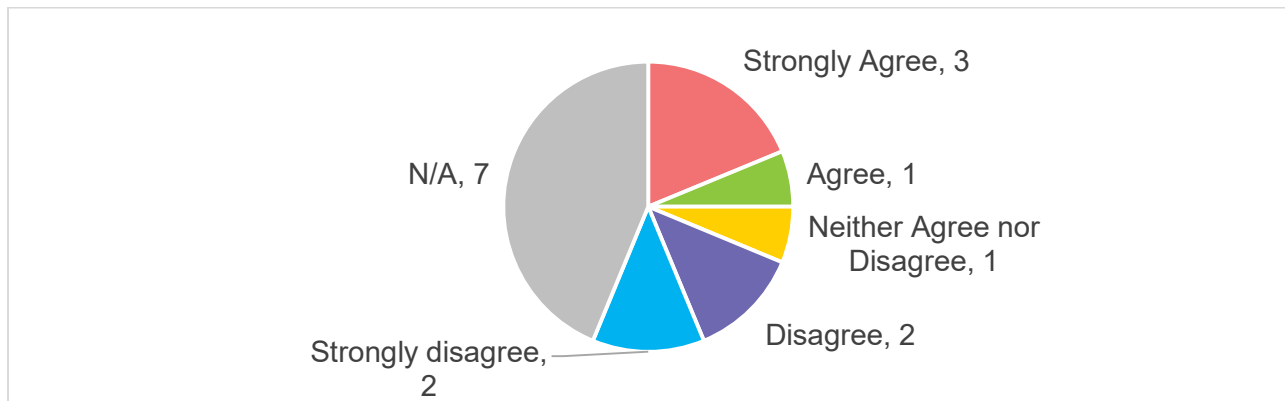
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the facility components of your secondary venue(s):

The activity surface (field, court, etc) we use is of good quality:



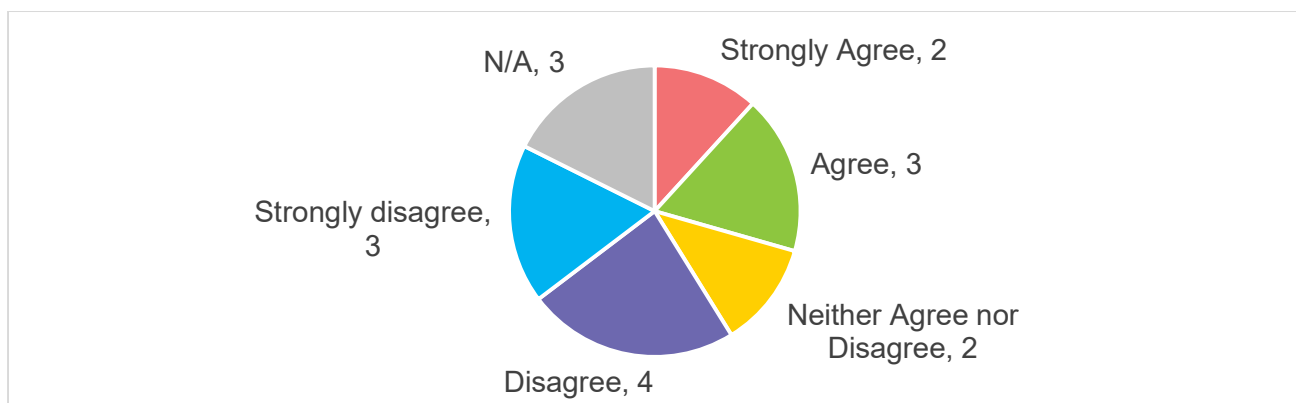
Total respondents: 17

Lighting at the facility is suitable for our desired use:



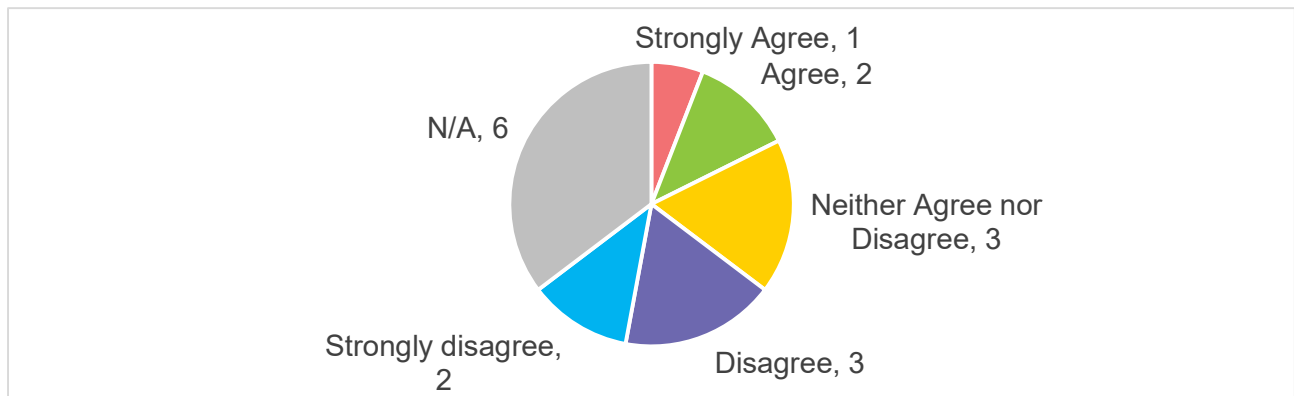
Total respondents: 16

Amenities are fit for purpose:



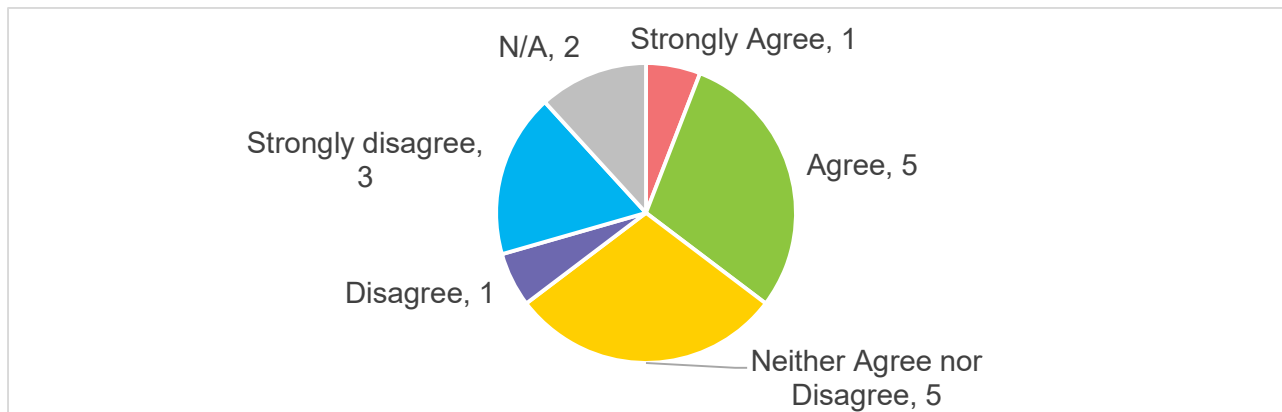
Total respondents: 17

There is sufficient storage space:



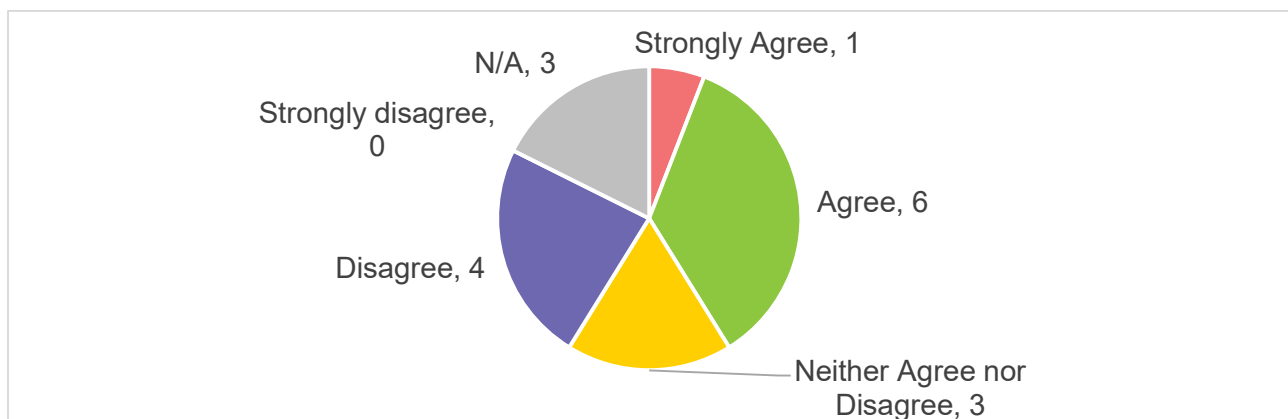
Total respondents: 17

Supporting infrastructure such as parking and spectator areas are adequate:



Total respondents: 17

Our club can access the facility when needed:

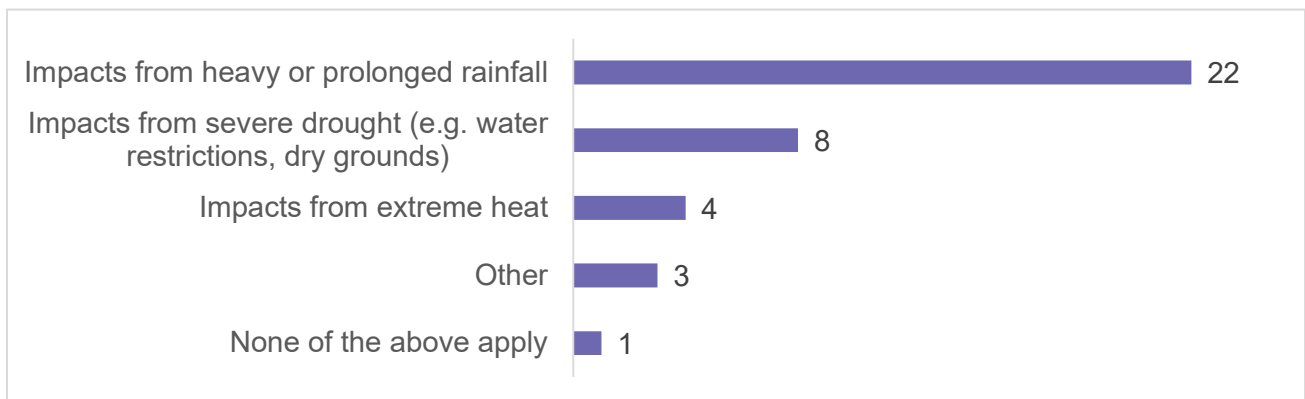


Total respondents: 17

There are higher levels of agreement regarding the secondary venue's activity surface, amenities being fit-for-purpose, and adequacy of supporting infrastructure, while lighting is deemed to be poorer and storage space less sufficient. Access for clubs is similar to that of primary venues.

Impacts of weather and climate

Has your club/ organisation experienced any impact from weather or climate conditions in recent years?



Total respondents: 25

'Other' impacts included wind and surface deterioration as a result of overuse following poor weather.

Please describe how these weather or climate impacts have affected your club/ organisation in recent years?

Climate and weather conditions have greatly impacted clubs in recent years.

- Cancellations to games and training sessions resulting in great frustrations, higher volunteer stress, and missed opportunities to participate. Many clubs responded with a figure between 30-50% of home games missed over the previous three years.
 - This impacts health and enjoyment, and can discourage players to return.
 - At times, fields were unavailable for five to six weeks at a time.
 - Some matches were left un-resolved, or ultimately never played, due to end of season.
- Requirements to book facilities where possible resulting in higher out-of-pocket costs and additional travel times when they are from outside of the LGA. There are many instances in which no alternative venue can be found due to short notice, lack of available facilities, and heightened demand.
- Weather resulting in unsafe playing conditions if left open, including hardened grass in heat and chewed, uneven surfaces following rain, increasing risks of injury.
- Loss of revenue for clubs that operate canteens or kiosks in their venue.
- When fields re-open, there are higher maintenance requirements and less available training space due to protected field areas.

What changes to your club/ organisation's facilities or operations would help you better manage or adapt to these weather or climate impacts?

- Considerable responses towards improved field drainage across the network, which has been a long-term issue.

- Requests for field surface upgrades, lighting installation, and additional training infrastructure that enhances facilities, provides alternative ways to train, and increases capacity. For example, batting cages and mini fields.
- Improved maintenance programs throughout the year.
- Installation of in-ground irrigation.
- More shade and shelter for players and spectators.
- Updated amenities for spectators and players, specifically changerooms and canteens, to be modernised and made friendly for female participants.
- Relocation of netball to an indoor court facility for competition.

Modified Formats

Has your club/ organisation introduced any modified participation formats recently?

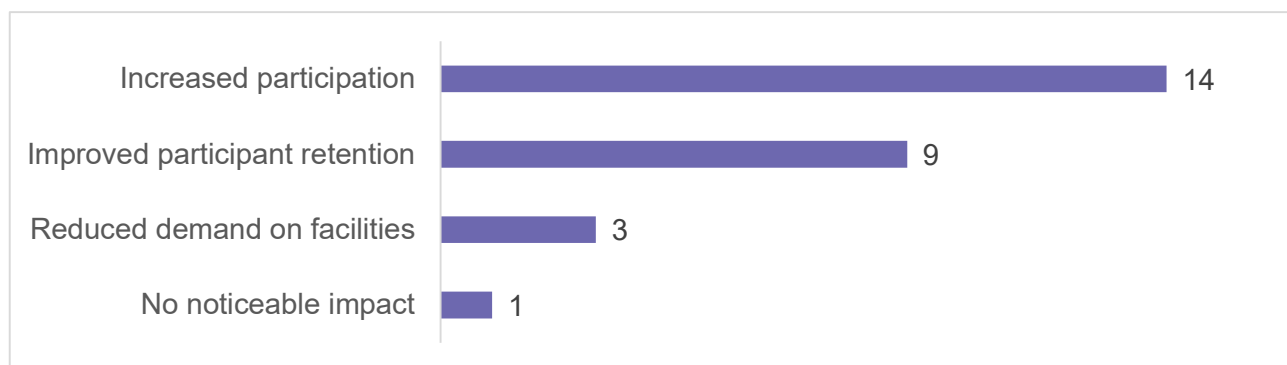
Respondents were asked about their implementation of modified formats in their sport. These can take many forms but are generally designed to be an introductory or more accessible version of a sport. Programs may focus on children, mature-age participants, persons with disability, the time poor, or people looking for more social opportunities.

Of the 25 responses to this question, 60% indicated that their club has introduced modified formats.

Please describe the modified participation formats your club has introduced:

- Flexible training options.
- Targeted group competitions for women, girls, or juniors outside of traditional participation times.
- Hiring of alternative, all-weather facilities.
- Modified game days for beginners, amended rules for younger age groups as an introduction, also seen through a no-contact Australian rules format for over 60's.
- Social nights.
- Changing programs to midweek and Friday nights.
- Combined training and skills days for players, coaches, and umpires.
- 'Bring a friend' and 'come and try' programs during school holidays.

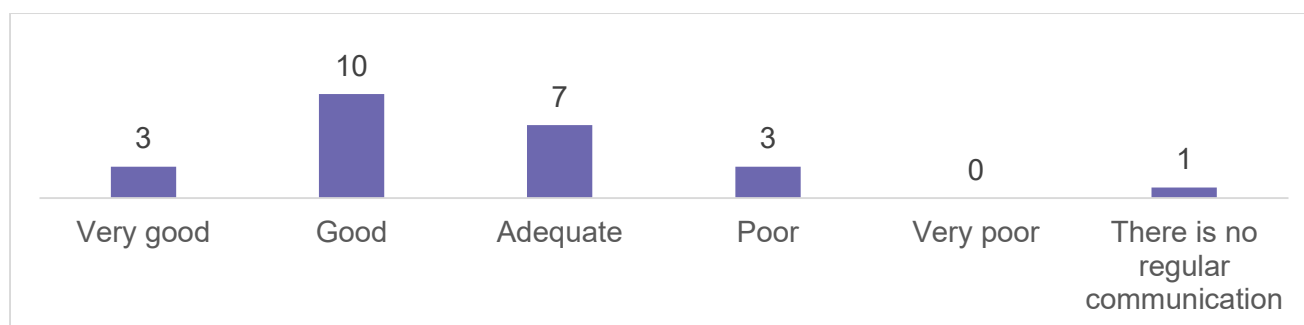
Have these modified formats led to any of the following outcomes?



Total respondents: 15

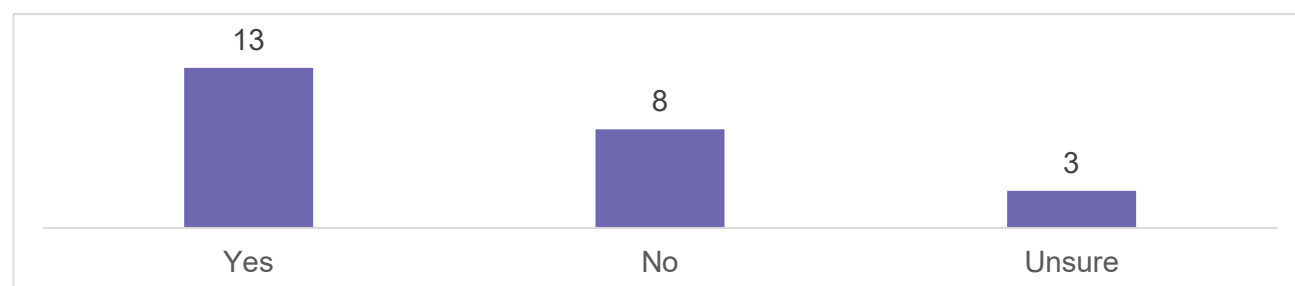
Satisfaction with communication

How would you rate your club/ organisation's communication with City of Newcastle regarding bookings and administration?



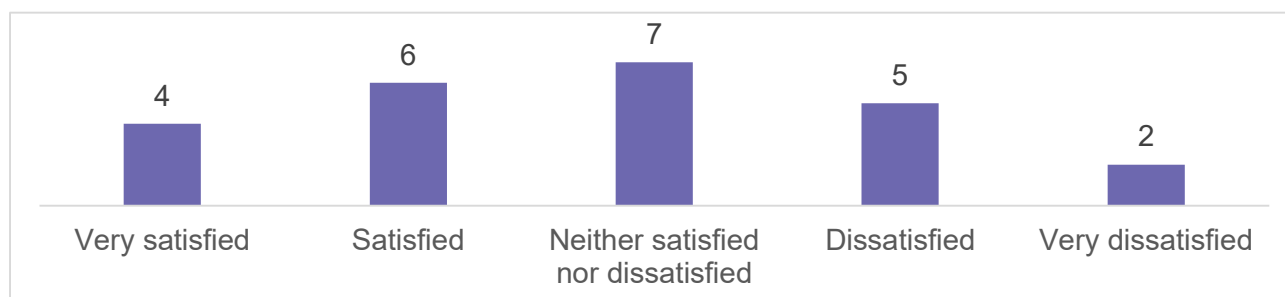
Total respondents: 24

Does your club/ organisation have a clear and consistent contact at City of Newcastle?



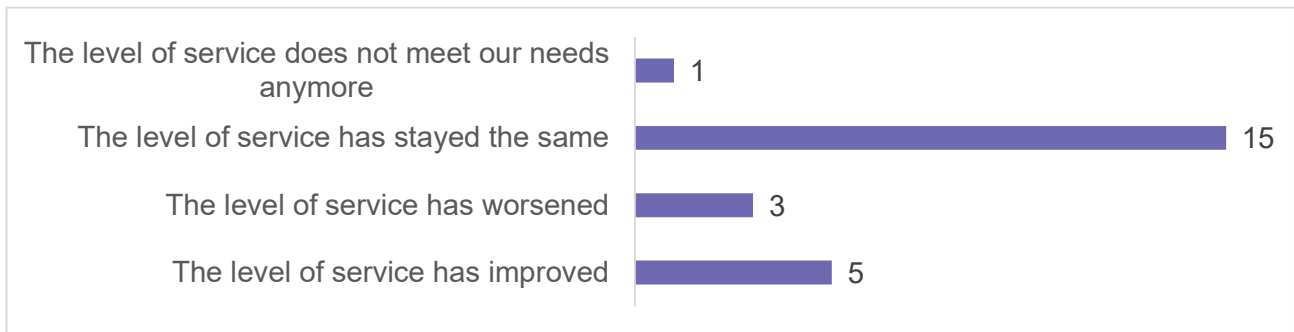
Total respondents: 24

How satisfied is your club/ organisation with the level of customer service from City of Newcastle?



Total respondents: 24

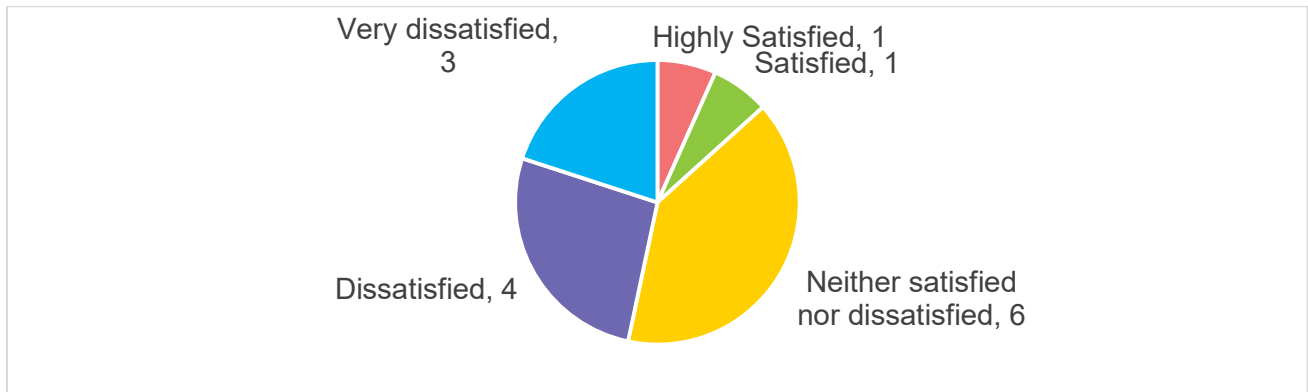
Which of the following statements best describes your club/ organisation's feelings towards City of Newcastle's level of service for management and booking purposes since 2020?



Total respondents: 24

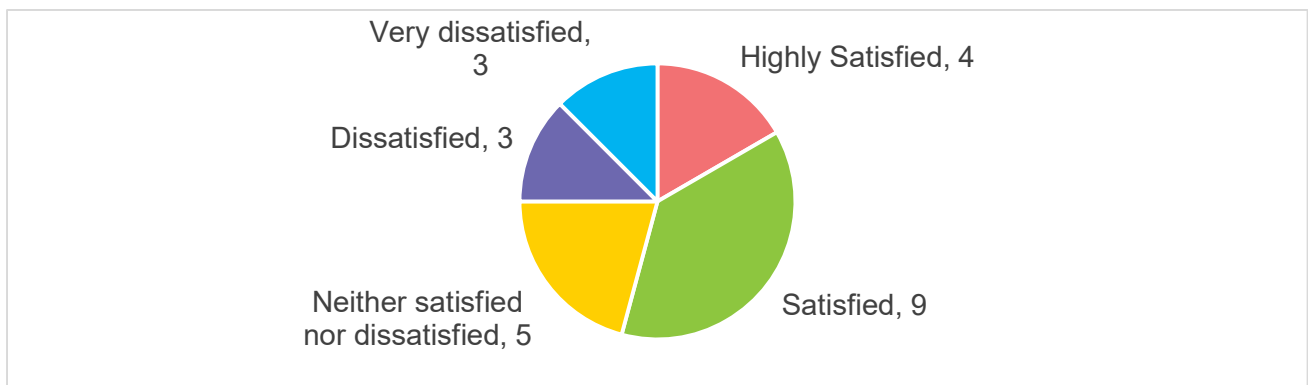
Which best summarises your sporting club/ organisation's experience with City of Newcastle's TRUST principles?

Transparent:



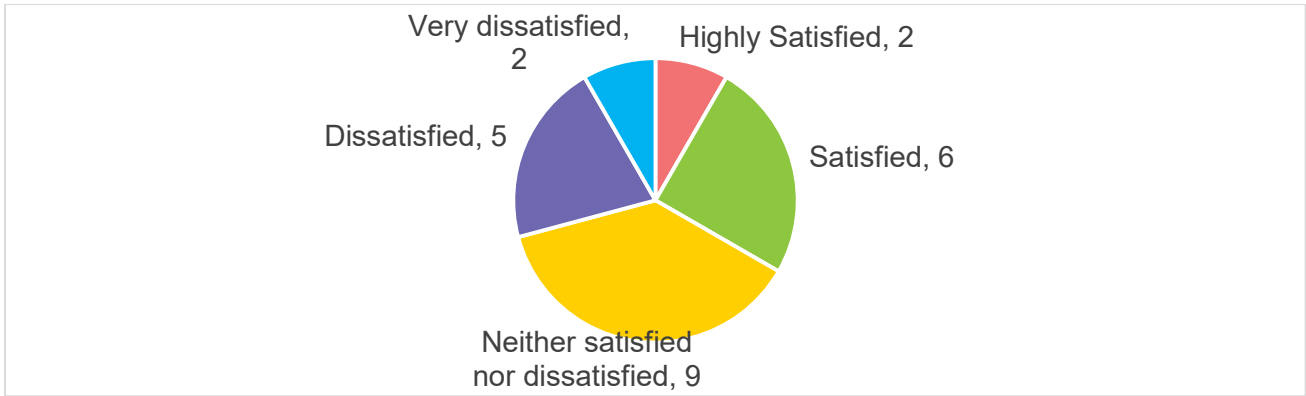
Total respondents: 15

Respectful:



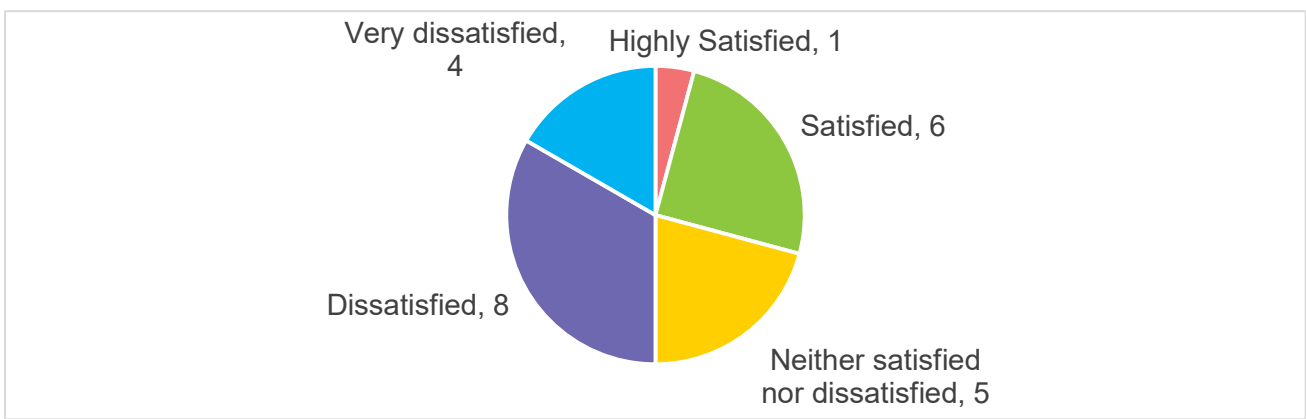
Total respondents: 24

U - We Turn Up:



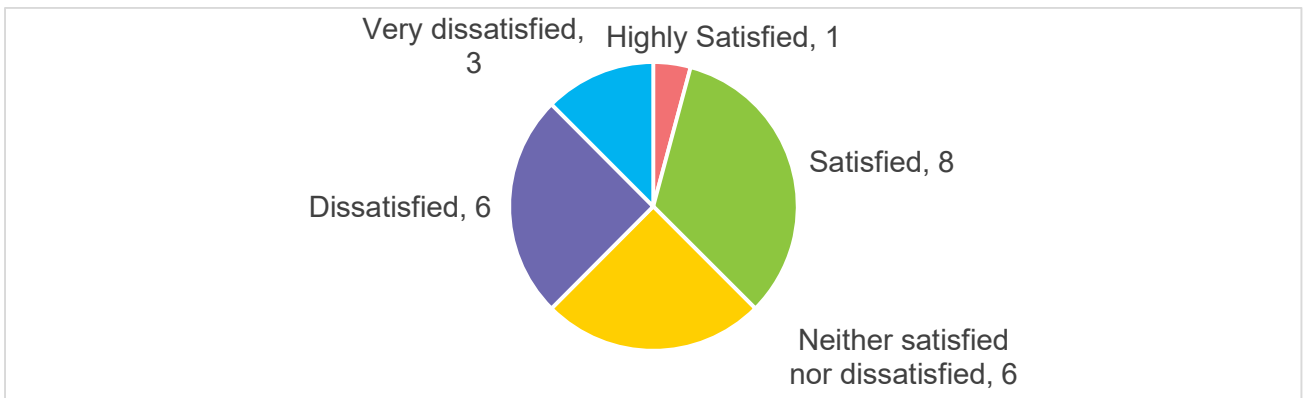
Total respondents: 24

Simple:



Total respondents: 24

Timely:



Total respondents: 24

This demonstrates that respectful and timely customer service is satisfactory, while there are higher levels of dissatisfaction with their transparent and simple principles.

Would you like to suggest any improvements to the City of Newcastle's levels of service or TRuST principles?

Of 24 responses to this question, 54% indicated improvements could be made, with 13 respondents providing further information, including:

- Processes can and should be streamlined. This includes upgraded booking systems/ software, as well as providing clubs with the ownership to oversee facility matters themselves.
- Service should be honest, timely, and appreciative.
- Provide a more effective way to provide and manage complaints that is separate from regular processes, as currently, clubs have concerns shut down, and no actions are taken.
- Ensure that club governance advice is consistent. Many frustrations occur when different people provide different advice.
- Information requests for clubs are constant. Information such as facility priorities and participation should be kept better rather than being requested frequently at each project/ grant application.
- Ensure each club has a clear CN contact and, where possible, that this contact is consistent for all issues, rather than delegating to others and having to develop relationships/ provide understandings with several staff.
- There were some complaints about dealing with different representatives/ processes. These include:
 - Instances where staff do not show up to arranged meetings when organised.
 - Frustrations with seemingly AI or non-human interactions when calling CN.
 - Notable delays in waiting for communication.
- Assist with the communication between sporting users when misunderstandings occur and ensure bookings can be clearly demonstrated for each sporting field to prevent further misunderstandings.
- Engage in continued collaboration and communication with user groups to ensure future planning aligns with participation growth trends.
- Where some organisations operate at a business, ensuring that they are treated the same as other sporting groups, as they contribute towards the same outcomes for the community.
- Treating clubs, community members, participants, and valued volunteers as such, rather than 'customers'.
- Ensure adequate facilities and financial support to sporting clubs servicing rate payers are provided.

Final Comments

Do you have any additional comments regarding the Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan?

- Request for the Plan to recognise each facility's use and a capital works plan to be developed, considering such needs.
- Assistance from CN to provide adequate ground space and facilities to help sports grow.
- Appreciation for the opportunity to provide feedback.
- Feelings that the hierarchy of fields and maintenance is unfair due to the equal costs paid that do not realise equitable outcomes towards smaller clubs and users of local facilities.
- More support from CN towards volunteers is needed.
- Identified a shortfall of cricket wickets in Newcastle.
- CN should explore reallocation of sporting venues to better align infrastructure with existing facilities.
- Queries regarding:
 - The Waratah Park redevelopment and whether the Plan will review its strategies and make changes if needed.
 - Whether the Plan will also be engaging with sports associations for input.
- Facility queries:
 - Frustration toward No.2 Sportsground being recognised as a regional sport facility by Wanderers Rugby, therefore limiting their training to meet this requirement. Additional feedback from the club includes:
 - 'Previous flawed advice' has impacted the operational and long-standing stewardship of the club at No. 2 Sportsground.
 - This 'soccer-centric' development pushes rugby off the venue and limits growth, while No. 5 Sportsground is not sufficient for participation.
 - This submission queried the possibility of relocating the hard courts at National Park with the recently developed basketball precinct, freeing up open space to accommodate their junior and representative teams
 - Jesmond Park drainage upgrade request.
 - Lynn Oval drainage needs addressing.
- Request for a rolling plan to be established rather than one that puts aside day-to-day priorities.
- Feelings that CN is behind neighbouring councils, e.g. Lake Macquarie, in delivering sports facilities.
- Frustrations with CN blocking club maintenance and work on their facilities when maintenance is not deemed sufficient.
- Cricket clubs are using neighbouring grounds due to CN facilities not being to 2nd grade cricket standards.

- Funding assistance for cricket to maintain their wickets, as seen in other Local Government Areas.
- Funding and facility standards are not in line with the growth experienced across the LGA and for high-growth sports.
- Consideration of rapid population and participation growth in certain areas, with the need for facilities to be improved in line with this.

Stakeholder interviews

With Otium, City of Newcastle coordinated several interviews with government agencies and local tertiary providers whose strategies and policies may align with the Plan. Each stakeholder and their feedback is summarised below:

University of Newcastle

An online meeting with the Director of Sport Strategies and Sport Programs at NUSport was held on the 30th of April 2026. The University and CN have a strong relationship with regular communication, which has extended into the Plan. The key findings from this meeting are presented below:

- A Strategic Sports Plan and site Master Plan are being prepared following the University's 2030 Strategic Plan, which will display in detail enhancements to their sporting facilities on campus.
- Their campus has four main oval areas, of which all but one are heavily utilised between academic programs, social sports, community groups, and occasional professional sporting academies or international team training. On average, 20-25 hours of use per field is experienced, which is ultimately 25-20% over their capacity.
 - Existing regular user groups include the Sydney Swans Academy, Newcastle Olympic and the Hunter Wildfires.
- There are identified potential upgrades to be explored with partnerships, the key to raising the capital required. This includes converting one field to synthetic, which could be jointly funded by partners such as the University, CN, and the local A-League side, the Newcastle Jets which would require a business case and further consultation.
- The University's positioning is as an overflow ground for community sport; however, recent attention has been received from professional rugby sides due to the upcoming World Cup. Their high-performance facilities, location and privacy have attracted teams, and while exclusive use is required, this is economically beneficial to the University and CN. Further opportunities to attract such teams through enhanced facilities will be considered.
- Ultimately, any investment would need to provide a positive return to the University. In the case of joint funding, the University would continue to manage its facilities, with equal shared use allocated to its partners and the remaining use for the University.

Office of Sport

The Office of Sport (The Office) provided written feedback to inform the Plan. A summary of this feedback is below:

- The Office plays a collaboration and connection role with the planning and delivery of facilities in NSW. They support stakeholders through funding, resources, and partner connections.
- Fit-for-purpose facilities should consider the operating environment and design features that maximise asset longevity and minimise ongoing expenditure (maintenance, upgrades, etc).
- Good practice for climate resilience is being worked on throughout the sports sector to ensure facilities can be more resilient and prepared for future conditions.

- The Office recognises the benefits of synthetic surfaces and highlights the environmental impacts they contribute to, including increased heat, plastic migration, and costs. The NSW Government's Synthetic Turf – Guideline for decision makers has been encouraged by the Office for facility owners to consider.
- There are no major policy changes from the NSW Government currently, but over the next 5-10 years, a continued transition towards sustainability, efficient design and multi-use facilities will increase.
- Grant opportunities will be listed on the Office's webpage, but are influenced by budget considerations and community needs.
- The Office supports shared use arrangements to ensure efficient operation of sporting activities. Current and future facilities should be able to cater for multi-use events and programs, and, where possible, serve ongoing sport and recreation purposes.

Multicultural NSW

Otium attended an online meeting with Multicultural NSW's (MNSW) Manager of Community Engagement and Hunter Region Community Engagement Officer on 7 May 2026. The key findings are summarised below:

- Greatest Barriers:
 - Transport: dependency on cars in regional areas and poor public transport connectivity limits one's ability to visit public spaces and participate in sport and recreation.
 - Accessibility: the key issues regarding accessibility include:
 - Knowing what sporting clubs or competitions are available and where to participate in them
 - Knowing the right people who may have the knowledge and experience to guide them
 - Language barriers, with written materials presenting a key opportunity for change
 - Where cultural groups may form teams or programs, these are not entirely inclusive (example of an Afghanistan boys' team, excluding young girls)
 - Sufficient information not being shared:
 - Parents may not trust their children's accounts of events if there are no specifications that outline factors such as the presence of alcohol, who will be present, and the types of food on offer.
- Opportunities to enhance inclusion through design and programs include flexible training times, multi-faith spaces, designated female programs with privacy and female instructors, translated resources, and appropriate food within canteens for diverse religious needs.
- Gaps in the industry have been identified for consideration. Registrations at an association level should include languages spoken at home. If known about, resources can be provided that address this barrier and ensure

- There is ongoing collaboration between MNSW and other Government agencies, including the OOS, who align trends and information, share event details, and other relevant information regarding sport and multiculturalism.
- Grant opportunities are actively shared when available and range from:
 - Events and Facility: Such as for a multicultural day, from \$3k-20k
 - Compact Funding: Larger scale and at a project-specific level
 - A new grant opportunity was anticipated to be announced shortly, focusing on combating social isolation and facilitating connections.

Department of Education (DoE) - School Infrastructure NSW

School Infrastructure NSW provided written feedback. The agency facilitates the sharing of school facilities with government agencies, local councils, sporting organisations, local businesses and not-for-profits to ensure they can be used by the wider community outside school hours. They do this through the following arrangements:

- Community Use Agreements (CUA) – for short-term hire of facilities outside school hours (up to 12 months).
- Joint Use Agreements – capital investment from a third party for new or upgraded facilities on department-owned land, in exchange, the third party obtains a licence for a specified period to use the space outside of school hours at agreed times, and the school receives the benefit of use during school hours.
- Shared Use Licences – longer-term (greater than 12 months) access arrangements with a third party, normally include a licence fee with no capital investment.
- Share Our Space (SOS) – open access to outdoor school spaces, including playgrounds, sports fields and multipurpose courts outside of school hours, usually weekends and school holidays.

There is currently one shared-use licence and 43 community use agreements across 18 schools in the LGA.

The current barriers to increasing community access to school facilities are capital funding and ongoing maintenance costs for the facility, access restrictions, the risk of vandalism to school property, and a lack of awareness among available users about how to use the arrangements.

Both Joint Use Agreements (JUA) and Expressions of Interest (EOI) processes allow for co-investing in facility upgrades. The DoE also provides letters of support and landowners' consent for any projects seeking external funding, and for third parties seeking to make a capital investment.

The decision-making for which organisations are allowed access follows a range of processes depending on the type of agreement:

- Community Use Agreements: Community users contact the school directly to enquire about availability, suitability, and hire rates. Applications are accepted from individuals, community-based businesses, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations.
 - Approvals are made by the school principal based on the Sharing of Schools department policy. This will balance whether the proposed use is appropriate.

- **Joint and Shared Use Agreements:** require applicants to submit a Community Partnership Proposal (CPP), which is reviewed by a range of stakeholders with the department and assessed against a range of criteria, including:
 - School and community infrastructure need
 - Appropriate use of educational land
 - Project feasibility
 - Future support for educational use
 - Aligned with planning and future needs
 - If deemed feasible, an EOI is conducted, and a 21-day submission window is opened.
- **Share our Space:** Schools activated for the SOS program are selected based on suitability criteria, including open space provision opportunities across the LGA, undersupply of facility types not elsewhere locally available (courts, fields, etc.), and access. Where green space or sporting areas are in short supply, and where communities most need safe and accessible leisure spaces, the department looks to place schools in the program. Community members and local councils can nominate a school for participation by submitting a community or council request form on the Department website.

The Strategic Sports Plan can assist School Infrastructure NSW in:

- Identifying gaps in sports facilities, public open spaces and play space provision where school facilities could meet that need
- Highlighting opportunities for investment in facility upgrades that benefit both schools and the wider community
- Providing population and sports participation data to inform school facility planning
- Identifying potential third parties for joint or shared-use agreements.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

The DPIRD provided written feedback. The feedback included:

- The DPIRD recognises the role sport and recreation play in local regional communities in driving community connection and cohesion, contributing to improved liveability and worker attraction and retention, resulting in economic growth.
- The Active Regional Communities Package, funded under the Regional Development Trust, provides for a range of funding options aiming to support and strengthen regional communities by facilitating regional events, boosting community participation and helping community organisations expand their activities and projects.
- Finally, sporting events can provide opportunities and alignment for economic initiatives and regional visitation strategies.

5. Community engagement activities

The community was invited to provide feedback on what they value about recreational facilities, how they use recreational facilities and what they'd like to see at our recreational facilities in the future via an online survey between 1 April and 11 May 2026.

In total, **1,193** people provided feedback via the online survey and **199** people participated in the quick poll. A further **228** people visited the pop-up information stalls which were held across six locations throughout the LGA.

Whilst we aimed to hear from as many people as possible during the consultation process, the online survey was 'opt-in', which means participants proactively sought to complete the survey as opposed to a sample of respondents being selected to more accurately reflect and represent the population makeup of the Newcastle community.

All feedback has been reviewed and will be considered as part of ongoing development of the draft Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan.

Pop-up information stalls

Six pop-up information stalls were delivered across the LGA, with locations and times selected to align with club training sessions and popular recreational areas. A total of 228 people attended.

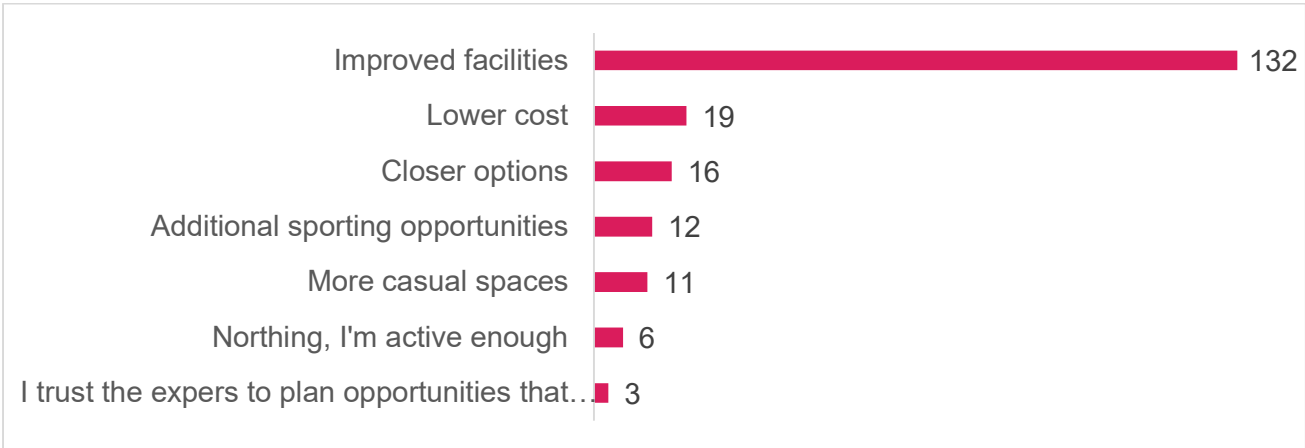
Approximately 70% of attendees were members of club committees, while the remaining 30% were community members not affiliated with a sporting organisation.

Most attendees were willing to take information materials and indicated they would complete the survey online. Key discussion themes emerging from these sessions are summarised below:

- For the Stockon Sharks Junior Football Club the following items were discussed:
 - Critical need to update facilities, amenities and changerooms.
 - 40% female participation base, and facilities are not suitable for them
 - Parking is inadequate
 - Desire to expand the field as demand is soon to result in players being turned away.
- Feedback about the lack of pickle and paddle board facilities to host competitions. Discussions about the opportunities to co-locate spaces such as basketball and netball courts to allow the spaces to be adaptable.
- Across the pop-up events there were three standout priorities identified:
 - Lighting.
 - Amenities buildings.
 - Drainage/ irrigation/ playing field space.

Quick poll

A brief community poll was conducted as a low-barrier entry point to participation in the consultation process (see **Appendix II**). The poll was designed to provide the community with a concise and accessible way to participate. Results of the quick poll, in response to the question: *‘What would make you more active in Newcastle?’* are presented below:



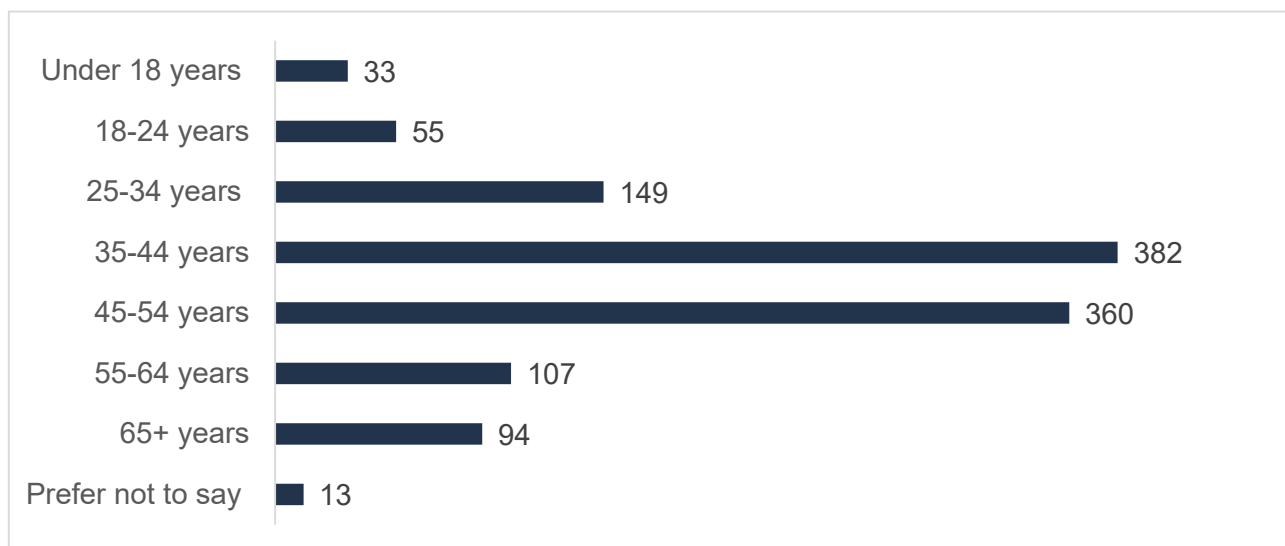
Total respondents: 199

Survey

Who we heard from

This section provides an overview of the demographic insights shared by respondents to the online survey (see **Appendix III**). By understanding who participated, we can assess the reach of our engagement efforts and identify any gaps in representation. The following data highlights the different demographics and user groups of people who contributed to the consultation.

What is your age?



Total respondents: 1,193

Approximately 75% of respondents were aged 25 to 54, with those aged 35 to 44 the most represented (32%).

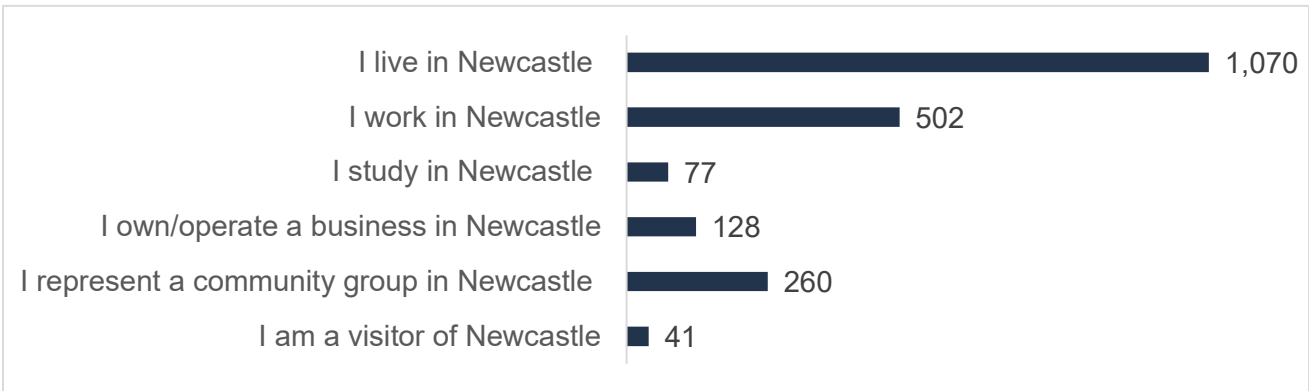
What is your gender?



Total respondents: 1,193

What is your relationship with Newcastle?

Multiple selections enabled.



Total respondents: 1,193

90% of respondents live in the LGA, 22% represent a community group in the LGA, and 42% work in the LGA, demonstrating a sample of respondents with strong belonging and knowledge of the LGA.

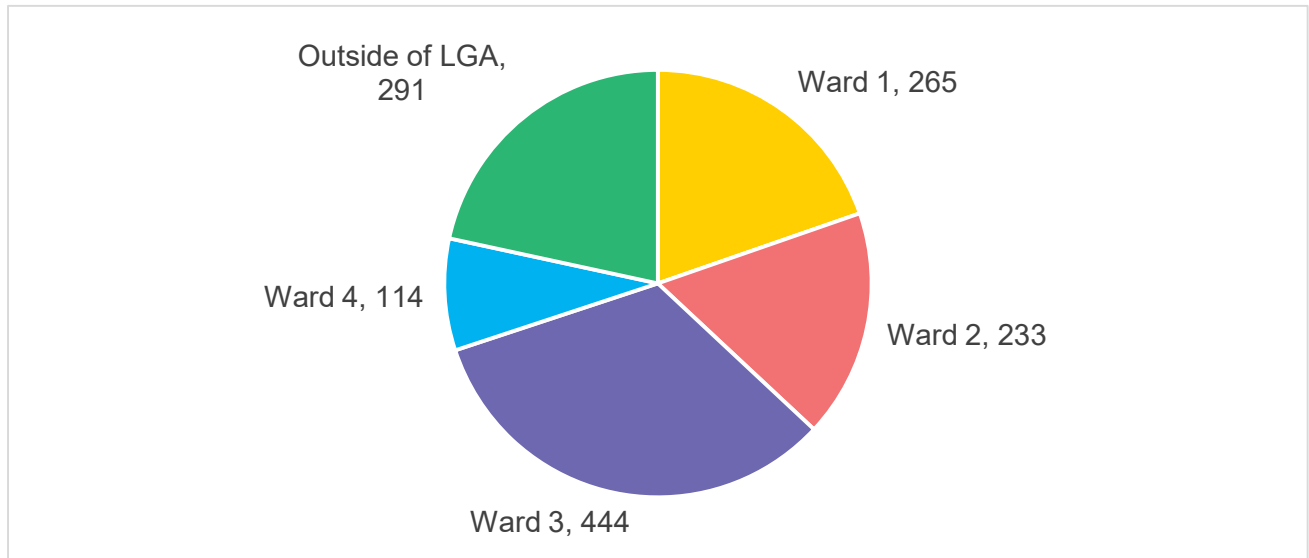
What suburb do you live in?

Suburb	Total	Suburb	Total	Suburb	Total
Stockton	88	Minmi	17	Tighes Hill	7
New Lambton	74	Maryville	16	Wickham	7
Merewether	68	Newcastle	16	Newcastle West	6
Mayfield	66	North Lambton	16	Rankin Park	6
Adamstown	36	Elmore Vale	14	Newcastle East	4
Adamstown Heights	34	Waratah	14	Birmingham Gardens	3
Cooks Hill	34	Merewether Heights	13	Hamilton North	3
Lambton	32	Georgetown	11	Beresfield	2
Wallsend	32	Broadmeadow	10	Shortland	2
Hamilton South	30	Bar Beach	8	Tarro	2
Hamilton	27	Hamilton East	7	Waratah West	2
Fletcher	24	Islington	7	Warrabrook	2
Kotara	23	Mayfield East	7	Black Hill	1
Jesmond	20	Mayfield West	7	Outside of LGA	291
Maryland	20	New Lambton Heights	7		

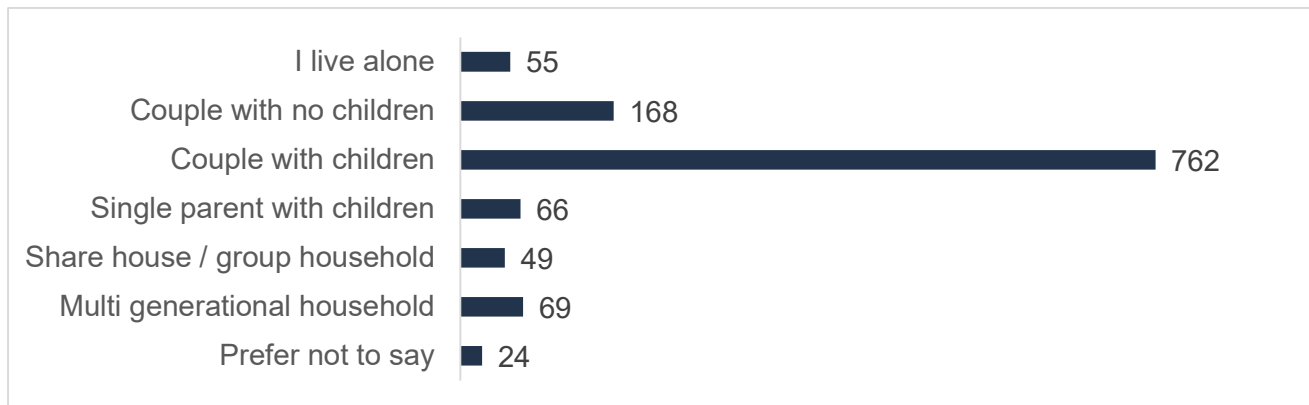
Total respondents: 1,116

Ward breakdown:

Information in this table was derived from coded information.

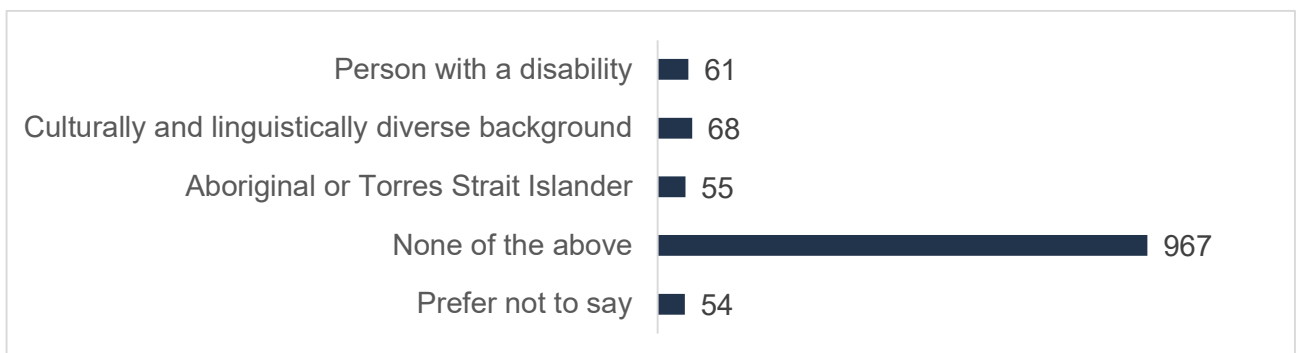


What best describes your household?



Total respondents: 1,193

Do you identify with any of the following groups?



Total respondents: 1,193

What we heard

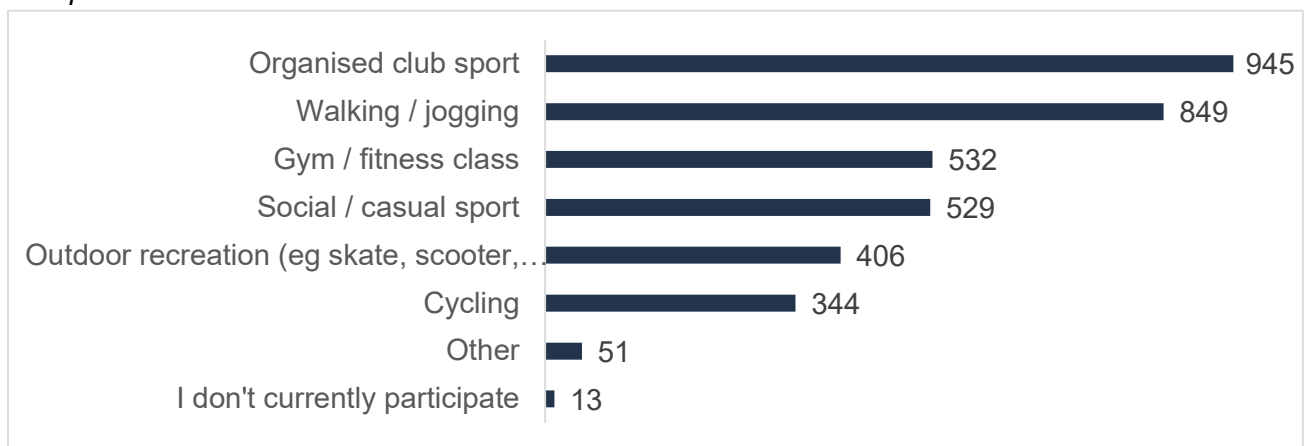
The following section outlines the results of the survey questions included in the *Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan Survey*. The survey was developed to better understand how the community uses recreational facilities, the key issues of concern, and community preferences for the management of infrastructure.

Participants were invited to share how they use facilities, and their views on the proposed management approaches. Analysing these responses supports a clearer understanding of community values, needs, and priorities that drove community preferences, and helps ensure that future recreational management and planning reflect community expectations and supports the long-term planning for the LGA.

Your activities levels

What types of physical activities do you currently participate in?

Multiple selections enabled.



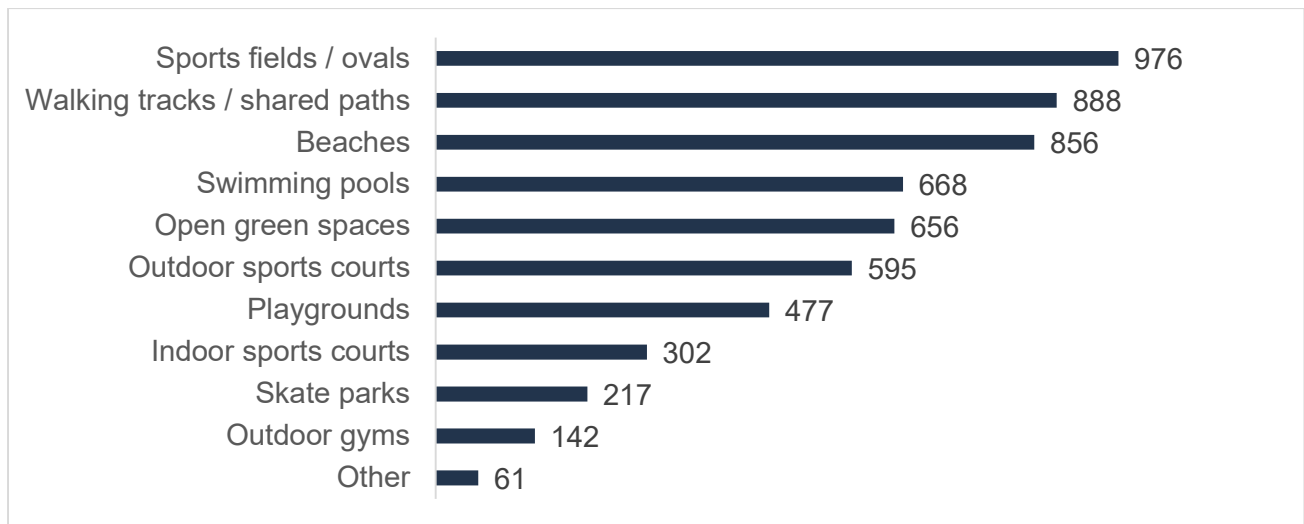
Total respondents: 1,193

The type of activities respondents currently participate in was asked. Insights show that 80% are part of organised club sport, 71% walk or jog, 45% do gym or fitness classes, and 44% in casual sports. 4% reported participation in 'other' activities. Common answers include water sports such as swimming, surfing or paddling, golf, motorsports, and casual sports (pickleball, tennis, wall-ball).

Use of local sport and recreation facilities

Which facility types do you currently use?

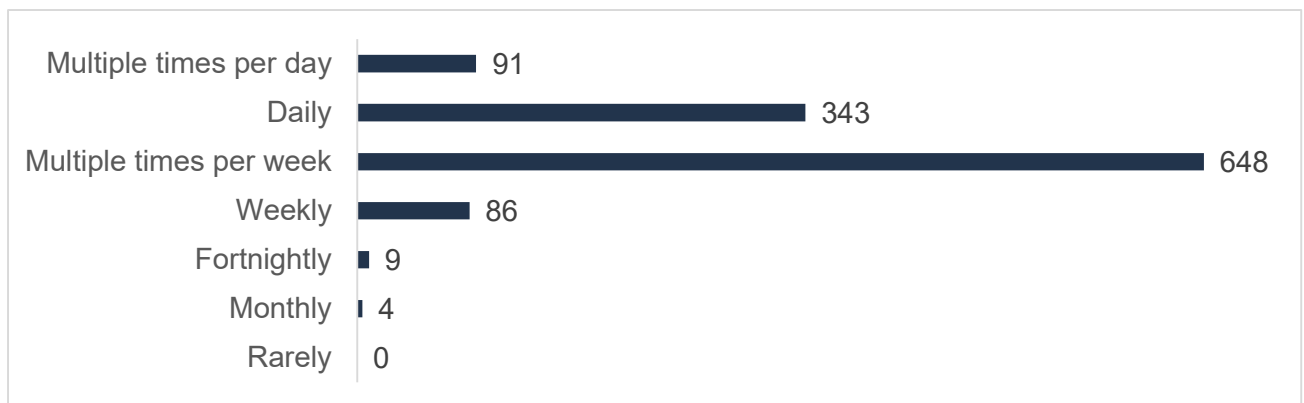
Multiple selections enabled.



Total respondents: 1,181

The facility types or areas where respondents participate in activities have been identified. This identifies strong use of formalised spaces, including sports fields/ ovals (83%), outdoor courts (50%), and shared paths (75%), as well as use of non-sport-specific spaces including beaches (72%), swimming pools (57%) and open green spaces (56%). This represents the demand for a variety of spaces and the role all open space plays in the sporting network.

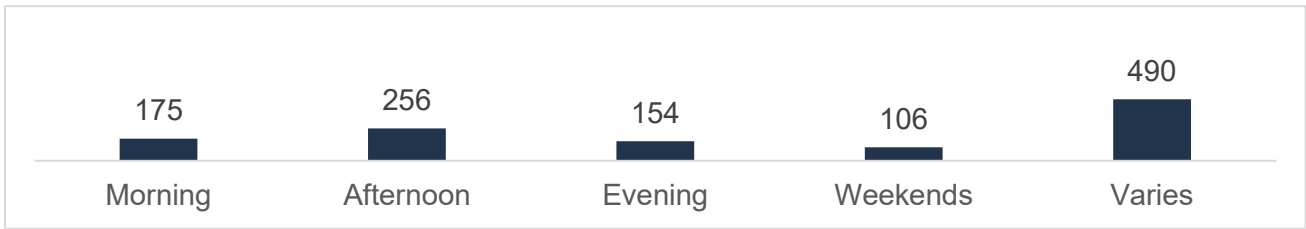
How often do you use these facilities?



Total respondents: 1,181

The frequency with which respondents use these spaces further outlines their high demand. They are mostly used multiple times per day (55%), with answers trending towards more regular use.

What time of day do you most commonly use them?

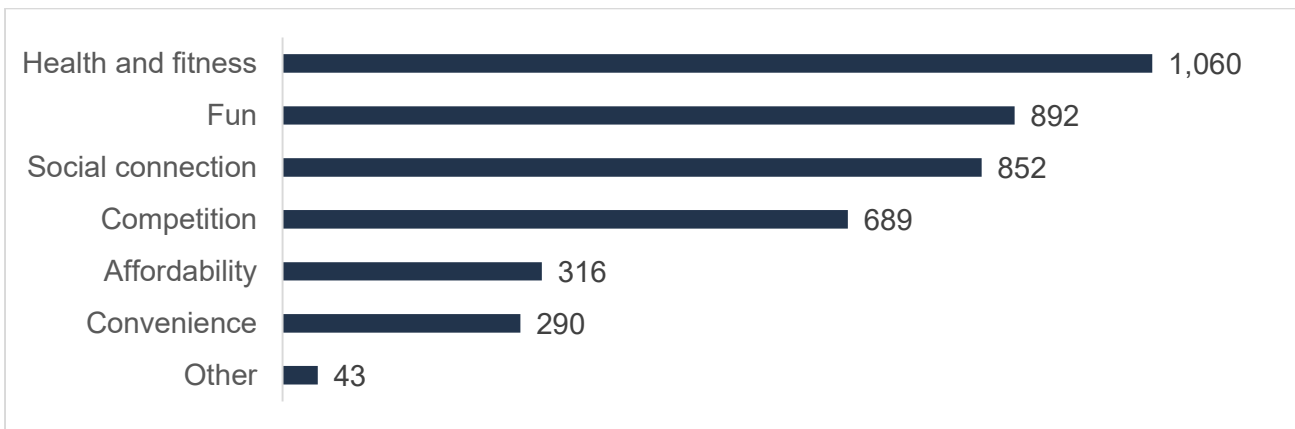


Total respondents: 1,181

While the afternoon is the most selected time of day to participate (22%), 41% reported that their time of participation varies.

What motivates you to use these facilities?

Multiple selections enabled.



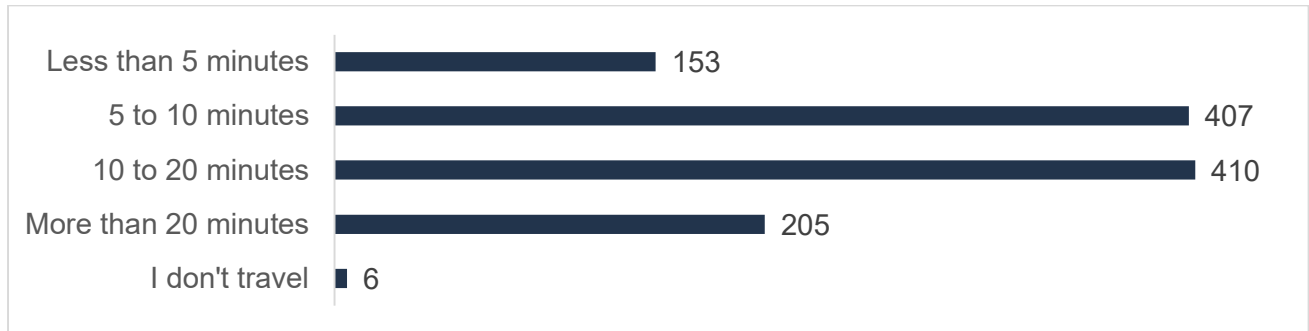
Total respondents: 1,181

There were 43 'other' motivators. These included:

- For children and family reasons (11)
- To experience mental health/ wellbeing benefits (5)
- Because of their safety features (5)
- Due to professional connection or being a former professional, remaining involved in the sport (3)
- As part of a team/ community sport (8)
- Walking their dogs (5)
- Enjoying the nature and environment (3)
- Work/ Employment reasons (2).

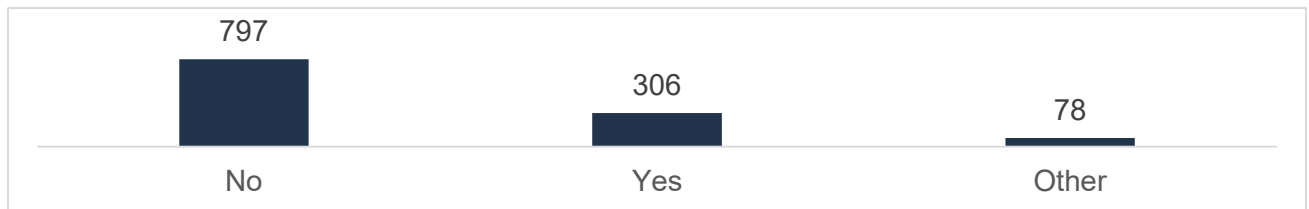
Travel distance and transport to activities

How far do you typically travel to participate in physical activity or use sport/recreation facilities?



Total respondents: 1,181

Does the distance you need to travel ever prevent you from participating as often as you'd like?



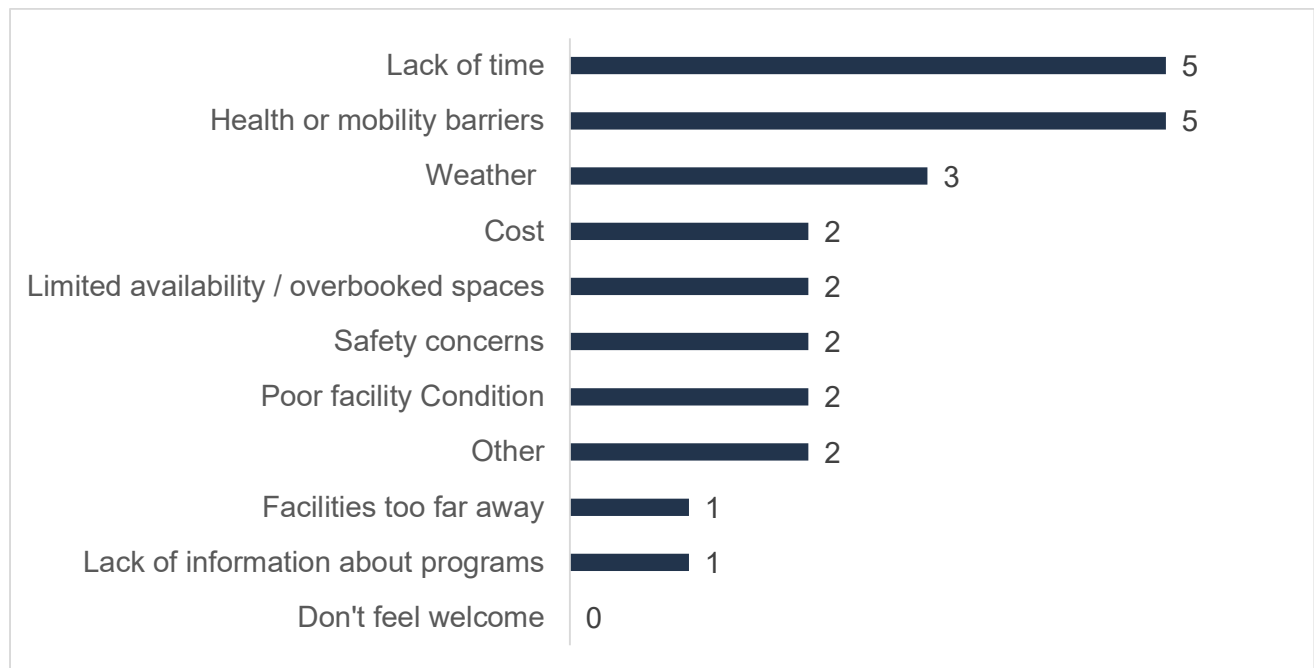
Total respondents: 1,181

7% of respondents provided further detail on time and distance as barriers. The key themes suggest that:

- Cycle links across the LGA are poor and prevent safe and efficient cycling between facilities
- Costs for fuel and transport are increasing
- Parking at locations is a challenge
- There are frustrations as many must travel to access facilities that are not available locally or of a good enough standard.

What prevents you from being more active or using facilities more often?

*For those who do not currently participate in sport or recreation activities.

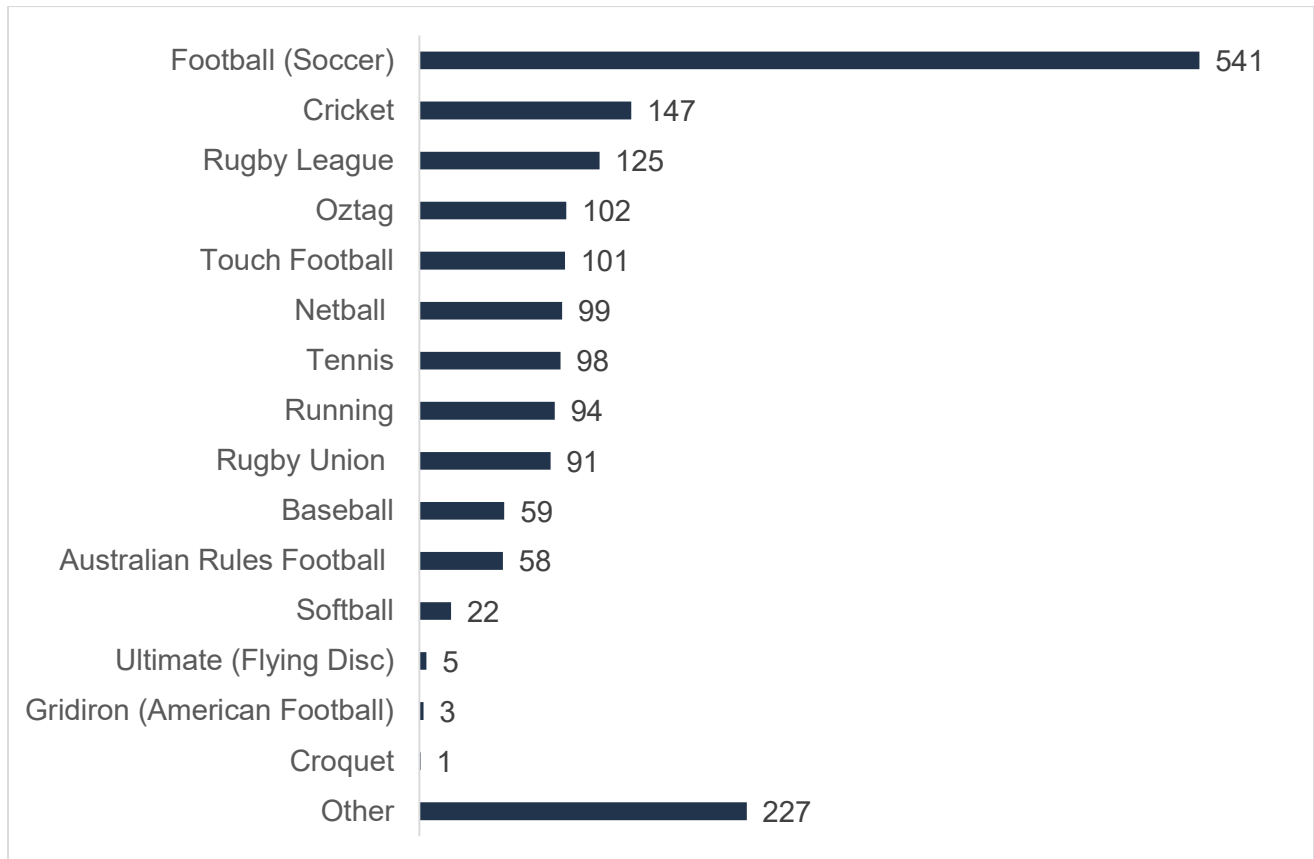


Total respondents: 12

Experiences with formal sport

Which formal club or association sport(s) are you involved in?

Multiple selections enabled.



Total respondents: 945

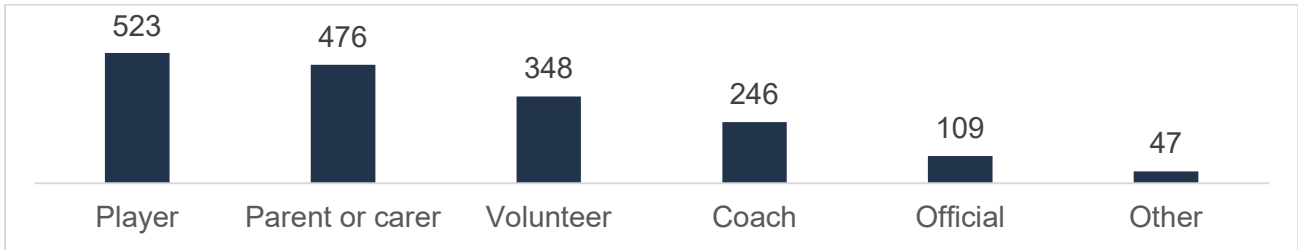
Almost one quarter (24%) of respondents indicated that they participate in an organised sport not listed. Analysis of these answers shows that:

- Many were participants of primarily indoor sports such as pickleball (30 mentions), basketball (29), futsal (13), volleyball (4), roller-derby (11), and gymnastics (4).
- Cycling (28), hockey (25), and golf (8) were common outdoor-based sports. These answers also included the mention of sports listed in the answer options (e.g. soccer, Australian Rules Football, baseball).
- Swimming (16), diving (19), water polo (8), rowing (3), surfing (2), and surf life saving club or rescue (21) activities were common.
- Many sports or activities were submitted three or fewer times. These were:
 - Triathlon, dragon boating, ice hockey, parkrun, pétanque, squash, badminton, beach sports, BMX, bushwalking, cheerleading, crossfit, dancing, Gaelic football, kayaking, motorsport, mountain biking, netball, orienteering, outrigger, sailing, skydiving, Thai boxing, trampolining, water ball and water skiing.

This analysis demonstrates the wide variety of sports played and the diverse needs within the LGA to provide for their delivery.

What is your role?

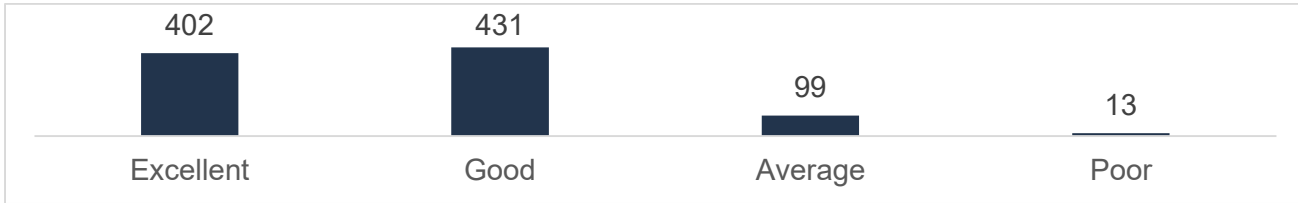
Multiple selections enabled.



Total respondents: 945

Analysis of the 47 'other' submissions shows that the majority take on multiple, often all, of the listed roles. Others include managers, event organisers, referees, and members.

How would you rate your experience with club or association sport locally?

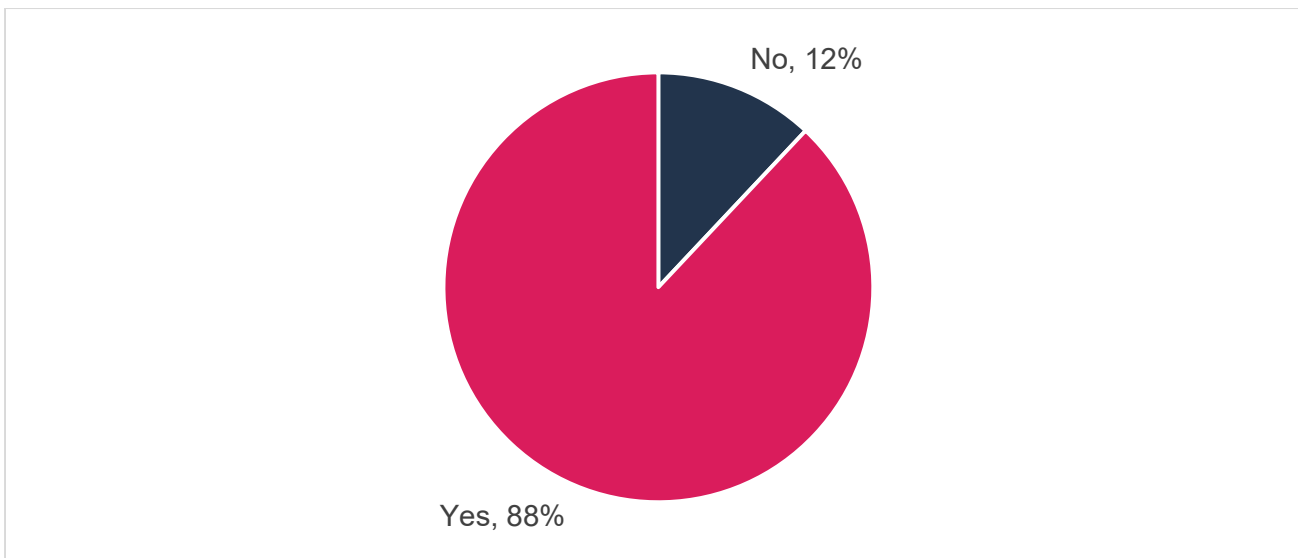


Total respondents: 945

Experiences with informal and social use

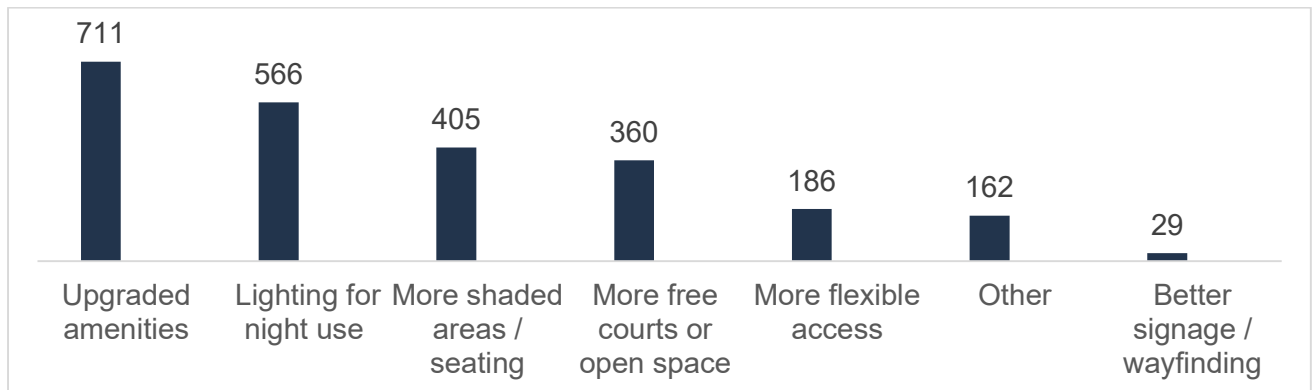
Do you use facilities for informal activities (casual sport, play, exercise)?

88% of respondents to the organised sport participation survey also use facilities for informal activities.



What improvements would better support your informal or casual use?

Multiple selections enabled.



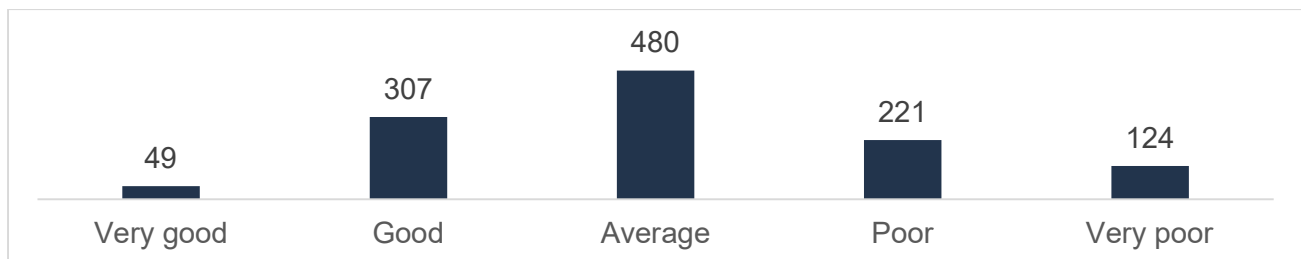
Total respondents: 1,045

16% made other recommendations, which included:

- Improved field drainage and maintenance (40)
- Dedicated cycling facility (11)
- Shade and weather protection infrastructure (6)
- Upgrades to existing facilities and amenities (16)
- Safety and security measures (6)
- Better playgrounds (9)
- Dedicated pickleball and other court sport facilities for casual use (15)
- Lighting improvements (8)
- Improved parking (6)
- More outdoor equipment and shared paths (9)
- Protect the environment and plant more trees (6).

Facility condition and priorities

How would you rate the condition of the sport and recreation facilities you use?



Total respondents: 1,181

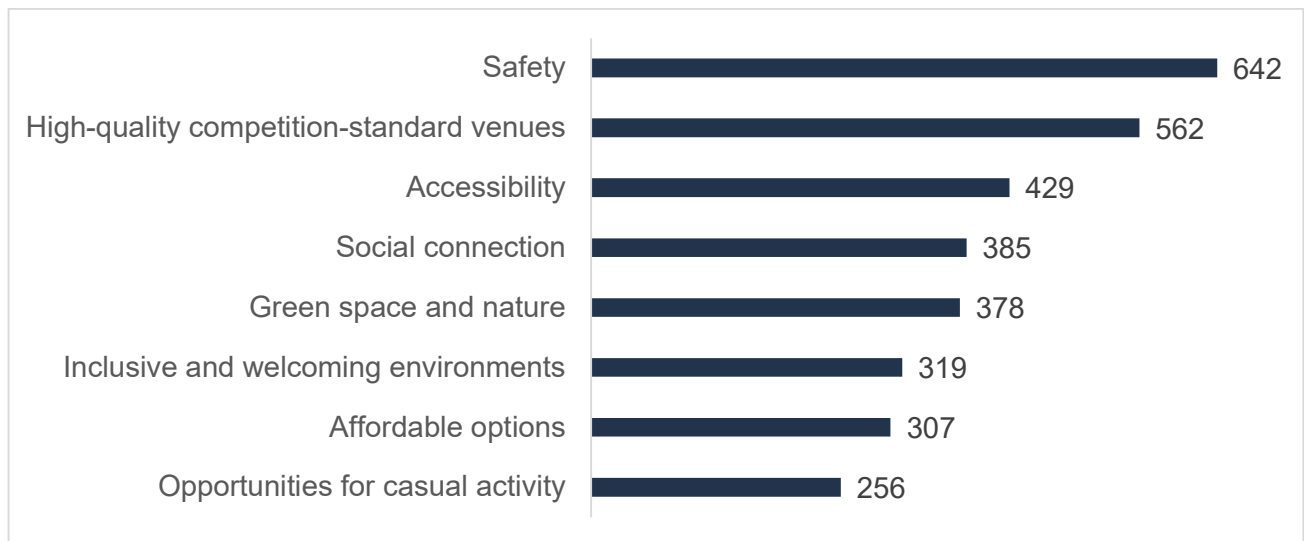
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about CN's sports facilities and service delivery:

Category	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am provided with facilities that are suitable for all my participation needs	28	376	268	370	139
I can safely access facilities at any time	34	414	265	372	96
The quality of facilities is of a high standard	24	204	256	470	227
Amenities and lighting are of high quality	21	140	230	512	278
I can easily travel to and park in or enter a sporting facility	76	504	222	295	84
Sporting facilities are well maintained	37	329	326	360	129
I can access all of the information I need about sporting facilities	42	426	455	208	50

Total respondents: 1,181

What do you value most in sport and recreation spaces?

Multiple selections enabled.



Total respondents: 1,193

The following table provides a detailed overview of the demographic profile of respondents to the question: *How would you rate the condition of the sport and recreation facilities you use?*

It summarises responses by age, gender and role to illustrate the breadth and diversity of community opinion. This breakdown helps to contextualise the results by showing how each segment of the community feel about the options and ensures that the interpretation of findings reflects the perspectives of a wide cross-section of users who interact with our recreational facilities.

Table 1: Results by demographic and user group for the overall management strategies

	Total respondents	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor
<35 years	327	6%	27%	38%	14%	15%
Male	569	4%	27%	39%	19%	11%
Female	609	16%	16%	16%	16%	35%
Ward 1	265	4%	21%	31%	20%	24%
Ward 2	233	5%	28%	35%	19%	14%
Ward 3	444	8%	32%	31%	20%	9%
Ward 4	114	7%	22%	52%	14%	5%
Player	523	5%	26%	33%	21%	15%

	Total respondents	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor
Parent	476	6%	18%	33%	19%	24%
Coach	246	4%	16%	36%	28%	15%
Volunteer	348	4%	18%	29%	26%	23%
Official	109	4%	15%	37%	19%	25%
Person with a disability	61	6%	19%	33%	19%	22%

Future needs and values

What types of activities would you like more opportunities for in your area?

This question generated more than 1,000 responses (many respondents provided multiple lines of feedback) with varied feedback. Analysis of key feedback on specific activities is summarised below.

Sport-specific: More than one-third of responses (38%) included comments on improvements for specific sports, with requests for infrastructure that better equips clubs, participants, and spectators with suitable, high-quality facilities. Some examples are below:

- “better change room/ bathroom facilities at soccer fields”
- “cricket nets that are maintained and open to the public”
- “greater access to grounds where AFL training can be hosted..”
- “Athletics track resurface (Feranley Dawes)”
- “.. no dedicated road cycling facility to allow for competitive cycling and training to take place off public roads”
- “More free, outdoor pickleball courts”
- “better outdoor basketball court”.

Fields and courts represented approximately one quarter (26%) of submissions referred to fields and courts. The community clearly wants to see greater qualities, through drainage enhancements and exploration of all-weather surfaces, and quantities of them.

Paths and cycling infrastructure were a key theme, with CN not sufficiently providing for them, making up 11% of submissions.

- “more running/ cycling paths”
- “safer bike paths along main routes”

- “my local area lacks safe cycling paths, especially for children”

Play and recreation facilities are seen as a key opportunity to enhance, with their co-location to sporting facilities a key driver to their use.

- “all parks must have shade over equipment...”
- “upgrading skate parks and playgrounds.”

Access and inclusion include themes that make existing facilities easier and safer to access, as well as increasing access for groups and clubs to use fields and courts. These themes were present in approximately 9% of submissions.

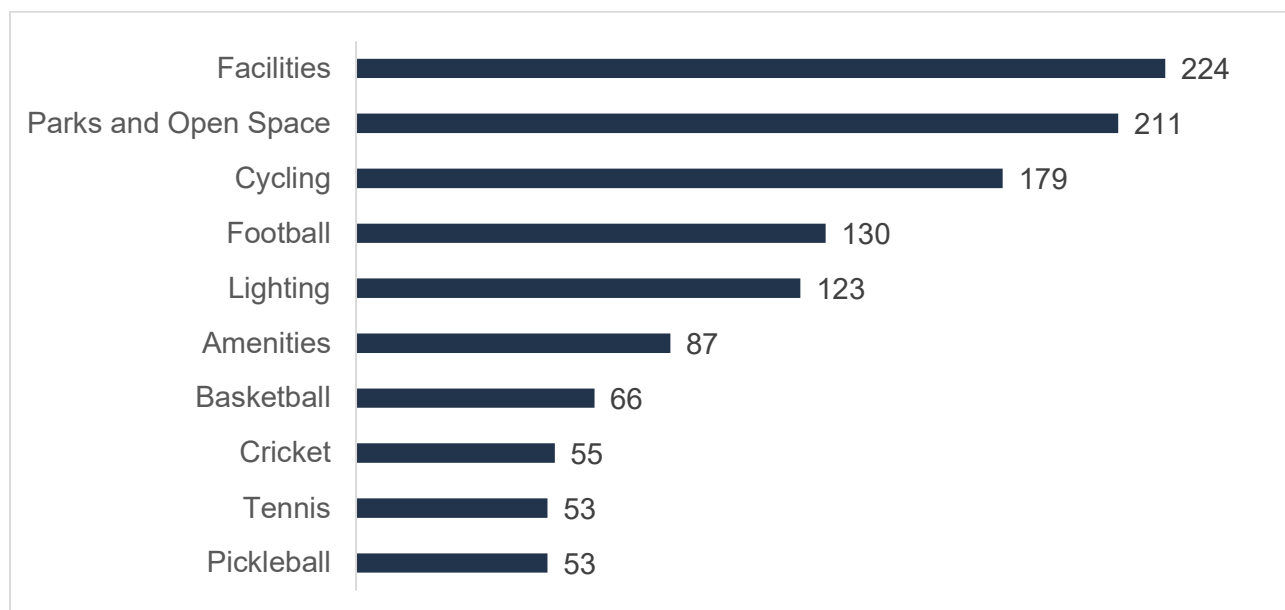
Improved lighting was also common, with the community calling for lighting of key areas for evening and night use to enhance safety and sporting area capacity.

Other feedback captured in this question includes:

- Ensuring that CN supports more than just the traditional sports and that infrastructure is not designed to favour specific sports.
- Participation and demand are increasing, with facilities not keeping up.
- Comments regarding the amenities present at sporting facilities and their general poor quality.

Open feedback – coded responses

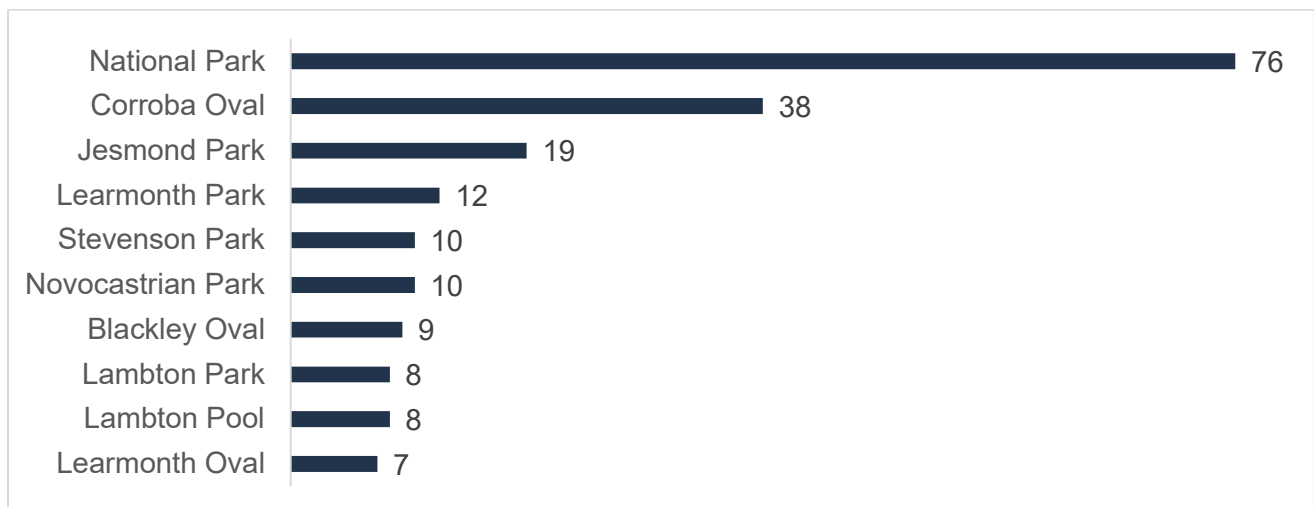
The final survey question provided respondents with an opportunity to identify additional issues, opportunities and priorities for sport and recreation across Newcastle. Responses were reviewed and grouped into common topics. The graph below shows the topics that were most frequently referenced.



Further analysis of the key themes has identified the comprehensive priorities within the community:

1. **Facility condition and modernisation (230+ mentions).** The condition of facilities is widely believed to be outdated, poorly maintained, and not fit for purpose. This Plan presents an opportunity to identify which facilities require modernising and address this.
2. **Drainage and surface performance (120+ mentions).** The quality of CN's playing fields and ovals is poor. Wet weather and drainage that cannot keep up are directly impacting participation. Training and competition availability, therefore, has decreased over the years.
3. **Lighting and safety (80+ mentions).** Lighting is seen as an obvious addition to enhance the capacity of playing areas and contribute to safer, more welcoming, and activated facilities.
4. **Female participation and inclusion (70+ mentions).** In addition to the above facility condition comments, this theme specifically refers to their impact on female participation. With dedicated female-friendly changerooms, safe and private amenities, and equitable access to facilities for training and competition, women and girls in Newcastle will benefit greatly.
5. **Protection of open space (65+ mentions).** There is concern about the loss of public green space amidst proposed developments. There is a preference for retaining open spaces as flexible and multi-use to broaden the benefits and avoid the displacement of the user groups at proposed sites.
6. **Growth sport infrastructure (60+ mentions).** There are many growing sports, both traditional and emerging, which call for investment to meet the demand. The most commonly referenced sports included pickleball, cycling, basketball and Australian Rules Football. These demands also outlined neighbouring LGAs provision of such facilities and the frustrations associated with needing to access them elsewhere.

Some of the open feedback received referenced specific locations, the top 10 of the referenced locations are outlined within the graph below.



Named locations and the feedback associated with them are included:

- National Park
 - Fields and toilets in very poor condition
 - Amenities not open for all users
 - Lighting should be prioritised without impact on neighbours
 - Opportunities for community facilities, e.g. seating and BBQ
 - Enhance safety.
- Corroba Oval
 - Upgrade amenities and playing field surface
 - Enhance parking lot.
- Jesmond Park
 - Poor drainage represents an opportunity to deliver high-quality fields
 - Enhance parking areas.
- Learmonth Park
 - Inaccessible
 - Not female-friendly
 - Grandstand and amenities upgrade.
- Stevenson Park
 - Lighting upgrade
 - Upgrade baseball and softball facilities.
- Novocastrian Park
 - Enhance community access
 - Improve field drainage.
- Resurface Fearnly Dawes Athletics Track
- Outcome of the Basketball Stadium, as the existing one is in a poor state. (not a CN facility)
 - Opinion was split between support due to the benefits for indoor sports and all-weather facilities, and those concerned with loss of green space and impacts on neighbours.
- Federal Park
 - Has been neglected; lighting and field upgrades should be considered
- Newcastle Regional Velodrome (not a CN facility)
 - Upgrade
- Lynn Oval
 - Amenities outdated, not female-friendly.
- Minmi Oval

- Poor drainage and facilities that are not meeting demand.
- Empire Pak
 - Provide lights near wall-ball.

6. Key findings

- Participation in sport and recreation is high and growing, but the capacity of facilities is constrained: 44% of surveyed clubs are turning players away, and access to facilities is the key barrier. This has resulted in modified formats and the growth of emerging, non-traditional sports.
- Facilities are widely not considered fit-for-purpose: Separate from the field of play, amenities, toilets, change rooms and parking infrastructure are of poor standard and in need of investment.
- Drainage, lighting and amenities are the top investment priorities: These areas are well recognised across users, community members, and stakeholders as the drivers to increase playing capacity and make sporting facilities safer and more inclusive.
- Weather impacts are major: Up to half of local clubs' seasons have been disrupted in recent years due to extreme rainfall, with the playing field drainage not able to perform due to the demand for the fields.
- Demand is diversifying: There is a growing diversity in sports participation, requiring increased investment in casual, free-to-play infrastructure to support them.
- Shared use opportunities: There are opportunities to leverage shared use opportunities with local Schools, the University, and complementary sports.
- Regional competitiveness: the community and user group perspective is that CN is behind in its sporting infrastructure delivery compared to neighbouring and other regional LGAs. This drives participation outside of the LGA.

7. Next steps

City of Newcastle will continue to review and analyse the outcomes of community consultation and incorporate community feedback into the Strategic Sports Plan review process.

The project has now progressed to the next stage, with the Demand Analysis, Preliminary Directions and Opportunities Assessment (Phase 3) completed and the Draft Plan Development (Phase 4) currently underway. These stages have built on the findings from community engagement, technical investigations and stakeholder feedback to help shape the future direction of sport and recreation planning across Newcastle.

Following completion of the draft plan, the draft Plan will be placed on public exhibition providing the community with another opportunity to have their say.

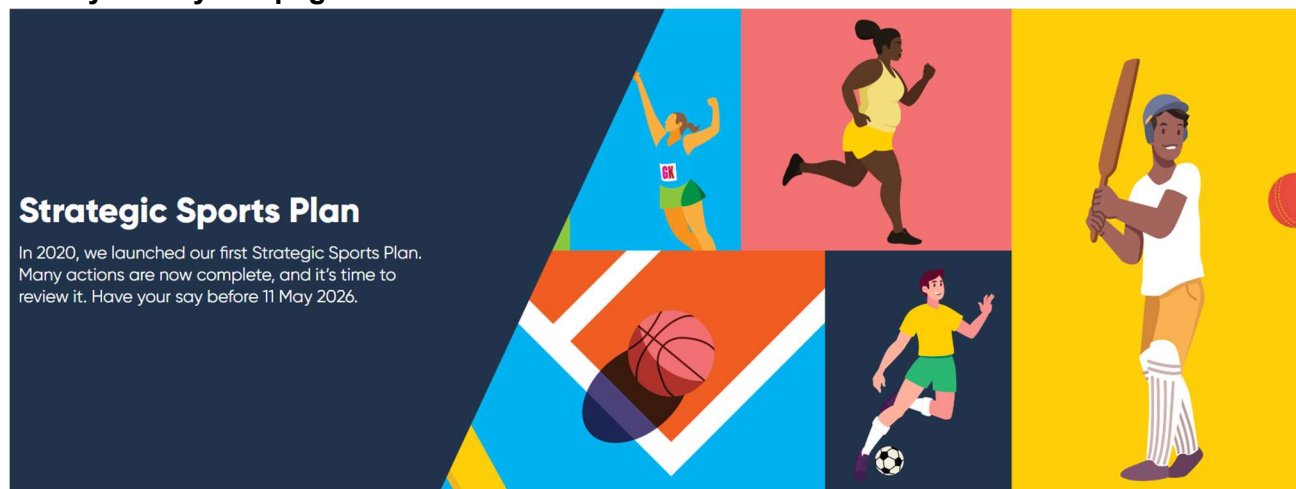
Feedback from the public exhibition will then be considered before finalising the plan and reporting to Council for adoption.

City of Newcastle will continue to keep the community informed as the project progresses and will provide further opportunities for community participation at key stages of the plan's development, including during the public exhibition period.

8. Appendix

Appendix I – Promotional materials

Have your say webpage



Strategic Sports Plan

In 2020, we launched our first Strategic Sports Plan. Many actions are now complete, and it's time to review it. Have your say before 11 May 2026.

[Home](#) / [Strategic Sports Plan](#)

Five years ago, we developed our first ever Strategic Sports Plan, which set a clear direction for the future of sport in Newcastle. We've delivered on a lot of the actions from the 2020 plan, and now it's time to review it.

Our Strategic Sports Plan continues to guide how we plan, prioritise and invest in sporting infrastructure. It outlines  red vision and key priorities to ensure everyone, regardless of how they participate, can enjoy, access and  in our sporting and recreation spaces.

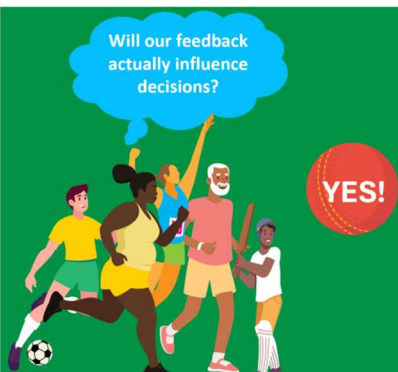
We are updating the Plan to ensure we respond to our community's evolving needs with a robust framework for future planning, management and prioritisation of sporting infrastructure. This includes providing clear criteria and direction to support our growing population and our vibrant visitor economy.

The updated Plan will guide decision-making for sporting infrastructure across the Newcastle Local Government Area, helping to ensure a coordinated and sustainable approach. A key objective is to review existing facilities and improve their quality, accessibility and functionality.

Recently, we held a series of focus groups with key stakeholders including sporting associations, clubs, community user groups and health agencies, to discuss the scope of the Plan and gather feedback on the metrics shaping our decision-making.

Throughout this review, we aim to balance a wide range of community perspectives while considering social, environmental and technical constraints. We know the best outcomes are achieved when we work together.

The Plan will consider a range of options to manage the future of our sporting infrastructure, including opportunities for multiuse sporting facilities to meet growing demand and support a sustainable, climate-resilient future for Newcastle.



Links

-  [2020 Strategic Sports Plan](#)
-  [Recreational locations](#)
-  [Sports grounds and facilities](#)

[See more](#)

Drop in and have your say

We're popping up near you. Stop by and share your thoughts in person:

 **Tuesday 28 April 2026**
Stevenson Park, Mayfield
4pm – 6pm



Active Every Day

Help shape the future of sport and recreation in Newcastle

Have your say

Since the first Plan was developed in 2020, COVID has changed how families live, play and connect. Shifts in housing diversity and affordability have also increased pressure on our green spaces.

With these changes, we want to understand how you use and value our sports fields, courts and open spaces.

Between 1 April and 11 May 2026, we're inviting you to:

- Complete our 8-minute survey
- Participate in our quick Poll
- Speak with our team when you see us out and about at our pop-up events

Your feedback will help us shape an evidence-based framework for planning, prioritising and maintaining sporting infrastructure ensuring improved quality, accessibility and functionality for both locals and visitors.

Share your feedback

Participate in our quick poll



Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan - community survey

We are revising our Strategic Sports Plan to guide the planning, investment and management of sports facilities across our city. The Plan will help ensure our facilities meet the current and future needs of the community. Sport and Leisure experts, Otium Planning Group have been engaged to support this work.

We want to hear from you about how you participate in sport – whether formally through a club or informally as a casual user. Your feedback about what sports you play, how you use facilities, and the challenges or opportunities you see for the city will help shape the Plan.

The survey will take around **8 minutes** and will remain open until **11 May 2026**.

Start



Friday 1 May 2026

No.1 – No.6 Sportsgrounds, Newcastle West

4pm – 6pm



Tuesday 5 May 2026

Corroba Oval, Stockton

4pm – 6pm

[See more](#)

Timeline



Sporting association consultation

December 2025–February 2026



Sports Summit Workshop

11 March 2026



Sporting club consultation

16 March – 11 May 2026



Community consultation

1 April – 11 May 2026

Subscribe to Newcastle Connect

Sign up for the latest news! Newcastle Connect is the e-newsletter keeping you informed & involved in shaping our vibrant city.

Sign me up

FAQ



- ? What is the Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan?
- ? Why is it important that the plan is reviewed?
- ? Why can't all sports fields receive the same level of facilities or investment?
- ? What does the categorisation framework do, and how does it relate to City of Newcastle's role in local sport?
- ? If City of Newcastle doesn't lead sport development, why are you asking for community feedback?

Inclusive participation

- ? Why is equitable access to sport facilities important?
- ? What are inclusive sport facilities and why does infrastructure matter ?

Sustainability and climate resilience

- ? Why do some sports fields need to function as flood storage?
- ? What role does open space play in creating a liveable city?

Multi use spaces

- ? Why are you focusing on creating more shared or multi use sporting facilities?
- ? Does sharing space mean the quality of facilities for sports clubs is reduced?
- ? Why aren't new single-use facilities always the preferred option?
- ? Will shared spaces create scheduling issues?

Informal usage

- ? What does "informal use" of open spaces mean?
- ? Why are ovals and open spaces important beyond formal sport?

Other important information

- ? Is a Tennis Strategy being developed as part of the Strategic Sports Plan?
- ? Are swimming pools included within the Strategic Sports Plan?
- ? Is basketball included within the Strategic Sports Plan?

Have your say

- ? Why is it important for me to have my say?
- ? What happens to my feedback? Will it actually influence decisions?
- ? How can I have my say?

Close

Postcard




City of Newcastle



Have your say

Active every day

Help shape the future of sport and recreation in Newcastle




Scan the QR code to get involved.

We're updating our Strategic Sports Plan and want to hear what matters most to you.

The plan will set a clear direction for the future of sport and recreation in our community. It will outline our shared vision and priorities, ensuring that everyone, no matter how they participate, can thrive.

Your feedback will help guide how sports facilities are planned, improved and used across the city. By hearing from a wide range of people, we can create flexible, multi-use facilities that meet community needs now and into the future.

Whether you play, coach, volunteer, support a club or cheer from the sidelines - **now's the time to stay up-to-date and have your say.**





Scan the QR code to get involved.

Onsite signage



Have your say

Help shape the future of sport and recreation in Newcastle

We're updating our Strategic Sports Plan and want to hear what matters most to you.

Your feedback will help guide how we plan, improve and invest in sports facilities and opportunities across our city.

Whether you play casually or formally, coach, volunteer, support a club, or cheer from the sidelines – this plan is for you. Now's the time to stay up-to-date and have your say.



Scan the QR code to get involved.

City of Newcastle

Supporting graphics

What would make you more active in Newcastle?

Place a sticky dot on what matters most to you and help shape the future of sport and recreation in Newcastle.

Additional sporting opportunities

Improved facilities

Lower cost

Nothing, I'm active enough

Closer options

More casual spaces

I trust the experts to plan opportunities that help me be more active

Want to tell us more?



SCAN ME

Five years ago, we developed our first ever Strategic Sports Plan, which set a clear direction for the future of sport in Newcastle. We've delivered on a lot of the actions from the 2020 plan, and now it's time to review it.

Get involved by visiting haveyoursay.newcastle.nsw.gov.au by **11 May 2026**.



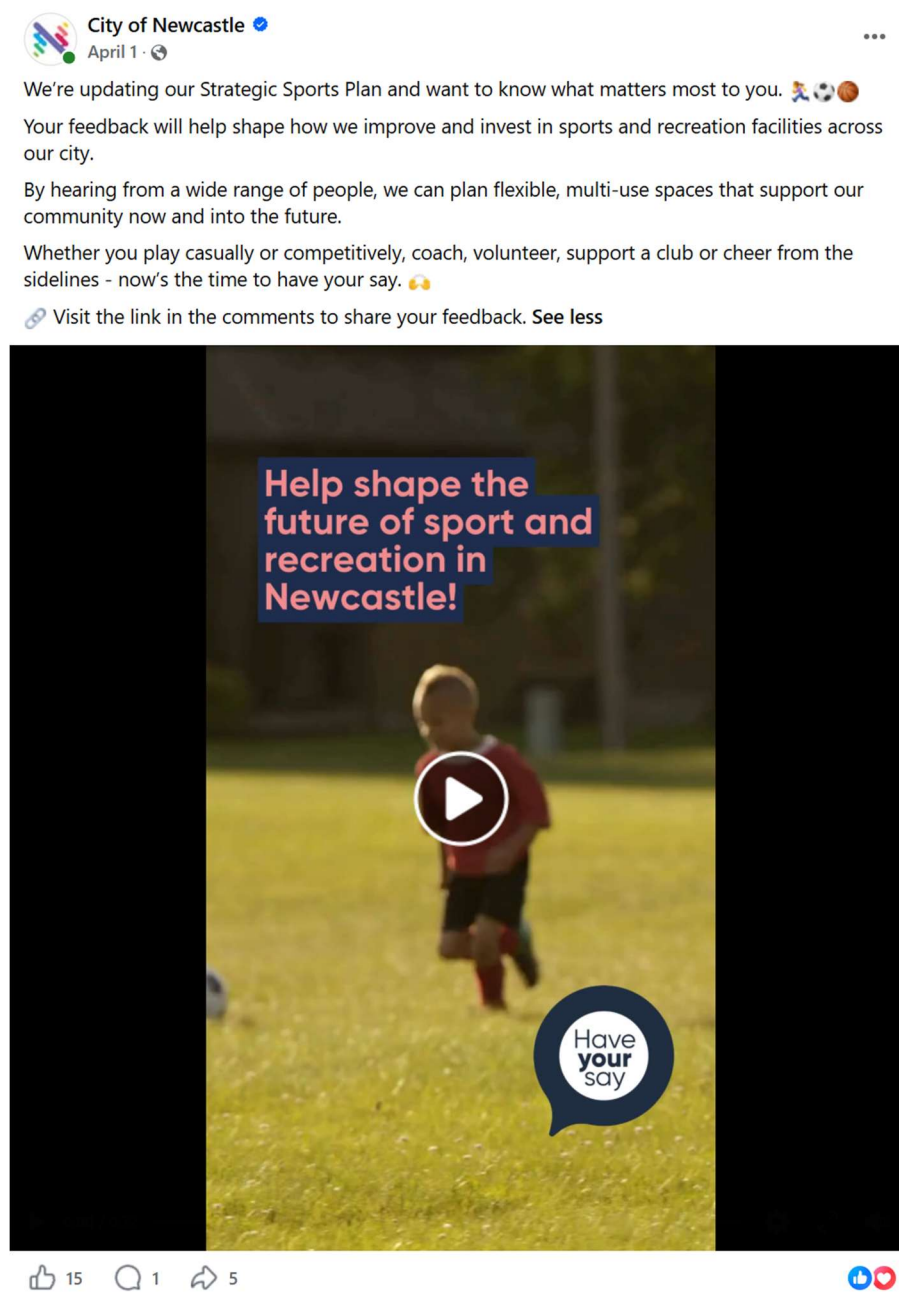
City of Newcastle

Poster signage (digital screens and on-site signage)



Social media

Facebook:



City of Newcastle  April 20 at 10:00 AM · 

Help shape the future of sport and recreation in Newcastle! 🧑🏃🏀🌳

We're updating our Strategic Sports Plan and want to know what matters most to you.

Your feedback will help guide how we improve and invest in sports and recreation facilities across our city over the next 10 years.

This isn't just about organised sport - it's about all the ways you get active. Whether it's a trike ride with your toddler, shooting hoops with friends, enjoying a jog or walk, playing in a team, or kicking a ball with family, we want to hear from you.

Click the link in comments to have your say 🖱️ [See less](#)



The graphic is divided into five colored sections: a top-left blue section with the title 'Help us plan the future of sport and recreation' and illustrations of a baseball bat, a basketball, and a tennis racket; a top-right pink section with a 'Have your say' speech bubble icon and the text 'Tell us how you use our sport and recreation facilities...' with an illustration of a person running; a bottom-left pink section with the text 'to inform our Strategic Sports Plan.' and an illustration of a person running; a bottom-middle dark blue section with the text 'Your feedback will help us to deliver...' and an illustration of a person batting; and a bottom-right dark blue section with three icons and the text '+3' followed by 'Better facilities', 'Flexible spaces', and 'Climate resilience'.

 Boost this post to get more reach for City of Newcastle. [Boost post](#)

 12  1  8  

 **City of Newcastle** 
May 5 at 9:02 AM · 🌐

🏆 It's the final countdown to have your say on our Strategic Sports Plan!

We caught up with some of our littlest team players at Stevenson Park in Mayfield last week to hear all about their favourite sports 🏈⚽

Now it's your turn! Tell us what sports you love and what sport and recreation facilities you'd like to see improved in the future.

We've been out and about chatting to people across the past week and we'll be hosting some more pop-up events across the next few days.

👉 Click the link in the comments to check pop-up locations and fill out the online survey before 11 May. [See less](#)



 Boost this post to get more reach for City of Newcastle.

[Boost reel](#)

 25  2  4



Instagram:



citynewcastle.au

Bare Up • Can't Stop



citynewcastle.au We're updating our Strategic Sports Plan and want to know what matters most to you. 🏃🌍🏀

Your feedback will help shape how we improve and invest in sports and recreation facilities across our city.

By hearing from a wide range of people, we can plan flexible, multi-use spaces that support our community now and into the future.

Whether you play casually or competitively, coach, volunteer, support a club or cheer from the sidelines - now's the time to have your say. 🙌

🔗 Visit the link in bio to share your feedback.

5w



Liked by mitchjhughes and others

April 1



Add a comment...

Post

Help us plan the future of sport and recreation



citynewcastle.au

citynewcastle.au Help shape the future of sport and recreation in Newcastle! 🌟🌍🌱

We're updating our Strategic Sports Plan and want to know what matters most to you.

Your feedback will help guide how we improve and invest in sports and recreation facilities across our city over the next 10 years.

This isn't just about organised sport - it's about all the ways you get active. Whether it's a trike ride with your toddler, shooting hoops with friends, enjoying a jog or walk, playing in a team, or kicking a ball with family, we want to hear from you.

3w

👍 🗨️ 🔄 📌

👤 Liked by elcolbourne and others

April 20

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)



citynewcastle.au  Giulio Cercato • Keep On Moving

citynewcastle.au  🏆 It's the final countdown to have your say on our Strategic Sports Plan!

We caught up with some of our littlest team players at Stevenson Park in Mayfield last week to hear all about their favourite sports 🏆🌍

Now it's your turn! Tell us what sports you love and what sport and recreation facilities you'd like to see improved in the future.

👉 See link in bio to share your feedback before 11 May.

1w

big.hunts1 Tighes Hill public school mentioned yeeewwwwww  1w 1 like Reply

brookelt Appropriate facilities (and amenities for female players) at Corroba Oval Stockton would be good.  6d Reply

❤️ 💬 ↻ 🚩 

 Liked by candice.atlantis and others May 5

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)

Media reporting

Olympians and Paralympians are advocating for upgrades to Newcastle's Fearnley Dawes track, a renowned but aging facility patched together by volunteers. The worn blue surface, last resurfaced in 2017, hampers training efficiency and competitive performance, prompting Athletics NSW to assess its condition for inclusion in a forthcoming strategic plan. Newcastle Council is reviewing its sports plan, seeking community input to secure the track's future for elite and local athletes alike.

NBN NBN Newcastle Hunter • Natasha Beyersdorf • TV • 23 Apr 2026, 6:51 pm

Modified by the report author

Sports Report Olympians and Paralympians are just some of the athletes who regularly hit Newcastle's Thurnley Doors track. Now those stars are backing a push to upgrade the so-called blue track for future generations. Few venues regularly host the level of sporting prowess that Newcastle's Thurnley Doors track does. But the well-known blue surface is now a patchwork. It's a great track. I defend it to everybody around the world that wants to comment on it. but ...

[Stream](#)

Duration 1 mins 49 secs • Interviewees Jess Hull, Olympic Silver Medalist, Jemma Pollard, Australian Representative, Gemma Pollard, Australian Representative, Christian Renford, CEO Athletics NSW • Audience 71,000 •



- **Intouch Magazine:** rise-in-recreation-increases-demand-for-city-of-newcastle-sportsfields
- **Newcastle Weekly:** demand-for-city-of-newcastle-sportsgrounds-on-the-rise
- **The National Tribune:** rise-in-recreation-increases-demand-for-city-of-newcastle-sportsfields
- **Newy.com.au:** new-strategic-sports-plan-to-tackle-rising-demand-on-newcastle-sportsfields/
- **Miragenews.com:** Recreation Boom Spurs Demand for Newcastle Sportsfields

Newcastle Connect articles

2 April 2026



Help us plan the future of sport and recreation

We're updating our Strategic Sports Plan and want to know what matters most to you.

Your feedback will help guide improvements and investment in sports and recreation across the city. Whether you play, coach, volunteer, or cheer from the sidelines, now's your chance to have your say.

HAVE YOUR SAY

16 April 2026



Have your say on sport and recreation

We're updating our Strategic Sports Plan to help guide how we plan, invest in and manage sports facilities across our city. The Plan will ensure our spaces continue to meet the needs of a growing and changing community.

Whether you're part of a club, play socially or simply enjoy using local facilities, we'd love to hear from you. Take our quick poll or complete the 8-minute survey to have your say.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

30 April 2026



Have your say on Newcastle's sporting infrastructure

We're updating our Strategic Sports Plan to guide how we plan, invest in and manage sporting facilities across the city, ensuring they meet the needs of a growing community.

Tell us what would make you more active in Newcastle via the online quick poll, or complete the 8-minute survey to have your say by 11 May 2026.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Media release



Rise in recreation increases demand for City of Newcastle sportsfields

Balancing the needs of organised sport with a growing number of casual users will be a key consideration in the development of a new Strategic Sports Plan for Newcastle.

Following initial consultation with sporting associations, City of Newcastle is now looking for input from the community and sports club members regarding current sporting facilities within the local government area (LGA), as well as suggestions for future needs.

Executive Manager Community and Recreation Lynn Duffy said the feedback will play a critical role in shaping the new plan, which will guide how City of Newcastle improves and invests in sportsgrounds.

“We want to capture the thoughts and needs of all community members when it comes to sporting infrastructure,” Ms Duffy said.

“Since the COVID-19 pandemic, social sports and recreation have been on the rise thanks to activities such as running, walking and unofficial group outdoor games.

“This trend increases the need for our sporting infrastructure to be planned and developed with shared use as a priority, to ensure it can accommodate a predicted population boom and evolving participation trends in both organised sport and informal recreation.

“We want to know who’s using the grounds, what they are using them for, and what sort of upgrades would improve their experience.

“In addition to updating the plan, the project will establish clearer frameworks for how City of Newcastle engages with users of its sportsfields and outdoor recreation spaces.”

Adopted by the elected Council in 2020, the 10-year Strategic Sports Plan was designed to address future demand and inform the ongoing supply, maintenance and upgrade of sporting infrastructure across the LGA.

More than 70% of its recommendations have been partially or fully delivered, but shifting participation trends, climate impacts and competing demands for usable land prompted City of Newcastle to review and update the plan.

Chair of City of Newcastle's Sports Infrastructure Working Party, Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz, said the Strategic Sports Plan provides a crucial framework for investment.

“City of Newcastle currently invests more than \$15 million annually in the maintenance or upgrade of its sporting infrastructure,” Cr Winney-Baartz said.

“The revised plan will better reflect evolving community needs, define the process for clubs seeking facility upgrades, and align sports infrastructure planning with other projects such as the Broadmeadow Place Strategy and Southern Beaches Coastal Management Plan.

“A key objective is to review existing infrastructure and improve the quality, accessibility and functionality, creating facilities that support universal access, catering to people with disabilities, families, and older adults, not just high-performance athletes.

“The new Strategic Sports Plan will explore the way our sports users and broader community can work together to maximise the use of our sports facilities as our population grows.

Community members can find out more or make a submission via the [Have Your Say page on City of Newcastle's website](#).

The public exhibition period opens today and will close at 5pm on 11 May 2026.

Partner campaign

Newy with kids partner campaign:



[Home](#) > [Community Info](#) > Your Family, Your Say: The Future of Sport & Recreation in Newcastle

Five years ago, City of Newcastle (CN) set out to create a clear vision for sport and recreation across Newcastle. The first Strategic Sports Plan adopted in 2020 laid the groundwork for better facilities and more opportunities for people of all ages to get active and enjoy our open spaces and sports facilities.

Since then, many of those goals have been delivered – and now it's time to look ahead. CN has launched engagement on the draft [Strategic Sports Plan](#) and they want to hear how Newcastle's families are using local sports and recreation facilities and what they'd like to see more of.

Why this matters for families



This isn't just about organised sport, it's about all the ways you use our sports and recreation facilities. Whether it's a trike ride with your toddler, shooting hoops with your teens, enjoying a jog or a walk, taking part in organised sport or kicking a ball on the grass with your family, they want to hear from you.

By filling out a [quick survey](#) you'll be helping CN ensure that the Strategic Sports Plan is reflective of the community broadly so that CN can plan for shared, multi-use spaces.

The plan seeks to:

- Improve the quality and accessibility of existing facilities
- Plan for future demand as our population grows
- Create flexible spaces for different sports and activities
- Build a more sustainable and climate-resilient future

Listening to our community

The best outcomes happen when we all work together.

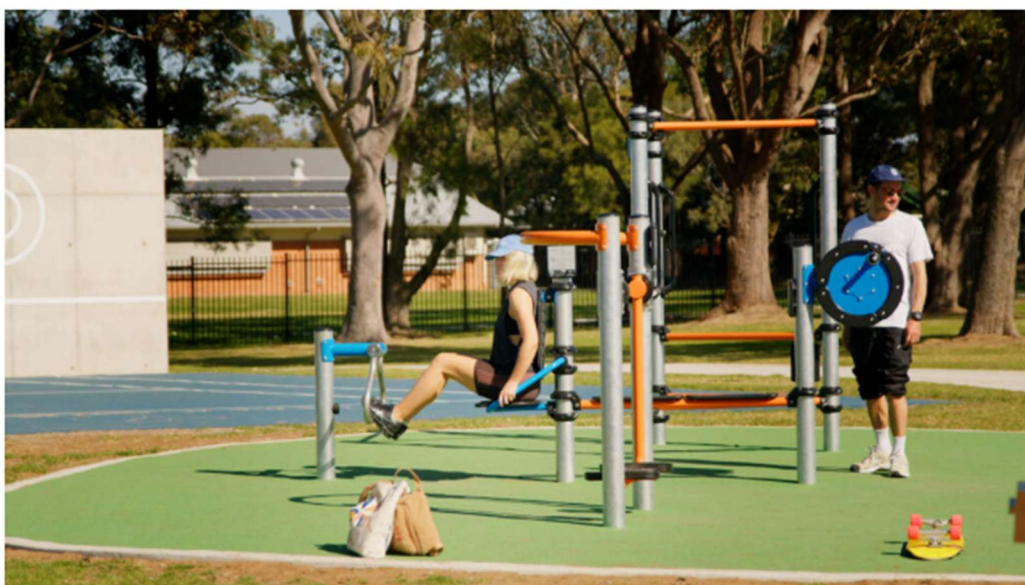


Local sporting groups and clubs have shared their insights and are helping shape the direction of the Strategic Sports Plan, but CN know there's more to hear.

By sharing your thoughts, you can help influence:

- The types of facilities CN invests in
- How spaces are designed and used
- Opportunities for future generations to stay active

Let's build it together



The Strategic Sports Plan is about creating spaces where everyone feels welcome – no matter how they choose to play, move or connect.

Sport and recreation are a big part of everyday life. From weekend games or after-school training to a casual kick at the park or cheering from the sidelines, these shared moments help keep families active, connected and healthy.

How to have your say

Between 1 April and 11 May 2026, CN is inviting you to:

- Complete an 8-minute survey
- Participate in a quick Poll
- Speak with the CN team when you see them out and about at pop-up events



Drop in and have your say

Tuesday 28 April 2026

- Stevenson Park, Mayfield
- 4pm – 6pm

Friday 1 May 2026

- No.1 – No.6 Sportsgrounds, Newcastle West
- 4pm – 6pm

Tuesday 5 May 2026

- Corroba Oval, Stockton
- 4pm – 6pm

Wednesday 6 May 2026

- Novocastrian Park, New Lambton
- 4pm – 6pm

Thursday 7 May 2026

- Bar Beach Kiosk, Bathers Way
- 7am – 9am
- Federal Park, Wallsend
- 3pm – 5pm

Your feedback will help shape the framework for planning, prioritising and improving sporting infrastructure – so that Newcastle can continue to be a city that thrives in sport and loves staying active.

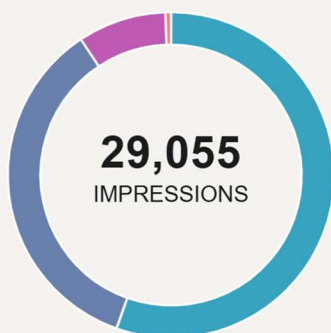
For more information, visit the [City of Newcastle Have Your Say website](#).

Newy with kids partner campaign statistics:

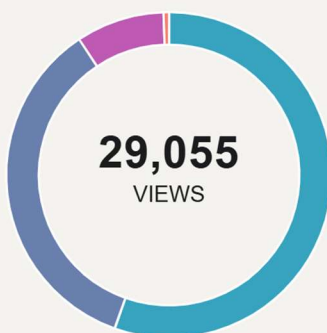


Strategic Sports Plan Engagement

Updated 05/12/2026 06:41



● Mailchimp ● Facebook ● Instagram
● Articles



● Mailchimp ● Facebook ● Instagram
● Articles



● Mailchimp ● Facebook ● Instagram



10,245
IMPRESSIONS

10,245
VIEWS

361
ENGAGEMENTS



Newy with Kids
about a month ago

City of Newcastle (CN) is updating its Strategic Plan you!

Your feedback will help shape how CN improve facilities across Newcastle.

This isn't just about organised sport - it's about our city's open spaces.... See more



[View on Facebook](#)



4,444
IMPRESSIONS

2,743
UNIQUE
IMPRESSIONS

4,444
VIEWS

899
ENGAGEMENTS

16 April Email Newsletter

- Link clicks on blog post - 34
- Link clicks on MREC - 5



Have your Say - Strategic Sports Plan

City of Newcastle wants to hear from local families about sport and recreation. Share how you use facilities and what you'd like to see more of.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

[View Email](#)



4,105
IMPRESSIONS

2,740
UNIQUE
IMPRESSIONS

4,105
VIEWS

777
ENGAGEMENTS

23 April Email Newsletter

- Link clicks on MREC - 1

FROM OUR PARTNERS

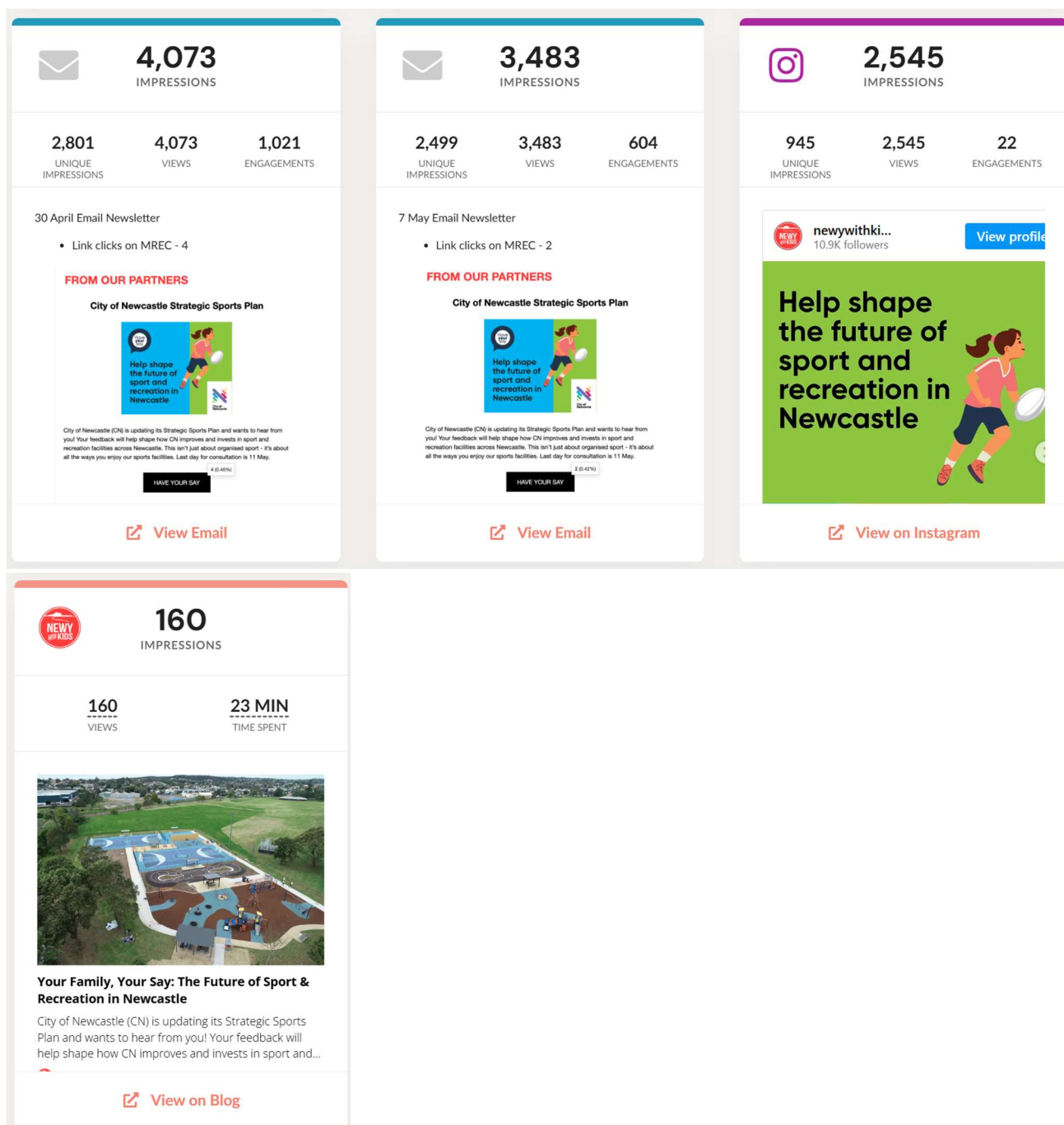
City of Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan



City of Newcastle (CN) is updating its Strategic Sports Plan and wants to hear from you! Your feedback will help shape how CN improves and invests in sport and recreation facilities across Newcastle. This isn't just about organised sport - it's about all the ways you enjoy our sports facilities.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

[View Email](#)



Appendix II – Quick poll

[Share your feedback](#)[Participate in our quick poll](#)

Quick Poll

What would make you more active in Newcastle?

- ☐ Improved facilities
- ☐ Closer options
- ☐ More casual spaces
- ☐ Additional sporting opportunities
- ☐ Lower cost
- ☐ Nothing, I'm active enough
- ☐ I trust the experts to plan opportunities that help me be more active

Submit

Appendix III – Community survey

[Share your feedback](#)
[Participate in our quick poll](#)
[Open](#)

Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan - community survey

We are revising our Strategic Sports Plan to guide the planning, investment and management of sports facilities across our city. The Plan will help ensure our facilities meet the current and future needs of the community. Sport and Leisure experts, Otium Planning Group have been engaged to support this work.

We want to hear from you about how you participate in sport – whether formally through a club or informally as a casual user. Your feedback about what sports you play, how you use facilities, and the challenges or opportunities you see for the city will help shape the Plan.

The survey will take around **8 minutes** and will remain open until **11 May 2026**.

[Start](#)

Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan - community survey - About you

[x](#)

About you

What is your age? Required

- ☐ Under 18 years
- ☐ 18-24 years
- ☐ 25-34 years
- ☐ 35-44 years
- ☐ 45-54 years
- ☐ 55-64 years
- ☐ 65+ years
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your gender? Required

- ☐ Women
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Non-binary / Gender diverse
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to self-describe



What is your relationship with Newcastle? Required

Select all that apply.

- ☐ I live in Newcastle
- ☐ I work in Newcastle
- ☐ I study in Newcastle
- ☐ I own/operate a business in Newcastle
- ☐ I represent a community group in Newcastle
- ☐ I am a visitor of Newcastle

What suburb do you live in?

Type your answer here...

What best describes your household? Required

- ☐ I live alone
- ☐ Couple with no children
- ☐ Couple with children
- ☐ Single parent with children
- ☐ Share house/group household
- ☐ Multi generational household
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Do you identify with any of the following groups? Required

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Person with a disability
- ☐ Culturally and linguistically diverse background
- ☐ Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Prefer not to say

[Next](#)

Your activities levels

What types of physical activities do you currently participate in? Required

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Organised club sport
- ☐ Social/casual sport (e.g., casual basketball, tennis, futsal)
- ☐ Walking/jogging
- ☐ Gym/fitness classes
- ☐ Cycling
- ☐ Outdoor recreation (e.g., skate, scooter, parkour, outdoor gym)
- ☐ I don't currently participate
- ☐ Other

Next

[Show if 'I don't currently participate' is selected]

Barriers to participation

What prevents you from being more active or using facilities more often? Required

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Lack of time
- ☐ Facilities too far away
- ☐ Limited availability / overbooked spaces
- ☐ Don't feel welcome
- ☐ Safety concerns
- ☐ Lack of information about programs
- ☐ Poor facility condition
- ☐ Weather (eg intense rainfall or heat)
- ☐ Health or mobility barriers
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Next

Use of local sport and recreation facilities

Which facility types do you currently use? Required

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Sports fields/ovals
- ☐ Outdoor sports courts (basketball, netball, tennis, multi-use)
- ☐ Indoor sports courts
- ☐ Playgrounds
- ☐ Walking tracks / shared paths
- ☐ Skate parks
- ☐ Outdoor gyms
- ☐ Open green spaces
- ☐ Beaches
- ☐ Swimming pools
- ☐ Other (please specify)

How often do you use these facilities? Required

- ☐ Multiple times per day
- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Multiple times per week
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Fortnightly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Rarely

What time of day do you most commonly use them? Required

- ☐ Morning
- ☐ Afternoon
- ☐ Evening
- ☐ Weekends
- ☐ Varies

What motivates you to use these facilities? Required

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Fun
- ☐ Health and fitness
- ☐ Social connection
- ☐ Competition
- ☐ Convenience
- ☐ Affordability
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Next

Travel distance and transport to activities**How far do you typically travel to participate in physical activity or use sport/recreation facilities?** Required

- ☐ Less than 5 minutes
- ☐ 5 to 10 minutes
- ☐ 10 to 20 minutes
- ☐ More than 20 minutes
- ☐ I don't travel

**Does the distance you need to travel ever prevent you from participating as often as you'd like?** Required

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes (please describe how)

Next

Experiences with formal sport

Which formal club or association sport(s) are you involved in? Required

Please select all that you are currently involved in.

- ☐ Athletics
- ☐ Australian Rules Football
- ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Cricket
- ☐ Croquet
- ☐ Football (Soccer)
- ☐ Gridiron (American Football)
- ☐ Netball
- ☐ Rugby League
- ☐ Rugby Union
- ☐ Running
- ☐ Softball
- ☐ Tennis
- ☐ Touch Football
- ☐ Oztag
- ☐ Ultimate (Flying Disc)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

What is your role? Required

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Player
- ☐ Parent or carer
- ☐ Coach
- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Official
- ☐ Other (please specify)

How would you rate your experience with club or association sport locally?

Required

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Poor

Next

Experiences with informal and social use

Do you use facilities for informal activities (casual sport, play, exercise)?

Required



- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Next

[Show if 'Yes' is selected]

What improvements would better support your informal or casual use?

Required



Select your top three.

- ☐ More flexible access
- ☐ Lighting for night use
- ☐ More free courts or open space
- ☐ Better signage / wayfinding
- ☐ More shaded areas / seating
- ☐ Upgraded amenities (toilets, water fountains, etc.)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Next

Facility condition and priorities

How would you rate the condition of the sport and recreation facilities you use?

Required

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the City's sports facilities and service delivery. Required

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am provided with facilities that are suitable for all my participation needs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can safely access facilities at any time	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The quality of facilities is of a high standard	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Amenities and lighting are of high quality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can easily travel to and park in or enter a sporting facility	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sporting facilities are well maintained	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I can access all of the information I need about sporting facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Next

Future needs and values

What types of activities would you like more opportunities for in your area?

Type your answer here...

What do you value most in sport and recreation spaces? Required

Please select your top three most important aspects from the list below.

- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Accessibility
- ☐ Green space and nature
- ☐ Social connection
- ☐ Inclusive and welcoming environments
- ☐ Affordable options
- ☐ High-quality competition-standard venues
- ☐ Opportunities for unstructured/casual activity

Next

Open feedback

Do you have any additional comments or ideas that we should consider when revising the Strategic Sports Plan for Newcastle?

Type your answer here...



Enter your email address to stay updated on this project and others like it?

Type your answer here...

Next

Appendix IV – User group survey

Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan - User Group Survey

The City of Newcastle is reviewing and updating its Strategic Sports Plan, which guides investment in sports and recreation facilities across our Local Government Area. The Plan is a key framework for ensuring our sports infrastructure meets the needs of our growing and diverse community, now and into the future. Otium Planning Group has been engaged to assist with the review and preparation of a revised Strategic Sports Plan.

As part of reviewing the Plan, we are committed to engaging closely with sporting clubs and associations to ensure the updated plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community. This survey is targeted to understand your club's memberships, needs, and opportunities. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please complete this by **28 April 2026**.

Your feedback will help shape the future direction of sport and recreation in Newcastle, and in collaboratively exploring strategies to achieve improved outcomes for both sport and the community.

*** 1. Please provide information about your club / organisation:**

Name of club

Name of respondent

Role at club

Contact email

*** 2. Which sport does your club / organisation primarily participate in?**

- ☐ Athletics
- ☐ Australian Rules Football
- ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Cricket
- ☐ Croquet
- ☐ Football (Soccer)
- ☐ Gridiron (American Football)
- ☐ Netball
- ☐ Rugby League
- ☐ Rugby Union
- ☐ Softball
- ☐ Tennis

- ☐ Touch
- ☐ Oztag
- ☐ Ultimate (Flying Disc)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 3. Does your club / organisation have a strategic or business plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. Please provide a link to this plan OR attach the file to the below question

5. File Upload

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

Memberships

* 6. Please enter the total number of participants your club/ organisation had in each of the past three years:

2023

2024

2025

* 7. Please identify the gender breakdown for your club in 2025; (or the most recent year available)

Males

Females

Other gender / not specified

* 8. Have you noticed any trends in participation? (Please describe any increases, decreases, demographic changes, or other notable patterns)

* 9. Is your organisation and/ or teams currently operating at capacity?

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. What barriers (if any) are currently limiting your club/ organisations growth?

- ☐ Access to facilities
- ☐ Facility capacity
- ☐ Facility condition
- ☐ Cost to members
- ☐ Volunteer capacity
- ☐ Governance/admin burden
- ☐ Competition formats
- ☐ Transport/location
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Primary Venue Use

11. Please select the main facility that your club uses:

- ☐ Adamstown Park
- ☐ Mandalong Oval
- ☐ Myer Park
- ☐ Adamstown Tennis Courts
- ☐ Hudson Park
- ☐ Empire Park
- ☐ Empire and Reid Park Tennis Courts
- ☐ Lindsay Memorial Oval
- ☐ Pasedena Crescent Reserve
- ☐ Harold Myers Oval
- ☐ District Park
- ☐ Connolly Park
- ☐ Carrington Tennis Courts
- ☐ Pat Jordan Oval
- ☐ Elermore Vale Reserve
- ☐ Richardson Park
- ☐ Smith Park
- ☐ Darling St Oval
- ☐ Learmonth Park
- ☐ Learmonth Park Tennis Courts
- ☐ Hexham Park
- ☐ Heaton Park
- ☐ Jesmond Park
- ☐ Kotara Park
- ☐ Lugar Park
- ☐ Nesbitt Park
- ☐ Lambton Park
- ☐ Harry Edwards Oval
- ☐ Newcastle Croquet Club

- ☐ Lambton Park Tennis Courts
- ☐ Johnson Park
- ☐ Lewis Oval
- ☐ Grange Oval
- ☐ Bill Elliot Oval
- ☐ Dangar Park
- ☐ Islington Park
- ☐ Litchfield Park
- ☐ Mayfield Park
- ☐ Stevenson Park
- ☐ Myamblah Crescent Oval
- ☐ Mitchell Park (Townson Oval)
- ☐ Gibbs Bros Oval
- ☐ Minmi Sports Ground
- ☐ Alder Park
- ☐ Novocastrian Park
- ☐ Regent Park
- ☐ Ford Oval
- ☐ Harker Memorial Oval
- ☐ Kentish Oval
- ☐ Kentish Netball
- ☐ Wallarah Oval
- ☐ Arthur Edden Oval
- ☐ Blackey Oval
- ☐ National Park
- ☐ Cook Park
- ☐ Tuxford Park
- ☐ Ballast Oval
- ☐ Corroba Oval
- ☐ Griffith Park
- ☐ Lynn Oval

- ☐ Tarro Reserve
- ☐ Hope Street Reserve (Col Curran / Plattsburg no.1)
- ☐ Federal Park
- ☐ Upper Reserve
- ☐ Upper Reserve Netball Courts
- ☐ Wallsend Park
- ☐ Waratah Park
- ☐ Thomas Percy Oval
- ☐ Wickham Park
- ☐ Hawkins Oval
- ☐ Passmore Oval
- ☐ Thomas Armstrong Oval
- ☐ Kurraka Oval
- ☐ Kurraka Tennis Courts
- ☐ Kurraka Netball Courts
- ☐ Newcastle District Tennis Centre
- ☐ Beresfield Tennis Court
- ☐ Centennial Park Tennis Courts
- ☐ Gregson Park (Hamilton Park Tennis Courts)
- ☐ Mayfield Hillcrest Tennis court
- ☐ King Edward Park (Newcastle Hill Tennis Courts)
- ☐ Stockton Tennis Courts
- ☐ Stockton Netball Courts
- ☐ Minmi Tennis Courts
- ☐ Nesca Park
- ☐ National Park Netball Courts
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 12. Does your club share this facility with others?

- ☐ Yes - with other sporting clubs
- ☐ Yes - with schools
- ☐ Yes - with casual / public users
- ☐ Yes - with events or other non-sports
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

* 13. How well do the current shared-use arrangements work at this facility?

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Mostly well
- ☐ Neither well nor poorly
- ☐ Poorly
- ☐ Very poorly

* 14. What aspects of shared use are the most challenging? Select all that apply

- ☐ Scheduling / access times
- ☐ Conflicting training or competition needs
- ☐ Wear and tear on surfaces
- ☐ Storage access
- ☐ Amenities capacity
- ☐ Communication between users
- ☐ There are no challenges
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 15. How many hours do you use this facility for competition and training? Please enter the number of hours per day.

On days where you train or compete, but not both, please select '0' in the appropriate box.

	Number of hours (Training)	Number of hours (Competition)
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

* 16. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the facility components of your main venue:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
The activity surface (field, court, etc) we use is of good quality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lighting at the facility is suitable for our desired use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Amenities are fit for purpose	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is sufficient storage space	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supporting infrastructure such as parking and spectator areas are adequate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our club can access the facility when needed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

* 17. Are there any facility upgrades you would like to see at this site?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 18. In priority order, please list up to three desired upgrades for your main facility

1	
3	
3	

Secondary Venue Use

19. Does your club use a secondary venue for competition or training purposes?

- ☐ Yes - multiple venues
- ☐ Yes - one secondary venue
- ☐ No

* 20. Please select the secondary venue your club utilises:

- ☐ Adamstown Park
- ☐ Mandalong Oval
- ☐ Myer Park
- ☐ Adamstown Tennis Courts
- ☐ Hudson Park
- ☐ Empire Park
- ☐ Empire and Reid Park Tennis Courts
- ☐ Lindsay Memorial Oval
- ☐ Pasedena Crescent Reserve
- ☐ Harold Myers Oval
- ☐ District Park
- ☐ Connolly Park
- ☐ Carrington Tennis Courts
- ☐ Pat Jordan Oval
- ☐ Elernmore Vale Reserve
- ☐ Richardson Park

- ☐ Smith Park
- ☐ Darling St Oval
- ☐ Learmonth Park
- ☐ Learmonth Park Tennis Courts
- ☐ Hexham Park
- ☐ Heaton Park
- ☐ Jesmond Park
- ☐ Kotara Park
- ☐ Lugar Park
- ☐ Nesbitt Park
- ☐ Lambton Park
- ☐ Harry Edwards Oval
- ☐ Newcastle Croquet Club
- ☐ Lambton Park Tennis Courts
- ☐ Johnson Park
- ☐ Lewis Oval
- ☐ Grange Oval
- ☐ Bill Elliot Oval
- ☐ Dangar Park
- ☐ Islington Park
- ☐ Litchfield Park
- ☐ Mayfield Park
- ☐ Stevenson Park
- ☐ Myamblah Crescent Oval
- ☐ Mitchell Park (Townson Oval)
- ☐ Gibbs Bros Oval
- ☐ Minmi Sports Ground
- ☐ Alder Park
- ☐ Novocastrian Park
- ☐ Regent Park

- ☐ Ford Oval
- ☐ Harker Memorial Oval
- ☐ Kentish Oval
- ☐ Kentish Netball
- ☐ Wallarah Oval
- ☐ Arthur Edden Oval
- ☐ Blackey Oval
- ☐ National Park
- ☐ Cook Park
- ☐ Tuxford Park
- ☐ Ballast Oval
- ☐ Corroba Oval
- ☐ Griffith Park
- ☐ Lynn Oval
- ☐ Tarro Reserve
- ☐ Hope Street Reserve (Col Curran / Plattsburg no.1)
- ☐ Federal Park
- ☐ Upper Reserve
- ☐ Upper Reserve Netball Courts
- ☐ Wallsend Park
- ☐ Waratah Park
- ☐ Thomas Percy Oval
- ☐ Wickham Park
- ☐ Hawkins Oval
- ☐ Passmore Oval
- ☐ Thomas Armstrong Oval
- ☐ Kurraka Oval
- ☐ Kurraka Tennis Courts
- ☐ Kurraka Netball Courts
- ☐ Newcastle District Tennis Centre
- ☐ Beresfield Tennis Court
- ☐ Centennial Park Tennis Courts

- ☐ Gregson Park (Hamilton Park Tennis Courts)
- ☐ Mayfield Hillcrest Tennis court
- ☐ King Edward Park (Newcastle Hill Tennis Courts)
- ☐ Stockton Tennis Courts
- ☐ Stockton Netball Courts
- ☐ Minmi Tennis Courts
- ☐ Nesca Park
- ☐ National Park Netball Courts
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 21. How many hours do you use this facility for competition and training? Please enter the number of hours per day.

	Number of hours (Training)	Number of hours (Competition)
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

* 22. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the facility components of your secondary venue:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
The activity surface (field, court, etc) we use is of good quality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lighting at the facility is suitable for our desired use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Amenities are fit for purpose	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is sufficient storage space	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supporting infrastructure such as parking and spectator areas are adequate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our club can access the facility when needed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

* 23. Are there any facility upgrades that you would like to see at this site?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 24. Please identify which secondary venue(s) you use each day, and the number of hours for competition or training use:

	Sports Facility	Number of hours (Training)	Number of hours (Competition)
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

* 25. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the facility components of your secondary venue(s):

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
The activity surface (field, court, etc) we use is of good quality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lighting at the facility is suitable for our desired use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Amenities are fit for purpose	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There is sufficient storage space	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Supporting infrastructure such as parking and spectator areas are adequate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Our club can access the facility when needed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

* 26. Are there any facility upgrades that you would like to see at this site?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 27. In priority order, please list up to three desired upgrades for your secondary facility:

1	
2	
3	

We understand that sporting clubs and organisations face many challenges in the ongoing delivery of their sport. This section seeks to understand any challenges you may face.

* 28. Has your club experienced any impact from weather or climate conditions in recent years?

- ☐ Impacts from severe drought (e.g. water restrictions, dry grounds)
- ☐ Impacts from heavy or prolonged rainfall
- ☐ Impacts from extreme heat
- ☐ None of the above apply
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 29. Please describe how these weather or climate impacts have affected your season.

You might like to include things such as missed games, cancelled or moved training sessions, changes to playing times, or any other disruptions.

* 30. What changes to your clubs facilities or operations would help you better manage or adapt to these weather or climate impacts?

You might consider things like facility upgrades, drainage improvements, shade or cooling options, or any other support your club would find helpful

* 31. Has your club / organisation introduced any modified participation formats recently?

This could include changes in how you compete or train.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

* 32. Please describe the modified participation formats your club has introduced:

* 33. Have these modified formats led to any of the following outcomes:

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Increased participation
- ☐ Improved participant retention
- ☐ Reduced demand on facilities
- ☐ No noticeable impact

Contacts and Level of Communication

* 34. How would you rate your clubs communication with Council about facility management and planning?

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very Poor
- ☐ There is no regular communication

* 35. Does your club have a clear and consistent Council contact for facility-related matters?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Conclusion

36. Do you have any additional comments regarding the Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan?

* 37. I confirm that I am an authorised representative of the named club / organisation and that the information in this survey.

- ☐ Yes

Thank you for completing the Newcastle Strategic Sports Plan User Group Survey. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will help shape the future of sport and recreation in our community.

If you would like to stay up to date with the project, including opportunities to provide additional feedback, please subscribe to [Newcastle Connect](#).