

7.2 FUTURE USE OF FRANK SMITH PARK OVAL FOR ORGANISED SPORT

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Meeting

Strategic Directions Committee

Date

4 April 2023

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of research and community engagement regarding the future use of Frank Smith Park oval for organised sport, and to seek Council approval to consult on proposed Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) amendments to include Frank Smith Park oval in the Sportsground Community Land Management Plan.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Strategic Directions Committee:

1. Note the agenda report including research and consultation outcomes for the use of Frank Smith Park oval for lower impact sport.
2. Approve in accordance with section 198 of the *Local Government Act 1999* to undertake community engagement to seek community sentiment to amend the Sportsground Community Land Management Plan to include the oval area in Frank Smith Park to allow lower impact organised sport.
3. Note that a further report will be presented to Council with the outcome of the community engagement process to amend the Community Land Management Plan to include the Frank Smith Park oval area as a Sportsground.

3. Executive summary

Following advocacy from local sporting clubs and in alignment with previous Council decisions, staff have completed research and community consultation into the potential increased use of Frank Smith Park at Coromandel Valley for organised sport. Attachment 1 provides an overview of key milestones that relate to this matter.

Research and community engagement have been undertaken to inform the proposed future use of Frank Smith Park oval for organised sport. Existing participation demand and shortage of sports fields in the catchment area warrant the use of Frank Smith Park oval for organised sport noting the majority of responses to the community engagement are in support of this.

Consideration has been given to the level and intensity of sport that could be supported at Frank Smith Park oval in line with the community engagement feedback received and the findings of the Turf and Pitch Demand Study (attachment 2).

Given the size of Frank Smith Park and the diversity of spaces and landscapes, there does not appear to be any reason that increased lower impact sport would preclude broader community use or could not be appropriately managed to minimise potential impacts.

High impact sport or supporting infrastructure such as clubrooms is not recommended for Frank Smith Park. Further consideration will be given to future infrastructure improvements that support both low impact sport and the broader recreational use of the site by the

community including seating, shelters, barbeque areas and an upgraded and irrigated oval surface. Any improvements would need to be considered as part of council's normal budget process and priorities would be set through the Open Space Strategic Management Plan.

Frank Smith Park is categorised as 'Developed Reserve' in the Reserve Community Land Management Plan (CLMP). Any increase in sport beyond the current use by primary school soccer and cricket competitions requires a change of CLMP category for the oval area of the park. The oval area would need to change from 'Developed Reserve' under the Reserves CLMP to 'Sportsground' under the Sportsground CLMP and would be subject to community consultation and Council approval in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

It is recommended that the Strategic Directions Committee approve the commencement of community engagement to understand community sentiment to amend the Sportsground CLMP to include the oval area as shown in attachment 3 in Frank Smith Park to support increased use by lower impact sport.

Amending the CLMP category will allow clubs to use Frank Smith Park oval for lower impact sport and this will be managed through agreed licence agreements. This would support the Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club (cricket) and Sturt Lions Football Club (junior soccer) who are advocating for use of the oval for organised sport.

4. Background

| | |
|--|--|
| Community Plan 2030 | people: connected, engaged, active, healthy We connect people and the spaces they enjoy, including trails, open spaces and other places to be active |
| Policy and/or relevant legislation | The directions of this report align with the objectives of Council's Sport and Active Recreation Action Plan 2021–25 Council's Generic Land Management Plan for Reserves, Generic Land Management Plan for Sportsgrounds, Generic Land Management Plan for Natural Areas Open Space Strategic Management Plan 2018–23, Trails and Cycling Strategic Management Plan 2016–21, Ecological Linkages Study (to be completed June 2023) |
| Who did we talk to/who will we be talking to | City of Mitcham Blackwood High School Local residents and Frank Smith Park users Coromandel Valley National Trust Coromandel Valley Community Centre Coromandel Valley Primary School Green Adelaide Local sporting clubs including Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club and Sturt Lions Football Club Sporting organisations including South Australian Cricket Association, Football Federation SA, South Australian National Football League, Horse SA Walking SA |

Frank Smith Park is located in the Northern Planning District of Onkaparinga and covers both the City of Mitcham and City of Onkaparinga Local Government areas with the Sturt River being the council boundary.

The site is approximately 13.4ha and includes an oval, two junior soccer pitches, cricket nets, wetlands, natural environments, public BMX tracks, toilets, small playground, shelter, walking, Tom Roberts Horse Trail and horse exercise area.

The current playing surface at Frank Smith Park is unirrigated levelled open space, with a concrete cricket pitch and no formal drainage system. The oval area accounts for approximately 20 per cent of the park.

At the 18 October 2022 meeting Council resolved to:

1. *Note the Community Engagement Feedback Report on the Future Use of Frank Smith Park for Organised Sport.*
2. *Note that the following reports will be the subject of a Council workshop in early 2023 to inform decision making on the future use of Frank Smith Park for organised sport:*
 - a. *Oval and Turf Pitch Demand Study (Needs Analysis) - Northern Onkaparinga and Mitcham Hills*
 - b. *Community Engagement Feedback Report - Future Use of Frank Smith Park*
 - c. *Review of Sturt Lions Football Club use of Frank Smith Park in Winter 2022*
 - d. *Traffic and car parking impact assessment in the context of current use and any proposed increase in activity.*
3. *Note that a final report seeking a Council decision on the future use of Frank Smith Park for organised sport will be presented to Council in March 2023.*
4. *Note that any increase in sport beyond the current primary school soccer and cricket competitions will require further community consultation in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 to amend the Community Land Management Plan.*

The 18 October Council meeting and community engagement report can be viewed [here](#) noting that deputations were also received on this matter, including two at the 21 June 2022 Council meeting from a local resident presenting a petition against increased use, and a local cricket club advocating for access to the park.

5. Discussion

Current use

Frank Smith Park is currently well used by local residents and visitors for walking, dog exercise and enjoying nature and birdwatching.

There is a licence for the use of the oval between council and the Minister for Education, Training and Skills which allows use by Eden Hills Primary School, Coromandel Valley Primary School and Belair Primary School, on Saturdays from 8am-2pm until 30 June 2024.

The adjacent Coromandel Valley Primary School use Frank Smith Park oval weekly for education and sport and is the home venue for junior school cricket and soccer competitions.

The Sturt Lions Football Club (soccer) were granted a short-term permit (1 May 2022 to 30 October 2022) to trial increased use of Frank Smith Park oval for junior soccer on Sunday mornings, as per council resolution 15 February 2022.

The local Country Fire Service (CFS) also use Frank Smith Park for training nights and at other times randomly during the year, for training of grass fire management, drafting water, and CFS unit driver training.

Conservation and environment

Frank Smith Park has a range of natural environments and habitat for wildlife featuring a wetland and river corridor. Native wildlife includes the nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and many species of woodland birds.

Council has been undertaking ecological restoration activities to improve the health of the ecosystem in Frank Smith Park for the last 10 years and has been expanding gradually from the wetland, downstream along the river corridor. Revegetation is undertaken with appropriate species to stabilise areas, increase biodiversity and improve habitat when needed.

Currently the conservation areas in Frank Smith Park are classified as 'Developed Reserve' in the Reserves CLMP. Council's Parks and Natural Resources and Sustainability teams are undertaking an Ecological Linkages Study (to be completed in June 2023) which includes Frank Smith Park. Following the study, a review of the CLMP category for the conservation areas in Frank Smith Park will be undertaken with consideration of council's management approaches to biodiversity and conservation as well as the value placed on the natural amenity by community.

Community engagement

Community consultation was undertaken in 2021 to seek feedback on the potential increased use of Frank Smith Park oval for organised sport. Findings of the engagement were presented to Council on 18 October 2022 and included:

- Majority (63 per cent) of the 879 respondents support the use of Frank Smith Park oval for increased sport in the future. Twenty-seven per cent were opposed and 10 per cent neutral.
- Consultation provided an improved understanding and recognition of current use and strong community sentiment that exists in relation to the park.
- The park is valued for its natural setting and formalisation for organised sport needs to be carefully balanced in this context.

In general, feedback was in support of increasing organised sport use at Frank Smith Park oval in the future. A number of controls have been identified that would be managed through licence conditions to mitigate and manage the key considerations raised by the community including vehicle access, parking, noise levels, oval capacity, natural environment and compatibility with other users.

Turf and Pitch Study Northern City of Onkaparinga and Mitcham Hills District – June 2022

This study (attachment 2) was conducted in June 2022 with 14 sporting clubs surveyed in the Mitcham Hills and Northern Onkaparinga catchment areas to better understand participation, current pressures facing clubs, projected demand for facilities, as well as future aspirations.

The study shows that the majority of clubs surveyed are experiencing pressure and seeking additional playing space. Of the 14 clubs surveyed, 10 clubs (71 per cent) identified the need for additional playing space, six clubs (43 per cent) had identified alternative locations they could use to relieve pressure and one club identified Frank Smith Park oval specifically as an alternative location.

The urgency for additional space varied, with six of the 14 clubs identifying an immediate need due to demand already outstripping availability of ovals. Local clubs included: Reynella Cricket Club, Reynella Football Club, Happy Valley Football Club and Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club.

Frank Smith Park oval is well located to meet the needs of the Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club and could potentially reduce capacity pressures evident at Reynella, and Happy Valley and to a lesser extent, Flagstaff Hill Sport ovals due to growth in participation.

Blackwood High School oval could also help meet the needs of community sport in the catchment area however recent advocacy efforts on behalf of community sports, including a letter to the schools Governing Council, has confirmed that Blackwood High School are not currently considering or allowing community use of their oval by sporting clubs.

Staff will continue to work with peak sporting bodies and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing to advocate for shared use of school facilities to help meet demand for oval playing space, including advocating to Blackwood High School.

Winter 2022 trial use by Sturt Lions Football Club

The Sturt Lions were granted a short-term permit (1 May 2022 to 30 October 2022) for trial use of Frank Smith Park oval for junior soccer on Sunday mornings. At the conclusion of the trial, feedback was sought from local residents, schools using the oval and the Sturt Lions Football Club to understand any impacts. Key findings included:

- Sturt Lions Football Club used Frank Smith Park oval for a total of five Sundays during their trial period between 8.30am-12pm for junior soccer games only.
- The club reported that they had to relocate some scheduled matches away from Frank Smith Park oval due to the condition of the pitches.
- Existing users of the oval (Southern Districts Junior Soccer Association, Coromandel Valley Primary School, Eden Hills Primary School and Belair Primary School) reported no noticeable difference from the increased use, however noted that a particularly wet winter did contribute to a poor playing surface in 2022.
- Southern Districts Junior Soccer Association reiterated that finding suitable grounds and managing fixturing is challenging for soccer. They rely on school grounds and facilities at each participating school. Frank Smith Park oval is an important site that acts as home ground for three schools.
- Feedback from immediate surrounding residents was sought via a letter drop at the end of the permit period. Two responses were received, both were in support of existing and low impact level use of the oval for sport (e.g. junior sport and cricket) but concerned for the impact of larger, louder sports. Parking and traffic management along Magarey Road on match days was raised including offering potential solutions, signage and no parking areas. The feedback was consistent with that received during community consultation on the future use of the oval for sport.

Community Land Management Plan

CLMPs are legislative documents required by councils prior to leasing or licencing community land. Frank Smith Park oval is categorised as 'Developed Reserve' under council's Reserves CLMP.

A Developed Reserve is defined as a medium profile amenity primarily for the enjoyment of passive recreation including:

- Casual playing of games and informal sporting activities and the construction of facilities to cater for these activities.
- Passive recreational activities and pastimes and the construction of facilities to cater for these activities.
- The granting of long-term leases for both public and private recreation.
- The granting of a Permit or Licence under Sections 200 and 202 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.
- Pending community support and Council approval of amendments to the CLMP, agreements will then be negotiated with relevant sporting clubs.

A Sportsground in council's Sportsground CLMP is defined as an area providing for structured, result focussed, competitive recreation involving physical activity. Sporting activities include both training and competition and may be undertaken either individually or as a team.

Increased use of the oval in Frank Smith Park for organised sport requires a change of CLMP and category from 'Developed Reserve' to 'Sportsground'.

Traffic and car parking impact assessment

As noted through community engagement, car parking and the impact of traffic in and around Frank Smith Park has been raised as a concern and consideration. Traffic and car parking within Frank Smith Park are currently managed through license conditions that have been provided for use at set times. On match days the entrance gate to the park is opened to allow access for vehicles when games are scheduled with informal parking around the oval. The entry gate remains locked outside of these times of use. Respondents to the survey commented that the current informal parking within Frank Smith Park provides sufficient car park spaces to meet demand, which also reflected feedback from schools participating in the Southern Districts Junior Soccer Association games.

Parking and traffic management can be effectively managed using the existing controls in place through licence conditions including designating parking areas, times of use and signage. Traffic and car parking will be monitored over time and if use increases or is proposed to increase, a more detailed analysis of traffic and parking associated with the site will be undertaken.

Use of Frank Smith Park oval for organised sport

A decision-making matrix was developed to determine lower impact sports (attachment 4). In summary:

- Summer sports such as cricket and athletics have less impact than winter sports as lighting is not required, turf is not impacted due to heavy wear and unsealed access roads and car parks are not as impacted by use in dry conditions.
- Winter sports such as AFL and soccer have a higher impact due to requirements for lights for training and games, higher impacts on turf quality due to higher number of players per team and impact of vehicles on access road and car parking areas in wet conditions.
- Junior sport has a lower impact on turf playing space than senior sport due to temporary infrastructure, the weight of participants, less expectation of changerooms i.e. children come and leave in uniform and temporary goals are used.

It is concluded that cricket, athletics (depending on disciplines) and junior level sports are lower impact and in the context of the two clubs (junior soccer and senior/junior cricket) seeking additional oval spaces in the area, Frank Smith Park oval can meet these needs.

6. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

7. Risk and opportunity management

| Risk | |
|--|---|
| Identify | Mitigation |
| Community members concerned about increased sports use at the site | Any increase of use (in frequency not intensity) will be managed through seasonal/short term licensing arrangements that prescribe hours and conditions of use to allow council to manage any impacts on existing users as well as parking and noise levels |
| Expectations of clubs advocating for increased use | Staff will continue to work with clubs in the catchment area to advocate for suitable turf playing areas Increasing lower impact sport at Frank Smith Park oval balances community expectations and appropriate use |
| Compliance/legal | Community consultation is required as per section 198 of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> on the proposed amendment to council's Sportsground CLMP to include the oval area in Frank Smith Park |
| Service levels | The oval is classified and maintained as a Category B Reserve and mown every three weeks and has no irrigation. If the CLMP amendment is supported, small improvements to the oval playing surface will be made through additional maintenance to improve grass growth and coverage |

| Opportunity | |
|---|--|
| Identify | Maximising the opportunity |
| Achieve increased sharing and utilisation of high value public open space for a variety of uses | Community consultation has shown that Frank Smith Park oval has potential and capacity to be able to meet the needs of a variety of uses including sport |
| Meeting demand for turf playing space in the area | Allowing low impact sport use at Frank Smith Park oval will meet some of the demand for turf playing space from sporting clubs in the catchment area and relieve pressure being experienced at other sites. Having access to suitable facilities supports increased participation in sport and active recreation |

8. Next steps

Subject to the Strategic Directions Committee's decision, next steps include:

- Undertake community engagement to amend the Sportsground CLMP to include Frank Smith oval area.
- Report back to Council on the outcome of community engagement and subject to findings, seek approval to amend the Sportsground CLMP and notify clubs.
- Staff to continue to work with the Office Recreation, Sport and Racing to advocate for sporting club access to school sports facilities.
- Staff to continue advocacy to Blackwood High School for club use of school sport facilities.

9. Attachments

Attachment 1 – Overview of key milestones (1 page)

Attachment 2 – Turf and Pitch Study Northern Onkaparinga and Mitcham Hills (Needs Analysis) (18 pages)

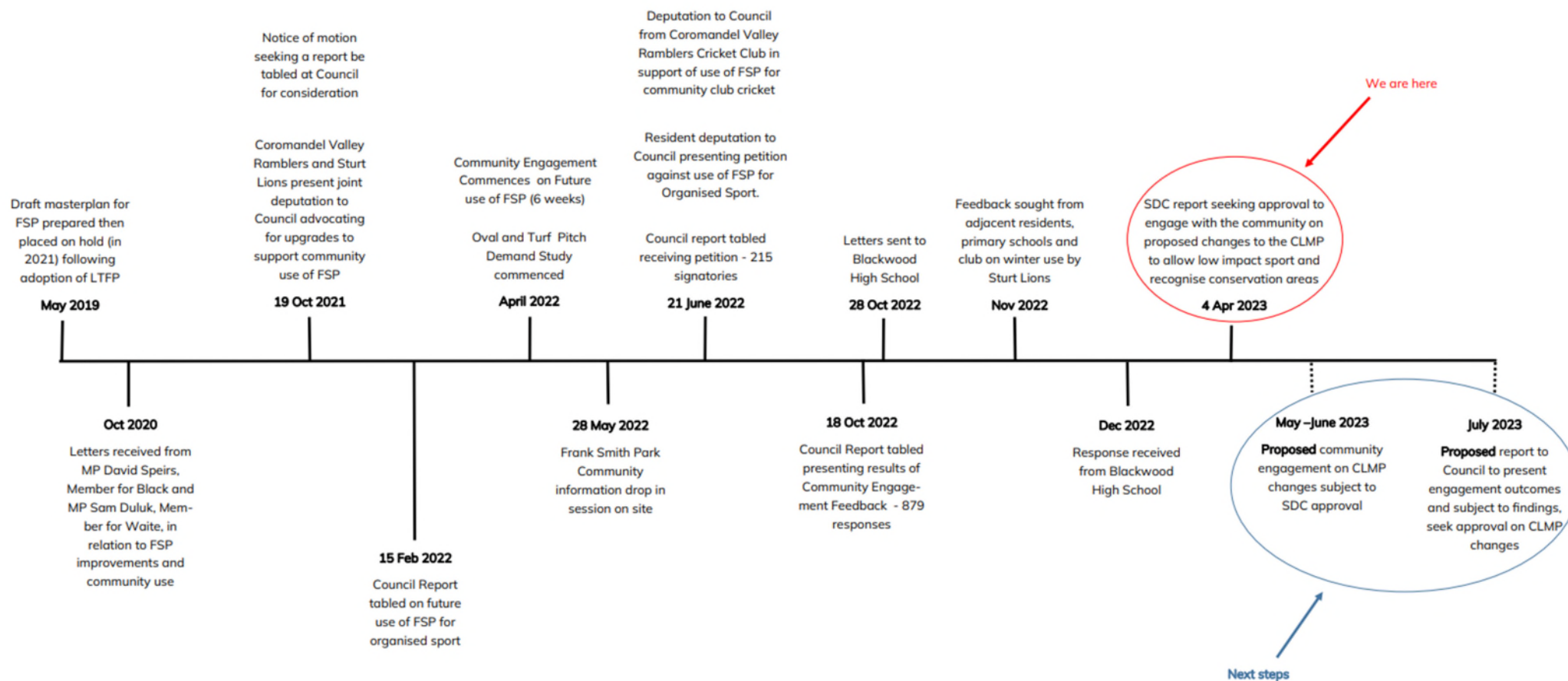
Attachment 3 – Frank Smith Park location and park zone map (3 pages)

Attachment 4 – Sport impact matrix (1 page)

- END OF REPORT -

Frank Smith Park - Future Use for Organised Sport

Timeline of Events





Survey Report

Turf and Pitch Study Northern City of Onkaparinga and Mitcham Hills

June 2022



PLANNING FUTURES
planning and strategy



Review of Turf Facilities Northern City of Onkaparinga and Mitcham Hills

Survey Report

June 2022

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Consultant | Planning Futures |
| Prepared for | City of Mitcham, City of Onkaparinga |
| Planning Futures Ref | 2213 |

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| 2 | 5/8/2022 | S Hensgen | | Updated |
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Executive Summary

Planning Futures Pty Ltd has been commissioned by the City of Onkaparinga and the City of Mitcham to analyse the outcomes of a survey of 14 sporting clubs with the purpose of identifying trends, gaps, pressures and opportunities associated with turf facilities across the northern parts of the City of Onkaparinga and the Mitcham Hills.

An analysis of the outcomes of the survey indicated that most clubs had expanded to the point that significant pressure in the following areas:

- Scheduling of games, with too many games scheduled per facility and resulting cancellations, or rescheduling to a facility too far away for players to easily travel to
- Quality of turf due to over use or lack of investment
- High reliance on others' facilities that may not meet standards or may not be secured into the future
- Training capacity, particularly for juniors and during the lead up to seasons
- Ability to retain existing and attract new players due to quality and availability of facilities
- Ability to be inclusive and expand their offerings, particularly in relation to gender, accessibility and age.

Football (AFL)

For all four of the football clubs, the most significant observation was the growth in female participation, with three of the clubs now having 22-24% female players. Blackwood Football Club in particular has seen a significant increase, with almost 40% of their players being female. Football (AFL) clubs are traditionally self-sufficient, often with self-contained facilities in a single location. Whilst this self-sufficiency has historically been a strength, with growth outstripping their facility's capacity it is also a vulnerability, and few have secured alternative locations for overflow use or partnerships beyond their own club base. With recent growth and constraints around expansion, further work with football clubs may be required to identify future short, medium and long term options suitable for all four clubs, together with support for short term partnerships and overflow facilities. In the very short term, focus on upgrading adjacent areas for overflow training may assist.

Cricket

For the cricket clubs, growth has also outstripped supply of facilities large enough to support what is predominately a senior sport in the hills area. Facilities provided by education establishments and council reserves may not provide the length needed for safe or competitive play. Traditionally, cricket has used football clubs (both AFL and soccer) over the summer months but the extension of seasons, off-season training and the increase in female participation in football has put pressure on the availability of large turf facilities for cricket. Within the study area there are limited large turf spaces not already occupied. However, with some investment, Frank Smith Park offers significant potential to support cricket if managed in a way that does not conflict with the environment and character of the park.

Football (soccer)

Recent investment in the Womens' Memorial Playing Fields has supported the growth in players at the Cumberland Womens' Football Club. The club has also secured the use of St John's school and two pitches at Flinders University. The club intends to continue its active recruitment and has indicated a

potential need for new facilities in the medium to long term. In addition, the club's reliance on facilities provided by Flinders University may be a vulnerability should these facilities be redeveloped or otherwise unavailable for use.

Of significance is the high reliance of Sturt Lions on others' facilities. Sturt Lions Football Club is also dependent on facilities provided by Flinders University and may be vulnerable should they be unavailable. Of all the clubs, Sturt Lions is spread across the most facilities (nine in total), with back up facilities also identified a distance away from their players' base. This high reliance on others' facilities (schools, education facilities) makes the club highly vulnerable should these facilities no longer be available. Whilst the club has significant experience in negotiating partnerships and obtaining access to others' facilities, this absorbs volunteer time that could otherwise be used to support the club in other ways.

It is considered that Sturt Lions Football Club is likely to have the most urgent need of all the clubs that participated in the survey, for both improvements to existing, and availability of new facilities. The club already faces significant constraints including:

- Cancellation of games due to sub-standard quality of facilities
- Long travel times to games due to lack of local facilities
- Restricted training schedules affecting quality of play and competitiveness, particularly for juniors
- Restrictions to the club's ability to meet its goals of inclusivity (gender, age, accessibility)
- Restricted ability to grow membership, and
- Restrictions around hosting major tournaments and competitions.

In the short term, upgrades to facilities such as Karinya Reserve and Manson Oval may alleviate pressures. The use of Frank Smith Park may also assist, particularly for junior competition. However in the medium to longer term, Frank Smith Park may not be able to wholly address capacity issues because of environmental and character constraints that may limit car parking, larger scale supporting facilities and lighting for evening training that would be required to support senior games. More permanent alternatives may be required in the medium to long term.

Softball and lacrosse

For the Softball Club, growth was anticipated to be high, including active recruitment for a mens' team. Whilst the need for new facilities was not considered immediate, training facilities were seen to be the most pressing need with the small soccer pitch not being seen to be adequate due to size and lighting. Safe lighting of car parking areas was also seen to be a short term need. It was also noted that the Happy Valley Sportsground diamond was not full size and lacked water supply for dampening the dirt diamond. It is considered that improvements/alternative options for playing diamond(s) may be required in the medium-term should growth continue.

For the Lacrosse Club, recent investment in facilities was seen to have assisted considerably and whilst they noted difficulties retaining volunteers, their current facility was seen to be adequate to meet their ongoing growth at least in the short term.

Introduction

1.1 This Report

Planning Futures Pty Ltd has been commissioned by the City of Onkaparinga and the City of Mitcham to analyse the outcomes of a survey of 14 sporting clubs with the purpose of identifying trends, gaps, pressures and opportunities associated with turf facilities across the northern parts of the City of Onkaparinga and the Mitcham Hills.

This report provides an analysis of the survey outcomes together with a summary of potential directions and discussion points for consideration.

1.2 Background

In May/June 2022 a survey was distributed to sporting clubs with the intention of gathering information about club demand and facilities supply to assist with future planning. A total of 14 responses were received from:

Cricket:

- Coromandel Cricket Club
- Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club
- Flagstaff Hill Cricket Club
- Happy Valley Cricket Club
- Reynella Cricket Club
- Southern Serpents Cricket Club

Football (Soccer):

- Cumberland Womens' Football Club
- Sturt Lions Football Club

Football (Australian rules):

- Blackwood Football Club
- Flagstaff Hill Football Club
- Happy Valley Football Club
- Reynella Football Club

Softball:

- Seacombe Softball Club

Lacrosse:

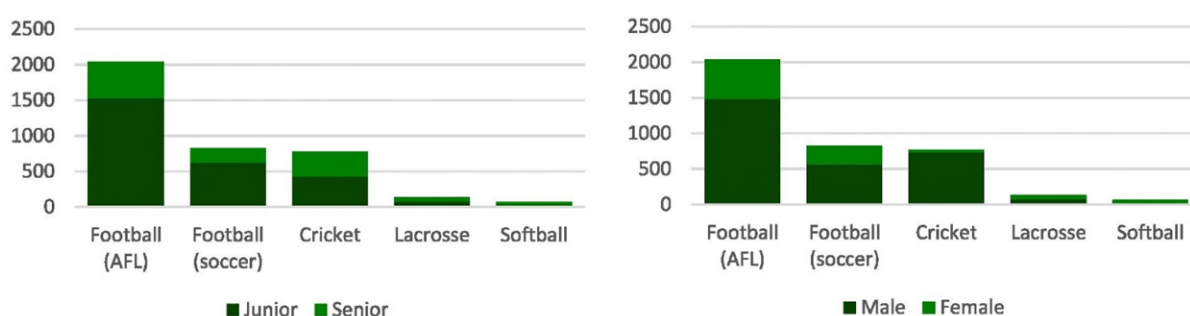
- Sturt Lacrosse Club

An analysis of the outcomes of the survey is detailed below.

2 Participation

2.1 Players

Respondents were asked to identify the number of junior and senior, and male and female players. Both codes of football contributed a significant number of players, with an average of 511 players per club for football (Australian rules) and 415 players per club for football (soccer). Female participation was highest for Cumberland Women's Football Club and Seacombe Softball Club as could be expected. It is notable that female participation rates were very high for Blackwood Football Club, with almost 40% of all players being female.



| Club | Number of junior players (under 18) | Number of senior players (18+) | Total Players |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Cricket | | | |
| Coromandel Cricket Club | 100 (61%) | 65 (39%) | 165 |
| Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club | 85 (54%) | 71 (46%) | 156 |
| Flagstaff Hill Cricket Club | 67 (62%) | 41 (38%) | 108 |
| Happy Valley Cricket Club | 50 (53%) | 45 (47%) | 95 |
| Reynella Cricket Club | 128 (58%) | 92 (42%) | 128 |
| Southern Serpents Cricket Club | 1 (3%) | 33 (97%) | 34 |
| Football (soccer) | | | |
| Cumberland Womens' Football Club | 80 (50%) | 80 (50%) | 160 |
| Sturt Lions Football Club | 547 (82%) | 123 (18%) | 670 |
| Football (Australian rules) | | | |

| Male | Female |
|------------|------------|
| | |
| 160 (97%) | 5 (3%) |
| 141 (90%) | 10 (6%) |
| 108 (100%) | 0 (0%) |
| 94 (99%) | 1 (1%) |
| 202 (92%) | 18 (8%) |
| 34 (100%) | 0 (0%) |
| | |
| 0 (0%) | 160 (100%) |
| 571 (85%) | 99 (15%) |
| | |

| Club | Number of junior players (under 18) | Number of senior players (18+) | Total Players | Male | Female |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Blackwood Football Club | 450 (80%) | 112 (20%) | 562 | 345 (61%) | 217 (39%) |
| Flagstaff Hill Football Club | 340 (81%) | 80 (19%) | 420 | 325 (77%) | 95 (23%) |
| Happy Valley Football Club | 352 (66%) | 182 (34%) | 534 | 408 (76%) | 126 (24%) |
| Reynella Football Club | 388 (74%) | 138 (26%) | 526 | 409 (78%) | 117 (22%) |
| Softball | | | | | |
| Seacombe Softball Club | 30 (43%) | 39 (57%) | 69 | 7 (10%) | 62 (90%) |
| Lacrosse | | | | | |
| Sturt Lacrosse Club | 80 (59%) | 56 (41%) | 136 | 78 (57%) | 58 (43%) |

2.2 Volunteers

Respondents were asked how many total volunteers they had, together with a breakdown of coach, administrative, officials and other volunteers. As could be expected, the number of volunteers directly relates to the size of the club but some clubs had a higher rate of volunteerism than others, with Southern Serpents and Reynella Cricket Clubs, and Blackwood and Happy Valley Football Clubs having the highest rates.

When asked about the state of volunteering at their respective clubs, nearly all stated that they were either maintaining or increasing levels of volunteering. Three clubs stated that levels of volunteering was decreasing, making it difficult to fill volunteer roles: the Sturt Lions Football Club, Happy Valley Football Club and the Sturt Lacrosse Club.

| Club | Coach volunteers | Admin volunteers | Officials volunteers | Other volunteers | Total volunteers |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cricket | | | | | |
| Coromandel Cricket Club | 10 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 28 |
| Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club | 10 | 13 | 0 | 10 | 40 |
| Flagstaff Hill Cricket Club | 7 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 18 |
| Happy Valley Cricket Club | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Reynella Cricket Club | 13 | 16 | 0 | 25 | 35 |
| Southern Serpents Cricket Club | 0 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 9 |
| Football (soccer) | | | | | |

| Club | Coach volunteers | Admin volunteers | Officials volunteers | Other volunteers | Total volunteers |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cumberland Womens' Football Club | 18 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 50 |
| Sturt Lions Football Club | 62 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 118 |
| Football (Australian rules) | | | | | |
| Blackwood Football Club | 56 | 12 | 30 | 50 | 150 |
| Flagstaff Hill Football Club | 18 | 20 | 6 | 30 | 80 |
| Happy Valley Football Club | 38 | 12 | 0 | 49 | 99 |
| Reynella Football Club | 43 | 25 | 7 | 30 | 160 |
| Softball | | | | | |
| Seacombe Softball Club | 10 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 25 |
| Lacrosse | | | | | |
| Sturt Lacrosse Club | 14 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 60 |

3 Teams and associations

3.1 Cricket

A total of six cricket clubs contributed to the survey under the auspices of the Adelaide and Suburban Cricket Association, South Central Junior Cricket Association and the Adelaide Turf Cricket Association.

| Club | Number of teams | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| | Adelaide Turf Cricket Association | Adelaide and Suburban Cricket Association | Central Junior Cricket Association |
| Coromandel Cricket Club | 0 | 5 | 8 |
| Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Flagstaff Hill Cricket Club | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Happy Valley Cricket Club | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Reynella Cricket Club | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Southern Serpents Cricket Club | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 15 teams | 16 teams | 17 teams |

3.2 Football (Soccer)

Two football (soccer) clubs contributed to the survey under the auspices of several leagues and competitions.

| Club | Number of teams | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | Community Womens League | National Premier League SA | Collegiate Soccer League | Bedford Community League | Juniors and MiniRoos | State League |
| Cumberland Womens' Football Club | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| Sturt Lions Football Club | 1 | 50 | 5 | 1 | n/a | |
| TOTAL | 4 teams | 50 teams | 5 teams | 1 team | n/a teams | |

3.3 Football (Australian rules)

A total of four football (Australian rules) clubs contributed to the survey under the SANFL and the Hills Football League.

| Club | Number of teams | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | SANFL Juniors | Adelaide Footy League | Southern Football League | Masters SA | Hills Football League |
| Blackwood Football Club | 15 | | | | 9 |
| Flagstaff Hill Football Club | | | 21 | | |
| Happy Valley Football Club | 1 | 2 | 20 | 1 | |
| Reynella Football Club | 2 | | 22 | | |
| TOTAL | 18 teams | 2 teams | 61 teams | 1 team | 9 teams |

3.4 Softball

One softball club was surveyed as part of this study, the Seacombe Softball Club, which had a total of five teams playing in the Adelaide Clubs Competition.

3.5 Lacrosse

One lacrosse club was surveyed as part of this study, the Sturt Lacrosse Club, which had a total of 12 teams playing in the Lacrosse SA league.

4 Facilities

4.1 Location of primary and supporting facilities

A total of 22 facilities were used by the 14 clubs, including six schools and the two Flinders University pitches. Half of the clubs used just one of seven of the facilities, and these were all of the football (Australian rules) clubs, the lacrosse club, the softball club and one of the cricket clubs.

The remaining seven – the soccer clubs and all but one of the cricket clubs – used a combination of 15 facilities. It is notable that the two soccer clubs used the highest number of facilities, with the Sturt Lions using nine different facilities (including one school and two university pitches) and Cumberland Women's Football Club using four different facilities (including one school and two university pitches). Coromandel Cricket Club used a total of four facilities (including one school).

4.2 Use of education facilities

A total of five schools and two university pitches are used regularly by several clubs including:

- Hawthorndene Primary School (Coromandel Ramblers and Coromandel Valley Cricket Clubs)
- St Johns School (Cumberland Womens' Football Club)
- Aberfoyle Park High School (Happy Valley Cricket Club)
- Blackwood High School (Sturt Lions Football Club)
- Woodcroft College (Reynella Cricket Club)
- Woodend Primary School (Reynella Cricket Club)
- Flinders University Bottom Oval (Cumberland Womens' Football Club, Sturt Lions Football Club)
- Flinders University Sturt Oval (Cumberland Womens' Football Club, Sturt Lions Football Club)

It should be noted however that some clubs indicated that they had used other schools before whilst facilities were being upgraded, for pre-season or overflow training, or for general overflow use. Barriers to their use however included reaching agreements with schools, the size and/or quality of school facilities, and the cost associated with bringing such facilities up to a playable standard.



Turf and oval facilities review City of Onkaparinga, City of Mitcham – Engagement Report

| | Cricket | | | | | | Football (Australian rules) | | | | Football (soccer) | | Lacrosse | Softball |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | CCC | CVRCC | FHCC | HVCC | RCC | SSCC | BFC | FHFC | HVFC | RFC | CWFC | SLFC | SLC | SSC |
| Council Reserves and Sportsgrounds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barrett Reserve | | | | | | | | | | | | Secondary | | |
| Blackwood Hill Oval | Secondary | | | | | | Primary | | | | | | | |
| Bowker Street Oval | | | | | | | | | | | | Secondary | | |
| Flagstaff Hill RecGrd | | | Primary | | | | | Primary | | | | | | |
| Frank Smith Park | | | | | | | | | | | | Secondary | | |
| Happy Valley SP | | | | Primary | | | | | Primary | | | | | Primary |
| Hawthorndene Oval | | Primary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hewett Oval | Primary | | | | | | Secondary | | | | | Secondary | | |
| Karinya Reserve | | | | | | | | | | | | Primary | | |
| Manson Oval | Secondary | | | | | | | | | | | Secondary | | |
| Reynella Oval | | | | | Primary | | | | | Primary | | | | |
| Serpentine Reserve | | | | | | Primary | | | | | | | | |
| Weymouth Oval | | Secondary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Womens' Memorial | | | | | | | | | | | Primary | | Primary | |
| Education Facilities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Turf and oval facilities review City of Onkaparinga, City of Mitcham – Engagement Report

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--|---------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|---------------|---------------|--|--|
| Aberfoyle Park HS | | | | Second ary | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blackwood HS | | | | | | | | | | | | Second ary | | |
| Flinders Uni Bottom | | | | | | | | | | | Second ary | Second ary | | |
| Flinders Uni Sturt | | | | | | | | | | | Second ary | Second ary | | |
| Hawthorndene PS | Second ary | Second ary | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St Johns School | | | | | | | | | | | Second ary | | | |
| Woodcroft College | | | | | Secondary | | | | | | | | | |
| Woodend PS | | | | | Secondary | | | | | | | | | |

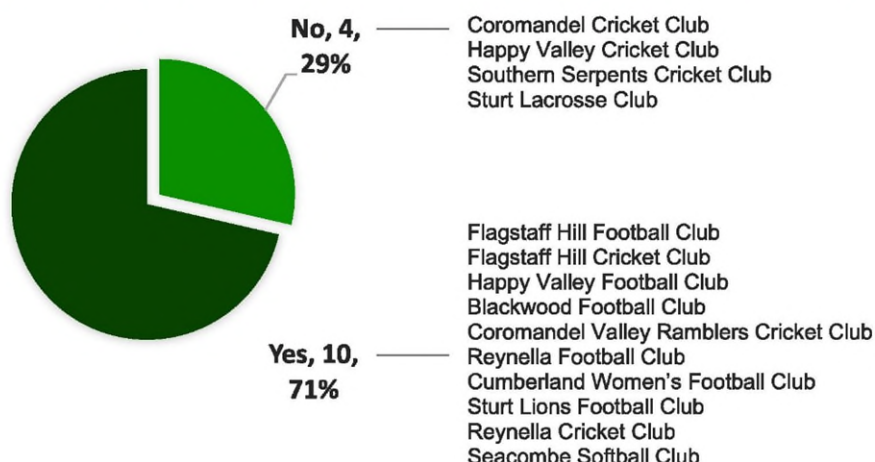
5 Future needs and aspirations

5.1 Growth and capacity

5.1.1 Need for additional playing space

When asked *does your club foresee the need for additional field/oval playing space in the future*, the majority (10 or 71%) responded with 'yes'. All of the football clubs – both Australian rules and soccer, together with half of the cricket clubs and the softball club – indicated that they needed additional playing space. Of the four that said 'no', three were cricket clubs and the fourth was the lacrosse club.

Does your club foresee the need for additional field/oval playing space in the future?



5.1.2 Reason for additional playing space

When asked why they needed additional playing space, the most common reason for Football (Australian rules) clubs was the rapid growth of girls' and womens' football, putting strain on turf quality and scheduling, and increasing pressure to use other oval spaces. For at least one football (Australian rules) club, additional pressures from growth in sub-junior teams (under 12) and restrictions due to sharing with cricket during shoulder season are exacerbating this impact.

For Football (Soccer), the growth in women's teams was also a factor placing strain on oval availability, with the season running for 11 months of the year. Access to enough grounds with the required amenities and pitch conditions was seen to be the key barrier to meet both current and future demand. The dependency on Flinders University pitches was also seen to be a potential issue.

For the three cricket clubs and the softball club, growth in teams was the key factor leading to demand for more facilities, with two cricket clubs particularly concerned about the standard of their current facilities, in one case a primary school oval. For the softball club, the number of teams was expected to double in one season.

5.1.3 Urgency for additional playing space

The urgency for additional space varied however six clubs (almost half of those surveyed) identified an immediate need, with demand already outstripping supply – Blackwood, Reynella and Happy Valley Football Clubs, Sturt Lions Football Club, and Reynella and Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Clubs.

Seacombe Softball Club and Flagstaff Hill Cricket Club both identified a 0-12 month urgency, whilst Flagstaff Hill Football Club, Sturt Lacrosse Club, Coromandel Cricket Club, and Cumberland Womens' Football Club identified a 1-2 year urgency.

5.1.4 Preferred site for growth

Of the 14 clubs, six had identified an alternative site(s):

- Frank Smith Park (Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club)
- Area next to warm-up area (Blackwood Football Club)
- Vacant land next to netball courts (Reynella Football Club)
- ISAS Oval at the Womens' Memorial Playing Fields (Cumberland Women's Football Club)
- Aberfoyle Park High School (Happy Valley Football Club)
- Happy Valley Sports Park football (soccer) pitch adjacent oval (Happy Valley Football Club)
- Reserve on Brook Drive Aberfoyle Park (Seacombe Softball Club).

5.2 Aspirations

When asked about their aspirations, it was notable that many focused on building their culture with enjoyment, success, culturally respectful, inclusive, active-focused, health, community, connection all identified as core values. Being an inclusive and community-based club was highlighted as important, with the undersupply of quality facilities with good amenities being a significant barrier to achieving their aspirations as a club that provides a place for everyone who wants to play.

Inclusivity as a core value was also reflected in the number of clubs who aspired to expand their offerings to both genders, masters programs, accessible programs. Three cricket teams were planning to actively recruit for women's teams, and the Seacombe Softball Club for a men's team. Sturt Lions Football Club is seeking to start a walking football team and Happy Valley Football Club to grow its Masters program.

Nearly all the clubs surveyed stated that they aspired to continue to grow by attracting and actively recruiting more players and creating additional teams. The development of junior players was a stated priority by half of the clubs. Both soccer clubs were aiming to each enter a team into the Women's National Premier League, whilst the Sturt Lions Football Club were focused on the roll out of the National Licensing Agreement, with the concern that sub-standard facilities could undermine this aspiration. The Sturt Lacrosse Club was also looking to host finals and tournaments, whilst the Flagstaff Hill Football Club and Southern Serpents Cricket Club were focused on structuring their succession planning and teams to support their players.

Many of the aspirational statements made by the clubs related to facilities and amenities improvements for safety, experience and comfort as a key barrier to their stated goals of growth including:

- Working with Council to develop Frank Smith Park for soccer and cricket
- New/upgraded cricket training nets and wickets
- Upgrading Manson Oval to align with NPL licencing requirements

- Accessing additional playing and training space to support growth in football (soccer and Australian rules) and cricket.

5.3 Challenges and opportunities

5.3.1 Attracting new players and accessing fields to meet needs

Whilst most clubs were expecting growth in new players, most indicated that the availability of quality playing surfaces was a major barrier to actively attracting or retaining new players.

Both Blackwood and Reynella football clubs expressed concern that accessing a second oval to meet current demand was challenging, with both struggling to fit current teams on the one oval. Reynella, Coromandel Ramblers, and Flagstaff Hill cricket clubs also expressed similar concerns that their ability to secure facilities was hampering their ability to 'put on another team' to meet strong demand. The cricket clubs were highly dependent on school facilities, which were not of a standard to meet U12 team demand and higher, thus affecting the ability to retain seniors as they grow older. The lack of facilities was also seen to impact on the ability to grow women's cricket.

Whilst the Happy Valley clubs had looked at the use of the local high school for an additional field, the quality of the turf was not adequate, and a significant investment would be needed first. In the meantime, the football club at Happy Valley had already rescheduled six home games in 2022 to the opposition's facility due to the inability to host the games.

At Flagstaff Hill, the softball club noted that fields for training was their most pressing need due to growth in cricket on Tuesday nights, highlighting that the use of smaller areas was not considered safe.

The Cumberland Women's Football Club indicated that the main challenge was finding a facility available for Sunday and Friday night fixtures. It also noted that if the club grows any more, they would need additional space for both training and games, using the WMPF and overflow onto Flinders University.

Of note was the pitch access challenges expressed by the Sturt Lions Football Club, which currently uses eight different facilities on a regular basis as well as a number of others intermittently. The club noted that the lack of local facilities was having a number of adverse impacts on the capacity of the club to perform:

- Zero capacity to expand, particularly for community-based, and women's and girl's football
- Condensed games schedules due to limited access, increasing pressure on turf
- Unplayable turf quality due to overuse
- Expensive hire of facilities a long distance away due to unplayable turf quality
- Players unable to attend training or games due to travel distance and the logistics of accessing multiple facilities, and
- Reduced training seasons and schedules, particularly impacting on juniors.

5.3.2 Playing surfaces

The pressure of growth in clubs on turf and turf quality was a particular concern for football clubs, both Australian rules and soccer, and there was felt to be a need to reduce this pressure, particularly on game days. Turf at Flagstaff Hill, Blackwood (drainage), Manson Oval, Frank Smith Park, Barratt Reserve and Flinders University ovals. Manson Oval was seen to be particularly poor, becoming unplayable every year and requiring cancellations and rescheduling of games and training to allow the turf to recover.

Recent upgrades to the Women's Memorial Playing Fields, Karinya Reserve, Hewett Reserve and Bowker Street were hoped to have addressed past turf quality concerns, and Weymouth Oval was seen to be in 'fantastic condition' due to recent irrigation upgrades. It was also noted that Hawthorndene Oval was upgraded although a lower turf cut would be preferable for cricket.

In relation to cricket, clubs identified a need for more turf wickets in the northern area of the City of Onkaparinga, notwithstanding the significant costs to the clubs of maintaining them (a constant challenge). A cracked concrete wicket at Flagstaff Hill was also seen to be a barrier to player retention. Cricket clubs appeared to be highly dependent on primary school ovals that were considered to be too small and unsafe for seniors (U12 and over).

For Seacombe Softball Club, the Happy Valley Sportsground diamond is not full size and there is no access to water to dampen the dirt diamond area.

Some concern was expressed by the cricket clubs in relation to the scheduling of oval upgrades during the summer season meant that cricket would struggle to find temporary locations to play. This would be exacerbated if multiple ovals were being upgraded during the same season (eg Blackwood and Manson).

The soccer pitch at the Happy Valley Sports Park (used for training by the football (Australian Rules) club) was seen to be unsafe for both training and games because of potholes and insufficient lighting.

5.3.3 Supporting infrastructure

Lighting was seen to be a high priority for supporting infrastructure at the Flagstaff Hill cricket training nets, and to improve night-time training at Reynella Football Club, whilst replacement with LED lights was a priority for Blackwood Football Club. Adequate lighting was also identified as a need for the Women's Memorial Playing Fields, Flinders University and Frank Smith Park for soccer training and night-time games. A review of the lighting levels was also seen to be a priority for Happy Valley Sportsground oval, as well as for night-time football training and softball on the soccer pitch, and for safety around the car parking areas. Serpentine Reserve was also seen to be unsafe, with dark areas around the car park, walking paths and oval itself.

Dedicated female changerooms and medical space were also identified as a need for Flagstaff Hill sportsground.

Both Karinya and Hewett were seen to have excellent facilities, together they did not meet the current or future needs of soccer. Supporting facilities were not viewed as adequate, with Manson Oval having toilets in poor condition, with no access to accessible toilets, changerooms, officials' rooms or catering facilities, as well as no shade or cover for cricket scorers and players during summer. Whilst Frank Smith Park does have toilets, again there is no access to accessible toilets, changerooms, officials' rooms or catering facilities. Similarly Blackwood High School Oval did not have the facilities required to support its use as a venue for soccer.

Facilities for cricket were also seen to be a priority, with toilets and training nets at Serpentine Reserve needing attention, and a change facility needed at Hawthorndene Oval. Self funded and maintained facilities for cricket (storage shed and nets) at Weymouth Oval were seen to be minimal, with club meetings held under the pergola.

5.3.4 Shared use and partnering with others

There was a strong sense of working together and successful partnership expressed by the users of two facilities in particular – the Women's Memorial Playing Fields (soccer and lacrosse) and the Flagstaff Hill

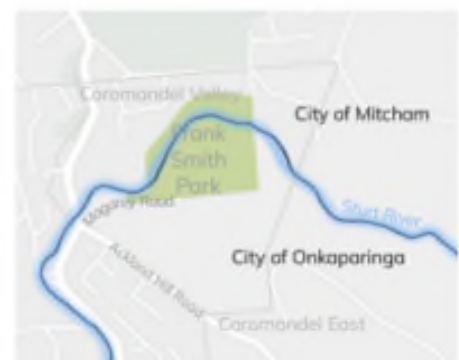
Recreation Ground, although it was noted that there was pressure in relation to the latter, particularly in relation to male and female privacy and pressure on the oval. Blackwood Football Club also noted that there were no issues given that they had exclusive use over the facility.

Users of Happy Valley Sportsground were aligned in expressing concern about the sharing of facilities in the context of growth in club membership, resulting in pressure on car parking, areas for presentations, and equipment storage. The growth in clubs at this facility was also seen to impact on training schedules and there was a perception that the smaller clubs were being 'pushed off' of the facility as the bigger clubs (which bring in more funding for the facility) expand. The Coromandel Cricket Club noted some clashes with dog-walkers during training.

Frank Smith Park



- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| P Playground | Informal Parking |
| B Pedestrian Bridge | Steep Embankment |
| D Drink Fountain | Oval |
| S Shelter | Revegetation |
| T Table and Seat | Flat Area |
| C Cricket Nets | Vegetation |
| G Gate Access | BMX Track |
| Toilet Block | Horse Exercise Area |
| E Main Entrance | Wetland |
| Linear Trail | Frank Smith Dam |
| Maintenance Access | Watercourse Vegetation |
| Informal Path | Forest and Woodlands with a dense Sclerophyll Shrub Understorey |
| Tom Roberts Horse Trail | Woodlands with Open Shrub, Grassy Understorey |
| Council Boundaries | |



This aerial map shows Frank Smith Park, a green area, situated near the border of the City of Mitcham and the City of Onkaparinga. The map includes a legend with a green square for Frank Smith Park, a white line for Property Boundary, and a light green square for the City of Onkaparinga. A scale bar at the bottom indicates distances from 0 to 500 metres. An inset map in the bottom right corner shows the location of Frank Smith Park within the City of Onkaparinga, with a red dot marking the park's location. The main map also shows various roads, including Sturt Avenue, Ralby Avenue, Toorak Road, Tuners Avenue, Oakeley Road, and others. The park is located near the intersection of Sturt Avenue and Ralby Avenue.

Sport impact matrix

A sport impact matrix was developed using decision making criteria to determine the potential impacts of sport for Frank Smith Park.

In summary, the matrix concluded:

Lower impact sports include:

- Athletics/little athletics
- Baseball/softball
- Cricket
- AFL football - juniors
- Soccer juniors

Higher impact sports (not recommended for FSP) include:

- AFL football – seniors
- Soccer – seniors
- Hockey
- Lacrosse

Table 1. Decision Making Criteria to Determine Sports Potential Impact on Frank Smith Park

| SPORT | Players per team | Players on ground per match | Lighting required | Usual Season | Whistles / Noise | Change rooms required | Club room | Spectators | Impact |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Athletics/Little Athletics | n/a | n/a | No | Summer | Occasionally | No | No | Low | Lower |
| Baseball/softball | 9 | 13 | No | Summer | No | No | No | Low | Lower |
| Cricket | 11 | 13 | No | Summer | No | No | No | Low | Lower |
| Football (AFL) Juniors | <22 | <44 | No | Winter | Yes | No | No | Medium | Lower |
| Football (Soccer) Juniors | 11 | 22 | No | Winter | Yes | No | No | Medium | Lower |
| Football (AFL) | 22 | 44 | Yes | Winter | Yes | Yes | Yes | High | Higher |
| Football (Soccer) | 11 | 22 | Yes | Winter | Yes | Yes | Yes | High | Higher |
| Hockey | 10 | 20 | Yes | Winter | Yes | Yes | Yes | High | Higher |
| Lacrosse | 10 | 20 | No | Winter | Yes | Yes | Yes | Low | Higher |