



HOWARD GLOVER RESERVE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES REPORT

JULY 2019

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Site Context / Current Situation

INTRODUCTION

Howard Glover Reserve currently provides sports facilities to the Greater Geelong community, and is a key venue for male and female soccer, tennis and cricket training and competitions for all ages and abilities.

The purpose of this project is to undertake a review of the Howard Glover Reserve and its facilities, analyse the current participation rates of tenant sporting groups and provide recommendations for the future use and potential improvements to the site.

Although tennis and cricket are key sports occupying Howard Glover Reserve, the primary user of the site is soccer.

Football Victoria (FV) currently leases facilities at Howard Glover Reserve from the City of Greater Geelong, with the main soccer pitch, pavilion, changerooms, canteen and meeting rooms used for hosting junior and senior soccer training and matches. FV and the Greater Geelong soccer community also utilise the pavilion to host regular local and regional level meetings. A number of junior boys and girls talent programs and all abilities soccer programs also operate from the Reserve.

The tennis courts and small pavilion are utilised by the Eastern Districts Tennis Club. The Club have approximately 20 members and have called Howard Glover Reserve home for over 30 years. The Wandana Heights Tennis Club also use the facilities for their juniors on a Saturday morning and a social group occupy the courts every Tuesday throughout the year. The tennis courts are open to the public and are utilised by the community during the non tennis competition times.

The cricket oval (known as Hickinbotham Oval, Eastern Park) is used as an overflow facility for Geelong City Cricket Club from October to March each year.

The development of this Issues and Opportunities Report included the following key stages:

- Site inspection and assessment of the Reserve and its facilities;
- A review of the key strategic drivers and supporting documents for the development of the Reserve;
- A review of the current use and future capacity of the site by sporting clubs;
- A review of soccer participation in Greater Geelong and the utilisation of existing facilities at the Reserve;
- Consultation with the key user groups including tenant clubs and FV. A summary of key consultation findings is provided in the appendices;
- Identification and assessment of the current site issues, challenges and potential future opportunities;
- The development of recommendations for future upgrades and improvements to infrastructure;
- Development of conceptual site plans, floor plans and costings for proposed improvements (Quantity Surveyor report provided in the appendices);
- A staged implementation plan to guide proposed recommendations.

THE SITE

Located on Limeburners Road in East Geelong, the facilities currently provided at Howard Glover Reserve include:

- Full size soccer pitch with in-ground irrigation and drainage.
- Informal secondary pitch to accommodate small sided games, miniroos, lower level junior matches and training.
- Home and away changeroom and amenities for soccer.
- Ageing pavilion with canteen, social room, equipment storage and 2 meeting rooms.
- 4 tennis courts with small pavilion (no amenities in the pavilion)
- 1 junior size cricket oval with synthetic cricket pitch (no irrigation and drainage).
- Informal unsealed car parking.
- Toilet amenities for spectators.

The regular soccer use at Howard Glover Reserve includes:

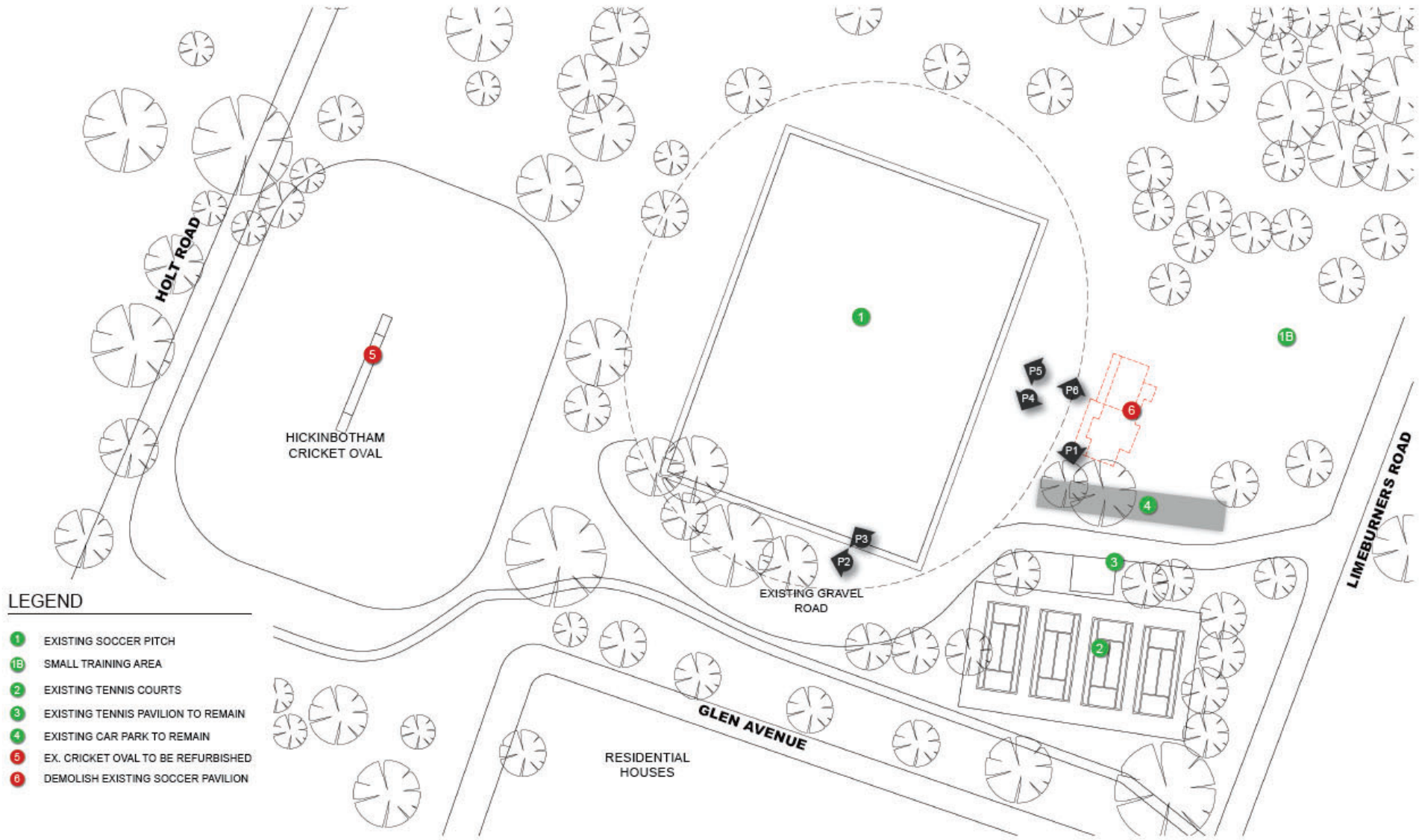
- Overflow training venue for all other local clubs.
- Football Victoria Coach Education sessions for the Geelong Region – approximately 12 days per year.
- Football Victoria Talent Identification trials and training for state championships under 12 girls.
- Miniroos on a weekly basis during peak season.

- Regular all abilities soccer matches and training.
- Football Victoria Geelong Region representative trials and training during summer and winter seasons.
- Various school sports days on a regular basis.
- Various soccer club and league presentation evenings and events.
- Geelong Region Football Committee (GRFC) monthly meetings.
- GRFC Women's Task Force meetings and Hub meetings.

The following page provides an existing conditions plan of the Reserve.



EXISTING SITE PLAN 1:1000



LEGEND

- 1** EXISTING SOCCER PITCH
- 1B** SMALL TRAINING AREA
- 2** EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
- 3** EXISTING TENNIS PAVILION TO REMAIN
- 4** EXISTING CAR PARK TO REMAIN
- 5** EX. CRICKET OVAL TO BE REFINISHED
- 6** DEMOLISH EXISTING SOCCER PAVILION

OCCUPANCY & USE

Soccer (winter use)

Council lease the soccer pitch and pavilion to Football Victoria Geelong Region. There is no dedicated club at the site. Football Victoria Geelong Region manage all bookings for the use of the facilities for soccer, with a number of clubs using the Reserve on a regular basis. Football Victoria Geelong Region use the site extensively for representative soccer training, academy programs and for various regional and league meetings.

The main soccer pitch is used on weekends for high level male and female competition matches for both juniors and seniors and the small overflow pitch is used for junior competitions and extra training space.

In 2018 there were 175 bookings for various activities and events from 17 different user groups. These included soccer training, soccer competition, all abilities soccer, meetings and coaching courses. The Reserve is currently a very valuable resource for the growing soccer community of Greater Geelong.

Tennis (all year round)

The Eastern Districts Tennis Club has utilised the four courts and pavilion at Howard Glover Reserve for more than 30 years under a 99 year lease arrangement with Council.

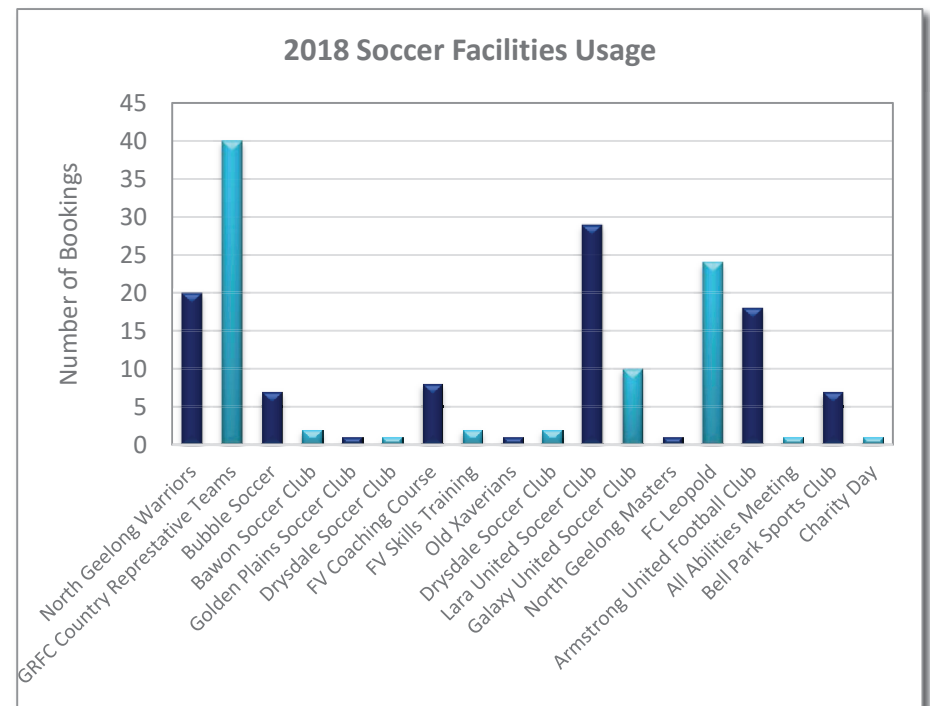
Approximately 20 senior members utilise the courts and pavilion each Saturday from 1pm. The winter season is from April to August and the summer season from October to March.

Wandana Heights Junior Tennis Club use the courts and pavilion each Saturday morning prior to the senior competition beginning and social class group use the courts and pavilion each Thursday. The courts are open to the public at all other times.

Cricket (summer use)

The Geelong City Cricket Club utilise Hickinbotham Oval for senior synthetic grade teams every Saturday afternoon from October to March. The Clubs junior under 15 and 17 teams also use the oval every Saturday morning during the season. In total, approximately 55 cricket participants and umpires utilising Howard Glover Reserve every Saturday.

The graph below highlights the number of regular group booking taken by FV Geelong Region during the 2018 winter season.



Issues and Opportunities

SUMMARY BY SPORT

Soccer Facilities

Issues:

- Facilities not meeting FV guidelines.
- Pavilion and changerooms are ageing with various accessibility issues.
- Limited sheltered areas for spectators to all pitches.
- Second soccer pitch use is limited due to lack of space and quality of surface.
- Training on the main pitch is limited due to the lack of appropriate lighting.
- Limited access to the cricket oval.
- Power upgrade required for field lighting and pavilion upgrade.

Opportunities:

- 100 lux level lighting would enable the clubs to train and play for longer, with the main pitch being used to its capacity.
- A well located multi-purpose pavilion with office / meeting space to service a number of sporting and community groups.
- Converting the adjacent cricket oval (including the irrigation and drainage) into a multi sport area for cricket and soccer, providing a resource for the growing soccer community.

Cricket Facilities

Issues:

- The primary cricket oval has no irrigation or drainage which limits use. This creates issues with the quality of the playing surface for both summer and winter sports.
- The dimensions of the oval do not meet the minimum Cricket Australia Guidelines for community cricket. Boundaries are to be 50m and one boundary is currently 40m.
- No sheltered areas for spectators.
- Nearest toilets to the oval are 250m away and there are no accessible changeroom facilities.
- No food preparation facilities.

Opportunities:

- Sharing upgraded facilities with soccer would provide cricket with accessible changerooms, toilets, sheltered areas and space for food preparation for afternoon teas.
- Installing irrigation and drainage to the oval will alleviate any ground condition issues and make it safer for participants.

Tennis Facilities

Issues:

- There are no changeroom or toilet facilities in the small pavilion located near the tennis courts.

Opportunities:

- Provision of toilet facilities at the tennis pavilion for court users.

Car Parking

Issues:

- Unsealed and informal driveway and parking facilities creates maintenance issues and would not support increased use of the site.

Opportunities:

- A sealed car park and driveway, with formal car parking spaces, would improve safety for existing and potential new users.

HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES

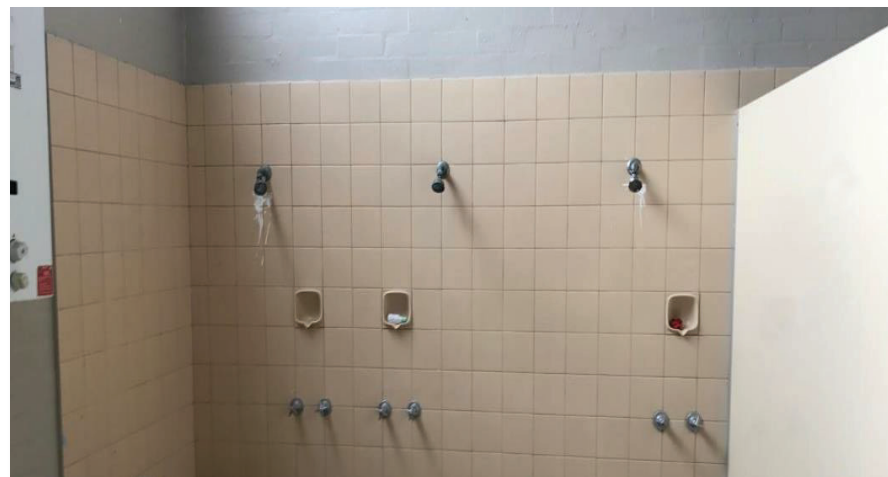
Pavilion and changerooms

Ageing facilities – the main building has aged considerably and is no longer functional for community sport. The amenities such as the showers and toilets are well below the current standards required.

Accessibility issues – the changerooms currently do not meet Sport and Recreation Victoria's Female Friendly Sport Infrastructure Guidelines. Facilities for referees are also well below the required standard and the open showers do not provide an accessible option for participants.

Location – the presence of historically significant trees, and a planting strategy for the area located between the two playing fields, has driven the need to position the proposed new pavilion on the east side of the main soccer pitch (Eastern Park & Geelong Botanic Gardens Tree Planting Report).

Asbestos – the building has been identified as having asbestos in the changerooms, storeroom and externally on the roof area where the hot water service flues are located.



Playing surfaces

Lighting – the current field lighting is well below the required lux levels (100 lux) for community winter sport club training and competition. An upgrade of lighting to 100 lux will maximise the use of the Reserve for a greater range of participants. Upgrading power to the site is required to enable lighting to be developed to this level.

If better lighting is provided the main soccer pitch could also be utilised by a number of other clubs in the Greater Geelong area, taking pressure off other pitches during inclement weather.

Second playing pitch – converting the adjacent cricket oval to a multi sport option that can accommodate both cricket and soccer would provide a much needed resource for the growing soccer community in the Greater Geelong area.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

The FV Facilities Guidelines were utilised to inform proposed upgrades to Howard Glover Reserve and ensures that any future works will meet the minimum standards for the sport.

The Effective Lighting Guide, Field Dimensions Guide and Building Development Guide set out minimum standards for the development of soccer pitches and supporting infrastructure. Key considerations from these resources used to inform project recommendations include:

- FIFA recommends that the suitable pitch dimensions for soccer is 100-110m in length and 64m-75m in width. FV recommends the optimum field size of 105m by 68m for both pitches at the site.
- The preference is to install LED lighting to 100 lux lighting level to cater for community level training and competition. Musco Lighting undertook a review of the requirement to supply lighting to the main pitch (full report provided in the appendices). A proposal for design, manufacture, supply and installation of sportsfield lighting was completed. A power upgrade to the site is required to ensure that the Reserve can accommodate the extra load that the lighting will have on electricity supply.

Football Victoria - Recommended Effective Lighting Guidelines

Competition		Minimum Lux
Professional	Competition	500
	Match Practice Training	200
Semi-Professional	Competition	200
	Match Practice Training	100
Amateur (All other competitions)	Competition	100
	Match Practice Training	100

- The pavilion will need to meet FV minimum facility development guidelines. These guidelines detail minimum requirements for access, number of rooms, sizes of rooms and important inclusions for players and officials. It is recommended that four unisex changerooms, two referee changerooms and one first aid room be developed.

Football Victoria – Minimum Facility Requirements

Category	Requirement
Player Change Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two players' lockable dressing rooms must be provided for each pitch in use. Each room must have access to hot and cold showers and to toilet facilities within the building structure. • Recommended size for senior dressing rooms, excluding required shower and toilet area, is 2Sm2.
Match Officials Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match Officials must have exclusive access to a lockable dressing room. The Match Officials room must be accessible without passing through any players' change room which is in use. • Recommended size for Match Officials rooms, including required shower and toilet area, is 20m2. The room must contain a writing desk or bench and chair and have access within the building to a toilet and shower providing hot and cold water.
First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first aid area, which can be made private by the use of curtains, screens or similar and providing basic first aid equipment all of which must be kept clean and sterile.
Public Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to male and female public toilets (or suitable unisex/family toilets) must be provided. These may be shared with player toilets.

Proposed Development Options

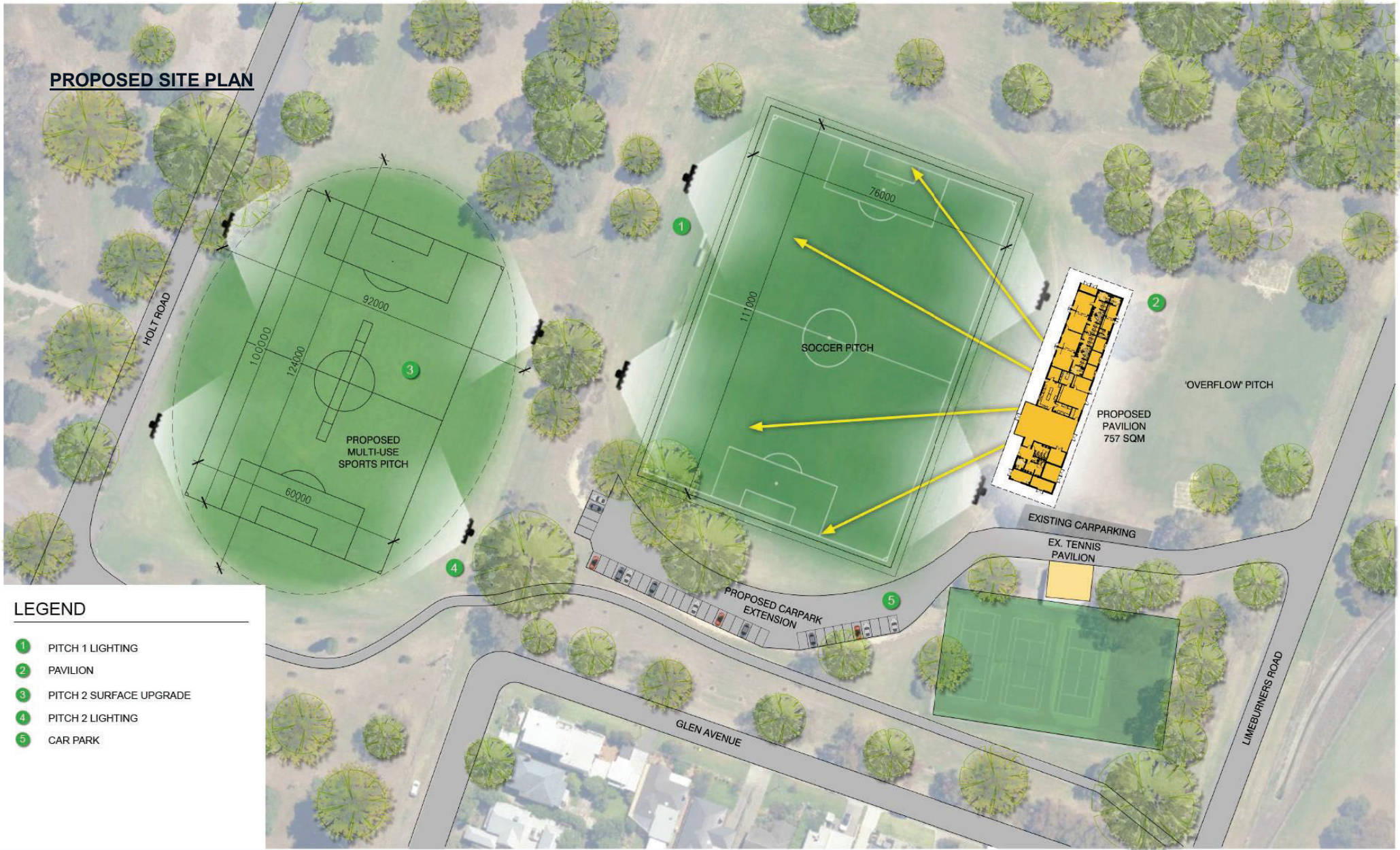
VISION

'To provide new and upgraded community sports facilities that are welcoming, accessible and inclusive and meet the current and future needs of local and regional sporting groups'.

The following development opportunities at the Reserve are proposed to support the above vision.

- *Provide new multi-purpose pavilion and office space that accommodate a range of sports and community groups.*
- *Provision of gender neutral player and umpire change rooms to increase diversity of use and remove barriers to female participation by providing suitable facilities and amenities.*
- *Improved spectator and community amenities for casual use, event and competition days for all users.*
- *Connect the local community by providing social spaces that are accessible and inclusive.*
- *A larger facilities footprint that supports the continued growth in male and female soccer and accommodate juniors, women's and male teams.*
- *Installation of irrigation and drainage on the adjacent oval will optimise the playing surfaces for all sports and ensure sportsfield use is maximized.*
- *New energy efficient lighting to increase the capacity of the site and support increased use.*

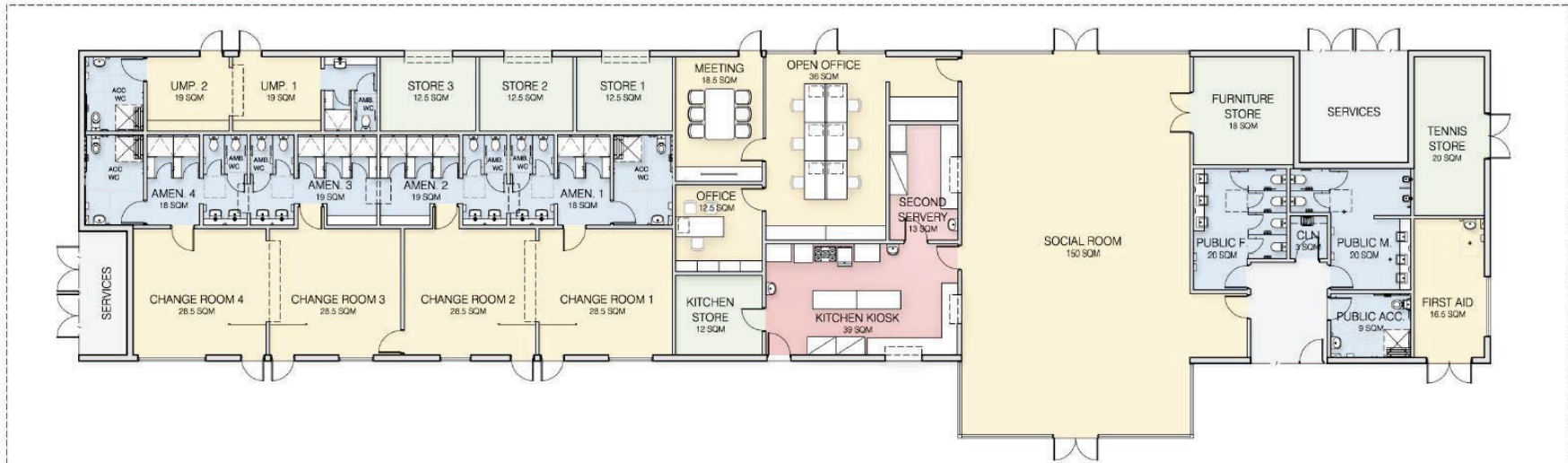
PROPOSED SITE PLAN



LEGEND

- 1 PITCH 1 LIGHTING
- 2 PAVILION
- 3 PITCH 2 SURFACE UPGRADE
- 4 PITCH 2 LIGHTING
- 5 CAR PARK

PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN



Cost estimates

Cost estimates have been developed by Plan Cost (Quantity Surveyors). The full Quantity Surveyor Report is provided in the appendices.

The overall cost of the proposed new building (pavilion) and related external works is approximately **\$3,116,000**. This estimate is inclusive of all fittings and services but excludes design and construction contingencies, consultants fees and escalation. The 71 square meters of meeting / office space has been costed separately at approximately \$236,000.

The following page provides a full breakdown of cost estimates for the development priorities recommended on the previous page.

Key Development Priorities

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY COST ESTIMATES

Project	Cost estimate
Field 1 lighting (100 lux)	\$434,000
Building (pavilion)	\$3,116,000
Field 2 surface upgrade	\$788,000
Field 2 lighting (100 lux)	\$434,000
Car park upgrade	\$606,000
TOTAL PRIORITY PROJECTS (EXCL. CONTINGENCY & CONSULTANTS FEES)	\$5,378,000

Notes (not included in the above estimates):

- Power upgrade allocation - \$50,000
- Field 1 lighting to 200 lux - \$550,000
- Field 2 lighting to 50 lux - \$230,000 (saving of \$155,000)

Strategic Support for Development

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The future development of Howard Glover Reserve has strong strategic support from soccer.

The **G21 Regional Football (Soccer) Strategy**, developed in May 2012, provided a strategic approach to the future provision of soccer in the G21 region. The Strategy identified regional and local needs for soccer development, as well as governance and facility recommendations.

Key findings from the Strategy that supports the future development of Howard Glover Reserve include:

- Not enough dedicated soccer facilities for the current participation levels across the region;
- A lack of regional and municipal level venues providing for broad community and soccer participation;
- Clubs identified a need for a greater number of facilities to cater for growth in junior participation, futsal and small sided games;
- Councils have limited resources for constructing 'new' facilities.

A strong focus on improving facilities and infrastructure is a key plank in **Football Victoria's Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022**.

Expanding and improving facilities and providing infrastructure to increase access, utilisation and sustainability is a priority for FV and aligns with the recommendations for Howard Glover Reserve. Some of the key actions that were identified FVs Strategic Plan include:

- Improving facilities for women and girls;
- Reversing chronic under-investment in facilities & infrastructure;
- Ensuring facilities are financially & operationally sustainable;

- Providing data-driven outcomes for social, health & wellness;
- By 2027, provide 420 new & equivalent full-size pitches across the state to keep up with growing demand for our sport.

Football Victoria's Facilities Strategy to 2026 provides each metropolitan and regional area with priorities for facility development to ensure that the future provision of soccer facilities meet the growing demands of the game.

State level priorities identified in the Facilities Strategy that are consistent with the key priorities for Howard Glover Reserve include:

Increase the carrying capacity of existing pitches by providing additional lighting that enables flexibility of use of sporting fields. Lighting installation can almost double the weekly winter usage of sporting fields.

Provide facilities and infrastructure that are suitable for all levels of the game, with a focus on female friendly and accessibility.

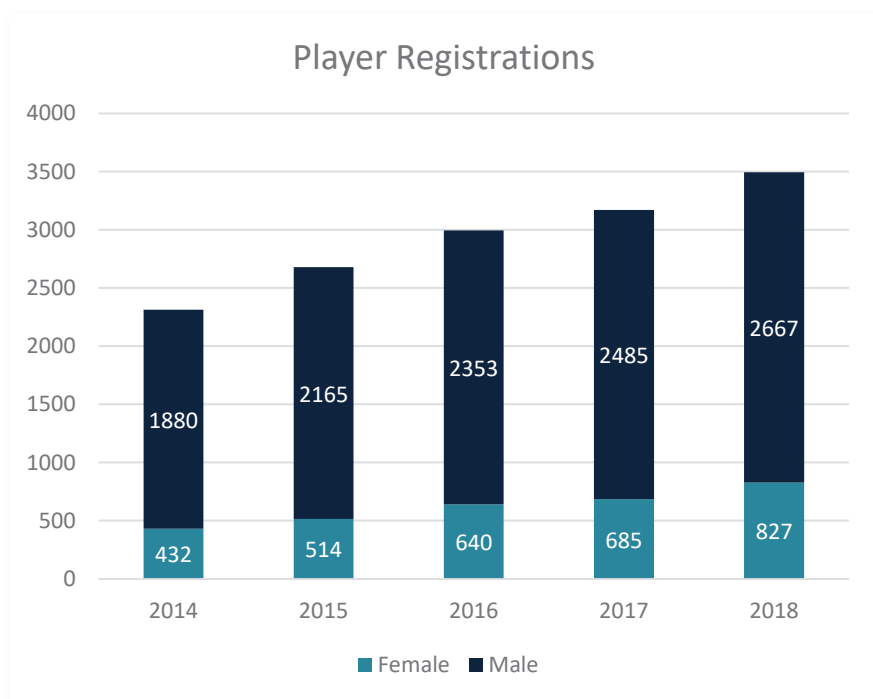
The rapid growth in female and junior participation has increased the need to access more pitches and has highlighted the lack of female friendly change rooms (and other facilities) at existing football venues.

Based on current participation trends and future growth projections for soccer, the Facilities Strategy makes clear recommendations on the number of new full size pitches required by each LGA to cater for soccer. The Facilities Strategy recommends that by 2026 Greater Geelong will require a further 21 pitches to cater for the projected growth of soccer participation in the area.

SOCCER PARTICIPATION

Soccer is a well established and highly participated sport in the Greater Geelong community and has enjoyed sustained periods of growth. The last 5 years has seen participation rates at an all time high, with female participation in particular increasing significantly during this time.

In total there has been a 34% increase in player registrations from 2014 to 2018. This is an annual average increase of 8.5% and sits well above the state average. Male registrations have increased by 787 from 2014 to 2018, which includes an increase of 182 participants from 2017 to 2018. The graph below shows the increase in male and female registrations in the City of Greater Geelong Region since 2014.



There are currently 18 clubs providing soccer for both senior and junior grades in the City of Greater Geelong. Only two clubs don't have female teams. Female participation data demonstrate that female registrations have increased by 48% from 2014 to 2018.

There are currently 827 females playing club soccer in the City of Greater Geelong (see table below). The capacity of existing soccer facilities will continue to be challenged to cater for this significant growth in female participation.

2018 Club Registrations			
Club	Female	Male	Total
Armstrong United FC	29	45	74
Barwon Heads SC	39	146	185
Barwon SC	91	377	468
Bell Park SC	77	191	268
Bellarine Sharks AFC	12	46	58
Breakwater Eagles SC	16	102	118
Corio Bay SC	16	37	53
Corio SC	-	117	117
Deakin University SC	34	118	152
Drysdale Soccer Club	91	171	262
Elcho Park Cardinals FC	-	135	135
FC Leopold Inc	39	97	136
Geelong Rangers SC	61	302	363
Geelong SC	66	194	260
Kardinia International College	32	31	63
Lara United FC	78	161	239
North Geelong Warriors SC	75	141	216
Surfside Waves SC	71	256	327
Total	827	2667	3494

PROJECTED DEMAND

The Greater Geelong community is growing significantly. Population projections along with anticipated soccer participation growth demonstrates the need to expand the current levels of soccer infrastructure in the Greater Geelong area.

Maximising the use of existing infrastructure by increasing lighting levels or offering synthetic pitch options to meet future demand should be considered, along with the development of new soccer pitches.

The next 18 years of population growth shows that the City of Greater Geelong will reach a population of 325,779 by 2036, which is over 100,000 more residents.

The current penetration rate of 1.4% (registered player to population percentage) was used to predict future registration numbers.

The adjacent table provides an estimate of how the City's population growth to 2036 will impact on soccer participation rates.

It is anticipated that by 2036 there will be approximately 4,607 registered soccer players, an increase of 31% or an additional 1,113 participants



Year	Population Projection (ForecastID)	Projected Club Registrations
2019	251,540	3,557
2020	256,109	3,622
2021	260,418	3,683
2022	264,760	3,744
2023	269,106	3,806
2024	273,320	3,865
2025	277,709	3,927
2026	282,038	3,989
2027	286,223	4,048
2028	290,450	4,108
2029	294,828	4,169
2030	299,499	4,235
2031	303,834	4,297
2032	308,116	4,357
2033	312,442	4,419
2034	316,739	4,479
2035	321,466	4,546
2036	325,779	4,607

CURRENT FACILITY SUPPLY

There are currently 17 dedicated soccer venues and 29 playing pitches in the City of Greater Geelong.

The recommendation for a further 21 pitches by 2026, as stated in the FV State Facilities Strategy, is the highest number of pitches recommended for any LGA in Victoria and demonstrates the huge amount of interest in soccer locally.

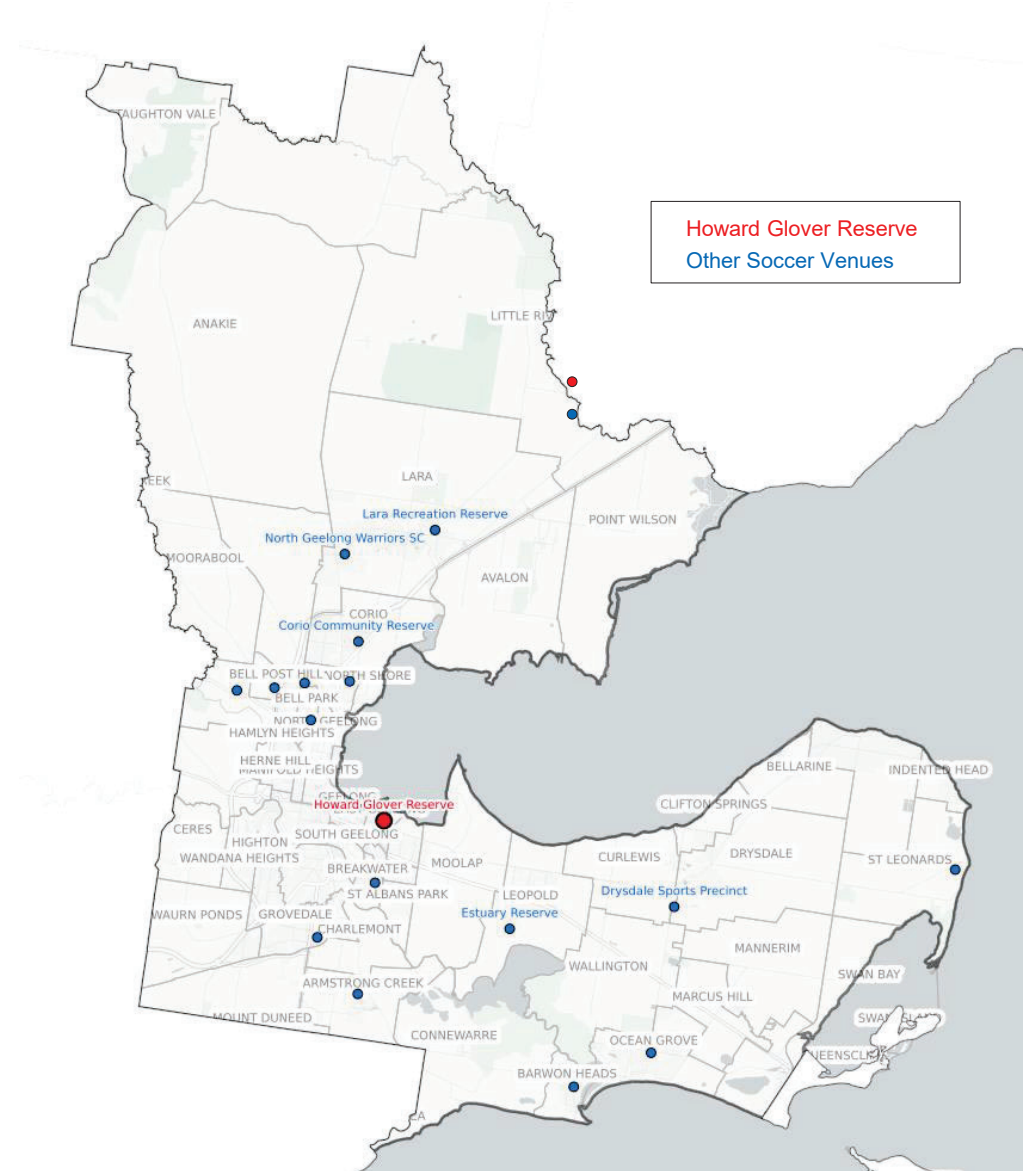
The player per pitch ratio in the City of Greater Geelong of 1:166 is well above the state average of 1:108. The table below provides a summary of soccer facility provision.

CoGG Pitch Information	
Soccer Venues	17
Senior Pitches	29
Players per Pitch	166
Total Pitches with Lighting*	22

* Lighting level information is not available for each pitch

Given its central location, Howard Glover Reserve is a very accessible venue for all clubs. As has been advocated by FV Geelong Region, Howard Glover Reserve has the potential to become a key municipal training venue for boys and girls talent pathway programs, all abilities soccer and for high level local competition and training.

The adjacent map identifies Howard Glover Reserves central location and its accessibility to clubs located at other soccer venues across the City.



POTENTIAL FUTURE USE

Football Victoria Geelong Region were asked to project the level of regular use that Howard Glover Reserve would have into the future if upgrades to the site were implemented.

The adjacent table is a summary of the projected level of use of facilities. This excludes the anticipated one off events that could be hosted at the site, local finals matches, school bookings and social room use by local community groups.

It should be noted that during the summer season the secondary pitch will be utilised by cricket and therefore only one pitch will be utilised by soccer during this time.

These projections for use were based on the following upgrades to the site being implemented:

- Upgrade to lighting on the main pitch to competition standard.
- Installation of irrigation and drainage to the secondary pitch and upgrade of lighting to training level standard.
- Upgrades to changeroom facilities to cater for male and female participation of both soccer pitches.
- Upgrades to the amenities provided for match referees.

January – March	Clubs Female & Male Teams	Times	Pitches
Monday	Club Preseason Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Tuesday	Club Preseason Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Wednesday	Club Preseason Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Thursday	Club Preseason Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Friday	Club Preseason Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Saturday	Club Preseason Games	10.00am to 6pm	1
Sunday	Club Preseason Games	10.00am to 6pm	1
April – September	Clubs Female & Male Teams	Times	Pitches
Monday	Club Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Tuesday	Club Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Wednesday	Club Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Thursday	Club Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Friday	Club Training	4.30 to 8.30pm	2
Saturday	Club Games	10.00am to 6pm	2
Sunday	Club Games	10.00am to 6pm	2
October – December	FV Programs	Times	Pitches
Monday	FV Programs	10.00am to 4.00pm	2
Tuesday	FV Programs	10.00am to 4.00pm	2
Wednesday	FV Programs	10.00am to 4.00pm	2
Thursday	FV Programs	10.00am to 4.00pm	2
Friday	FV Programs	10.00am to 4.00pm	2
Saturday	FV Programs	10.00am to 4.00pm	1
Sunday	FV Programs	10.00am to 4.00pm	1

Appendices

KEY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Football Victoria (FV) and FV Geelong Region.

FV and FV Geelong Region have informed development options for the Howard Glover Reserve. Below is a summary of feedback received

Playing Pitches

- Main pitch can be reduced to 105m X 68m, which may provide extra space for the building, parking. Would require fence removal.
- Preference is for the main pitch to have 200 lux level lighting and secondary pitch 100 lux for training.
- Provide a secondary pitch at the cricket oval adjacent and are happy to share with cricket. Improved surface would be beneficial to cricket clubs. Secondary pitch to be 105m X 68m (96m x 60m would be sufficient).
- Secondary pitch would require irrigation/drainage and a cricket pitch cover for the soccer season.

Building

- Preference for a new building with accessible facilities that would meet FV facilities guidelines. Modular building is an option FV would support if it met the needs of the users.
- Soccer can share with tennis and cricket to provide a multi sport facility that could be utilised by the wider community.
- Soccer's vision is to establish a home for FV Geelong Region at the site. This would require office space for three staff. Reception/entry area to the building would be beneficial if this option is deemed to be feasible.
- No desire for a home soccer club at the facility and would prefer the lease to remain with FV. Also happy to review lease conditions with a new building with office accommodation included.

- Prefer a long term lease option if possible, especially if the sport is to provide capital investment in the facility development.
- Preference to locate the main building closer the main pitch if possible.
- Improved sheltered spectator or terraced area adjacent to playing pitches.

Participation outcomes of new facilities

- Increased use during the week for training due to increased pitch and lighting provision. Based on knowledge of local clubs and demand, the facilities would be utilised significantly.
- More accessible facilities for all genders abilities would enable more female participation and all abilities games and training.
- Summer 7s competition could be played at the facility. Will be organised and managed by the on site staff.
- Improved facilities would see more use by the MPL women's sides.
- Could become a training facility for higher level teams. Western Melbourne new A League team for example.
- Could become a site for school competitions and carnivals.



Priorities for soccer

1. New accessible changerooms/pavilion and upgraded competition level lighting to the main pitch are high priorities.
2. Secondary pitch upgrade to include drainage and irrigation with training level lighting.
3. More formal car parking at the Reserve.
4. Scoreboard to main pitch and spectator viewing areas.

Eastern Districts Tennis Club

The Eastern District Tennis Club who participate in Tennis Geelong competition have occupied the courts and pavilion at Howard Glover Reserve for more than 30 years. Below is a summary of feedback received from the club in relation to the development options for the Reserve.

Courts

- Very happy with the upkeep of the courts as they are maintained and resealed at appropriate times by Council.
- The club does not have a requirement for more courts.

Building

- Pavilion is used to host afternoon tea for each group and has running hot water, but no toilets or showers.
- Each tennis group use the toilets that are located at the main pavilion, which is approximately 20-30m from the courts.
- The tennis club would like to see toilets as part of their pavilion. Showers would not be utilised enough for them to be a priority.
- If new toilets are not an option, a safer and more lit pathway to the main pavilion toilets would assist the club if there were activities at night.
- A sealed driveway and more formal sealed parking would be a benefit to all users of the facility.

Geelong Cricket Association (GCA)

The Geelong City Cricket Club have hosted games at the Hickinbotham Oval over the past 20 years. Junior and senior grades of the Geelong Cricket Association also use the oval every Saturday during the summer season.

Following is a summary of the needs of cricket based on consultation with the club and the Geelong Cricket Association.

Playing surface

- Synthetic pitch and oval are key assets for the GCA and Geelong City Cricket Club.
- The oval provides a growing club the necessary space to play both lower level senior and junior grade cricket.
- Oval size is 40m to one boundary, but the club makes sure that the boundary line is 1.7m from the fence to avoid any injuries.
- Irrigation and drainage are the key priorities for the GCA, as the surface can get quite dry and hard during hot weather periods. The surface is a safety concern for GCA and its players.

Building

- Cricket participants currently have to use toilet block approximately 250m west of the oval.
- Would like to see a building closer to the oval to provide participants with accessible amenities and changerooms.
- If a new pavilion is built, access to any social space for afternoon teas, as well as the toilets and changerooms would be beneficial to cricket.
- Provision of permanent shade structures for participants, spectators and club volunteers is also needed.



Priorities for tennis and cricket

1. Accessible toilet facilities for users.
2. Secondary pitch upgrade to include drainage and irrigation.
3. New accessible changerooms/pavilion
4. Shade structures for the cricket users.
5. More formal car parking at the Reserve.