

Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan





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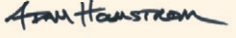
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Cover photo: Colebrook Park. Source: Inspiring
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We acknowledge and respect the palawa/
pakana peoples of lutruwita (Tasmania) and the
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
across Australia as the traditional custodians
of our shared lands, waters, and seas.

We recognise their unique ability to care for
Country and their deep spiritual connection with
the land, waters, and seas – the same land,
waters and seas which are a central focus of
our profession.

We honour Elders past and present whose
knowledge and wisdom will ensure the
continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander cultures.

Executive summary

The Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan 2024 replaces the 2006 Recreation Plan to address the evolving needs of the Southern Midlands local government area. Objectives of the Plan include understanding population changes, current infrastructure, and the needs of users to make recommendations. The plan integrates findings from a field audit, community engagement, and reviews of contemporary recreation trends. Community engagement involved four community forums, a month-long public survey, and targeted outreach to peak bodies and state government departments.

The Plan supports ongoing improvement in the Southern Midlands through sustainable and efficient management that adapts to trends and supports lifelong community participation. The Plan outlines relevant issues, community expectations, identifies infrastructure gaps, recommends actions, and five yearly reviews.

The Plan categorises facilities into Regional Assets, Community Parks, Community Halls, Sports Venues, and Linkways. It provides recommendations for each category that include actions, rationale, responsibilities and priorities.

- » Management strategies for Regional Assets recognises the role of schools as central community hubs and the need to invest in upgrades in areas of population growth.
- » Community Parks management focuses on developing and managing primary parks within towns, catering to local needs and potentially attracting visitors. Strategies include upgrading equipment for various age groups and considering additional facilities like cantilever swings or netball/basketball half courts.
- » For Community Halls, the Plan acknowledges the need to upgrade some halls. This could be made possible in some locations by the disposal or rationalisation of investment in a recreation ground. It is recognised that there will be emotional and physical loss if facilities are decommissioned. Active hall management committees who are able to apply for grants to support upgrades, both small and large, are very important for successful operation of halls.
- » Sports Venues management varies based on their role and catchment, with a focus on upgrading school facilities and investment in regional hubs. The Plan advises a

strategic approach to AFL grounds, focusing on consolidation in regional hubs, and investigating options for selling underused or poorly maintained grounds to concentrate resources. Recommendations include investment in Oatlands as the regional hub and upgrading the Bagdad Recreation Precinct to cater to population growth.

- » Linkways, essential for open space planning, are highlighted for their role in enabling walking and cycling. The plan suggests strategic initiatives such as 5 km walking loops, safe local walking and cycling routes, and exploring the potential for longer off road paths.

In summary, the Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan 2024 is a roadmap that takes into account advice from peak sporting bodies, the state government, community feedback, and the strategic vision of the Southern Midlands Council. It prioritises sustainability, inclusivity, and strategic investments to meet community needs for a resilient and thriving local government area over the next decades.

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1 / Introduction

1.1 Background

The Southern Midlands municipality covers a large geographical area (2,561km²) with a high proportion of land being used for rural production in private ownership. The region is bisected by the north-south rail route and the Midland Highway. Sports and recreation are important components of the lifestyle enjoyed by residents and visitors alike; the Southern Midlands Council recognises the integral role community infrastructure plays in supporting not only sporting, recreation, and leisure activities, but also in providing opportunities for individuals, families, and the community to engage socially, and create healthy, balanced lifestyles.

The Council's management of community infrastructure is made challenging by the intrinsic characteristics of the area. Those challenges include its geographic scale, the uneven spread of the population across multiple townships (6,662 people) changing demographics in which some areas are growing in population while others are in decline, a limited rate base (3800 rateable properties), the historic significance of many properties, and the limited number of properties over which Council has authority. These challenges have implications for the way in which Council plans for community facilities and services.

The Southern Midlands Strategic Plan 2022 – 2032 includes an understanding, along with a brief assessment of community infrastructure, which may be required, but notes this is no substitute for a more detailed analysis of infrastructure needs. Such an analysis would include both public and privately provided facilities and services, including Council and non-Council facilities, required to accommodate and support community services, programs and activities. This recognises that Council is responsible for establishing, maintaining, and delivering certain types of infrastructure. Council also has a role to play in the delivery of other types of community infrastructure, and in advocating on behalf of the community for adequate provisions in this space.

To fulfil this role, Inspiring Place was engaged to prepare the *Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan*. This Plan replaces the 2006 Recreation Plan. Council responded strongly to the 2006 recommendations, including achieving the stretch target of building an aquatic centre. Other important achievements included creating a new business unit called Community and Corporate Development that had new capacity to manage sports grounds and introducing a small grants program to support sporting clubs and community groups. Council has also strongly supported the successful development of Callington Mill that now employs 50 FTE staff and provides a high level of tourism and recreation amenity.

1.2 Objectives

Amongst the objectives for the project is the requirement to understand the interrelationship between the demographics of the population, their needs for community infrastructure, the current provision of such and its geographic distribution. This infrastructure plan summarises the findings from a field audit and community engagement process as well as a review of contemporary literature and government documents at local, state, and federal level.

A vision for the Southern Midlands Community Infrastructure Plan is:

Make the Southern Midlands municipality a better place through sustainable and efficient management and collaboration to support community infrastructure that adapts to trends and meets community needs for life-long participation.

The objectives for the strategy in support of the vision are:

- » to understand the relevant issues and existing infrastructure;
- » to understand community and key stakeholders' expectations about the level of service in community facilities;
- » to identify current gaps in infrastructure provision, factoring in current trends regarding sport and recreational activities;
- » to identify the community infrastructure that is likely to be required based on demographic trends to 2042;
- » to identify a plan for community infrastructure at regional, neighbourhood and local levels such that it is distributed as equitably and sustainably as possible; and
- » to advise on Council's role in the provision of community infrastructure including being directly responsible, collaborating and advocating for adequate provision.

1.3 Approach

The following principles are guiding values to underpin decisions on community infrastructure facilities in the Southern Midlands. Council will:

- » achieve efficiency by avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities, supporting multi-use facilities, and ensuring asset investments are fully planned from a business perspective before being endorsed;
- » increase the capacity for participation by the whole of the community across abilities and genders through concentration of resources around multi-use facilities;
- » adhere to structure plans and master plans to avoid *ad hoc* decisions;
- » take a risk management approach to all decision making that includes having a benchmark of peak sporting body guidelines in respect to minimum standards for facilities;
- » provide guidance to community, not-for-profit and commercial providers to assist them in identifying and applying for funding to achieve appropriate infrastructure standards;
- » actively pursue opportunities for the joint development of facilities with other providers, including giving a higher priority to those with a commitment to self-help; and

- » be cognisant of community infrastructure in adjoining local government areas and minimise duplication of facilities .

This plan is underpinned by six lines of inquiry: a review of contemporary literature and policy to understand current trends in community infrastructure provision and open space planning; a review of Council's strategic documents and policies including the *2006 Recreation Plan* and *Southern Midlands Strategic Plan 2022-2032*; a review of demographic data using Australian Bureau of Statistics and information from the review of the Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy; consultations with peak bodies: Active Tasmania, Department of Health, Department of Education, Children and Young People as well as peak sporting bodies including Cricket Tasmania, AFL Tasmania, Basketball Tasmania, and Netball Tasmania; the community consultation; and the facilities audits.

Community engagement consisted of four community forums and a survey that was open to the public for a month. Invitations to participate were sent to a wide range of groups including hall committees and sport and recreation clubs in the municipality and the public. People were invited to contribute via post office box drops in Campania, Oatlands, Bagdad, Kempton. Community groups were contacted with material for social media posts. The project was advertised on the Council's webpage and in the Council newsletter. Brief

tours were completed at the district schools and infrastructure audit were completed across all four schools.

All community facilities were listed for which Council have care, control, or management. This list was updated through a two-day audit with Council staff. At each site there was an assessment of the key components, appearance, size, location (using geotagged photos), accessibility, safety, maintenance requirements, users, management responsibility, and an overall assessment of recreation, cultural, and conservation values. Entry was available to most site facilities during the Audit period. Where entry was limited, assessment of facilities within buildings are based on communications with Council staff as representatives of the community.

The Southern Midlands municipal boundaries are shown in Figure 1.1 along with the main population centres and areas of growth. Growth is indicated by number of subdivision lots that have been approved for the town.

The following sections introduce existing trends and the community infrastructure situation. Five types of community infrastructure are explained, and plans outlined for their management.

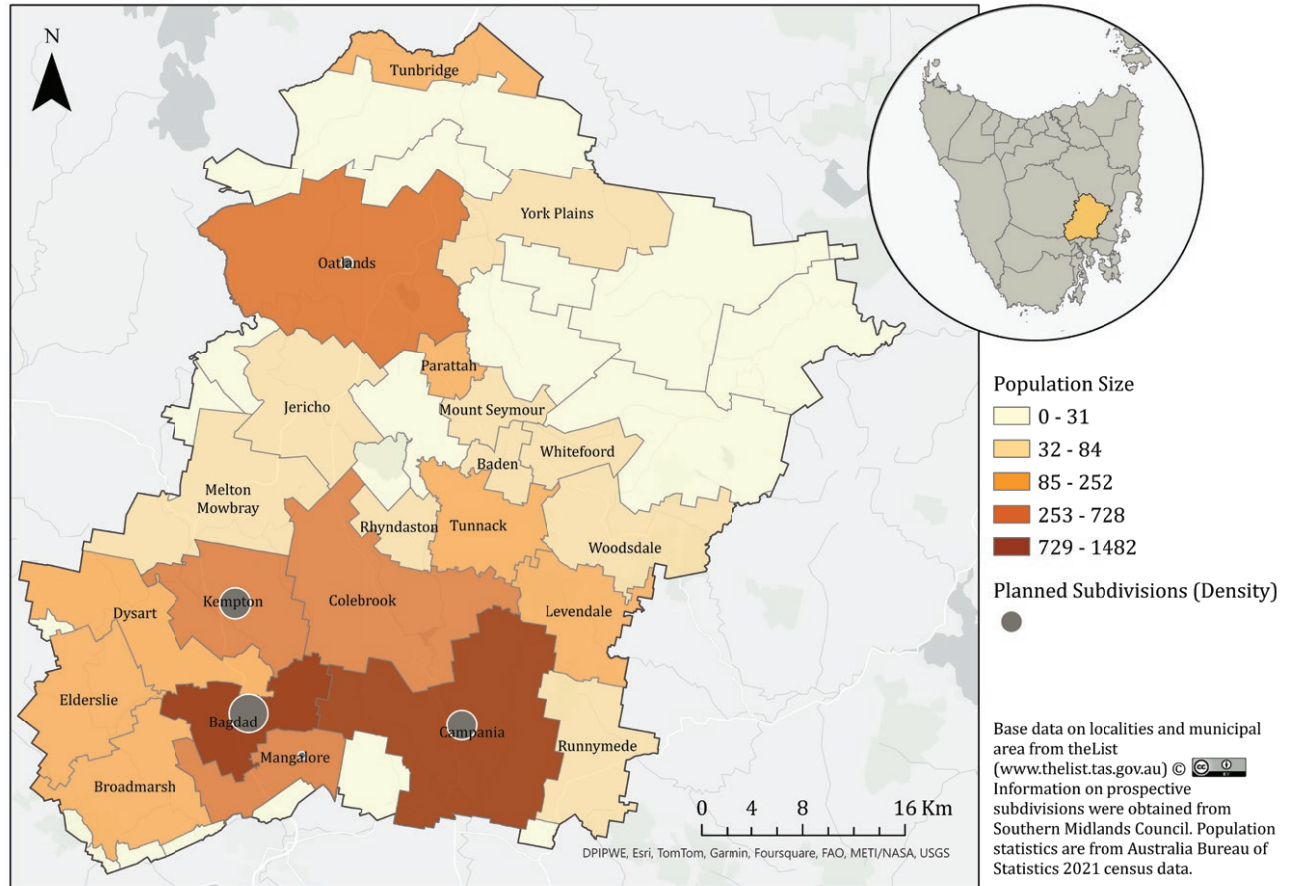


Figure 1.1. Heat map showing population size and the location and density of planned subdivisions for the Southern Midlands. Source: ABS and council data.





2 / Literature and Government Strategies

Key Messages

- » Community infrastructure needs have changed substantially over recent years.
- » The COVID-19 pandemic, demand for facilities for females, changing climate, and bushfire risks are impacting investments in community infrastructure.
- » There has been an overall trend of decreasing participation in organised physical activities in Australia over many years and a shift towards unstructured activities, such as walking and cycling.
- » There are substantial increases in the expectation of, and the legal requirements for improved grounds, building amenities and services, user safety, parking, security lighting, pathways and signage.
- » Rationalisation of community assets by Council goes hand in hand with increased expectations from the community and other levels of government for better facilities.
- » Public-private partnership are increasingly sought by Australian local government as a means of providing community facilities.
- » Sport and other community activities are valuable economically and socially. Local government is compelled to plan for encouraging healthy, active communities and catering to a range of abilities.
- » Active planning by local government is vital for maintaining good relationships with state and federal funding opportunities as well as Council's own planning.
- » There are many master and structure plans relevant to this Community Infrastructure Plan that can be reviewed to help guide decisions.

2.1 Megatrends

Recent national and state reports on participation in sports and physical activities have identified the following major trends. This information was sourced from CSIRO's *The Future of Australian Sport: Megatrends shaping the sport sector over the coming decades* in 2022, Irving et al. (2021) in *Australian Population Studies*, and Orr et al. (2022) in *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*.

Sport and recreation can champion inclusivity and help bridge cultural and demographic gaps. Australia's population overall is aging and increasingly diverse. Young people are growing up with new technologies and global connections that create distinctively different behaviours and values. Participation in sport and physical activity, whether for physical, mental or sociocultural motivations, has continued to increase overall in the last two decades.

While participation in sport related activities have stayed steady, participation in non-sport related activities, particularly, walking, cycling, and running/jogging, has increased significantly in the past 20 years. The trend towards use of home gyms, exercise groups, online communities, and use of local green spaces for walking, cycling and other non-organised physical activities accelerated during the

COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, there has been a sustained increase in these types of activities.

The pandemic led to significant growth in the number of people engaging in physical activity for social and mental health benefits. This remains a major motivator for participating in physical activity. While this trend has slowed slightly across Australia on average, individuals in regional/rural areas remain equally motivated by mental health benefits.

COVID-19 also accelerated a trend in Australians, in both urban and rural areas, participating in a greater mix of activities, and taking an extremely mixed approach to being active, with more adults aged 15 and over engaging in physical activity through venues/organisations and sometimes independently.

While participation levels in organised sports remain below those pre-COVID-19, recent data suggests that life is returning somewhat to normal with Australians slowly returning to regular sporting activity, particularly children aged 0 to 14.

Changing climates mean increasingly hot summers, different rainfall patterns and more frequent extreme weather events. Community infrastructure planning will need to think many years ahead and managers will need to be resilient to adapt to challenges.

2.2 Participation Levels

Findings by AusPlay (2023) on participation levels in sports and physical recreation in Tasmania are summarised in this section. National AusPlay data from 2023 show that 31% of Tasmanians participate in physical activities such as walking, gym use, swimming, running and cycling. Another 17% participate in organised sport and 41% are both physically active outside of formal sport and participate in organised sport. The nine of the top ten activities by popularity amongst adults aged 15 and over, are informal physical activity (including walking, cycling, and swimming), and the only organised sport to make the top 10 is football/soccer. Top 10 activities among children (0 to 14) are swimming, football/soccer, gymnastics, running/athletics and basketball.

In regional/rural areas in Australia, walking, cycling, swimming and running/athletics are the most popular sport and non-sport related activities. Adults (15 years and older) in these areas continue to be motivated to engage in physical activity for mental health benefits. Male and female participation levels have remained on par with each other throughout Tasmania and Australia in the last 20 years. Amongst children (0 to 14 years), there was a higher level of participation by females (70.8%) than by males (66.1%). Regular participation rates are stable across age groups.

2.3 Building Design Trends

Building design and presentation of sporting venues have greatly improved over recent years. Building quality is rising dramatically through good design. This is in response to building and health regulations, workplace safety standards, competition, wider user experiences, and expectations regarding the standards of local provision. Building design trends are also responding to the need to cater to the mix of different genders in sport and separation of facilities for umpires/referees.

The initial investment is designed to reduce costs and litigation while enhancing the user experience and attracting higher use levels. The cost of retrofitting facilities can be more expensive than new, which needs to be considered in how to change facilities to cater to female athletes.

Clubrooms and other sports venues are no longer treated as stand-alone buildings, but increasingly colocated with schools, public transport, and outdoor recreation venues. Consolidation of sport and recreation opportunities entails the development of a few multi-user venues rather than many stand-alone facilities. Many sporting facilities have evolved over a long period of time in response

to the individual needs of individual groups. It often takes time and significant resources to transition towards using fewer, better resourced infrastructure. The challenge being faced all around Australia is managing facilities designed in the past to meet the needs of the present and future.

The consolidation of provision and sharing of use allows the freeing up of land for other purposes; savings through the sharing of enhanced infrastructure; clubs to focus on their activities and programs rather than on buildings; reduced maintenance costs by having fewer venues; the possibility of professional management; and infrastructure that better supports regional events and programs.

There is a growing mix of community and commercial program and services delivery (e.g. physiotherapists, café and food services) associated with major recreation facilities. Commercial providers should be investigated for capacity to offer opportunities that may not have otherwise been afforded by Council.

2.4 Federal strategy

2018 The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure Report investigated the value of community sport facilities to Australia. Benefits worth billions of Australian dollars were reported from increased economic activity (\$5.5B), increased productivity (\$0.8B), personal health benefits (\$4.4B), health system benefits (\$0.5B), human capital uplift (\$4.2B) and green space benefit (\$0.8B). There were also benefits that were difficult to quantify, such as social inclusion, a reduction in anti-social behaviour, and as a refuge in times of natural disasters such as bushfire. The report identified a need to optimise use. Better optimising use of facilities required multi-use facilities, adopting universal design principles, providing some all-weather surfaces, facilities that cater to females or umpires; peak demand management, removing physical barriers to accessing facilities (e.g. fences), and developing tailored programs and products to work with facility constraints.

2.5 State strategy

2022 Tasmanian Community Sport and Active Recreation Infrastructure Strategy Draft recognises local government’s key role as the major provider of community sport and recreation infrastructure. In their submission to this draft strategy, the Department of Education emphasised the importance of facility-sharing arrangements to ensure maximised community use and the importance of school or local community centres as accessible hubs.

Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy 2010-2035 (STRLUS) is a statutory document that influences what local government can do to rezone land and provides the strategic context for planning decisions. One of the regional policy areas covered within the current STRLUS is recreation and open space, and the importance of the open space hierarchy (Figure 2.1). The open space hierarchy is an important in community infrastructure planning and is applied to recreation, parks and natural areas. The hierarchy focuses on categorising areas according to their catchment. Commonly used categories are local, neighbourhood, district and regional, but the key requirement is that each category is clearly defined and appropriate for its context. The hierarchy directs most investment to a few high-quality sites and focuses local investment in one key recreation, park, or natural area (Figure 2.1).

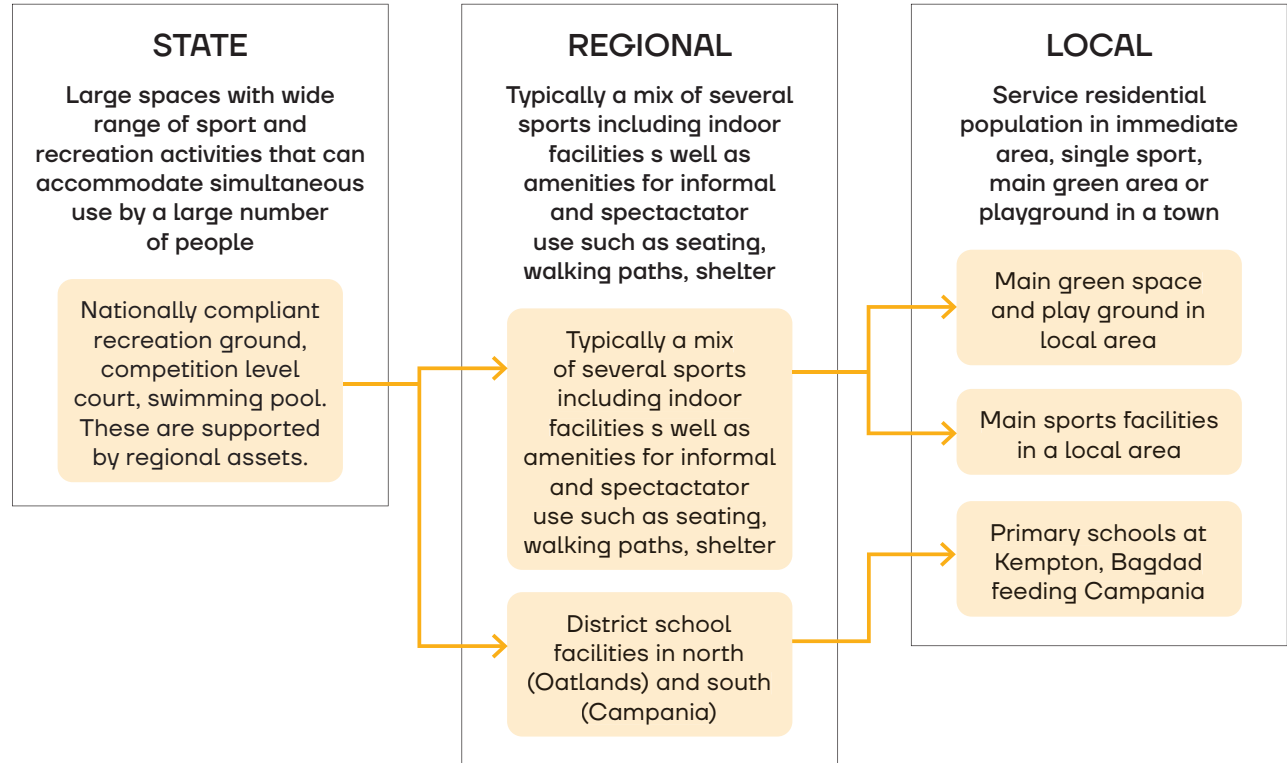


Figure 2.1 Open space hierarchy applied to the Southern Midlands using examples of community infrastructure.

Healthy Tasmania Strategy Plan 2022 - 2026 brings together communities, services, and all levels of government to work in partnership for improved health and wellbeing. The government has committed \$10 million over five years to implement the current plan and an additional \$8 million over four years for the Healthy Tasmania Fund. Actions will focus on supporting Tasmanians to be more connected in their communities, improve wellbeing, and live more active lives.

Accessible Island: Tasmania's Disability Framework for Action 2018 - 2021 is the current version of the state government's principles underpinning implementation. Those principles include ensuring access to and inclusion for government services, infrastructure and communications and collaboration and consultation. Agencies will share expertise and collaborate in the planning and development of services, infrastructure, and communications.

Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan 2017 - 2022 outlines a vision to build an age-friendly state in which all Tasmanians can stay active, healthy, resilient, and connected to their community and the economy.

2.6 Local strategy

Southern Midlands Council Strategic Plan 2022-2032 refers to an environment that encourages diversity and inclusion, development based on sustainable use of local resources and the physical environment; and a range and standard of services within the Southern Midlands that are affordable and sustainable.

The provision of community infrastructure touches on all five of Council's strategic themes of infrastructure, growth, landscapes, community, and organisation. Several other Council documents refer to community infrastructure. These are shown in chronological order:

- » *Oatlands Integrated Development Strategy 2008;*
- » *Mangalore Recreation Ground Redevelopment 2009;*
- » *Bagdad Mangalore Structure Plan 2010;*
- » *Play Space Strategy 2012;*
- » *Campania Structure Plan 2015;*
- » *Joint Land Use Planning Initiative reports;*
- » *Justitia Park Play Space Area proposal 2017;*
- » *Southern Midlands Council Emergency Management Plan 2021* (for the use of Council facilities in the case of emergency - Recovery Centres);
- » *Southern Midlands Council Historic Heritage Strategy 2019-2023;*
- » *Southern Midlands Asset Management Policy 2020*
- » *Oatlands Structure Plan 2021;*
- » *Southern Midlands Asset Management Strategy 2022*
- » *Bagdad Community Club Master Plan 2022;*
- » *Kempton Recreation Ground Master Plan 2023;* and
- » Lake Dulverton documents including management strategy, action plan and walkway action plan.



3 / Demographic Trends

Key Messages

- » The population of Southern Midlands is concentrated to the south of the municipality.
- » Population growth in the southern towns are added to as they are within commuting distance of major settlements that provide more employment opportunities.
- » Bagdad, Campania, Kempton and Oatlands are the key growth areas where vacant land, schools and childcare are available, as well as industrial and commercial development.
- » Infrastructure planning and rationalisation of community assets should focus on growth areas to meet increased demands and secure growth.

Community needs vary between localities due to the differing age profiles. A higher proportion of youth (<15 years) often leads to greater demand for facilities than other age brackets as the population grows. In areas with older aged (65+ years) people, some infrastructure may be less used or there is a need to adapt facilities to better suit an ageing population. Migration and natural increase influence trends as well as related factors of available housing, education, health services, employment, and liveability.

There were 6662 persons in the Southern Midlands at June 2021. This represents an increase of 994 persons since 2006. There has been a reduction of people under 14 years and 25 to 44 years in the municipality since 2006 and a significant increase in the proportion of persons aged 45 to 65 years and over since 2006. The median age of the municipality has also increased from 39 in 2006 to 44 in 2021. These changes are not evenly distributed across the municipality.

Population forecasts allow community groups, organizations, businesses, governing agencies, etc. to make informed decisions about the future. Components of population change, such as mortality, fertility and migration and drivers of change such as housing availability, are likely to experience major variation overtime depending on several factors.

Table 2.1: Population change in major Localities in the Southern Midlands municipality

Locality	Pop. 2006	Pop. 2011	Pop. 2016	Pop. 2021	Average % change 2006 to 2021	Average % change 2016 to 2021
Bagdad	996	1266	1356	1482	+15	+9
Campania	742	844	934	1158	+16	+24
Kempton	358	323	386	420	+6	+9
Mangalore*	983	521	422	435	-21	+3
Oatlands	764	862	683	728	0	+7

*Mangalore's statistical area has reduced since 2006. In 2006, it was 278.9 sq.kms; in 2011 it was 47.9 sq.kms (similar area to 2011 in 2016 and 2021).

Recent analysis for Southern Tasmania indicated that net migration rather than natural change would be the driver of population growth between 2021 to 2046. Modelling identified the need for 671 additional dwellings to accommodate projected growth in the Southern Midlands. Bagdad, Campania, Oatlands and Kempton were identified as key towns with the land supply for subdivisions. As of Dec 2023, there are 228 prospective lots for the construction of new dwellings within the Southern Midlands, most of which are concentrated in Bagdad (83 lots), Kempton (63 lots), Campania (60 lots) and Oatlands (14 lots). These subdivisions will likely drive further population increase in these areas, beyond what is forecast in Figure 2.2. The housing and cost of living crisis have led to many people in Australia seeking housing away from greater urban settlements in favour of regional areas where cheaper housing is available.

The extent to which net migration will affect the rate of change in the Southern Midlands will depend on newly available subdivisions, as well as the availability of transport, healthcare, childcare, employment, and other community services. People want attractive, high functioning places to live and work in. This leads to greater economic growth, including tourism, greater resilience in residential populations, and greater social cohesion and resilience. These are key areas of strategic focus for the Southern

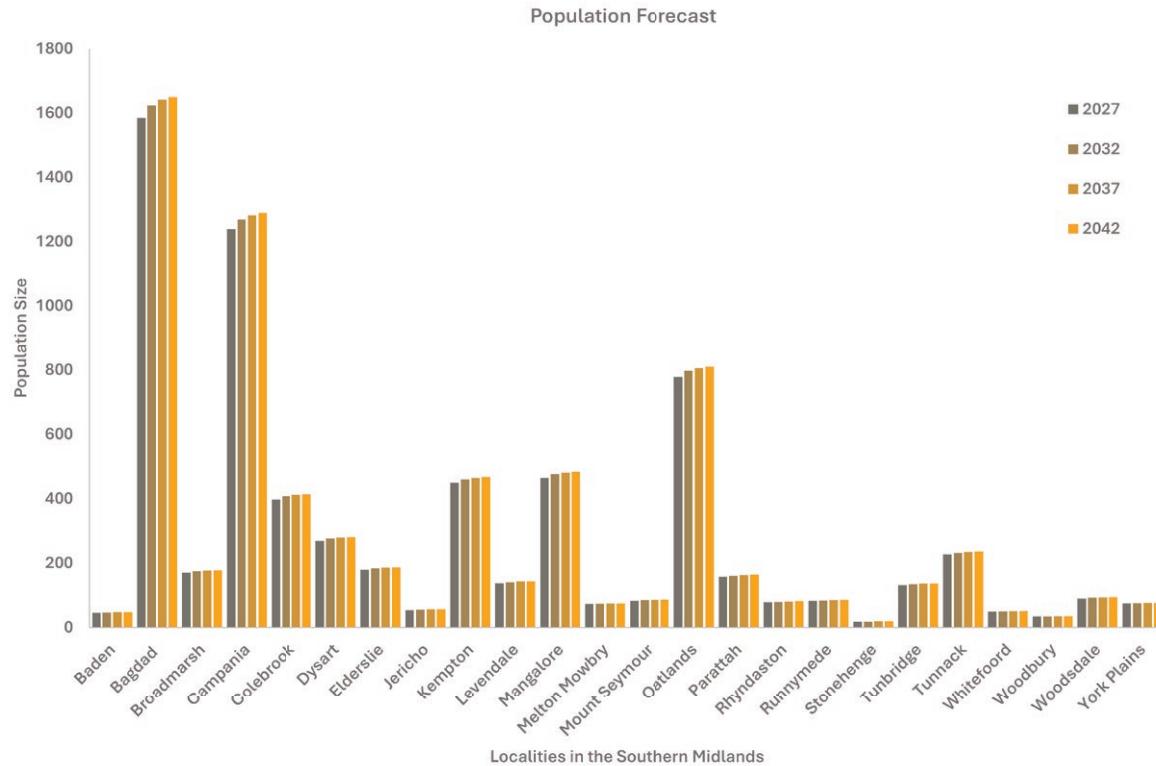


Figure 2.2 Population forecasts for key localities in the Southern Midlands based on projections for Tasmania.

Midlands Council over the coming decade as laid out in their Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

Other drivers of population change include industry and commercial growth, as well as education and employment levels in the region. According to ABS data, Southern Midlands is experiencing an increasing trend in these aspects:

- » Increasing employment trends were reported in all industries, with a growing availability

of jobs, particularly in the construction, health care and social assistance, education and training, and professional, scientific, and technical service sectors. The number of individuals employed in full-time and part-time jobs has increased by 14.4% and 12.6%, respectively, since 2016. Rate of unemployment has reduced from 4.6% to 2.9% between 2021 and 2023.

- » There has been a significant increase in the

nominal Gross Regional Product (GRP) in the region since 2008; an 86% increase has been recorded.

- » The number of individuals who have completed year 12 or equivalent, in the Southern Midlands, recorded a 36% increase from 2016. Additionally, there has been considerable positive change in the proportion of people with educational qualifications. Data shows an 86% increase in postgraduate degree level holders, and 77% increase in graduate diploma and graduate certificate level holders.

Moreover, there is industrial and business growth in Oatlands with the Callington Mill Distillery employed 2 FTE two years ago, currently they employ 50 FTE and are looking to increase to 80 FTE in three years. Additionally, the construction of the proposed Boutique 43 bed hotel accommodation will have a significant impact on the population of Oatlands, through its staffing.



4 / Peak Body Advice

Key Messages

- » The focus of community infrastructure for sport has been on senior men's cricket and football.
- » There are a number of recreation grounds that do not meet minimum standards.
- » The Oatlands Recreation Ground is a regional priority for football in the municipality and requires some modernisation of its building facilities.
- » There are few facilities that cater for female athletes, and facilities for umpires and referees need upgrading.
- » Sports such as soccer, basketball and netball do not have competition level facilities and few local facilities.

4.1 Basketball

There is growing demand for basketball across the state, with 15,119 players in 2023. The success of Tasmania's JackJumpers has led to a surge in interest. Demand for courts exceeds supply, with Basketball Tasmania calculating that the state is 26 courts short of what is required. Basketball Tasmania have facility guidelines to assist government, contractors and other stakeholders who are involved in the planning and construction or redevelopment of facilities. Facilities need to be indoor, have a sprung wooden floor and the perimeter of the standard international federation (FIBA) court markings needs a minimum of two metres to the nearest obstruction. The minimum ceiling height is 7m and this includes light fixtures.

There are two indoor courts; one at Campania District School and the other at Oatlands District School. Neither school has competition requirements of a sprung floor, scoreboard, shot clock or adjustable backboard. Neither court meet guidelines for distance to obstructions. There are some outdoor rings at schools and Mood Food north of Kempton that service some of the informal need. People in the Southern Midlands need to travel to Launceston or Hobart to access a court unless they are part of those school communities.

4.2 Netball

There are limited facilities in the Southern Midlands for netball. Existing facilities are associated with schools and are generally not in good condition.

There are some new facilities just outside the municipality. A new, purpose-built netball facility opened in January 2023 at Pembroke Park, Sorell. This is part of the South East Sporting Complex that is used by netball, basketball, football, cricket, athletics and soccer clubs. The new Brighton High School that is expected to open in 2025 will have a range of recreation facilities. This will include an indoor basketball/netball court, two outdoor basketball/netball courts and a soccer/hockey field. Sorell School has an indoor basketball/netball court and a badminton court. Outdoors there are two netball courts and one basketball court.

Joint netball – football clubs is a model that some mainland clubs have been pursuing. This can help expand overall club numbers and make investment in facilities more feasible. Netball has a program called NetSetGO that supports netball clubs to introduce the sport to children aged 5 – 10 years. Most of the NetSetGO programs are in the larger urban areas, but Campbell Town's Midlands Magic Netball Club host a program.

4.3 Football (Australian rules)

Australian rules football has a long tradition in the Southern Midlands. The Oatlands District Football Association (ODFA) competition is for senior men's teams and does not currently have female players participating. This is at odds with state trends where there was a 300% increase in female participation in Tasmania from 2016 to 2019.

Council have provided sports ground lighting for football (and cricket) at Campania and football at Oatlands which exceed minimum standards. The Oatlands Recreation Ground is a priority for football in the municipality because the ODFA grand final is played at Oatlands, regardless of the teams that qualify for that match.

Seventy six percent of all community venues in Australia fall within the category of local ground. Local facilities are designed to cater for local level competition within individual municipalities and are usually also the home of a seasonal club. Despite being used as a regional ground, Oatlands is considered a local facility under AFL guidelines for minimum standards. Given that the ground is used for the grand final, the AFL guidelines advise the ODFA that they should aspire to get local facilities used for finals to regional level standards.

There is some support for juniors with Auskick being offered at Mount Pleasant and a well subscribed junior program at Kempton through the Central Hawks Junior Football Club. With a housing subdivision coming online immediately adjacent to the Kempton recreation ground, it is expected that the club will continue to grow.

4.4 Swimming

Swimming has grown to be one of the most popular sport and recreation activities amongst both adults and children in Australia and Tasmania, including in regional/rural areas. Popularity accelerated during COVID-19 pandemic and is one of few other sports that have sustained growth post-pandemic.

Oatlands Aquatic Centre was recently completed by Southern Midlands Council and provides state of the art facilities for swimming for the entire municipal area. The centre was a major developmental and infrastructure project undertaken by Council following the 2006 Recreation Plan.



5 / Community Views

Key Messages

- » Residents want key community halls maintained and are mostly satisfied with the facilities, acknowledging that a commitment to ongoing improvements is needed.
- » There was a lower level of satisfaction with sports venues with all grounds needing work. The facilities at Woodsdale Recreation Ground are a particular issue because there is an active club and yet the facilities are a long way from the standard required by the AFL guidelines for local grounds.

Most of the positive comments about community infrastructure refer to maintaining the history, community spirit, and well-being of individuals and families in the Southern Midlands. The community appreciates Council's investment in this 2024 plan and their commitment to the 2006 plan, such as providing a new aquatic centre.

Survey comments tended to closely follow the points raised at the community forums. Many comments fell into one of the following broad areas:

- » upgrading infrastructure, in particular to accommodate increasing population in the south;
- » increasing opportunities that engage older children and youth, including modern play parks and facilities such as half-court basketball, for example;
- » better use of school facilities to cater to immediate demand;
- » work with DECYP and schools to increase their use as community hubs;
- » increasing the accessibility of community infrastructure and spaces for all ages and peoples, including adding seating and shade for walking paths, and providing for disability access to community infrastructure;

- » need for more diverse sporting and recreation activities, including sports other than football such as soccer, tennis, pickleball, basketball and netball, and
- » clearer information and programming for access to community facilities.
- » a desire for some more off-road paths, possibly in collaboration with private landowners;
- » toilets and all abilities upgrades at Chauncey Vale; and
- » dog exercise area at Oatlands.

Specific comments that warrant mention included:

- » investigating a long-term solution for a home ground for the Woodsdale football club;
- » ongoing improvements at Campania to accommodate all abilities access and improve multi-sport use;
- » improvement to the Oatlands Recreation Ground, including netting behind goal posts and upgrades to the wet area;
- » acquiring land adjacent to Levendale Hall to allow local and surrounding community access to this recreational infrastructure (already a work in progress by Council);
- » add shade and seating to local parks (work in progress at some locations);
- » investigating the fencing for the Woodsdale Hall playground;
- » a shared off-road path from Mood Food back into Kempton township (already a work in progress by Council);



VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL

rob
Robot
Workshop



6 / Community Infrastructure Plan

This section contains a plan for each of five categories of community infrastructure: Regional assets, Community parks, Community halls, Sports venues and Linkways.

The categories indicate the primary purpose of a facility, however this might not be its only purpose. Plans of management for each category include the following aspects:

- » identifies characteristics of each type;
- » sets out objectives for management;
- » identifies the issues arising in meeting the objectives; and
- » indicates management strategies to achieve these objectives.

It is clearly recognised that the Council has limited resources and that delivery of community infrastructure is just one of its overall operations. Whilst there is a long list of possible actions, some of the recommended actions extend beyond the Council's current capacity to realistically provide resources and management for community infrastructure. Council will need to choose those actions, which are achievable given time, resources, and commitment to the implementation program in relation to other imperatives for the Southern Midlands.

Nonetheless, the management actions are included to indicate the desired long-term direction for community infrastructure planning.

It is important that the Plan not be seen as a fixed document but rather a working document that requires regular review and planned revision as new information becomes available. The actions under each category provide strategic initiating action for the next 5 years towards achieving the desired, long-term visionary direction for the next 20 years.

The community infrastructure plans recommends action, responsibility, priority, and performance measures for facilities across the municipality. For some key or regional assets, this document sits alongside master plans or forms an interim step in the development of a master plan. For local assets, plans of management are the long-term management tool. A list of all assets and their category, ownership and location can be found in the appendix.

The Plan identifies the priorities based on:

- » **High priority activities** are those considered important to achievement of the vision. They must be undertaken to avoid significant deterioration levels of service or to help ensure sufficient resources are available to respond to trends and growth. These activities are to be undertaken in the first full financial year 2024-2025.
- » **Moderate priority activities** are those that are necessary to achieve the vision but are not considered to be urgent or high priority. These activities are recommended to be

undertaken in the years 2025-2029.

- » **Low priority activities** are those that are desirable to achieve the vision. These activities are recommended to be undertaken from 2029 onwards or are activities that have to wait until resources become available.
- » **Ongoing** are those activities which should be implemented on a continuous basis but may vary in priority from high to low.

All assets are to be managed with a view to financial and environmental sustainability and to maximise use wherever possible. Environmental sustainability includes adaptations necessary to plan for changing climate. These aims are not mentioned in each plan of management but taken as given.

6.1 Regional Assets

Characteristics

Regional assets are the community infrastructure and facilities that have a large catchment and are possibly unique in the area (Figure 6.1). They are likely to be physically large and have a range of facilities and services.

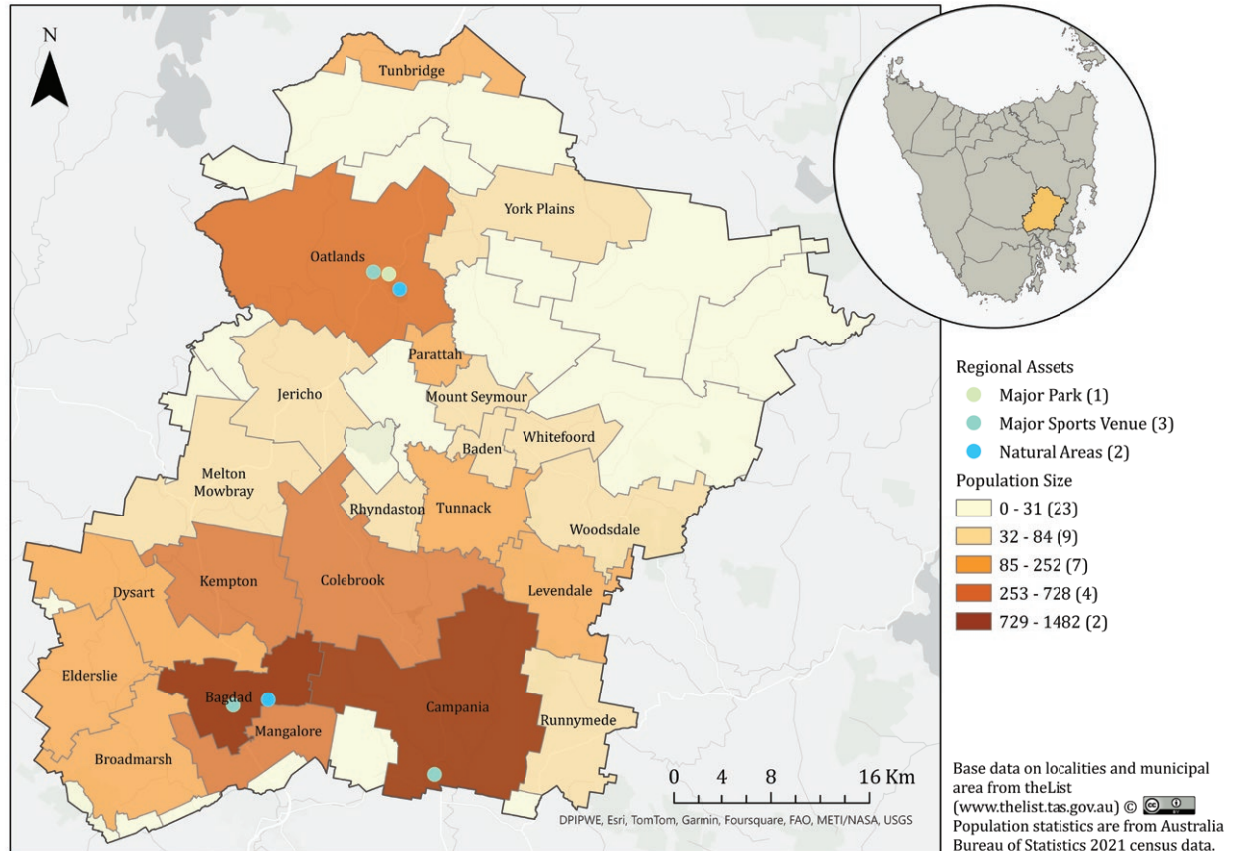


Figure 6.1 Regional assets showing the main recreation grounds at Oatlands, Campania and a proposed regional asset at Bagdad. Natural areas and Callington Park are also shown. Values shown in brackets alongside each regional asset indicates the number of assets; those alongside population size classes indicates the number of localities within that size class.

Some of the assets included in this category do not currently serve as regional assets but are listed here because of they are situated in a key growth area. Planning for their future use as a regional asset is important to meet existing unmet demand and future needs (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1. Types of facilities categorised as Regional Assets

TYPES OF FACILITIES	COUNCIL-OWNED VENUES	NON-COUNCIL OWNED
Natural areas where there are high conservation values and appropriate recreational use	Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary (Bagdad)	Lake Dulverton Wildlife Sanctuary (Oatlands)
Major parks that provide for a range of facilities and a setting that attracts regional and tourist use	Callington Park (Oatlands)	
Major sports venues that provide indoor and outdoor facilities that can cater for regional needs and for regional and national events	Oatlands Aquatic Centre Campania Recreation Ground Oatlands Recreation Ground	Bagdad Recreation Precinct

Management objectives

The management objectives for a regional asset are to:

- » achieve an integrated approach to planning and management of facilities based on a cooperative effort of managers and users;
- » commit to ongoing improvement;
- » provide facilities that cater to the needs and interests of a range of user groups; and
- » ensure that the facilities are of a high standard in keeping with their regional importance.

Management issues

The main issue for Council in terms of managing regional assets is catering to unmet demand and growth in the Campania, Kempton, and Bagdad areas. The existing regional assets in Oatlands are in good condition, however the building assets at the Oatlands Recreation Ground require upgrading to an acceptable standard. Chauncy Vale in the south needs a toilet upgrade but is otherwise in good condition.

Feedback from peak sporting bodies highlighted the lack of regional quality sports facilities across the municipality. There are no facilities for netball, basketball, or soccer in the municipality at either local or regional standard. Facilities for female participation in sport are sorely lacking and youth sports are underserved. While competition netball and soccer facilities are not necessarily expensive, competition basketball requires an indoor court with a sprung floor and some minimum space and scoring requirements. Development of basketball facilities will need to be seen as a regional asset, whereas junior netball, soccer and AFL can be advanced at a local level.

Some assets with regional potential are community owned. This means that their planning and management may not align with the interests of Council and the wider community.

Management strategies

The management of Regional Assets should focus on maintaining and enhancing the role of these key assets for a range of uses including sports, recreation, sociocultural values, health and wellbeing, and tourism. The identification of Regional Assets allows for strategic investment in key assets rather than spreading resources across many poor quality facilities.

An important part of the strategy is strengthening relationships with schools to upgrade their infrastructure. Schools are key hubs for community engagement. The state government's investment in a dedicated team of Sport Community Liaison Coordinators points the way for investment in schools across Tasmania, including the Southern Midlands.

Strategic investment should also occur through major funding for one or more of the southern recreation grounds. There is a clear need for a reorganisation and investment in the Bagdad Recreation Precinct. It already has a range of facilities including a community hall (currently leased to a private business), childcare, a community park, tennis court, a golf course, and public toilets. It hosts the Bagdad Cricket Club. Local population growth and proximity to two primary schools (Bagdad and Kempton) add to the range of factors that make a strong case for investment in facilities at Bagdad.

Table 6.2. Rationale, management actions, responsibility and priority for Regional assets

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
1	A key part of sharing regional assets involves good communication between parties and stakeholders, and good programming practices.	<p>Visionary Direction: Improve and maintain strong communication and liaisons with owners and users of facilities to establish effective programs of shared-use to meet growing demand and unmet needs.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigate operational processes/mechanisms for improving and maintaining effective collaboration and co-operation between groups and stakeholders on a more formal basis. 	Council	High
2	The Bagdad Recreation Precinct is community owned and has major potential to meet open space, sport and recreation demand for Bagdad's fast growing population. The precinct is a well-planned community asset that provides facilities for a wide range of activities, whilst sharing parking, club facilities, toilets, and change rooms. The <i>Bagdad Community Club Master Plan 2022</i> was developed in response to management actions set out in the 2006 Recreational Plan and in response to demand for upgrading and developing this space to meet fast growing need for a community hub.	<p>Visionary Direction: Development of the Bagdad Recreation Precinct as a community hub incorporating multiple sport, recreation and social uses.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Invest in detailed design and costing of the elements of the <i>Bagdad Community Club Master Plan 2022</i> ready for funding applications (this process has already been initiated by Council). » Discuss long term ownership and management of the Bagdad Recreational Precinct property. 	Council Bagdad Community Club Inc	High
3	Partnerships that facilitate shared-use of facilities and services are being established to strengthen provision, efficiency, and reduce infrastructure and servicing costs. Bagdad Primary School may have facilities, such as meeting rooms, that can be shared with the community to meet acute community demand.	<p>Visionary Direction: Establish partnerships with schools to centralise facilities.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Discuss community access to school facilities to meet acute community sporting infrastructure needs in Bagdad. 	Council DECYP/ Bagdad Primary school	High Ongoing

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
4	The Oatlands Recreation Ground has multiple users, it is currently used by: the Oatlands Football Club, the Oatlands community for dog walking and exercise, and is an emergency evacuation area. The ground and facilities have potential for increased shared-use at a regional capacity. The site has adequate facilities at present, but upgrades are required to meet requirements for a growing user base and female participation and to enhance capacity for shared-use. Priority upgrades include those needed to improve accessibility, health and safety, and to facilitate efficient shared-use.	<p>Visionary Direction: Further develop Oatlands recreation ground as a regional asset.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Undertake an assessment of maintenance and upgrade requirements based on latest guidelines from relevant organised sporting bodies, and latest state and national infrastructure policy. » Investigate and prepare a formal process that enables efficient shared-use of facilities by multiple groups and user types. 	Council	High
5	Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary is regionally significant as a passive recreation space for the regional population and visitors. It is owned by the Southern Midlands Council and managed by the Chauncy Vale Management Committee.	<p>Visionary Direction: Continue to improve and upgrade community infrastructure based on identified need, priority and stakeholder consultation with an outlook for enhanced passive and active recreation opportunities and tourism.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review and update the <i>Chauncy Vale Management Plan 2010</i> that is due for a full review and assess requirements for upgrades and opportunities further opportunities to enhance visitor experience. 	Council Chauncy Vale Management Committee	Medium Ongoing
6	<p>Oatlands is regionally important and seeing significant economic activity as a result of successful tourism ventures. Implementation of the <i>Oatlands Structure Plan 2021</i> is part of ongoing work to support the community and pursue further development opportunities.</p> <p>In response to 2006 action plan targets, Council developed Callington Park as a Destination Playground that is very popular among tourists and the regional community. Lake Dulverton Sanctuary is regionally significant as an open leisure and recreation space that supports a range of activities including walking, fishing and birdwatching.</p>	<p>Visionary Direction: Continue to improve and upgrade community infrastructure based on identified need, priority and stakeholder consultation with an outlook for enhanced passive and active recreation opportunities and tourism.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review the <i>Oatlands Structure Plan 2021</i> for community infrastructure priorities and development opportunities. » Update <i>Lake Dulverton Management Plan 2002</i> to review management objectives and identify whether there might be potential for increased recreational use that is consistent with conservation objectives. 	Council Callington Park Committee/ Lake Dulverton Management Committee	Medium Ongoing

6.2 Community Parks

Characteristics

Community parks are the primary parks catering for informal recreational activities. They form a patchwork of open spaces within the municipality but tend to be too distant from each other to be connected (Figure 6.2). They typically include play equipment, seating, lawn, parking, and in some cases picnic and barbeque facilities. There are small parks associated with most Community Buildings, so this category of Community parks needs to be read alongside Community Building for a complete picture of the network of local parks in the municipality. The objectives, issues and management remain the same whether the park stands alone or is next to a Community Building.

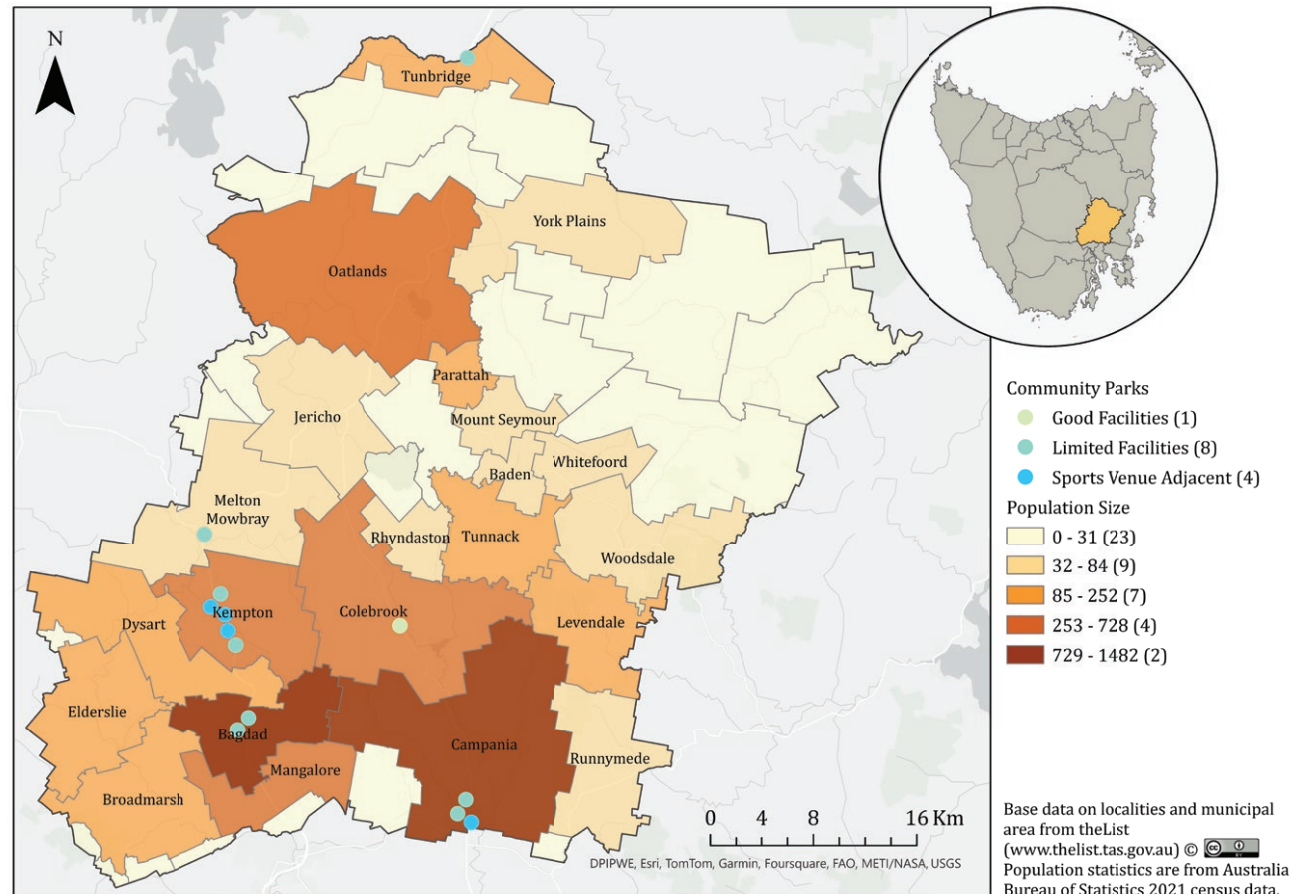


Figure 6.2 Community parks in Southern Midlands according to level of service.

Areas designated Community parks include all the local parks within a local catchment (Table 6.3). Local catchment means within walking, biking, or short driving distance of homes. They serve as regularly used open spaces for play, socialising and relaxing. Some of the Community parks in the Southern Midlands are also used as an overnight stay for recreational vehicles. Therefore, some Community parks, such as Kempton, play a tourism role as well as serving the local community.

Management Objectives

The management objectives of Community parks are to:

- » provide active and passive recreation opportunities to the local community;
- » contribute to the overall amenity of the municipality for both residents and visitors;
- » ensure a high standard of design, safety and maintenance of the facilities;
- » connect the park to other open spaces via recreational paths where possible; and
- » promote higher community awareness and use of the parks and associated facilities.

Table 6.3. Hierarchy of park facilities in Community parks and associated with Community halls

HIERARCHY	COUNCIL-OWNED VENUES	NON-COUNCIL VENUES
Small facilities serving immediate area	Alexander Circle Park (Campania) Iden Park (Bagdad) Lyndon Road Park (Bagdad) Kempton Northern Entrance Park Melton Mowbray Park Memorial Avenue Park (Kempton) Woodsdale Community Hall park	Former Levendale Primary School (part of; pending transfer of land) Tunbridge Park
Small facilities co-located with recreation ground or other venue	Justitia Court Park (Campania) Station Park (Kempton), Oatlands Recreation Ground, Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground	
Central facility providing multiple services	Flour Mill Park (Campania) Bagdad Recreation Precinct Kempton Recreation Ground (inc Dog Park, Skate Park) Colebrook Park	

Management Issues

There are many small parks in the municipality, including the entrance parks north and south of Kempton and pocket parks in subdivisions, such as Lyndon Road Park in Bagdad and Alexander Circle Park in Campania (Table 6.4).

Table 6.4. Hierarchy of park facilities in Community parks and associated with Community

LEVEL OF SERVICE	VENUES
Limited facilities in the park – typically car parking and play equipment, shelter; usually lacking adequate shade	Alexander Circle Park (Campania), Campania Flour Mill Park, Iden Park (Bagdad), Lyndon Road Park (Bagdad), former Levendale Primary School (part of; pending transfer of land), Melton Mowbray Park, Memorial Avenue Park (Kempton), Kempton Northern Entrance Park, Tunbridge Park, Woodsdale Community Hall park
Good facilities in the park – mostly augmented by co-location with sports venue that has toilets and rubbish bins	Bagdad Recreation Precinct, Colebrook Park, Justitia Court Park (Campania), Station Park (Kempton), Kempton Dog Park, Kempton Skate Park
High quality facilities in the park including shelter, walking tracks, seating, interpretation and existing or planned landscaping	See Regional Asset category

There are many small parks in the municipality that have a similar type of equipment catering to young children. The audit and community feedback showed that many parks: lack adequate shade; have playgrounds that are not appealing for repeat visits, frequent use or different age groups; and, lack facilities and amenities that cater to different outdoor, recreational uses by families and social groups, including family functions and dog walking.

Some of the pocket parks in residential areas are visually unappealing in part because of the lack of shade trees. Lyndon Road Park in Bagdad and Alexander Circle Park in Campania are both examples of this type. In some cases, trees have been planted, but they are either not near playgrounds or still immature. Unless trees are planted in good conditions, they may never achieve their potential to provide shade. While planting trees is relatively easy, growing high quality shade canopy is not and requires good growing conditions and formative pruning.

Some of the parks are close to the main road through the town but lack fencing. Examples include Woodsdale Community Hall park and Flour Mill park that is adjacent to the Campania Community Hall.

Management Strategies

The management of Community parks should focus on their potential to be developed and managed as the primary park within the town. Community parks cater for local needs and may also provide an attraction for visitor use. They may be connected, or have the potential to be connected, via shared recreational paths or linkways.

A wider range of Community park facilities could be provided by changing the focus of some parks to cater to older children or appeal more widely across age groups. Play equipment has changed markedly in the past 10 years with more nature play and exploration rather than equipment that is designed to be used in a particular way.

Few of the parks provide facilities that appeal to older children and teens. Community parks that are adjacent to recreation grounds have good access to open space and facilities for AFL and, occasionally, cricket. As opportunities arise to upgrade facilities, it would be worth investigating the feasibility of including play facilities like a cantilever swing, such as proven popular at Campania District School, or netball/basketball half court facilities. There are some opportunities to provide additional facilities without significant and unsustainable costs. The following section provides some more detailed management strategies to address gaps in Community park facilities.

Upgraded equipment at locations such as Campania and Bagdad would provide more reason for visitors to stop as well as catering to a wider section of the population. With several changes to Campania since the 2015 structure plan, more detailed planning work would be useful to decide how Flour Mill Park could be refreshed. This should include consideration of the bike pump track, the old tennis court and fencing. Fencing should be considered as part of upgrades for some Community parks. For example, fencing should be considered as part of a redesign and upgrade of Flour Mill Park, Campania. This location is co-owned by the state government and could work harder for the school, local community, and visitors. Woodsdale is another location where fencing should be considered for the playground given the proximity to the main road and car parking.

Levendale also has a tennis and netball court in poor condition. It was attached to the school so ownership of this land and the old school playground would need to be transferred to council for community access to occur. With few other community facilities nearby, investigating the costs involved would be a good first step.

Colebrook Park has catered to netball and basketball in the past, but the hoops are in poor condition. The demand is possibly too low to consider re-installing hoops at this location, but it could be investigated as a relatively low-cost option to provide centrally located facilities for older children. The Colebrook recreation ground

is not readily accessible to central Colebrook without a car and the ground itself is in poor condition. The AFL facilities do not meet basic safety measures. Should these sub-par facilities at the recreation ground be decommissioned, investment in the excellent community hub at Colebrook Park is an option.

Shade trees need to be provided in all parks. Increasing summer temperatures are making good quality canopy highly desirable across both urban and regional local government areas. Both urban and rural councils increasingly have tree strategies to plan for increases in tree canopy in locations where they are most needed. These locations include public seating, bus stops, schools as well as near community buildings and parks.

Table 6.5. Management actions, responsibility and priority for Community parks

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
7	Several issues were identified with respect to current design and diversity of community parks, including outdated play equipment, and lack of parks that cater to different age groups. Providing a diverse range of play spaces that engage both young children and youth age groups is vital to enhancing the development of young peoples and improving their quality of life. Moreover, availability of community parks that provide diverse options such as nature play, or skating, will contribute to the amenity and experience of the entire Municipality.	<p>Visionary Direction: Develop and maintain community parks that provide a wide range of informal play spaces and appeal to different age groups.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review and update the <i>Play Space Strategy 2012</i> based on new trends and developments related to play space design. » Review other master plans, including the <i>Bagdad Community Club Master Plan 2022</i>, and <i>Campania Structure Plan 2015</i> for capacity to provide improved play spaces to a wide range of age groups. » Undertake assessments of community park facilities to identify needs and priorities for upgrades and maintenance. 	Council	High Ongoing
8	Some small facilities parks, such as Iden Park, that service the local area are used very little, or not at all, by the community. Sale or repurposing of these spaces towards other open space, sport and recreation investments will be a better use of Council funds.	<p>Visionary Direction: Investigate potential for Council to sell some land blocks with funds being used to support Community infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigate the sale of public land with respect to Iden Park in association with a replacement facility being provided as part of the Bagdad Community Club Master Plan. 	Council	High

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
9	Adapting to Climate Change requires increased provision of shade and rest points (i.e. seating) across open space and recreation areas. Planning for shade needs consider the type of species that are most efficient in generating required needs and benefits, as well as species that are most cost-effective in terms of maintenance.	<p>Visionary Direction: Provide adequate shade and seating in designated open space sporting and recreation sites.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Undertake an assessment of community open space sites to identify needs and priorities for shade and seating provision. » Develop a tree strategy for the municipality that guides species sourcing, selection, planting requirements, formative pruning and replacement /vandalism protocols. 	Council	Medium Ongoing
10	The existing planning documents for some localities contain key directions for the area and can be updated to take into account changes to recreation and community infrastructure needs and demands with respect to community parks.	<p>Visionary Direction: Continue to improve and upgrade community parks to meet current and future needs.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Update the <i>Campania Structure Plan 2015</i> to consider new subdivision, community feedback, updated demographic information, and other changes since 2015. This will include a review of Flour Mill Park. 	Council Associated community and private managers	Medium Ongoing
11	Woodsdale Community Hall is used by the local community for social and community events. The site includes a playground area. Safety issues were identified requiring fencing of the area during community consultation.	<p>Visionary Direction: Continue to improve and upgrade community parks to meet current and future needs.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Request quote for fencing Woodsdale Hall playground 	Council	Medium

6.3 Community Halls

Characteristics

Community halls encompass the fourteen Community halls across the municipality as well as another seven community spaces, such as the online access centre at Colebrook and the Midlands Memorial Community Centre (Oatlands Bargain Centre) next to the Oatlands Aquatic Centre (Figure 6.3). Included in this category are nine heritage buildings, eight of which are in the main township of Oatlands and one at Kempton. While heritage buildings have their own issues, management, and staffing in the Southern Midlands Council (Table 6.6). Heritage buildings include Kempton Council Chambers, Roche Hall, Artist in Residence (79 High St Oatlands), Supreme Court, Gaolers Residence, Commissariat, Cottage, Oatlands Council Chambers, and the Old Oatlands Pool.

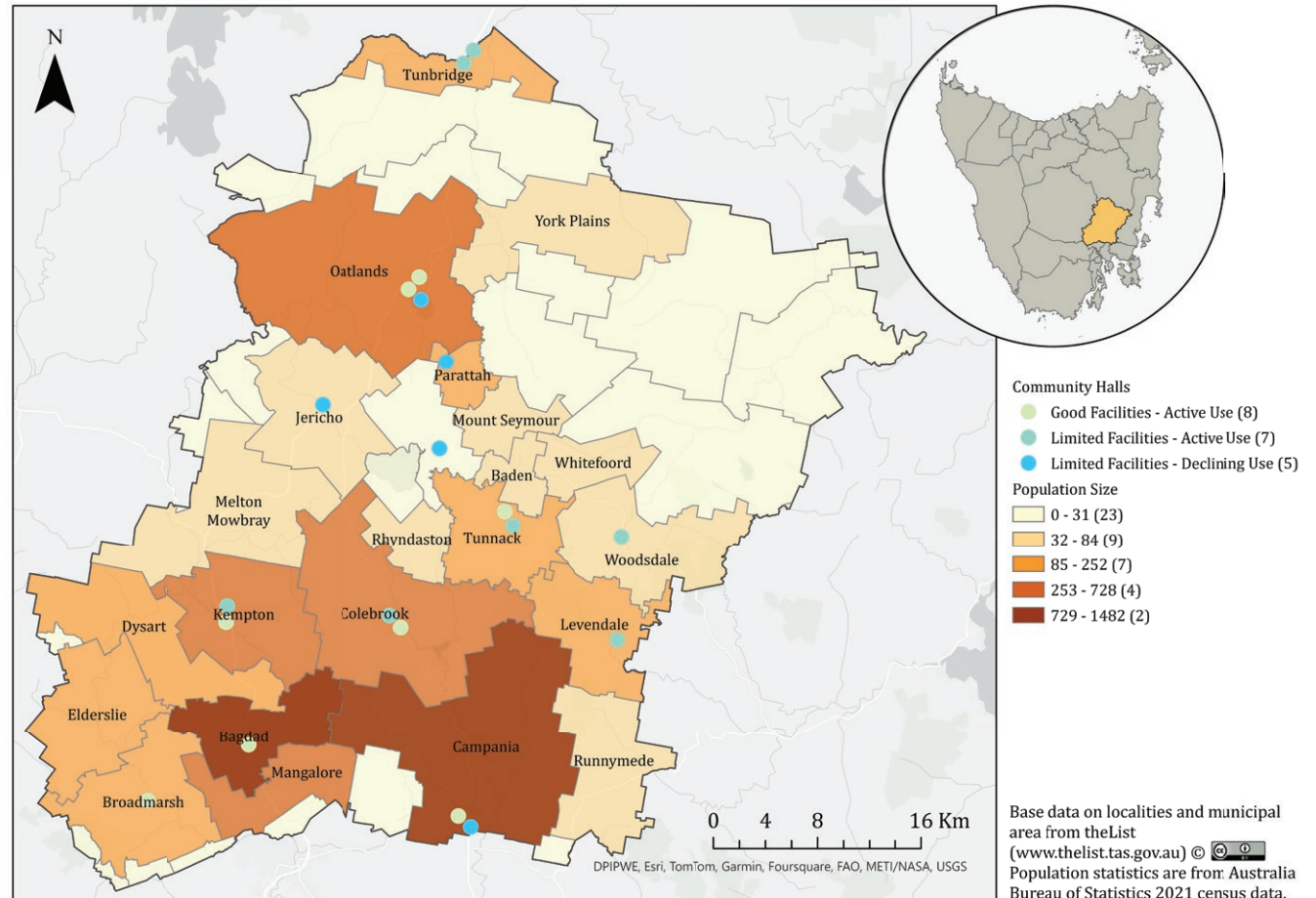


Figure 6.3 Community halls and other buildings categorised by level of facilities provided

Table 6.6. Categories of facilities at Community Halls and other community buildings

HIERARCHY	COUNCIL-OWNED VENUES	NON-COUNCIL VENUES
Local facility	Campania War Memorial Hall Oatlands Radio Station/Meeting Rooms Online Access Centre (Colebrook)	Broadmarsh Hall Jericho Hall (this Hall is used by the Jericho Volunteer Fire Brigade as their home as well as being a Community Hall) Jubilee Hall (Parattah) Levendale Community Hall Stonor Hall Tunbridge Hall Tunbridge Community Club Victoria Memorial Hall (Tunnack) Tunnack Community Club Woodsdale Community Hall
Intermediate	Campania Community Hall Colebrook Memorial Hall Midlands Memorial Community Centre (Oatlands) Oatlands Community Hall Victoria Memorial Hall (Kempton)	Oatlands Ex Services & Community Club (which incorporates the Bowls Club)
Potential regional venue – co-located with a range of other facilities		Bagdad Recreation Precinct

Management objectives

The management objectives of Community halls are to:

- » provide a multi-function community meeting and event space;
- » ensure a high standard of safety and maintenance of the facilities; and
- » promote higher community awareness and use of the halls and other community spaces.

Management issues

The management of Community halls should focus on their role as the primary community venue in the area (Table 6.7). Community halls cater for local needs and may also provide an attraction for visitor use in the case of events. The aim is to provide high quality facilities that are appropriately designed for the size of the catchment, safe use and that keep maintenance costs at a sustainable level.

The large number of aging halls across the municipality provides a challenge for Council in terms of sustainability and allocating resources. Some community halls are well supported by an active committee who can fund raise to improve the facilities. Others are struggling for volunteers, have low usage and are reliant on Council to cover costs of emergency works and ongoing management.

Table 6.7. Categories of facilities at Community halls and other community buildings

LEVEL OF SERVICE	VENUES
Limited facilities, declining or no use	Alexander Circle Park (Campania), Iden Park (Bagdad), Lyndon Road Park (Bagdad), former Levendale Primary School (part of; pending transfer of land), Melton Mowbray Park, Memorial Avenue Park (Kempton), Kempton Northern Entrance Park, Tunbridge Park, Woodsdale Community Hall park
Limited facilities, active use	Bagdad Recreation Precinct, Campana Flour Mill Park, Colebrook Park, Justitia Court Park (Campania), Station Park (Kempton), Kempton Dog Park, Kempton Skate Park
Good facilities, active use	See Regional Asset category

There is a delicate balance between supporting the totemic rural community hall and the financial liability of aging buildings. Community halls were once the hub of the local community in every Australia country town and hamlet. Many halls are supported by the same families over generations and have symbolic value as a place of community resilience and stories. However, halls are struggling to stay open because of rising utility prices, rates, and public liability costs. Access to motor vehicles has given people the freedom to travel beyond their local community and demoted the role of the community hall.

Issues and management of heritage buildings are not dealt with in this plan, suffice to mention that the existing heritage buildings are being well managed. The key access system in Oatlands that allows self-guided access appear to be working well. The iconic value of heritage buildings in the Southern Midlands has permitted separate staffing and strategies to support ongoing improvements.

Management strategies

There is no doubt that community halls are on the decline across Australia. Local government faces a significant challenge for the halls in their ownership in terms of balancing the need to centralise resources into fewer, higher quality, well serviced buildings, and the emotional and physical loss felt by communities when halls are decommissioned.

Given the rising costs associated with halls that meet health and safety standards, Council has little choice but to rationalise resources. Improvements in areas of growing population are a higher priority over maintaining remote, aging halls that are not well used (Table 6.7). The main safety net for towns wanting to retain their community hall is an active hall management committee that can foster positive relationships with Council and effectively fund raise. The large costs associated with capital works means that grant applications to state and federal schemes as well as industry sources will be needed. Council has considerable grant application capacity that the community can tap into to increase their chances of success.

Table 6.8. Management actions, responsibility and priority for Community halls and other community buildings

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
12	The municipality has many dedicated community halls that are council owned. Continuing from actions identified in the 2006 Recreation Plan and prior, Council owned halls receive continued support, with 50% Public Liability insurance. Further, to support community-owned halls, Council offers a sum of \$5,000 for significant upgrades, available every 6 years. Council also provides assistance with grant applications to support activities of clubs and groups, including to hall committees.	<p>Visionary Direction: Facilitate the improvement of management and programming skills within existing and new community groups, sporting clubs, and recreation groups through the provision of advice and co-ordination of support training services.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Further improve and continue to facilitate provision of advice and co-ordination of support training services through community organisations (such as local Progress Associations). » Promote information and resources that are available to the community through all mediums of communication used by Council, including social media and the Council website. 	Council	Medium
13	<p>Community consultation and facilities audits identified low use and declining condition of some halls. Council have been proactive in responding to issues raised by community members and have developed a framework to assess maintenance and upgrade requirements of community assets in a consistent, systematic way and within a structured budget arrangement.</p> <p>Rationalising asset maintenance and renewal and consolidation of some community halls across the municipality can reduce maintenance costs and service needs for both the community and Council. Redundant venues can be either sold or repurposed to meet other community needs. Rationalisation should consider halls that are the secondary community space in the town (such as Jubilee Hall).</p>	<p>Visionary Direction: Rationalise under-utilised assets with no strategic benefit in the long-term to secure efficient and effective use of Council resources and meet current and future community needs.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop a benchmark for maintenance and renewal of council owned community halls and other community assets. Benchmark should incorporate assessment of running costs, use levels and building condition. This would help identify and prioritise maintenance and renewal programs for council owned assets based on performance. » Implement the framework developed to systematically assess maintenance needs of community halls. » Consult with communities about rationalisation of assets based on the identified asset management benchmarks in order to provide fewer halls with a good standard of facilities and be able to cater to multiple uses. » In the case of halls covered by master or structure plans, a review can occur as plans are updated (such as Campania) 	Council	Medium Ongoing

6.4 Sports Venues

Characteristics

Sports Venues make a major contribution to the recreation opportunities in the Southern Midlands (Figure 6.4). Sports Venues include outdoor and indoor sites and are generally designed for formal competitive sporting activities. They frequently accommodate non-competitive recreation activities such as informal training and recreation. Sports Venues usually have toilets, changerooms, clubrooms, scoring facilities, and parking at a minimum. Kiosks or bars are highly desirable for their contribution to the financial sustainability of sporting clubs as well as their capacity to cater at matches and events.

Sports Venues facilities need to consider spectators as well as participants. They usually host other cultural and community events, such as fairs, family picnics and reunions, other social events such as weddings, dances, and birthday celebrations. Sports venues can bring important economic and entertainment benefits to a community.

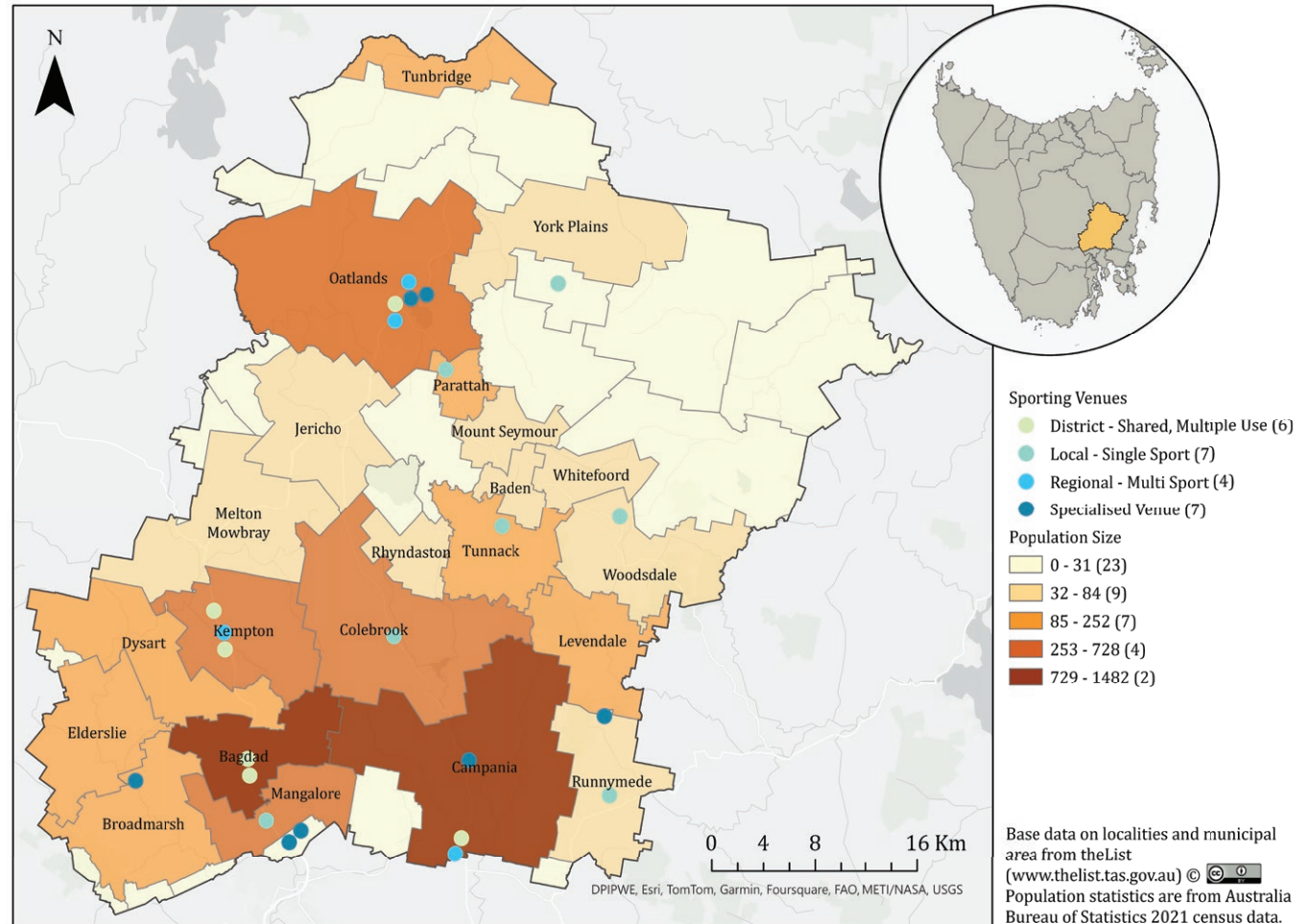


Figure 6.4. Locations of Sports Venues by type

Sports Venues are often a vital part of the fabric of communities and provide a clear social return on investment. In addition to clear physical and mental health benefits, sports facilities can enhance subjective wellbeing measures including life satisfaction and happiness and improve pro-social behaviour.

Most of the sports venues are Council-owned (Table 6.9), including all of the facilities classified as local and regional. It is only the specialised venues and schools that are not Council-owned.

Table 6.9. Summary of facilities in Sports Venues

HIERARCHY	COUNCIL-OWNED VENUES	NON-COUNCIL OWNED
Local	Colebrook Recreation Ground, Mt Pleasant Recreation Ground, Parattah Recreation Ground, Runnymede Recreation Ground, Kempton Recreation Ground, Tunnack Recreation Ground, Woodsdale Recreation Ground	Levendale Cricket Ground
Specialised venue	Mangalore Recreation Ground	Mood Food Kempton, Bagdad Primary School, Campania District School, Kempton Primary School, Oatlands District School, Colebrook Golf Club Inc, Elderslie Golf Club Inc, Oatlands Golf Club, Hobart Clay Target Club Inc, Tas Pistol & Rifle Club Inc, Bagdad Field and Game Inc; Sporting Shooters Assn of Australia, Tasmania, Oatlands Bowls Club
Regional		Bagdad Recreation Precinct

Management objectives

Management objectives for sports venues are to:

- » provide a range of quality, safe venues, facilities and services;
- » support an appropriate diversity of competitive and informal sports, spectator and other uses;
- » ensure equity of access to venues by sporting and other groups in the community;
- » cater for local and regional sporting needs;
- » optimise the use of non-municipal sports venues; and
- » improve the visual amenity of the surroundings.

Management issues

One of the main issues around Sports Venues in the Southern Midlands is the current focus on senior men's competitive sport. Changing demographics means that there is an increasing need to cater to older and youth populations. Sports venues will need to better include all abilities and genders. Peak sporting bodies in Tasmania are actively targeting increases in female participation in all major sports including AFL, soccer, netball, and cricket. This follows national trends and increases in popularity of women's sport following the success of national AFL and soccer teams in recent years.

Some community groups said while there was a clear need for upgrading facilities, they lacked resources and knowledge about sources of assistance other than Council.

Southern Midlands has a large number of small parks, community halls and recreation grounds that are expensive to maintain. Many are aging and not meeting expectations in terms of level of service. Growth areas in the south and regional assets require substantial investments over the next 5-10 years to meet the required levels of service. Consequently, some difficult decisions need to be made to centralise resources. Investment in Sports Venues needs to look beyond the immediate needs to trends at a state and national levels.

Sports venues should meet current health and safety standards and follow the guidelines set forth by relevant sporting bodies. Facility owners are held responsible for the safety of users. Failure to do so puts the peak body and owner at risk. This was clearly demonstrated in a 2017 case where a junior footballer in suburban Melbourne was awarded \$589,525 after injuring his knee because a perimeter fence was around 30cm short of the regulation 3m from the boundary. The football club and league were required to pay 60 per cent of the damages and the council 40 per cent¹.

Many local grounds do not meet minimum standards set out by the preferred guidelines of the sporting codes. The *Building Act 2016* provides any new work done on an existing building needs to comply with current requirements (*Building Act 2016*, *Building Regulations 2016* and National Construction Code) when the work is undertaken. However, there is no obligation to upgrade the remainder of the building to be consistent with the new work. Furthermore, the Building Act provides that if building work on an existing building over a 3 year period comprises more than half of the building's original volume, then the entire building needs to be upgraded to comply with current laws.

¹ The Age. <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/junior-footballer-gets-589525-for-knee-wiped-out-after-fall-onto-steel-fence-20161021-gs7wnw.html> Viewed 5 January, 2024

Management strategies

The management of Sports Venues depends on their role and catchment. Local facilities cater for local needs whereas regional venues cater to a large catchment and multiple codes and cohorts, including female and youth participation. Schools should be a focus for upgrading sports facilities, particularly considering the recent investment by the state government in facilitating community access to school facilities. Better promotion of school facilities and coordination/programming with DECYP and the school would likely result in higher levels of use and support for the school to continue upgrading its infrastructure.

Campania District School provides some high-quality community facilities that are available to the public outside school hours. Campana Recreation Ground has good facilities for cricket and AFL and is a short distance away from the school. Consideration could be given to making the public aware that school facilities are available to the public. While Campana does not have tennis courts, the Richmond Tennis Courts were upgraded recently and are not far from Campana.

Bagdad is becoming increasingly important as a community and competition hub. Achieving the Bagdad Community Club Master Plan 2022 is a high priority for Council. Basketball, netball, and tennis facilities at Bagdad as part of the proposal contained in the 2022 Master Plan

would significantly boost the capacity of these sports to cater to a range of athletes, including juniors and females.

Public-private partnerships need to be considered given the large investments in capital costs. Private facilities have been installed at the petrol station just north of Kempton associated with the Mood Food enterprise. There is provision for netball, basketball, and AFL as well as a dog exercise area. There is a substantial financial investment in the sports facilities as well as the internal roads and car parking associated with these private facilities, suggesting that investment in sports facilities represents a significant attraction to visitors.

Programming of sporting events and activities will be part of the solution for more intensive use of fewer venues. Ensuring a diverse range of events, sports and groups are considered helps maximise venue use and attract broader audiences. More intensive use of fewer venues also helps with resource and environmental sustainability, risk management, and overall compliance with safety and building codes.

Upgrading of Encouraging engagement and volunteering is a means for Council to help community groups help themselves. Being aware of the options for funding and assisting with grant applications helps build community capacity and opens funding opportunities that may not be available to local government alone.

Table 6.10. Summary of level of service of sports venues in Council ownership. Standards means the latest facility and infrastructure guidelines established by governing sporting bodies such as the AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines 2024.

LEVEL OF SERVICE	VENUES
Local venue - single sport, small catchment, capacity to meet training or school standards	Colebrook Recreation Ground, Mt Pleasant Recreation Ground, Parattah Recreation Ground, Runnymede Recreation Ground, Tunnack Recreation Ground, Woodsdale Recreation Ground
Intermediate – intermediate catchment, catering for more than one club, capacity to meet local standards	Kempton Recreation Ground, Mangalore Recreation Ground
Regional venue - multiple sports, multiple clubs, capacity to meet regional standards	Campania Recreation Ground, Oatlands Recreation Ground

Council needs to be strategic about the level of service provided at recreation grounds for AFL competition. All grounds in the municipality are Council-owned and vary widely in their level of service (Table 6.10). The level of service provided should give priority to the designated role of the venue (e.g. Runnymede is a cricket ground, and Mt Pleasant is a cricket and football ground), catchment size, and capacity for shared and multiple-use (Table 6.10).

Oatlands should be the focus of investment as the regional hub and location of the ODFA grand final. Consolidation of community infrastructure in Oatlands and in the growth areas of the municipality is needed. Some recreational grounds are under-used or in poor condition and should be sold in order to concentrate resources on fewer, central recreational grounds.

Kempton currently caters to two football clubs and is a more central location than Colebrook and Woodsdale. There are issues with Kempton Recreation Ground in meeting all the recommended levels of a national standard because the ground itself is not level. However, it remains important because of its location near the highway and in a growth area.

The Colebrook Recreation Ground is underutilised and is expensive to maintain. Current trends suggest that cricket or football are not likely to be played in Colebrook. The option of selling some or all of the 6.07ha Colebrook Recreation Ground should be

considered, including the adjoining property which is sometimes referred to as the bike track. The proceeds of the sale should be reinvested in the Colebrook Memorial Hall to meet current health and safety standards, and the Colebrook Park to provide an improved level of community infrastructure.

The Woodsdale Recreation Ground is in poor condition and will require a major capital investment to meet current health and safety standards. This investment cannot be justified for a single sports venue in a regional location. AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines suggests that Woodsdale is not meeting any of the recommended standards, including as a training ground. The poor quality of facilities at Woodsdale are a significant issue for Council considering the Victorian court case in which Bayside Council was liable for \$235,810 in damages because the ground failed to meet AFL guidelines.

Woodsdale is currently playing competition at Kempton, but this is not meeting club expectations in terms of sport or social facilities. Consideration should be given to providing a quality venue for Woodsdale Football Club at Oatlands Recreation Ground. This would need to include a bar and kiosk to help sustain the club financially and socially. While this may not be ideal for the club given their wish to upgrade their own facilities at the Woodsdale Recreation Ground, the advice from Council's insurer is that the facilities would require very significant investment.

Upgrading Woodsdale's facilities does not fit the hierarchy of recreation planning where the largest support needs to go to multi-use, multi-sport regional facilities. The location and characteristics of this property do not suit use as a community hub or as an evacuation centre. The single steep entry and proximity to fire-prone forest do not fit with the Tasmanian Fire Service's requirements for an evacuation centre. There are many competing priorities within the municipal area and investment needs to focus on infrastructure that caters for a multitude of activities.

Any proceeds from the sale of Woodsdale Recreation Ground property should be invested in a Community Hall upgrade. An upgrade might include the acquisition of some adjoining land to provide additional community infrastructure, such as a dedicated car parking area at the rear, an expanded playground, and upgraded barbecue facilities.

Influenced by past discussions with the Woodsdale Football Club, Council identified an additional option for the property. As an alternative to the sale of the Woodsdale Recreation Ground, Council might consider the option of transferring ownership of the ground to the Woodsdale Football Club. The advantage for Council is that it would no longer be liable for activities and condition of the ground. The disadvantage to the wider community is the loss of income from the sale the ground that might be used to upgrade the hall.

Table 6.11. Management actions, responsibility, and priority for Sports Venues

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
14	Efficient use of school facilities is a state government priority to support students, carers and the wider community. There is a lack of knowledge about existing facilities, or collaboration and shared-use, and a need to centralise facilities in the Southern Midlands.	<p>Visionary Direction: Establish partnerships with schools and seek greater access and/or maintain current access to sports and recreation facilities at schools.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Collaborate with DECYP School Liaison Coordinators about upgrades to school facilities as a means of improving these community hubs. 	Council	High
15	<p>Bagdad, Kempton, Campania and Oatlands are key growth areas in the Southern Midlands. There is a growing trend in female participation, and strategic action being taken across many sporting bodies to support youth and female participation.</p> <p>Improvements to existing facilities in growth areas, including improving capacity to support youth and female participation will help Southern Midlands meet current and future demands.</p>	<p>Visionary Direction: Provide equitable access and use of sport and recreation facilities based on identified need, priority and consultation with stakeholders and sporting groups.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigate funding in upgrades to Oatlands, Campania, and Kempton. See also Ref No 2 for overhaul of Bagdad sports facilities 	Council	High Ongoing
16	Council resources are spread too thin to respond to needs for upgrading facilities. More intensive use of fewer venues will help resource and environmental sustainability, risk management, and overall compliance with safety and building codes. Sale of sporting venues that are underutilised, have limited capacity to function as a regional and multiple use venue, and are costly to maintain should be considered.	<p>Visionary Direction: Rationalise under-utilised assets with no strategic benefit in the long-term to secure efficient and effective use of Council resources and meet current and future community needs.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigate and consider the option of selling the Colebrook Recreation Ground (or part thereof). See also Ref No 13 for rationalisation of assets. » Consider the options of selling the Woodsdale Recreation Ground or transferring the property to the Woodsdale Football Club. See also Ref No 13 for rationalisation of assets. 	Council	High

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
17	Community consultation found that many of the local sports clubs and recreation groups are under-equipped to fund upgrades to facilities.	<p>Visionary Direction: Facilitate the improvement of management and programming skills within existing and new community groups, sporting clubs, and recreation groups through the provision of advice and co-ordination of support training services.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Advertise Council assistance to identify appropriate funding sources and in the preparation of grant applications. 	Council	High Ongoing
18	Community consultation also identified community members had limited knowledge of available public facilities leading to inefficient and low use of community infrastructure and facilities.	<p>Visionary Direction: Facilitate increased use and promote open space, sport and recreation facilities available to the community.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Liaise with peak sporting and community groups for effective programming to promote available facilities and services to the community, and to enhance shared-use. 	Council	Medium Ongoing

6.5 Linkways

Characteristics

Linkways are purpose-built walking tracks, unmade roads, and footpaths that create a network of walking and cycling links within and between localities in the Southern Midlands. Linkways provide an opportunity for residents and tourists for passive transport and recreation.

Linkways may incorporate native vegetation and add to the natural and cultural values of the municipality. Walking tracks in natural areas that do not connect localities are not considered linkages for the purposes of this plan. Linkways are designed to be relatively easy to use and not as physically demanding recreation opportunities.

Linkways should have good quality surfaces, accessibility for all ages, some shade, pleasant surroundings, and directional signage. High quality linkways may also have lighting for safety, seating, and lookouts.

The Oatlands-Parattah Walking Path is a purpose-built walking track which provides a high quality surface and the section near Oatlands has a variety of facilities including interpretation, directional signage, seating and pleasant surroundings.

The Midland Highway walking path between Iden Drive and Roberts Road is well used and should be extended further south to the Mangalore Recreation Ground and possibly to the boundary of the municipal boundary at Pontville.

A number of desired linkways were mentioned in community consultation and noted during the facilities audit, including a proposed walking track from Kempton to Mood Food.

Given the growing trend in popularity for passive and informal recreation activities such as walking and cycling across Australia and in the Southern Midlands, Council should seriously consider development of linkways that are strategically located within the municipality.

Management objectives

Linkways should:

- » provide safe and relatively easy access between locations for people on foot, bicycle or horse;
- » be accessible for use by all age groups and ability levels including provision of comfort by way of shade and seating along routes;
- » enhance and assist people in appreciating the cultural, Aboriginal and historical, and environmental values of the municipality by way of educational and informational signage;
- » enable long distance walking and cycling

connecting localities or connect residential, recreational or commercial features within a locality; and

- » consider changing climate conditions and associated requirements, including maintenance, and adequate provision of shade and seating, as well as implementing a strategy for the selection of appropriate (climate-friendly) tree species.

Management issues

Community feedback demonstrated a desire for more opportunities for walking and cycling. Some of the requests were for more recreational walking tracks, including those that are physically demanding that might appeal to locals and visitors alike. Some were requests for safer, easier access for locals to move around with prams and other wheeled vehicles without needing a car. The Department of Health and Active Tasmania both emphasised the importance of long-term planning to tackle the heavy reliance of regional communities on cars as the main means of transport. The appointment of the DECYP school liaison coordinators is designed to increase sustained physical activity among students, families and the community. Any facilities that help building effective connections within towns (particularly those that connect schools) will strongly align with multiple state and federal imperatives around building in physical activity to daily movement.

Mountain biking has become popular in the state with both Derby and Maydena being transformed from quiet hamlets into major tourist destinations. It would be useful for Council to come to a position with respect of capacity and interest in catering to off-road mountain and road bike tourism. This might be formalising tracks that are currently being used by community members. Desirable locations include old railway lines, picturesque pathways beside existing public and private roads, routes along rivulets, and walking tracks around recreational grounds.

Management strategies

Linkways are an important part of the open space planning of a municipality. In urban municipalities, linkways are a means of tackling traffic and car parking challenges. In rural locations, there has been less pressure to actively manage for alternatives to motor vehicle transport. However, walking is an increasingly popular physical activity for its low cost, convenience, and options for socialising.

Five km walking loops could be considered for some towns. This is the distance covered by the average walker in one hour. It is also the distance for ParkRun, which has been a major draw card for some small towns. Strategic naming of the ParkRun can result in it being targeted by people wanting to complete various ParkRun challenges. ParkRun names that start with an uncommon letter (e.g. X, Y or Z) draw

people from all over the world.

Safe walking and cycling routes from local residences are important for connecting the community with facilities. Footpaths generally provide adequate access on foot and by bicycle, although some approaches need attention to make all abilities access feel safer and easier. Key routes should be assessed for *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* compliance.

Council should continue to seek funding to establish the shared walkway/cycle path between Kempton and the Mood Food site adjacent to the Midland Highway.

Improving signage and wayfinding may be appropriate in some cases. For example, providing directions to Campania Bush Reserve from Flour Mill Park might increase resident and visitor awareness of this DDA compliant walking path.

The large distances between towns in the Southern Midlands mean that a network of off-road connecting paths is a long-term, visionary goal and may not be feasible except in a few cases. Council might consult with peak bodies, such as Bicycle Network, to leverage their expertise and support in developing and maintaining linkways within and between towns. Provision of car parking will remain important at all Community Parks.

Table 6.12. Management actions, responsibility and priority for Linkways

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
19	<p>Community consultation identified unmet needs for recreational walking, cycling, running, and informal exercise spaces across the municipality.</p> <p>Further developing pedestrian walkways and constructing linkages between community parks and other open space and recreational spaces can both provide for this demand and improve connectivity within and across localities and the municipality.</p>	<p>Visionary Direction: Development of Linkways within key growth areas.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Energetically progress the Kempton to Mood Food shared walkway/cycleway development 	Council with Mood Food management	High Ongoing
21	<p>The Coal River Nature Reserve has strong appeal given the dramatic landscape, natural bushland, river and wildlife that can be observed. Recreation trails that provide access to the reserve would add to the range of natural recreational opportunities and attractions within the municipality.</p>	<p>Visionary Direction: Further investigate the potential for developing linkways to increase community access to key natural amenities within the municipality.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigate potential for developing a walking trail, lookouts and visitor interpretation at Coal River Gorge Nature Reserve in Rhyndaston. Options may consider a short walk to viewing of the Gorge and a longer distance bushwalk along the river course. 	Council Parks and Wildlife Services	High
20	As Ref No 19	<p>Visionary Direction: Further investigate the potential for developing linkways within the Southern Midlands to enhance passive recreation opportunities in the municipality.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Review walking and cycling approaches to Community Parks and Halls to highlight opportunities to make access safer and easier. » Install directional and wayfinding signage » Investigate the extension of the Midland Highway walkway to the Mangalore Recreation Ground and then further south to the municipal boundary with Brighton » Assess the feasibility of 5km walking track loops in some village centres. 5km is ParkRun distance and takes an hour an average walking speed 	Council	Medium Ongoing

REF NO.	RATIONALE	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
22	As Ref No 19	<p>Visionary Direction: As Ref No 20</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Investigate the feasibility of developing walking/cycling trails along old railway network.» Discuss Council's position with respect to mountain bike parks and tracks.	Council	Low



Appendix

Community infrastructure ordered by location.

NAME	OWNERSHIP	ADDRESS	TYPE
Bagdad			
Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary	Council	Chauncy Vale Rd	Regional Asset
Iden Park	Council	Iden Rd	Community Park
Lyndon Road Park	Council	Lydon Rd	Community Park
Bagdad Community Club (Hub)	Private	1661 Midland Highway	Regional Asset, Sports Venues, Community Halls
Bagdad Primary School	Private	46 School Rd	Sports Venues
Midland Highway Shared Walkway	Council	Midland Highway	Linkway
Broadmarsh			
Broadmarsh Hall (BEPA) Inc.	Community	1218 Elderslie Rd	Community Halls
Campania			
Campania Bush Reserve	Council	off Water Lane	Linkways
Campania Recreation Ground	Council	30-34 Reeve St	Sports Venues, Regional Asset
Flour Mill Park	Various	53 Reeve St	Community Park
Alexander Circle Park	Council	6 Alexander Circle	Community Park
Justitia Court Park	Council	13 Justitia Crt	Community Park
Campania Community Hall	Council	45 Reeve St	Community Halls
Campania War Memorial Hall	Council	34 Reeve St	Community Halls
Campania District School	Private	2-4 Union St	Sports Venues
Colebrook			
Colebrook Recreation Ground	Council	63 Richmond St	Sports Venues
Colebrook Park	Council	14 Richmond St	Community Park
Colebrook Memorial Hall	Council	45 Richmond Rd	Community Halls
Online Access Centre	Council	22 Richmond Rd	Community Halls
Colebrook Golf Club Inc	Private	5 Bartonvale Rd	Sports Venues

NAME	OWNERSHIP	ADDRESS	TYPE
Elderslie			
Elderslie Golf Club Inc	Private	79 Andersons Rd	Sports Venues
Jericho			
Jericho Hall	Community	471 Jericho Rd	Community Halls
Kempton			
Kempton Recreation Ground	Council	130 Main St	Sports Venues
Memorial Ave Park	Council	Memorial Ave	Community Park
Station Park	Council	90 Main St	Community Park
Kempton Northern Entrance Park	Council	Main St	Community Park
Kempton Dog Park	Council	128 Main St	Community Park
Kempton Skate Park	Council	128 Main St	Community Park
Victoria Memorial Hall (Kempton)	Council	89 Main St	Community Halls
Kempton Council Chambers	Council	85 Main St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Kempton Primary School	Private	4 Old Hunting Ground Rd	Sports Venues
Mood Food Kempton	Private		Sports Venues
Proposed Kempton to Mood Food Shared Walkway	Council (leased)	Midland Highway	Linkway
Levendale			
Levendale Community Hall	Community	1333 Woodsdale Rd	Community Halls
Mangalore			
Mangalore Recreation Ground	Council	22 Blackbrush Rd	Sports Venues
Hobart Clay Target Club Inc	Private	48 Shene Rd	Sports Venues
Tas Pistol & Rifle Club Inc.	Private	30 Shene Rd	Sports Venues
Melton Mowbray			
Melton Mowbray Park	Council	14 Blackwell Rd	Community Park
Oatlands			

NAME	OWNERSHIP	ADDRESS	TYPE
Lake Dulverton Sanctuary	Council	Esplanade	Regional Asset
Oatlands Recreation Ground	Council	High St	Sports Venues
Callington Park	Council	Esplanade	Regional Asset
Oatlands Community Hall	Council	1 Gay St	Community Halls
Roche Hall	Council	73 High St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Artist in Residence	Council	79 High St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Supreme Court	Council	7 Campbell St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Gaolers Residence	Council	3 Mason St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Commissariat	Council	79 High St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Cottage (new acquisition)	Council	9 Barrack St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Midlands Memorial Community Centre	Council	68 High St	Community Halls
Oatlands Aquatic Centre	Council	70 High St	Sports Venues, Regional Assets
Oatlands Council Chambers	Council	71 High St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Old Pool (to be demolished)	Council	Campbell St	Community Halls (Heritage)
Oatlands Radio Station/ Meeting Rooms	Council	1 Esplanade	Community Halls
Oatlands District School	Private	45 Church St	Sports Venues
Oatlands Ex Services & Community Club incorporating the Oatlands Bowls Club	Community	Albert Rd	Community Hall and Sports Venues
Oatlands Golf Club	Private	Sandy Lane	Sports Venues
Parattah			
Oatlands to Parattah Shared Walkway	Council	Tunnack Rd	Linkway
Parattah Recreation Ground	Council	645 Tunnack Rd	Sports Venues
Parattah Railway Station	Council	640 Tunnack Rd	Community Halls (Heritage)
Jubilee Hall	Community	657 Tunnack Rd	Community Halls
Pawtella			

NAME	OWNERSHIP	ADDRESS	TYPE
Mt Pleasant Recreation Ground	Council	912 Nala Rd	Sports Venues
Rhyndaston			
Stonor Hall	Council	850 Stonor Rd	Community Halls
Runnymede			
Runnymede Recreation Ground	Council	120 Woodsdale Rd	Sports Venues
Tunbridge			
Tunbridge Park	Community	Main Rd	Community Park
Tunbridge Town Hall	Community	99 Main Rd	Community Halls
Tunbridge Community Club	Community		Community Halls
Tunnack			
Tunnack Recreation Ground	Council	2180 Tunnack Rd	Sports Venues
Victoria Memorial Hall (Tunnack)	Community		Community Halls
Tunnack Community Club	Community		Community Halls
Woodsdale			
Woodsdale Recreation Ground	Council	2578 Woodsdale Rd	Sports Venues
Woodsdale Community Hall	Council	2310 Woodsdale Rd	Community Halls
Sporting Shooters Assn of Aust. Tas	Private	770 Woodsdale Rd	Sports Venues



