

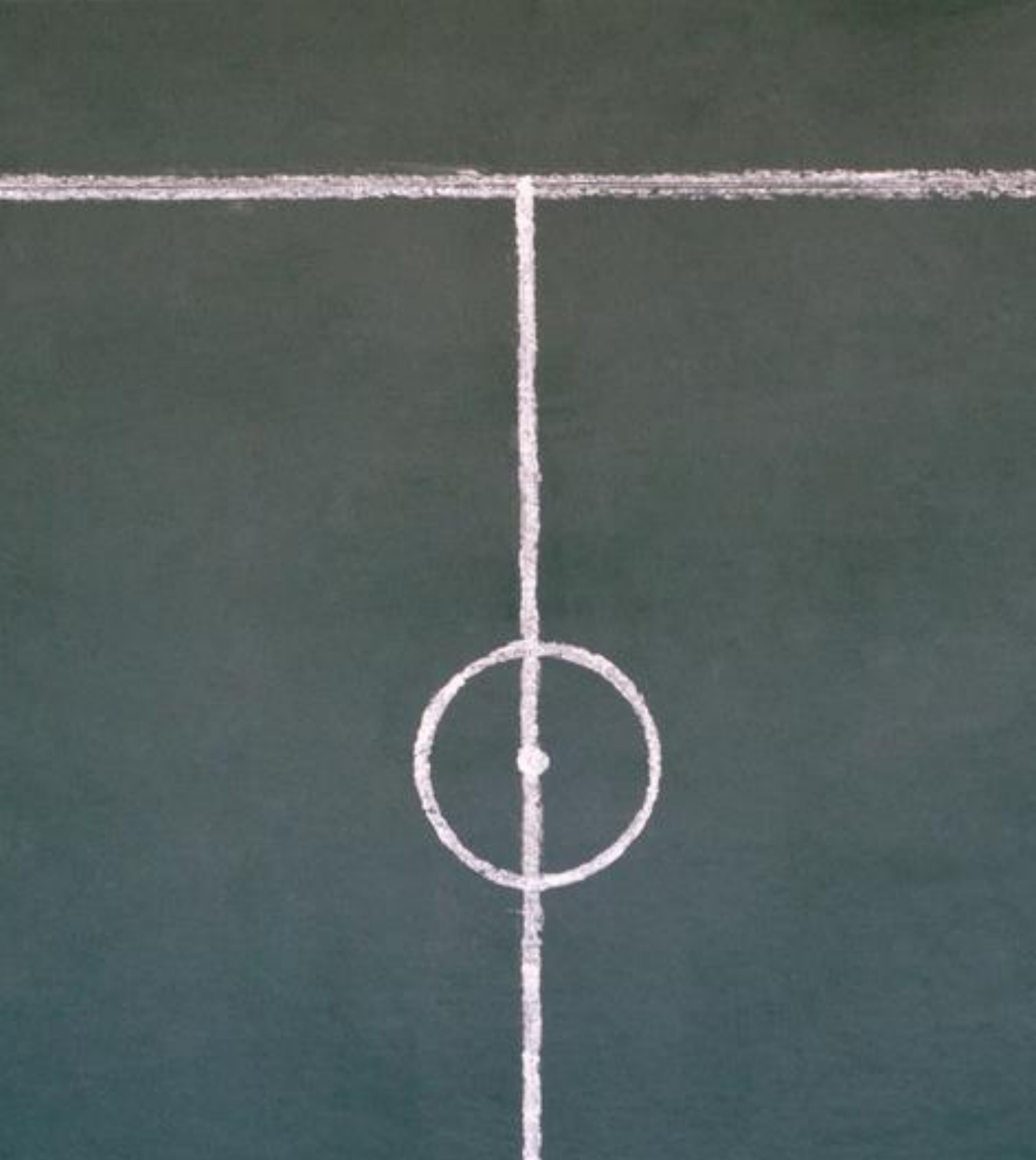
# SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE SOCCER FACILITIES PLAN

DECEMBER 2016



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# 1. OVERVIEW OF SOCER



## INTRODUCTION

**The Soccer Facilities Plan provides Council with a summary of the current structure and health of soccer in South Gippsland, and provides an overview of participation trends, club needs, consultation findings and facility development recommendations.**

The Facilities Plan includes a condition and functionality assessment of the four venues in South Gippsland currently being occupied by soccer clubs. Information is provided on the condition of existing facilities, compliance against current facility standards and guidelines, gaps in existing soccer provision, and the likely demand and requirements for soccer facilities in the future.

This report is designed to help guide Council's planning and decision making on the future provision of soccer facilities to service current and future residents. Findings from this report will be used to prioritise soccer facility development projects and assist Council in securing external funding to improve soccer facilities.

A key driver of the Soccer Facilities Plan has been the recent growth in soccer participation both locally and across the region. Through this plan Council is aiming to identify and prioritise facility renewal and upgrade projects that support the growth and popularity of the sport, and also undertake preliminary investigation into the need and opportunity for a synthetic soccer field to service the region. Following consultation with soccer clubs on the key findings and preliminary directions for soccer, a Final Soccer Facilities Plan was developed and include a detailed action plan and cost estimates to support facility recommendations.

All club participate in the Gippsland Soccer League (GSL). The GSL is affiliated with FFV and coordinate and manage their own competition. **In a 2011 member survey the GSL identified a lack of volunteers and the quality of facilities were the stand-out issues for the sport locally.**

## SUMMARY OF SOCCER IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND

The following information provides a brief overview of participation rates and facility provision for soccer in South Gippsland. Further participation trends and facility details is provided in the following pages of this report.



376 soccer players registered with South Gippsland Shire soccer clubs (2016)



9% increase in club based players since 2015



106 registered female players in 2016 (28% of total registered players)



Four designated soccer venues



7 grass pitches



Pitch to player ratio of 1:58



Average player age is 16 years

## EXISTING SOCCER FACILITY PROVISION - 2015

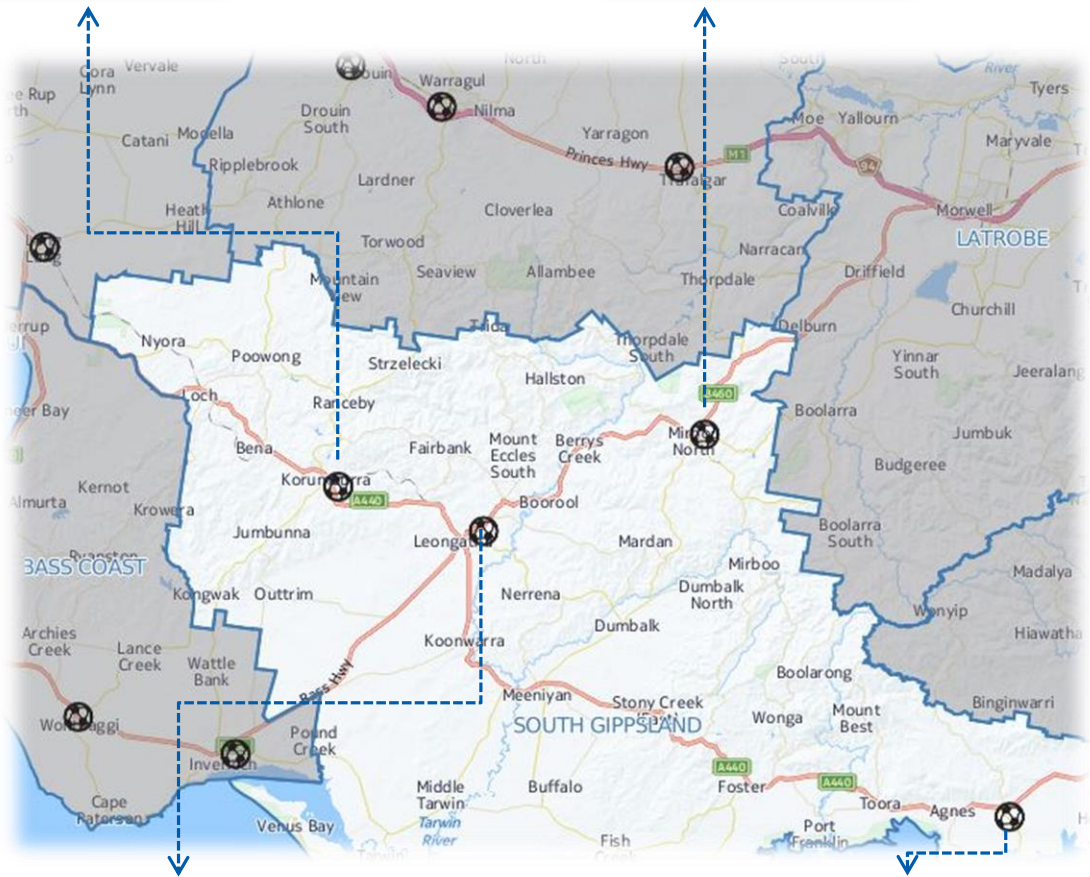
### Korumburra Recreation Reserve

- Korumburra City Soccer Club
- 2 grass pitches
- Council land
- 111 registered players



### Walter Tuck Reserve

- Mirboo North United Soccer Club
- Council land
- 2 grass pitches
- 87 registered players



### Mary McKillop College

- Leongatha Knights Soccer Club
- Education land
- 2 grass pitches
- 139 registered players



### Welshpool Recreation Reserve

- Prom Coast Soccer Club
- Crown land
- 1 grass pitch
- 39 registered players



## 2. PLANNING CONTEXT

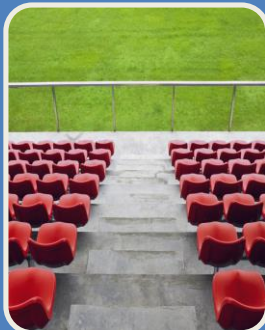
The key strategic planning documents that have implications for the local area and the future enhancement and development of soccer facilities in South Gippsland have been reviewed and summarised below.

### Council Plan (2013 – 2017)



- Vision: Our future desired state
- Council's Vision 2020 represents the aspirations of the Shire's diverse communities and articulates a vision of what South Gippsland should be like in the year 2020. The vision has been refined recently to reflect changing community needs and expectations. The vision aspires to achieve a number of key outcomes including but not limited to;
- **Providing a wide range of recreation and leisure amenities.**

### Strategy / Audit for Social Community Infrastructure (2014 – 2029)



- This planning document included a review of all community facilities, as well as those facilities owned and managed by other community sectors, to ensure Council can manage and plan for sustainable population and infrastructure growth into the future. The strategy identified:
- An increasing demand for alternate sports facilities e.g. soccer, hockey, mountain bike courses and opportunities to include space for these activities in any new facility, or when planning the upgrade of existing facilities;
- Most facilities require upgrading of their ageing infrastructure to meet current sporting body standards and/or legislative requirements.

### Recreation Plan 2007



- This Plan considers the strategic development and management of infrastructure provided for recreation on open space and elsewhere. The following key directions from the plan are relevant to the development of the Soccer Facilities Plan.
- Ensure recreation planning plays a key role in land use and community facility planning;
- Establish a hierarchy of sports facilities to guide levels of provision and maintenance.
- Connect and jointly promote existing facilities to enhance use.

### Leongatha Community Infrastructure Plan 2014



- The Leongatha Community Infrastructure Plan includes a detailed audit of local infrastructure and guides prioritisation over the next 5, 10 and 20 years. The report discusses the community infrastructure needs of the Leongatha community. Future demands identified that relate to soccer include:
- An additional recreation field in the south of the town catering for alternative sports such as soccer, hockey or rugby has potential to expand the range of sports available locally.

This section of the report provides a summary of current and future demographic information for the Shire and highlights what the South Gippsland community looks like now and into the future. This information will help shape the development of the Soccer Facilities Plan and prioritise key development areas to service the future needs of soccer participants.



### Population and age

The current population in South Gippsland is 27,706, with the majority of residents living in major townships such as Leongatha, Korumburra and Mirboo North. The dominant age group is 60-64 year olds which make up 8% of the population. South Gippsland has a higher population of 5 to 14 years old (3,551) compared to the remainder of the Latrobe-Gippsland statistical area resulting in a strong junior market for soccer participation.



### Forecast demographics

From 2016 to 2026 the South Gippsland Shire is projected to increase to 31,719 residents (14% growth). The Shire has an ageing population with approximately 21% of the Shire's total population in 2026 expected in the 55+ age cohort.

Leongatha will be the central growth area for the Shire contributing an additional 1,193 people over the next 10 years. For the remaining towns with soccer facilities, Korumburra's population is projected to increase by 1,396, Mirboo North by 68 and Welshpool (South East Coastal District) by 147.



### SEIFA

The SEIFA Index of Disadvantage measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics. In 2011, South Gippsland Shire scored 999.5 on the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage, ranking 33<sup>rd</sup> out of the 79 LGA's in Victoria.



### Country of birth

The South Gippsland Shire has a dominant Anglo-Saxon community with 84% of residents in 2011 born in Australia. Only 11% of the population (3,036) were born overseas which is slightly lower than the Latrobe-Gippsland statistical area (12.0%). The main overseas country of birth is the United Kingdom with an estimated 1,292 people in 2011.





### **3. SOCCER PARTICIPATION SUMMARY**

The Gippsland Soccer League (GSL) is a community based not-for-profit sporting organisation which has been operating for more than 60 years. The GSL provides grass roots winter competition for all ages and abilities and offers a player pathway from entry level Mino Roos to senior programs and competitions. The GSL has a current player base of approximately 1,000.

The GSL 2011 – 2014 Strategic Plan identified a range of strategies to support the development and growth of the sport in Gippsland. The most relevant to South Gippsland Soccer Facilities Plan is **Strategy 11 - recognise the importance of soccer facility development and advocate for the improvement of facilities**. Priority actions recommended to achieve this strategy include:

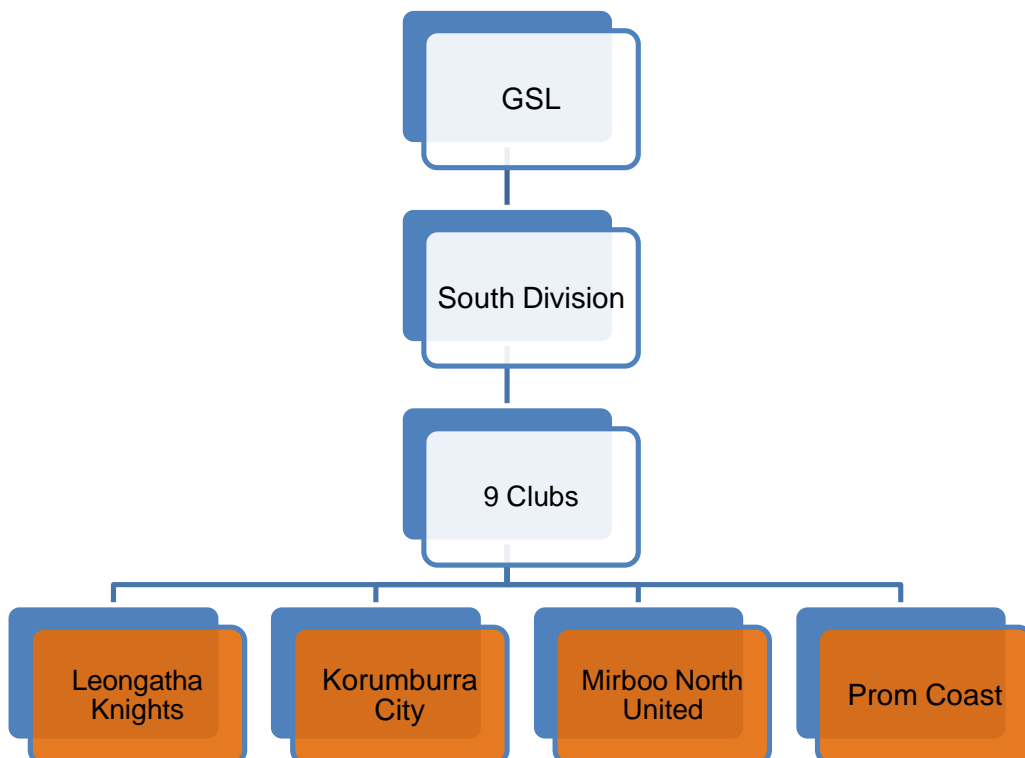
- GSL board members and staff to further develop relationships with LGAs to recognise soccer as a valid sport that needs adequate facilities.
- Support the development of funding applications by clubs and LGAs.
- Advocate on behalf of all clubs for equitable access to facilities and for improved facilities.
- Develop a 10 year plan of identified football facilities priorities.
- Encourage clubs to inspect and maintain facilities in a safe and compliant condition.
- Improve facilities for females and referees.

*The strategic plan reported that the number of female players was increasing despite a general lack of adequate female friendly facilities. An improvement to these facilities will increase membership considerably. It is equally important to dedicate facilities to referees. This will promote respect and aid in the culture shift to valuing officials.*

- Assist clubs to plan and seek funding for lighting to improve access to facilities for evening use.
- Develop partnerships with schools to share facilities.

The aims and objectives of the South Gippsland Soccer Facilities Plan are closely aligned with the direction of the GSL in regards to current facility issues, opportunities and future directions. Other strategies identified in GSL Strategic Plan relevant to the project include the promotion and development of soccer for new arrivals, and encouraging grass roots participation and growth of the sport.

The diagram below outlines GSLs current competition structure and highlights the alignment with the four South Gippsland based soccer clubs.



## SOCCER PARTICIPATION IN GIPPSLAND

This section provides current participation rates for soccer across the state and benchmarks these against participation rates in Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Latrobe, Wellington and South Gippsland to provide a broader regional perspective.

**In Victoria there is approximately 62,133 soccer players participating in competitions across 12 different zones at a penetration rate of 0.1%.** This equates to 1 in every 94 Victorians participating in soccer.

Female players represent approximately 20% of total soccer players and around 80% of participants live in the Melbourne metropolitan area. FFV estimates that thousands more Victorians not affiliated with a club are participating in informal soccer programs within schools and other social competitions across the state.

State participation rates increased by 2.2% from 2013 to 2014 and 13.4% from 2014 to 2015. Based on 2015 soccer participation rates and a Victorian population of 5.6 million the following state penetration rates for each membership category is provided below:

- Mini Roos – 4.1%
- Junior – 4.9%
- Senior – 1.0%
- Over 35s – 0.19%

### Soccer in Bass Coast

There is currently 416 soccer players registered with three Bass Coast based soccer clubs. Approximately 400 (96%) currently live in the Shire.

The Phillip Island Soccer Club has the most registered players with 157, followed by Inverloch Stars (140) and Wonthaggi United (119).

Of the 416 registered players 305 (73%) are male and 111 (27%) female. The mini roos program for 5 to 11 year olds is popular with 181 registered participants enrolled with Bass Coast clubs. There is also 124 junior players (12 to 18 years), 65 senior players and 46 players over 35s across the Shire.

The Inverloch Soccer Club has slightly more female players (40) than Phillip Island (36) and Wonthaggi (35). Wonthaggi has more players in the junior age category (50) than Phillip Island (45) and Inverloch (29).

Of the 416 registered players 119 live in Wonthaggi, 102 live in Cowes and 93 live in Inverloch. Most players are affiliated with their local club - 82 (69%) of players at the Wonthaggi Soccer Club live in Wonthaggi, 138 (93%) of Phillip Island Soccer Club players live in either Cowes or San Remo, and 75 (67%) of Inverloch Soccer Club players reside in Inverloch.

### Soccer in Baw Baw

There is a total of 329 soccer players (258 males and 71 females) registered with three soccer clubs in the Baw Baw Shire.

Overall Baw Baw experienced a decline in total player numbers in 2015, predominantly in the junior category. Mini roos girls and senior men's participation increased and the rate of female participation and senior participation in Baw Baw is higher than the state average.

### Soccer in Latrobe

There is a total of 1,467 soccer players in Latrobe (1,132 males and 335 females) registered with ten soccer clubs.

Player growth in Latrobe has been below the state average for the past two years. The rate of female participation is above the state average and all clubs field women or girls players.

The percentage of Senior and Over 35's players is above the state average.

### Soccer in Wellington

In 2015 there was a total of 203 soccer players (181 males and 22 females) registered with one soccer club in the Wellington Shire.

Player growth in Wellington has fluctuated from 2014 to 2015. The rate of female participation is below the state average but senior and junior male participation is above the state average.

The graph below compares the player to pitch ratios across all five LGAs and is benchmarked against the state average.

LGA	Player to pitch ratios (based on club membership numbers)
Baw Baw	1:82
South Gippsland	1:58
Bass Coast	1:140
Wellington	1:102
Latrobe	1:210
<b>State</b>	<b>1:109</b>

Source: FFV

## SOUTH GIPPSLAND PARTICIPATION

In 2015 there was a total of 390 soccer players living in the South Gippsland Shire with 345 of these registered (244 males and 101 females) with the four soccer club located in South Gippsland.

Soccer participation in South Gippsland has experienced consistent growth over the past two years, increasing by 2.3% from 2013 to 2014 and 22% from 2014 to 2015, which is significantly higher than the state growth rate.

The following table provides a summary of soccer players in South Gippsland in 2015 and the percentage change from 2014. The highest percentage growth is in the senior and over 35s category.

Membership	No. of players (2015)	change from 2014 (%)
Mini Roos	142	+26%
Juniors	113	+13%
Senior	64	+31%
Over 35s	26	+30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>22%</b>

Female soccer participation in South Gippsland has increased from 76 in 2014 to 101 in 2015, an increase of 32%. All clubs are currently fielding women's or girls' teams and of the total number of soccer players approximately 20% are female, higher than the state average of 17.5%. Since 2014 the highest percentage growth in female players has occurred in the Over 35s (120%), followed by seniors (59%), juniors (17%) and mini roos (16%).

When comparing penetration rates for individual membership categories against state averages South Gippsland is performing well and is higher in every category with the exception of juniors. Penetration rates are calculated by combining current participation rates with population numbers to determine the percentage of soccer players within the Shire.

### Penetration rates 2015

Membership	South Gippsland	State
Mini Roos	5.1%	4.1%
Juniors	4.3%	4.9%
Senior	1.6%	1%
Over 35s	0.17%	0.1%

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP

There are four soccer clubs operating in South Gippsland. The following information provides an introduction and participation summary for each.



### Leongatha Knights FC

- 131 players
- 98 male players
- 33 female players
- 38% of players live in the Shire



### Korumburra City Soccer Club

- 95 players
- 66 male players
- 29 female players
- 80% of players live in the Shire



### Mirboo North Soccer Club

- 93 players
- 62 male players
- 31 female players
- 75% of players live in the Shire



### Prom Coast Soccer Club

- 26 players
- 18 male players
- 8 female players
- 97% of players live in the Shire

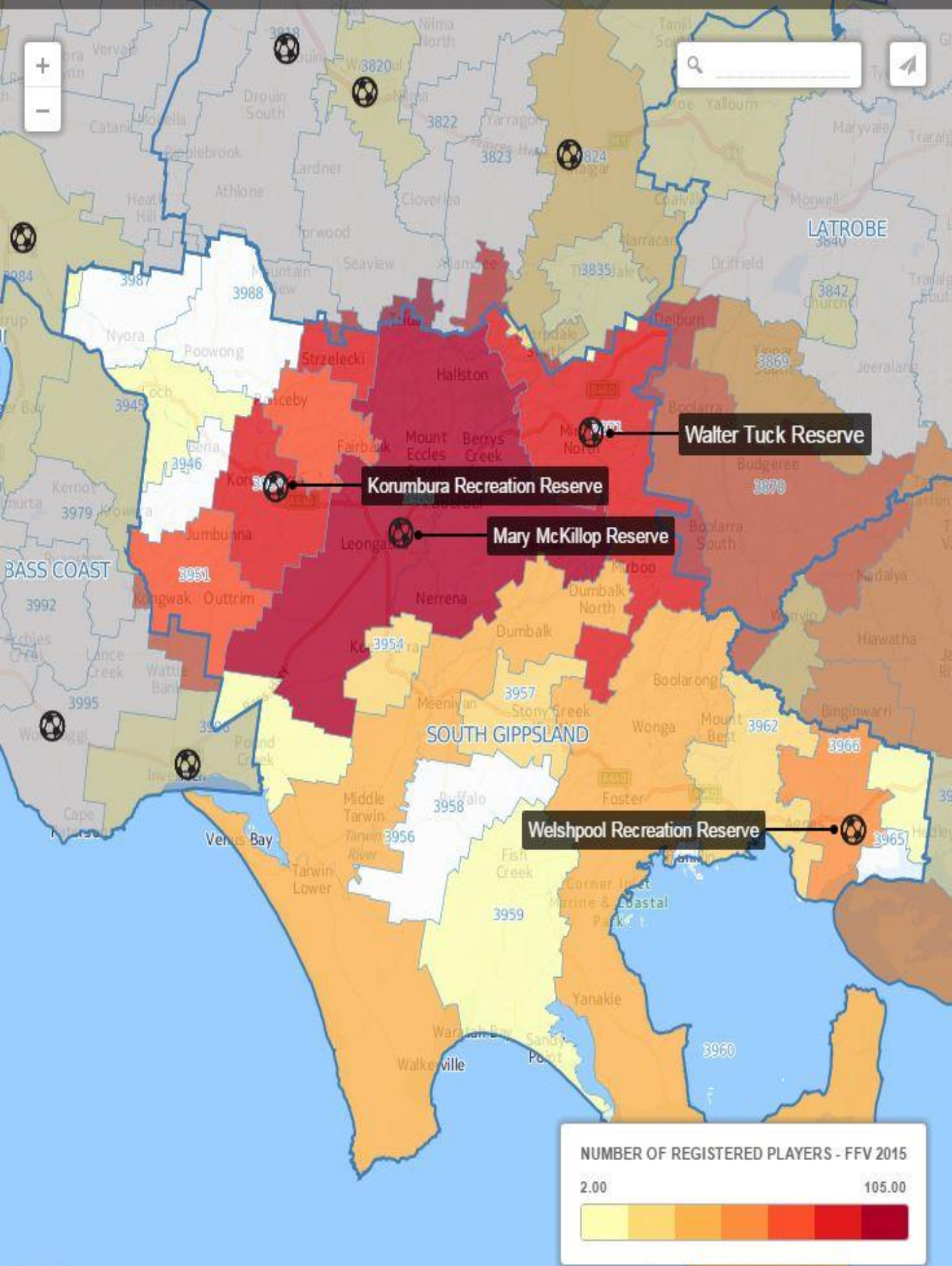
Since 2014 all four clubs have experienced an increase in player numbers. The highest percentage participation growth was at the Prom Coast Soccer Club (63%), followed by Mirboo North (19%), Korumburra (16%), and Leongatha Knights (7%).

In terms of actual player increases from 2014 to 2015 the highest growth occurred at Mirboo North (15), followed by Korumburra (13) and Prom Coast (10).

Of all four clubs the Leongatha Knights experienced the biggest growth in male players and mini roos, increasing from by 16 and 19 respectively from 2014 to 2015. In the junior category Prom Coast experienced the largest growth with an additional 10 players to 2015, and in the over 35s the Korumburra Soccer Club went from 8 players in 2014 to 12 in 2015. Further participation information is provided in the appendices section of this report.

Of the 390 soccer players living in South Gippsland, 112 or 29% reside in post code 3953 (Leongatha), 77 in 3871 (Mirboo) and 71 in 3950 (Korumburra). **The map on the following page shows all registered players in the Shire by post code and identifies the hot spots for participation.**

# South Gippsland Soccer Participation



## LOCAL DEMOGRAPHIC IMPACTS

The South Gippsland Shire has approximately 28,500 residents and will experience modest population growth in the next 20 years, where an additional 3,195 people are expected (11% increase from 2016 to 2026).

The Shire has an ageing population. This trend is expected to continue with 1,361 (42%) of the 3,195 new residents to 2026 aged between 70 and 84 years.

The average age of a typical soccer player in South Gippsland is 16 years and 70% of players are male. Using this profile of a typical soccer participant as the basis, the following Shire-wide and local area demographic information is provided to support the potential future market for soccer.

- Within the target age cohort for soccer participants of 5 to 19 years there is an expected population increase of 537 to 2026.
- Of the 537 new residents, 296 will be female and the remaining 241 male, creating an ongoing need to provide appropriate facilities and infrastructure to support the continued growth in female soccer participation.
- Using the current penetration rate for soccer in South Gippsland of 0.82%, and applying the above population projections, there will conservatively be an additional 26 soccer players in the Shire over the next ten years.
- The following local area population projections to 2026 are relative to the current location of existing soccer facilities in South Gippsland, and should be considered in the future planning of any new facilities.
  - Leongatha (additional 2,384 new people)
  - Korumburra (additional 930 new people)
  - Mirboo North (additional 248 new people)
  - South East – includes Welshpool (additional 147 new people)
- The Nyora and Poowong District located in the west of the Shire has a current population of 2,765 and will provide an additional 678 people over the next ten years.
- The Nyora and Poowong District is growing and includes the townships of Loch, Nyora and parts of Lang Lang. This area will likely support the future provision of a base level soccer facility.

- There is also expected to be future population growth in the next ten years within the planned new subdivision adjacent to the Leongatha Hospital site. The current plan includes approximately four hectares of open space with provision for soccer fields, providing an opportunity for expansion or relocation of the Leongatha Knights Soccer Club.
- The annual income of residents is considered a factor as to whether people choose to participate in sport and recreation activities. Of the 22,000 people in Shire in 2011, 15% earned between \$400 and \$599 per week, followed by 13% that earned between \$300 and \$399.
- Compared to other regional areas across the state South Gippsland is considered to have relatively low income levels.
- FFV has undertaken a review of the average cost per player for each club. All South Gippsland clubs are currently charging fees that are well below the state average, creating affordable opportunities for South Gippsland residents to participate in the sport.

The table below provides the average fees being charged by clubs for participating in juniors and mini roos, and seniors and over 35s competitions.

Club	Juniors / Mini Roos	Seniors / Over 35s
Leongatha	\$147.50	\$255
Korumburra	\$114	\$201
Mirboo North	\$132	\$241
Prom Coast	\$95	N/A
<b>State average</b>	<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$370</b>

Source: FFV

Source of population projections - Profile id.



## **4. FACILITIES OVERVIEW**

## SOCCER FACILITY GUIDELINES

FFV has commenced development of a State-wide Strategic Facilities Plan which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016. This project will deliver a review of the current FFV facility development guidelines, refinement of soccer facility hierarchy levels and the establishment of a framework to guide the future improvement, upgrade and development of facilities across the state.

FFVs current Football Facilities Information Guide provides Local Government and clubs with information on the development and maintenance of appropriately scaled facilities. This document provides guidance for each level of competition and outlines the preferred facility development guidelines for new and redeveloped facilities and playing surfaces, and strategies where budgets and site constraints apply. Local South Gippsland Soccer clubs and venues align with 'D' class facilities on the below hierarchy table produced by FFV.

FFV prioritise the enhancement and development of facilities that support the provision of Small Sided Football (Mini Roos), the entry level program for underage participants. Mini Roos is played with smaller balls, goals and pitch sizes and can be played simultaneously on a standard pitch. The pitch sizes for Mini Roos can be portions of a standard pitch and increase as the players' age increases.

Hierarchy	Level of play	Field dimensions	Facility requirements	Lighting levels (competition)
A	National Premier League (NPL)	Min: 100m x 60m Max: 105m x 68m	4 change rooms for NPL matches	200lux
B	NPL2	Min: 100m x 60m Max: 105m x 68m	2 change rooms per pitch in use	200lux
C	NPL 20's and NPL2 20's Men's State League (MSL) 1-4 Women's State League (WSL) 1	Min: 96m x 60m Max: 105m x 68m	2 change rooms per pitch in use	100lux
D	MSL 5 WSL 2-4 Metropolitan League All Juniors	Min: 96m x 60m Junior Min: 90m x 50m Max: 105m x 68m	2 change rooms per pitch in use	100lux

Source: FFV

The Gippsland Soccer League has the following local rule regarding ground size:

The home club must provide a ground that meets the following dimensions for competitive age groups:

- Maximum dimension of 105m x 68m;
- Minimum dimension of 90m x 45m;
- The ground is correctly marked, including the technical area; and
- Suitable goal nets and corner flags safely fastened or pegged to the ground



Sport and Recreation Victoria has developed **A Guide to Sport and Recreation Settings**. The guide is designed to encourage stakeholders to make sport and recreation facilities and settings more accessible to everyone by using universal design and where possible adapting enhanced dimensions that go beyond the minimum standards. The purpose of the guide is to provide stakeholders with a practical resource and specific information to assist plan, design and develop sport and recreation facilities.

**The two components most relevant to the future upgrade of soccer facilities in South Gippsland include the design of sport and recreation reserves and sports pavilions. A summary of the key design principles for each component is provided below.** These principles will be considered for all soccer facility design projects produced as part of the Soccer Facilities Plan for South Gippsland.

### **Sport and Recreation Reserves – Universal Design Principles**

- **Connections**  
*All elements within sport and recreation reserves should be connected via a continuous accessible path of travel.*
- **Approach**  
*Sport and recreation reserves require approach routes for both vehicles and pedestrians .*
- **Entry points**  
*Entry points should be easily identifiable and wide enough to cater for the access needs of all users.*
- **Paths**  
*Continuous, accessible paths of travel free from obstacles should be provided.*
- **Spectator areas**  
*Spectator areas for everyone should be provided at various locations at each facility where activities are held.*
- **Landscape design**  
*Landscape elements in sport and recreation reserves may include paths and garden beds, plants, trees and shrubs as well as statues, sculptures, water features and a variety of other landscape elements.*
- **Installations**  
*Installations such as litter bins, seating, lighting, drinking fountains (incorporating a low height dog bowl), dog dropping collection points and other installations must be usable by everyone.*
- **Picnic and rest areas**  
*Rest and picnic areas should include seating with backs and armrests and tables with extended ends or clear spaces to allow for a person using a wheelchair to move underneath or a person to clip on a child restraint.*
- **Companion animal free zone**  
*Consideration should be given to areas where companion animals (pets) are restricted to leads.*
- **Building**  
*Buildings should be located on a continuous, accessible path of travel from the car park and pedestrian entry points of the sport and recreation reserve. They should provide level, step-free entry with no revolving doors or turnstiles and with wide door openings to accommodate all users.*
- **Toilet and change rooms**  
*Male and female areas should have unisex accessible toilets, showers and change rooms for use by children as well as adults and carers, including people with a range of access challenges.*
- **Play space**  
*Access to play spaces for both children and adults is important.*
- **Water**  
*The availability of drinking water for both people and animals is important.*
- **Way finding and information**  
*A successful way finding system should minimise anxiety and confusion, should be easy to understand and allow for everyone to equitably access all information provided.*
- **Lighting**  
*Effective, glare-free lighting should be provided throughout areas that are likely to be used at night. Sports lighting should be designed and installed so that the sport being conducted can be comfortably performed by the participants and officials and viewed by spectators.*

- Fields of play  
*All fields of play should be connected by a continuous, accessible path of travel to other key elements within the sport and recreation reserve, such as car parking areas, toilets, sports pavilions and spectator areas.*
- Adjustable playing facilities  
*Basketball and netball goal posts, for example, that can be adjusted to various heights are important for children and wheelchair athletes.*
- Adequate clear space around playing areas  
*Adequate clear space around playing fields and courts is necessary in order to provide access and safety for players and spectators.*
- Emergency exit  
*Emergency exits should be provided along a continuous, accessible path of travel to a nominated assembly area from all rooms within a building or pathways within the reserve*

### **Sports pavilions - Universal Design Principles**

- Pavilions  
*Sports pavilions should be located on a continuous accessible path of travel from the car parking and pedestrian entry points of the recreation reserve or site. Consideration should also be given to shelter close to, but not obstructing the principal entries.*  
  
*Wide internal walkways and doorways must be clear of any obstructions and access into each room of the pavilion is necessary so that users can participate in all activities and utilise required facilities. In multiple level pavilions, either ramps with appropriate gradients, or lifts, should be provided to upper levels to support ease of use and movement.*
- Meeting and activity area  
*Hearing augmentation should be provided in any meeting and activity spaces in pavilions.*
- Kitchen, canteen and or dining  
*Any pavilions that incorporate kitchen or dining areas should provide ease of access for everyone and incorporate a range of tables and seating heights and types for children and adults.*
- Scoring and administration  
*Consideration should be given to the provision of accessible scoring and administration areas. This includes offices, score benches, viewing areas for scorers, scoreboards and audio announcement points.*

*Source: Sport and Recreation Victoria*

## FACILITY CONDITION AND COMPLIANCE RATINGS

As part of the research for the Soccer Facilities Plan in-field condition assessments of all soccer venues across the Shire were undertaken. All facility and site information was captured using *insideEDGE's* Sports Facility Audit tool - (SFA). SFA is a tablet based data capture technology that locates facilities, assesses existing provision and condition, and analyses compliance against preferred facility guidelines.

SFA analyses the condition of core facility amenities and captures the number and associated attributes of a facility's main pavilion, lighting, playing surfaces, irrigation infrastructure, change rooms, amenities, grounds and surrounds, car parking and features of adjacent land areas.

The soccer facility audit findings below provide Council with a summary condition assessment and compliance against guidelines for pitch orientation, run off, fencing, team benches and change rooms.

Reserve	Pavilion / clubrooms				No. of pitches	Pitch condition			
	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor		Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor
Korumburra Recreation Reserve					2				
Mary McKillop College					2				
Walter Tuck Reserve					2				
Welshpool Recreation Reserve					1				

Reserve	Compliance information				
	Orientation	Run off (>3m)	Fencing (<900mm)	Covered team benches	Two change rooms per pitch
Korumburra Recreation Reserve	Yes	No	No fencing	Yes (temporary)	No (1 only)
Mary McKillop College	Yes	No	No fencing	No	Yes
Walter Tuck Reserve	Yes	No	No fencing	Yes (temporary)	1 non-compliant
Welshpool Recreation Reserve	No	No	No fencing	No	Yes

All existing venues, with the exception of Mary McKillop College, were originally used for Australian Rules Football and not designed specifically to suit the needs of soccer. Council and clubs have retrofitted facilities to provide opportunities for soccer but further upgrades are now required to meet current standards and facility requirements.

## SOCCER FACILITIES OVERVIEW – KEY ISSUES

The following soccer venues were inspected and audited against current facility guidelines to identify gaps in existing provision and relevant site and building issues impacting and constraining the growth of soccer. The diagram below provides a summary of the current facility issues for each venue.



### Korumburra Recreation Reserve

- Former Australian Rules Football venue that is tired and dilapidated
- Main pavilion 30+ years old and not servicing the needs of soccer
- Main building has only one change room with the cricket club building available for away teams
- Non compliant disabled toilet
- Playing field shared with turf cricket club which is impacting pitch size
- Floodlighting is poor and not meeting minimum training standards
- No disabled access from car park to building and playing field



### Mary McKillop College (Leongatha)

- Located on school grounds owned by the Catholic Church
- Portable building on site includes a canteen, social area and amenities
- Male and female change rooms are part of the main school building with the club provided access on match day
- Poor surface quality and floodlighting on training pitch
- Location of existing cricket training nets impacting training pitch run off
- No sealed pathway to main competition pitch or safe pedestrian crossing to change rooms and amenities.



### Walter Tuck Reserve (Mirboo North)

- Change rooms shared with football club
- Existing amenities building is structurally sound but is an ageing asset
- Only two pans service the whole building with open non unisex showers
- No provision for female friendly change rooms or social area
- Distance and safety of change rooms to soccer pitches is an issue
- Good quality pitch surface with drainage and access to recycled water
- Soccer pitches encroach on the two outside turf cricket wickets
- Competition level floodlighting recently installed



### Arthur Sutherland Reserve (Welshpool)

- Former Australian Rules Football venue now used by soccer only
- One pitch orientated in an east-west direction with a poor quality playing surface
- Main building includes a community basketball court and separate male and female change facilities and amenities used by the soccer club
- Gravel car park creates dust issues
- Derelict cricket training nets and netball court on site



## 5. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

## CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

In developing the Soccer Facilities Plan for South Gippsland the following stakeholder consultation activities were undertaken:

- Commencement meeting with the Project Manager to confirm project objectives and key drivers, stakeholder contacts and project timelines (December 2015).
- Internal workshop with relevant Council staff to understand broader organisational objectives, strategic directions and funding capacity (January 2016).
- Site visits and audits of all soccer venues to collect relevant compliance and facility information, site issues and to identify future development opportunities (January 2016).
- On-site meetings with local soccer clubs to identify existing club needs, operational and facility related issues and priority areas for improvement.
- Online survey of all local soccer clubs (4 responses received) to collect relevant club and facility information and provide opportunity for input into the Soccer Facilities Plan.
- Meeting with Football Federation Victoria representatives locally and in head office.
- Phone interviews with a range of other stakeholders including the Gippsland Soccer League and Gippsport.

Consultation findings have been grouped into current facility issues and facility development opportunities to inform the future development of the Soccer Facilities Plan. Club responses to the on-line survey are provided separately.

### Facility issues

- There is no purpose built exclusive use soccer venue in South Gippsland. This is restricting the growth of the sport and the ability to attract academy programs and representative matches.
- A number of existing soccer pitches are undersized and not meeting minimum dimensions for competition. This is predominantly due to the location of perimeter fencing and the need to avoid turf cricket wickets. Undersized pitches for competition use is common across the Gippsland region.
- Across the South Gippsland League all soccer venues except for Mirboo North have limited lighting making training difficult for most clubs and is a major barrier to participation.

- Facilities are generally dysfunctional and not suitable for shared male and female use. The majority of facilities are inadequate and some are dilapidated and reached the end of their useful life.

### Facility development opportunities

- Improving and upgrading existing change rooms and amenities that can accommodate shared use by male and female players and other sports is a high priority.
- Projects with an immediate need to upgrade change rooms and amenities to support soccer include Korumburra and Mirboo North.
- Removing or relocating perimeter fencing at some venues will allow provision of flexible shared use playing fields and will avoid conflict with turf cricket pitches. Realignment of the fencing at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve will provide one full size senior and one full size junior soccer pitch and avoid conflict with the turf cricket table.
- Priority pitch improvements and upgrades have been identified at Leongatha (training pitch), Korumburra and Arthur Sutherland Reserve in Welshpool.
- The current lighting infrastructure and lux levels on the majority of soccer venues is sub standard. Upgrades to lighting at Korumburra, Mary McKillop College and Arthur Sutherland Reserve to 100 lux (minimum standard for training) is a high priority.
- State funding is available to support Councils and clubs to deliver change room upgrades that increase female participation opportunities and lighting upgrades to increase the capacity of sports fields. These funding programs should be investigated by Council to assist in the delivery of priority projects.
- The need and demand for access to a synthetic pitch in the region is growing as players numbers increase. As participation increases the demand for a synthetic pitch in the right location that can be shared by a number of clubs and used for representative matches and the Skills Acquisition Program (SAP) should be further investigated.

## CLUB SURVEY FINDINGS

An online South Gippsland Soccer Facilities Plan Club Survey was distributed to all four South Gippsland based soccer clubs and was available for completion between the 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016. All four clubs provided a response to the survey.

The following analysis provides a summary of key highlights and survey findings. Full club survey responses are provided as an appendix to this report.

### Club development

- Leongatha Knights is the only club working on the development of an individual business plan, strategic plan and facilities plan to support club operations. Prom Coast and Korumburra have completed a Strategic Plan.
- Korumburra is the only club currently using the free website offered by FFV. Leongatha set it up previously but haven't been using it.

### Participation and membership

- All clubs, with the exception of Prom Coast, are offering entry level Small Sided Football (Mini Roos) for under 7s. All clubs are offering Mini Roos programs for under 9s to under 11s, junior boys, junior girls and senior men's.
- Prom Coast is the only club not fielding a women's team and Leongatha Knights have the only Master / Veterans team in a formal competition.
- Korumburra has six teams entered in an indoor competition and one team in a social competition. Prom Coast is the only club offering soccer programs for indigenous players and new arrivals.
- All clubs predict their membership numbers will increase in the next three years. Leongatha Knights and Mirboo North predict their membership will increase by up to 10%, Korumburra by up to 20% and Prom Coast by more than 20%.
- All clubs predict that participation in their Mini Roos program and junior girls competition (with the exception of Prom Coast) will increase in the next three years.
- Mirboo North believe that their junior male participation numbers may decrease as they are beginning to lose players to Australian Rules Football.
- The key barriers preventing future participation growth indicated by clubs include lack of volunteers, condition and provision of existing facilities and being located in a remote area.

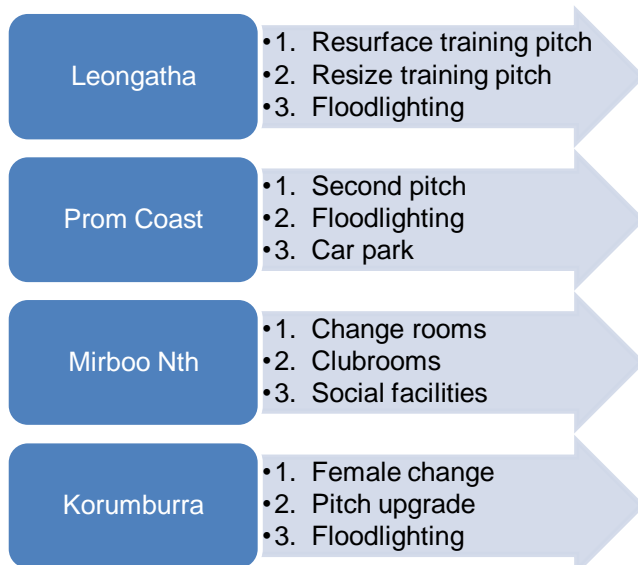
### Facilities

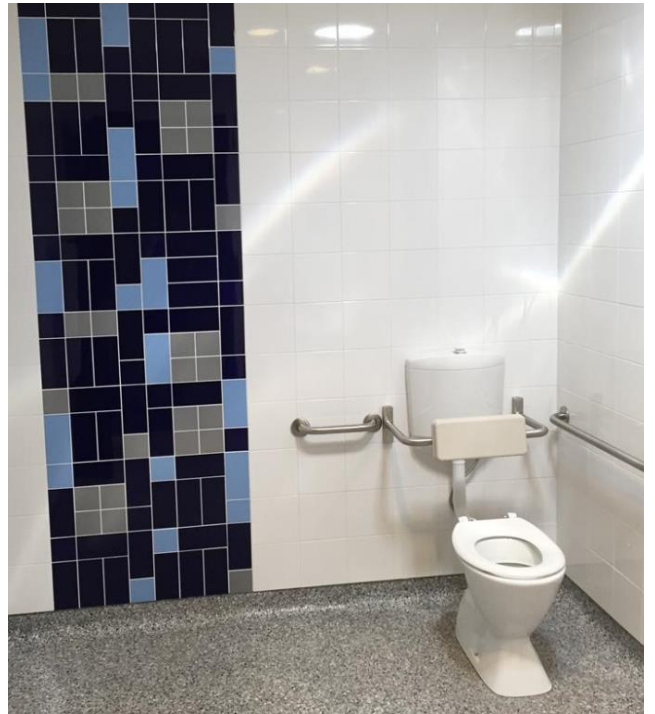
- All clubs are required to share their facilities with other sports, with Mirboo North and Prom Coast required to share with Australian Rules Football during the winter season. Cricket occupy the venues during the summer, with the exception of Prom Coast who don't have a co-tenant.
- Three of the four clubs stated that upgraded and redeveloped facilities is the single most important factor to increasing membership. Prom Coast believe more promotion of the sport is required in their area.
- Three clubs indicated that they either agree or strongly agree that they have outgrown their existing facilities and need more space. Prom Coast indicated that they have ample space from which to grow their club.
- Prom Coast and Leongatha Knights believe their current facilities are in good condition however Mirboo North and Korumburra disagreed that their facilities were in good condition.

### Priorities

- On average the top three on-field facility priorities for clubs include upgrades to existing grass pitches, further development of additional grass pitches and improved floodlighting.
- For off-field facilities spectator seating, designated first aid rooms and car parking were rated on average as the highest priorities for clubs.
- Clubs provided little support for the development of synthetic pitches in the short term as an on-field priority, or a licensed bar as an off-field priority.

The following diagram provides the top three priorities for each club's identified future facility improvements.





## 6. DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS



## FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the report includes a set of site and facility master plan drawings for each soccer venue that identify recommended development priorities and opportunities to meet the immediate and future needs of soccer.

A summary of the proposed development priorities and recommendations at each site is provided below.

### **Korumburra Recreation Reserve**

- Remove and realign the west and east sections of oval fencing to allow one full size senior and one full size junior pitch to be located outside the turf cricket pitches. This may result in the loss of the circulatory roadway around the oval.
- Retain and upgrade three light towers and relocate the east tower to improve the spread of lighting infrastructure and provide minimum lux levels to training standards.
- Minor short term refurbishment to building to improve access to public toilets and provide separate female change rooms.
- Refurbish existing player change rooms and amenities to meet minimum standards for the class of facility and provide unisex amenities that cater for female players. The proposed refurbishment will provide the following facilities in the players / officials area:
  - 28sqm. change room
  - 20sqm. unisex amenities
  - 24sqm. umpires room
  - 32sqm. storage area
- Refurbish existing public amenities to meet current regulatory standards. The proposed refurbishment will provide a new area for the public toilets and cleaners utility / storage.
- A minor upgrade is proposed for the existing cricket pavilion to accommodate away player change rooms.
- The multipurpose social room, kitchen / kiosk, bar area and office / meeting room will remain the same.

### **Mary McKillop College, Leongatha**

- Relocate existing cricket nets to provide a safe run-off for the training pitch. Retain size and location of existing training pitch.

- Relocate and provide new lamps to existing light towers on training pitch and provide additional towers to achieve minimum standards for training (100 lux).
- Create a safe pedestrian crossing from the clubrooms to player change rooms and amenities, and investigate the need for a DDA compliant pathway to the main oval.
- Modify the clubrooms to provide adequate umpires / referee facilities.
- Work with the school to upgrade terraced spectator area.

### **Walter Tuck Reserve, Mirboo North**

- Construct new pavilion in location to be determined.

### **Arthur Sutherland Reserve, Welshpool**

- Minor improvements to existing player amenities to meet regulatory standards and provide unisex use. Includes ambulant public toilet facility.
- Construct new accessible umpires change room and amenities (12sqm.) with access to existing multipurpose room.
- Remove existing concrete cricket wicket and provide two full size junior soccer pitches in a new north south orientation.
- Upgrade existing lighting fixtures attached to the building and provide new light towers on the east side of the oval to improve lux levels across the pitch.



# KORUMBURRA RECREATION RESERVE, KORUMBURRA | site masterplan

JOB NO: 15290 KB01

South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan



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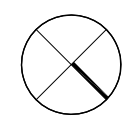
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**KORUMBURRA RECREATION RESERVE | existing & short term demolition building plan** JOB NO: 15290 KB02  
 South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan





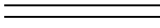
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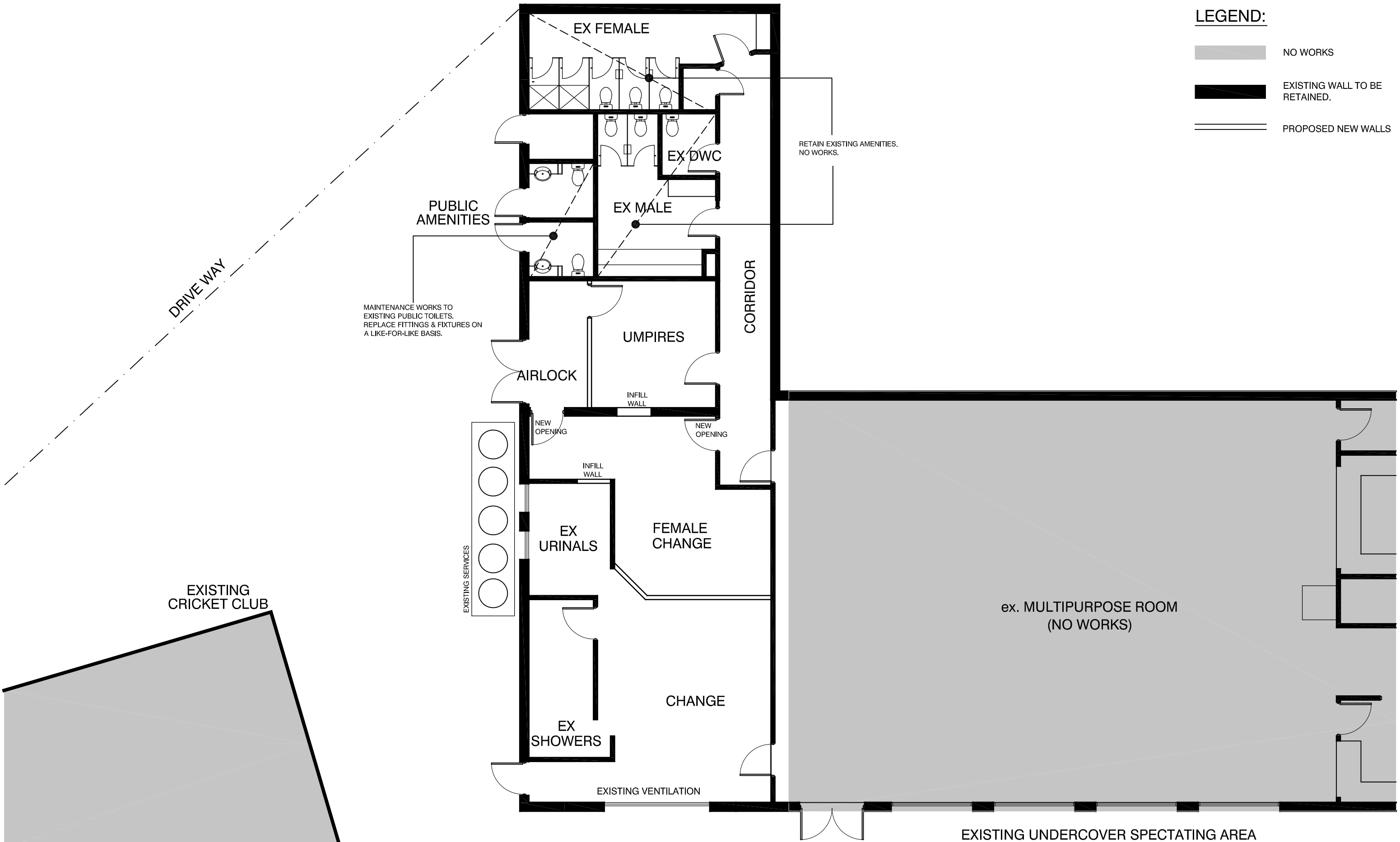
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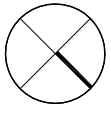
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**KORUMBURRA RECREATION RESERVE | proposed building plan SHORT TERM OPT. KB03**

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JOB NO: 15290



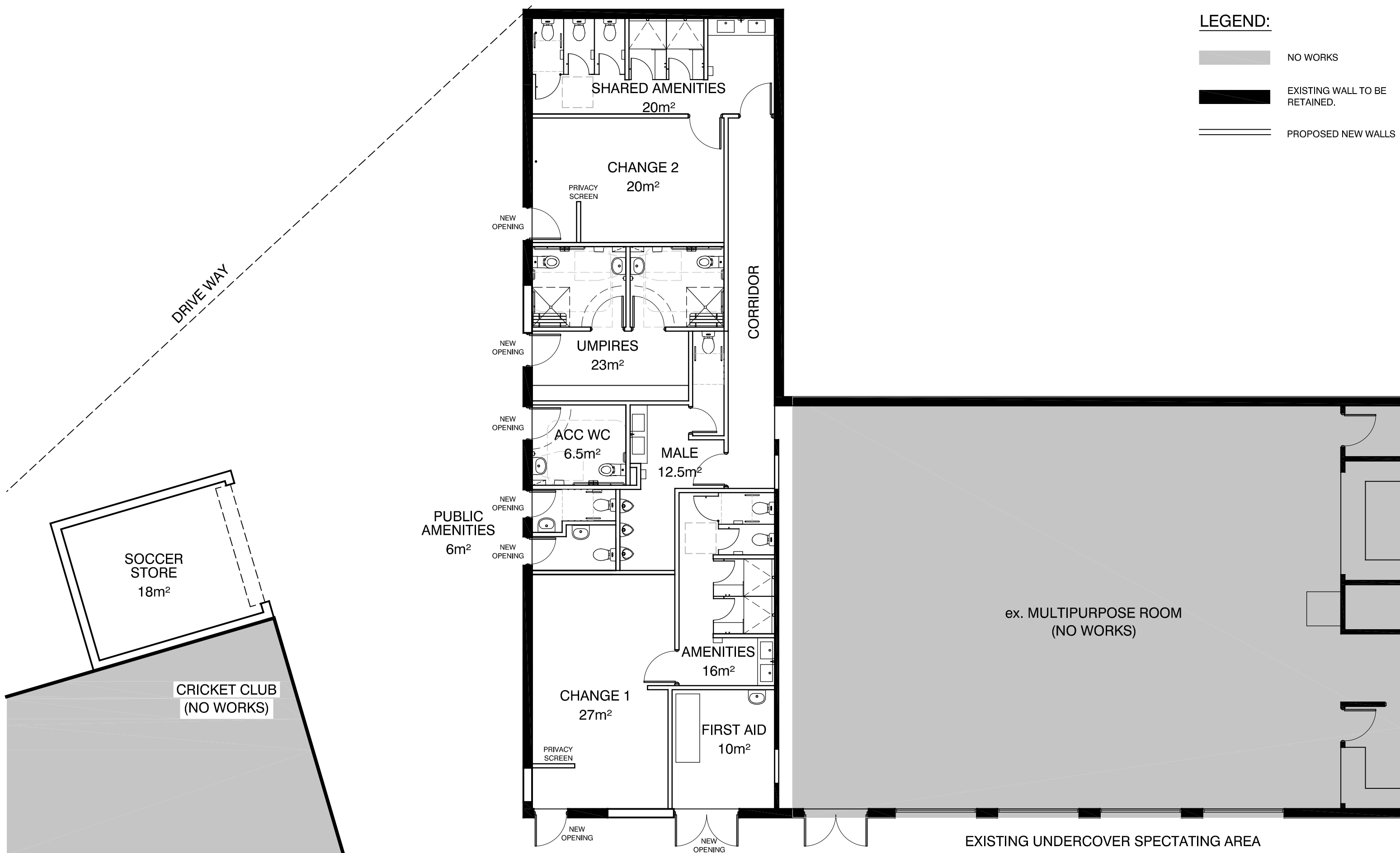
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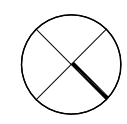
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**KORUMBURRA RECREATION RESERVE | proposed building plan LONG TERM OPTION** JOB NO: 15290 KB04

South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan



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**LEGEND:**

- ① Relocate existing & construct new light towers for practice pitch (4no. towers total)
- ② Existing Soccer Club Room with kitchen facilities
- ③ Potential new unisex accessible change / umpire facilities at existing store room in Club Room
- ④ Construct new carpark crossing and footpaths linking amenities to Club Room
- ⑤ Relocate existing cricket nets - location TBC
- ⑥ Soccer club currently utilise existing school male / female and accessible changerooms and amenities - no works
- ⑦ Existing synthetic cricket pitch to be retained
- ⑧ Potential new informal landscape / terraced seating opportunities to main oval
- ⑨ Paths to oval
- ⑩ Improve surface and ground dimensions to provide 50 x 90m ground.
- ⑪ New line marking to achieve 60 x 100m soccer pitch / field.

**MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE, LEONGATHA | site masterplan**

South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan

JOB NO: 15290 **MM01**



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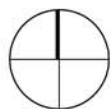
- ① Improve precinct entry / directional signage
- ② Existing football pavilion to be retained - no works
- ③ Existing change rooms to be demolished
- ④ Existing Shed (Built in 2016)
- ⑤ Potential new pavilion locations



# WALTER J TUCK RESERVE, MIRBOO NORTH | site masterplan

South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan

JOB NO. 15290 MN01



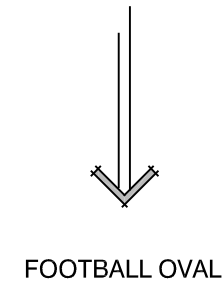
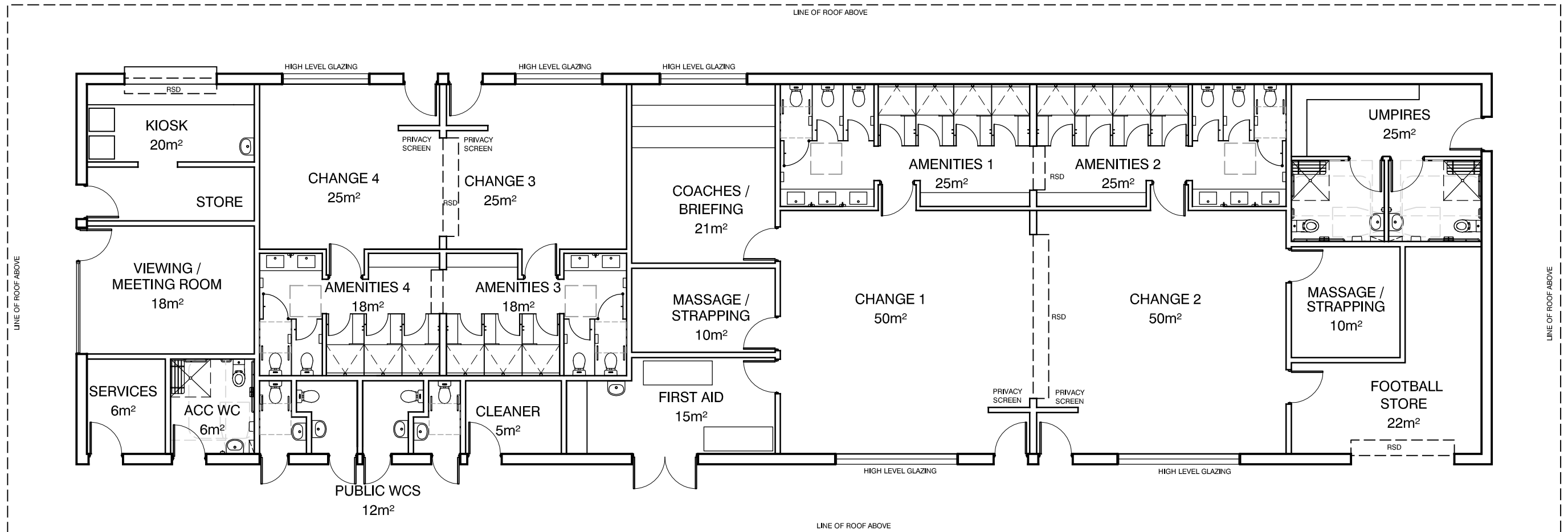
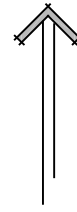
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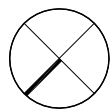


FOOTBALL OVAL

# WALTER J TUCK RESERVE, MIRBOO NORTH | proposed building plan

## South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan

JOB NO: 15290 MN03



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**LEGEND:**

- ① Existing Multipurpose Room - no works
- ② Existing kitchen facilities - no works
- ③ Existing Basketball Court - 17 / 18 floor replacement
- ④ Light refurbishment of existing amenities to achieve current regulatory compliance (ambulant toilet) and suitable for unisex use (individual shower cubicles etc.)
- ⑤ Construct new accessible WC / umpire change facilities with airlock for external and multipurpose room access
- ⑥ New line marking for 2no. 50 x 90m soccer pitches
- ⑦ Existing cricket pitch to be decommissioned / removed
- ⑧ Upgrade existing flood lights
- ⑨ New lighting towers to achieve 100 lux

# ARTHUR SUTHERLAND RESERVE, WELSHPOOL | site masterplan

South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan

JOB NO: 15290 **WP01**



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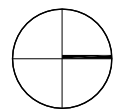
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- EXISTING FITTINGS & FIXTURES, WALLS, DOORS AND GLAZING TO BE DEMOLISHED.



**ARTHUR SUTHERLAND RESERVE, WELSHPOOL | existing building plan**

South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan

JOB NO: 15290 **WP02**



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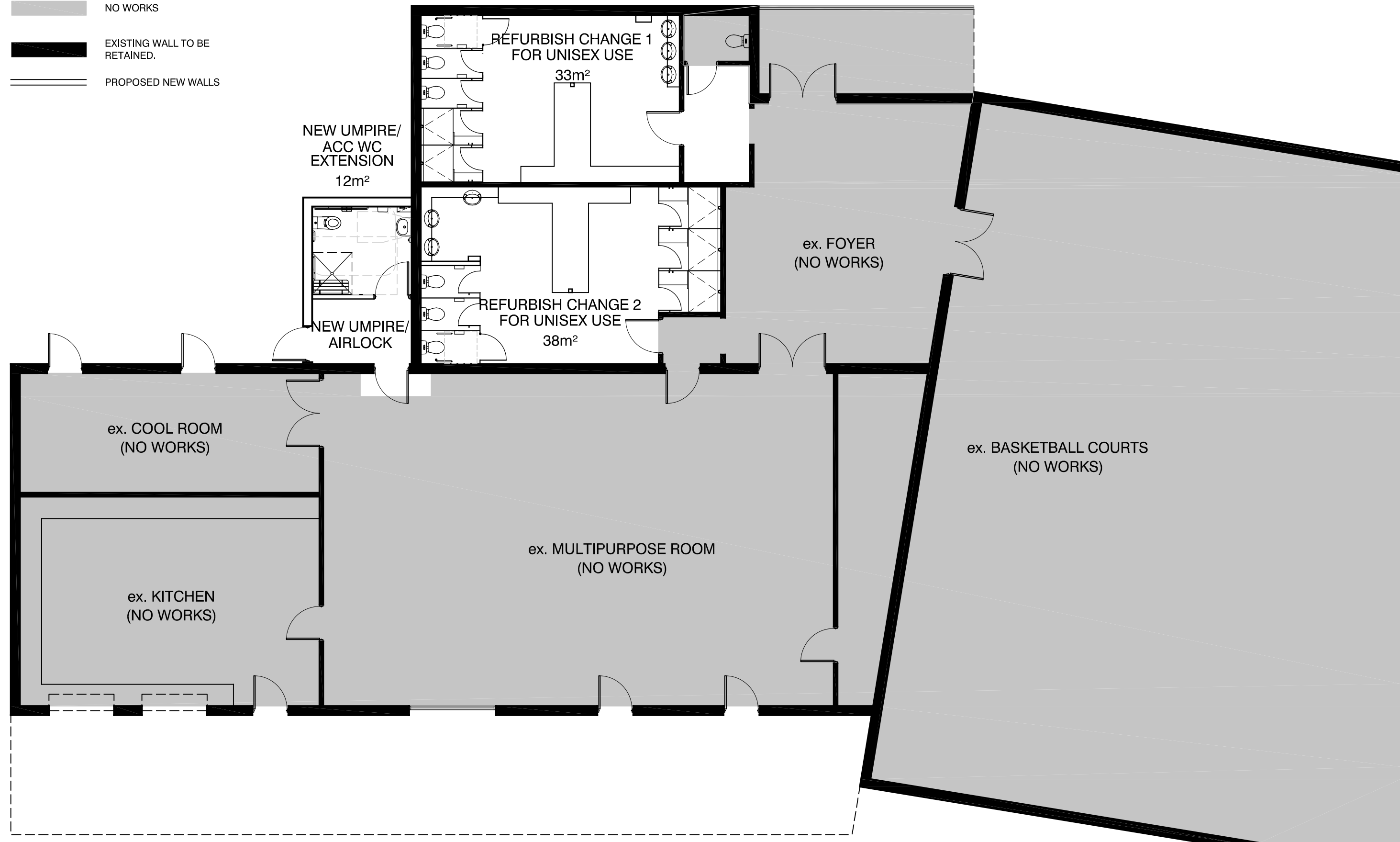
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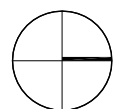
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**ARTHUR SUTHERLAND RESERVE, WELSHPOOL | proposed building plan**

South Gippsland Shire Council Soccer Facilities Plan

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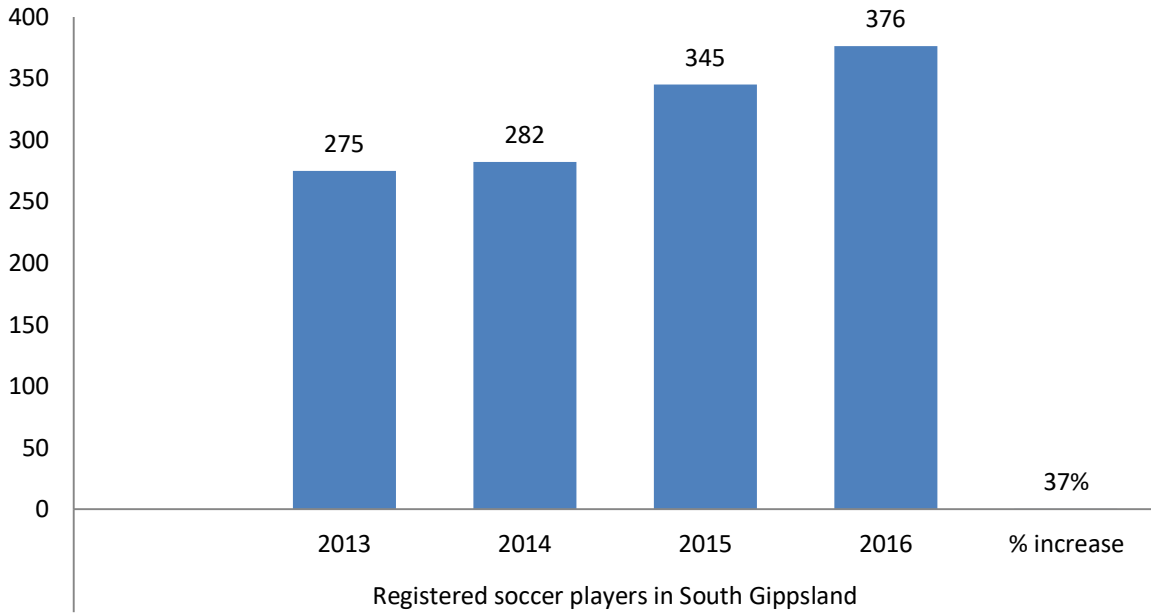
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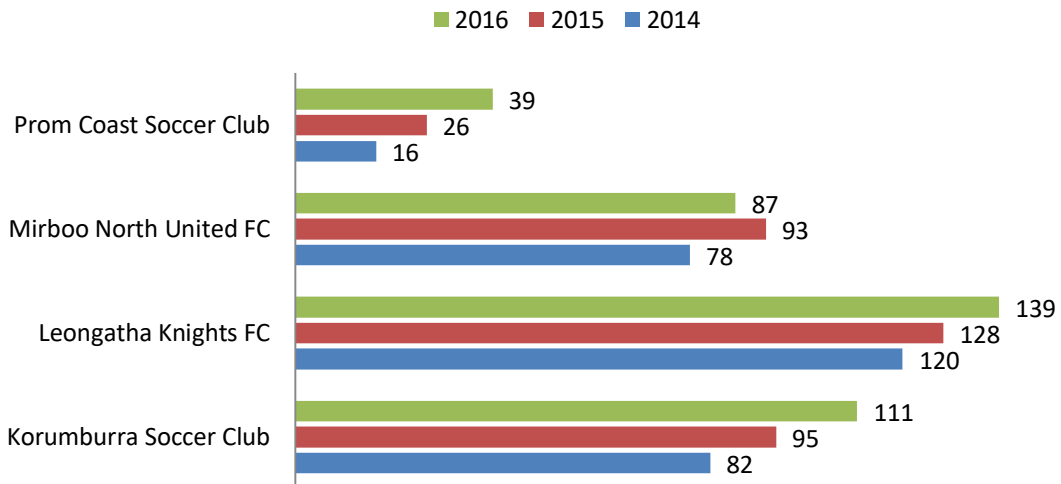
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# 7. APPENDICES

## LOCAL PARTICIPATION INFORMATION



### Number of players by club



### Soccer players by gender

