



STATEWIDE FACILITIES STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 - 2021





Introduction

Football is consistently the highest participation team sport in Australia and in Queensland. Every day in the life of a football club volunteer or administrator presents new challenges and exciting opportunities. For football to continue to be at the top of participation statistics in Queensland, especially in our competitive sporting market, Football Queensland has determined a need to better understand the way our network of facilities works on a local, regional and statewide level.

In Queensland today, there are 259 registered outdoor community football clubs, most of which manage facilities that vary in quality from rudimentary to state-of-the-art, international-standard football fields and ancillary buildings and infrastructure. In addition, Football Queensland has 13 affiliated futsal centres and 17 National Premier League (NPL) clubs, of which eight are among the 259 outdoor community clubs.

The state of football in Australia has improved significantly over the last 10 to 15 years. At the time of the Report of the Independent Soccer Review Committee into the Structure, Governance and Management of Soccer in Australia (better known as the Crawford Report, released in 2003), the game in Australia was struggling. The implementation of the recommendations of the Crawford Report improved Australian performances on the international football stage. The continued growth in popularity of football among grassroots participants has seen the sport mature to the point where it is time to look with optimism into the future.

In May 2015, Football Federation Australia (FFA) released its Whole of Football Plan. This plan eloquently articulates that, "... our best years are ahead of us." The plan supports ambitious targets for significant increases in player numbers and our national fan base with plans for coaching, facilities, refereeing, administration, fan connection, competitions, player development and Australia's national women's and men's teams.

Now that bold targets for football have been published at the national level, football federations, associations and clubs around Australia can look to these targets and their supporting plans for guidance in the development of their own plans to improve the game at all levels. It is in this spirit that Football Queensland is seeking to collaborate with its member zones, associations and clubs, Queensland local government authorities, the Queensland Government and experienced industry professionals to prepare a statewide football facility plan that will provide guidance in the maintenance and development of our facility network over the next five years.



The Aim

The aim of the project will be to prepare the Football Queensland Statewide Facilities Strategic Plan, 2017 – 2021 to identify and prioritise football facility needs across Queensland and improve the quality of evidence-based decision making for the sport.



Project Purpose

The purpose of the project will be to:

- Identify and document Football Queensland's long-term strategic vision for the maintenance and development of its statewide facility network to enable the football family in Queensland to collaboratively deliver on the participation targets articulated in the Whole of Football Plan (WOFB)
- Provide clear direction to the Football Queensland Board and management team regarding strategies and priorities for facility network maintenance and development
- Build on Football Queensland's involvement in the Queensland Government's sport and recreation GIS mapping program to clearly identify the composition of the network of football facilities across the state at a local, regional and state level
- Provide evidence of need and strategic guidance for the improvement and development of football facilities over the next five years
- Determine how the football facilities in each of Football Queensland's 10 zones function as a network to support each zone's current, proposed and emerging football participation programs, and the inclusion of commercial or semi-commercial football academies at venues around the state
- Determine the distribution of premier football facilities around Queensland, and how these higher-level facilities function as a network in support of the equitable player development pathways articulated in the WOFB, including through the National Premier League (NPL), the upcoming FQPL and player pathways towards the A-League, W-League and national representation
- Identify gaps in the provision of football infrastructure that may present barriers to participation in the sport in regional or remote communities
- Identify gaps in the provision of football infrastructure that may present barriers to participation in the sport by key target groups, particularly women and girls, CALD groups, Indigenous Australians and low socio-economic areas

Project Need

Across the state, by the end of 2016, there were 69,962 participants in regular, structured football programs. This included 56,566 junior players, 13,383 senior players and 13 registered professional players. In addition to this number, Football Queensland's membership includes 12,271 social players, 2,160 squirts (young players from the age of 3), over 6,000 futsal players, more than 50,000 participants in school-based football programs, almost 21,000 participants in community football events such as multicultural festivals, Indigenous tournaments, all-abilities programs and girls festivals, well in excess of 10,000 team coaches and managers, and thousands of behind-the-scenes volunteers working on the administration and governance of our clubs and associations.

Maintaining a coordinated approach to the planning and development of football facilities in a state as large as Queensland and with a participation base as broad as the list above is challenging. This new body of research and evidence will be called upon as requests for support for facility improvements are received from member organisations.

Football Queensland in conjunction with the government, has identified a need for the plan to address the risk of uncoordinated facility development across our zones, to provide a strategic guide for the enhancement of existing facilities, and an understanding of the demand for new facilities to enhance the football facility network across the state in partnership with Councils and government. The need for this plan is strengthened by Football Queensland's move to Meakin Park, as the state body now plays a role in the provision of high-level football facilities to support state level teams and players. The plan is needed to provide clear strategic guidance to Football Queensland on how Meakin Park should be developed, and its fit in the regional and statewide network of football facilities.

Planning Partners

The Football Queensland Statewide Facilities Strategic Plan, 2017 – 2021 will cover the geographical reach of Football Queensland, which includes all of Queensland and some parts of northern NSW. The partners to this project will be able to provide data and information that will assist in setting the strategic framework for the state's football facility network and the final recommendations of the plan. It is anticipated that the following organisations will be primary planning partners:

- FFA
- Local Councils in areas where there are or should be football facilities
- The 10 Football Queensland zones
- The Queensland Government Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (NPSR)

Supporting these primary partners will be the registered football clubs and associations in Queensland and Queensland schools.



**For more information regarding the Statewide Facilities
Strategic Plan 2017-2021, contact Football Queensland at
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