

MONASH CRICKET PARTICIPATION PLAN

2024 - 2034



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Monash acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



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VISION

A Monash Cricket Community that is upheld by healthy and vibrant clubs that reflect the Monash community and participate at high quality and safe cricket facilities.

Why develop this plan?

The Monash Cricket Participation Plan has been developed by Council in collaboration with Monash cricket clubs and Cricket Victoria, and establishes key principles to strategically address important issues in the sport. This includes the development of an action plan to prioritise and guide the future development and provisions standards for cricket in Monash.

How will this plan be used?

It is envisaged that the Monash Cricket Plan will be used to support clubs and identify investment priorities for cricket facilities and infrastructure in Monash. This plan sees Monash well-placed to attract external funding and support cricket clubs to be healthy, inclusive and vibrant places to play.

Objectives

- Identify short, medium and long term actions for cricket participation in Monash.
- Ensure that cricket is a sport that is available and accessible for the whole Monash community to enjoy.
- Continue to service different levels, formats and standards of cricket in Monash.
- Ensure that Monash cricket clubs support active participation and community health and wellbeing.
- Gender Equity - Support cricket clubs to achieve standards and requirements that are specified in the *Fair Access Policy Roadmap*.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Monash Council Plan 2021-2025

The Monash Cricket Participation Plan has been developed with strong links to the four strategic objectives of the Monash Council Plan 2021-2025.



Sustainable City



Inclusive Services



Enhanced Places



Good Governance



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Sport and Recreation Victoria - Fair Access Policy Roadmap

The *Fair Access Policy Roadmap* has been developed in partnership with local governments, the state sport and active recreation sector and other key stakeholders to improve gender equitable access and use of publically owned community sports infrastructure across Victoria.

The following Fair Access Principles have been developed to guide local governments and other public land management groups to achieve gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure:

1. Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe and inclusive
2. Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation, including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator
3. Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure
4. Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles
5. Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices
6. Prioritise access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure



Fair Access Policy Roadmap

Supporting gender equitable access to and use of community sports infrastructure in Victoria

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

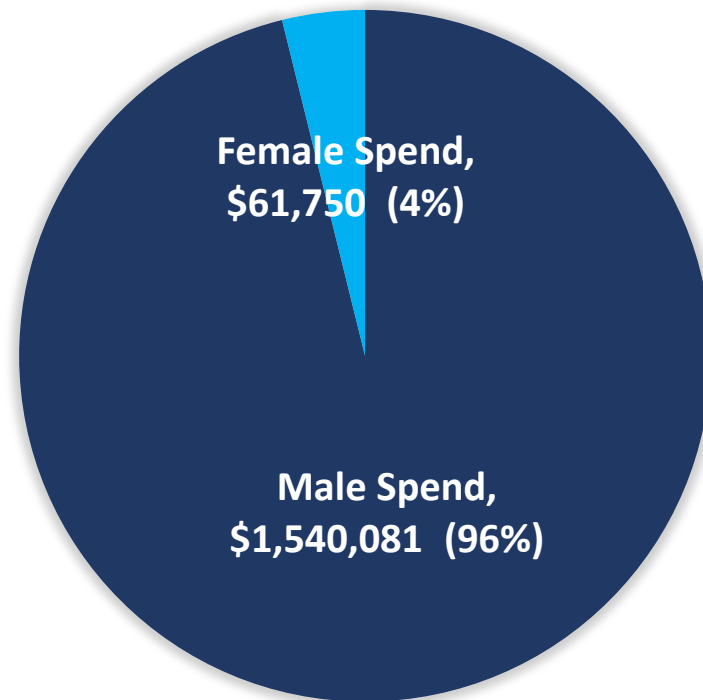
Female Cricket In Monash

When considering capital and operational investment into all cricket facilities and applying this investment across gender, an average annual spend of approximately \$1.5 million directly benefits male cricket participants in Monash. Using the same methodology, just \$60,000 of Council’s annual spend benefits female cricket participation.

Female cricket participation rates in Monash are behind other major sporting codes, such as Soccer, Australian Rules Football and Tennis. When comparing with national participation rates via Sport Australia’s *Ausplay State of Play Report*, Monash sits lower than national averages for female participation. Over a period of several years, approximately 5% of cricket teams in Monash have been designated female teams.

We have heard very clearly from several cricket clubs in Monash that they are very eager to develop or grow a female cricket program within their club, but would benefit from Council leadership and strategic direction to achieve this.

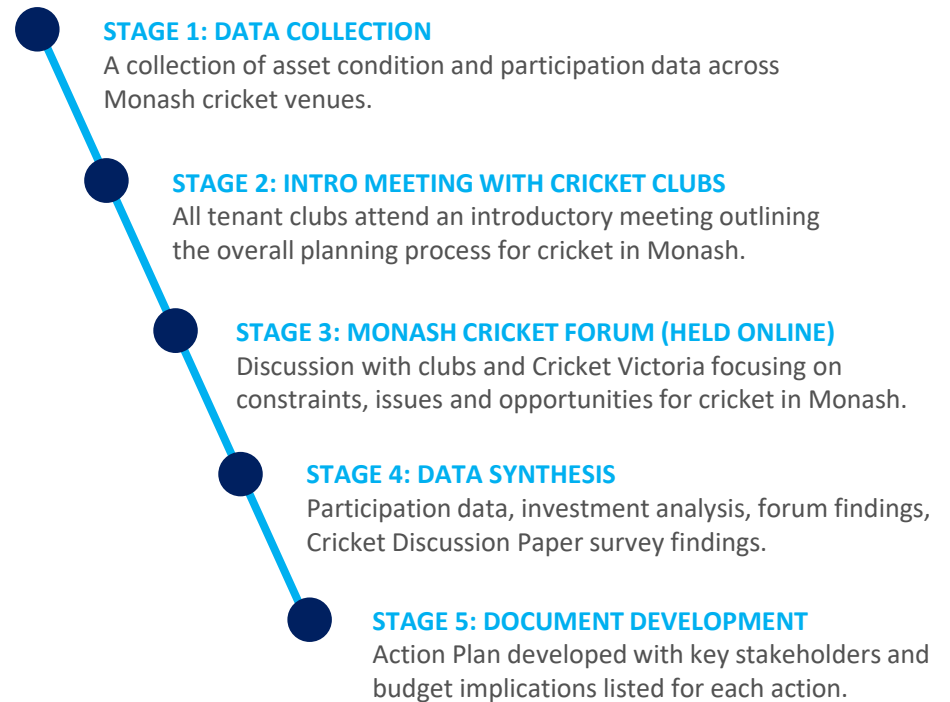
Figure 1: Average Annual Spend by Council across all cricket venues (Capital and Operational), 2010-2022



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Methodology

The development of the *Monash Cricket Participation Plan* has followed a five stage process:



KEY FINDINGS

INFRASTRUCTURE

- 7 out of 30 or 23% of all synthetic cricket wickets currently do not meet preferred Cricket Victoria standards.
- 2 out of 9 or 22% of all turf wicket tables in Monash are categorised as 'over-used.'
- 16 out of 25 or 64% of synthetic cricket net facilities do not meet preferred Cricket Victoria standards.
- When combining operational and capital investment, turf cricket currently costs Council approximately \$2,000 per turf cricket participant, compared to \$300 for each synthetic cricket participant each season.



MONASH CRICKET FORUM

The most popular future directions for cricket in Monash as nominated by club representatives at the Monash Cricket Forum were:

- "Increased participation for juniors and senior females."
- "Shared vision and strategic direction for the sport."
- "*Condition of Facilities and Participation Rates* are the most critical issues facing clubs."

PARTICIPATION

- Females currently make up less than 5% of cricket participation in Monash.
- Female participation is split across 11 girls' teams and 3 senior women's teams.
- 66% of cricket participants in Monash are aged between 18-44 years.
- Cricket is one of few sports in Monash that demonstrates above average representation from culturally diverse participants when compared with the national averages.

DISCUSSION PAPER RESPONSES

- 84% support investment into cricket net improvements as a priority.
- 68% supported the proposed measures introduced via the Cricket Wicket Policy (2021).
- *Safe and High Quality Facilities, Female Participation and Growth of Junior Cricket* were the top 3 most popular investment principles.

ACTION PLAN



STRATEGIC PILLARS

The following strategic pillars have been used to develop actions for the Monash Cricket Participation Plan:



Increased Cricket Participation

Inclusive and diverse cricket participation formats, including greater opportunities for social and modified play, as well as increased female and junior participation.



Quality & Safe Cricket Venues

Cricket training and playing facilities that are safe, welcoming, fit-for-purpose, inclusive and durable. Where suitable, explore flexible cricket facilities that can provide shared and multi-purpose use.



Sustainable Clubs

Monash cricket clubs that are committed to serving the broader Monash community, including growth for female cricket.

1. Increased Cricket Participation

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	PRIORITY	BUDGET	RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold
1.1 Leverage Monash’s Active Communities program and partner with local clubs, schools and Cricket Victoria to grow junior participation and non-traditional modes of the sport with a focus on inclusion.	2	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council Cricket Clubs Cricket Victoria
1.2 In accordance with the State Government’s Fair Access Policy Roadmap, all Monash cricket clubs to commit to increased opportunities for women and girls to participate.	1	Existing operating budgets	Cricket Clubs Monash Council
1.3 Develop a plan for multi-use facilities that can accommodate cricket training at venues that have women’s and girls’ teams.	2	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council Cricket Clubs Cricket Victoria
1.4 Subject to site suitability, engage with local schools to explore greater cricket participation at school ovals, including scheduling and facility development opportunities where feasible.	3	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council SRV Cricket Victoria
1.5 Deliver two Community Cricket Days each summer season through Monash’s Active Communities Program, in partnership with Monash cricket clubs and Cricket Victoria. For more information, visit: www.monash.vic.gov.au/Things-to-Do/Active-Communities	1	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council Cricket Clubs Cricket Victoria

2. Quality and Safe Cricket Venues

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS		PRIORITY	BUDGET	RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold
2.1	In preparation for summer season 2025/26, plan for Monash Cricket Clubs to be allocated use of two new cricket venues in Monash: <i>The Ashes</i> and <i>The Oaks</i> - Jells Park, Wheelers Hill. This includes running an EOI process with existing Monash cricket clubs and considers winter cricket opportunities.	1	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council Cricket Clubs
2.2	Explore external funding opportunities for community cricket net facilities at venues that are allocated to cricket clubs that achieve <i>Fair Access</i> for women and girls. Renewal of cricket nets across Monash will be delivered in accordance with the provision standards that are specified in the Monash Cricket Wicket Policy: www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Corporate-Strategies-Plans/Plans-and-Strategies/Cricket-Wicket-Policy	1	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council SRV Cricket Victoria
2.3	All synthetic match-day cricket wickets in Monash to meet preferred Cricket Victoria standards by 2030.	2	\$250,000 to be staged	Monash Council SRV
2.4	Central Reserve to service the Monash community as Council's only Premier Cricket venue, with supporting match day and training infrastructure that is in accordance with facility standards for premier cricket venues.	2	Existing operating budgets External Funding	Monash Council
2.5	Prioritise cricket infrastructure upgrades and asset renewal of cricket facilities at community cricket venues that are allocated to cricket clubs with female teams and can demonstrate alignment with the <i>Fair Access Policy Roadmap</i> .	1	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council Cricket Clubs

2. Quality and Safe Cricket Venues (continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	PRIORITY	BUDGET	RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold
2.6 Subject to site investigations and parameters stipulated in the Monash Sports Floodlighting Policy, explore the feasibility of night-match standard lighting installations at Central Reserve, Mount Waverley Reserve and DW Nicoll Reserve.	3	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council SRV
2.7 *Explore external funding opportunities for pavilion amenity upgrades at priority sites that are identified in the Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework, such as D.W. Nicoll Reserve, Jingella Reserve, Ashwood College, Princes Highway East Reserve and Southern Reserve.	2	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council

*Depending on site suitability, pavilion amenity upgrades can include modular redevelopments and/or internal refurbishments for gender neutral change rooms and amenities.

3. Sustainable Clubs

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS		PRIORITY	BUDGET	RESPONSIBLE Lead in bold
3.1	To be eligible for future Council investment, cricket clubs must participate in the Active Monash Sports Club Framework and achieve mandatory level.	2	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council Cricket Clubs
3.2	Allocate cricket matches in accordance with the wicket usage parameters that are outlined in the Monash Cricket Wicket Policy: www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Corporate-Strategies-Plans/Plans-and-Strategies/Cricket-Wicket-Policy	1	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council
3.3	Review and monitor the adopted Monash Cricket Wicket Policy, with updates made to the policy if necessary.	3	Existing operating budgets	Monash Council
3.4	Prioritise the allocation of cricket facilities to clubs that can demonstrate an ongoing commitment to equitable access in accordance with the Fair Access roadmap.	1	Existing operating budgets	Cricket Clubs Monash Council

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework

www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/edms/things-to-do/sport-recreation/active-monash-capital-works-priorities-framework.pdf

Active Monash Sports Club Framework

www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/edms/things-to-do/sport-recreation/active-monash-sports-club-framework-2022-2027.pdf

Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper

<https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/cricket>

Monash Cricket Wicket Policy

www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/edms/things-to-do/sport-recreation/monash-cricket-wicket-policy.pdf

Monash Sportsground Floodlighting Policy

www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/edms/things-to-do/sport-recreation/monash-sports-floodlighting-policy.pdf

Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap

<https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/fair-access>