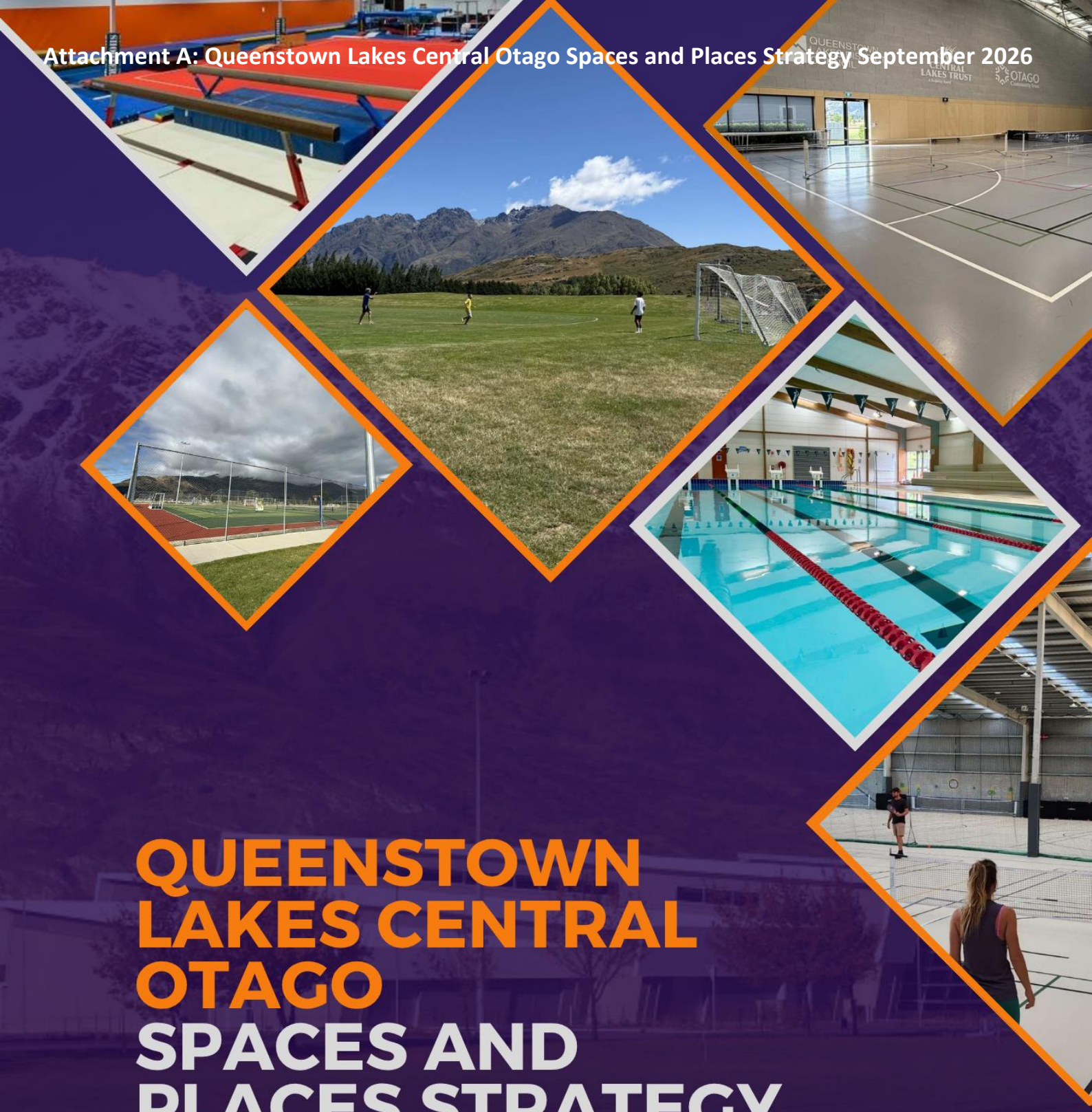

QUEENSTOWN LAKES CENTRAL OTAGO SPACES AND PLACES STRATEGY

Prepared for: Sport Otago
Prepared by: Recreation Sport Leisure Consultancy

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About RSL Consultancy

RSL Consultancy undertakes projects and offers strategic advice throughout Aotearoa to enable community well-being. We support organisations to make informed decisions when it comes to their people, facilities, places and spaces. RSL carries out a range of pre-planning work from needs assessments and feasibility reports to business cases. We also work on a range of organisational strategic and operational projects.

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Contents

1.0 Executive Summary 5

2.0 Introduction 18

3.0 Demographic Summary 25

4.0 Advantages, Challenges, Needs and Trends 26

5.0 Future Planning & Priorities 34

6.0 Overview of Facility Provision 40

7.0 Facility Provision - Gaps & Oversupply by Facility Type 43

8.0 Key Recommendations for the Sub-Region 57

9.0 District/Local Level Facility Recommendations 68

10.0 Appendix One - Demographic Detail 79

Appendix Two - Code Based Facility Gap and Oversupply Analysis 88

11.0 Appendix Three – Engagement Summary 115

12.0 Appendix 4 – Secondary Data Review 137

13.0 Appendix 5 –Scope of Strategy 157

Foreword

The refreshed **Queenstown Lakes Central Otago Spaces & Places (Facilities) Strategy** represents an important step forward in how we collectively plan for, invest in, and deliver spaces and places that enable people to be active across one of New Zealand's fastest-growing regions. This strategy provides a vital roadmap for creating the environments, facilities and opportunities that support active and healthy communities, now and into the future.

Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes continue to experience significant population growth, evolving community demographics, and increasing pressure on existing infrastructure. These changes present both opportunities and challenges. As our communities expand and diversify, so too do the ways people choose to participate in play, active recreation, sport, and informal physical activity. At the same time, councils, funders, schools, community organisations, and sporting groups face increasing financial constraints and competing priorities. In this environment, collaboration, evidence-based planning, and strategic investment have never been more important.

At Sport Otago, our vision is for **Otago to be the world's most active region**, and our purpose is simple: **empowering Otago to be active**. Achieving this aspiration requires more than encouraging participation. It requires thoughtful planning, investment, and stewardship of the spaces and places that enable people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to be active in ways that are meaningful to them.

This strategy supports that ambition by providing a clear and coordinated approach to future provision across Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes. Alongside the **Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy**, it contributes to a region-wide view of spaces and places across Ōtakou Otago, while retaining a strong focus on the distinct needs and priorities of each sub-region.

The next step is to bring these two strategies together as complementary chapters within a single Otago-wide Spaces and Places framework. This approach will provide a unified regional perspective while preserving the unique character, opportunities, and priorities of each sub-region. Together, the two strategies will help ensure that facilities, parks, open spaces, and recreation environments are planned, invested in, and managed in a way that meets the needs of communities across the whole of Otago.

On behalf of Sport Otago, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and leadership of the many partners who have contributed to the development of this strategy; Recreation Sport Leisure Consultancy (RSL), the Project Steering Group, Central Otago District Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Sport Central, Sport New Zealand, funding partners, mana whenua, sporting and recreation organisations, schools, community representatives, and the wider sector for their ongoing collaboration and shared vision.

This strategy provides a clear direction for the future. While resources will always be finite, a collective commitment to evidence-based decision-making, partnership, and long-term thinking will help ensure that Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes continue to provide high-quality spaces and places that support active, healthy and connected communities for generations to come.

James Nation

Chief Executive, Sport Otago

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction & Purpose

This Strategy focuses on the Queenstown Lakes - Central Otago (QLCO) area of the wider Otago region. It replaces the Queenstown Lakes-Central Otago Sub-Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy (revised July 2020).

Where possible and appropriate, this Strategy has been aligned with the Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy (2023), as it is intended that the 2 strategies will be combined into a region-wide strategy in the future[1].

The QLCO sub-region comprises the Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes territorial authority areas, which collectively cover a large tract of the inland part of the Otago region. The population of the sub-region was just over 80,000 people in 2025. Currently, approximately 68% of the sub-regional population resides in the Queenstown Lakes District (QLDC area), with the remaining 32% based in the Central Otago District (CODC).

Figure 1: Map of the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago Sub-Region

The sub-regional population is expected to grow to approximately 140,000 people by 2055. This is approximately a 61% increase (around 60,000 people). Growth projections indicate that 73% of future growth is expected to be in QLDC, and 27% in the CODC area. The population is projected to age with more growth occurring in the older age groups (60 years plus). Overall, the ethnic profile of the sub-region is expected to remain relatively similar to today, with the most change expected in those identifying as Asian in Queenstown Lakes. 18% of the Queenstown Lakes population (13,000 people) is expected to identify as Asian by 2043, increasing from around 6,000 people today.

1.2 Strategic Fit

This Strategy provides a high-level strategic framework to guide councils, funders and community organisations across the QLCO sub-region in their decision-making regarding spaces and places planning and investment.

As a high-level, sub-regional document, it provides:

- A snapshot of current provision of sport and recreation spaces and places across the sub-region.
- Information and recommendations to inform future planning of councils, funders and community organisations.

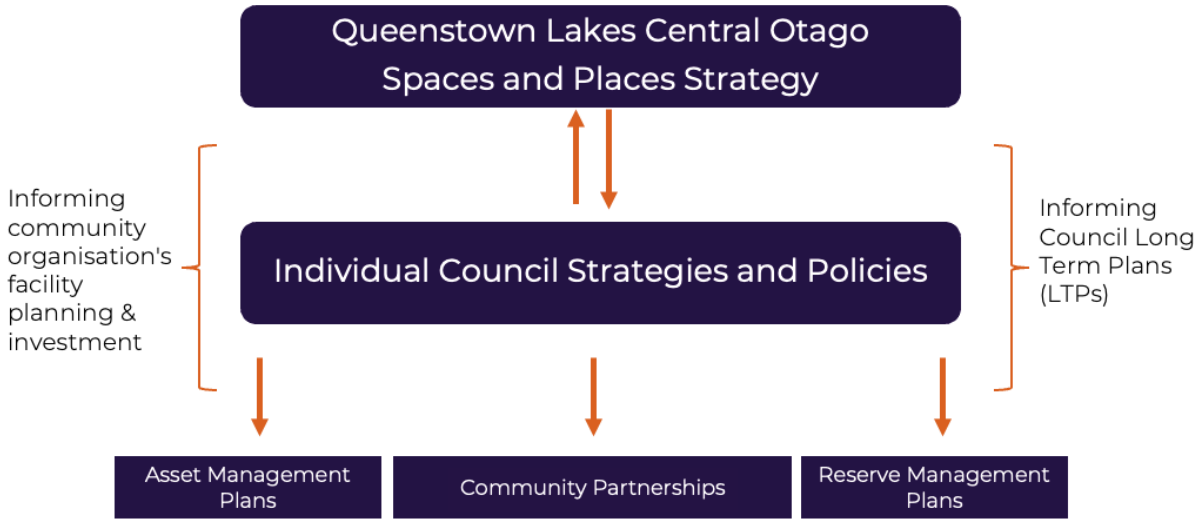
[1] Some content, such as the facility categories and principles have been refined and updated to better reflect current needs and strategic context.

- Identified spaces and places priorities for the QLCO sub-region.

This Strategy is intended to work alongside existing council strategies and policies to support best practice approaches and to maximise return on investment. It does not replace or supersede existing council processes, but instead provides a framework to enable greater consistency in how proposed spaces and places projects in the sub-region are evaluated, planned and prioritised.

Where gaps and challenges exist, it is critical that this high-level strategy is supported by detailed local planning at district and community level.

Figure 2: Strategic Fit



1.2.1 Spaces and Places Considered

This strategy focuses on the key spaces and places (facilities) where active recreation and sporting activity occur across the QLCO sub-region. It prioritises guidance at a sub-regional/district and regional level and does not provide detailed guidance regarding local assets.

The types of spaces and places included are:

- Aquatic spaces and places – pool-based and natural water-based
- Indoor spaces and places – multi-use court-based and specialised
- Outdoor spaces and places – for field sports and court sports
- Other spaces and places – ice sports and other specialised sports

See Appendix 6 for the full scope of the strategy.

1.3 Regional Advantages

The Otago region has several competitive advantages that have been identified in prior plans, and which exist across all parts of the region.

Climate – dry, hot summers and cool winters support diverse activity opportunities

Natural Environment – a blue-green network that inspires and supports participation in the great outdoors

Tourism – which has driven the provision of some infrastructure, including adventure-based sport activities and experiences

Major Event Facilities – including both event centres and natural features which attract national and international events and users

World Class Participation and Development Pathways – for a range of codes, especially outdoor-based, such as snow sports and mountain biking (MTB)

1.3.1 QLCO Sub-regional Advantages

Stakeholders in QLCO also identified other advantages specific to the QLCO sub-region, including:

- Variety of spaces and places available for sport and recreation
- Wide range of opportunities and experiences available – including participation in snow and ice sports.
- Good networks of some specific sport and recreation assets spread across the sub-region, including tracks and trails, swimming pools and indoor court venues.

1.4 Regionwide Challenges

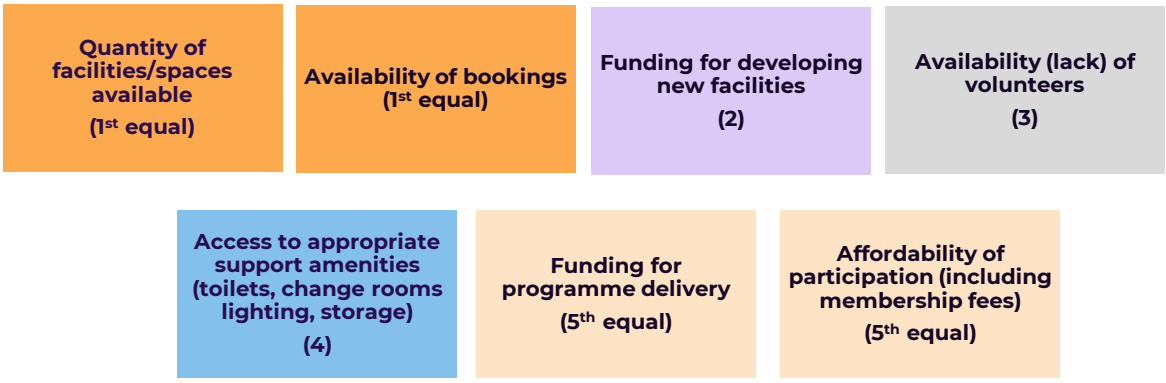
Issues and challenges which are known to apply across the whole Otago Region include:

- Uneven population growth
- Changing population
- The facility legacy (Ageing facilities)
- Fit-for-purpose facilities
- Changing participation trends
- Increased burden on volunteers
- Geographic distribution of facilities
- Opportunities for regional competition
- Funding support
- Regional organisation capacity

1.4.1 QLCO Sub-regional Challenges

The main challenges identified across the QLCO sub-region through stakeholder surveys, workshops and Project Steering Group input are outlined in Figure 3. It is noted that different districts, communities and organisations experience these challenges to differing degrees.

Figure 3: Top Sub-regional Issues and Challenges



1.5 Spaces and Places Categories

In order to help inform regional and sub-regional planning, it is useful to have a way to categorise and consider the role of specific spaces and places (facilities) and how they support communities to engage in active recreation and sport. All categories of facility have an important role within the network of spaces and places in the QLCO sub-region[2].

1.6 Spaces and Places Planning Principles

When considering the upgrade or development of future spaces and places to meet sport and active recreation needs, it is important that facilities are developed in a robust and planned way. The planning principles and framework in this Strategy have been informed by Sport New Zealand's Spaces and Places Framework (2024) and by the Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy (2023). The principles of this Strategy are:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi Informed Approach
- Meeting an Identified Need
- Seeking best value for money (economically viable)
- Environmental sustainability
- Partnering and collaboration
- Co-location and Integration
- Future proofing - adaptability
- Inclusive and Accessible
- Reflective of the Community / Sub-Region
- Activation
- Social Interaction

Detailed explanation of these principles is provided in Section 5 – Future Planning and Priorities.

1.7 Spaces and Places Planning Criteria and Assessment Process

The principles of the Strategy have aligned planning criteria, which will be used to help implement the Strategy. The criteria will be applied to the assessment of current and future proposed spaces and places projects across the sub-region, and assist with identifying the priorities for investment.

The detailed 3-level planning criteria are introduced in Section 5.3 of this Strategy and covered in detail in Appendix 3. At level 1, the essential criteria need to be considered and met with a high degree of certainty before a more detailed assessment of any concept is undertaken using the remaining level 2 and 3 criteria.

[2] These categories and associated definitions have been refined, and are slightly different to those used in the Coastal Otago sub-regional strategy.

Appendix 3 also outlines the process that is used to apply the principles and assessment criteria of this Strategy to proposed spaces and places investments across the sub-region. This process will inform the recommendations the Otago Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group provides to decision making organisations regarding concepts put forward for investment into active recreation and sport facility development, redevelopment or major maintenance projects. Sport Otago provides the Spaces & Places Navigator role.

1.8 Sub-regional Snapshot of Facility Provision

The Sport NZ Facility Planning Tool (FPT) shows approximately 183 known play[3], sport and active recreation sites across the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago sub-region, with approximately 284 facilities provided across these sites[4]. Of those, approximately 57% are Council-owned sites and approximately 12% are Ministry of Education-owned. The remainder of the sites and facilities are owned by a variety of charitable trusts, clubs and community groups.

There is a range of multi-use sites that have multiple sport and recreation facilities in one location, including the Wānaka Recreation Centre Hub, Queenstown Events Centre and Molyneaux Park. There are also a number of privately provided sport and active recreation assets in the sub-region.

Overall, based on survey responses, there is reasonable satisfaction with some key aspects of the spaces and places network in the sub-region. The highest stakeholder satisfaction levels related to the location of facilities/spaces, the overall condition of spaces, along with management and maintenance approaches. Aspects of the network which stakeholders are most dissatisfied with are the capacity to meet current and future needs and the provision of associated amenities (such as toilets, storage, change rooms and floodlights).

Due to capacity constraints, particularly in the indoor courts and sports fields networks, there are several stakeholder organisations that are already having to place limits on participation. This will be exacerbated with population growth if new assets are not bought into the network promptly. Section 7 provides a gap and oversupply analysis of the spaces and places network, based on facility type. Further detail on a code-by-code basis is provided in Appendix 2.

1.8.1 Observations on the Current Spaces and Places Network

In addition to the sub-regional advantages (identified in Section 1.3), other positive features of the current spaces and places network include:

- Many spaces and places provide high-quality experiences, in part due to the high standards of operational maintenance.
- Several well-utilised shared multi-use hub locations such as Molyneaux Park, Anderson Park, Wānaka Recreation Centre Hub and the Queenstown Events Centre precinct. There are also several multi-use outdoor water sports facilities.
- A good network of some types of assets such as tracks/trails and swimming pools across the sub-region.
- Some new, modern indoor court venues, water sport and other clubrooms.

[3] Playgrounds are not in scope for this strategy and most are not captured in the FPT.

[4] All numbers in this section are indicative only as the Sport NZ Facility Planning Tool is known to have some data gaps. It is also a live system, regularly being updated so figures change. It is the most comprehensive facility information that is available.

The most challenging aspects of the network are:

- Under provision of key sport and recreation assets, with availability, and capacity of sports fields (including lit fields for training) and indoor courts as key pressure points.
- Limited (or no) provision of support amenities, such as toilets, change rooms, lighting and sports storage in some locations. These types of assets are important for sport and recreation participants and spectators.
- The age of the facility network is impacting increased maintenance needs and also creating functionality limitations with some older assets not meeting modern expectations, such as not having female-friendly toilets and change spaces.
- Limited functionality of some facilities for people with accessibility needs, such as older aquatic centres or club spaces which do not have accessible bathrooms, spectator space or ramps to access participation spaces.
- Securing funding for required major maintenance and upgrades of existing club-owned facilities.
- Timely implementation of planned new developments, with sport and recreation assets at times deferred due to constrained budgets or planning restrictions.
- Whether the policy frameworks and funding opportunities are aligned with community sport and recreation needs, such as development contribution policies.

Other critical considerations within the network include:

- Travel time and distance across the sub-region (including costs associated with travel) and winter driving conditions increase the importance of providing local spaces and places that reduce travel requirements.
- The importance of school facilities for community participation in many areas, but unclear future capacity within school facilities due to strong roll growth placing pressure on many schools.

1.9 Key Recommendations

Section 8 of this Strategy provides key recommendations for the sub-region (operational and facility based). It identifies the priority recommendations, suggested timeframes for action, and the roles of key stakeholders in progressing the recommendations.

This summary provides the recommendations only and should be supported by reference to section 8 of the Strategy for further information. Section 9 of this Strategy provides key recommendations on a district-by-district basis, those are not duplicated in this summary section.

1.9.1 Sub-regional Operational & Policy Recommendations

Recommendations
1. That QLDC and CODC jointly receive the Strategy and use it as a key document to inform and enhance future spaces and places planning and investment across the sub-region.
2. The Otago Region Spaces and Places Steering Group continues to operate with key roles to include: a. Undertaking annual monitoring of Strategy implementation. b. Progressing the amalgamation of this Strategy with the Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy (short-term) c. Working with tangata whenua to explore how Māori perspectives can best be incorporated into future spaces and places planning, including through potential involvement in this group if it aligns with tangata whenua aspirations.

d. Ensuring that the next review of the Strategy is commenced in 2028/29 to inform the 2030-2033 LTP cycle (medium-term)
3. Develop cross-boundary sub-regional sport and recreation policy framework(s) to support ongoing provision of sport and recreation opportunities for the growing community, including through: a. Development of a sub-regional approach to capital and operational investment in the sub-regional spaces and places network (especially multi-use hub sites and indoor court facilities). b. Reviewing development contributions policies and reserve land quality standards to ensure growth is making appropriate contributions[5] to support community sport and recreation needs. c. Investigating options and opportunities to develop alternative funding mechanisms to better support and align spaces and places investment. This should include consideration of sub-regional community funding models[6], joint ventures, developer agreements, and philanthropic funding.
4. Develop an educational approach to support implementation of the Strategy, by building awareness within community organisations of the existence of the Strategy, its direction, planning principles and processes. This will help the community to better understand good practice planning and the role of territorial authorities and community funders in the sub-regional spaces and places network.
5. Continue to support community volunteers in their roles to maximise the activation of spaces and places through the sharing of good practice, tools, templates and guidance. This should include: a. Supporting migrant communities who may need more assistance working with the system b. Advocating and supporting community organisations to consider collaborations[7] and hubs to make better use of physical and operational resources. c. Specific engagement with rural communities to identify how volunteers can best be supported in rural areas.
6. Hold regular planning forums with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and schools (minimum of annually) in order to: a. Nurture relationships with MOE representatives and local schools who are important providers of local play, active recreation and sport spaces, including in rural communities. b. Continue to identify mutually beneficial school community partnerships to improve local access and reduce duplication, including in key QLDC growth areas of Eastern Corridor, Southern Corridor and Wānaka. c. Where required, develop specific partnership agreements to support enhanced collaboration and shared funding approaches.

[5] Including land quantity, quality and financial contributions.

[6] Such as the New Plymouth Partners Model and Tauranga City Council Te Manawataki o Te Papa Fund (in partnership with the Acorn Foundation).

[7] Community organisations have signalled they need help with how to approach and create effective collaborative partnerships.

7. Create appropriate sub-regional operational planning forum(s) which enable territorial authorities to work collaboratively with RSOs and Associations / Centres to plan for and spread demand across existing sport and recreation assets. This should include opportunities to: a. Understand and plan responses to seasonal changes in community participation demand b. Discuss booking allocation challenges and agree priorities c. Explore the potential for sport delivery programming changes (such as refining draws and competition times and formats) and ensure any changes from 1 sport does not negatively impact another sport.
8. Advocate to Sport New Zealand to ensure that the rural travel fund is appropriate to support travel requirements of rural communities, especially where regular, weekly sport and recreation competitions require travel across districts and sub-regional boundaries.
9. Work with active recreation groups who require access to natural areas and large open spaces to enable their activities, to ensure consideration is given to their specific needs. This will require engagement beyond traditional sport and recreation groups and consideration of factors such as the retention and protection of recreation areas and access routes through district plan processes and operational consideration of needs such as safe launching and landing spaces for non-commercial air and water-based activities.
10. When planning future upgrades or development of new sport and recreation spaces and places, consider opportunities for how these can be more welcoming and inclusive of all potential users and abilities.

1.9.2 Sub-Regional Spaces and Places Planning and Development Recommendations

General Recommendations
11. Work with disability advocates such as MINT and Special Olympics, and other relevant groups (including older adults) to identify a prioritised list of sub-regional spaces and places where physical accessibility issues are creating use barriers. Working with the community will help ensure the most important priorities are identified and can be addressed in a staged manner, as funding allows.
12. Maximise the usability of existing active recreation and sport spaces by improving the provision and quality of support amenities, including toilets, changerooms, storage, parking, shelter and seating. This is a priority at hub sites, as well as at access points to natural spaces such as trails and water bodies.
13. When planning and developing new sport and recreation assets, ensure that careful consideration is given to flexible spaces and scheduling to allow access/bookings for all potential users. This should include planning for growth in the time requirements of current

groups, as well as enabling schedule time for new and emerging activities which may arise in future.
14. Identify opportunities to provide easily accessible, local park-based recreational spaces which support low-cost / no cost local community participation opportunities, including in rural communities where travel distance can be a barrier to participation. This may include partnerships with existing clubs to increase multi-use of existing court spaces and other existing sport and recreation venues.
15. Work with the climbing community to explore options for how climbing is supported within the commercial and public indoor facility network across the sub-region[8].
Aquatic Spaces and Places – see District Level Recommendations
Indoor Spaces and Places
16. Development of additional multi-use indoor courts to serve the growing population is prioritised at the following major sport and recreation hub sites: a. QEC (short) b. WRC (medium-long term) c. Cromwell Racecourse Reserve (short-medium)
17. Progress an independent feasibility study/business case to investigate the need and financial sustainability of the proposed Lakes Sports Trust [LST] Multi-use Indoor Centre, which is proposed to provide a sub-regional asset for indoor cricket as well as district-level spaces for other compatible activities.
18. That QLDC and CODC work with interested parties to consider opportunities for suitable provision for indoor cricket space at sub-regional or district level, and what role (if any) territorial authorities may have in this.
19. Monitor membership and utilisation of existing Gymsports facilities to ensure future stability of operational delivery.

[8] Climbing was not within the original scope of the strategy. Therefore, no analysis was undertaken regarding need within the sub-region. This recommendation has been included based on direction from the Project Steering Group due to feedback obtained on the draft strategy, not the analysis of RSL.

Outdoor Spaces and Places – including multiuse hubs
20. Ensure that all field sports codes are considered when planning future multi-use sports field sites and hub parks[9]. As part of this planning, an initial high priority is to: a. Work with all football stakeholders to agree a sub-regional allocation plan for football activities including consideration of sub-regional competition hub(s) and local access for training needs.
21. Prioritise strategic land acquisition in growth areas (such as the Southern Corridor) to ensure sufficient land is available to meet future community play, active recreation and sport needs, including the potential development of major hub sites and assets such as sports fields, indoor courts and studio/flat-floor spaces, and aquatic facilities. There may also be opportunities for collaborative provision alongside other community infrastructure such as libraries.
22. Continue to implement opportunities to improve existing floodlight quality, operating systems and/or provide additional floodlit sports fields and turfs to increase the usability of existing spaces beyond the current peak use periods[10]. Field maintenance budgets may need to be increased to ensure turf quality can sustain additional use.
23. Continue to progress plans for the creation of a sub-regional/regional multi-use sports hub park and tournament venue at Cromwell Racecourse Reserve. Key considerations include: a. Cross-boundary funding opportunities to support the sub-regional role this facility will have b. Incorporating the development of public indoor court space in stage 1 planning, as this is a priority gap in the current spaces and places network c. Confirming with football the site's positioning as the key sub-regional football competition hub.
24. Maximising the potential of multi-use artificial surfaces to add significant capacity to the sub-regional sports field network. Particularly through: a. Identifying where partnership opportunities with schools could enhance local access, including at proposed new school development sites (ongoing)

[9] This means considering the needs of traditional sports such as cricket, football, rugby/league along with new or emerging sports such as ki-o-rahi.

[10] It is noted that there are some restrictions in QLDC which limit lighting such as adjacent to the airport and in development areas under body corporate structures. It is also noted that winter conditions can mean that even with flood lights, operational hours cannot be expanded as long into the evening as in other parts of the country.

b. Development of multi-use artificial turf in Wānaka to better enable local training under lights, including opportunities for potential partnership provision (short)

25. Facilitate rugby club stakeholders and territorial authorities to develop a prioritised plan for clubroom and toilet/changing room provision and upgrades at existing rugby club sites. Key considerations for prioritisation in this plan should include:
    - Disability access and gender-neutral needs
    - Giving priority to upgrades at sites which provide for other sports codes (alongside rugby)
    - The potential need for facility consolidation, mergers or partnerships with other codes in some areas with lower use.

26. Work with Cromwell College to identify if a proposed school-based sprint track could have district and wider, sub-regional community uses and benefit.

27. Undertake a needs assessment to identify if sufficient need exists for an all-weather track asset in the sub-region. A site assessment phase will be conducted only if need is confirmed.

28. Maintain the Cromwell hockey turf as the primary sub-regional hockey facility. This will require planning and funding for the appropriate surface renewal in the medium term.

Other Spaces and Places - Specialised Sports

29. Undertake a needs assessment investigating the long-term need for a second ice arena/ice sheet in the QLDC area. If need is confirmed, locating a potential facility as part of a wider sport and recreation hub should be considered, especially if an option alongside an aquatic facility exists given the potential for energy efficiencies across the facilities.

30. Complete current cycle trails which are already under construction. Then ensure future new cycle trail developments go through robust business case planning which considers whole of life costs. The maintenance of existing trail assets is an important ongoing priority.

31. Monitor membership (where relevant) and use levels of existing MTB and cycle trail facilities to identify pressure points and if any long-term additions to the MTB and cycle trail network may be required.

32. Work with Golf NZ and local clubs to develop a sub-regional golf network plan which focuses on ensuring appropriate long-term, affordable, community course access. This plan should

consider innovative approaches and partnerships to ensure club sustainability, along with options for the future of Frankton Golf Centre which was damaged by fire in 2025.
33. Work with local bowling clubs and other aligned sports such as croquet and pétanque with a focus on future sustainability of the club network. Opportunities for club consolidation where there is low membership, and partnership with other sports and activities, including users who require indoor space should also be explored[11].
34. Explore opportunities to partner with gymsports organisations to secure appropriate long-term venues, including through collaboration with other codes.

See Section 9 for district-level recommendations.

[11] This could even include outside the box activities such as Esports who are seeking places to operate in the sub-region.

We are very aware of how important it is to have the right spaces and places in the right locations. This will enable and encourage participation and support sporting excellence and, through this, ensure the greatest impact on wellbeing for tangata whenua and all New Zealanders.

- National Spaces and Places Framework 2024 (Sport NZ)

For every $1 spent on play, active recreation, and sport there is a social return of $2.12 to New Zealand. Meaning for every dollar invested the return is more than doubled.

- The Social Return on Investment (SROI) of Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand, Sport NZ (2022)

2 Introduction

This Strategy focuses on the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago (QLCO) area of the wider Otago region. It provides an update to, and replaces, the Queenstown Lakes-Central Otago Sub-Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy (revised July 2020).

Where possible and appropriate, this Strategy has been aligned with the Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy (2023) as it is intended that the 2 strategies will be combined into a region-wide strategy in the future. This Strategy is specifically focussed on the spaces and places in which active recreation and sport occur in Queenstown Lakes Central Otago and the unique considerations of this part of the wider region.

2.1 Purpose

This Strategy is a high-level document that provides:

- A snapshot of current provision of indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities across the sub-region.
- A clear pathway for future development and future facilities that are fit for purpose, sustainable, and meet the needs of those communities that use them.
- Information and recommendations to inform future planning of Councils and Funding Agencies.
- Identified priorities for the QLCO sub-region.

2.2 Strategic Fit

This Strategy works alongside existing council strategies and policies to support best practice approaches and to maximise return on investment. It does not replace or supersede existing council processes, but instead provides a framework to ensure proposed spaces and places projects in the sub-region are evaluated in accordance with agreed strategic principles and associated criteria. This process recognises that resources are limited, and prioritisation of future investment is critical. Implementing the strategy will help support council decision-making, without reducing the autonomy of each council to make local decisions.

It is critical that this high-level strategy is supported by detailed local planning at district and community level. The Strategy is not a replacement for local planning, rather it will support and help inform priorities for further detailed investigations at the local community level. Before embarking on specific projects, councils and Sport Otago should work with the relevant sport or community organisation to gather fresh data and more detailed local insights[12], to inform future decision-making.

Sport NZ also provides a number of high-level strategic documents and resources to help guide the future of play, active recreation and sport across Aotearoa. These have been considered during the preparation of this Strategy and should be considered at the more detailed planning stages, where relevant. A summary of key documents is provided in Appendix 5.

[12] This should include undertaking full needs assessment, feasibility studies and business cases where required.

2.3 Scope and Methodology

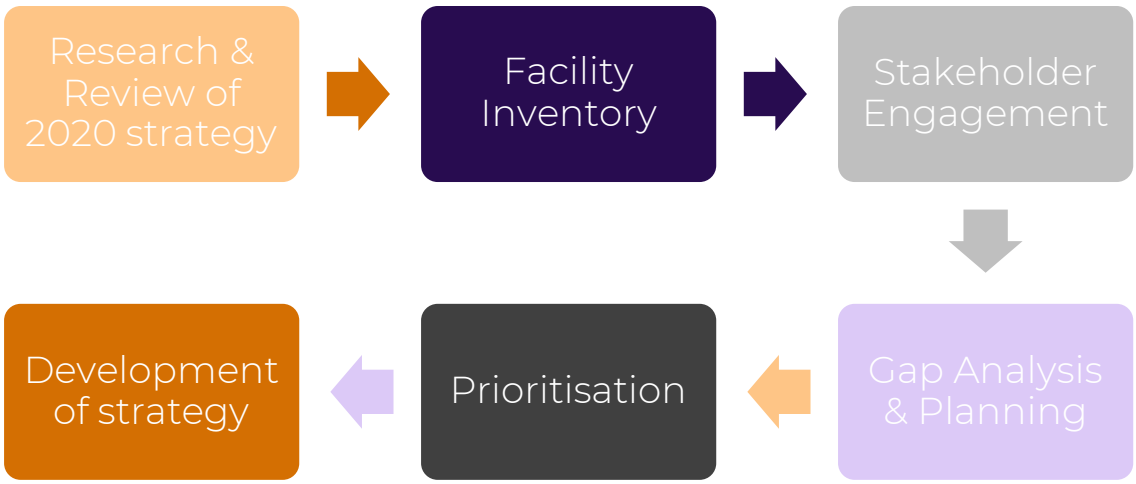
2.3.1 Scope

This Strategy focuses on the key spaces and places where active recreation and sporting activity occurs across the QLCO sub-region. It is focussed on providing guidance at a sub-regional/district and regional level and does not provide detailed guidance regarding local level facilities. See Appendix 6 for the full scope of the strategy.

2.3.2 Methodology

This Strategy was developed by RSL Consultancy, working with project working group representatives from Sport Otago, Central Otago District Council, and Queenstown Lakes District Council. It was also supported and guided by a wider group of advisors comprising Sport New Zealand, Central Lakes Trust, Otago Community Trust, and Community Trust South.

The key phases undertaken in the development of the strategy were:



2.4 Strategic Context

2.4.1 Queenstown Lakes Central Otago Sub-Region

Figure 4 Map of the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago Sub-Region

The Queenstown Lakes Central Otago sub-region comprises the Central Otago District Council and Queenstown Lakes District Council territorial authority areas. The sub-region shares boundaries with the Southland, South Canterbury and West Coast regions.

Central Otago district is home to approximately 26,000 people (2025)[13]. It covers a large geographic area of approximately 9,900km2[14], including a significant amount of rural land with associated small towns (such as Roxburgh and Ranfurly), along with 3 main towns of Alexandra, Cromwell, and Clyde. Cromwell is the largest town with approximately 7,500 residents[15]. The area is experiencing significant population growth, mostly in the wider Cromwell area. The district is well known for its scenic landscapes, gold rush heritage, farming , orchards and wine growing. It also has several destination cycle trails such as the Otago Rail Trail and newer Dunstan Trail.

The Queenstown Lakes District covers approximately 8,700km2 of land[16], much of which is mountainous. The total population is over 54,400 people (2025)[17]. The majority reside in Queenstown (approximately 29,000), with the other main town being Wānaka (approximately 14,000 people). Arrowtown and Lake Hāwea are the next largest towns (with populations ranging between 2,500-3,000 people). The area is experiencing significant population growth, which is expected to continue. The Queenstown Lakes area is known for its dramatic landscapes and adventure opportunities, which support a tourism-driven economy. It also has gold rush heritage, and a strong wine industry alongside many significant sport and recreation attractions such as snow sports, cycling and golf.

[13] Source: Central Otago Population Forecast 2025-2055 (provided by CODC).
[14] Source: Wikipedia
[15] Source: StatsNZ Place Summaries.
[16] Source: Wikipedia
[17] Source: Queenstown Lakes District Demand Projections 2025-2055, May 2025 (provided by QLDC).

2.5 Strategic Change Impacting Local Government

Local Government in New Zealand is in a period of significant strategic change, which will mean changes to the purpose, scope and scale of regional and territorial authorities. Some of the main legislative changes proposed include:

- Water services reform
- Simplifying Local Government – which proposes replacing regional councils and signals amalgamations of territorial authorities either voluntarily through "Head Start Pathway" or by potential Central Government directive
- Local Government (System Improvements) legislation, which emphasises a back-to-basics approach and focus on delivery of essential services and regulatory functions. Community and recreational facilities are identified as core services with recognised value.
- Legislation to impose a rates cap on local government
- Opportunities for establishing long-term central and local government agreements through the 'City and Regional Deals' initiative.

All of this is expected to have impacts on the role and function of local government and, therefore, how active recreation and sport spaces and places are supported in future. Other legislative change also has the potential to impact active recreation outcomes for communities, such as Conservation Law Reform.

This Strategy cannot fully consider the rapidly changing local government environment, as reform is currently underway. Therefore, the Strategy has not been designed to specifically respond to local government and other legislative reform. However, it is expected that this Strategy will provide useful guidance on priorities for spaces and places investment within whatever the future shape is of local government in the QLCO sub-region.

2.6 Funding Environment

The sport and recreation sector (along with other sectors) is facing increasing pressure on available funding. The sport and recreation sector has traditionally been funded by membership and participation fees, local government, Class 4 gaming, lottery grants and community funders, along with a significant reliance on volunteers, all of which are experiencing changes and pressure. Some of the key considerations for sport and recreation funding include:

- An overall 14% drop in sector funding between 2018 and 202218. Taking inflation into account, the sector has close to $600m less funding in real terms in 2022 compared to 2018.
- Membership and participation fees typically provide the largest proportion of sector funding (approximately 31%19) but cost of living pressures are making membership and participation fees more challenging for many participants to cover.
- Different sources estimate local government generally provides between 26%20 to 50%21 of sport and recreation sector funding

[18] Source: An analysis of the funding of the play, active recreation and sport sector in New Zealand (NZEIR report for Sport NZ, August 2023).
[19] Calculated from the estimated funding levels by source 2022 included in the NZEIR report for Sport NZ, August 2023.
[20] Ibid.
[21] Source: Recreation Aotearoa Insights Report #38 – October 2023.

- Local government reform as noted above, is placing pressure on this funding, including from expectations that councils will minimise rates increases and prioritise investment in assets such as water and transportation.
- The sector has become more reliant on government funding and Class 4 gaming funds over time as membership, sponsorship and commercial revenues have declined22.
- Unknown impacts of the recent Online Casino Gambling Bill and the levels of gross gambling revenue (GGR) generated with 4% of GGR to be ringfenced for community returns.23.
- Declining levels of volunteers with a 2021 National Sports Club Survey (NSCS) revealing that volunteers at sports clubs nationally has fallen by 45% since 201924.
- Increasing pressure on community funders, with increases in both the number and value of applications being received, including increasing applications from outside the sport and recreation sector such as for community housing initiatives25.

While many of these considerations are challenging, and potentially reducing funding available for sport and recreation spaces and places investment, there are also opportunities[26] including:

- Strategic partnerships with regional community foundations – with the amount of funding that Community Foundations receive from endowments and bequests is expected to grow from $27 billion in 2024 to $1.6 trillion by 205027.
- Migrating to multi-use facilities (over single-use facilities), which offer more flexibility
- Leveraging development contributions and targeted rates – in regions with population growth, development contributions can be used for facility development, including for lease arrangements in certain circumstances. Targeted rates are also another opportunity, as currently collected in Northland for regional facilities28.
- Strategic partnerships with mana whenua and post-treaty settlement entities in wellbeing outcomes, such as the proposed Ngāti Whatua Hauora centre in Ōrākei.

Increasingly, community funders are interested in collaboration and partnerships which demonstrate opportunities for an enhanced return on investment from funding they provide to community organisations. This includes prioritisation towards investment in facilities that are demonstrated to be multiuse.

2.7 The Value of Play, Active Recreation, and Sport

Play, active recreation, and sport have long been valued as key parts of the New Zealand lifestyle. It is well known and accepted that participation has a range of benefits for individuals and communities, including contributing to physical and mental health and wellbeing, social connection, national and local pride, and the national and local economy.

How New Zealanders participate in physical activity has changed over time. Increasingly, people are choosing to participate through active recreation and play; engaging through traditional sport, whilst still important, is not the main way people are physically active. In part, this is due to increasingly

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[22] NZEIR report for Sport NZ, August 2023.
[23] Source: The Modern Regulator Article.
[24] Source: NZ Amateur Sports Assocation blog.
[25] Trends identified in RSL conversations with community funders across NZ.
[26] Opportunities identified in this section are all summarised from the Australasian Parks and Lesiure Magazine 2025 article The Squeeze on Recreation Funding, by Bryce Pomfrett, Senior Consultant RSL.
[27] Source: The Bequest Report, Aotearoa New Zealand. John McLeaod, JB Were (Feburary 2025).
[28] More information is available from Northland Regional Council.

busy lives, changing work habits and the broad diversity of play, active recreation and sport opportunities which are on offer.

Recently, there have been increasing efforts to quantify the broader societal benefits of physical activity through participation in play, active recreation and sport. This provides important context for decision-makers when the prioritisation of investment active recreation and sport spaces and places is being considered in the sub-region. Key points from research include:

74% (people surveyed) say sport and physical activity help build vibrant and stimulating communities.[29]

"For every $1 invested in recreational physical activity, $2.12 worth of social impacts are generated." [30]

The FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023™ generated "A benefit-cost ratio of 1.34 was identified, in other words for every $1 put in, Aotearoa New Zealand saw a return of $1.34"[31].

2.8 Secondary Data Review

Appendix 5 provides an overview of national, regional and local strategies and plans which are relevant to planning for spaces and places in the QLCO sub-region. Sport NZ has issued 4 significant pieces of strategic guidance in 2024:

- The New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework
- National Aquatic Facilities Strategy
- National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy
- Environmental Sustainability Guidelines for Spaces and Places

These have been used to inform this Strategy, with summaries included in Appendix 5.

There is also a suite of National Facilities Strategies for sports codes which have been developed since approximately 2010. Several have been recently reviewed, while many strategies are now quite dated. Overall, they still provide some direction for facility planners and decision makers, to help guide facility investment for those specific sports.

Themes from current national facility strategies that are relevant in the QLCO sub-region include:

- Geographic distribution and accessibility of facilities are not consistent.
- Challenges of funding ongoing maintenance and replacement costs of existing facilities (including costs of changes linked to legislative requirements).
- Desire to maximise the use of existing facilities, including through increased awareness (doing so is more cost-effective than developing new assets). This is of relevance to some sports only, given the pressure population growth is placing on many sport and recreation facilities.
- A need to improve the quality of existing assets, including the support facilities provided (such as toilets and changing rooms). Some strategies identify a potential link between facility quality and player development.

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[29] The Value of Sport (Main Report 2017) Souced from Sport NZ.

[30] Social Return on Investment (SROI) Report – Summary October 2017 and associated case studies can be explored via Sport NZ.

[31] FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ National Economic Impact Evaluation Report, sourced from New Zealand Major Events.

- Taking a hierarchy approach to facility provision and considering provision as a network (on a regional basis).
- More partnership approaches to facility provision to facilitate more efficient use of resources, including multi-use hubs.
- The importance of the education sector to facility provision.
- Casual participation in many sports is trending up, whilst traditional, competitive participation is declining.

See Appendix 5 for details of all documents considered in the secondary data review for this Strategy.

2.9 Definitions

In this strategy, the following definitions are used:

Active Recreation is considered to be non-competitive physical activity for the purpose of well-being and enjoyment. It includes activities that:

- occur in built, landscaped and natural environments (including outdoor recreation, fitness/exercise, community recreation, aquatics)
- are undertaken by individuals and by groups
- occur with and without the involvement of a 'provider' group or organisation (i.e., can be undertaken independently)

Sport is usually defined as physical activity that is competitive, organised and involves the observation of rules. It may be participated in either individually or as a team.

The reality is that often there is no real differentiation between Active Recreation and Sport, particularly from the view of community participants.

To recognise this, we note that: Active Recreation and Sport is considered to be activities that you do for fun, challenge and fitness that involve movement. Active Recreation and Sport includes a wide range of activities such as walking, fishing, stand-up paddle boarding and a huge range of individual and team sports. Participation can occur in a range of settings from informal to organised competitions and individual to group/club environments.

3 Demographic Summary

3.1 Sub-regional Demographic Profile

Each of the two Council areas that make up the QLCO sub-region provided demographic data. The information provided in this section reflects each individual set of data, which is then combined to achieve the sub-regional demographic profile. More detailed demographic data for the sub-regional and each district is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 1 - Sub-regional Demographic Profile

	The population of the combined Queenstown Lakes Central Otago sub-region was just over 80,000 in 2025. It is expected to grow by 61% in the 30 years to 2055 to reach over 140,000 people. An increase of nearly 60,000 people.
	The population of Queenstown Lakes District (QLDC area) was 54,440 in 2025. In the 30 years to 2055 it is expected to increase by 44,000 people (to over 98,000 people), a growth rate of 81%.
	The population of Central Otago District (CODC area) was just over 26,000 in 2025. In the 30 years to 2055, it is expected to increase by 61%, or nearly 16,000 people, to a total population of over 42,000 people.
	Currently, approximately 68% of the sub-regional population resides in the QLDC area and 32% in the CODC area. Growth projections indicate that 73% of future growth (to 2055) is expected to be in QLDC, and 27% in the CODC area.
	The most significant increase between 2025-2055 is expected in older age groups, with a projected increase of 25,674 people aged over 60 years in the sub-region. Those aged 60-74 are projected to increase by 115% (over 14,000 people) to 25,500 and the 75 plus age increasing by 215% to 16,800 people (an increase of 11,500 people)
	A greater proportion of people in the older age groups is reflected in a diminished proportion in the younger age groups by 2055. In 2025 those in the 0-44 years age groups combined comprised 60% of the QLCO population, this is projected to decline to 50% of the population by 2055.
	The population of the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago sub-region is projected to remain reasonably similar ethnically in 2043. However, the proportion identifying as Asian is expected to increase from approximately 10% to 18% of the population, especially in Queenstown Lakes District.

4 Advantages, Challenges, Needs and Trends

4.1 Regional Competitive Advantages

The Otago region has several competitive advantages that exist across all parts of the region. Table 2 identifies the consistent region-wide competitive advantages, along with unique considerations that are relevant within the QLCO sub-regional context.

Table 2 Regional Competitive Advantages and QLCO Considerations

	Otago Region Wide Advantage	QLCO Specific Considerations
Climate	A continental climate of hot summers and cold winters, which is predominantly drier than the rest of New Zealand, meaning few cancellations of outdoor sport from wet weather	Winter snow and ice conditions impact travel and evening outdoor training and games for some sports/activities (due to low temperatures).
Natural Environment	The region is supported by an abundance of natural features (mountains, lakes, rivers) which provide for a range of outdoor sport and recreation activities.	The natural environment is an important part of the sub-regional lifestyle and is clearly identified as a valued part of the sport and recreation offering in the area.
Tourism	While large numbers of visitors can put pressure on infrastructure, the volume of visitors has also driven the provision of activity and support infrastructure that would otherwise not have been provided or would have taken longer for the benefit of residents.	Commercial tourism has driven the provision of facilities such as ski fields, snow parks, golf courses, and adrenaline and adventure-based sport activities and experiences.
Major Event Facilities	The region has a diverse range of National and international-level sport and recreation assets, both built (such as Forsyth	Major national-level spaces and places include sports hubs at QEC and Molyneux Park and the hockey turf at Cromwell

	Otago Region Wide Advantage	QLCO Specific Considerations
	Barr Stadium) and natural features which attract national and international users such as adventure sport participants.	along with ski fields for snow sports and several rinks for ice sports.
World Class Participation and Development Pathways	The region has a high level of participation in sport and recreation and a strong track record in supporting and developing talented athletes in a wide range of codes.	The area has strong pathways and support for snow sports and an environment which is naturally beneficial for many outdoor adventure-based activities. However, travel outside of the sub-region can be a challenge for participants who are reaching higher level of competition in other activities such as field-based sports where key assets are often in Dunedin (or Southland/Invercargill).

4.1.1 QLCO Sub-regional Advantages

Stakeholders in QLCO also identified some other specific advantages of the sub-region, including the:

- Variety of spaces and places available for sport and recreation
- Wide range of opportunities and experiences available
- Good network of some sport and recreation assets spread across the sub-region, including tracks and trails, swimming pools and indoor court venues.

It was also noted that strong local participation in snow and ice sports is enabled by an alternative approach to the traditional winter season, whereby traditional organised sport such as football, rugby, netball are delivered in Term 2 so that Term 3 can focus on snow and ice sports. This approach means people don't have to choose between different types of sport and recreation activities.

4.2 Key Trends in Play, Active Recreation and Sport

Several trends are challenging the face of play, active recreation, and sport in New Zealand. These trends impact the spaces and places network that is needed to support community participation and wellbeing into the future. Some relevant trends include:

- Overall, decreasing physical activity levels
- New technologies that benefit and encourage participation, such as e-bikes, smart watches, and online tools.
- Ageing built facilities, with many built post-World War II, which are often no longer fit for purpose and may need major upgrades or may not be viable to maintain into the future.
- Increasing focus on multi-use hubs that function as broad community facilities, providing for a range of uses rather than just one sport.
- Increasing diversity in the range of sport and recreation available, including more awareness and emphasis on the value and importance of play.
- Recognition of the importance of equity and inclusion to help reduce participation gaps in under-represented groups such as women and girls, disabled and better meeting the different social and cultural needs of the population, including ethnic groups.
- Increasing popularity of, and demand for, dog-friendly recreation spaces such as off-leash dog parks.
- Increasing participation in individual sport and recreation activities, including a move to more casual participation options.
- Many sports organisations are now recognising the preference for casual participation and changing competitions to more flexible and informal formats
- A general reduction in the popularity of many traditional team sports in proportion to the population, although there are some outliers such as basketball and emerging sports such as pickleball, which have experienced recent growth.
- Continued importance of team sports for young people, particularly in the school setting.
- Increasing expectations of participants, including the move of some outdoor sports to indoor environments (such as netball), desire for access to artificial turfs and surfaces, and year-round participation options.
- Economic pressure and cost of living impacts influencing participant choices towards low-cost, no-cost casual play and active recreation opportunities such as open spaces with facilities to encourage whānau use, such as disc golf, multi-use and 3x3 basketball courts, walking/bike spaces and multi-use areas.
- The changing local government and sector funding environment

4.3 Queenstown Lakes Central Otago Participation Trends

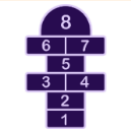
Sport NZ undertakes independent research to understand the proportion of people participating in recreation and sport activities throughout New Zealand. This is available online using the Sport NZ Insights Tool[32] and provides the ability to understand participation preferences in the QLCO sub-region.

This information provides high-level participation trends only; it does not provide detailed consideration on a code-by-code basis. The Sport NZ Insights tool shows the following activity

[32] This Tool sources data from Statistics NZ, Active NZ Survey (Sport NZ) School Sport New Zealand sports participation data, Ministry of Education, Health and Nielsen Research. See https://sportnz.org.nz/resources/insights-tool/

behaviour (interests and preferences)[33] for the QLCO sub-region. It is important to note that this information is an indication only, and care should be taken with the proportions of participation that it presents. The information has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

The Top 10 Activity Behaviours in the 2 Council Areas:

Walking for sport or leisure		Jogging/ running		Individual workout		Gardening		Swimming	
CO 50%	QL 49%	CO 20%	QL 21%	CO 20%	QL 21%	CO 13%	QL 12%	CO 11%	QL 11%
									
Road cycling/ biking		Group exercise class		Mountain biking		Playing games, e.g. with kids		Tramping	
CO 9%	QL 9%	CO 7%	QL 7%	CO 7%	QL 7%	CO 7%	QL 6%	CO 7%	QL 6%

This shows that the most popular participation/ activity behaviour (interests and preferences)[34] in the QLCO sub-region is likely to be through recreation and informal or casual participation opportunities or via facilities and classes that cater to more individualised sport and active recreation opportunities, such as gym/exercise classes, pools and cycling infrastructure.

Some activity behaviour categories cover a number of potential activities. For example, running/jogging, cycling and swimming categories do not differentiate between casual and organised participation. 'Playing games' is typically young people engaging in activities such as four square, tag, bull rush, dodgeball and so on, however, it can also include adults playing similar types of games with children.

It should also be noted that 23% of people within the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago communities are expected to be 'inactive'. With inactivity a common issue, the provision of spaces and places that support people to easily connect with and engage in physical activity in ways that suit them

[33] Activity behaviours is modelled participation using combined data from the 2022 and 2023 Active NZ Survey (last 7 Days participation rates) and Statistics NZ Census 2018.

[34] Activity behaviours is modelled participation using combined data from the 2022 and 2023 Active NZ Survey (last 7 Days participation rates) and Statistics NZ Census 2018. This information is an indication only and care should be taken with the proportions of participation that it presents.

individually is very important. This includes making opportunities for local participation easily available, requiring less travel.

The top 5 organised/traditional sports based on participation rates are shown below. This information has been rounded to the nearest 0.5%.

4.3.1.1 Top 5 'organised' sport activity behaviours:

Golf	Dance/dancing[35]	Football	Basketball	Netball
CO 5.5% QL 5%	CO 4% QL 4%	CO 3.5% QL 3.5%	CO 3% QL 3%	CO 2.5% QL 2.5%

Again, it is important to note that this information is an indication only and care should be taken with the proportions of participation that it presents.

The New Zealand Secondary School Sports Council (NZSSSSC) 2024 data[36], for the whole Otago region shows:

- 64% of students are involved in sport (62% of girls and 66% boys)
- 67% of staff are involved in sport but only 18% of staff are coaches.

The top 10 school representation sports in the Otago Region in 2024 were:

1. Basketball
2. Rugby Union
3. Netball
4. Touch
5. Football
6. Hockey
7. Futsal
8. Cricket
9. Badminton
10. Rowing

This demonstrates that courts and sports fields are some of the important spaces and places that support young people to be able to engage in school representative sport. It is important to use this information in context, i.e., it is for the whole Otago region, and the participation in the sub-region will have variances to this.

Overall, this data indicates that the most popular participation opportunities likely to be chosen by those in Queenstown Lakes Central Otago tend to be sport or recreational activities that can be participated in casually or informally and on an individual or family basis. It also shows that generally, traditional field and court sports are very common activities for young people who have higher participation rates for those activities overall.

[35] E.g. ballet, hip hop, etc.
[36] Sourced from NZSSSC Census Reports.

4.4 Key Issues and Challenges

4.4.1 Regionwide Challenges

This list identifies the issues and challenges which are known to apply across the whole Otago Region:

Uneven population growth – with areas of rapid population growth (such as QLCO) and areas with more stable or slower growing communities.

Changing population – an overall ageing demographic across the region, along with increasing ethnic diversity in many communities.

The facility legacy (ageing facilities) – many significant sport and recreation assets are at least 26 years old, some over 50 years and require increased maintenance.

Fit-for-purpose facilities – the age of many facilities means they are not always suitable for modern uses and expectations. For example, shower and changing room blocks that have no privacy considerations (mass shower rooms) and are in very poor condition.

Changing participation trends – there are many new and emerging sport and recreation activities which require access to space, which may not be suitable or available due to existing use levels.

Increased burden on volunteers – most organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to secure and retain volunteers.

Geographic distribution of facilities - with a large geographic area, and many small, rural towns, a key challenge is to provide convenient, locally accessible facilities with short travel times.

Opportunities for regional competition – some sport and recreation activities do not have suitable spaces and places for regional-level competition. Travel to Dunedin or Invercargill may be required, which is a burden for both participants and administrators.

Funding support – Sport and recreation organisations are seeking community funds in an increasingly competitive funding environment. The gap between the funding levels available and recipient applications is growing.

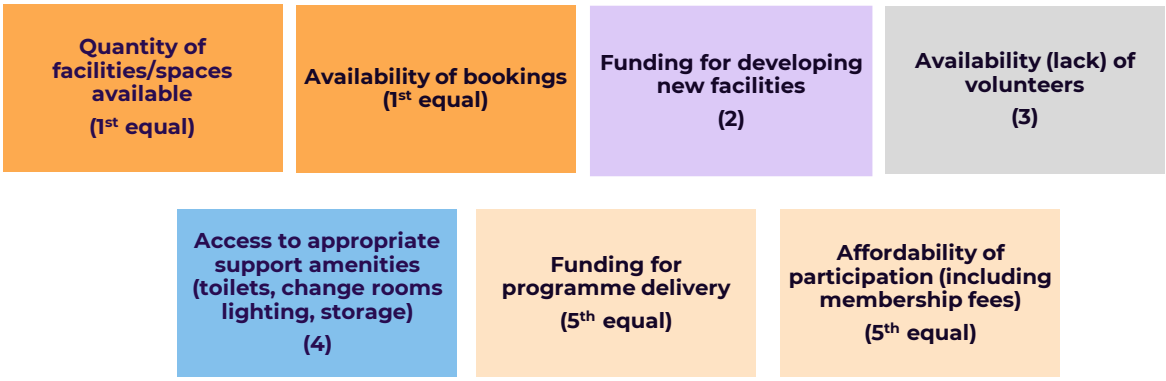
Regional organisation capacity – Regional Sports Organisations are often based in Dunedin[37] and at times have limited capacity to support sports clubs across the whole region. This can mean that local issues may not be well understood by RSOs, or they may only be able to offer limited support and influence to local clubs.

[37] Although in some circumstances sports may be aligned with Southland (e.g. Volleyball) or no RSO exists and a sport is directly aligned to a National Sports Organisation (such as Gymsports).

4.4.2 QLCO Sub-regional Challenges

The main challenges identified across the QLCO sub-region through stakeholder surveys, workshops and Project Steering Group input are outlined in Figure 5. It is noted that different districts, communities and organisations across the sub-region experience these challenges to differing degrees.

Figure 5 Top Sub-regional Issues and Challenges



Other issues and challenges that were identified as important, but with less consistency across different stakeholders included:

- Ability to fund asset maintenance
- Travel distance / time to access spaces and places
- Poor quality / condition of facilities (ageing)
- Accessibility/suitability for all users e.g. disabled, neuro-diverse38.
- Membership retention.

There were some differences between the feedback of attendees at stakeholder workshops across the CODC and QLDC areas. In the Central Otago District, the consistent top issues were quantity of facilities, lack of volunteers and funding for new facilities. The provision of support amenities was considered more of an issue in Cromwell, while funding for programme delivery was identified as more challenging in Alexandra. In Queenstown Lakes District, the consistent top issues were quantity of facilities, lack of volunteers and funding for new facilities. The affordability of participation and funding for programme delivery was identified as more challenging in Queenstown, while provision of support amenities and the poor quality of some existing spaces and places was considered important to Wānaka stakeholders.

Of note, across New Zealand, the most consistent issue usually identified by local stakeholders is a lack of volunteers[39] while in the QLCO sub-region, the overarching concern across survey results, stakeholder workshops and the PSG is the quantity (capacity) of spaces and places available.

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[38] MINT Charitable Trust provided significant feedback about importance of this and a range of different priorities and opportunities from the perspective of those with intellectual disabilities.
[39] Based on similar questions in surveys undertaken by RSL for a range of regional or local spaces and places strategies or play, active recreation and sport strategies.

Stakeholder Comments about Challenges:

"We are limited in our ability to increase numbers by the availability of coaches."

" It has now got to bursting point where we need additional facilities to continue to meet community demand."

"We are learning how to be venue managers following our redevelopment. The space is very busy and the management takes a lot of time for our volunteers".

"Numbers are capped at current levels because of limited availability of coaches."

"With the growth in our sport, especially the growth in females players, we are challenged at times during the peak of our season to provide adequate access to appropriate changing and toilet facilities."

"Unfortunately, we are really struggling in our area to get new full or even social members to our club. There is a considerable workload on very few active people, and somehow we need to rectify this situation."

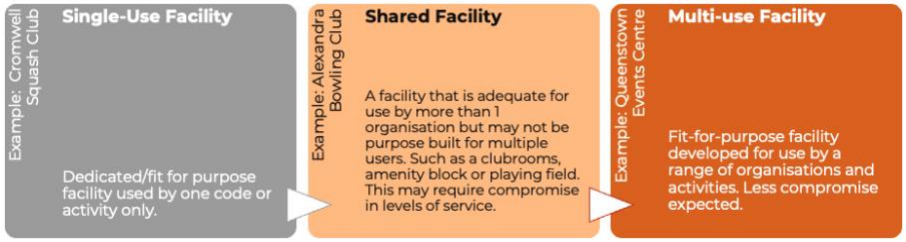
5 Future Planning & Priorities

5.1 Spaces and Places Categories

In order to help inform regional and sub-regional spaces and places planning, it is useful to have a way to categorise and consider the role of specific facilities and how they support communities to engage in active recreation and sport. All categories of spaces and places (facility) have an important role to play within the network in Queenstown Lakes Central Otago.

A single facility often meets a variety of community needs across the spectrum, from local participation to international competition. Each facility is classified based on its highest capability, rather than by its regular primary function. In most instances, an International Standard venue can cater to many other types of uses.

Figure 6 Spectrum of Spaces and Places



It is also important to understand facilities cover a spectrum of use from dedicated, single-use facilities that cater to one use or activity type through to multi-use spaces where a range of sports or activities occur.

Figure 7 Facility Categories

Spaces and Places Categories Further Explained

	Local	Sub-regional/District	Regional	National	International
Definition	A facility that provides community participation opportunities for a local neighbourhood or town catchment. Local facilities support people's introduction to sport and recreation within their local community.	A destination facility with the ability to provide participation opportunities for training, competition or other unique participation experiences. Often supporting a whole territorial authority (TA) district and drawing people from across adjacent areas.	A facility with the ability to host regional competitions (including Otago regional or South Island wide), serve as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes or provide community participation opportunities for a high number of people across TA boundaries. Regional spaces and places are often the primary centre of co-located, multi-sport and active recreation facilities within a regional catchment.	A facility with the ability to draw participants from across New Zealand, host national competitions and events (including pro and semi pro franchise competitions involving teams from outside NZ) or to serve as a national high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes	A facility with the ability to host international competitions and events (i.e. between nations) or draw participants from outside NZ.
Examples	Matakanui Combined Rugby Club - Omakau Wānaka Squash Rackets Club	Central Otago Netball Centre (Molyneaux Park) – Alexandra Paetara Aspiring Central - Wānaka	Alpine Aqualand - Queenstown Ice in Line, Alexandra	Molyneaux Park Cricket Oval – Alexandra Queenstown Events Centre – John Davies Oval Snow Sport New Zealand training facility - Cardrona Valley	Queenstown Bike Park – mountain biking Maniatoto Adventure Park – indoor curling rink Ski fields across the sub-region Cycle trails such as the Otago Rail and Dunstan Trails.
Primary Function	Local community participation	Participation and local competition	Competition, events and community participation	Competition, events and participation – often as spectators	Competition, events and participation – often as spectators

5.2 Spaces and Places Planning Principles

When considering the upgrade or development of future spaces and places to meet sport and active recreation needs, it is fundamental that facilities are developed in a robust and planned way. The New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework 2024 (Sport NZ) provides planning principles to improve future decision-making when investing in facilities. The following principles have been developed to guide the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago Spaces and Places Strategy[40]:

Te Tiriti o Waitangi-Informed Approach

The mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi is recognised. A cultural framework should be applied that reflects Te Tiriti o Waitangi articles and principles and considers the cultural narrative of the area, when planning future play, active recreation and sport spaces and places outcomes for the community.

Meeting an Identified Need (Evidence-based)

An evidence-based approach to identifying need ensures fit-for-purpose solutions. Any changes to service levels and provision of new or redeveloped spaces and places will be based on a planned approach, utilising available evidence to inform decisions.

Seeking Best Value for Money (Economically Viable)

With finite resources, decisions need to be made that are based on ensuring social and economic sustainability and value for money for asset owners and funders. To do this, it is important to understand the whole of life costs related to decisions. This means not only being able to build a space or place but also being able to operate and maintain it for the whole of its life.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental impacts and climate change need to be considered when operating spaces and places and when investing in upgrades or new assets. Both the positive and potential negative impacts on the environment and future generations are important considerations in the planning, development and operation of spaces and places. There is also a need to apply sustainable design and construction methods to ensure the future spaces and places network minimises impact on the environment and is itself, protected from environmental changes.

Partnering and Collaboration

Better outcomes are achieved when well-co-ordinated, collaborative partnerships are developed with those beyond the traditional sport and active recreation sector. Partnering with others, such as Iwi, education, health, and the private sector increase the likelihood that spaces and places will be used to their full potential, maximising the return on (social and financial) investment in terms of participation and funding.

[40] Both the national strategy and the Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy (2023) were considered when developing these principles, which closely align with the Coastal Otago strategy.

Co-location and Integration

Focus on the development of multi-use spaces and places or hubs where a range of sport, recreation, play, education, social and other community infrastructure needs can be met. When determining appropriate levels of spaces and places provision, the role each facility plays in the overall network needs to be considered. Not all communities need or can sustain the same levels of asset provision.

Future Proofing – Adaptability

Spaces and places should be designed to accommodate changing needs over time. The best long-term outcomes are achieved by designing facilities in ways that enable them to be adapted, developed and extended in response to future demands, thereby delivering multi-generational benefits.

Inclusive and Accessible

Spaces and places are maintained, adapted and developed in such a way as to encourage inclusiveness and accessibility for all. This includes being inclusive to all people regardless of income, age, ethnicity, gender and physical ability.

Reflective of the Community / Sub-Region

Spaces and places need to be reflective of the character of the community, district, sub-region and/or region that surround them, both visually and operationally, to create an environment where everyone feels welcome. This also applies to facilities supporting the recreational use of natural landscape features. Involving communities and hapori[41] in the planning, design, and operations of spaces and places and active environments will help ensure community needs are met. This includes recognising and supporting the needs of smaller rural towns and communities, where local access, travel distance, volunteer capacity, affordability and the sustainability of important community sport and recreation spaces can be particularly challenging.

Activation

Planning for how a space will be activated is vital to ensuring its effective utilisation. Well-promoted and planned programmes, activities, festivals and events encourage utilisation, foster vibrancy and promote a sense of ownership. A network approach assessing how several spaces and places within a District or across a Region can be activated together is important to more effectively and efficiently utilise existing resources to meet demand.

Social Interaction

Spaces and places need to be designed and equipped to create opportunities for social interactions that support meaningful contact people have with one another during, before and after the sport or active recreation activity.

[41] Kinship group, family, society, community.

Stakeholder comments - Quality and condition:

"Access to the Lake area where we train is appalling - huge holes in the road, very difficult access. No toilet facilities and many casual users come there to picnic, swim" – water sports club

"The internal fit out of the pool (seating, children's play area, etc) has not received work in some years". – aquatic centre user group

'With the growth in our sport, especially the growth in females players, we are challenged at times during the peak of our season to provide adequate access to appropriate changing and toilet facilities.' – field based sport

"No wheelchair or disability access into the main clubrooms." – field based sport

Stakeholder comments - Quantity and capacity:

"Cromwell urgently needs a Sport Centre with the indoor courts!" – court based sport

"We may well need larger premises to meet demand in the longer term" – court based sport

"It has now got to bursting point where we need additional facilities to continue to meet community demand." – field based sport

"There may have been the opportunity to increase further but facility constraints meant that we have turned away teams in 2025 as we had no capacity for them." – court based sport

5.3 Spaces and Places Planning Criteria

A set of multi-level criteria have been developed to reflect the key principles of this Strategy, as well as aligning as much as possible with the Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy (2023). The criteria will be used to help implement this Strategy, through guiding the assessment of both current and future proposed spaces and places investments across the sub-region, and to assist with identifying the future priorities for investment. The criteria recognise that:

- There are not enough funds to develop every active recreation and sport facility that might be desired by communities.
- Evidence indicates there are significant challenges with maintaining current facilities, let alone building more.
- Smarter prioritisation of future investment is needed.
- Care is needed when using these criteria to ensure local needs are considered.
- There are 3 levels to the criteria:
- Level 1 – essential criteria which must be met with a high degree of certainty
- Level 2 – high-priority criteria that projects should address
- Level 3 – desirable factors which should be considered but are not identified as key drivers

The multi-level criteria are provided in full in Appendix 3.

There is also an assessment process which will be used to apply the principles and assessment criteria of this strategy to proposed regional and sub-regional spaces and places investments in the sub-region. The scale of a proposed project will determine the process used, including the depth of independent assessment required. Given, the rapid growth of the QLCO sub-region and some significant gaps in the spaces and places network, to streamline the planning approach it may be appropriate to combine the independent assessment phases in some circumstances.

The assessment process, including independent assessment phases is also outlined in Appendix 3.

6 Overview of Facility Provision

6.1 Sub-regional Snapshot of Provision

The Sport NZ Facility Planning Tool (FPT) shows approximately 183 known play[42], sport and active recreation sites across the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago sub-region, with approximately 284 facilities provided across these sites[43]. Of those, approximately 57% are Council-owned sites and approximately 12% are Ministry of Education-owned. The remainder of the sites and facilities are owned by a variety of charitable trusts, clubs and community groups.

Some sites have a single facility, such as a golf club, others, such as Alexandra Swimming Pool, have multiple facilities (indoor and outdoor pools, spa, learners/toddlers space) supporting a range of aquatic uses.

There are also a range of multi-use sites that have multiple facilities at one site; most often these are park or reserve sites that might have a range of facilities and activities. One example is the Wānaka Recreation Centre hub, which has playing spaces for indoor court sports, hockey, netball, tennis, field space (athletics, football), an aquatic centre, as well as some play space. Other major multiuse site examples are Queenstown Events Centre and Molyneaux Park.

The most common site and facility types currently in the Sport NZ FPT system for Queenstown Lakes Central Otago are:

Facility Type		Approximate Number in FPT
	Sports Fields	76 fields
	Outdoor Courts	40 sites
	Golf Courses	24 sites
	Water Sport Venues	22 sites
	Bike Parks (tracks, trails and pump tracks)	19

[42] Playgrounds are not in scope for this strategy and most are not captured in the FPT.

[43] All numbers in this section are indicative only as the Sport NZ Facility Planning Tool is known to have some data gaps. It is also a live system, regularly being updated so figures change. It is the most comprehensive facility information that is available.

Facility Type		Approximate Number in FPT
	Aquatic facilities/swimming pools	18 sites (many with multiple pools)
	Bowling Clubs	16 clubs

The sub-region also has 7 Disc golf sites which is high comparative to other areas and 7 main Skate parks.

It is important to note playgrounds and play spaces are not in the scope of this strategy. It is understood there is a reasonable amount of play space assets provision across the sub-region between neighbourhood parks, schools and at destination sites such as the Wānaka and Queenstown lakefronts, Big Fruit Reserve in Cromwell, King George V Memorial Park, Roxburgh and several others.

The sub-region has a reasonably high-level of private investment in the provision of sport and recreation assets. This includes a large number of private golf courses and gym/fitness centres. There is also a range of other private assets, such as a trampoline park, indoor climbing facility, and Central Padel NZ (racquet sport) facility in Cromwell. The development of a significant network of bike tracks and trails has been led by the community, which has included private investment funding alongside support from councils related to land access and/or maintenance.

Overall, based on survey responses, there is strong satisfaction with the location, overall condition and management/maintenance of facilities in the sub-region. However, there is relatively high levels of dissatisfaction with the capacity of facilities to meet current, let alone future needs. Survey respondents, across a range of facility types, noted that demand exceeds available space, resulting in limited training times and, in some instances, new participants cannot be accepted.

Underlying many responses is the concern that infrastructure planning is not keeping pace with population growth and participation trends. Concerns about the capacity of facilities were particularly emphasised by indoor court users and sports field users. Many stakeholders are also dissatisfied with the provision of associated amenities such as toilets, storage, changing rooms, car parking and other support infrastructure. Section 7 of this Strategy provides a gap and oversupply analysis of existing facilities, based on facility type.

6.1.1 Queenstown Lakes

Currently, the Sport NZ FPT identifies approximately 91 sites in the Queenstown Lakes district, providing around 104 sport and recreation spaces. Of these, approximately 59 sites (64%) are Council-owned assets. Predominantly, Council owns and operates aquatic and indoor court facilities, sports fields, skate and bike parks. Approximately 12 sites (13%) are owned by the Ministry of Education; these typically include swimming pools, sports fields and outdoor courts. Clubs, incorporated societies and trusts own another 20 sites (22%). These provide for a range of activities such as equestrian, golf, and two community swimming pools. There are also some privately owned facilities, including golf courses.

6.1.2 Central Otago

The Sport NZ FPT for the area records approximately 79 sites with around 120 facilities provided across those sites. Of those sites, approximately 57 sites (72%) are Council-owned. The majority of

Council-owned sites are sports fields and swimming pools/aquatic centres. Council also owns some court facilities such as the Molyneaux Stadium (indoor court) and the tennis and netball courts at Anderson Park (adjacent to Cromwell College outdoor courts), amongst other sport and recreation assets.

The Ministry of Education provides 13 sites (16%), with approximately 15 facilities at those sites. Of those facilities, 4 are swimming pools. Schools also provide many indoor courts, outdoor courts and sports fields.

Through the data-gathering process, approximately 7 additional facilities were identified in the Central Otago District. The vast majority of these newly identified sites were Ministry of Education-owned assets at schools, such as outdoor courts and sports fields,

6.1.3 Community Use of School Facilities

As noted above, across the sub-region, schools are important providers of play, active recreation and sport facilities. Schools provide approximately 12% of the sport and active recreation sites across the sub-region. Due to growth, there have been a number of new schools built in recent years, and plans made for further new schools, which may provide opportunities for servicing a local community catchment, depending on school willingness to make facilities available to the public.

Primarily, these school facilities are intended to support the play, active recreation and sport needs of students, although in some instances, those school facilities are also available for the community to use. It is known that there is some level of organised (booked) use of school facilities such as indoor courts, turfs and sports fields. There is also casual recreational use of many school sports field areas and play spaces by members of the public. Public use levels of facilities at Dunstan High School and Cromwell College may be in part due to their locations, which are adjacent to major public parks.

Shared community and school facilities can be a win-win for communities. However, there can also be challenges with community use of school facilities. In the sub-region, the main issues include:

- Inability for new activities to get access to school facilities (due to high existing use levels)
- Significant school roll growth placing further pressure on school facilities for school uses, limiting capacity to cater to ongoing community use, which currently occurs.
- Some expansion of classroom buildings onto school fields is reducing available school sport and recreation space
- School use needing to take priority over community use, therefore limiting hours of availability for community use
- Community use not bringing in enough income to the school to cover the cost of making the facility available to the community
- A lack of data on levels of community use, with bookings often not formally documented
- Undersized or low quality spaces with issues such as restricted run-off, such as at Cromwell College gym

The provision of school facilities can and does support community needs, but they do not necessarily provide a simple solution, especially where there is existing under-provision of community assets such as sports fields and indoor courts and with many schools in the sub-region experiencing significant roll growth. However, these partnerships should continue to be explored wherever possible to maximise the community return from investment.

7 Facility Provision - Gaps & Oversupply by Facility Type

A traffic light-style assessment overview[44] has been used, assessing the provision of spaces and places across the sub-region by facility type[45]. These summary assessments provide a brief overview to highlight where supply is adequate or where challenges exist due to under or over-supply and the condition of existing spaces and places.

Where challenges are identified in these overviews, further detailed investigations will be required to ensure the most appropriate solution is identified to address the challenge. It is important to consider both facility and non-facility options that may help support quality play, active recreation and sport outcomes in the sub-region. While significant population growth is expected in the sub-region, the development of new facilities still comes with a number of risks and uncertainties. In some instances, changes to competition formats and programming can alleviate pressure on spaces and places while still providing positive community participation experiences. Extending the capacity of existing spaces and places to meet changing demand may also be a more financially and environmentally sustainable way to meet provision gaps in the short to medium term.

Figure 8 Key to Assessment Classifications[46]

	Adequate supply to meet need, no demand management measures in place, sport code able to promote participation.
	Marginal level of supply compared to need, minor demand management measures may be in place, negatively impacting on ability of code to promote participation.
	Significant facility challenges. Shortfall in supply compared to need, over-supply / rationalisation required, demand management measures in place (e.g. limiting numbers of teams in competitions), sport code not able to promote participation.
	No existing facilities at that level and no significant need identified for additional facilities to be developed.

The assessments in this section are provided by facility type. More detailed code-based analysis is included in Appendix 2.

[44] This was originally used in the Queenstown Lakes-Central Otago Sub-Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy (revised 2020) and subsequently used in the Coastal Otago Strategy (2023).
[45] Due to the differences between the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago sub-region and the Coastal Otago area this Strategy uses some slightly different facility groupings for the facility type analysis.
[46] Extracted from p32 Queenstown Lakes-Central Otago Sub-Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy (revised in 2020).

7.1 Aquatic Spaces & Places

7.1.1 Aquatic - Pool Based (indoor and outdoor)[47]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Pools / Aquatic Centres	N/A	N/A		

7.1.2 Key findings

This 'significant challenges' assessment at local level reflects the indicative sub-regional over-supply of aquatic space against national benchmark indicators (outlined below). It also reflects expected future changes in supply levels at a district and sub-regional level as the population grows, which may result in under-provision in QLDC by 2040. It also acknowledges that there are local factors that need further consideration including the age of facilities (particularly in CODC area), the types of water space provided (such as learn to swim, leisure and fitness space including the impact of the proportion of outdoor aquatic space in the network), local accessibility (including for new growth areas such as in the QLDC Southern Corridor) and the level of non-resident users and how this may impact community access levels to aquatic facilities.

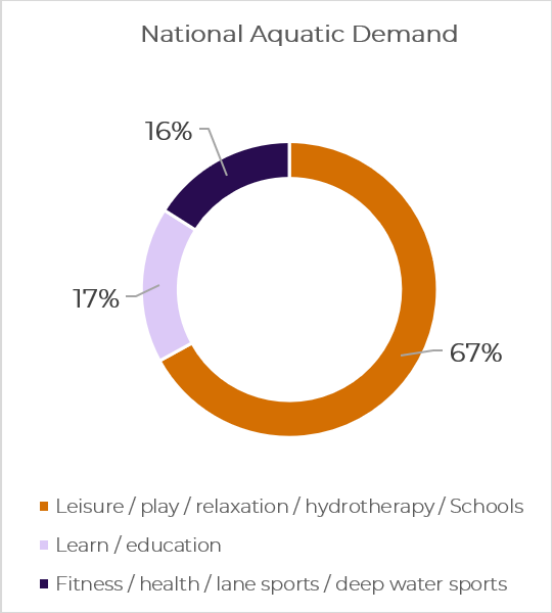
Overall, there is a need for more detailed assessment of aquatic provision in the sub-region through detailed district-level aquatic network plans. These can give further consideration to locally relevant factors. Otherwise, there is a risk of over or under provision and investment in the aquatic network. A detailed assessment should be undertaken before any significant changes or investments are made to the existing aquatic network and to ensure that any proposed expansions or new facilities are responding to a quantified need, at the right time.

Where there is pressure on the network (such as capacity in peak times) there may be operational programming responses that can help spread demand, and maximise use of the available water space at other times. These should be considered on an ongoing basis by aquatic operations staff.

7.1.3 Detailed considerations

Sport NZ's National Aquatic Facilities Strategy 2024 provides a measure to assess aquatic provision which recognises that every facility is not fully available for public use. It considers pool availability by a full-time equivalent (FTE) measure to recognise seasonality and different levels of public access where school pools and private swim schools exist. The national strategy also provides a benchmark for provision as a minimum of 27m^2 water space per 1,000 population. Indicators of the appropriate

[47] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.



balance of pool water type are provided, based on national-level water type demand (as at 2023). The water type demand/provision indicators are: Learn to swim[48] (17%), Fitness (16%) and Leisure (67%).

Table 3 outlines the current and projected future provision levels against the national benchmark, using current and projected future population growth to 2040.

Table 3 QLCO Aquatic Provision Levels Compared to National Benchmark

	2025		2040	
	m^2 per 1000	Surplus/shortfall	m^2 per 1000	Surplus/shortfall
Queenstown Lakes	38	592m^2	27	-7m^2
Central Otago	77	1,300m^2	58	1078m^2
QLCO Combined	50	1,892m^2	37	1,071m^2

This shows that the QLCO sub-region has an oversupply of water space of 1,892m^2, which equates to 23m^2 per 1,000 population (more than the national benchmark of 27m^2 in 2025). It also indicates that while the surplus provision will reduce, as the population grows, the sub-region is still expected to have an oversupply of 1,071m^2 of water space in 2040 or 10m^2 per 1000 (compared to the national FTE benchmark of 27m^2) . Although at a district level, QLDC is expected to have a shortfall of -7m^2 of water space in 2040, essentially putting it in line with the national benchmark on a m^2 per 1000 population basis in 2040.

It is important to note that the high-level national benchmark does not take into account the amount of outdoor seasonal pools versus indoor, year-round aquatic space. The number of outdoor pools, along with the school pools, may mask localised shortfalls.

The current (2025) water type provision indicators[49] at a district and sub-regional level are outlined in Table 4.

[48] Also referred to as 'aquatic competence' space.
[49] Using pool information in the Sport NZ FPT inventory.

The provision levels by water type vary between total supply (which includes private water spaces), available water which is open for general public use (includes some use of school pools), and year-round (indoor aquatic space only).

Table 4 Water Type Provision Indicators by District and Sub-Region

	Available Pool Area per 1000			Available Year-Round Pool Area per 1000		
Area	L2S	Leisure	Fitness	L2S	Leisure	Fitness
QLDC	12.6%	47%	40.4%	13.4%	45%	37%
CODC	18.6%	57.7%	23.7%	34.2%	32.9%	32.9%
Sub-region	15.6%	52.3%	32.1%	20.4%	44%	35.6%
National Provision Indicators	17%	67%	16%	17%	67%	16%

This data shows that when compared to the national demand/provision indicators, there is an overall imbalance in water type provision, compared to expected community demand across the sub-region. Overall, the proportion of leisure water and learn to swim spaces is likely to be inadequate, with indicative over-provision of fitness water (traditional lane space).

In the QLDC area, the provision levels indicate an undersupply of learn to swim and leisure water and an oversupply of fitness water (lane space). In the CODC area, there is reasonable balance in the network when available provision (including seasonal pools) is considered against national demand indicators. However, the indoor aquatic network has a higher proportion of learn to swim and fitness water, contrasted with an undersupply of leisure water.

Overall, this indicates that both districts may struggle to meet demand of certain types of water-based experiences, particularly for leisure space, which is the most commonly desired water type of community users. With a changing sub-regional demographic profile, which will include a greater proportion of people in the older age groups, provision of warm water and accessible spaces within the network needs further consideration.

The national benchmarks don't consider other locally relevant factors that impact aquatic facility use and needs, such as travel distances, local weather[50] or use by non-residents such as tourists. For example, it is understood that nationally, the peak demand period for aquatic use is summer, whereas in the QLDC, historic use data for indoor aquatic facilities shows variation from similar use levels (summer and winter), some years with higher winter use and some with higher summer use.

[50] Which may impact aquatic participation choices or the need for indoor versus outdoor aquatic space.

Anecdotally, it appears aquatic facilities in the QLCO sub-region are often busy in winter when the weather is less suitable for outdoor activities.

More Information on Provision in each District

Central Otago District: High-level indicators in this district show the network has a high proportion of outdoor seasonal pools, and lower levels of indoor aquatic space. Typically, the outdoor seasonal pools have lower use levels than the more comfortable indoor aquatic environments. It is also clear that the aquatic network is relatively old, which has some consequences for users such as limited functionality and suitability for those with mobility challenges and older adults. With ageing aquatic assets across the district, the affordability of operating the network is becoming more challenging as maintenance inputs need to increase.

Queenstown Lakes District: The QLDC area has two high-quality, indoor aquatic centres. However, it is unusual in that aquatic facilities are used by the resident population, as well as a larger daytime population of visitors which includes holiday home owners and tourists. Anecdotally, it is understood that tourists do make significant use of aquatic facilities, but there is a lack of specific data to quantify this.

To calculate the potential impact of the non-resident / visitor or 'daytime population' on use of aquatic facilities in the area, based on QLDC staff advice, an alternative calculation has been applied to provide an indication of the potential 'daytime population' impact. This is shown in Table 5.

The resident population has been increased by a factor relevant to the 'daytime population'. The calculation applied is: Total daytime population minus resident population divided by 50%, which is then added to the resident population number[51] to establish a 'daytime population assessment'. This results in a 2025 'daytime population assessment' of 68,050 and a 2045 daytime population assessment' of 104,821.

Table 5 QLDC – Comparison of Resident and Daytime Population Assessments

	2025		2040	
	FTE per 1000	Surplus/shortfall	FTE per 1000	Surplus/shortfall
Queenstown Lakes Residents Only	38	592m^2	27	-7m^2
Queenstown Lakes Adjusted for Daytime Population	30	225m^2	20	-768m^2

This alternative assessment for the Queenstown Lakes District indicates that the surplus in 2025 may be approximately ½ that assessed based on resident population alone, and by 2040, the QLDC area may have a shortfall in aquatic provision of approximately -700m^2 (or 7m^2 per 1000 people) if non-resident users are considered. Development of a district-level network plan would provide the opportunity to test key considerations, including non-resident use in more detail.

[51] QLDC advise this is the method they apply in their internal planning processes to account for potential non-resident use of assets.

See Appendix 2 for further information on current utilisation indicators for QLDC.

7.1.4 Aquatic – outdoor natural water[52]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Outdoor Natural Water				

7.1.4.1 Key findings

The 'marginal' assessment for this category relates to support amenities such as the provision of toilets, change and vessel storage facilities, water access assets and car parking, which are the key facility issues faced by outdoor water-based sports. Ongoing retention and maintenance of assets which support these activities, such as wharves/jetties, boat ramps, access roads and club spaces is important going forward. Potential expansion of existing clubroom assets (particularly for storage) may be required to support a growing population in future.

Overall, there is abundant access to rivers and lakes within the sub-region. These support a wide diversity of outdoor aquatic sport and recreation activities from informal, individualised participation (such as swimming, stand-up-paddle board, canoe/kayak) to formal, organised participation and competition (such as rowing, waka ama, multisport and sailing).

Most of the larger club facilities are good examples of multisport hubs which support a number of water-based sports (and other activities) such as the recently redeveloped Whakatipu Rowing Club (Lakes Hayes) and the Wānaka Watersports Facility. There are also some poor-condition assets such as the Cromwell College water sport facility. The long-term need and future of this facility needs to be determined.

7.2 Indoor Spaces and Places

7.2.1 Indoor Multi-use Court Based

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Indoor multi-use courts				

7.2.1.1 Key Findings

Using the National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy 2024 benchmark indicators (see Table 6) there is a current deficit (shortfall) of -1.0 FTE indoor courts in the sub-region as a whole, with the main shortfall within the CODC area (-1.5 FTE). Even with the proposed increase of 4 indoor courts at the QEC, there will be a sustained shortfall in provision of -3.0 FTE

[52] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

across the subregion by 2040 unless further interventions are applied to the indoor court network, such as court development in the CODC area.

Indoor court provision is important to support existing use types (sports and activities) as the population grows, to enable provision for new and emerging sports and to support the increasing desire for participants to have warm, weather-proof venues.

Other indicators, explored below and in Appendix 2, reinforce that additional court capacity is required to address the shortfall in indoor court supply and better support indoor sport participant needs in the sub-region.

Overall, there is a need to increase indoor court provision in the sub-region, with identified priorities for provision in each district included in Section 8.

7.2.1.2 Detailed considerations

The overarching direction in the National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy 2024 (National Strategy) is that the priority focus for the next 15 years should be on increasing the supply of courts at a community level. There is no apparent need for more large tournament venues in New Zealand.

The National Strategy provides guidance on how to determine the availability of indoor court space to the community using a full-time equivalent (FTE) court basis related to population. The strategy identifies a full FTE court is a facility (a full or undersized court) that is available to the community for all of the practical peak hours (such as 4.00-9.00 pm on school term days, 8.00 am-5.00 pm Saturday/Sunday). The National Strategy also provides an associated provision metric on a population basis of 1 FTE court per 7,800 people. This national provision metric has been applied to the sub-region in Table 6.

Table 6: FTE Demand and Supply Indicators

Area	2025			2040		
	FTE Demand	FTE Supply	Surplus/shortfall	FTE Demand	FTE Supply	Surplus/shortfall
Queenstown Lakes	7	7.5	0.5	10	9.5*	-0.5
Central Otago	3	1.5	-1.5	4	1.5	-2.5
QLCO sub-region	10	9	-1	14	11	-3

*The future provision calculation for the QLDC sub-region includes the 4 new courts proposed at Queenstown Events Centre, due for completion in 2029. It also takes away the current 2 courts provided at Paetara in Wānaka, on the assumption it will no longer be available at the end of lease, which is within the 20-year period.

It is also acknowledged that outdoor courts play an important role in the wider court network, and there may be potential to cover some outdoor courts to provide a lower cost solution to some of the local level indoor court demand for some sports, such as basketball, netball and pickleball. Many

stakeholder organisations (such as netball) already use a combination of outdoor and indoor courts to deliver their competition and training programmes. However, some activities, such as badminton, do require an indoor court environment.

Other Demand Indicators - School Courts

Approximately 22% of the indoor court provision in the sub-region is currently provided by schools[53] which may have some associated challenges from a community use perspective. While many schools provide some community access, and the level of this is considered in the FTE calculation (i.e. school courts are considered at a maximum of 0.25 FTE), it is possible that community use of school facilities may actually be less than the 0.25 FTE indicator and therefore the shortfall of community accessible courts may be even higher. It is also important to note that often school access is not secured through a formal agreement and therefore cannot be guaranteed in the medium to long term.

See Appendix 2 for more information on school courts, current use levels, and stakeholder feedback, including sport code use of demand management measures. All reinforce the shortfall in indoor court space within the sub-region.

7.2.2 Indoor Specialised[54]

This facility category refers to indoor facilities that have specialised surface or other requirements for a sport or activity, such as squash, table tennis, gymsports, indoor cricket. Due to the specialised nature of these facilities, it is important to refer to Appendix 2 for code-based facility analysis.

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Indoor Specialised	N/A			

This is very much a high-level overview and reflects the fact that some specialised codes (such as indoor cricket) currently have no specific facilities available in the sub-region while those that do (such as squash) have some facilities which are inadequate due to age. Uncertainty of long-term provision (lease conditions or terms) is also a factor relevant to squash and gymsports provision in the medium to longer term.

Further investigation on a code-specific or venue-specific basis is required for some indoor specialised sports. See Appendix 2 for code-specific information and assessment.

[53] Based on data in the Sport NZ FPT.
[54] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

7.3 Outdoor Spaces and Places

7.3.1 Outdoor Sports Fields[55]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Outdoor Sports Fields				

7.3.1.1 Key Findings

Increasing pressure is being placed on the existing network of sports fields as the population grows.

Overall, the sub-region is under-supplied in terms of sports field space to support a growing community. There is a current weekly shortfall in available full field equivalent (FFE) sports field hours of approximately -59 across the sub-region. This is projected to grow to a shortfall of -229 FFE hours by 2053[56].

The sub-region is under-supplied with fit-for-purpose amenities to support sports field sites, such as toilet/change room suitability (especially for female / gender neutral facilities). There is also an ageing clubrooms network.

Planning and developing enhanced sports field provision is a high priority under this Strategy. Plans for future sports field provision keep getting deferred, which means the network is experiencing critical capacity issues. Without significant development of new field space, community participation will become severely constrained.

7.3.1.2 Detailed considerations

This high-level assessment of 'significant challenges' in the sports field network reflects that across the sub-region there is an identified shortfall in available full field equivalent (FFE) sports field hours, meaning current and future needs cannot be fully met. In the QLDC area, the assessed district-wide sports field shortfall in 2023 was -36 FFE hours per week. This is projected to grow to a district shortfall of -85 FFE hours per week and -166 FFE hours per week by 2053[57]. In the CODC area, Cromwell Town was assessed as having a -23 FFE hours per week shortfall, growing to -42 FFE hours per week by 2033 and -63 FFE hours by 2053[58]. In Alexandra, Molyneaux Park has sufficient sports fields to meet the current and projected future demand.

There is a need for multiple interventions in the sports field network in the sub-region, including development of new fields (including consideration of multiuse artificial surfaces), enhancements to

[55] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.
[56] These figures are a combination of the assessed district level shortfalls from the reports referenced over page which were undertaken between 2022-2024.
[57] Queenstown Lakes District Sports Field Plan (2024). Note: in 2023 there was as 24 FFE hour surplus in the Wakatipu Basin but a significant shortfall of -43 FFE hours in Wānaka.
[58] Cromwell Reserves Supply and Demand Assessment (Addendum Report 2023 to the December 2022 Report).

existing fields to improve the capacity and use hours (such as layout optimisation, management or relocation of training demands, floodlight provision and maintenance inputs to retain surface quality). A key consideration in the sub-region is the climatic constraints of use in winter, which reduce the extent of use in the evening compared to other parts of the country and negatively impact grass growth in winter. These factors make consideration of artificial surfaces very relevant in the region, although it is also noted that artificial turf can also be impacted by frost (see further information on artificial turf below).

There is a general trend of growing membership (participants) in field-based sports in the sub-region, particularly football, which indicates approximately 10% growth in the last 3 years and projects future growth. Sports organisations report increasing difficulties in accommodating all team training and competition requirements on the available fields.

It is noted that high-level events such as first-class cricket can currently be hosted in both districts. The wider Otago region is also well provided for in terms of International/National and regional sports field assets, including stadia. The sub-regional shortfall issues specifically relate to community sports field access requirements for local and sub-regional needs.

There are also significant challenges linked to the support infrastructure that is provided at sports field sites, with challenges including the toilet/change room suitability (especially for female / gender neutral facilities), storage (or lack of) and the ageing clubrooms network. Several sports field sites also have no or inadequate support facilities, such as a lack of storage and even no toilets in some instances.

Artificial Turf (multi-use)

Artificial surfaces are one way of enhancing the capacity of space which is allocated to sports field use in the sub-region. Schools are significant providers of artificial multiuse surfaces, typically catering to hockey and court-based sports such as netball, basketball, tennis and sometimes football. There is also multi-use artificial turf available at both the Queenstown Events Centre (full-size) and Wānaka Recreation Centre (half-turf) sites. Use types vary between these turfs but include hockey, football, futsal and court-based sports such as netball, tennis, rather than other traditional field sports such as rugby or touch. Note: hockey turfs are considered in detail in the Turfs (Hockey) section (pages 57-58).

There is an increasing desire from the community to have artificial surfaces available due to the consistent availability and high-quality experience such surfaces provide. A key appeal of artificial turfs is the additional playing capacity they can sustain, maximising time available for training and games[59]. An artificial turf can offer, on average, approximately 50 hours per week compared to a natural soil field, allowing as little as 4-8 hours per week (given local climate conditions). While there are some environmental impacts of artificial turfs, compared to natural soil-based fields, it is important to explore opportunities for multi-use artificial turf given the significant under-supply in the sub-regional sports field network.

Further detail on sports field provision, including information on code-specific differences is provided in Appendix 2. It is important to review the code-by-code analysis for more information before making decisions related to an individual sport.

[59] Some sports groups are also seeking local access to artificial surfaces to ensure that when participants are required to travel and play on artificial surfaces, they are not disadvantaged by a lack of experience using these types of surfaces.

7.3.2 Outdoor Multi-use Hub Sites[60]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Outdoor Multi-use Hubs				

7.3.3 Key Findings

There are several good examples of existing sports field hubs in the sub-region. However, there is an urgent need for more sports field hubs, particularly in growth areas including Wānaka and Cromwell.

This high-level assessment of 'significant challenges' in multi-use hub sites relates to the overall shortfall in sports field capacity in the sub-region. It also reflects the poor quality of some support infrastructure at existing hubs. For example, the existing football field lighting at Molyneaux Park is inadequate, while Anderson Park in Cromwell has a very dated multi-sport clubroom.

Sports park hubs are in high demand to support regular local competition as well as tournament needs at a sub-regional and regional level. The shortfall in overall sports field capacity in the sub-region is also reflected in demand for new destination sport hub parks to support the growing population with multiple multiuse fields and appropriate quality support infrastructure such as toilets/change rooms, storage, shade/shelter, car parking and clubroom space[61].

It is important that planning for new sports fields applies a 'hub and spoke' model with hub sites providing multiple fields (suiting competition and tournament use), supported by a network of local fields to provide accessible training as well as some games, particularly at junior level.

7.3.4 Turfs (Hockey)

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Turfs	N/A	N/A		

7.3.5 Key Findings

While there are geographic challenges in the sub-region related to access, availability and local weather conditions, there is no perceived demand for additional hockey turf space.

The identification of local facility challenge in this assessment reflects the potential over-supply of high specification turfs in the sub-region. The priority focus should be on retaining and renewing

[60] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

[61] Although, it is noted that sports fields users who attended workshops were generally consistent in viewing clubrooms as the lowest priority of these needs. This was largely due to the shortfalls in basic capacity of fields, storage and tilets/change rooms which are critical to all participation.

(with appropriate specifications) the existing turf in the sub-region rather than developing new. It is noted that 2 existing turfs are due for renewal in the next 4-6 years, and 2 in the 7-15 year timeframe.

The Cromwell turf should continue to be the main sub-regional facility for hockey. A new multi-use turf is due to be developed at Dunstan High School. It will provide for hockey along with other sports codes and activities.

Detailed Considerations

The Hockey in New Zealand National Spaces and Places Strategy (2024) outlines a significant change in the way hockey facility planning will be done in the future. It recognises that there has been over-specification of turfs in the past, resulting in a significant imbalance in premium quality turfs (elite specification), which is disproportionate to participant needs and also financially and environmentally unsustainable.

The clear direction of the strategy relevant to Central Otago is that there are no obvious areas of concern in terms of facility provision. The FTE supply indicator for the Central Otago sub-region is 1, and the current FTE supply is 2.75. Current membership is approximately 60% primary/mini (small-sized facility) and 40% full turf players.

The junior game in the sub-region can be well supported by the 30 schools which have available playing surfaces (such as courts, tiger turf, and grass). While there are geographic challenges in the sub-region related to access, availability and local weather conditions, there is no perceived demand for additional turf space.

The identification of local facility challenge in this assessment reflects the potential over-supply of high specification turfs in the sub-region. The priority focus should be on retaining and renewing existing turfs in the sub-region rather than developing new.

The Cromwell turf should continue to be the main sub-regional facility for hockey. It is noted that the development of other turfs in the sub-region has reduced the level of utilisation of this sub-regional asset. It is considered that population growth will be able to be catered to with existing provision in the medium – long term.

The proposed new multi-use turf at Dunstan High School is not required from a pure hockey perspective. This makes the specification planning critical to ensure that the most appropriate multiuse surface is planned for.

7.3.6 Outdoor Court Sports[62]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Outdoor Courts	N/A	N/A		

[62] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

7.3.7 Key Findings

This high-level assessment reflects that generally, there is adequate facility access for outdoor court-based sports across the sub-region. The marginal assessment at local level highlights the number of single-code rural tennis courts in the CODC area, many of which are ageing and need maintenance. Winter weather challenges are also relevant (freezing courts), and there is also an ongoing need for surface renewals, such as at the Central Otago Netball Centre (Molyneaux Park, Alexandra).

7.3.8 Detailed Considerations

Cromwell is considered to have an overall surplus capacity of outdoor courts[63] currently (2022), and despite a growing population, there will continue to be a small surplus of outdoor courts through to 2033. A further review of court hours demand should be undertaken in the long term (approx. 2030) to test these assumptions.

Alexandra is considered to have sufficient outdoor netball courts to meet current and projected demand. However, consideration of covering some outdoor netball courts could provide a significant enhancement in the quality of the player experience. Although this should be considered as part of any review and planning for indoor court provision in the district.

Local factors such as accessibility (for rural communities) and winter weather are relevant when considering outdoor court provision. Outdoor courts in the sub-region can have issues of freezing and other bad weather in winter, particularly impacting evening training times. This results in demand for access to indoor courts or for provision of covers over outdoor courts.

There is the potential for conversions to make some existing single-code outdoor courts more multiuse, such as providing for basketball and pickleball, particularly in summer when the weather is more amenable.

Further code-specific information is provided in Appendix 2.

7.4 Other Spaces & Places

7.4.1 Ice & Snow Sports[64]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Ice and Snow Sports				

[63] Based on assessment of tennis and netball court provision in the Cromwell Reserves Supply and Demand Assessment (Addendum Report 2023 to the December 2022 Report).
[64] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

7.4.2 Key Findings

This high-level assessment reflects that there is a range of provision for ice sports of all levels, at facilities spread across the QLCO sub-region. There is generally excellent access to facilities for ice and snow sports, including a large number of commercial ski fields[65] as well as outdoor ice rinks, which provide for local, recreational use for activities such as curling and ice skating.

The 'marginal assessment' at international and local levels indicates specific pressures at certain facilities, including high utilisation at Queenstown Ice Arena and some operating sustainability concerns for Ice in Line (Alexandra). See Appendix 2 code-by-code assessment for more detail.

7.4.3 Detailed considerations

The sub-region has 2 international standard ice sports facilities, including the Queenstown Ice Arena (ice-hockey, skating) and the Naseby Ice Rink (indoor curling). There is also an outdoor, covered rink at Ice in Line in Alexandra, which provides a sub-regional hub for several disciplines (ice hockey, curling, skating) it also has summer use for pickleball and roller hockey.

Some facility-specific challenges exist, particularly:

- Queenstown Ice Arena is an International/National Standard facility, but it is challenging to fit such events into the seasonal schedule due to high levels of regional and local demand. The growth (10% per annum approx.) in current club level participation also means that some community activities are constrained due to a lack of ice time availability in the weekly schedule.
- The recent cover installed over the Ice in Line facility in Alexandra has enabled the extension of the playing season by approximately 1 month. However, this comes with associated increases in operating costs to maintain the ice.

Further investigations are recommended to be undertaken to respond to the challenges at those two venues. See Appendix 2 for more information, and possible future focus areas.

7.4.4 Specialised Sports (Outdoor)[66]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Specialised Sports	N/A	N/A		

This is very much a high-level overview which covers a wide range of sports, including bowls, croquet, golf, equestrian, skate, tramping and biking disciplines. The marginal assessment reflects the fact that some specialised facilities face challenges such as age/condition, future sustainability (maintenance), may not be fit for purpose or have over or undersupply issues. Due to the specialised nature of these facilities, it is very important to refer to Appendix 2 for code-based facility analysis.

[65] Skiing and Snowboarding are excluded from specific assessment as they are provided by commerical models.
[66] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

8 Key Recommendations for the Sub-Region

The recommendations in this section are those identified as the key priorities for the active recreation and sport facility network in the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago sub-region. The recommendations have been grouped into sub-regional operational and policy recommendations, and sub-regional spaces and places planning and development recommendations. District-level recommendations are provided in Section 9.

The timeframes used are defined as:

Short	1 – 3 years	Medium	4 – 6 years	Long	7+ years

8.1 Sub-regional Operational & Policy Recommendations

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
1. That QLDC and CODC jointly receive the Strategy and use it as a key document to inform and enhance future spaces and places planning and investment across the sub-region.	CODC, QLDC	Sport Otago	Short
2. The Otago Region Spaces and Places Steering Group continues to operate with key roles to include: a. Undertaking annual monitoring of Strategy implementation. b. Progressing the amalgamation of this Strategy with the Coastal Otago Spaces and Places Strategy (short-term) c. Working with tangata whenua to explore how Māori perspectives can best be incorporated into future spaces and places planning, including through potential involvement in this group if it aligns with tangata whenua aspirations. d. Ensuring that the next review of the Strategy is commenced in 2028/29 to inform the 2030-2033 LTP cycle (medium-term)	Otago Region Spaces and Places Steering Group	Sport NZ	Ongoing (unless otherwise specified)

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
3. Develop cross-boundary sub-regional sport and recreation policy framework(s) to support ongoing provision of sport and recreation opportunities for the growing community, including through: a. Development of a sub-regional approach to capital and operational investment in the sub-regional spaces and places network (especially multi-use hub sites and indoor court facilities). b. Reviewing development contributions policies and reserve land quality standards to ensure growth is making appropriate contributions[67] to support community sport and recreation needs. c. Investigating options and opportunities to develop alternative funding mechanisms to better support and align spaces and places investment. This should include consideration of sub-regional community funding models[68], joint ventures, developer agreements, and philanthropic funding.	CODC, QLDC	Sport Otago	Short
4. Develop an educational approach to support implementation of the Strategy, by building awareness within community organisations of the existence of the Strategy, its direction, planning principles and processes. This will help the community to better understand good practice planning and the role of territorial authorities and community funders in the sub-regional spaces and places network.	Sport Otago	QLDC, CODC	Short
5. Continue to support community volunteers in their roles to maximise the activation of spaces and places through the sharing of good practice, tools, templates and guidance. This should include: a. Supporting migrant communities who may need more assistance working with the system	Sport Otago	Community Organisations	Ongoing

[67] Including land quantity, quality and financial contributions.

[68] Such as the New Plymouth Partners Model and Tauranga City Council Te Manawataki o Te Papa Fund (in partnership with the Acorn Foundation).

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
b. Advocating and supporting community organisations to consider collaborations[69] and hubs to make better use of physical and operational resources. c. Specific engagement with rural communities to identify how volunteers can best be supported in rural areas.			
6. Hold regular planning forums with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and schools (minimum of annually) in order to: a. Nurture relationships with MOE representatives and local schools who are important providers of local play, active recreation and sport spaces, including in rural communities. b. Continue to identify mutually beneficial school community partnerships to improve local access and reduce duplication, including in key QLDC growth areas of Eastern Corridor, Southern Corridor and Wānaka. c. Where required, develop specific partnership agreements to support enhanced collaboration and shared funding approaches.	Sport Otago, CODC, QLDC	MOE, Schools	Ongoing
7. Create appropriate sub-regional operational planning forum(s) which enable territorial authorities to work collaboratively with RSOs and Associations / Centres to plan for and spread demand across existing sport and recreation assets. This should include opportunities to: a. Understand and plan responses to seasonal changes in community participation demand b. Discuss booking allocation challenges and agree priorities c. Explore the potential for sport delivery programming changes (such as refining draws and competition times and formats) and ensure any changes from 1 sport does not negatively impact another sport.	Sport Otago	CODC, QLDC, RSOs, Associations / Centres	Ongoing

[69] Community organisations have signalled they need help with how to approach and create effective collaborative partnerships.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
8. Advocate to Sport New Zealand to ensure that the rural travel fund is appropriate to support travel requirements of rural communities, especially where regular, weekly sport and recreation competitions require travel across districts and sub-regional boundaries.	Sport Otago	CODC and QLDC	Ongoing
9. Work with active recreation groups who require access to natural areas and large open spaces to enable their activities, to ensure consideration is given to their specific needs. This will require engagement beyond traditional sport and recreation groups and consideration of factors such as the retention and protection of recreation areas and access routes through district plan processes and operational consideration of needs such as safe launching and landing spaces for non-commercial air and water-based activities.	Relevant agency (such as Department of Conservation (DoC), iwi, QLDC, CODC[70])	Sport Otago[71], Active Recreation Groups	Ongoing
10. When planning future upgrades or development of new sport and recreation spaces and places, consider opportunities for how these can be more welcoming and inclusive of all potential users and abilities.	Asset owners (including CODC, QLDC)	Sport Otago, Funders	Ongoing

[70] Councils may have a landowner role and/or a statutory planning role regarding land use. Sometimes Council may only have a support role.

[71] Primary role is as an advocate with other agencies such as DoC.

8.2 Sub-regional Spaces and Places Planning and Development Recommendations

The recommendations in this section are those that apply across the sub-region, including for some specific asset types. Many types of spaces and places are not sub-regional in nature or are more appropriately reflected in district-level recommendations, which are provided in Section 9.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
General			
11. Work with disability advocates such as MINT and Special Olympics, and other relevant groups (including older adults) to identify a prioritised list of sub-regional spaces and places where physical accessibility issues are creating use barriers. Working with the community will help ensure the most important priorities are identified and can be addressed in a staged manner, as funding allows.	Sport Otago	CODC, QLDC, Community Groups	Medium
12. Maximise the usability of existing active recreation and sport spaces by improving the provision and quality of support amenities, including toilets, changerooms, storage, parking, shelter and seating. This is a priority at hub sites, as well as at access points to natural spaces such as trails and water bodies.	CODC, QLDC, Asset Owners	Funders	Ongoing
13. When planning and developing new sport and recreation assets, ensure that careful consideration is given to flexible spaces and scheduling to allow access/bookings for all potential users. This should include planning for growth in the time requirements of current groups, as well as enabling schedule time for new and emerging activities which may arise in future.	CODC, QLDC	Other Asset Owners	Ongoing
14. Identify opportunities to provide easily accessible, local park-based recreational spaces which support low-cost / no cost local community participation opportunities, including in rural communities where travel distance can be a barrier	CODC, QLDC	Sport Otago, Community	Ongoing

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
to participation. This may include partnerships with existing clubs to increase multi-use of existing court spaces and other existing sport and recreation venues.		Organisations, Funders	
15. Work with the climbing community to explore options for how climbing is supported within the commercial and public indoor facility network across the sub-region[72].	QLDC, CODC	Sport Otago, Climbing clubs	Short
Aquatic Spaces and Places – see District Level Recommendations			
Indoor Spaces and Places			
16. Development of additional multi-use indoor courts to serve the growing population is prioritised at the following major sport and recreation hub sites: a. QEC (short) b. WRC (medium-long term) c. Cromwell Racecourse Reserve (short-medium)	CODC, QLDC	Sport Otago, Funders	As specified for specific sites
17. Progress an independent feasibility study/business case to investigate the need and financial sustainability of the proposed Lakes Sports Trust [LST] Multi-use Indoor Centre, which is proposed to provide a sub-regional asset for indoor cricket as well as district-level spaces for other compatible activities.	Lakes Sports Trust	Sport Otago, Funders, QLDC	Short

[72] Climbing was not within the original scope of the strategy. Therefore, no analysis was undertaken regarding need within the sub-region. This recommendation has been included based on direction from the Project Steering Group due to feedback obtained on the draft strategy, not the analysis of RSL.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
18. That QLDC and CODC work with interested parties to consider opportunities for suitable provision for indoor cricket space at sub-regional or district level, and what role (if any) territorial authorities may have in this.	CODC, QLDC	Sport Otago, Funders	Short
19. Monitor membership and utilisation of existing Gymsports facilities to ensure future stability of operational delivery.	Gymsports Clubs	Sport Otago, CODC, QLDC	Medium
Outdoor Spaces and Places – including multiuse hubs			
20. Ensure that all field sports codes are considered when planning future multi-use sports field sites and hub parks[73]. As part of this planning, an initial high priority is to: a. Work with all football stakeholders to agree a sub-regional allocation plan for football activities including consideration of sub-regional competition hub(s) and local access for training needs.	CODC, QLDC	Sport Otago, field based sports users including Southern Football, Central Otago Football, and local clubs	Ongoing a. short
21. Prioritise strategic land acquisition in growth areas (such as the Southern Corridor) to ensure sufficient land is available to meet future community play, active recreation and sport needs, including the potential development of major hub sites and assets such as sports fields, indoor courts and studio/flat-floor spaces, and aquatic facilities. There may also be opportunities for collaborative provision alongside other community infrastructure such as libraries.	CODC, QLDC	Developers	Short & ongoing

[73] This means considering the needs of traditional sports such as cricket, football, rugby/league along with new or emerging sports such as ki-o-rahi.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
22. Continue to implement opportunities to improve existing floodlight quality, operating systems and/or provide additional floodlit sports fields and turfs to increase the usability of existing spaces beyond the current peak use periods[74]. Field maintenance budgets may need to be increased to ensure turf quality can sustain additional use.	Asset Owners	CODC, QLDC, Sport Otago, Funders	Ongoing
23. Continue to progress plans for the creation of a sub-regional/regional multi-use sports hub park and tournament venue at Cromwell Racecourse Reserve. Key considerations include: a. Cross-boundary funding opportunities to support the sub-regional role this facility will have b. Incorporating the development of public indoor court space in stage 1 planning, as this is a priority gap in the current spaces and places network c. Confirming with football the site's positioning as the key sub-regional football competition hub.	CODC, QLDC	Sport Otago, Southern Football, User groups	Short (planning) Medium (implementation)
24. Maximising the potential of multi-use artificial surfaces to add significant capacity to the sub-regional sports field network. Particularly through: a. Identifying where partnership opportunities with schools could enhance local access, including at proposed new school development sites (ongoing) b. Development of multi-use artificial turf in Wānaka to better enable local training under lights, including opportunities for potential partnership provision (short)	CODC, QLDC	MOE, Sport Otago	As specified

[74] It is noted that there are some restrictions in QLDC which limit lighting such as adjacent to the airport and in development areas under body corporate structures. It is also noted that winter conditions can mean that even with flood lights, operational hours cannot be expanded as long into the evening as in other parts of the country.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
25. Facilitate rugby club stakeholders and territorial authorities to develop a prioritised plan for clubroom and toilet/changing room provision and upgrades at existing rugby club sites. Key considerations for prioritisation in this plan should include: • Disability access and gender-neutral needs • Giving priority to upgrades at sites which provide for other sports codes (alongside rugby) • The potential need for facility consolidation, mergers or partnerships with other codes in some areas with lower use.	Otago Rugby Union, Sport Otago	CODC, QLDC, rugby clubs, Funders	Medium
26. Work with Cromwell College to identify if a proposed school-based sprint track could have district and wider, sub-regional community uses and benefit.	Sport Otago	CODC, QLDC	Short
27. Undertake a needs assessment to identify if sufficient need exists for an all-weather track asset in the sub-region. A site assessment phase will be conducted only if need is confirmed.	Sport Otago, Athletics Groups	CODC, QLDC, Funders	Long
28. Maintain the Cromwell hockey turf as the primary sub-regional hockey facility. This will require planning and funding for the appropriate surface renewal in the medium term.	Central Otago Sports Turf Trust	CODC, QLDC, Funders	Medium
Other Spaces and Places - Specialised Sports			
29. Undertake a needs assessment investigating the long-term need for a second ice arena/ice sheet in the QLDC area. If need is confirmed, locating a potential facility as part of a wider sport and recreation hub should be considered, especially if an	Ice Sports Clubs, Sport Otago	QLDC, Funders	Long

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
option alongside an aquatic facility exists given the potential for energy efficiencies across the facilities.			
30. Complete the cycle trails which are already under construction. Then ensure future new cycle trail developments go through robust business case planning which considers whole-of-life costs. The maintenance of existing trail assets is an important ongoing priority.	Trails Trusts, DoC, MTB Clubs	QLDC, CODC Funders	Short & Ongoing
31. Monitor membership (where relevant) and use levels of existing MTB and cycle trail facilities to identify pressure points and if any long-term additions to the MTB and cycle trail network may be required.	MTB Clubs, Trails Trust	Sport Otago, CODC, QLDC, Funders	Medium
32. Work with Golf NZ and local clubs to develop a sub-regional golf network plan which focuses on ensuring appropriate long-term, affordable, community course access. This plan should consider innovative approaches and partnerships to ensure club sustainability, along with options for the future of Frankton Golf Centre which was damaged by fire in 2025.	Sport Otago	CODC, QLDC	Short
33. Work with local bowling clubs and other aligned sports such as croquet and pétanque with a focus on future sustainability of the club network. Opportunities for club consolidation where there is low membership, and partnership with other sports and activities, including users who require indoor space should also be explored[75].	Bowls Otago, Sport Otago	CODC, QLDC, bowling clubs, croquet, petanque and others	Medium

[75] This could even include outside the box activities such as Esports who are seeking places to operate in the sub-region.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
34. Explore opportunities to partner with gymsports organisations to secure appropriate long-term venues, including through collaboration with other codes.	Martial Arts, Sport Otago	Gymsports, CODC, QLDC	Medium

9 District/Local Level Facility Recommendations

9.1.1 Central Otago Recommendations

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
Aquatic Spaces and Places (including water-based sport and recreation)			
35. Develop a district aquatic network plan that considers sustainable access to aquatic spaces at both local and district levels. This needs to consider locally relevant factors such as drive time, non-resident and community use levels, the age and proportion of outdoor seasonal pools and nearby cross-boundary provision. Detailed investigation is needed to reduce the risk of either over or under-investment in future capex and operations. This plan will provide specific direction for the future of the Ranfurly Pool.	CODC	Sport Otago, Aquatic user groups	Short
36. Investigate equipment enhancements or minor facility modifications (ramp options) to improve accessibility to key aquatic spaces for those with disabilities or mobility challenges. Consider existing provision at both Cromwell and Alexandra Swimming Pools, and how they could work together as a network to appropriately enhance accessibility.	CODC	Sport Otago, Aquatic user groups	Short
37. Where appropriate, engage with outdoor aquatic sport and recreation user groups[76] to identify potential sites for facility provision or multi-use hubs to support the	Sport Otago	CODC, Outdoor aquatic user groups	Medium

[76] Including but not limited to activities such as rowing, waka ama, canoe/kayak and sailing.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
needs of these activities. This may include consideration of future expansion of existing club sites with additional spaces to support other uses.			
38. Investigate the long-term need and future options for the Cromwell College Aquatic Centre building[77] (ancillary facility) including considering potential partnerships with community water-based sports. This building has condition issues that impact capacity and use, which means it is not fit-for-purpose.	Cromwell College	Sport Otago, water based sports clubs	Medium
Indoor Spaces and Places			
39. Undertake a detailed investigation into court requirements (indoor and outdoor) in Alexandra which considers: a. The age and condition of Molyneaux Stadium, which is no longer fit for purpose and may need to be rationalised or repurposed b. Potential role of the recently upgraded Dunstan High School gymnasium for community use c. Potential use of outdoor covered courts as a cost-effective option for local access (especially for netball) d. The role of the sub-regional/district indoor courts proposed to be developed at Cromwell Racecourse Reserve Hub. This investigation will need to consider regular users of the Molyneaux Stadium who have code-specific needs such as gymnastics, and existing stadium sub-tenants.	CODC	Sport Otago, Indoor court user groups, Netball	Short

[77] This is the name of the school-owned building which provides storage for watercraft (boats) and other space to support water-based sports such as rowing. It is important to understand that this is not a swimming pool facility (which is typically what the name aquatic centre is used in relation to).

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
Outdoor Spaces and Places – including multiuse hubs			
40. Progress the conversion of existing court space at Dunstan High School with the FIFA donated Futsal Turf to provide a futsal playing space.	Dunstan High School	Funders	Short
41. In conjunction with the Cromwell Racecourse development, prepare a masterplan for Anderson Park. This plan needs to consider the future of the Cromwell Combined Sports Club, which wishes to upgrade its building (Rugby Clubrooms facility) as it is not fit-for-purpose.	CODC	Sport Otago, Cromwell Sports Club Inc	Medium
42. Consider the ongoing sustainability of maintaining the national standard (first-class) level of service at Molyneaux Park Oval.	CODC	Sport Otago, Otago Cricket, NZ Cricket	Medium
43. Complete the upgrade of the Omakau Recreation Reserve Hub Facility.	Omakau Sport and Recreation Group	Sport Otago, Funders	Short
44. Support the Maniatoto community to progress their upgrade plans for multi-use turf to enhance school and community multi-sport use. CODC has some potential funding available, but the community needs support to progress project implementation.	Sport Otago	CODC, Funders	Short

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
45. Work with local clubs to identify opportunities to partner with other activities (such as basketball, pickleball) to maximise use of existing tennis clubs before developing any additional provision in the district.	Southern Lakes Tennis, Sport Otago	CODC, court-based sports users groups	Medium
46. Subject to the outcome of the Alexandra detailed courts assessment (recommendation 39), consider investment in covering some existing courts at the Central Otago Netball Centre (Molyneaux Park, Alexandra). As part of this, consider opportunities to make these courts more multi-use for other court-based sports such as basketball, tennis and pickleball.	Central Otago Netball Centre, CODC	Sport Otago, Funders, court-based sports users groups	Medium
47. Upgrade sports field floodlighting to address health and safety risks and increase the training time available for football.	Alexandra United Football Club	CODC, Funders	Short
48. Work with local clubs to consider options for the provision of additional storage facilities on Molyneaux Park, along with additional or enhanced access to toilets and potable water during sport operational hours.	CODC	Sport Otago, local clubs, Funders	Short
Other Spaces and Places – Specialised Sports			
49. Plan for an additional capital upgrade of Ice in Line (Alexandra) to address quality, health and safety and energy use issues. Specifically:	Ice in Line	Sport Otago, Funders	Short

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
a. Investigate energy efficiency enhancements to reduce overall operating costs[78] b. Quality and accessibility upgrade to the outdated toilets area c. Replace the net surrounds with Perspex screens to minimise health and safety risks.			
50. Investigate the relocation of Alexandra Croquet Club to Molyneaux Park.	Alexandra Croquet Club, CODC	Sport Otago, Alexandra Bowling Club	Short
51. Ensure that the Cromwell Racecourse Reserve development continues to plan and provide for equestrian uses as a key function of the site, while also progressing the site's development into a major sub-regional multi-use hub.	CODC	Equestrian user groups, Sport Otago	Short (and ongoing)

[78] This should include consideration of installation of solar panels, a Northwest end wall (to minimise ice melt) or other energy minimisation initiatives.

9.1.2 Queenstown Lakes Recommendations

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
General			
52. Develop an appropriate strategic and policy framework to ensure existing sport, recreation and reserve assets are protected for long-term public use. With a growing population, it is important to maintain existing assets, alongside the planning and development of new strategic sites. This framework should consider how council manages requests for community leases on public land, which is in high demand.	QLDC	Sport Otago, Sport NZ	Short
Aquatic Spaces and Places (including water-based sport and recreation)			
53. Develop a district aquatic network plan that considers sustainable access to aquatic spaces at both local and district level. This needs to consider locally relevant factors such as drive time, non-resident and community use levels, the balance in provision of different water types (such as leisure and learn to swim) and nearby cross-boundary provision. Detailed investigation is needed to reduce the risk of either over or under-investment into future capex and operations.	QLDC	Sport Otago, Aquatic user groups	Short
54. Where appropriate, engage with outdoor aquatic sport and recreation user groups[79] to identify potential sites for facility provision or multi-use hubs to support the	Sport Otago	QLDC, Outdoor aquatic user groups	Medium

[79] Including but not limited to activities such as rowing, waka ama, canoe/kayak and sailing.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
needs of these activities. This may include consideration of future expansion of existing club sites with additional spaces to support other uses.			
Indoor Spaces and Places			
55. Develop a long-term plan for indoor court provision in Wānaka to give certainty of future provision beyond the end of the lease term for the Paetara Aspiring Central facility. As part of this provision plan, work with specialised indoor sports, including Aspiring Gymnastics Club, Kahu Youth dance and martial arts users, to investigate if community partners could take over the Paetara lease from QLDC. Alternatively, another location for long-term provision for these activities may be required.	QLDC	Sport Otago, Gymsports, Indoor court and specialised user groups including martial arts	Long-term
56. That the existing 2-court QEC Stadium is actively managed in tandem with the new courts to minimise interruptions to community sport from event bookings.	QLDC	Sport Otago, Indoor court user groups	Ongoing
57. Confirm the most appropriate option for the relocation of the Queenstown Squash Club from its current site. This includes potential provision for the club: a. as part of the LST Multi-use Indoor Centre (see sub-regional recommendation 17) b. with independent development of squash facilities at the QEC site c. other independent development options, including potential partnerships with schools/MOE Any option will require future support from community funders to enable progress	Queenstown Squash Club, Squash NZ	QLDC, Sport Otago, LST	Short (planning) Medium (implementation)

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
Outdoor Spaces and Places – including hub sites			
58. Creation of a major multi-use sports field hub in Wānaka is crucial to address the critical shortfall in sports field provision for the growing community. This should occur at the proposed Premier Sports Hub site at Ballantyne Road.	QLDC	Sport Otago, Funders, User groups	Short
59. Continue to progress plans for the development of a multi-code sports clubroom at QEC.	QLDC	Sport Otago, User groups	Short
60. Work with the MOE to continue to progress plans for a potential community and school hub site in the Eastern Corridor for the provision of 2-3 sports fields along with appropriate shared amenity facilities such as toilets, changing, storage and pavilion/clubroom space.	QLDC, MOE	Sport Otago	Short
61. Update the Draft Masterplan for Wānaka Recreation Centre[80].	QLDC	Sport Otago, User groups	Medium (planning) Long (implementation)
62. Develop a Masterplan for Ballantyne Road (Premier Sports Hub site).	QLDC	Sport Otago, User groups	Short

[80] This should include incorporation of the outcomes of the Aquatic Network Plan along with long-term indoor court / wellness facility expansion planning.

Recommendation	Lead	Support	Timeframe
63. Develop a Masterplan for Hawea Domain which provides multi-use sports fields to ensure the district sports field supply levels do not get further behind population growth, while retaining an appropriate level of equestrian access and use at the site. As part of the masterplan, ensure appropriate provision of amenity facilities (toilets, change, storage) to support all future site users.	QLDC	Sport Otago, User groups	Short/Medium (planning) Long (implementation)
64. Develop a Masterplan for Jack Tewa Park to enable a comprehensive wider site development which will provide additional multi-use sports fields alongside other community infrastructure.	QLDC	Sport Otago, User groups	Short/Medium (planning) Long (implementation)
65. Develop a Masterplan for Pembroke Park / Wānaka Camping and Showgrounds Reserve to ensure additional capacity to support rugby and touch use into the future.	QLDC,	Sport Otago, User groups	Short (planning) Medium (implementation)
66. Ensure continued provision of appropriate space for a grass athletics track (and associated field facilities such as long-jump) in the Wakatipu Basin. This will retain the level of service by replacing the current grass track, which will no longer be available once the QEC courts expansion occurs.	QLDC	Sport Otago, Queenstown Athletics	Short

Other Spaces & Places - Specialised			
67. Seek alternative funding (in addition to that provided by QLDC) to support the club's ability to undertake ongoing maintenance of the trail network the club is responsible for.	Queenstown MTB Club	Sport Otago, Funders	Short
68. Explore site options to secure a long-term location for the Wakatipu Pony Club and Wakatipu Riding Club. This could include partnerships with other existing equestrian spaces which may have available capacity or limited regular use (such as Lake Hayes A&P showgrounds).	Wakatipu Pony Club, Wakatipu Riding Club	QLDC, Equestrian Sports New Zealand, Sport Otago	Medium

Appendix

The following appendix provides additional information and supporting material referenced in this document. It includes detailed data, supplementary explanations, and relevant resources that may be useful for further context or clarification.

10 Appendix 1 - Demographic Detail

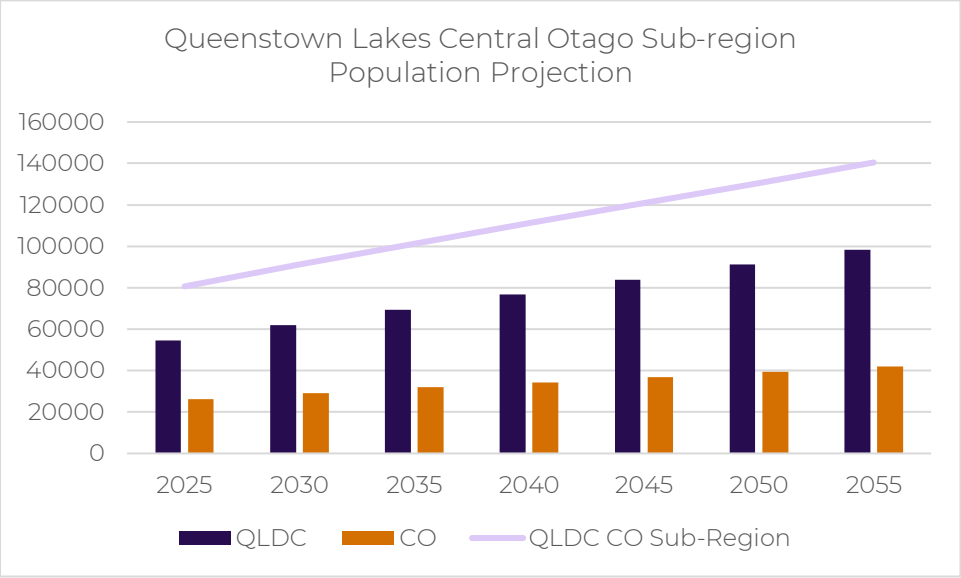
10.1 Queenstown Lakes, Central Otago Sub-region Summary

10.1.1 Data Sources and Analysis Periods

Analysis Area	Data Source	Analysis Period
Queenstown Lakes Population Projection	Queenstown Lakes District Demand Projections 2025-2055, May 2025	2025-2055
Queenstown Lakes Ethnic Profile Projection	Stats NZ, Census 2018, High Projection	2023-2043
Central Otago District	Central Otago Population Forecast (CODC)	2025-2055
Central Otago District Ethnic Profile Projection	Stats NZ, Census 2018, High Projection	2023-2043

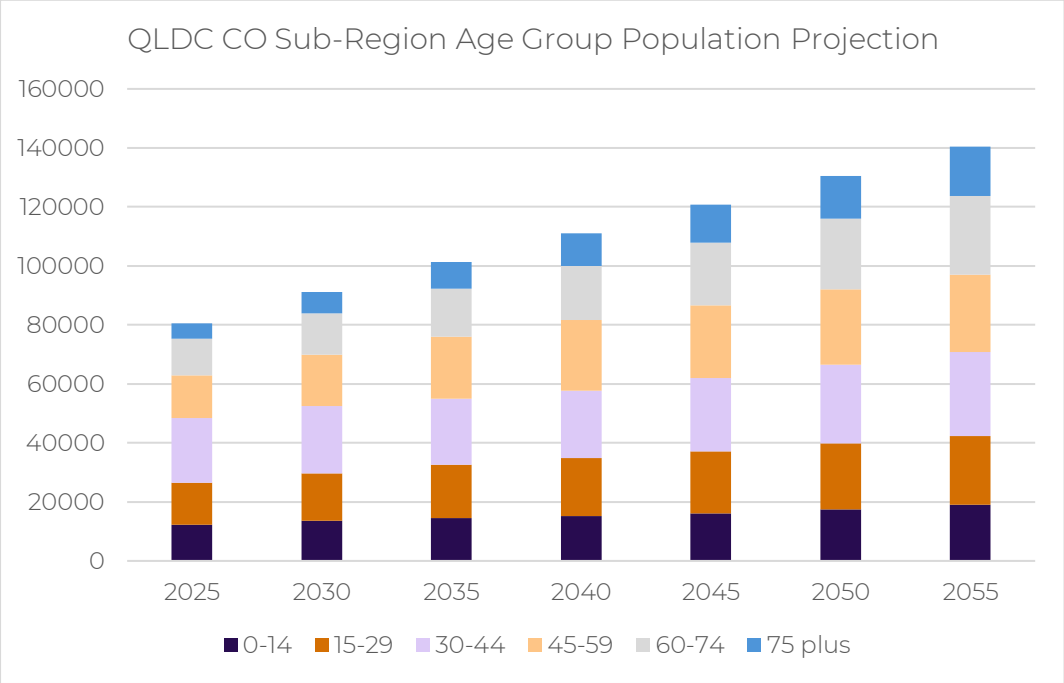
10.1.2 Population Projection

- The population of the sub-region was just over 80,000 in 2025.
- It is expected to steadily increase over the next 30 years to over 140,000 in 2055. This is growth of nearly 60,000 people or 61%.



10.1.3 Age Group Population Projection

Age Group	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	Change 2025-2055	% Change 2025-2055
0-14	12290	13509	14518	15219	16145	17522	18952	6663	54%
15-29	14282	16207	18069	19644	20991	22300	23365	9083	64%
30-44	21959	22853	22426	22765	24762	26675	28595	6637	30%
45-59	14385	17251	20945	24027	24733	25621	26166	11781	82%
60-74	12364	14203	16230	18407	21167	23988	26530	14166	115%
75 plus	5342	7160	9057	10978	12985	14482	16849	11508	215%



10.1.4 Population Structure

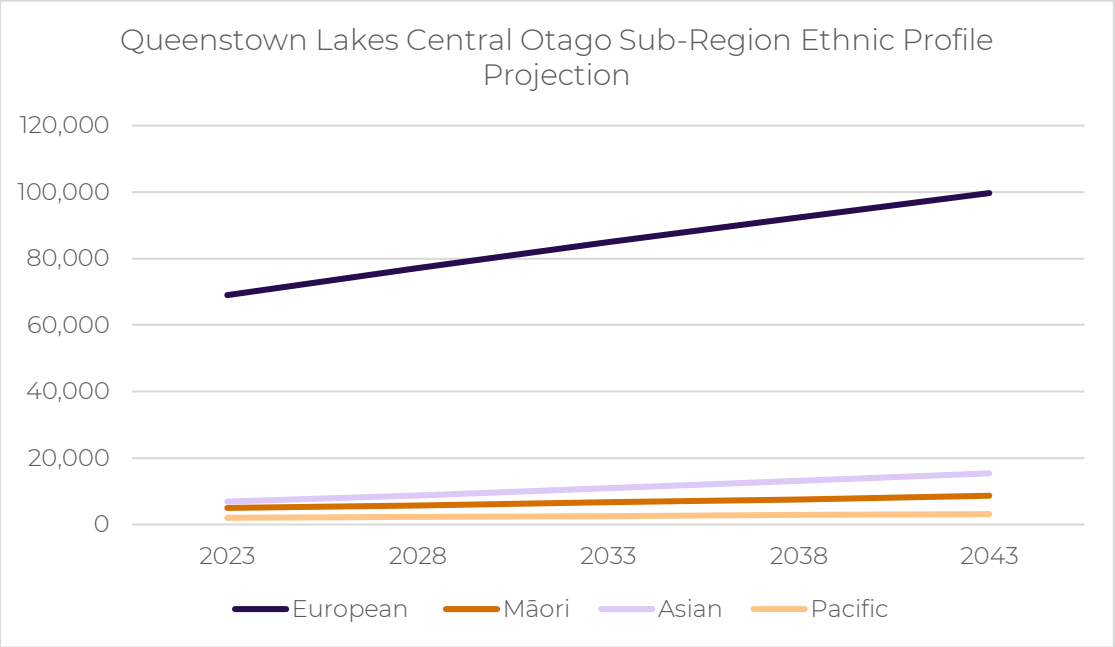
- Greater proportion of people in the older age groups is reflected in a diminished proportion in the younger age groups by 2055
- Very even proportion of population in middle age groups in 2055, a smaller proportion in the 0-14 and 75 plus age group.

69.

Age Group	% Population 2025	% Population 2055
0-14	15%	13%
15-29	18%	17%
30-44	27%	20%
45-59	18%	19%
60-74	15%	19%
75 plus	7%	12%

10.1.5 Ethnic Population Projection

- The predominant ethnic group in the QLCO sub-region is NZ European/Pakeha
- In 2043, it is expected that the sub-region ethnic profile will be much as it was in 2023. The majority of increase in the population is expected to be in those identifying as European/Pakeha. This group is expected to increase by over 30,000 by 2043.
- The number of people identifying as Asian in the sub-region is expected to increase by 123% or nearly 8.500 people by 2043.
- While the populations of Māori and Pacific People are both expected to increase over the 20 years to 2043, the projected increases in terms of numbers of people are relatively small, Māori by 3,670 people, and Pacific People by just over 1000.



10.2 Queenstown Lakes District

10.2.1 Population Projection

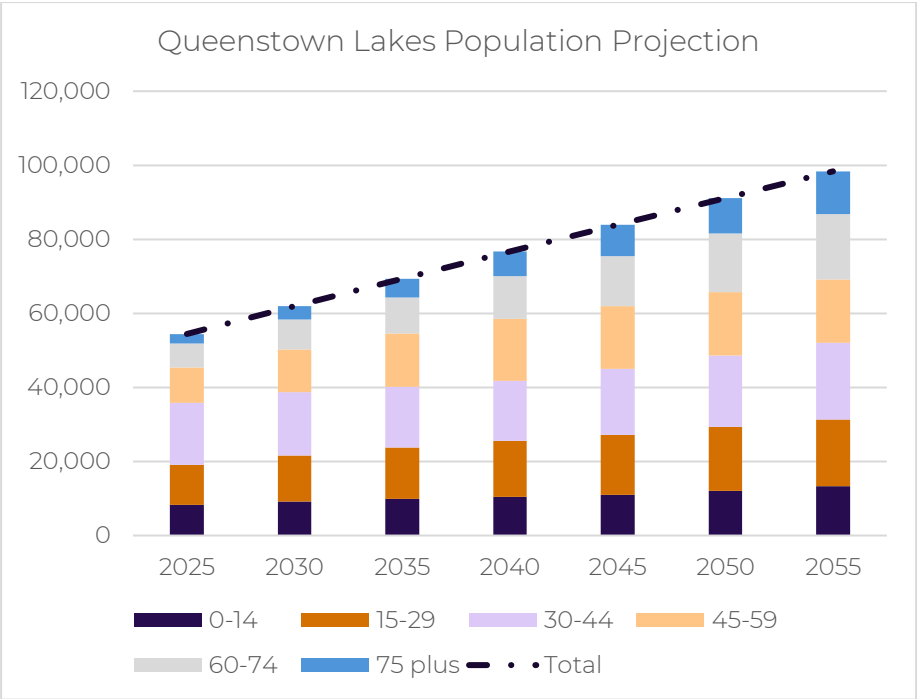
- The population of the Queenstown Lakes District was 54,440 in 2025.
- It is expected to grow by nearly 44,000 people in the 30 years to 2055 to over 98,000 people. This is growth of 81%.

70.

Age Group	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	Change 2025-2055	% Change 2025-2055
0-14	8,207	9,194	9,937	10,362	11,011	12,108	13,254	5,047	62%
15-29	10,807	12,340	13,892	15,187	16,258	17,289	18,073	7,266	67%
30-44	16,871	17,143	16,260	16,186	17,759	19,225	20,685	3,815	23%
45-59	9,430	11,604	14,513	16,845	16,873	17,136	17,083	7,652	81%
60-74	6,556	7,997	9,660	11,387	13,587	15,780	17,680	11,125	170%
75 plus	2,570	3,755	5,143	6,680	8,370	9,552	11,571	9,001	350%
Total	54,440	62,032	69,405	76,648	83,857	91,090	98,345	43,905	81%

10.2.2 Age Group Population Projection

- Significant growth is expected in all age groups – between 23% and 67% or between nearly 3.800 to 7,600 in the younger and middle age groups.
- Pronounced growth is expected in the older age groups. 170% or over 11,000 in the 60-74 age group and 350% or over 9,000 in the 75-plus age group. This is an increase of over 20,000 aged 60 and over.



10.2.3 Population Structure

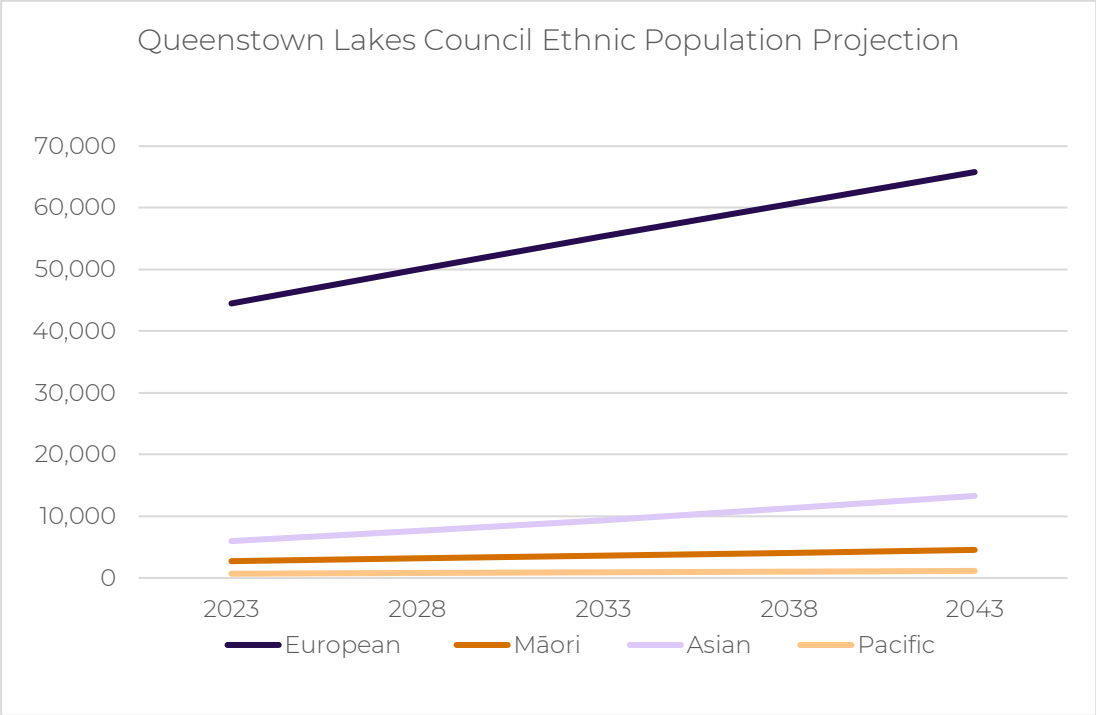
- In 2025, the population structure of the Queenstown Lakes district was similar to a bell curve with smaller proportions of younger and, particularly, older residents.
- By 2055, the proportion of the population in the older age groups is expected to have increased significantly; 60-74 age group - 18% of the population, up from 12% in 2025 and 12% of the population in the 75-plus age group, up from 5% in 2025.
- At the same time, the proportion of the population in the younger and middle age groups is expected to have declined, notably the 30-44 age group by 10% from 31% to 21%.

71.

Age Group	% Population 2025	% Population 2055
0-14	15%	13%
15-29	20%	18%
30-44	31%	21%
45-59	17%	17%
60-74	12%	18%
75 plus	5%	12%

10.2.4 Ethnic Profile Projection[81]

- In 2023, the majority of the population of the Queenstown Lakes district identified as European and over 10% identified as Asian. 5% identified as Māori and just 1% as Pacific.
- By 2043, it is expected that a similar proportion will identify as European (about 85%), while the proportion identifying as Asian is expected to have increased to 18%.
- Little change is expected in the proportions of those identifying as Māori or Pacific (6% and 2% respectively).



[81] Individuals can identify as more than one ethnicity so ethnic totals may add to more than 100%

10.3 Central Otago District

10.3.1 Population Projection

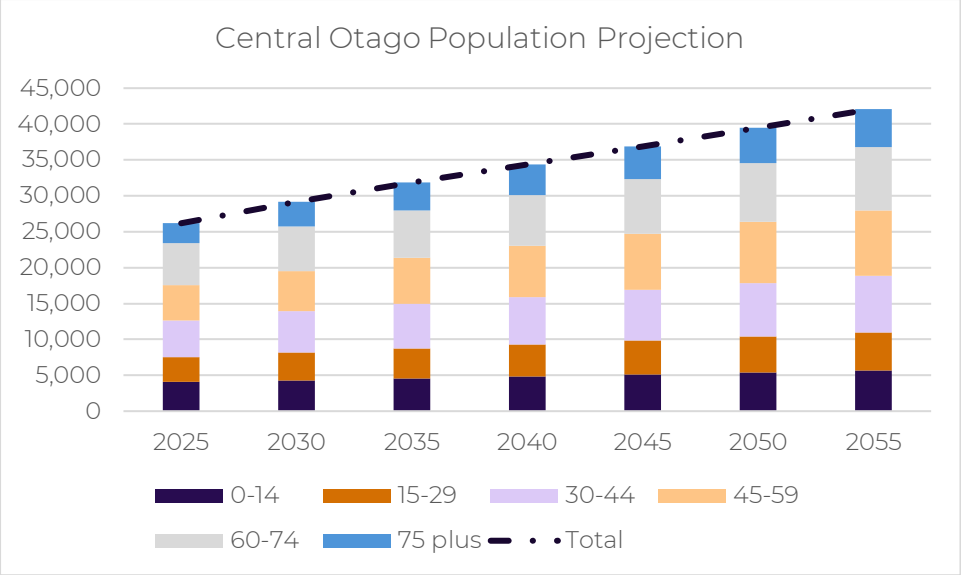
- The population of the Central Otago District was 26,181 in 2025.
- It is expected to grow by nearly 16,000 people in the 30 years to 2055 to over 42,000 people. This is growth of 61%.

72.

Age Group	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	Change 2025-2055	% Change 2025-2055
0-14	4,083	4,315	4,581	4,857	5,134	5,414	5,699	1,616	40%
15-29	3,475	3,867	4,178	4,457	4,733	5,012	5,292	1,817	52%
30-44	5,088	5,710	6,166	6,579	7,003	7,450	7,910	2,822	55%
45-59	4,955	5,648	6,432	7,182	7,860	8,485	9,083	4,128	83%
60-74	5,809	6,206	6,570	7,020	7,581	8,208	8,849	3,041	52%
75 plus	2,771	3,405	3,914	4,298	4,615	4,930	5,278	2,507	90%
Total	26,181	29,151	31,840	34,392	36,926	39,498	42,112	15,931	61%

10.3.2 Age Group Population Projection

- Growth is expected in all age groups (from 40% or 1,600 people on the 0-14 age group to 90% in the 75 plus age group (2,500 people).
- The biggest growth in terms of the numbers of people is expected to be in the 45-59 age group, which is expected to grow by over 4,000 people.



10.3.3 Population Structure

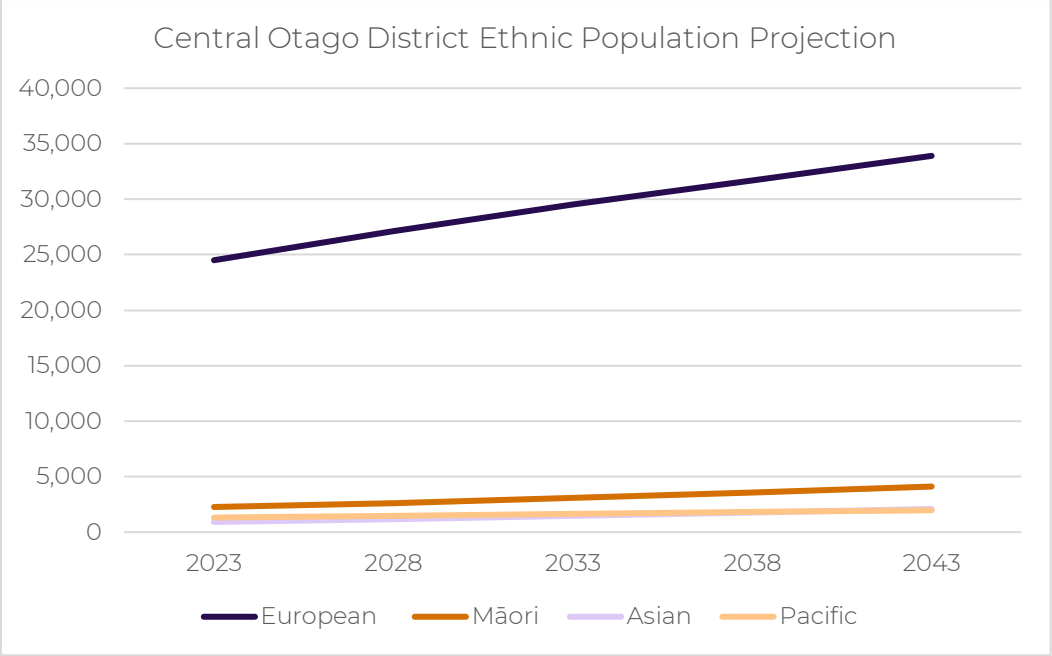
- The population structure is expected to be fairly similar in 2055 to what it was in 2025.
- The 2% decrease in the proportion of the population in the 0-14 age group is taken up by a 2% in the 75 age group.

73.

Age Group	% Population 2025	% Population 2055
0-14	16%	14%
15-29	13%	13%
30-44	19%	19%
45-49	19%	22%
50-64	22%	21%
75 plus	11%	13%

10.3.4 Ethnic Population Projection

- The majority (92%) of Central Otago District population identified as European in 2025. 9% identified as Māori. A very small proportion identified as Asian or Pacific.
- By 2043 the ethnic population structure is expected to be very similar to that of 2023. The most growth is expected to be in individuals in the population identifying as European.


Central Otago District Ethnic Population Projection
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
2023
2028
2033
2038
2043
European
Māori
Asian
Pacific

Appendix 2 - Code Based Facility Gap and Oversupply Analysis

A key indicator of participation within a sub-region should relate to membership data. Unfortunately, due to a large number of sport and recreation organisations not completing the online survey there are many gaps in membership data in this code-by code analysis.

As a way to substitute for a lack of membership data and to assist the assessment of capacity constraints, the expected participation on a code-by-code basis in the sub-region was compared to national average activity behaviours in the Sport NZ Insights tool for 56 sports.

No data was available for 13 of those sports. Only 10 codes showed expected participation in the CODC area and QLDC areas, which was higher than the national average expected participation rate. Where this is the case, it is signalled in the code-specific assessment in this section. The insights tool indicated that participation for all remaining codes was expected to be below national averages in both districts. In those instances, no insights data is included for the code in the assessments in this section.

Overall, the insights-based assessment proved to be of limited value as an indicator of participation and potential capacity constraints or need in the sub-region. However, it is possible that rather than indicating a lack of demand, sub-regional participation expectations sitting below national averages may in fact be an indicator that capacity constraints (lack of facility provision or access) are a factor impacting participation within the QLCO sub-region. For example, where participation is significantly below national average expectations this may be impacted by a lack of spaces and places to support participation in that code or activity.

With these constraints, the code-by-code assessments provided in this section have needed to use other indicators of need including:

- National benchmarks (where these exist)
- Facility utilisation data (where this is available)
- Anecdotal evidence based on stakeholder input at workshops
- Indications from council and Sport Otago staff.
- Membership data (where it was provided)
- Survey responses (where these were completed)

The fact that much of the code-by-code gap analysis had to rely on perceptions and anecdotal evidence reinforces the need for specific needs and feasibility assessments to be undertaken to test the actual sub-regional demand when any major upgrades or new spaces and places developments are proposed.

The key to assessment classifications is as follows:

	Adequate supply to meet need, no demand management measures in place, sport code able to promote participation.
	Marginal level of supply compared to need, minor demand management measures may be in place, negatively impacting on ability of code to promote participation.
	Significant facility challenges. Shortfall in supply compared to need, over-supply / rationalisation required, demand management measures in place (e.g. limiting numbers of teams in competitions), sport code not able to promote participation.
	No existing facilities at that level and no significant need identified for additional facilities to be developed.

This section provides a summary by facility type and code by code analysis using the above key. More detail on each facility type and code is provided in sections 10.5 to 10.9.

10.4 Summary by Facility Type and Code[82]

10.4.1 Aquatic Spaces and Places

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Swimming				
Deep water sports[83]				
Rowing				
Waka ama				
Canoe/kayak, diving				

10.4.2 Multi-use Indoor Court Users

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Badminton				
Basketball				
In-line hockey				

[82] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.
[83] Water polo / flippa ball, diving, canoe polo, underwater hockey, synchronised swimming

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Netball[84]				
Pickleball				
Volleyball				

10.4.3 Indoor Specialised Places and Spaces[85]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Squash				
Gymsports				
Indoor Cricket				
Table tennis				

Note: Indoor Climbing was not within the original scope of this Strategy and therefore no gap or oversupply analysis was undertaken for this sport and recreation activity in the sub-region. Following feedback on the Draft Strategy, some information is now provided in Section 10.7.3.

10.4.4 Outdoor Spaces and Places

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Athletics Tracks				
Cricket Wickets				
Football Fields	N/A			
Rugby Union Fields	N/A			
Outdoor Netball Courts	N/A	N/A		
Tennis courts	N/A	N/A		

10.4.5 Other Spaces and Places

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Ice Sports				
Bike				

[84] (indoor and outdoor courts used)
[85] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Croquet				
Disc Golf	N/A			
Esports (LAN Club)[86]	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Equestrian	N/A			
Golf				
Lawn Bowls				
Martial Arts				

10.5 Aquatic Spaces and Places

10.5.1 Aquatic – pool-based (indoor and outdoor)

In addition to the benchmarking overview provided in Section 7, some further analysis was also undertaken on aquatic facility utilisation indicators for QLDC. This is intended to provide further context to the code-by-code information in this section.

10.5.1.1 Utilisation Indicators

When total pool participation data for 2023/24 is considered for QLDC aquatic facilities and analysed based on resident population it appears that the QLDC aquatic facilities are reasonably well utilised but not over-utilised. Using the 2025 QLDC resident population of 54,440 and pool participation data, a visits per resident per annum can be identified as an indicator of use levels. These are identified in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Visits Per Resident Per Annum Indicators

2023/24 Aquatic Participation Type	Total	Visits per QLDC resident p.a.
Alpine Aqualand and Wānaka Community Pool	293,871	5.4
All QLDC pools	299,135	5.5

Source: Total Participation Numbers Provided By QLDC

[86] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

To put the user visits per resident per annum in context, data from another district in New Zealand with a similar population (circa 49,000) has a per resident aquatic visitation per annum of 3.7. Another comparison district, with a higher population base (circa 90,000) has 4.2 visits per resident pa.

However, it is noted that a high-performing aquatic facility could expect to see visit levels as high as 8 swims per resident per annum. Therefore, it is not clear that QLDC aquatic facilities are currently over-utilised, especially when the tourist use of aquatic facilities is also considered. This indicator shows there may be scope for higher use levels of existing facilities from the local population.

Another indicator is the balance of pool water provision by type. Table 8 shows the QLDC provision levels by water type (2025) compared to national demand/provision indicators.

Table 8 QLDC Pool Water Provision

	Available Pool Area per 1000			Available Year-Round Pool Area per 1000		
	L2S	Leisure	Fitness	L2S	Leisure	Fitness
QLDC	12.6%	47%	40.4%	13.4%	45%	37%
National Provision Indicators	17%	67%	16%	17%	67%	16%

This suggests that learn to swim and leisure water are under-provided, and there is an oversupply of fitness water compared to expected community demand for the different water types and associated experiences.

Indications from facility managers reinforce the water-type imbalances, they noted there is high use and demand levels for Learn to swim, for example, the Wānaka Community Pool cannot accommodate all desired enrolments in learn to swim programmes, requiring people to be turned away from the learn to swim programme.

Swimming[87]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Swimming				

The high-level national aquatic indicators suggest there is currently a more than adequate supply of aquatic lane space across the sub-region, with fitness water provision sitting at 53% currently across the sub-region, compared to expected community demand of 16% for fitness water.

[87] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Membership data provided by 2 of the local swim clubs totals to 112 members. Wānaka swim club indicated it had experienced a 10% membership increase in the last 3 years, and expect a 6-10% increase in the next 3 years.

Cromwell Swim Club indicated membership had remained about the same in the last 3 years, but it expects membership change of 0-5% in the next 3 years.

With a growing population, some clubs feel that more lane space access would be beneficial for club swimmers. The clubs also identified some issues with support amenities, such as disability access and condition of change facilities in older aquatic venues in the CODC area.

Water polo (including Flippa Ball), Diving, Canoe Polo, Underwater Hockey, Synchronised Swimming[88]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Water polo / flippa ball, diving, canoe polo, underwater hockey, synchronised swimming				

None of these sports engaged directly in the strategy development process through surveys or workshops. This high-level assessment relies on the national aquatic benchmark indicators due to a lack of relevant local information.

10.6 Aquatic – outdoor (natural) water

Rowing

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Rowing				

Whakatipu Rowing Club indicated it has between 150-170 current members covering youth, adult and older adult ages. It has experienced a 6-10% increase in membership in the last 3 years and expect similar growth going forward. It acknowledges it is limited in its ability to increase participation due to a lack of coaches.

The club owns its facility and recently undertook a $1.3m redevelopment of the facility.

The Whakatipu Rowing clubroom base is used 7 days per week by rowers. The venue is also used by other water-based sports including the Queenstown kayak club, Southern Lakes Multisport, along with 3 fitness/health providers on a regular basis. Storage space may become an issue if the club continues to grow.

The Dunstan Arm Rowing Club did not participate in the strategy development process. It is understood it is seeking to expand or upgrade its facilities but have been unsuccessful with previous

[88] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

applications to funders and little is known about their plans and what other users may benefit. Engaging with Sport Otago and other water-based sports would be beneficial for this group.

Waka Ama[89]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Waka ama				

Whakatipu waka ama have 66 members. It shares shed space at the Wakatipu Yacht Club and has long term plans to upgrade the space to better suit their needs with a desire for improved storage as well as space suitable for on land activities when the weather is not suitable for paddling.

The marginal assessment relates to the provision of support amenities which are the main challenge for this sport, including lack of toilets, car parking, shade and changing facilities as well as the poor condition of lake access roads.

Canoeing/kayaking, Diving/Free Diving, Multisport/Adventure Racing, Sailing/Yachting

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Canoe/kayak, diving/free diving, Multisport / Adventure Racing, Sailing/Yachting				

None of these sports engaged directly in the strategy development process through surveys or workshops. This high-level assessment is based on the good levels of natural water space assets available to these activities to use. The marginal assessment at local level relates to the lack of support amenities which other water based sports have highlighted, particularly toilets in key locations.

Representatives from pack rafting attended one of the stakeholder workshops. They emphasised the importance of land access to reach key natural water spaces is important. Ensuring ongoing access to natural spaces is important for a range of active recreation and water based user groups.

[89] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

10.7 Indoor Spaces and Places

10.7.1 Indoor Multi-use Court Sports

It is noted that overall, there are considered to be significant facility challenges in the multi-use indoor court network in the sub-region, as outlined in Section 7.0 of this report. All the code-by-code assessments are considered in the light of an overall deficit of indoor court provision in the region.

Overall, there is a need to increase indoor court provision in the sub-region.

Further background information:

While school courts are a useful contributor to the sub-regional indoor court network, there are also known constraints which need to be considered when considering the role of school facilities for community use. These include:

- School courts are typically single court spaces which can pose challenges for operating multi-team competitions and are typically more suitable for community training needs
- Undersized or low quality court spaces with issues such as restricted run-off[90]
- Lack of agreements which mean community access is not secure in the medium to long-term
- Booking availability can be limited i.e., not available in the afternoon 3-6pm due to school use or other disruptions to bookings due to school operational requirements (such as holiday periods, and maintenance)
- Existing regular users mean there is limited availability for new or lower participation activities.

The high proportion of school courts in the sub-regional network is considered to be an area of concern, especially in the context of discussions with some schools in the sub-region who identify that rapidly growing school rolls is placing pressure on school facilities to be able to cater to student needs. Roll growth may lead to limits on the community access to these indoor courts being applied to ensure students' needs are met first and foremost. The majority of court-based sports who responded to the survey indicate they make some use of school facilities (with some exclusively using school venues). Therefore, any potential reduction in school facility access would compound the existing supply shortfall in the sub-region.

QLDC Indoor Court Use Levels

As the largest indoor court venues in the sub-region, data on the use level of the QEC and WRC indoor courts for the 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 years was examined. Overall, the percentage of court hours used against total court hours available at QEC and WRC showed a range of 50% to 63% use, with the highest court use 78% at QEC (June 2025) and 81% at WRC (July 2025).

Paetara use levels were considered for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 years[91]. The court use percentage ranged from an average of 29% to 37% over 2 years, with the highest use 56% (June 2026). In addition to the courts, the studio space at Paetara is very popular in peak hours, with average total use ranging between 36% to 42% and the highest use 55% (June 2026). The high use levels of the studio demonstrate the importance of factoring this type of space into future asset development.

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[90] For example, Cromwell College has almost no run off.

[91] Paetara opened in November 2023 so only 2 years of complete use data was considered.

With a significant portion of court hours being in low-use off-peak periods, the use levels seen at this venues are an indicator of high levels of peak utilisation and potential associated capacity constraints. By comparison, the court hours used versus hours available was considered at 6 other indoor court facilities across New Zealand. 4 of these showed significantly lower use/availability with use sitting at 30%, one showed 50% of available hours used and the highest had 67% of total hours available used. To better understand the peak time capacity constraints within the sub-region, an analysis of the percentage of peak hours used versus peak hours available would be useful but data is not available in that format currently.

Stakeholder Feedback

Through stakeholder engagement, many indoor court-based sports have indicated they face challenges related to facility access. Membership of some sports may be constrained by limited facility access. Basketball in the sub-region shows a decline in membership, this is against the national trend of significant growth for this sport and anecdotally may be linked to restricted facility access. Other court sports surveyed indicated that:

> *"There may have been the opportunity to increase (membership) further but facility constraints meant that we have turned away teams in 2025 as we had no capacity for them."*
>
> *"Teams are also often struggling to get enough court space for trainings as well."*
>
> *"With the lack of facilities the sport is struggling to grow now."*
>
> *"Cromwell urgently needs a sports centre with indoor courts!"*

Indoor court users have also expressed dissatisfaction with the regular sport use being displaced by both sporting and non-sporting events at the QEC and WRC facilities. However, it is noted that events can be important contributors to local economies and community vibrancy and do provide revenue streams for these facilities which can assist in keeping user fees and charges reasonable for local community sport and recreation users.

10.7.2 Code-by Code Assessment – Multiuse Indoor Court Users

Badminton[92]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Badminton				

Cromwell Badminton Club was the only badminton-specific group to provide a survey response. They are a new group and are not a formal club. Currently, the "club" has approximately 20-30 regular participants. They are a newly established group who have been operating for less than 3 years. The group attracts regular participants from across Alexandra, Cromwell, Wānaka and Queenstown. It operates from the Dunstan High School gymnasium on a Sunday evening as that is the only consistent time available for bookings.

[92] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

It is known that other badminton clubs operate across the sub-region using a mix of school and council-provided venues. Representatives of an ethnic community group which provides badminton as 1 of their activities attended a stakeholder workshop. As new users, they find it challenging to get bookings for indoor court facilities which already have high numbers of regular users at peak times.

This marginal assessment for badminton reflects the relatively low numbers of badminton participants, the fact there are facilities they can access. It also recognises the projected increasing Asian population and challenges to obtain new bookings of existing venues, as well as the potential risks where school roll growth may impact future availability of school venues which are currently relied on.

Basketball (including walking basketball)[93]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Basketball				

Central Lakes Basketball (CLB) has 310 current members but note that their membership has declined by approximately 10% over the last 3 years and it expects this to continue. This is against the national trend of significant growth in basketball participation. CLB believes the decline in membership is related to facility access with challenges securing bookings for competitions and training. Court access is restricting ability to expand membership. CLB regularly uses school and council provided facilities and sees the potential for enhanced provision in Cromwell to support programme delivery.

This assessment reflects the lack of local participation growth in basketball, which is against the national trend and may be constrained by the significant facility challenges in the multi-use indoor court network in the sub-region.

In-line Hockey

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
In-line hockey				

The Queenstown Inline Hockey Club provided feedback via a survey response. The group has 98 members which has grown by over 10% over last 3 years and they expect to see continued growth. The club has players who currently travel from Wānaka, Cromwell and Alexandra to play at the QEC which they use twice per week for regular activities. Overall, the club does not feel the QEC facility meets its needs and note that use of it requires improvisation and it is a struggle to get additional time in the facility. The club has aspirations for a purpose built facility, but at a minimum believe "*an option for boards at the events centre would be advantageous*" and it also has a desire for storage space at QEC.

[93] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

The marginal assessment reflects recent growth of the club, alongside the challenges of using the QEC currently, noting that the planned expansion of the QEC will provide additional space for existing and new users. The club considers provision of additional playing space in Cromwell would be an advantage for inline hockey participants in the CODC area.

Netball (including walking)[94]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Netball (indoor and outdoor courts used)				

Upper Clutha Netball and the Central Otago Centre provided feedback through the survey and stakeholder workshops. There are approximately 1,600 members across the 2 netball organisations which have grown between 5-10% over the last 3 years and expect to see continued growth at similar levels.

Overall, the total number of courts (outdoor and indoor) is identified as a limiting factor for netball. It is noted that ***"Teams are also often struggling to get enough court space for trainings as well."***

This assessment reflects the fact that demand management measures are in place with both netball organisations having to turn away teams from their competitions due to a lack of capacity (indoor). There may be potential for the provision of covers over some existing outdoor courts to help ease some of the demand for indoor court space from netball, particularly for training. Please also see the outdoor court sports section.

Pickleball

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Pickleball				

Pickleball has rapidly grown in popularity internationally and locally. One survey response indicated a local club had grown by over 10% in the last 3 years (to approximately 50 members).

Pickleball is often offered off-peak at times when indoor court facilities would otherwise not be in use. For example, the Wānaka Recreation Centre hosts 3 pickleball sessions per week (off-peak) with approximately 50 attendees per session. This has a positive impact by increasing facility use at traditionally low-use times.

While off-peak use is positive, this marginal assessment reflects that this club, along with other pickleball groups is contributing to increased demand on the already constrained indoor court network.

[94] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Volleyball[95]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Volleyball				

Volleyball can be both an indoor and an outdoor sport, with people happy to play outdoors in summer. It is noted that there is a lack of indoor volleyball courts in the CODC area and no permanent outdoor sand courts available across the sub-region.

Central Lakes Volleyball has grown between 6-10% over the last 3 years to reach 350 members. The sport uses a combination of public facilities such as QEC, WRC and school gymnasiums to deliver volleyball activities. The organisation feels that a lack of facilities will impede the future growth of the sport.

This assessment reflects the general lack of volleyball specific court markings in the CODC area and the difficulties which are experienced with securing additional use of existing facilities in the QLDC area.

Other Users

Multi-use indoor courts also support a range of other activities, some of which have low participant number or require infrequent use of facilities such as Special Olympics. These venues are also important for other sports who did not participate in the Strategy development process such as futsal, indoor bowls, marching, roller skating, ultimate frisbee.

10.7.3 Indoor Specialised

Squash

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Squash				

Three squash clubs provided input to the Strategy development through surveys and stakeholder workshops.

All 3 clubs own their own facilities. 2 clubs are generally comfortable with the condition of their facilities; the Cromwell Club was reclad recently, and Wānaka have some plans for facility improvements. The Queenstown Squash Club is over 50 years old, and the club is dissatisfied with what they have. However, the site of the club has been identified for roading improvements, and the club does not have certainty of a long-term location. There is an urgent need to make decisions about the best future location of this club, ideally as part of a multi-sport facility development in partnership with others, including potentially with QLDC at the QEC.

[95] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Squash NZ's National Facility Strategy highlights the importance of urgently planning for the future of the Queenstown club, as well as supporting ongoing maintenance and investment in other clubs in the sub-region. It is also noted that there are unaffiliated squash clubs in Queenstown and Roxburgh.

Gymsports / Gymnastics

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Gymsports / gymnastics				

No survey responses were provided by gymsports clubs in the region. Aspiring Gymsports holds a sub-lease off QLDC for space within Paetara in Wānaka, this facility is suitable to serve as a sub-regional hub for the Central Otago sub-region.

While this sport is currently assessed as having adequate supply to meet demand there is some medium-long term uncertainty for delivery related to facilities:

- Queenstown Gymnastics Club operates from a leased commercial premises
- Alexandra Gymnastics Club operates from the CODC owned Molyneaux Stadium facility which is old, outdated and may be impacted pending the recommended investigations into indoor court provision in the district.
- Aspiring Gymsports hold a sub-lease for a portion of the Paetara facility which QLDC lease off the commercial site owner meaning the long-term status of Aspiring within the Paetara facility is not guaranteed beyond the QLDC lease term.

Overall, for Gymsports/gymnastics it is important that the membership and utilisation and operations of facilities continues to be monitored in the sub-region to ensure stability of delivery.

Indoor Cricket[96]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Indoor Cricket				

No survey responses were provided by Indoor Cricket as there is no current ability to deliver indoor cricket in the sub-region. Cricket was actively involved in stakeholder workshops, but no cricket clubs provided survey responses.

Through the workshops the lack of provision of indoor training space for cricket was identified as a key concern for clubs as well as at association level for Cricket. There is a community group who is actively investigating the possibility of a multi-sport facility that could cater to several sports with

[96] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

specialist needs such as indoor cricket (and other astro-turf based activities) along with some racquet sports such as squash, padel and/or pickleball.

Nationally, it is common for indoor cricket opportunities to be provided by commercial providers although there are also several examples of community-provided indoor cricket training lanes such as in Ashburton (Mid-Canterbury Cricket) and Christchurch (Sydenham Cricket Club).

This marginal assessment reflects the fact that there is no current provision for indoor cricket within the sub-region. Before the prioritisation of potential provision can be considered, further investigation of need is required.

Table Tennis

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Table tennis				

No table tennis groups engaged directly in the strategy development process through surveys or workshops. This high-level assessment is based on the options which are available at Paetara (offered by QLDC), a commercial venue (Kingpin) that offers table tennis in Queenstown and the potential for table tennis within community halls in smaller communities. Although it is noted with indoor court facilities under capacity pressure, it is possible that table tennis as an offering could come under pressure from other indoor court sports seeking space within Paetara, potentially leading to a reduction in the range of activities on offer to diverse participant groups.

Indoor Climbing

While Indoor Climbing is not within the scope of this Strategy, it is acknowledged that both indoor and outdoor climbing are popular activities. Residents and visitors to the sub-region are known to participate in both the indoor and outdoor formats, either as a sport or recreational activity. Climbing has been included as an Olympic Sport since Tokyo 2020, and remains a core sport for Los Angeles 2028.

In the sub-region, current public space for Indoor Climbing is provided at the QEC, along with some provision in a school venue in Central Otago. There is also commercial provision for Indoor Climbing (including sport climbing and bouldering) in Wānaka and Queenstown. The majority of outdoor climbing occurs on DOC land.

As *this activity was not within the scope of the Strategy, it is important to note that:*

- *Climbing clubs or groups were not included in the online survey and workshops which informed the development of the Strategy*
- *No analysis has been undertaken regarding climbing within the sub-region such as participation, membership levels and the condition or capacity of the type of spaces provided.*
- *Recommendation 15 has been included in the Final Strategy after public engagement on the Draft Strategy, at the direction of the PSG, not the analysis of RSL.*

10.8 Outdoor Spaces and Places

Outdoor Sports Fields

Overall, the sub-region is generally under-supplied in terms of sports field space to support a growing community, as well as under-supplied with fit-for-purpose amenities to support sports field sites such as toilet/change room suitability (especially for female / gender neutral facilities) and it also has an ageing clubrooms network.

Planning for enhanced sports field provision is a high priority under this strategy. This section provides code-by-code indications regarding spatial provision, but it is important that the complete sub-regional picture of provision is considered as sports fields are typically multi-use.

It is also noted that secondary schools are significant providers of sports fields within the sub-region, and several have future plans which could provide long-term community benefit, if confirmed partnerships can be established. The future plans and role of school sports fields is an important consideration to help ensure that provision is not duplicated between QLDC, CODC and schools where there are opportunities for shared use, particularly where these could support local accessibility for community groups.

Schools are encouraged to have early, and ongoing discussions with QLDC and CODC when they are investigating sports field enhancements on school sites. School-community partnerships are an important opportunity when the development of multi-use artificial turf is being considered. Current opportunities include Dunstan High School, Cromwell College and Aspiring College.

Outdoor Multi-use Hub Sites

The sub-region currently has 5 major hub sites.

Table 9: Hub Sites - High-Level Assessment and Future Priorities

Hub Site	Overview	Future Priorities
Anderson Park, Cromwell	• Well located • High-quality sports field surface • Adjacent to Cromwell College allowing shared use between both sites for school and community purposes.	• Provision of public toilets • Upgrade the old, outdated multiuse sports clubroom space • Retain as a main sport site, especially for senior rugby, touch and cricket.
Molyneaux Park, Alexandra	• Great example of a major sports hub site with multiuse sports fields and a range of specialised assets[97]. • Seamless link to Dunstan High School sports field allows shared use	• Assess and decide the future of the old, outdated Molyneaux Stadium • Enhance sports field floodlighting, especially for football to address safety risks and restricted training time

[97] Including ice sports, (lawn) bowling club, squash, BMX, Aquatic Centre, netball courts (outdoor), Indoor Stadium (court).

Hub Site	Overview	Future Priorities
		• Consider potential of some covered courts to reduce weather impacts (frost) on netball courts especially impacting evening trainings[98].
Queenstown Events Centre	• Major hub site with sports fields alongside specialised assets[99] • Well located adjacent to airport • Relatively central to current and future residential areas in the Wakatipu basin.	• QEC indoor court expansion • Community clubrooms space to support wider site activities. • Confirm footprints for future development spaces.
Wānaka Recreation Centre Hub	• Major hub site with sports fields, artificial turf, aquatic centre, indoor court space and play space. • Well located off main access routes	• Indoor court expansion • Consideration of optimal aquatic space / water type provision
Pembroke Park / Wānaka Camping & Showgrounds Reserve	• Centrally located in Wānaka town/waterfront area • Key site for rugby, touch and cricket • Adjacent to showgrounds equestrian area	• Field and lighting upgrade currently underway • Retain as key site and increase junior use where possible.

There is also potential for future hub sites at:

- Cromwell Racecourse Reserve
- Ballantyne Road, Wānaka
- Hawea Domain, Lake Hawea
- Ladies Mile, Queenstown
- Southern Corridor, Queenstown

Continued planning for these future hub sites is a high priority given the shortfall in sports field provision and the needs of a growing sub-regional population.

[98] See the relevant code specific detail for more information on these issues.

[99] Including international standard oval (field sports), alpine aqualand, indoor courts, hockey turf, golf (note: issues with fire), outdoor courts, community lease buildings (circus, toy library). Also has space for future development needs.

Athletics[100]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Athletics				

National direction regarding athletic facility provision is considered to be out of date (2010) but is the only available direction on facility provision at a national level. It indicated that no additional synthetic tracks were needed in New Zealand and identifies the Caledonian Athletics Stadium (Dunedin) as an important IAAF Class II facility.

All athletics in the sub-region operates from grass track facilities either on public reserves or school grounds. Both Molyneaux Park and WRC provide 8-lane grass tracks with field facilities and are the key district level sites. QEC also has partial provision for athletics, with a constrained track area.

Only 1 club, Aspiring Athletics Club (Wānaka) provided a survey response. They have 170 members and have grown between 6-10% over the last 3 years. The club notes that there is people on a waiting list to join but capacity is constrained by "limited availability of coaches". It is also noted that many members of the public casually use the facilities at the WRC site such as the grass track. The WRC site is also shared with other users such as football and cricket.

Overall, the athletics club is dissatisfied with the facilities available, including amenities such as storage, seating, changing facilities as well as the athletics (track and field) training and competition space. Harsh winters can have a significant impact on the quality of the grass running track. The club has a strongly expressed desire for an 8-lane synthetic track to be provided. In their view this should be in Wānaka as the majority of coaches are based there. The club have indicated they do not have funds to contribute to such a development, which they believe should be provided by QLDC.

Beyond Aspiring Athletics Club there is some general support for the idea of an artificial athletics surface in the sub-region. However, the clear need for such an asset has not been confirmed. Current participation levels in athletics in the sub-region indicate provision of a synthetic surface is a low-priority compared to other sport and recreation asset requirements. Although it is noted that other sports can make some use of artificial athletics tracks for fitness, strength and conditioning training needs.

Cromwell College are investigating the potential provision of an artificial sports field including the possibility of a 100m 8 lane track and 110m hurdles option. It is suggested that the potential wider benefits of this as a possible shared school-community asset should be considered, as an interim, partial solution for those athletes seeking a higher level of service. The potential need for synthetic track provision in the sub-region should be reconsidered in the long term.

[100] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Cricket[101]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Cricket				

The marginal assessment at national/international level and local level reflects that it is considered that the sub-region may be over-investing in first class cricket assets while having under-provision in multi-use community sports fields to support local cricket needs.

Providing for first class cricket at both Molyneaux Park in Alexandra and QEC sites, along with other significant first class cricket assets in Otago (Dunedin) may not be sustainable in the medium to long-term unless use levels increase. Competition for first class and international cricket hosting is strong across New Zealand and Molyneaux Park may not remain a high-priority venue in the medium to long-term. If the level of service is reduced at first class level (e.g. Molyneaux Park), this may enable more investment across other community level cricket assets in the district/sub-region.

Overall, the priority for this code, in partnership with QLDC and CODC is to ensure adequate provision for cricket on multi-use field sites for local community club participation requirements. Provision for this code should be a priority as part of multi-sport field developments as identified as being required to support population growth in Wānaka, Hawea, Queenstown (multiple growth areas) and Cromwell (Racecourse Reserve). Please also note reference to the community group investigating provision for indoor cricket in the indoor specialised section of this report.

Nationally, the main facility focus for NZ Cricket is currently on the provision of all-weather training facilities for high-performance needs.

Football[102]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Football	N/A			

Football is under-supplied with field space, including appropriate quality lit training space. It is also constrained by a lack of amenities such as storage, change rooms and toilets in some locations.

2 of the 4 Football clubs provided survey responses which indicate a total of over 800 members across the 2 clubs alone. Both report an increase in membership of over 10% in the last 3 years with 1 club expecting stable membership in the next 3 years, and 1 expecting strong growth of approximately 10% to continue due to population growth, programme offerings and the increasingly popularity of football across New Zealand. Sport NZ Insights data indicates football is the most popular field sport in the Central Otago sub-region.

[101] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.
[102] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Overall the survey responses indicated that existing facilities don't meet current needs and that challenges around training and competition facilities for football, particularly in growth communities, have been ongoing. The football survey responses show disagreement over the hub/spoke model concept with some respondents agreeing and some disagreeing with it. The main facility needs which respondents consistently identified as not being met were fields, floodlights, storage, changing rooms. Some (but not all respondents) indicated a need for grandstand seating, meeting rooms, and enhanced access (parking/road).

Across the sub-region, continued investment in sports field lighting to support training needs of football is a priority. Especially where a lack of lighting is currently constraining activity. It is noted that surface maintenance standards may need to increase to ensure the quality of lit training areas is sustainable.

Currently the main competition is rotated on a 4-weekly basis between the main club bases in Alexandra, Cromwell, Wānaka and Queenstown. There is strong potential for the Cromwell Racecourse Reserve to be a future competition hub for football in the sub-region. This would need to continue to be supported by local sports field provision, particularly for training needs.

It is important football organisations (Southern Football in conjunction with local clubs) work with Councils to consider options and provide clear direction on their view of how field provision options align with potential future competition structures and local club needs, particularly regarding local training. For example, growth in both junior and senior (women's) football in the CODC area indicates that in the medium to long-term the Alphas Street Reserve is unlikely to be able to accommodate ongoing cohabitation of both levels at the one location. Plans for development of multi-use fields at Cromwell Racecourse Reserve provide a significant opportunity for football to access more playing space to support future needs.

Rugby Union[103]

Code	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Rugby Union	N/A			

Currently rugby union currently has generally sufficient field capacity for training and games across the sub-region (with some local exceptions especially for lit training needs). There are some condition/quality issues at club locations. The main current challenge for rugby is the age and condition of amenity facilities such as clubrooms and changing room spaces. It is also noted that some sites currently have no changing facilities available (for example Jack Tewa Park).

There is a marginal level of supply of field capacity for rugby in the medium term given recent growth (junior and women's) and projected future population growth.

Survey results show that Otago Rugby Football Union has 7,881 members across the whole Otago region, of which 47% are juniors. Membership growth was between 0-5% increase over last 3 yrs, with that trend expected to continue. Largely they attribute this to population growth and the provision of more participation opportunities especially for young people. Quality fields, floodlights and amenity

[103] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

facilities are important to support positive participant experiences. There is some dissatisfaction with field availability (especially lit) and changing rooms/facilities at peak times of the rugby season, including appropriate changing and toilet facilities suitable for women and girls.

At a sub-regional level, it is considered that facilities won't meet needs in 10 year's time, due to the condition of aging facilities and population growth. Generally the concept of a hub and spoke model is supported although more information and understanding of these plans is needed. It is expected that relocating the majority of rugby to one central hub/venue would have a negative impact on participation. However, some individual clubs were comfortable with the idea of more activity being moved to Cromwell.

2 local rugby clubs responded to the survey. Between them they have approximately 375 members with the junior proportion ranging from 45% to 76% across the 2 clubs. Both clubs indicated their membership has stayed the same over the last 3 years and they expect either no increase or a 0-5% increase over next 3 years. There is some sharing of facilities noted between rugby, cricket and athletics. There are some challenges noted about toilet access for game days and training in some locations as well as no wheelchair/disability accessibility to some clubrooms (including toilets).

The Cromwell Sports Club facility at Anderson Park in Cromwell is old, outdated and no longer fit-for-purpose. Anderson Park itself is well located and has quality play fields which need to be supported by a modernised building. It would be ideal to see community funders support enhancement of this asset while CODC focus funds on the required multi-use field hub development at Cromwell Racecourse Reserve. CODC has agreed to allow a building expansion footprint for the club lease but cannot invest capital in the redevelopment due to need to prioritise investment into Cromwell Racecourse Reserve.

No Strategy input was received from baseball, rugby league, softball or touch.

10.8.1 Outdoor Court Sports

Basketball - refer to indoor court analysis section for the main considerations and direction for this sport.

There is an opportunity to enhance access for basketball to existing outdoor court spaces (netball, tennis and schools) to support training and informal / casual participation options. Including through the provision of free use 3x3 courts or ½ courts in public parks.

Netball[104]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Outdoor Netball Courts	N/A	N/A		

There is adequate facility access for outdoor netball courts across the sub-region, although a review of demand should be undertaken again in around 2030 to test this. The main challenge for this code

[104] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

is access to indoor court space (refer to indoor court analysis). The marginal assessment at local level relates to court surface condition and player experience at outdoor courts.

Consideration should be given to covering some outdoor netball courts at Central Otago Netball Centre (Molyneaux Park, Alexandra). This could provide a significant enhancement in the quality of the player experience but should be considered as part of wider planning for indoor court provision in the district. There is an ongoing need for surface renewals, such as at the Central Otago Netball Centre.

Potential to make some existing outdoor netball courts more multiuse, such as providing for basketball and pickleball, should be considered, particularly in summer when the weather is more amenable.

2 Netball centres completed the survey, reporting 1,600 members between them. Each netball centre indicated recent growth with 0-5% for 1 and 6-10% for the other. Both expect growth levels of up to 5% in the next 3 years. Both Netball centres are unable to accept all desired teams into competitions due to capacity constraints at indoor court venues, which are a critical part of their competition delivery.

Tennis[105]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Tennis courts	N/A	N/A		

Across the sub-region there is an adequate supply of tennis courts, although some pressure exists at local clubs in high population growth areas, while conversely, some rural areas have less utilisation that desired.

Generally, tennis has a pattern over time of participation resurgence and then decline, particularly in small, rural communities. Opportunities to increase use of existing tennis courts in small communities through partnerships (with schools, nearby clubs or other sports such as netball, basketball and pickleball) could help rural club sites become better utilised and more sustainable over the long-term.

2 tennis clubs provided input to the Strategy development process. Between them they have approximately 150 members and casual participants. Both clubs have had a 0-5% increase over last 3 years and expect growth in the next 3 years of either 0-5% of 10+%. It is noted the club expecting over 10% growth is starting from a small base (40 participants). 1 club owns their own facilities and notes the building is aging and there is some dissatisfaction with the condition of current asset. The small club currently hires court space off council and is dissatisfied with the playing spaces as well as storage, changing rooms and amenities such as shade, picnic tables / social space.

[105] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Hockey – outdoor court spaces can be used by hockey, especially at junior levels. However, detailed context and direction for hockey is provided in the hockey turf section of the outdoor sports fields analysis section.

10.9 Other Spaces and Places

Ice Sports -Ice Hockey, Ice Skating and Curling

These activities have been combined for this assessment as some facilities are used by multiple codes.

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District wide	Local
Ice Sports				

As noted in Section 7 - Ice and Snow Sports Analysis, the 'marginal assessment' at international and local levels indicates specific pressures, including high utilisation at Queenstown Ice Arena and some operating sustainability concerns for Ice in Line (Alexandra). Overall, it is considered there are sufficient curling assets to meet current and future needs in the sub-region.

3 ice sports groups provided input to the strategy process. 1 club is ice hockey-focussed, 1 caters to ice hockey, curling and ice skating as well as other (non-ice) users, 1 group is focussed on curling. Between them, the 3 organisations have over 650 members. The Maniatoto Adventure Park notes they have over 10,000 casual users per annum.

Membership increases over the last 3 years range between 6-10% to over a 40% increase, with expectations to either stay the same or have 10+% increase over the next 3 years. There is significant sharing of ice sports facilities, including of note that in the QLDC area the Queenstown Ice Arena is a commercial facility which is also used by clubs for ice hockey and ice skating.

The Queenstown Ice Hockey Club feels facilities don't meet current needs and won't meet future needs given their rapid growth. They are very dissatisfied with capacity, associated amenities and cost and wish to progress an investigation into a second ice sheet in Queenstown.

Ice In Line (Alexandra) is seeking additional users for both the winter season (especially daytime use) and also for the summer season to increase financial sustainability of the facility. The venue has wheelchair access, making it suitable for those with disabilities and mobility challenges. Some further capital investment to enhance safety and energy efficiency could have significant benefits for the club operations. The toilets are also outdated and in need of redevelopment. Ideas expressed about expansion of the curling area (from 2 – 4 rinks) to make it suitable for International hosting are not considered a priority, with an International Curling facility already existing in the sub-region.

There has been a decline over the past couple of years in tourist visits to the Maniatoto Adventure Park. This indicates that there is no need for provision of additional curling assets in the sub-region, as such a move may simply further reduce use and financial sustainability of this existing international standard asset.

10.9.1 Other Specialised Sports

Bike (MTB, road, track, BMX)[106]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Bike				

Overall, there is very good provision of trails across the sub-region. In the short-medium term, the completion of existing trails under construction should be undertaken, and then the priority should shift to maintenance.

The marginal assessment is related to ongoing maintenance and the provision of adequate amenities such as toilets in key locations on existing trails and at jump parks.

Queenstown MTB Club have over 2,200 members. While numbers have stayed about the same over the last 3 years, it expects a 0-5% increase over next 3 years. It also notes that many people who ride trails are not members as access to the trails is free, and membership is not mandatory. The club is generally satisfied with facilities, although toilets are needed in key locations. Club members are concerned about maintenance costs and funding equity and would like more support from council for the local trail network.

It is noted there are pressures on some key sites, such as Ben Lomond Trails / Skyline accessed trails, and with future population growth, in the long-term there may be a need for additional trails. It is also expected that increasing use levels will increase the maintenance requirements on existing assets (trails and jump parks).

This strategy suggests it is important to seek support from other community funders for trail maintenance.

Croquet[107]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Croquet				

There are 3 clubs across the sub-region, in Queenstown, Wānaka and Alexandra. No significant issues identified, although there is the potential for the relocation of the Alexandra Club to a shared location. Strategically, seeking partnerships with like-minded sports such as bowls and petanque and other community users is considered an ongoing opportunity to support the sustainability of croquet clubs across the sub-region.

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[106] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

[107] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Only the Wānaka Croquet Club engaged in the strategy process. It has almost 90 members and has experienced 6-10% growth over last 3 years and expects growth to continue at this level over the next 3 years. It is satisfied with facilities overall.

Disc golf / Frisbee

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Disc Golf	N/A			

Disc Golf is well provided for with several courses across the sub-region, more than in many other parts of the country. While there is interest in the provision of more courses and seek to partner with QLDC and Department of Conservation (DoC), it is acknowledged that facilities meet current and projected future needs. Again, the main concern for this sport is the provision of appropriate support amenities such as toilets at course locations.

Esports

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Esports (LAN Club)	N/A	N/A	N/A	

The marginal assessment at local level reflects that Esports struggles to access space to deliver its activities. It is considered that local club participation will need to grow before any demand exists for other spaces at a regional or sub-regional/district level.

The Lan Club only has 10 members and struggle to grow due to a lack of offerings. It currently uses the Wānaka Recreation Centre. It identifies that it struggles to be taken seriously as it doesn't fit within 'active recreation', which results in limited access to funding and appropriate spaces to use. This situation limits their ability to offer opportunities to participants.

While Esports are not 'active', it is a channel for engagement and interaction for young people who may not be participants in traditional sports. It is suggested that there is potential to partner and make use of existing spaces, particularly existing youth space such as at Paetara and schools. There may also be 'outside the box' partnership opportunities with other organisations that have clubrooms or venues which would benefit from more users such as bowls or community halls.

Equestrian[108]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Equestrian	N/A			

[108] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Overall, there is generally a good distribution of equestrian facilities across the Otago region and the sub-region. However, there is pressure on ongoing provision of these activities with reliance on leased land and significant levels of land development and land sales across the sub-region.

Participation is also impacted by costs and limitations on access to some areas, such as being excluded from certain trails.

There are indications that some assets may have minimal use (i.e. mainly used for 1-off shows) and potentially could be opened up for more regular use to organisations such as pony clubs.

1 equestrian group responded to the survey; it has over 70 members but did not provide information on recent or expected future growth. There is a lack of information about membership trends from groups within the sub-region, but national data indicates that as of December 2023, there had been a 9% decline in equestrian membership across the wider Otago Region, and there is a national trend of some participation decline, in part related to external pressures on the sport as noted above.

In general, the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy indicates that at a national level, there is no need to warrant the establishment of new equestrian sites, maximising utilisation and partnerships at existing venues is key. However, within QLCO sub-region the long-term future of the Wakatipu Pony Club is identified as a top 10 priority project (within the national context).

The group that responded to the survey indicated they did not agree with the Cromwell Racecourse Reserve being developed as multi-sport hub site. It is noted that ongoing use for equestrian is intended at this site and that is an important consideration for equestrian sports in the sub-region.

Golf[109]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Golf				

There is a significant level of golf course provision across the sub-region and wider Otago region. The main concern is ensuring sustainable, appropriate provision of affordable, community courses, especially in the QLDC area, as there are several rural golf courses providing this type of experience in the CODC area.

Nationally, Golf NZ promotes facility diversification and partnership opportunities to enhance sustainability (where required). Network planning should be undertaken in the short term, to identify a strategic approach for ongoing community course access. This needs to include consideration of the long-term future for the Frankton Golf Centre following the 2025 fire.

Only 1 golf club provided a response to the Strategy, so it is not possible to give a strategic overview of wider golf club needs.

[109] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

The club which responded has over 1,500 members and approximately 7,500 casual users. The club has seen an Increase of 6-10% over last 3 years and expects this to continue, driven by population growth. This club has some specific needs for increased storage and car park capacity.

Lawn bowls

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Lawn Bowls				

There are 16 bowls clubs across the Bowls Central Otago sub-region (QLDC and CODC), most have aging facilities, and some have small and/or declining membership. There are several examples of facility sharing occurring at some existing clubs such as Alexandra (Molyneaux Park) which also has pétanque and shares with indoor activities such as pool, snooker, darts and other activities.

While local accessibility is a priority for many in the bowls community, there is a need to consider partnerships with other codes and activities to maximise facility use, as well as the potential need to consolidate and reduce the number of clubs, particularly as memberships decline. It would be interesting to see if a lawn bowls club could rent space to the Esports group.

Only 1 bowling club provided a survey response. This is a small club with fewer than 40 members and casual users. They do note they have had an increase in members and participants in recent years, but this is off a very small base. It is concerned about sustainability due to low participation. Seeking other users of the club facilities will be important for this club, and other small, rural clubs in particular.

Martial Arts[110]

Facility Type	International/ National	Regional	Sub-regional / District-wide	Local
Martial Arts				

There is known use by martial arts of multi-use venues (including indoor courts), and with overall under-provision of multi-use indoor courts, there is expected to be current and future spatial access challenges for martial arts groups. However, only 1 group engaged in the Strategy development process, making it difficult to provide a strategic view of the needs of martial arts groups overall across the sub-region.

The 1 group which provided a survey response has around 130 members and has experienced 10+% growth in the last 3 years and expects the same level of increase over the next 3 years. It uses a multi-use indoor court venue and would like to have more space and access to the facility longer in the evenings. However, with pressure from a range of user groups, this may be difficult for the venue to accommodate. The group expressed general support for the idea of more multi-use facilities in Cromwell with an expectation it may be more affordable than facilities in the QLDC area.

[110] Summarised key: Adequate supply; Marginal supply; Significant challenges (under or over supply); No existing facilities / no need.

Padel

There is current commercial provision of Padel in Cromwell.

No assessment is given for this code due to a lack of overall information. Although it is noted that Padel is growing in popularity internationally and within New Zealand, most often through commercial provision options. The success of many commercial models indicates limited need for territorial authorities to provide for this activity.

It is also noted that the community group interested in a multi-sport indoor centre in Queenstown may look to include padel as a commercial offering, subject to feasibility and business case proving sustainability.

Codes Not Assessed

Due to a lack of (or limited input) to the strategy process, and limitations on the availability of other suitable information and participation data, no assessment has been undertaken for the following codes/ activities:

- Petanque
- Shooting (including small bore rifle),
- Skateboarding
- Tri-sport and multi-sport
- Wrestling
- Tramping

It is noted that paragliding is outside of the scope of this Strategy. However, representatives of a paragliding club attended the Queenstown stakeholder workshop, and feedback was also provided at the Draft Strategy stage, seeking greater acknowledgement of the needs of this sport. This is acknowledged, but it remains out of scope. While the Strategy does not give specific direction regarding this activity, it is noted that ongoing access to safe launch and landing sites is important for this club. Land and water access is an important consideration for a range of recreation activities, and this is reflected in recommendation 9 of the sub-regional recommendation section. It is important to work with active recreation groups that require access to natural areas and large open spaces to enable their activities, to ensure consideration is given to their specific needs.

11 Appendix 3 – Multi-level Planning Criteria

These multi-level criteria will be used to help implement this Strategy, through guiding the assessment of both current and future proposed spaces and places investments across the sub-region, and to assist with identifying the future priorities for investment

At level 1, the essential criteria need to be considered and met with a high degree of certainty before a more detailed assessment of any concept is undertaken using the remaining level 2 and 3 criteria.

Level 1: Essential Criteria – all projects must address these criteria		
Principle		
Te Tiriti o Waitangi-Informed Approach	Supports Te Tiriti principles of partnership, protection and participation	The degree to which the proposal applies a cultural framework and considers the cultural narrative of the area. The degree to which Māori participation will be positively impacted.
Meeting an Identified Need	Evidence base	The degree to which the proposed development is supported by reliable and verifiable research and consultation, including community insights.
	Supply versus demand	The degree to which current demand/needs exceeds current facility or space provision.
	Gap in provision	The degree to which the proposal addresses identified needs which can only be met through additional facility/space provision (i.e., additional facility/space provision is the only option).
	Participation levels	The degree of positive impact on participant numbers now and reliably projected into the foreseeable future if the project is actioned.
	Strategic alignment	The degree to which the proposed development aligns with and supports the implementation of National and/or Region-wide planning processes, where these exist (e.g., Regional and Territorial Authorities, National Sport Organisations, Ministry of Education, Department of Conservation,

Level 1: Essential Criteria – all projects must address these criteria		
Principle		
		other providers and funders' processes and plans).
Seeking Best Value for Money (economically viable)	Economic/ financial sustainability	The degree to which capital and operational costs can be met for the whole life of the facility.
Activation	Events	The degree to which the proposed development enhances the region's ability to host events, consistent with relevant events policies and strategies.
Environmental Sustainability	Environmental awareness and sustainability	The degree to which planning considers environmental sustainability, including sustainable design principles and climate related mitigations.

Level 2: High Priority Criteria – while not essential to meet all these criteria, projects should clearly demonstrate how they address these criteria		
Principle		
Inclusive and Accessible	Supports accessibility for all	The degree to which the proposal provides benefit to a broad spectrum of the community and will improve access and equity outcomes for young and old, disabled, gender and ethnic groups.
Future Proofing - Adaptability	Flexibility	The degree to which the proposed development can adapt physically and operationally to reflect changing demands and trends (future-proofed).
Co-location and Integration	Industry best practice	The degree to which the proposed development reflects industry best practice in its location, design and subsequent operation, including but not limited to multi-use, multi-code, partnership/collaboration, hubbing, cross-sector, all-weather.

Level 2: High Priority Criteria – while not essential to meet all these criteria, projects should clearly demonstrate how they address these criteria		
Principle		
	Impact on other facilities	The degree to which the proposed development's use positively impacts and complements (rather than competes with) existing facilities, spaces or sports hubs.
Partnering and Collaboration	Partnering with others	The degree to which the proposal includes and supports a range of organisations, including clear evidence of operational and/or capital partnerships between multiple stakeholders.
Seeking Best Value for Money (economically viable)	Capability	The degree to which the partner organisation(s) involved have the capability to deliver, sustain and manage the facility or space.
Environmental Sustainability	Environmental mitigation	The degree to which the proposal provides mitigation for a current facility at risk of or already experiencing climate change impacts.
Activation	Planned activities	The degree to which consideration and subsequent plans are in place for how the facility or space will be activated.

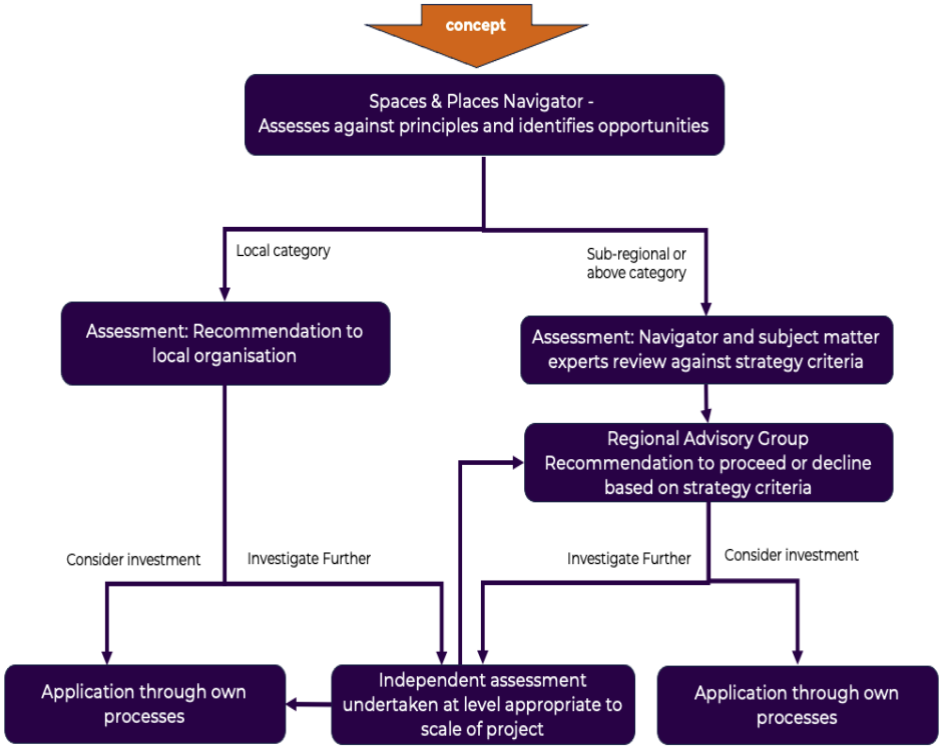
Level 3: Desirable Criteria – important factors which should be considered but are not identified as key drivers for facility or space development		
Principle		
Reflective of the Community / Sub-Region	Reflective of the local community	The degree to which consideration and subsequent plans are in place to ensure the facility or space (visually and operationally) will reflect the character of the local community and the unique recreational environment of the sub-region.
	Pathways	The degree to which the proposed development enhances the sporting and active recreation pathways in the region as

Level 3: Desirable Criteria – important factors which should be considered but are not identified as key drivers for facility or space development		
Principle		
		both an incubator of talent and, where appropriate, a centre of excellence.
Social Interaction	Fostering connection	The degree to which consideration and subsequent plans are in place for how the facility or space will foster social interaction.

11.1 Assessment Process

The following process will be used to apply the principles and assessment criteria of this strategy to proposed regional and sub-regional spaces and places investments across the sub-region. This process will inform the recommendations the Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group provides to decision-making organisations[111] regarding concepts put forward for investment into regional and sub-regional play, active recreation and sport facility development, redevelopment or major maintenance. Sport Otago provides the Spaces & Places Navigator role.

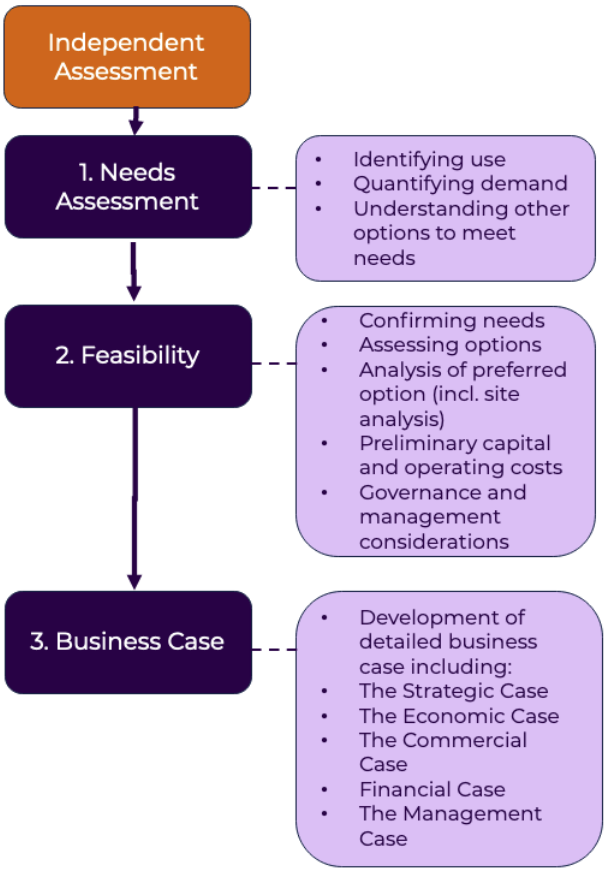
Figure 9: Strategic Assessment Process



[111] Note: Councils will still have autonomy over their own local decision making, as will funding organisations.

The scale of a proposed project will determine the depth of independent assessment required to provide assurances to decision makers. The Independent Assessment phases are outlined in Figure 11.

Figure 10: Independent Assessment Phases



Given, the rapid growth of the QLCO sub-region and some significant gaps in the spaces and places network, to streamline the planning approach it may be appropriate to combine the 3 independent assessment phases into 1 comprehensive review in some circumstances.

12 Appendix 4 – Engagement Summary

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken using the following methods:

- Direct engagement with council staff through the Project Steering Group and operational staff discussions
- Online discussion with the Otago Regional Spaces and Places Steering Group,
- Online community stakeholder survey
- 4 stakeholder workshops held in Alexandra, Cromwell, Wānaka and Queenstown during March 2026.

Both the online survey and the stakeholder workshops were promoted using Sport Otago contacts database.

12.1 Summary Findings – Online Stakeholder Survey

The survey was open from 21 January to 13 February 2026. A total of 52 responses were received.

This section provides a summary of the responses to the online survey in key sections. Not all questions are included in this response document, as some are not relevant for theming such as details of individual respondent organisations. It is also important to note that respondents were not required to answer all questions. Some sections were only answered by certain groups of respondents.

12.1.1 About the Respondents

Organisational Category (Respondents)	%	No.
Community Active Recreation Organisation	8%	4
Regional or National Active Recreation Organisation	0%	0
School	6%	3
Community Sport Organisation	41%	21
Regional or National Sports Organisation	26%	13
Other*	19%	10

Examples of others included an Esports club, cultural support group, health and fitness business and informal/no-name organisers of sport.

Respondent groups were mixed between those who operate across the sub-region (20), and those who operate in 1 district only, with 11 operating in Central Otago and 20 operating in Queenstown Lakes only.

12.1.2 Responses regarding Membership / Participation Trends

Last 3 years:

- 33 (69%) Respondents indicated that participation had increased in the past three years.
- 8 (16%) respondents indicated participation had stayed about the same
- 4 (9%) respondents indicated participation had decreased
- 3 (6%) respondents were not sure

Likely Change over the next 3 years:

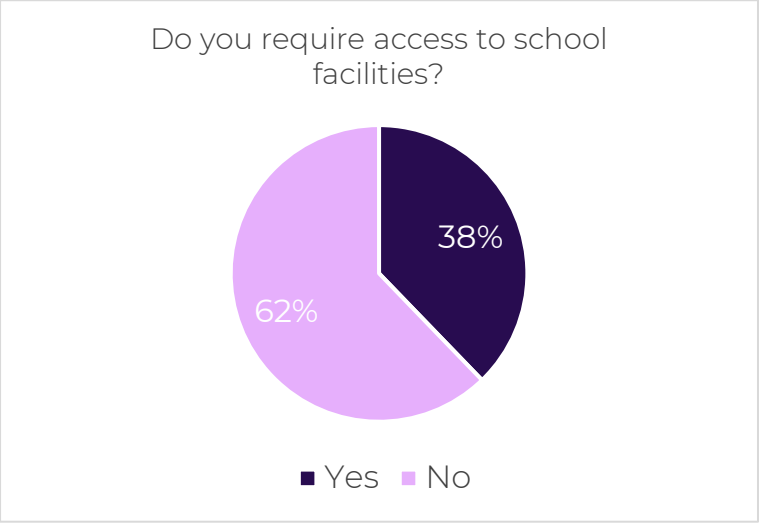
- 32 (70%) Respondents anticipated that participation would increase in the next three years.
- 7 (15%) respondents anticipated participation would stay about the same
- 2 (4%) respondents indicated that participation would decrease
- 5 (11%) respondents were not sure

Themes from responses given regarding changes in membership and participation (past and future) included:

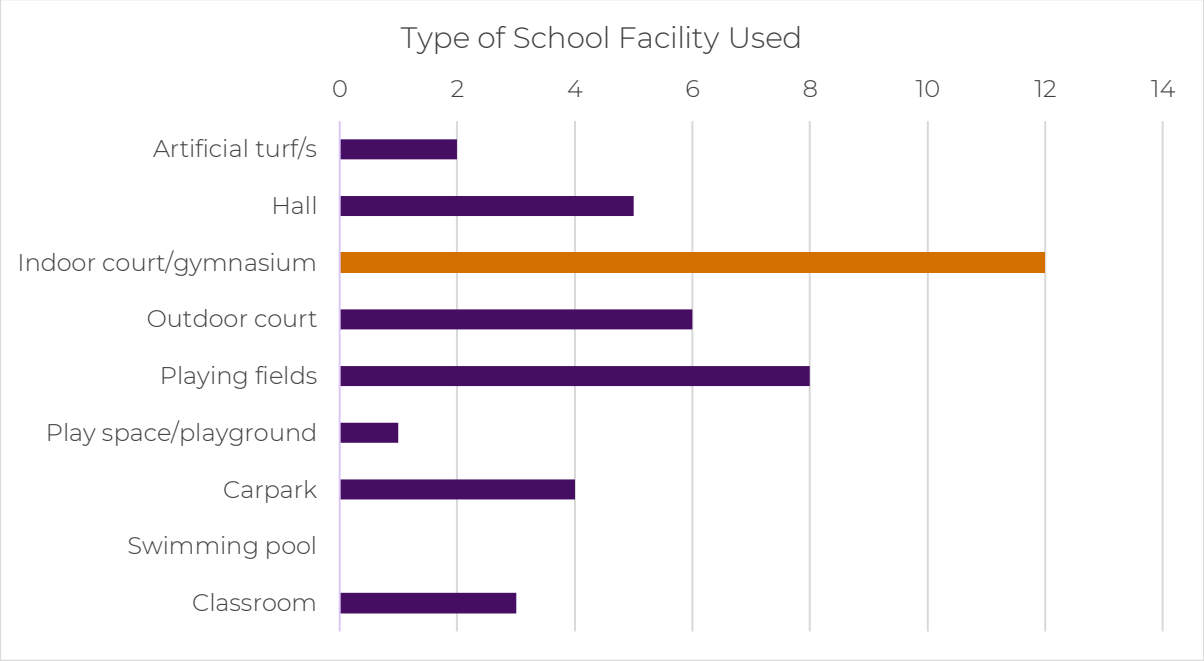
- Constraints on facility access and infrastructure - leading to capping membership or not offering some participation options
- Population and Demographic Changes – mostly resulting in increased demand, some activities noted an ageing demographic base, leading to increased demand such as croquet
- National Trends – with growth across the country expected to come through to the sub-region. Also wellbeing trends leading to increasing popularity of active recreation options
- Tourist Market - a large participant in active recreation in the area
- Programmes and Coaching limitations – a lack of coaches is impacting delivery for several activities, as is conflicting timing/seasons with other programmes or offerings.
- Changing Participant Preferences - Indoor sports are gaining popularity due to being consistently available (no weather cancellations)
- Increasing costs – leading to expectation that participation will drop.

12.1.3 School Facility Use

A significant portion of respondents require access to school-provided facilities.

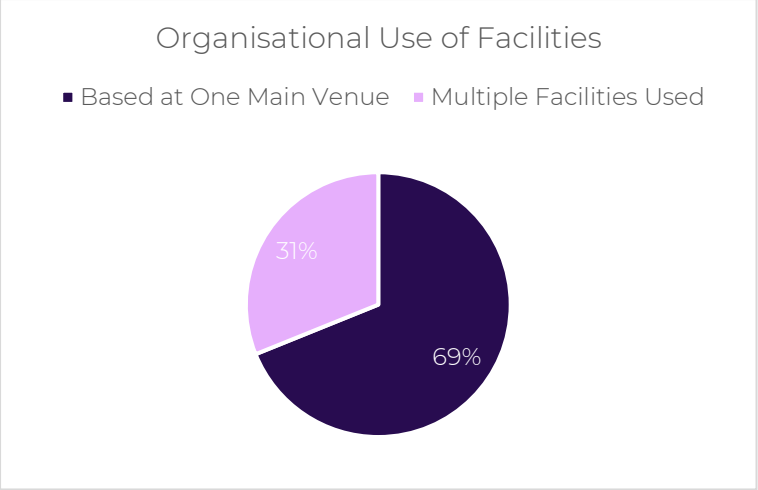


The main types of school spaces used by community groups are shown in the chart, indoor courts/gymnasiums were the most commonly used school facility. This relates to access constraints in the indoor court network overall.

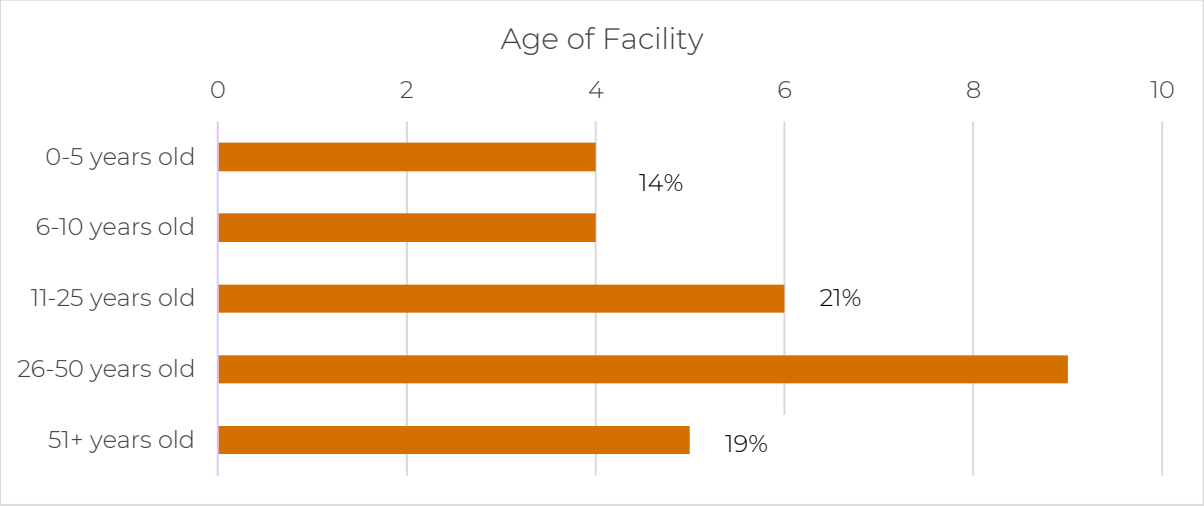


12.1.4 Relationship with Facilities

The majority of survey respondents are based at 1 main venue



The majority (51%) of facilities are over 26 years old.



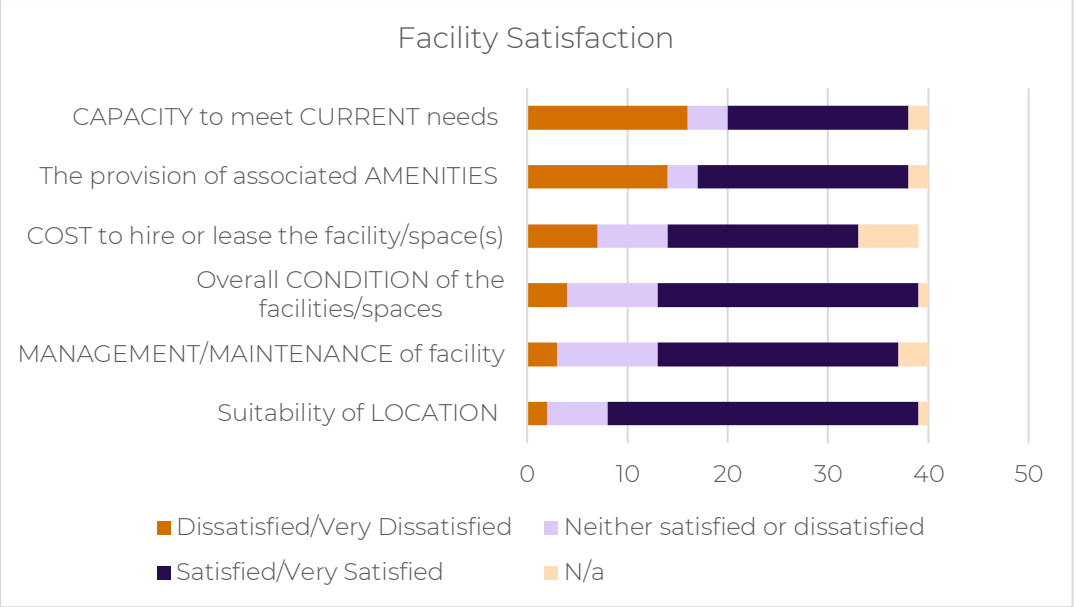
The age of the facility network is impacting maintenance needs and also creating functionality limitations, with some older assets not meeting modern expectations, such as not having female-friendly toilets and change spaces.

16 respondents indicated they shared their facility with other groups, with 11 of those indicating they shared with 3 or more other groups. Sharing was common among water sports.

12.1.5 Overall Facility Satisfaction Levels

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the facilities they use, based on a range of factors. The highest satisfaction levels related to the location of facilities/spaces, the overall condition, management and maintenance.

Respondents were most dissatisfied with capacity to meet current and future needs and the provision of associated amenities.



Where respondents were dissatisfied, they were able to provide further insights. Themes from this feedback include:

1. Capacity Constraints and Growth Pressure

The dominant theme is insufficient capacity across multiple facility types. Respondents consistently noted that demand exceeds available space, resulting in limited training times, inability to accept new participants, and constrained organisational growth.

2. Facility Availability and Access

Closely linked to capacity is the issue of access. Respondents highlighted challenges in securing equitable or practical access to facilities (restrictions/location).

There is also a recurring perception that emerging or non-traditional sports are under-recognised in planning and allocation processes.

3. Quality, Condition, and Fit-for-Purpose Facilities

Several responses indicated that existing facilities do not fully meet user needs or current standards.

Functionality and quality concerns are limiting effective utilisation for some.

4. Supporting Amenities and User Experience

A significant proportion of comments referenced deficiencies in supporting infrastructure rather than core playing surfaces. E.g. toilets, change rooms, storage, parking, seating, shelter, or shade for spectators, poor access roads or site infrastructure.

5. Financial Pressure and Cost Barriers

Several respondents identified financial constraints as a barrier to participation or facility sustainability such as hire costs, and the challenge of securing maintenance funding.

6. Equity and Perceived Investment Imbalance

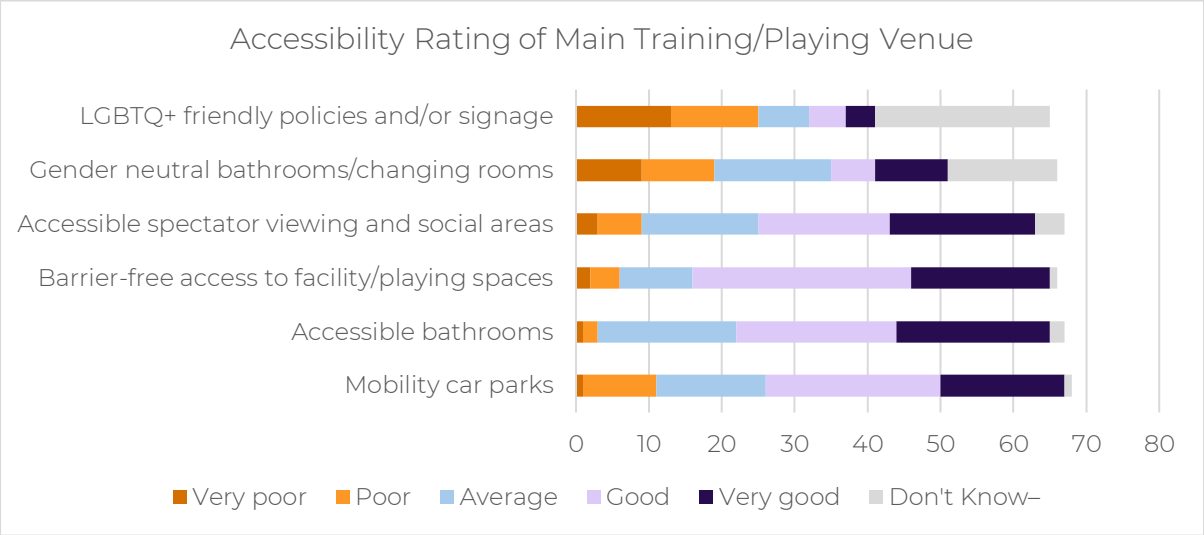
A number of responses expressed concern around uneven investment or perceived prioritisation of traditional sports over emerging or smaller codes.

7. Future Proofing and Strategic Planning

Underlying many responses is concern that infrastructure planning is not keeping pace with population growth and participation trends.

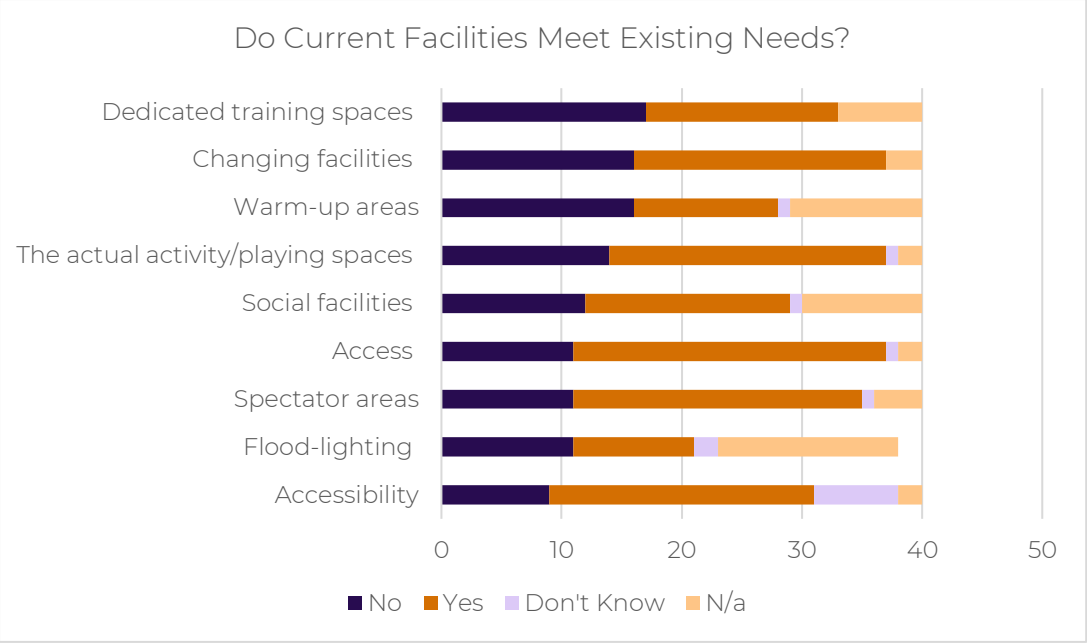
12.1.6 Accessibility

Respondents were also asked to rate the accessibility of their main playing/training venue. The aspects that were most consistently rated as poor or very poor were accessible bathrooms and spectator viewing, as well as ramps to access playing space.

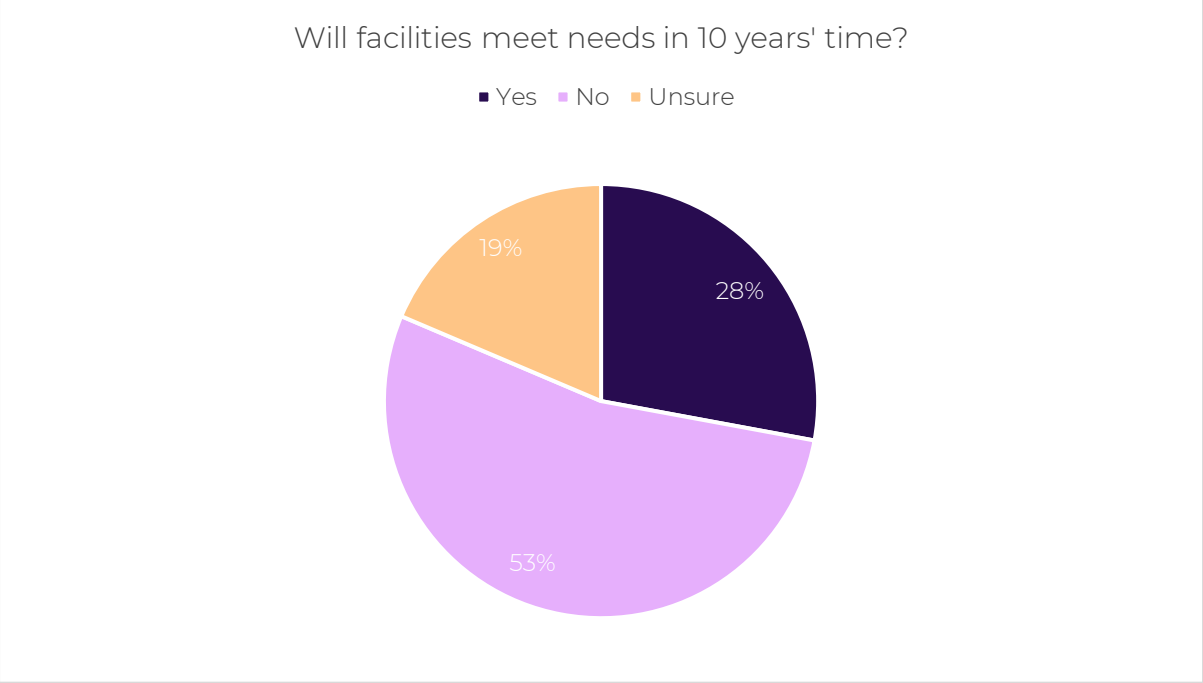


12.1.7 Meeting Existing and Future Needs

Many respondents do not feel facilities are meeting their existing needs, the areas which are least meeting needs include warm-up areas and dedicated training spaces, changing facilities and the actual activity/playing spaces. Floodlights and access were also a concern for several respondents.



The majority of respondents do not think facilities will meet their future needs.

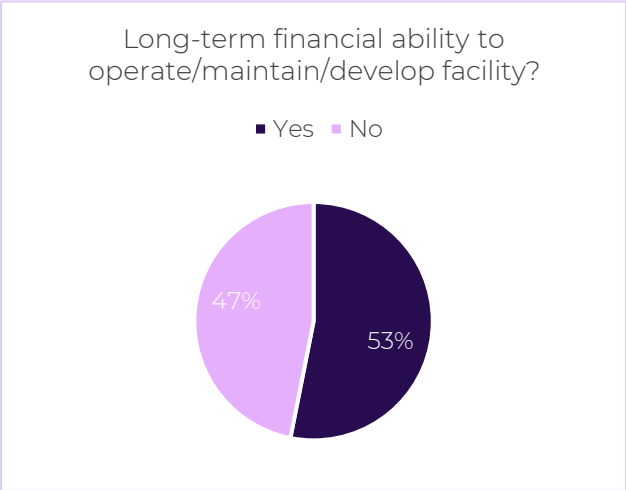


Themes from responses included:

- Demand is outpacing current facility capacity.
- Rapid population and participation growth is creating sustained future demand.
- Facilities require modernisation and investment to meet current and future standards.
- Long-term planning is constrained by land security and access control issues.
- Readiness varies — some sports report they are already growth-constrained, while others do have capacity.

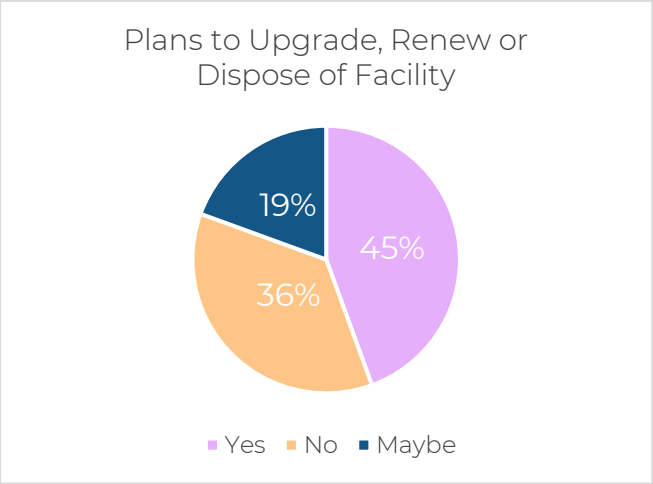
12.1.8 Financial Position and Future Plans

Respondents who own, manage or lease facilities were asked if they had the long-term financial ability to operate, maintain and upgrade/develop their facility as they would like to.



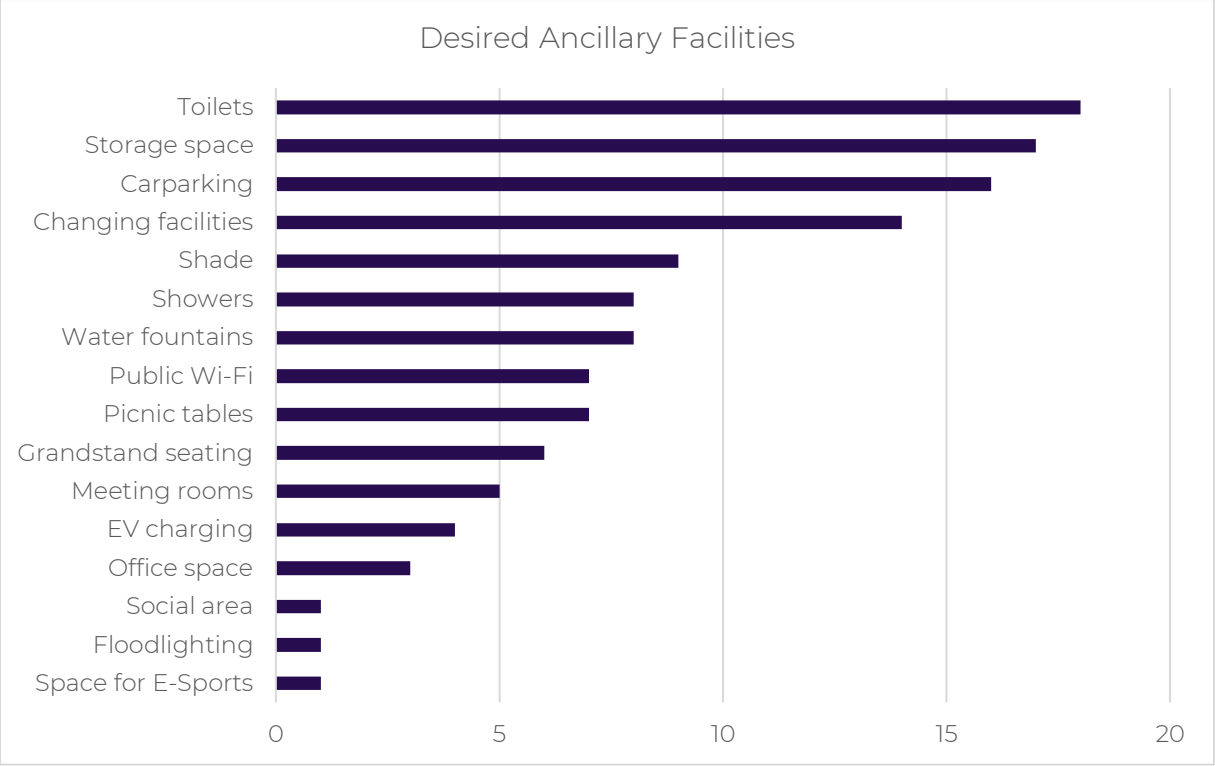
While most indicated they did, themes from responses includes:

- Operational viability is manageable for most; capital development is not.
- There is significant reliance on council or government agencies for infrastructure, leases, and maintenance support. Uncertainty about council funding and also fairness/equity.
- Volunteer-led management is stretched, particularly following redevelopment or increased usage. Load on volunteers is increasing.
- Some organisations face pressure from increased use, limited space, or changing demand patterns.
- Many Facilities are valued and well-used, but infrastructure and funding are not keeping pace.



36 groups responded to a question about their organisation's plans to upgrade, renew or dispose of any existing facilities/spaces or to develop any new ones in the foreseeable future. A significant portion have future plans regarding their facilities.

Respondents were also asked to identify the ancillary facilities that would be most advantageous to their sport or activity/users if they could be provided at hub sites. They could select all that they felt applied. 52% of respondents selected toilets, the other common responses were storage space, car parking and changing facilities.

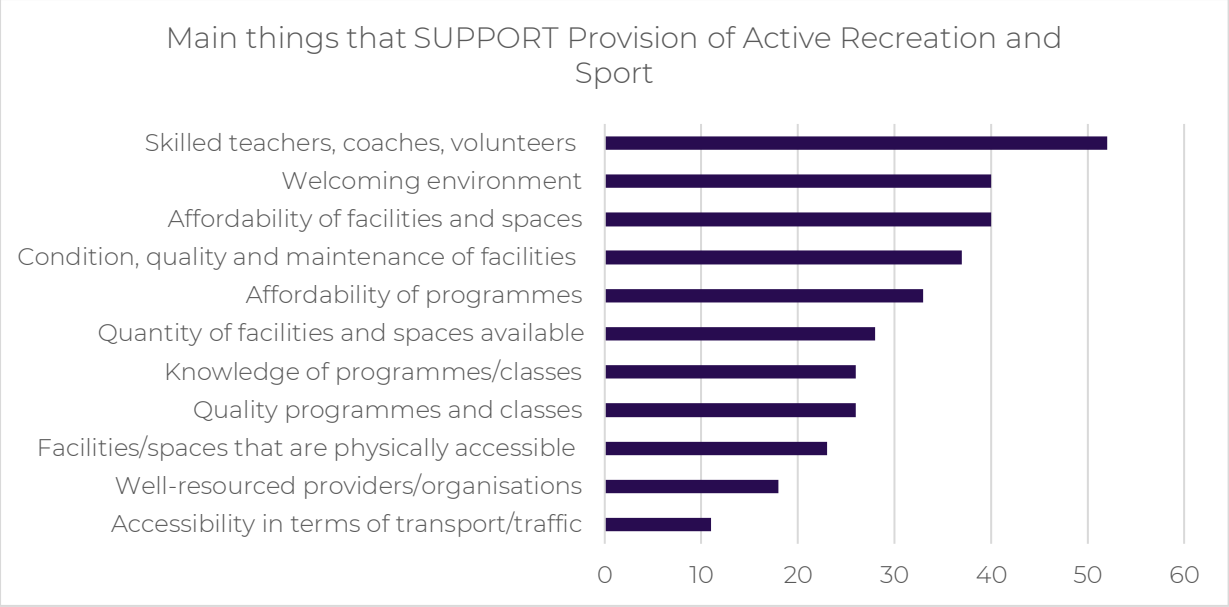


12.1.9 Big Picture Thinking

Respondents were asked to identify the five main things that help SUPPORT the provision of active recreation and sport in the Queenstown Lakes Central Otago Sub-Region.

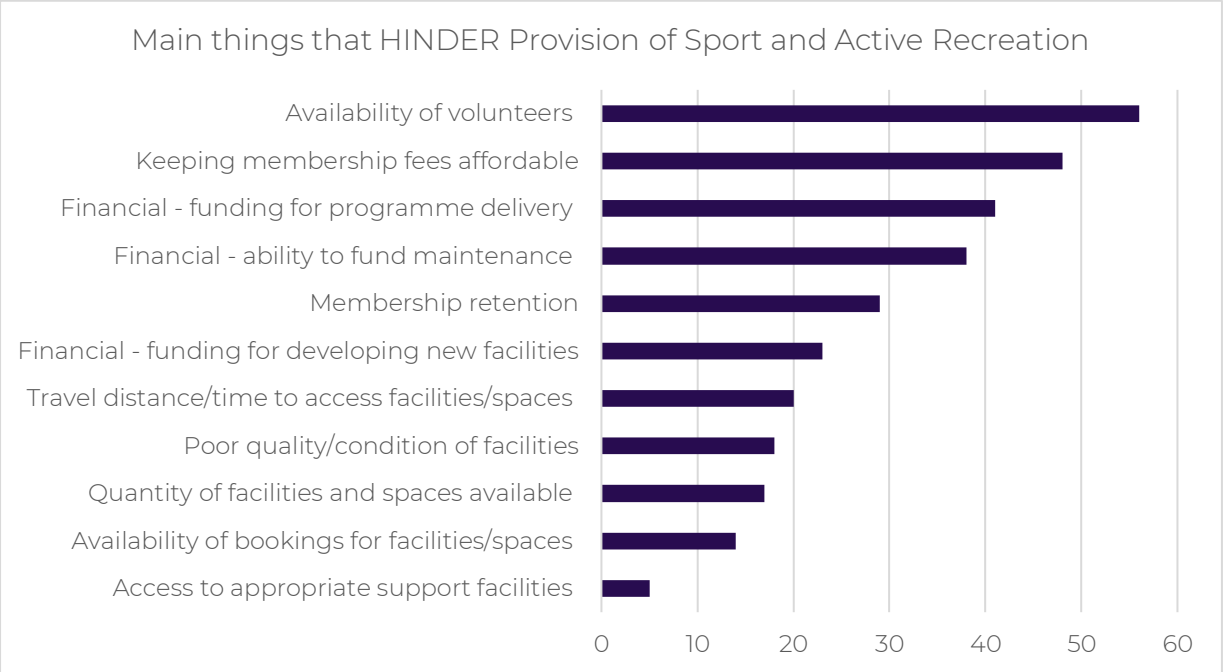
Overall, the three main things selected that support the provision of active recreation and sport were:

- Skilled teachers, coaches and volunteers,
- Affordability of facilities and spaces
- Condition, quality and maintenance of facilities

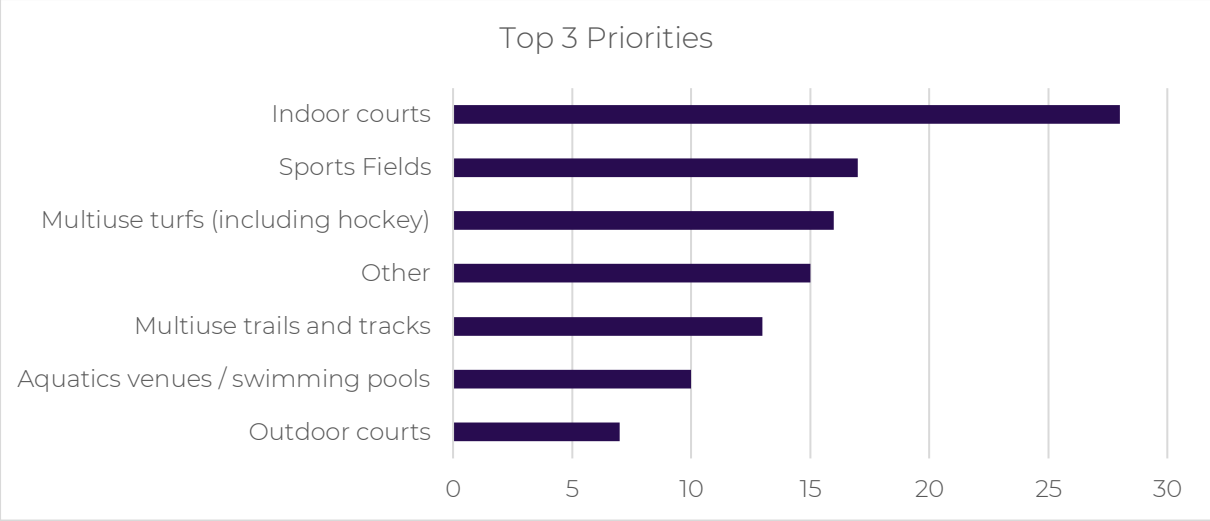


Respondents were asked to identify what they think are the five main things (issues and challenges) that HINDER the provision of active recreation and sport in the Queenstown Central Otago Sub-Region. The top 3 responses were:

- Availability of volunteers
- Keeping membership affordable
- Funding for developing new facilities

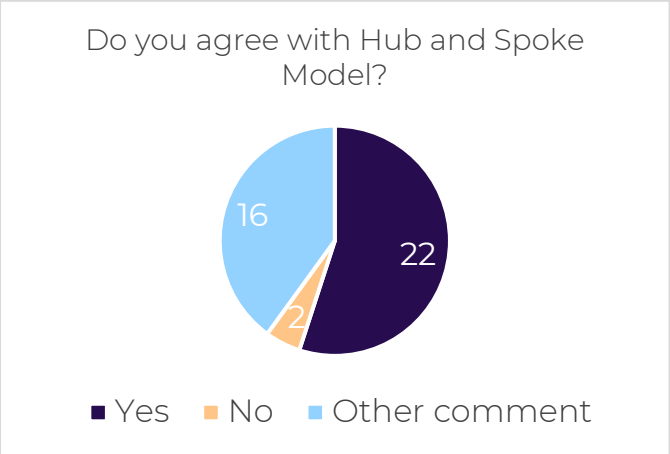


Respondents were also given the opportunity to elect the Top 3 multiuse facilities that QLDC/CODC should be prioritising in the next 5 years: (42 responses)



Responses to other included: field lighting, outdoor water sports, athletics specific track, dance studio space X2, Ice rink X2, Esports venue, changing rooms. Note: several of these other responses cover the types of assets that would be part of the planning and development of the multiuse facilities included in the selection list such as sports fields, indoor courts and aquatic venues.

12.1.10 Hubs and Travel Considerations



Respondents were asked if they agree with the current Hub (co-locating facilities at the main hubs) and Spoke (providing smaller training facilities locally) approach to facility development? i.e. Queenstown Events Centre/Wānaka Recreation Centre/Ballantyne Road, Molyneux Park, Cromwell Racecourse as the major hubs for the Central Otago area.(40 responses)

Other comments:

- Support for the Hub Model – But Want More Clarity
  Many respondents are open to a hub approach but want clearer strategy, evidence, and planning detail before forming a firm view. Some indicated they don't fully understand the model.
- Travel Distance & Accessibility Are Major Barriers
  Hubs only work if people are willing and able to travel. Distance between towns (e.g. Roxburgh to Queenstown), traffic congestion, transport options, parking, and safe access (including for horse riders) were significant concerns.
- Preference for Localised or Town-Based Facilities
  Several respondents believe each town should have its own sport centre or that existing hubs (e.g. Anderson Park, Pembroke Park) should be retained or enhanced rather than centralising further.
- Concerns About Decision-Making & Community Voice
  There is scepticism about whether community feedback is genuinely considered. Some feel decisions are predetermined or overly focused on traditional sports at the expense of emerging or alternative activities.

- Need for Inclusive & Future-Focused Facilities
  Respondents highlighted the importance of supporting youth engagement, non-traditional activities (e.g. esports), multi-use fields, and flexible indoor spaces that reflect changing participation trends.
- Facility Design & Operational Considerations
  Successful hubs must provide adequate storage, support spaces, efficient use of space, revenue opportunities, and shared-use planning that allows multiple codes to grow without conflict.

Respondents were also asked about the potential impacts on their sport or activity if more sub-regional/regional recreation and sport facilities for tournaments/events were located in Cromwell rather than Queenstown/Wānaka.

12.1.11 Negative themes from responses included:

Travel Distance Directly Impacts Participation

The strongest theme was that increased travel would reduce participation — particularly for youth, volunteers, and teams based in Wānaka/Hawea or Queenstown. Longer travel times may mean fewer players, fewer teachers/coaches volunteering, and reduced daily training attendance.

Cost & Logistics Are Major Considerations

Transport costs, fuel, volunteer drivers, accommodation, and time commitments are key concerns. For families and clubs, frequency of travel matters — regular travel is seen as more problematic than occasional tournament travel.

12.1.12 Positive themes included:

Central Location (Cromwell) Seen as Beneficial for Events

Many respondents see Cromwell as geographically central and well-suited for regional tournaments and competitions. A central hub could reduce accommodation costs for one-day events and support teams travelling from multiple towns.

12.1.13 Other considerations included:

Importance of Local Daily Training Bases

Several responses emphasise the need for strong local training facilities (particularly in Wānaka), especially where coaching depth and athlete numbers already exist. For some sports (e.g. athletics), relocating core infrastructure away from established participation centres is seen as risky.

Overall, the impact varies by sport:

- Some codes (e.g. curling, golf) report little to no impact.
- Others (e.g. rugby, swimming, athletics, hockey, cricket) anticipate negative impacts if facilities move.
- Some sports would benefit from improved or expanded facilities (e.g. covered courts, pool capacity).
- Several respondents noted some underutilised facilities and opportunities for better regional coordination.

Finally, respondents were given an opportunity to provide any other feedback (16 respondents). Themes from these included:

Strong Support for Investment in Sport – With a Focus on Growth & Future Proofing

There is clear support for progressing priority projects that strengthen the region's sporting environment for local participants as well as pathways to higher performance. Respondents emphasise:

- The importance of long-term planning and future-proofing facilities.
- Growing participation in several codes
- The need for facilities that reflect actual community demand.
- Supporting athlete development pathways to regional and national levels.

Funding Pressures, Perceived Inequities & Economic Contribution

Funding constraints are a major concern. Themes include:

- Limited council funding and intense competition between sports.
- Perceived imbalance in allocation of facilities and financial support (e.g. Wānaka versus Queenstown).
- Mountain biking highlighting its significant economic contribution versus relatively small council funding.
- Desire for greater recognition of sports' social, tourism, and economic value (including equestrian and trail networks).

12.1.14 Frustration Over Consultation, Access & Facility Gaps

Several responses express frustration about:

- Feeling overlooked or not genuinely consulted (notably equestrian groups).
- Facilities being removed, inaccessible, or disproportionately allocated.
- Urgent need for specific facility improvements (e.g. indoor venue in Cromwell, wood flooring in Wānaka Rec Centre[112], more cricket grounds, athletics track location).
- A desire for practical, sport-focused decision making and better collaboration between clubs and council.

12.2 Summary Findings – Workshops

4 stakeholder workshops were held in Alexandra, Cromwell, Wānaka and Queenstown.

Attendance at each workshop ranged from 6 – 19 people. Field sports were strongly represented – especially in Wānaka, and cricket representatives were in attendance at 3 of 4 workshops. Paragliding, hang-gliding representatives also attended in Queenstown (it is noted that technically these activities are considered out of scope for the strategy project).

This section summarises the key themes from the 4 stakeholder workshops. It presents points which were consistently identified across all workshops.

Overall, there was a level of frustration expressed with planning processes and the slow pace of implementation, and a feeling that population growth pressures were not being met.

12.2.1 What Stakeholders Value Most About the Current Spaces and Places Network

- Accessibility and **variety of spaces and places** available (including specialised)
- Broad mix of sport and recreation opportunities
- **Quality** of facilities and maintenance (such as sports fields maintenance)
- **Natural environment** as a key sub-regional asset
- **Good network of some facilities** such as tracks/trails, pools across the sub-region and the quality of some existing indoor court / recreation venues
- **Multi-use shared hub locations** such as Molyneaux Park, Anderson Park

[112] Note: this is currently underway as Council is progressing an RFP for wooden flooring installation.

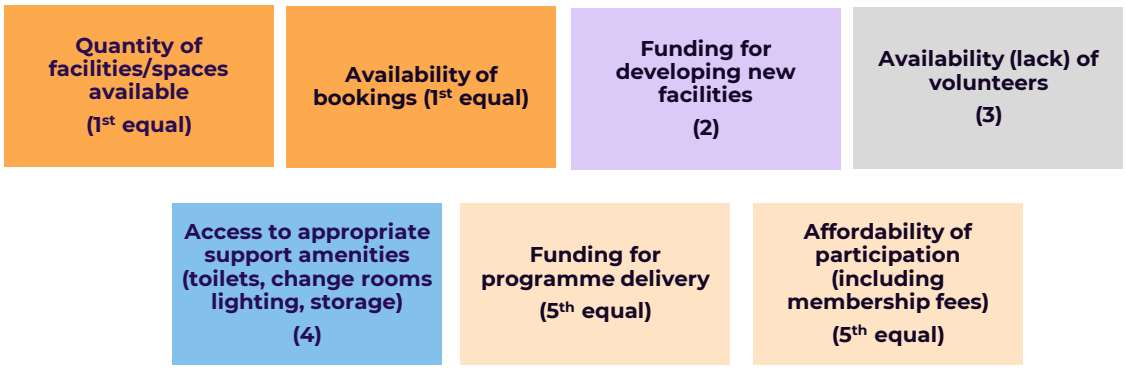
Aspirations for Improvements to the Spaces and Places Network

- Increased natural **sports field capacity** with enhanced **lighting**
- Significantly expanded indoor multi-sport capacity
- **Improved amenity facilities** which could be modular/relocatable (especially toilets, change rooms, lighting and sports storage)
- Future-proofed, long-term strategic network planning including enhanced spatial planning
- **Better policy frameworks** (local and central government) which support sport and recreation - ensuring commercial developers make appropriate contributions (spatially and financially)
- Improved accessibility, inclusion and equity across codes
- Enhanced event hosting capability along with some support for high-performance athletes and training camp hosting.

Issues and Challenges

The main challenges identified across the QLCO sub-region through stakeholder surveys and Project Steering Group input were presented and tested at the workshops. The main challenges confirmed through the workshops are outlined in Figure 12. It is noted that different districts, communities and organisations experience these challenges to differing degrees.

Figure 11: Top Sub-regional Issues and Challenges



Other issues and challenges that were identified, but ranked lower at the workshops were:

- Poor quality/condition of facilities (ageing)
- Ability to fund asset maintenance
- Membership retention
- Accessibility/suitability for all users e.g. disabled, neuro-diverse
- Travel distance / time to access spaces and places.

Some other specific challenges were identified, such as limited opening hours of some facilities, as well as sport-specific challenges.

Workshop attendees were asked to identify ways to address the issues and challenges which they identified as priorities. **Funding was identified as critical to all issues**. The themes from the feedback are:

Issue / Challenge	Ideas/actions to help resolve this challenge
Quantity of facilities	• Strategic long-term and spatial planning • Policy framework – developer contributions (land & $) • Building new, multi-use facilities (urgently) • Co-location and hub development • School, community partnerships – especially for local training needs
Availability of bookings / growth pressure	• Expand opening/operating hours of existing e.g. lights (in meantime) • Stop/reduce commercial events in sport and recreation space (i.e. change QEC to Sports Centre focus – not events)
Funding for new facilities	• Developer contributions (land & $) • Mechanisms to enable philanthropy, partnerships with private enterprise, schools etc. • Support clubs with grant application writing • Diversify funding
Availability (lack) of volunteers	• Incentives (such as reduced membership fees) • Training and support resources • Shared roles • Funding for paid roles – transition towards less volunteer reliant system
Access to amenities	• Include storage, lighting, toilets/change in all future developments • Upgrade/enhance existing especially at current hub sites (such as Anderson Park) • Modular, relocatable options (where appropriate)

Issue / Challenge	Ideas/actions to help resolve this challenge
Funding for programme delivery	• Improve awareness of available funding options • Support clubs (especially new migrant focused) with grant applications – limitations of awareness, language barriers etc
Affordability of participation	• Explore rates allocation to reduce participation cost • Localised opportunities so sport is available where people live (reduce travel cost)
Poor quality / condition of existing spaces and places	• Prioritised maintenance/upgrades of existing multi use sites (especially toilets/change/storage) • Increase maintenance inputs to sports fields if provide lighting (to ensure increased capacity is not detrimental to quality)
Travel time / distance (including associated costs)	• Local options – especially for training needs • School partnerships to improve local availability • Hubs with co-located activities for regular competition sites and tournaments

12.2.1.1 Future Opportunities and Priorities

These priorities were consistently identified in all 4 workshops:

1. **Multi-use sports fields** (including lighting)
2. **Multi-use indoor court spaces** (especially rebound nets for indoor cricket, and other potential rebound style sports such as netball (fast 5) and dodgeball.
3. **Fair access to bookings** (including for emerging activities but also for existing sports to support growth in participation)
4. **Support amenities** (toilets, changing, spectator/social spaces)
5. **Fully accessible, inclusive facilities** (both new and as enhancements to existing)
6. Upgradi**ng existing facilities** to be fit-for-purpose

The next tier of consistent priorities across all workshops were:

- Local opportunities that reduce travel requirements – it is noted the Queenstown group seemed less prepared to travel; other communities were more open to travel to key hubs
- Planning for multi-use turf spaces (although given a lower overall importance to provision of natural sports fields, which are seen as a key gap)

13 Appendix 5 – Secondary Data Review

13.1 Sport NZ Published National Strategic Documents

13.1.1 New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework (Sport NZ 2024)

- Supports the continued need for robust planning and decision-making about resources and investment in fit-for-purpose play, active recreation, and sporting facilities and active environments.
- identifies challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed:
    - Addressing affordability
    - Responding to urban development and growth
    - Improving environmental sustainability and climate resilience
    - Changing demand
    - Improving functionality

Includes 10 guiding principles be used:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi-informed Approach
- Meeting an Identified Need
- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Co-design
- Environmental Sustainability
- Partnering and Collaboration
- Connected
- Financial Sustainability
- Future Proofed

It is intended that this document work together with other strategies and plans.

13.1.2 The Value of Blue and Green Spaces – Sport NZ 2025

The report considers how nature, blue (outdoor spaces with visible surface water like lakes and rivers) and green (outdoor spaces partly or completely covered by vegetation of any kind like trees, grass, bush, parks and gardens) spaces can enhance physical activity and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand. It consolidates findings from national and international research. The findings show that blue and green spaces and te taiao (the natural world) are critical aspects of quality physical activity for young people in NZ

Key findings:

- Being in nature inspires people to be physically active and can lead to longer and more intense physical activity.
- Being active in blue and green spaces is important for supporting the hauora (health and wellbeing) of tamariki and rangatahi. It can be more beneficial than being active indoors or in grey spaces.
- For Māori, physical activity in te taiao supports cultural connection and wellbeing.

- Being active in blue and green spaces has a positive influence on mental and social development for tamariki and rangatahi.
- There are actions we can take to support all tamariki and rangatahi to benefit from being active in blue and green spaces and te taiao.
- Five minutes in nature is all it takes to feel the positive effects on mental health.

13.1.3 National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy (Sport NZ 2024)

Sport New Zealand's National Indoor Active Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy (National Strategy) is intended to inform investment into the indoor active recreation and sport facility network across New Zealand. It provides guidance on how best to transition and transform the current network to better meet community needs. Relevant emerging direction from the National Strategy, which has influenced this report includes:

- Acknowledgment of the increasing pressures facing indoor active recreation and sport, such as maintaining existing facilities, meeting increasing demand, adapting to changing needs, escalating costs of provision (both capital and operational), adapting to climate change and improving environmental sustainability.
- Changing weather patterns are likely to continue with more rain and intense heat, driving demand for more activity to be indoors or under cover.
- A full-time equivalent (FTE) status has been assigned to each indoor court in the national database based on the amount of community accessible time available at peak demand times.
- School facilities with community use are assessed between 0.25-0.75 of an FTE, depending on the level of community use at peak times.
- Peak demand times are considered to be 4pm-9pm weekdays and 8am-5pm weekends.
- A national benchmark figure of 1 court per 7,800 population is established.
- Observation that detailed regional/local analysis is required with specific geographic and climate conditions in local areas being of relevance to planning, along with the national benchmark indicators.
- Nationally, to meet demand, the number of FTE courts will need to increase by 20% by 2038.
- There are sufficient regional level and above competition facilities for the supply of events, although there are some access challenges for some sports codes. It suggests applying management solutions to those access challenges would mean that no additional regional or above event facilities are required in New Zealand.

13.1.4 National Aquatic Facilities Strategy (Sport NZ 2024)

The purpose of the Strategy is to inform organisations such as councils that contribute to the network provision of aquatic facilities:

- What is currently available and where
- What needs the current facilities fulfil
- What the current aquatic facility needs are
- How the current facilities will track out to 2038
- Who to involve in the process
- Insights on quality aquatic facility planning practice

Supply Assessment/ Facility Use Type

Rather than identifying every aquatic facility as one facility, the Strategy considers pool availability by a full time equivalent (FTE) measure:

- Council/community facility – Indoor = 1.0 FTE / Seasonal = 0.4 FTE

- School pool (with community availability – Indoor = 0.5 FTE / Seasonal = 0.1 FTE
- Private swim school – 0.5 FTE
- Event facility provision (with community use at other times) – 1.0 FTE
  Pool with no community availability – 0 FTE

The benchmark for provision is a minimum of 27m^2 of aquatic space per 1,000 population.

FTE water space assessment is subject to water type demand indicators. However, this figure cannot be considered in isolation. Before the benchmark can be applied, consideration must be given to whether the demand for each of 3 types of facility use is being met:

- Fitness, health, lane sports, deep water sports – 16%
- Aquatic competence – 17%
- Leisure, play, relaxation, hydrotherapy, school, recreational access – 67%

The benchmark of 27m^2 of aquatic space per 1,000 population should be applied as the minimum requirement when the pool water type balance is achieved.

Recommended Planning Principles

The following planning principles have been identified to align with the Sport NZ National Spaces and Places Framework:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi informed approach
- Meeting an identified need
- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Co-design (including operator, technical, and specific communities' lived experiences)
- Partnering/collaboration
- Environmental sustainability
- Connected
- Future-proofed
- Financially sustainable

Sustainable Development

Priority hierarchy for sustainable development:

- Extend life/make fit for purpose
- Look to the education network for suitable development and upgrade opportunities, converting strategically located facilities to year-round use
- Look to the private sector and private schools for opportunities to partner when redeveloping or building new facilities
- Build new (last resort) if no adequate solution under the options above

Co-design is Recommended

Key user groups to engage in a co-design process include:

- Māori
- Rangatahi and tamariki
- Disabled people
- Older adults
- Aquatic sports/activities
- Facility operators
- NSOs when relevant

13.1.5 Environmental Sustainability Guidelines for Spaces and Places (Sport NZ 2024)

These guidelines were designed to be read in conjunction with the New Zealand Spaces and Places Framework.

The purpose of the guidelines is to help territorial authorities and sport and recreation organisations navigate the range of issues relating to environmental sustainability that affect spaces and places for play, active recreation, and sport (referred to as spaces and places) in New Zealand.

These guidelines apply specifically to the environmentally sustainable inception, design, construction and operation of spaces and places. They are intended to help organisations identify and adopt sustainability measures that will:

- Help to improve present operations
- Support decision-making for future investment

Four key sustainability concepts are conveyed in the guidelines:

- Sustainability First: considering and implementing sustainable practice is essential for the operational resilience, financial viability and long-term cost effectiveness of spaces and places. Examples include:
    - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy efficiency and making informed material choices.
    - Making a step-change in water management by reducing consumption and minimising discharges.
    - Reducing all waste going to landfill and developing a culture of re-use and recycling.
- Whole of Life: all projects must be considered in terms of their long-term consequences. This applies to positive and negative impacts on the community and environment that spaces and places engage with, and also to the affordability of operating facilities in the future. Examples of this approach include:
    - Setting strategic aspirations for reducing GHG emissions.
    - Accounting for operating and maintenance costs and how they will be funded over time.
    - Considering the preparation needed for resilience against future extreme weather events (flooding, storms, coastal erosion, and heat waves).
    - Considering material maintenance, durability and lifespan (including what happens to them at end-of-life)
- Needs Assessment: thinking and acting sustainably requires reducing excess and effectively utilising resources. Careful consideration of needs, as opposed to wants, should guide decision-making, with particular focus on the needs of potential future users of spaces and places.
- Context: social, cultural, transport, ecological and economic context must be considered. Solutions need to minimise negative impacts and create win- win outcomes for the wider community. This requires working with a wide range of stakeholders and expertise as early as possible in the project.

The guidelines propose that you only build new if there are no other adequate solutions, such as:

- Collaboration
- Refurbish
- Re-purpose

The guidelines are structured around the 4 key stages of most spaces and places projects:

- Project concept and planning
- Design

- Construction
- Operation

The document provides a checklist of 8 interconnected sustainability themes that should be considered for each of the 4 stages:

- Energy
- Materials
- Water
- Transport
- Ecology
- Wellbeing
- Communities
- Economy

13.1.6 Social Return on Investment (SROI) of Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand[113] 2022

There is no standard definition of recreational physical activity, but for the purposes of this study, it included organised competitive sport, non-competitive active recreation, including active play. Key findings of the report include:

- Recreational physical activity generates considerable value to society.
- Key social wellbeing outcomes that recreational physical activity contributes to include social and community development and physical health outcomes.
- There is a lack of research on the monetary valuation of outcomes related to recreational physical activity in Aotearoa.

This report provides a baseline for ongoing work in the area. Baseline metrics include:

- Total inputs are estimated to be $7.95bn.
- 38.8% of total investment comes from voluntary labour and 37.2 percent from household expenditure.
- The total value of all social outcomes is estimated at $16.8bn with the largest contribution coming from health benefits (even after allowing for ACC claims).

74. The estimated Net Present Value is $8.86bn, which implies a SROI of 2.12.

- For every $1 invested in recreational physical activity, $2.12 worth of social impacts are generated.
- Testing the assumptions and applying a sensitivity analysis resulted in SROI values in the range of 1.18 – 3.10. Indicating, even the worst-case scenario is a positive return on investment.

From a Māori perspective, it was considered that value rests with the accumulation of heritage including knowledge systems, values, beliefs and their manifestations in objects, practices, and concepts. Therefore, the value is not measured from an economic or monetary perspective. The key findings for Māori included:

[113] Sourced from: https://sportnz.org.nz/media/nhqbuato/sroi-new-zealand-summary-report-6_17.pdf

- Recreational physical activity makes a significant contribution to Māori wellbeing through strengthening intergenerational relationships and reinforcing cultural values, beliefs, social norms, and knowledge.
- Intergenerational participation strengthens whānau.
- Reclamation and protection of mātauranga Māori strengthens indigenous knowledge systems and wellbeing.
- Participation provides opportunities to reinforce and practice tikanga. Māori strengthening 'a Māori way of life'.
- Whakawhanaungatanga (kinship) ties are strengthened through participation.
- Cultural identity is strengthened through participation in Māori sport and recreation.
- Māori sport and recreation provide opportunities to connect to the whenua 'as Māori'.
- Rangatahi experience leadership through sport and recreation
- Māori sport and recreation are an expression of mana Motuhake (self-determination).

13.1.7 Sport NZ Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Continuing with the vision of *Every Body Active*, the Plan identifies:

- 3 long-term outcomes:
  - Increased frequency, intensity, time and type of participation in physical activity and sport
  - Enhanced experience for participants, supporters, volunteers, and workforces
  - Increased variety of culturally distinct pathways for tangata whenua and all New Zealanders
- 3 strategic focus areas:
  - Maintaining physical activity levels of tamariki
  - Reducing the decline in physical activity levels for rangatahi
  - Improving equity for tamariki and rangatahi who are less active
- 4 strategic priorities to be successful:
  - Capable and resilient partner organisations
  - Quality opportunities and experiences
  - Empowered local communities and hapori
  - Active schools and kura

13.1.8 Te Pākē o ihi Aotearoa – Sport NZ Ihi Aotearoa Māori Outcomes Framework[114]

Sport NZ has recognised the need to support improved participation and outcomes for Māori in play, active recreation and sport. The Māori Outcomes Framework provides a framework that weaves together Māori long-term outcomes and guiding principles. The framework is designed to be robust, protect people and kaupapa, and to weave together what is most important to Māori. It has equal status with the Sport NZ Outcomes Framework, and both strengthens and aligns with its long-term outcomes.

The intent is to support Māori wellbeing and to enable tangata whenua to participate and succeed as tangata whenua. The principles of Te Pākē are:

- Kia popo ki te kaupapa - Be authentic to the purpose
- kia tika te mahi - act with integrity

[114] Sourced and summarised from https://sportnz.org.nz/media/5028/te-pa-ke-o-ihi-aotearoa-april-2022.pdf

- Me aroha ke te tangata - respect for others

The framework includes:

- Mana Ōrite – authentic partnerships, equality, mutual outcomes
- Mana Māori – active protection of te reo, tikanga, taonga and mātauranga Māori
- Mana Taurikte – Māori-led, equitable and accessible pathways

Mauri Tū

- Tū te Ihi – culturally capable
- Tū Te Wehi – Te Tiriti-led
- Tū Te Wana – culturally capable and responsive

Mauri Ora

- Te Ihi – cultural identity
- Te Wehi – cultural connection
- Te Wana – cultural vitality

13.1.9 Te Aho a Ihi Aotearoa – Māori Activation Plan[115]

The Māori Activation Plan focuses on medium-term outcomes and aims to activate the Aho (Māori outcomes) set out in Te Pākē o Ihi Aotearoa. Te Aho sets out where we are now and provides the strategic priorities for the 2021-2024 period in support of moving to the desired future as set out in Te Pāke.

Current strategic priorities and actions are outlined under:

- Te Whakamana I Te Tiriti - Giving effect to the Treaty Partnerships, protection and participation introduced
- Mauri Tū - Building Cultural Capability In individuals, the organisation (Sport NZ) and the sector
- Mauri Ora – Cultural Vitality Te Ihi, Te Wehi, Te Wana

13.1.10 Te Whetū Rehua – The Guiding Star – Sport NZ Updated 2021

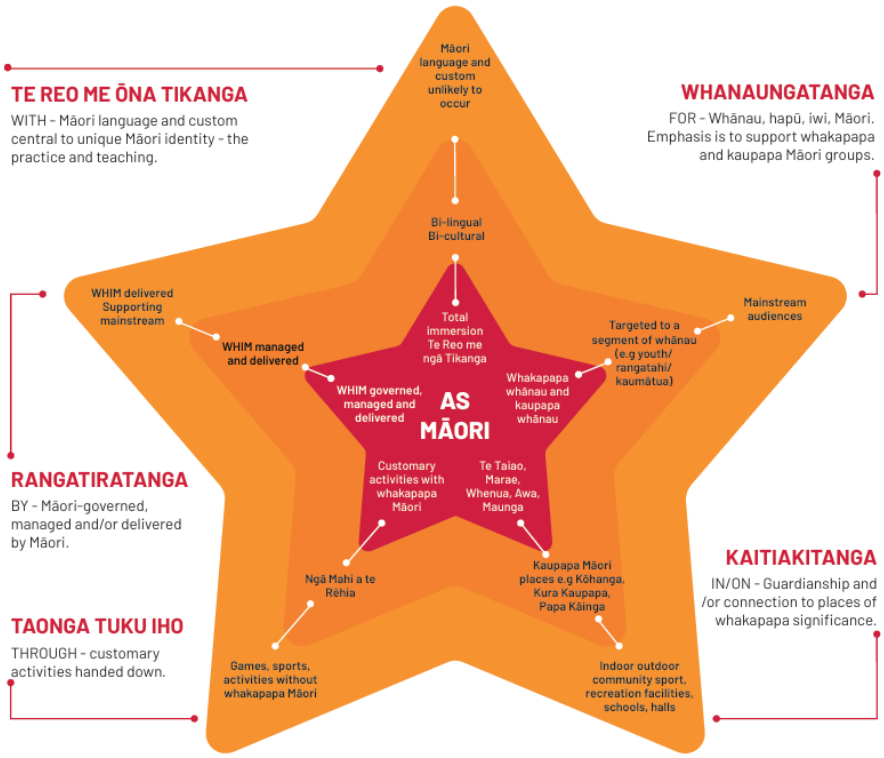
Te Whetū Rehua is a framework that supports Māori being able to participate as Māori. Originally developed as a guide to deciding appropriate activities for He Oranga Poutama in 2012, the framework was updated in 2021 and is also recommended for broader use, such as:

- A criteria tool for Tū Manawa funding decisions
- A cultural capability tool for organisations
- A leadership development guide for bicultural governance partnerships

It is based on five key Māori cultural values for sport as demonstrated in Figure 13 (over page).

[115] Sourced and summarised from https://sportnz.org.nz/media/5027/te-aho-a-ihi-aotearoa-april-2022.pdf

Figure 12 Te Whetū Rehua Diagram



It can be used as an assessment tool to help develop sport in ways that uphold and encourage Māori values.

Play Documents

The importance of play has been significantly more focus internationally, nationally, regionally and locally in recent years. While play is not within the scope of this Strategy, a list of key Sport NZ documents which provide guidance regarding play has been included here for reference.

The Importance of Play, Sport NZ Play Principles 2017
Tākaro Māori
Māori Voices of Play – Insights Report 2020
Play Development Five Phases – Working together to protect the right of young people to play

13.2 National Facilities Strategies – Sport Specific

Many, but not all sports have developed national facility strategies since 2010. Table 10 provides a summary of key points of relevance to the QLCO sub-region. Further national, regional and local detail from each (where provided and relevant) is included in Table 11. Note: This information should be used with caution for those strategies which are dated prior to 2020.

Table 10: National Strategies - Key Points Relevant to QLCO Sub-region

Aquatic (2024)	Indoor Sports (2024)	Hockey (2025)	Bowls (2023)	Squash (2022)
Overall sufficient sub-regional FTE capacity[116]. Some imbalance in types of water available.	Current sub-regional shortfall of -2.0 FTE indoor courts.. Projected 2040 shortfall of -4.0 FTE courts[117].	No additional turfs required. Acknowledges geographic challenges of region	Community facility FIRST, bowling facility SECOND. Thriving clubs are adopting partners.	Planning for a replacement for current aging Queenstown Squash Club identified as priority.
Cricket (2020))	**Equestrian (2023)**	**Gymsports (2017)**	**Athletics**	**Golf (2013)**
Priorities - school connections, all-weather High-Performance training. Facility development planning needed nationally.	Priority Project- Explore site options for the Wakatipu Pony Club to secure long-term tenure.	A new facility for Aspiring Gymsport was noted as a priority - Paetara Aspiring Central facility is now open.	Current strategy - Athlete and system focus. 2010 facility strategy - no additional synthetic tracks needed in New Zealand	Promotes facility diversification.

[116] Using national benchmarks.

[117] Using national benchmarks.

Bike (2010)	Football (2016)	Softball (2018)	Rugby League (2016)	Netball (2024 and 2011)
Nothing specific. Notes enhancing access to existing tracks and importance of TA cycling strategies.	Nothing specific Notes participation growth (including futsal) More field capacity, quality network including lighting, home of football (Otago)	Promotes facility sharing including with schools. Sufficient diamonds but ancillary facilities not fit for purpose	Nothing specific	2024 - covered outdoor courts trend as better participant experience. 2011 - sufficient capacity (outdoor) - indoor options need consideration.
Tennis (2018)				
In fast growing areas consider use of current courts, availability of floodlighting and options for nearby venues to work together.				

13.3 Sport Specific National Facilities Strategies – More Detail (where provided/relevant)

Note: This information should be used with caution for those strategies that are dated prior to 2020.

Table 11: Relevant Detail from Sport Specific National Facilities Strategies

Recent Strategies (Published Since 2020)
Aquatic Sports (2024)
See gap and oversupply analysis section 7 and Appendix 2 for aquatic analysis applying the national strategy benchmarks.
Indoor Sports (2024)
See gap and oversupply analysis section 7 and Appendix 2 for indoor court analysis applying the national strategy benchmarks. • Across the wider Otago region, against the national FTE court benchmark there is considered to be a surplus of 15 FTE courts. There is reference to the development of Paetara Aspiring Central in Wānaka as an example of a conversion of an existing building into community indoor court space.

Hockey in New Zealand – National Spaces and Places Strategy (2024)
• Takes a comprehensive, forward looking approach to facility planning considering financial and environmental sustainability. • Challenges the way hockey facilities are viewed with an emphasis on opening and growing the game including how it is played in order to meet diverse needs of communities. • Recognises there is a significant challenge around the over-specification of turfs for community use, inadequate amenities, high provision cost and sustainability issues. • Essentially, there is a significant imbalance in premium quality turfs (elite specification) and a culture of unrealistic expectations. • Only a fraction of participants are 'elite', so the focus on high-performance turfs is disproportionate to participant needs and also financially and environmentally unsustainable. • Future focus is on adopting a variety of surface and game formats to better enable community participation. Key principles of the Strategy are: • Open and grow the game • Meeting an identified need • Connected Networks • Sustainability • Social Value of Hockey • Engagement with mana whenua Direction included regarding Central Otago: • Overall traffic light (green) – no obvious areas of concern. • Large percentage of membership is in junior category not requiring full sized turfs • Acknowledges geography challenges of the region when considering access and availability of facilities as well as local weather conditions limiting playing time. • Currently no perceived demand for additional turf space • 2 turfs due for renewal in next 4-6 years and 2 in 7-15 years.
Bowls 2020-2030 (updated May 2023)
• Community facilities converting to artificial surfaces to save costs and extend the use of the facility (year-round, move events, other uses) • Increase in casual participation, slow loss of clubs, emphasis on every club is different • Thriving clubs are adopting partners such as darts, pool, croquet, pétanque , fishing, RSA, bingo. • "Community facility FIRST, bowling facility SECOND" • No longer their intent to create "superclubs" in metro areas • Facility improvements focus on – see-through fencing, signage, equipment provision, artificial and covered lawns, ability to sub-lease kitchen, technology integration and use

Cricket (2020) Transformation Plan 2021-2024
Identifies 5 key challenges: o The lack of a 'whole of Cricket' National Development Plan since 2011 o Shifting nationwide cricket delivery network to stronger alignment and effectiveness o Women and girls' participation o No longer has a strong connection with schools o Changing face of NZ High Priority Focus areas identified – including: o National development plan o School engagement, o Female participation o Cultural inclusion o Local authority relationships and facilities o Network cohesion & effectiveness o People and leadership • Main focus is participants including through range of settings such as schools, clubs and diverse participants through inclusive approaches. • Future plans needed, such as for facility development focus – availability of, and accessibility to, modern, high-quality and affordable practising, playing and social facilities • Identifies needs for 8 fit-for-purpose all-weather High Performance Training Facilities (currently only have 2) • Nationwide network of covered turf 'greenhouse' systems. • Content from Cricket's National Facilities Strategy 2011 is not included here as considered to be super-seeded by the transformation plan.
Equestrian (2023)
• Strategy developed in response to constraints being experienced by the equestrian community. Including: difficulty accessing suitable land and facilities, competing demands and pressures on existing sites, urban sprawl, demands on volunteer and participant time and discretionary dollar, the funding climate and facility condition issues. • Focuses on 'Base' Equestrian Sites: these are the core equestrian facilities typically used for more structured and organised equestrian activities. These include pony club grounds, A&P Showgrounds, Racecourses, Equestrian Parks, and other dedicated equestrian activity sites (including private facilities). • Public Open Spaces: these are generally sites which attract more casual/recreational use and are open to the wider equestrian community. • Identifies 5 tier equestrian facility network with 5 key objectives for the network. • Identifies a Priority Project (Top 10): Explore site options for the Wakatipu Pony Club to secure long-term tenure. Due to it being a relatively large pony club with a degree of uncertainty due to land pressures (operate from privately owned land). • Notes there is limited other provision in the Wakatipu region (all sites are privately run). • Recommends engage QLDC to explore potential site options.

Netball (2024) – court specifications and guidelines

• Provides detailed specifications and considerations for the development and maintenance of outdoor netball courts.
• Acknowledges that more netball centres are choosing to develop covered courts as they provide:
  o More affordable rain and sun protection compared to indoor courts.
  o Protection for play in a range of weather conditions.
  o A better learning and development environment for younger players.
  o More stable playing conditions, including for older players/social players, which is important for safety.
  o The option to support play by other sports, activities and community programmes and events.
  o A consistent playing environment required for higher-level competition play (as an alternative to indoor courts).
  o A better player experience supports participation growth.
 	
The guidelines also provides detail around court height and a range of design considerations for covered outdoor courts. Key points include:
• No official netball rule for the ceiling height over a netball court. Ceiling height is dependent on what will be played on the courts.
• The height needs to be sufficient to not impinge on play, but also recognises that the higher the structure, the more side exposure to weather conditions (allowing rain into the court area)
• Covered courts in New Zealand schools are typically curved canopy structures with the pole height at 4.5 metres and the peak height at 6.5 metres. This can be appropriate for training, junior and social competition.
• If netball courts are multi-marked with tennis, the International Tennis Federation provides minimum heights for different levels of play - for competition purposes, the minimum heights for tennis are specified as 9m.
• If netball courts are multi-marked with basketball, the recommended minimum height is 7m across the entire court area.

Squash (2022)
• Nationally - an aging and declining squash facility network. It is noted that clubs need support in facility planning and development • Nationally - growing squash participation. 20% membership growth in the Otago region since 2014. • Provides Quality Squash Facilities Guidelines – important for those planning enhancements or new builds to use. • Otago region recommendations are to focus on maintaining or raising the quality of provision and improving member facilities. • All squash facilities in the QLCO are rated as 'local' facilities in the squash hierarchy. Otago Squash Club is the regional facility.

- Alexandra Squash Club 2 glass courts. Club-owned building on Council land. Building in good – excellent condition. Note some desire for a 3rd court.
- Cromwell Squash Club 3 glass courts. Club-owned building on Council land. Building in good – excellent condition. Recladding completed in 2021.
- Maniatoto Squash Club 2 standard courts. Council own land and building. Building in average condition. Club are noted as planning to improve change rooms.
- Omakau Squash Club 2 glass courts. Club-owned building on Council land. Building in average – good condition. Recladding completed in 2022. Planning to upgrade windows and showers.
- Queenstown Squash Club 1 glass, 1 standard court. Club owned building on Council land. Building in average condition. Council plan to demolish facility in next 5-6 years for roading. Urgent need to progress planning and receive Council direction. Option for courts in multi-sport facility.
- Wānaka Squash Club 2 glass courts. Club own land and building. Building in average condition. Planning two additional courts and upgrading interior / exterior.
- Includes an action plan item to "continue to work with Queenstown District Council to understand the potential threat to the existing squash facility and undertake a feasibility study to explore the opportunities to provide secure long-term provision in the city, recognising if the facility is lost then this would be a gap in the network. Carefully consider number of courts aligned with operational sustainability."

Older Strategies (Issued Between 2010-2019)

Athletics (2010)

- Dated direction but only national facility specific direction available for athletics.
- The strategy recommends that each region needs only one 8 lane, synthetic, and all-weather track, of which a selected 5 regions will have IAAF Class II certification. These 5 regions included Otago.
- The current priority recommended for the region is maintenance of the Caledonian Athletics Stadium as a Class II facility, and on maintenance and sustainability of other existing athletics facilities in the Otago region
- Nationally, closer relationships with TAs were recommended (including LTCCP provisions) for maintaining 8-lane synthetic tracks.
- The current Athletics NZ Strategic Plan (2022-2026) is athlete and system focus with key goals focused on:
- Increasing rangatahi membership
- Flexible membership options
- New and improved events
- Athlete wellbeing and member welfare
- Reliable and sustainable revenue

Bike (2010)
• No specific recommendations were made for any cycling facility developments in the Otago region. • New Zealand does not require any further velodromes or BMX Supercross tracks on a population basis, although cases could be made using geographical/access issues. • BMX does require more regional-level facilities. • Mountain biking does not require any particular new facilities. Enhancing access to existing tracks is likely to be the major area of development interest. • TA cycling strategies may highlight some more localised cycling facility and trail needs.
Football (2016)
Most of the content (especially metrics) are considered to be out of date. Points which are still relevant to the sub-region are: • National football membership has shown steady overall growth • Despite strong participation growth, significant facility challenges remain, particularly in the Southern Football Region (including Otago and Southland). • Key issues include limited access to quality fields, weather-related field degradation, and a shortage of lit pitches, which restrict training and contribute to overuse. • Addressing these pressures requires maximising existing field utilisation, developing Local Football Centres (potentially without new fields) featuring artificial turf and multisport capability, and establishing a central 'Home of Football' in each region to support development, training, competition, and administration. Achieving these outcomes will require strong collaboration between New Zealand Football, regional federations, councils, and other key stakeholders, alongside strengthening club networks and supporting the continued growth of futsal.
Golf (2013)
Limited content of relevance to the QLCO sub-region. • Overall, the Otago region was identified as a region with a moderate population-to-golf facility ratios in NZ (1:7076). Compared with other regions, it had the 6th highest supply of courses (on a population basis). • 73% of its golf courses are in rural areas. This region has a somewhat rural-biased golf network. • The strategy recommends more use of mergers and community sports hub partnerships to increase sustainability. • A hierarchy approach means some of these could be targeted as more differentiated courses, ranging from entry-level through to advanced-level or tourist courses. • Notes that Golf tourism can be better leveraged nationally.

Gymsports (2017)
This strategy is outdated so caution is required when using it. • The QLCO sub-region is part of the Otago gymsports region • It provides capacity ratios as potential high-level indicators for facility capacity with less than 2.5m^2 per participant ratio indicating a site has capacity pressure. However, the assessments of sub-regional clubs within the document are not included here as the membership data has changed and therefore the capacity assessments are out of date.
Netball Facility Strategy (2011)
Most of the 2011 strategy content (especially metrics) are considered to be out of date. Points which are still relevant to the sub-region are: • Growth in the 'active population' (aged 5-50) was projected to increase in Queenstown-Lakes and Central Otago Districts, with all other council areas declining. • The strategy identifies that a centre having fewer than 30 teams per court has potential spare capacity. None were seen as being close to capacity. • Each region should have access to at least one indoor multi-court venue (of at least 2 courts). The Edgar Centre is the main example in the Otago region.
Rugby League (2016)
Most of the content (especially metrics) are considered to be out of date. Rugby league is essentially not offered in the QLCO sub-region, with interested participants needing to travel to Dunedin to participate regularly. Points from this strategy which are still relevant to the sub-region are: • Nationally, community participation in league has achieved a sustained period of growth. • In the Otago region there is a need for improved access to community fields, current lack of field quality and availability. As well as improved facilities on site (i.e. changing rooms)
Softball (2018)
• Maximise existing facilities is more cost-effective than building new (artificial surfaces and floodlights allow more game time on existing locations) • Promote sharing with baseball and use of school locations • Use of cricket nets for winter practise (when grass fields may be being used by a winter code such as football) • Noting that Associations do not own their own grounds and are reliant on Local Authorities to provide fields. • 5 teams per diamond is optimal

• Juniors do not require diamonds and sport can grow without specialised facilities- just increased access to grass fields • Central Otago- number of fields/diamonds is sufficient but many ancillary facilities are not fit for purpose e.g. poor condition clubrooms, lack of floodlights and fencing.
Tennis (2018)
• New Zealand National Facilities Guidelines • Provides metrics for assessing tennis court provision in metropolitan areas, including 1 court per 2,500 population, drive time metrics and floodlighting. • Supports the provision of covered courts where the establishment of an indoor court facility is cost-prohibitive. • Notes that covered courts provide shade and protection from inclement weather. • Identifies QLDC as a population growth hot spot • In fast growing communities consider use of current courts, availability of floodlighting and options for nearby venues to work together. • Identifies Logan Park as the Southern regional tennis centre.

Ice Hockey NZ does not have a specific national strategy. However, facility relevant direction from Ice Hockey NZ is noted as: "Ice Hockey New Zealand, and our member regional clubs, are in strong positions, and that our growth is necessitating additional facilities. Ice Hockey New Zealand is investigating what a self-owned facility looks like for the growth and security of our sport." - Ice Hockey NZ AGM 2025

13.4 Central Otago District Strategies of Relevance

Document	Summary
Sports Field Supply and Demand Study-2022	• Current sports field supply shortfall (24 FFE hours per week). Projected to increase to shortfall of 56 FFE hours by 2030, 11 additional soil fields required or 5.5 sand carpet floodlit fields. • Netball- current surplus supply and existing supply remains sufficient for projected increases in demand by 2030. Issues remain with facility quality and access to amenities • Cricket and tennis- sufficient current and future capacity
Cromwell Reserves Supply and Demand Assessment Addendum report-2023	• **Significant population growth projected:** Cromwell's population is now projected to increase by approximately 30% by 2043 (to 10,459), with strong growth in both the 5–19 age group (projected +42% under the preferred scenario) and the 65+ age group (+72%), materially increasing future demand for sport and recreation facilities • **Increasing pressure on sports field capacity:** Updated projections indicate a sports field shortfall of 23 hours per week by 2033, increasing to 63 hours per week by 2043. This increase in demand is equivalent to a need for approximately 2 additional full-sized fields in the short term, rising to 5 by 2043 • **Targeted facility impacts identified:** While summer fields and tennis courts are expected to meet future demand, cricket is projected to face a shortfall of 2 Saturday morning wickets by 2033, and overall growth requires staged development at Racecourse Reserve, including 5 rugby/football fields (with floodlighting and irrigation), increasing to 6 fields with potential clubrooms to address long-term demand
Molyneaux Park Supply and Demand Assessment Update -2023 Molyneaux Park Supply and Demand Assessment Addendum Report- 2023	• Field capacity is currently adequate, but conflict exists between rugby and cricket. (Scheduling conflicts, high cost of wicket preparation and reduced ability to host high-level cricket.) Recommendation to install drop-in wicket. • Highest priority: current indoor stadium is not fit for purpose and unable to meet growing demand. Options include, new build on school site, new build attached to aquatics, covering 2 netball courts, extending current building to accommodate gymsports. • Demand exists for improved all-weather turf access, multi-sport turf recommended with support from school and community partnership • Athletics track is well used by school and club, field-based event areas such as long jump and shot put require upgrades • Membership growth in bowling, additional green and parking space needed to future-proof • Governance and management improvements are as important as physical infrastructure upgrades

Courts condition assessment	• Majority of courts are in good or very good condition (56%) • 2 courts are rated as poor condition – these sites are rural • Common issues include surface deterioration, vegetation encroachment and poor fence conditions. • Several facilities are scheduled for or have recently undergone upgrades (2025-2026) Pioneer Park - Alexandra , Anderson Park – Cromwell, Tarras multisport court
Cromwell Racecourse RMP	• In response to projected population growth and increasing demand for playing fields, the reserve has been identified as the preferred location for a multi-field sports hub. • 2 stages proposed: (All retaining current equestrian use) • Stage 1 (now-2030)- 4 new sports fields with supporting amenities • Stage 2 (2030-2045)- an extra 4 more sports fields and possibility of indoor multisport complex • The long-term vision positions Cromwell Racecourse Reserve as a regional-level recreation hub, capable of meeting growing demand for both outdoor and indoor sports while retaining its equestrian heritage.

13.5 Queenstown Lakes District Strategies of Relevance

Document	Summary
QLDC Sports Field Plan – DRAFT (July 2025)	The Draft Sports Field Plan provides a district-wide assessment of current and future demand for sports fields across the Queenstown Lakes District. The district is experiencing sustained population growth, strong participation in organised sport, and increasing pressure on existing sports field infrastructure. • Rugby and football fields are operating at capacity in peak periods, and a supply shortfall is projected to increase through 2040. • Priority is mid-week training capacity, with a lack of floodlit fields available and drainage issues limiting playable hours • Consolidate provision into sports hubs where possible, including shared clubrooms and changing facilities, adequate parking and public transport access • Protect and secure land for future expansion within identified growth corridors
QLDC Our Community Spaces Report -Dec 2024	This report provides a district-wide strategic framework for the planning, provision and management of community spaces, including sports fields, indoor facilities, recreation hubs and multi-use reserves.

	• With strong sustained population growth predicted, facility provision needs to move from fragmented and reactive provision to a planned, coordinated and future-focused community spaces network • Key pressure areas include winter sports fields and indoor courts that are currently operating at capacity during peak periods

14 Appendix 6 –Scope of Strategy

14.1 Scope

14.1.1 Activities, Spaces and Places Considered

This Strategy is focussed on the key spaces and places where active recreation and sporting activity occurs across the QLCO sub-region. It is focussed on providing guidance at a sub-regional/district and regional level and does not provide detailed guidance regarding local level facilities.

Table 12 provides the list of in-scope spaces and places and sporting codes/activities.

Table 12 In Scope Spaces, Places, Codes and Activities

Types of Spaces & Places	Sub-categories & codes
Outdoor spaces and places	Outdoor Field / Turf Sports: Rugby League, Rugby Union, Football, Athletics, Baseball, Cricket, Softball, Touch Hockey (turfs) Outdoor Court Sports: Basketball, Netball, Tennis, (Hockey - turfs) Play outcomes in the sub-region are considered at a high-level. There is no specific consideration of playgrounds/play spaces.
Indoor spaces and places	Indoor Multi-use Court Sports: Netball (including walking), Basketball (including walking), Volleyball, Futsal, Badminton, Pickleball, Ultimate Frisbee, Tennis, Indoor Bowls, In-line Hockey, Roller Skating, Marching Indoor Specialised: Squash, Table Tennis, Gymsports / gymnastics, Indoor Cricket
Aquatic spaces & places	Aquatic - pool-based (indoor and outdoor): Swimming, Water polo, Diving, Canoe Polo, Underwater Hockey, Aquatic - outdoor (natural) water: Rowing, Waka ama, Canoeing/kayaking, Diving/Free Diving
Other spaces & places	Ice Sports:

Types of Spaces & Places	Sub-categories & codes
	Ice Hockey, Ice Skating, Curling
	Other Specialised Sports: Golf, Lawn bowls, Croquet, Petanque, Equestrian, Skateboarding, Tri-sport and multi-sport, Bike (MTB, road, track, BMX), Martial Arts, Wrestling, Shooting (including small bore rifle), Frisbee / Disc golf, Esports, Padel

It is noted that many facilities support a range of recreational uses beyond the sports and activities listed, for example, aquatic facilities supporting leisure use and activities such as aqua jogging and casual entry for a range of uses, including water play and hydro slides.

14.1.2 Excluded from scope:

- Parks and gardens (inclusion if identified as sports fields).
- Playgrounds
- Snow sports and ski fields (commercial focus)
- Extreme sports such as paragliding. *Although some representatives of this sport attended stakeholder workshops and some relevant observations are noted in the strategy*
- Beaches and wharves, jetties, marinas or other commercial boating assets.
- Active transport.
- Arts and culture spaces and places provision.
- Community facilities e.g. halls (expect where these currently include a dedicated sport and recreation asset or activity).
- Passive use open spaces and reserves

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