



CITY OF BALLARAT **Prince of Wales Park Master Plan** Summary Report











The City of Ballarat acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.







The Project

The Prince of Wales Park (POWP) Master Plan will guide the future direction for the planning, facility provision, site development and future programming opportunities within this key sports and recreation precinct.

The recommendations aim to achieve the vision:

The Prince of Wales Park is a regional sport, aquatic and leisure precinct that will provide for future growth of swimming and aquatic programming, gymnastics, hockey, baseball, tennis and croquet in the City of Ballarat

The Master Plan will:

- Ensure suitable and equitable facilities for the existing tenants of the POWP sports precinct and the wider community, underpinned by evidence-based decision-making.
- Consider protecting the character of POWP and enhancing the site's sporting, social, environmental, and heritage values.
- Accommodate the long-term development aspirations of the tenant clubs, community groups and residents.
- Profile the participation demand, trends, and current usage of the site and facilities.
- · Consider the views of key stakeholders and user groups.
- Confirm the facility requirements, including key facility components and relationships required to meet the objectives of the precinct.

- Assess the site and facilities' condition and suitability for the current and projected needs of the community.
- Include a high-level concept master plan.
- Provide an implementation plan.

> Planning Process

The project has involved the following tasks:

Market Research including Background Research, Trend analysis and Benchmarking

Demand Assessment, Catchment Analysis and Site Review

Concept Development including Functional

Design Components, Concept Plans and Cost Plan

Stakeholder Engagement with User Groups, State Sports Associations, Council and Schools

> Master Plan Staging Options and Implementation Plan

Draft summarising Key Findings and Recommendations

Public Exhibition and Review of Feedback

Final Report



Strategic Context

Why do we need a master plan for Prince of Wales Park?

> There is strategic support for delivering regional and district sports facilities in Prince of Wales Park

The Prince of Wales Park (POWP) is a significant sport and recreation precinct that supports opportunities to enhance community wellbeing and the objectives outlined in the Council Plan 2021-2025, Community Infrastructure Plan 2022-2037 and Active Ballarat Strategy 2019.

The previous POWP Master Plan in 2009 is now outdated. Since 2009, key strategic investigations have taken place that have influenced the updated Master Plan for the park. These include:

- Aquatic and Leisure Infrastructure Planning Assessment 2023
- Ballarat Regional Hockey Facility Feasibility Study 2022
- Target Sports Facilities Plan 2021
- Growing Croquet Facilities Infrastructure Planning Project 2020-2030
- Hockey Victoria Strategic Facilities Plan 2015-2025
- Baseball Australia Facilities Resource Plan 2019
- Tennis 2020 Facility Development and Management Framework for Australian Tennis.

The Aquatic and Leisure Infrastructure Planning Assessment 2023 recommended development opportunities at Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre as population demand increases. These opportunities included adding new waterplay facilities, upgrading internal pool halls, and expanding the gymnastics space and gym area.

The Ballarat Regional Hockey Facility Feasibility Study confirmed that the provision of additional hockey fields and the development of a regional hockey centre in Ballarat have merit. The key findings were:

- Hockey Ballarat's one field facility at Prince of Wales Park (POWP) operates at full capacity in hockey season and cannot satisfy current demand or representative competitions.
- Population growth is adding to hockey demand. Current demand cannot be met and there is a need for a second field now. A third field will be needed when Ballarat's population increases to 140,000-150,000 residents.
- Hockey Victoria's Strategic Facilities Plan 2015-2025 identifies the POWP as the regional hockey facility and supports the renewal of the synthetic field as a priority.

The Target Sports Facilities Plan identified that the Wendouree Archery Club, located at POWP, is being encroached upon at its current location to the point where there are ongoing conflicts with other uses at the reserve and neighbouring residents. An alternative home is required. A master plan for an archery facility at Ring Road Reserve was a key recommendation.

The Growing Croquet Facilities Infrastructure Planning Report identified that the Ballarat Alexandra Croquet Club, located at POWP, is a district level facility and no additional courts are recommended.

Baseball Victoria Facilities Resource Plan 2019 identifies the Ballarat Baseball Centre as a club competition facility. These facilities are dedicated baseball centres that support T-ball, State League Baseball competitions, little league and junior games.

The Tennis 2020 Facility Development and Management Framework identifies the Ballarat Lawn Tennis Centre as a district facility that services multi-suburbs and engages social and competitive players in tennis.

> The Master Plan must facilitate fair access to sport and recreation facilities

The proposed improvements at POWP have considered the State Government's Active Victoria Strategy and Fair Access Policy. This Master Plan has considered contemporary sports facility design principles that will ensure fair access is delivered as part of the Master Plans delivery.

The Master Plan has been designed to ensure suitable and equitable facilities for the existing tenants of the POWP sports precinct and the wider community and is underpinned by evidence-based decision-making.



Growing population leading to increased participation demand



Current facilities are at capacity and/or not fit for purpose



Increase the overall use and financial viability of facilities, programs and services



Master Plan will support future funding advocacy approaches

Site Review

What site attributes and constraints will influence the future development of Prince of Wales Park?

> Prince of Wales Park provides for regional and district level sport and recreation facilities POWP is a Council managed 19Ha site located near Lake Wendouree. The site is surrounded by residential properties to the north (Lake Gardens) and west (Insignia), schools (Ballarat High School and Ballarat Specialist School) to the south, and Gillies Street to the east.

The reserve incorporates the Council managed Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC) and provides sporting facilities for hockey, croquet, tennis, baseball, archery and cricket. The Prince of Wales parkrun has also recently been established, and the reserve caters to passive recreation opportunities for the public.



Figure 1: POWP Aerial View - Site Layout





















Figure 2: POWP Site Photos

> There are no significant constraints to the development of Prince of Wales Park. The sites drainage, setbacks from residential boundaries, geotechnical assessment findings and car parking provision and traffic flow are key design considerations

The key findings from the site review indicate the following site attributes and constraints.

Site attributes

The POWP site has a number of strengths that can be further enhanced through the Master Plan process. These strengths include:

- Central location within the City of Ballarat that is accessible to the majority of the population within a 15-minute drive time.
- Prominent destination location for a number of annual events and activities.
- The site is accessible through various modes of transport and frontage to Gillies Street.
- Already features a number of regional standard facilities for sports including baseball, hockey, croquet and swimming.
- Some existing shared infrastructure between sports, such as the hockey/tennis pavilion and car parking.
- Large, centralised car parking zones that service all the facilities within the precinct.
- The embedded infrastructure and assets within the precinct are generally in good condition and have been maintained well.
- Easy access for the adjacent Ballarat High School, Ballarat Specialist School and residential housing estates.
- The northern landscape buffer is a key biodiversity corridor connecting Lake Wendouree with Flax Mill Swamp and Mullawallah Wetlands. This will be maintained.

Site constraints

The POWP precinct is zoned as Public Park and Recreation (PPRZ). The precinct is surrounded by public use – education land (PUZ2) on the southern boundary and General Residential land (GRZ) on the western and northern boundaries. There is no formal setback requirement on the northern boundary; however, it is recommended that the open space buffer zone between the residential housing and the POWP sports infrastructure be maintained for public safety and amenity.

The geotechnical site assessment found the subsurface soils are highly reactive, which will need to be considered during the detailed design stage for any future developments.

There is an existing recycled water pipe that runs east west through the site. This will be retained and further water sensitive urban design opportunities considered.

There is a wetland area in the southwest corner of the site that acts as a drainage basin for the neighbouring residential estate. This area is protected from any further development.

Although there is no Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) there has been previous inundation events along the southern boundary that have impacted the BALC plant room areas.

In the previous 2009 POWP Master Plan, water sustainability was identified as a major issue in times of severe drought conditions, as experienced between 2004 and 2009. Consideration of synthetic surface and warm season grasses should be considered if any playing fields are redeveloped.

There are no specific cultural or heritage overlays applicable to the site. However, the concrete silo on the southern boundary of the precinct is noted in the Victorian Heritage Database.

The current car parking provision is generally adequate for various activities conducted within POWP. However, feedback from the key stakeholders within the precinct confirmed that capacity may be an issue if further development occurs for some sports and during large regional events.





Most assets are in good condition. However, some require renewal or don't meet the contemporary sports facility design standards

The asset condition assessment found:

- The majority of the existing facilities and infrastructure are in good condition.
- The baseball and hockey pavilions require some improvements to amenities, storage and kitchens.

The fit-for-purpose assessment found:

- The hockey facility currently does not meet regional standards. An additional two hockey fields are required to meet regional standards. Current and future demand projections suggest additional fields are required. Additional contemporary standard change rooms to service these fields will be required. Increasing car parking will be required if additional fields are developed. The existing hockey pitch has been resurfaced in 2024.
- The baseball facility meets regional baseball standards.
 A new shared pavilion is required to meet contemporary standards for accessible amenities and reduce duplication of facilities servicing the same sport onsite.
- The tennis facility meets district standards. The current shared pavilion is adequate for district level standards.
- The croquet facility meets district standards. The current pavilion is adequate for district level standards.
- The archery facility is not appropriate in its current location due to safety risks for other park users. The 2009 POWP Master Plan and the 2021 Target Sports Facilities Plan proposed an alternative location, which would allow the sport to expand its facilities and eliminate risks to the public and other park users.
- The BALC facility meets regional standards for swimming and water polo competitions. As the population grows over time, future expansion of leisure water should be considered. Car parking provision will need to be reviewed with any future BALC expansions or other precinct sports facility changes.
- The cricket facilities are only used for training purposes.
 An alternate location with training and playing facilities for the local cricket clubs should be considered.
- The running trails are adequate for Parkrun event days.
 A new shared pavilion for baseball would improve access to amenities and changeroom facilities.
- The car parking is insufficient for a regional sports facility.
 There are currently 476 formalised car parks. An additional 200 car spaces are required to service additional sports fields proposed and meet future demand for Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre expansion.
- The existing pathway network in the park is a fitness path that supports walking, running and cycling. It is an important connection from residential areas through the park to Lake Wendouree and the Botanical Gardens.

Table 1: POWP Facilities – Fit for Purpose Assessment Matrix

Current Sport Played	Hierarchy (Proposed)	Facility Provision	Usage Level	Usage Description	Sports Field Condition Rating	Current Lighting Standard	Current Lighting Condition Rating	Pavilion Fit-For-Purpose Rating	Fit-For-Purpose Comments
Hockey	Regional	One synthetic hockey field and shared pavilion	High	Single use sports facilities Hockey has high use in summer	Hockey Field - Very Good (Resurfaced in 2024)	Hockey Fields (500 LUX)	Good	Average	The facility currently does not meet regional hockey standards. An additional two hockey fields are required to meet regional standards in the medium-long term timeframe. Current and future demand projections suggest additional fields are required. Car parking provision will need to be reviewed if additional fields are developed.
Baseball	Regional	Three Baseball Diamonds and two pavilions	Moderate	Baseball has moderate use in summer and hosts an annual Masters tournament Baseball batting tunnels are used by baseball and cricket	Main Baseball Diamond – Excellent. Secondary Diamonds – Average-Good	Baseball Diamonds - Competition (500 LUX - infield, 300 LUX - outfield) on main diamond	Average, currently not working due to bird damage and being resolved	Average	The facility meets regional baseball standards. A new shared pavilion is required to meet contemporary standards for accessible amenities and reduce duplication of facilities onsite.
Tennis	District	Eight synthetic tennis courts and shared pavilion	Moderate	Tennis courts has moderate use year-round	Tennis Courts - Very Good	Tennis Courts - Competition	Good	Average	The facility meets district standards. The current shared pavilion is adequate for district level standards.
Croquet	Regional	One croquet rink and pavilion	Moderate	Croquet court has moderate use year-round	Croquet Rinks - Good	N/A	N/A	Good	The facility meets regional standards. The current pavilion is adequate for regional level standards.
Archery	District	One archery field	Moderate	Archery has moderate use year-round	Archery field - Good	N/A	N/A	Poor – no facility provided. Occasional use of baseball building for storage, toilets and committee meetings.	The facility is not appropriate in the current location due to safety risks for other park users. An alternative location was proposed in the 2009 POWP Master Plan and the 2021 Target Sports Facilities Plan, which would allow the sport to expand its facilities and eliminate risks to public and other park users.
Swimming and Water Pool	Regional	Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre	High	Recreational, competition swimming, water polo and learn to swim has high use year-round	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The facility meets regional standards for swimming and water polo competitions. Future expansion of leisure water should be considered as population grows over time. Car parking provision will need to be reviewed with any future BALC expansions or other precinct sports facility changes.
Cricket (Training only)	Local	Indoor and Outdoor Training facilities	Moderate	Local cricket training has moderate use in summer and preseason	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The facilities are only used for training purposes. An alternate location for the local cricket clubs should be considered that has training and playing facilities.
Parkrun	District	Walking/Running Trails	Moderate	Parkrun is popular and runs weekly, year-round	Walking trails surface - Good	N/A	N/A		The running trails are adequate for event days. Better access to amenities and changeroom and shelter facilities if a new shared pavilion is developed for hockey or baseball.
Community Active Recreation	Local	Walking/Running Trails	Moderate	Weekly use of trails for walking, running and cycling. Connection to Lake Wendouree and Botanical Gardens	Walking trails surface - Good	N/A	N/A	N/A	The trails are adequate for community use.

Demand Assessment

Who are we planning for?

 Population growth, increasing female participation, new modified playing formats and organised social recreation activities The estimated population for the City of Ballarat in 2021 was 113,471 residents (source profile.id). This is forecast to increase by 8.2% to 122,755 residents in 2026 and a further 16.2% projected increase by 2036 reaching 142,627 residents. The population is estimated to reach 170,000 by 2041.

When using the AusPlay Participation Survey for weekly participation rates of organised sports played at POWP, there is currently an estimated 6,980 participants across the major participation sports played at POWP. This will grow to 7,535 participants by 2036. An additional 1,789 sport participants are projected in the next 15 years.

The table below provides a summary of the current participation data (2023) that has been provided by each club/ user group at POWP.

Table 2: Local Club/User Group Sports Participation Data 2023

Sport	Club/User Group	2023 Registered Members
Outdoor Field Sports		
Baseball	Ballarat Royals Baseball Club	116
Baseball	Alfredton Baseball Club	124
Hockey	Hockey Ballarat	581 (491 SSA registered players)
Cricket (Training only)	Ballarat Fire Brigade Cricket Club, Coronet City Cricket Club	142
Outdoor Sports Courts and G	reens	
Tennis	Ballarat Lawn Tennis Club	164
Croquet	Ballarat Alexandra Croquet Club	43
Total Registered Members		1,170
Other Sports		
Archery	Wendouree Archery Club	113
Parkrun	Prince of Wales Parkrun	120
Total Average Weekly Visits		233

The POWP local clubs in the sports of baseball, hockey, tennis, croquet and cricket had 1,170 registered members recorded in 2023. A further 233 average weekly users participated in archery and parkrun activities.

The following map shows a 15-minute drive-time catchment around the POWP. In 2021, the 15-minute drive time catchment of POWP had a total of 75,603 people in the "active age group" (0 - 59 years). These age groups are the most active in our community.



Figure 3: POWP 15-minute drive time catchment map

If there is no change, there will be a shortfall in playing fields and courts to meet future participation demand for sports within the City of Ballarat that are played at Prince of Wales Park

The Otium Analytics Demand Analysis Model shows a current and future shortfall of indoor and outdoor playing fields to provide for these participants in the future. The model predicts:



A current surplus of 1 baseball field. The current provision of three baseball fields will meet demand for 2036.

A current shortfall of one synthetic hockey field, growing to two synthetic hockey fields by 2036.





A current shortfall of five cricket ovals, growing to 13 ovals by 2036.

A current surplus of one tennis court, however growing to a deficit of 14 courts by 2036.



The number of playing fields required can be reduced by increasing capacity on the existing sports field network by introducing synthetic surfaces, upgrading sports fields of low quality, installing lights on fields and joint use of school fields and courts for training and competition. However, local factors like distribution and accessibility, programming of competitions, capacity for clubs to share, etc need to be considered.

The model supports retaining three baseball fields (provided at POWP) and two additional hockey fields proposed in the Ballarat Hockey Feasibility Study and as proposed in the City of Ballarat Recreation Infrastructure Plan 2024-2039.

New cricket ovals and tennis courts are proposed as part of future recreation infrastructure development in new growth areas in Ballarat West PSP, Ballarat North PSP, north-western and western growth areas, and additional provision is **not recommended** within POWP.

Regional sport and recreation precincts are multi-use, adaptable, accessible, inclusive and sustainable

Key trends influencing the provision and design of sport and recreation facilities and services are:

- There is a trend for new or improved sport and recreation facilities to be designed as multi-use and multi-functional.
 This is partly due to sports facility investment being used smarter to not put unnecessary financial pressure on councils by duplicating facilities with available capacity.
- Insights from the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of local open spaces and the growing expectations from the community around the quality of their open spaces. The community is increasing their informal active recreation use of sports precincts that is resulting in conflict with formal sport programming and facility capacity issues.

The large growth in female participation within traditionally male-oriented sports is increasing pressure on playing facilities and increasing the need to diversify amenities to be universally accessible and facilitate fair access to facilities.

- Whilst the nature and intensity of participation in sport may change over time, the need for suitable and adaptable spaces to accommodate demand will remain. Future facility provision and design needs to ensure spaces are adaptable to accommodate changing participation trends.
- The location of sports precincts needs to be accessible to most of the community to maximise use. They should be well connected by active transport links and public transport.



The following design principles have been developed to help inform the future design of the Prince of Wales Park Master Plan:

Accessible and Inclusive:

Facilities and spaces will be universally designed and inclusive, fostering participation in physical activity by all our community, across all life stages, genders and cultures.







Diverse and Equitable:

Facilities and spaces will offer a diverse mix of facilities, programs and experiences. Council will provide an equitable distribution across the municipality.



Safe and Welcoming:

Facilities and spaces and programs are designed to be visible, open and welcoming to the community, creating a safe place for girls and women to participate.



Multi-Use:

Facilities and spaces will be multi-use, offering several activities, programs and experiences for users.



Connected:

Facilities and spaces connection across our communities and our unique natural environment.







Sustainable:

Facilities and spaces will be designed and operate efficiently, whilst being well managed and maintained.

> Prince of Wales Park has the characteristics of a successful regional sporting and recreation destination

Regional sports hubs are the primary centre of co-located, multi-sport and active recreation facilities that provide for a regional catchment. They are destinations for sport and recreation and deliver social and economic benefits to the wider region.

As a regional sporting hub, the facility will be a destination for sport and recreation and will deliver social and economic benefits to the City of Ballarat.

The facility siting and co-location with other regional sport and recreation facilities and the functional design and management model should optimise the use and maximise these benefits to the region.

The siting and design of the proposed facility should respond to the characteristics of a successful regional sporting precincts including being located in a high-profile site within a high population area, is easily accessible and connected, provides high quality treatments and spaces that address key user needs, universal design and female friendly principles, is recognised by National and State Sports Associations and is underpinned by local use whilst supporting regional/state competitions.



Stakeholder Engagement

What did we hear?

> Engagement Process

The stakeholder engagement process involved:

- Collection of usage and participation data from each user group.
- A site walk and interview with key user groups.
- A survey and interview with State Sporting Associations.
- An interview with the Ballarat High School and Ballarat Specialist School.
- Workshops with Council service departments at key milestone stages.

The Draft Master Plan was released for a 3.5 week public consultation period between Thursday 27 June 2024 to Sunday 21 July 2024. This public consultation period offered an opportunity for the community to provide input into the Plan via an online community survey and public submissions. Further meetings were held with baseball clubs and Baseball Victoria, and separately with residents on 30 July 2024.

Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre expansion is a priority. The Master Plan needs to prioritise the proposed expansion of the Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre and not inhibit this development. The Ballarat Aquatic and Leisure Infrastructure Planning Assessment supports the BALC expansion to meet the needs of the future population (growth areas).

Specific improvements and expansion areas include enhancing aquatic experiences with contemporary water play experiences, new changing places/accessible amenities, expanded gymnastics area and expanded gym space.

The current facilities are very well used by all local sports clubs/ associations and seek renewal and expansion of assets

The POWP is well-used by the local sports club and association tenants. Peak times include Monday to Thursday and Saturdays, year-round. Local sports clubs and associations propose the following improvements:

 Archery seeks an indoor range suitable for competitions following de-commissioning of their previous indoor facility, and an outdoor archery range to meet Archery Australia Safety standards, allowing larger competitions and the possibility of hosting State championships.

- Baseball seeks renewal of the club rooms, an indoor training facility, and consideration of a second synthetic turf infield diamond.
- Hockey supports the renewal of the existing synthetic pitch and would like an additional two pitches and new change rooms proposed by the Ballarat Hockey Feasibility Study.
- Tennis would like to convert their lighting system to LED lights.
- Croquet support maintaining the existing facility. Council will clarify the ongoing asset maintenance and renewal responsibilities for the facility.
- Parkrun would like some shelter for volunteer race officials, a drinking fountain and access to changerooms and amenities on event days.
- Cricket seeks a long-term home venue within Ballarat which includes a turf wicket as well as hard wicket provision which they don't currently have.

> State Sporting Associations confirm increasing sports participation for clubs at Prince of Wales Park and support the renewal and improvement of facilities

All State Sporting Association interviewed confirm that registered participation has increased from 2018 to 2023 across all ages and genders. The data shows a particular increase in junior and female teams. Modified playing formats and competitions have been introduced to encourage and support more people playing sports.

Hockey Australia confirms that the existing synthetic hockey pitch is at capacity and supports over 450 players. They support the renewal of the existing synthetic hockey pitch and additional pitches proposed in the Feasibility Study.

Tennis Victoria identifies the Ballarat Lawn Tennis Club as a district-size tennis facility and one of the most visited clubs, with over 1,000 annual visits to the venue. No expansion of this facility was proposed.

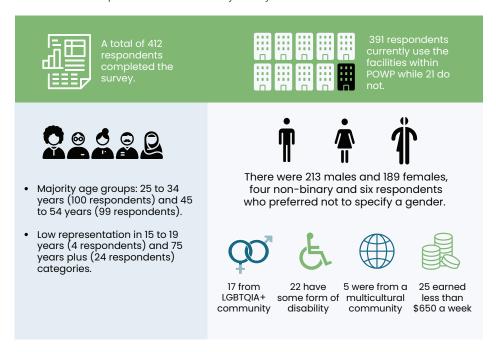
Croquet Victoria identifies the Ballarat Alexandra Croquet Club as a district-size croquet facility. The four-court facility is sufficient for the current membership of over 50 members and projected future demand.

Baseball Victoria confirms the current baseball clubs have strong memberships of over 100 players and require access to a minimum of two baseball diamonds. They support the clubs request for renewal of clubrooms and indoor training facilities.

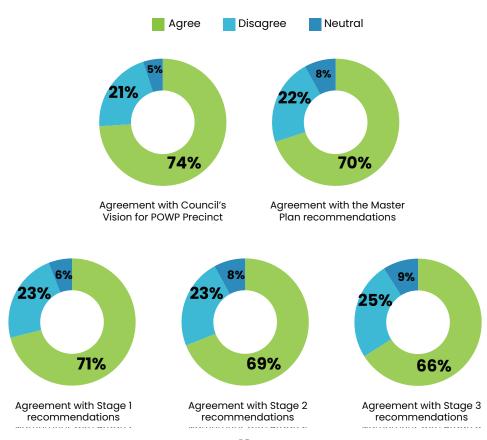
High community support for Draft Master Plan, but concerns with neighbourhood impacts of development

There were 412 survey responses, 9 public submissions, 18 submitters of questions to Council Meeting and about 50 people attended the local residents meeting.

The infographic below shows the response to the community survey.



SURVEY RESULTS



A separate Engagement Findings Report summarises the feedback received and the Council's response to key themes.

Key Theme	Council Response
Concerns about lighting impact on residents	The northern landscape buffer area will be landscaped to mitigate light impacts and consider shade trees, mounding and screening.
	The lighting system will comply with the Australian Standards for Sports Lighting (AS 2560.1:2018 and AS 2560.2:2021), which include guidelines for controlling the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting. LED lighting system with be design with dimming capabilities to manage both training and competition requirements. Lighting curfew will be implemented in line with other sporting reserves.
Concerns about noise impact on	The proposal complies with EPA 2017 and Regulations 2021 and Ballarat Planning Scheme.
residents	The location of the new hockey fields is 30m from the residential boundary. The northern landscape buffer area will be landscaped to mitigate noise impacts and consider shade trees, mounding and screening.
	An acoustic engineer will be engaged to inform the detailed design process of the project to ensure noise is mitigated, as far as reasonably practicable, through the application of controls such as:
	Noise attenuation at the North end of the precinct.
	Baffling of the backboard in the goal ends (e.g. triple layer buffer pads).
	A fully designed landscaping plan to mitigate and baffle noise from the pitch.
	Operational control around the hours of operation, days of operation, type of activities (games V training), etc.
	Other controls are to be determined.
Concerns about traffic and car parking impacts	A detailed design will inform improvements and consider security lighting, retaining the recycled water pipe, and a landscape plan that considers canopy trees, understorey planting and water sensitive design, extensive new tree planting for shade and shelter, a bus drop off, turnaround and park areas and the road will not connect into the Insignia Estate.
Key stakeholders and State Sporting Associations seeking input into design process to ensure needs are met	Key stakeholders and State Sporting Associations will be involved in the detailed design process to ensure needs are met and meet facility standards for relevant projects identified within the implementation plan.
Parkrun seek improvements to track	Council support improving the half-circle turnaround area on the trail to improve safety for runners.
Concerns about security in areas around tennis, croquet and hockey facilities	Council will consider security measures like lighting at buildings and within car parking.
Concerns about timing of new baseball diamond	Council will facilitate interim measures to provide access to a third baseball diamond once the current diamond 2 is taken offline due to the new hockey pitch development.
Concerns about the impact on baseball clubs and the Victorian Masters Baseball Carnival	Additional consultation held with baseball clubs and Baseball Victoria (BV) to address concerns. The clubs and BV are now supportive of the shared vision for baseball and the proposal for a new baseball field and new shared pavilion.
including sharing facilities and the loss of Alfredton Baseball Clubrooms and training facility.	Council to work collaboratively with both baseball clubs around key design components in more detail for a functional and fit for purpose shared use baseball pavilion. The facilities will provide an improved level of design and are fit for purpose for all user groups and will be informed by the City of Ballarat Recreation Infrastructure Plan. The project will ensure both clubs needs are provided is a key requirement, this includes specific items identified through consultation such as the baseball clubs having their own individual social spaces to ensure functionality and club identity is prioritised, and the Alfredton Baseball Club space being 1.5m from the new baseball diamond to replicate a key feature of their existing baseball clubrooms.
	Council will remove specific recommendations around removal of existing facilities and remove building concept plan for baseball. This will be considered during the detailed design.
There were concerns about the loss of access to Prince of Wales Park for Coronet Cricket Club and Ballarat Fire Brigade Cricket Club.	Cricket clubs will be accommodated at alternative sites that can provide for their training and competition needs. Council will now work with Cricket Victoria and local clubs to find alternative site. Cricket will retain access to the Prince of Wales Park facilities for training until the time any such relocation is facilitated.
Residents concerned about loss of open space	The open grassed areas along trails and around the wetlands areas will be improved with landscaping treatment that will improve access and experience for public use.
	The construction of a new grass baseball diamond will provide an irrigated, drained and high-quality natural surface space available to local residents to utilise for passive recreation. This will provide significantly greater capacity than the existing grass areas.

Strategic Directions

Vision

The Prince of Wales Park is a regional sport, aquatic and leisure precinct that will provide for future growth of swimming and aquatic programming, gymnastics, hockey, baseball, tennis and croquet in the City of Ballarat.



> Development Considerations

The following key development considerations were identified for the POWP Master Plan:

- Explore opportunities to further enhance POWP as a regional sport and recreation precinct catering to local, district and regional sports and leisure activities, competitions and events.
- Consider shared pavilions and other infrastructure that are fit for purpose for POWP clubs and users.
- Plan for future population and user groups growth and allow for staged development of specific activity areas within the precinct.
- Transition archery to an alternate site, based on the identified risks to other POWP users and the future growth needs of the sport.
- Transition the cricket club training facilities to an alternate site, that is fit for purpose for training and competition requirements and provides consistent access to turf and hard wicket ovals as required.
- Plan for expansion of the hockey infrastructure to meet regional provision standards, that can enable future growth of the sport and cater for regional level competitions. This facility will consider a staged approach to delivering two additional synthetic hockey fields and new change rooms and social facilities.
- There is currently a duplication of assets with the two baseball pavilions, with limited funding available to upgrade both to contemporary standards. Plan for consolidated baseball infrastructure to meet regional provision standards

- and ensure that shared facilities are provided that are fit for purpose. Consider a centralised baseball pavilion with indoor training facility that replaces the existing outdated clubhouses and indoor batting tunnels and services both clubs needs into the future.
- Maintain the district provision standards for tennis and croquet facilities. Consider converting the tennis court lighting system to LED lights.
- Plan for future expansion of BALC as Ballarat's regional aquatic and leisure destination. This may include a new contemporary water play park, water slides and leisure water.
- Ensure adequate car parking provision is provided within the precinct, centralised to service each facility's needs.
- Path network for passive community recreation uses and connections should be retained as an important asset
- Any future developments within the precinct should consider sustainable design principles, water sustainability for playing fields and surfaces, preserving the open space amenity and public safety.
- A staged approach to development is required based on the interconnected nature of the recommendations for hockey, baseball and archery. Priorities must be sequenced to ensure continued operation of each club, as well as consider the financial resources required to deliver these improvements over time.
- Provide a 30m landscape buffer from residents to new sports facilities and maintain as biodiverse corridors.
- Retain recycling water pipe and explore water sensitive urban design features.



> Recommendations

To achieve this vision and respond to key issues and opportunities, design principles and development considerations, the following recommendations are proposed in three stages (subject to funding availability).

Stage 1: 0-5 years

1. Establish new second synthetic hockey field with competition standard lighting in the reserve.

The lighting system will comply with the Australian Standards for Sports Lighting (AS 2560.1:2018 and AS 2560.2:2021), which include guidelines for controlling the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting.

A acoustic engineer will be engaged to inform the detailed design process of the project to ensure noise is mitigated, as far as reasonably practicable, through the application of controls such as:

- Noise attenuation at the North end of the precinct.
- Baffling of the backboard in the goal ends (e.g. triple layer buffer pads).
- A fully designed landscaping plan to mitigate and baffle noise from the pitch.
- Operational control around the hours of operation, days of operation, type of activities (games V training), etc.
- Other controls are to be determined.
- 2. First stage of new hockey pavilion one set of player changerooms, umpires changerooms, external access toilets (for spectators), basic storage, team shelters and drinking fountain.

Hockey Victoria and Hockey Ballarat involved in detailed design process to ensure facilities respond to the needs of hockey clubs and meet facility standards.

3. Upgrade existing hockey/tennis pavilion with new female friendly changerooms.

The Council staff will engage with the Ballarat Lawn Tennis Club and Ballarat Hockey in the detailed design process to ensure the pavilion and change facilities facilitate access and use required by both user groups during the staged development of the master plan.

- 4. Add drinking fountain near tennis courts and existing baseball pavilion.
- 5. Relocate the archery range to Ring Road Reserve.
- 6. New Changing Places and access upgrades for Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC); and investigate water recycling opportunities at BALC for on-site re-use and potential grey water recycling opportunities for irrigation elsewhere.
- 7. Consider providing temporary modular female friendly change room and toilet facility for baseball.
- 8. Expand car parking area with a gravel surface.
- 9. New Parkrun shelter and maintain current start and finish track and consider a half-circle turnaround area on the trail to improve safety for runners and support realignment of the start and finish line. The design of the Parkrun track at this point will be considered in detailed design.
- 10. Explore opportunities to facilitate access to existing central baseball pavilion toilets for Parkrun.
- 11. Develop a 30m northern landscape buffer to mitigate the light and noise impact from the proposed improvements. This buffer will include shade trees and consider mounding and some use of screens to mitigate noise.
- 12. Council to partner with Croquet Club and consider future asset renewal requirements and responsibilities.
- 13. Council will consider security measures including lighting at buildings and within car parking.
- 14. Council will facilitate interim measures to provide access to a third baseball diamond once the current diamond 2 is taken offline due to the new hockey pitch development.



Stage 2: 6-10 years

- 15. One new baseball field with synthetic infield and grassed irrigated outfield, with training standard lighting on current archery range location (following their relocation to Ring Road Reserve).
- Lighting on the new baseball diamond will be subject to demand. Lighting design will future proof for competition level standard.
- 16. New water play and leisure water at BALC.
- 17. Convert tennis facility to LED lighting and renewal of tennis court surfacing.
- 18. Improve landscaping with shade trees along the western and southern pathway.

The landscape plan will investigate opportunities for creating a biodiverse urban forest balancing the objectives for mitigating neighbourhood impacts on the western boundary and extending along the southern boundary pathway.

- 19. Explore alternative locations to establish a home for Coronet City Cricket Club with access to two fields, one with a turf wicket and one with a hard wicket. Confirm long term venue requirements with the Ballarat Fire Brigade Cricket Club.
- 20. Council to work collaboratively with both baseball clubs around key design components in more detail for a functional and fit for purpose shared use baseball pavilion. The facilities will provide an improved level of design and are fit for purpose for all user groups and will be informed by the City of Ballarat Recreation Infrastructure Plan. The project will ensure both clubs needs are provided is a key requirement, this includes specific items identified through consultation such as the baseball clubs having their own individual social spaces to ensure functionality and club identity is prioritised, and the Alfredton Baseball Club space being 1.5m from the new baseball diamond to replicate a key feature of their existing baseball clubrooms.

Stage 3: 11-15 years

- 21. Establish new third synthetic hockey field with competition standard lighting in the reserve.
- 22. Second stage of new hockey pavilion.
- 23. New shared baseball pavilion and training facility with external access public toilets.
- 24. Extension of gymnastics and health and fitness club at BALC.
- 25. Formalise expanded car park area with lighting and access road through to new hockey and baseball fields.

A detailed design will inform improvements and consider security lighting, retaining the recycled water pipe, and a landscape plan that considers canopy trees, understorey planting and water sensitive design, extensive new tree planting for shade and shelter, a bus drop off, turnaround and park areas and the road will not connect into the Insignia Estate.

- 26. Realign the start and finish track for Parkrun along the access road. Establish a pedestrian-only zone between baseball fields on weekend use.
- 27. Realign gravel path (alongside second hockey pitch) for Parkrun and general community use.
- 28. Remove any temporary modular change room and toilet facility post construction of baseball pavilion and training facility.
- 29. Facilitate relocation of Coronet City Cricket Club and Ballarat Fire Brigade Cricket Club to alternate locations. Council will now work with Cricket Victoria, Ballarat Cricket Association and local clubs to find alternative site.
- 30. Consider expanding the Parkrun pathway at turning points (based on demand).



Stage 2: 6-10 years

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Master Plan Concept Design



Architects have prepared a precinct master plan (with staging plans), hockey pavilion concept plan, Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre expansion concept plan and archery facility concept plan (at an alternate site).

→ Plan 1: **Precinct Master Plan**



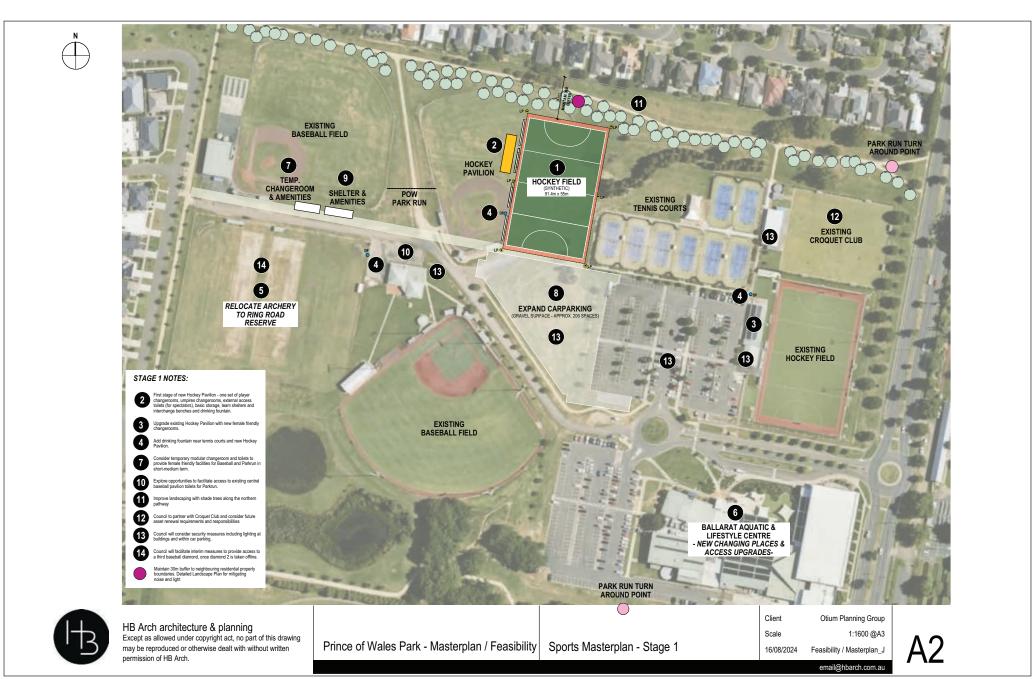


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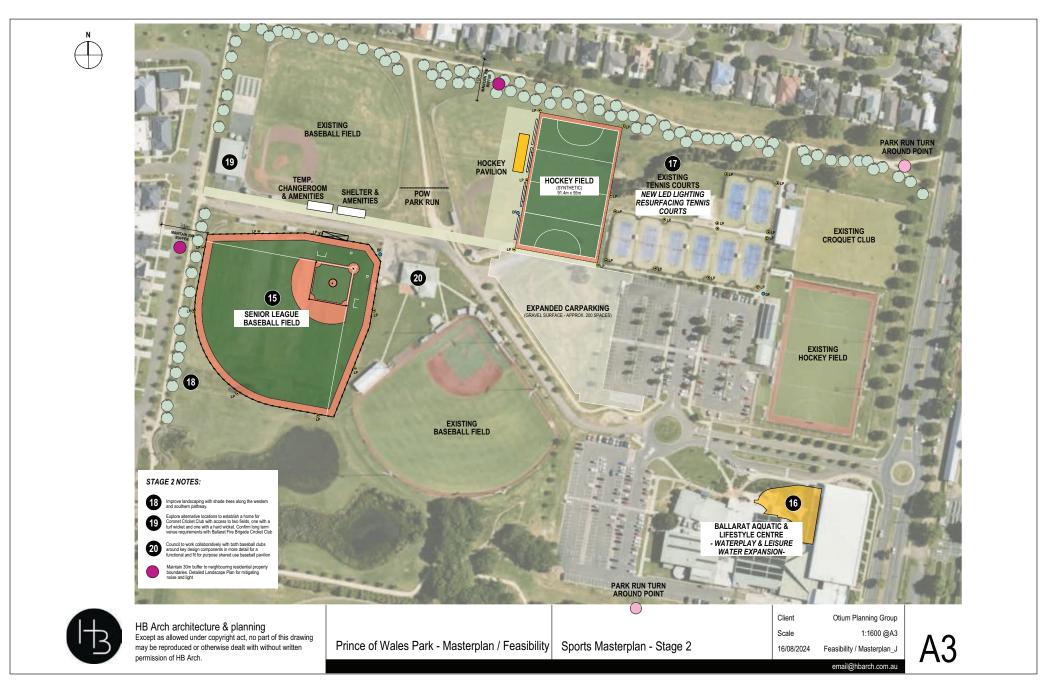
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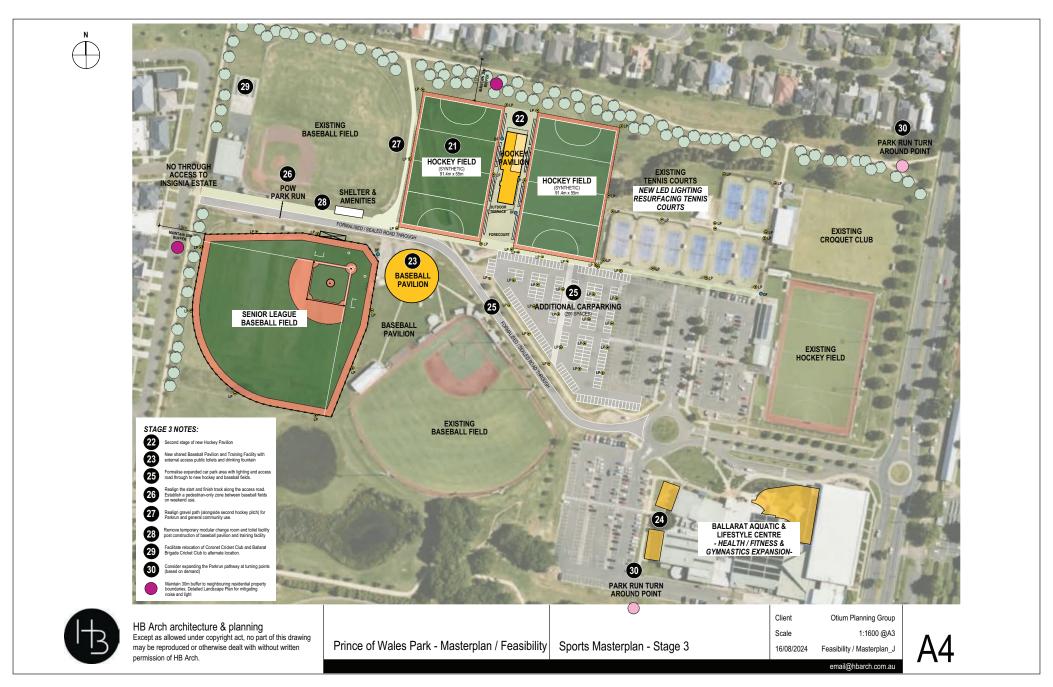
> Plan 2: Stage One Master Plan Development



> Plan 3: Stage Two Master Plan Developments



> Plan 4: Stage Three Master Plan Developments



Master Plan Implementation Plan

The implementation plan provides an indicative delivery timeframe for the projects identified in the POWP Master Plan. The proposed timeframe's will be subject to capital planning, funding availability and budget prioritisation processes over time. The projects listed will be considered for delivery through capital works planning and considered in budget prioritisation processes of the organisation. Council will need other funding contributions to deliver some projects. The funding strategy requires a partnership approach that includes State and Federal Government funding grants and committment, National and State Sporting Association funding and local club contributions.

Some projects are expensive and will not and cannot be delivered without government support. The implementation plan below identifies stage 1, stage 2 and stage 3 timeframes in which projects will be considered and assessed for prioritisation. The plan has been informed by the Ballarat Recreation Infrastructure Plan Road Map, funding commitments received, project prioritisation and interdependency and logical sequencing of projects.

Table 4: POWP Implementation Plan

No.	Stage	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39
	Stage 1															
1.	New second synthetic hockey field with competition standard lighting. The lighting system will comply with the Australian Standards for Sports Lighting (AS 2560.1:2018 and AS 2560.2:2021), which include guidelines for controlling the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting. A acoustic engineer will be engaged to inform the detailed design process of the project to ensure noise is mitigated, as far as reasonably practicable, through the application of controls such as: Noise attenuation at the North end of the precinct. Baffling of the backboard in the goal ends (e.g. triple layer buffer pads). A fully designed landscaping plan to mitigate and baffle noise from the pitch. Operational control around the hours of operation, days of operation, type of activities (games V training), etc.		Design	Construct												
2.	First stage of new hockey pavilion - one set of player changerooms, umpires changerooms, external access toilets (for spectators), basic storage, team shelters and drinking fountain. Hockey Victoria and Hockey Ballarat involved in detailed design process to ensure facilities respond to the needs of hockey clubs and meet facility standards.		Design	Construct												
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8.	Expand car parking area with a gravel surface.			Design & Construct												
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10.	Explore opportunities to facilitate access to existing central baseball pavilion toilets for Parkrun.	Action														
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No.	Stage	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39
	Stage 1															
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13.	Council will consider security measures including lighting at buildings and within car parking.	Action														
14.	Council will facilitate interim measures to provide access to a third baseball diamond once the current diamond 2 is taken offline due to the new hockey pitch development.			Action												
	Stage 2															
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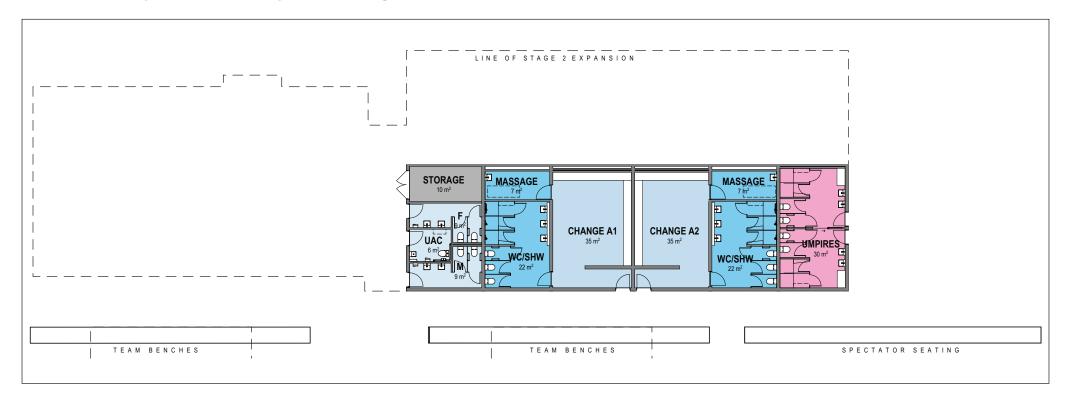
Table 4: POWP Implementation Plan

No.	Stage	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39
	Stage 3															
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28.	Remove any temporary modular change room and toilet facility post construction of baseball pavilion and training facility.													Remove		
29.	Facilitate relocation of Coronet City Cricket Club and Ballarat Fire Brigade Cricket Club to alternate locations. Council will now work with Cricket Victoria and local clubs to find alternative site.									Action						
30.	Consider expanding the Parkrun pathway at turning points (based on demand)											Action				

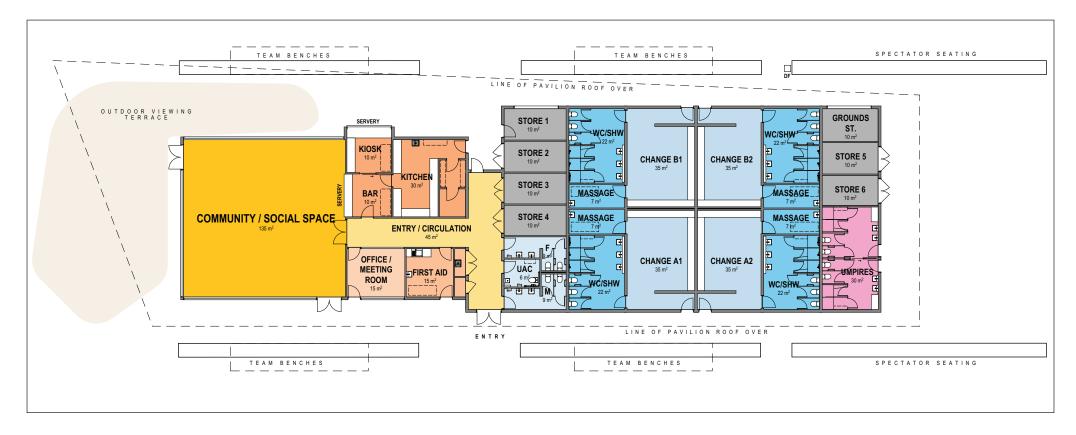
Appendix 1: Concept Plans

All concept plans are indicative only and are subject to funding availability and capacity as well as relevant design requirements at the time of approval for construction.

> Plan 5: Hockey Pavilion Concept Plan - Stage 1



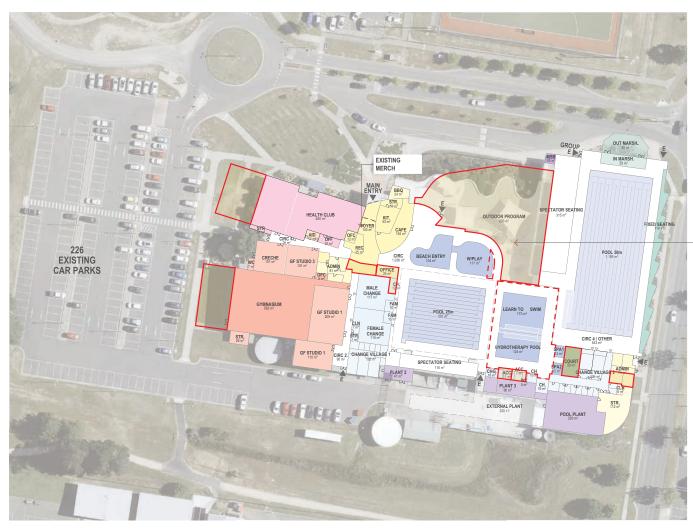
> Plan 6: Hockey Pavilion Concept Plan - Stage 2



> 3D Render Image: Hockey Pavilion Concept Plan



> Plan 7: Ballarat Aquatic and Leisure Centre Concept Plan





PROPOSED

RED OUTLINES INDICATE EXTENTS OF NEW WORKS/ REDEVELOPMENT



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Ballarat - Aquatic & Lifestyle Centre

Existing Site Plan A

 Revision
 B

 Client

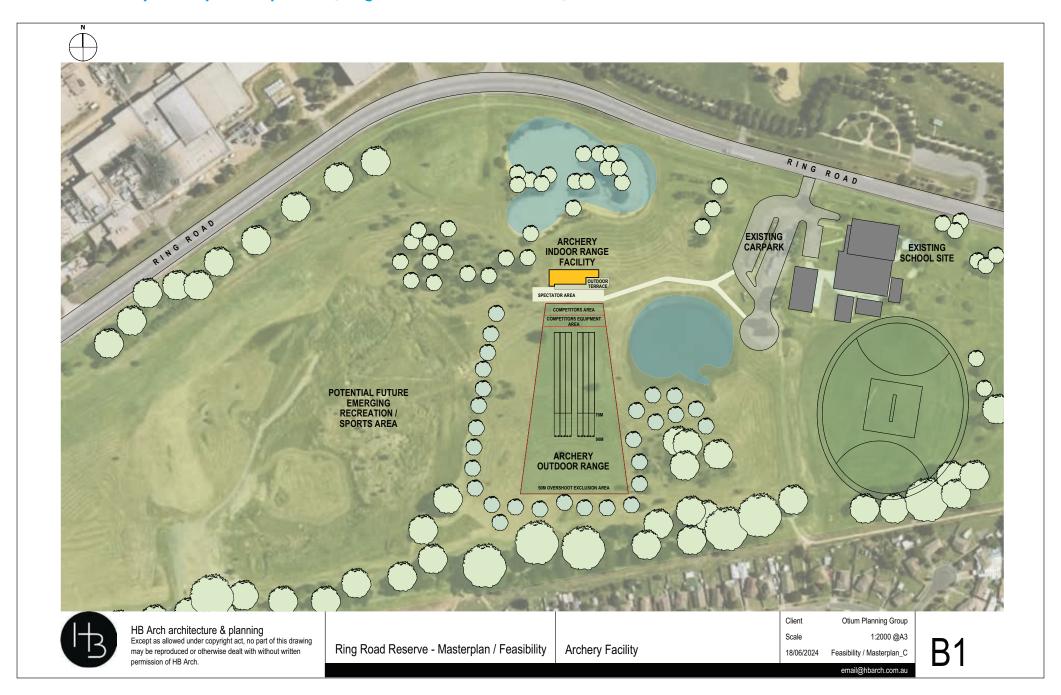
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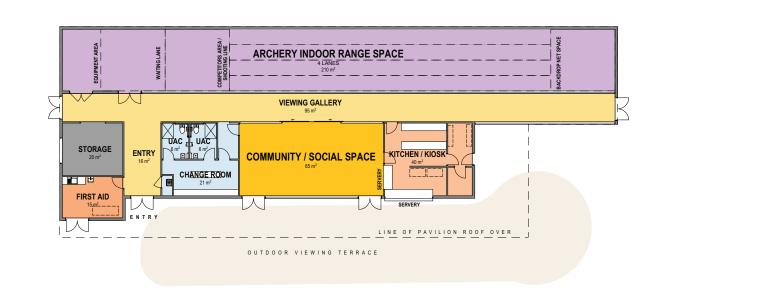
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> Plan 8: Archery Facility Concept Plan (Ring Road Reserve Location)



> Plan 9: Archery Facility Concept Plan (Ring Road Reserve Location)





Archery Pavilion Concept Plan

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Master Plan Concept Design



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→ Plan 1: **Precinct Master Plan**



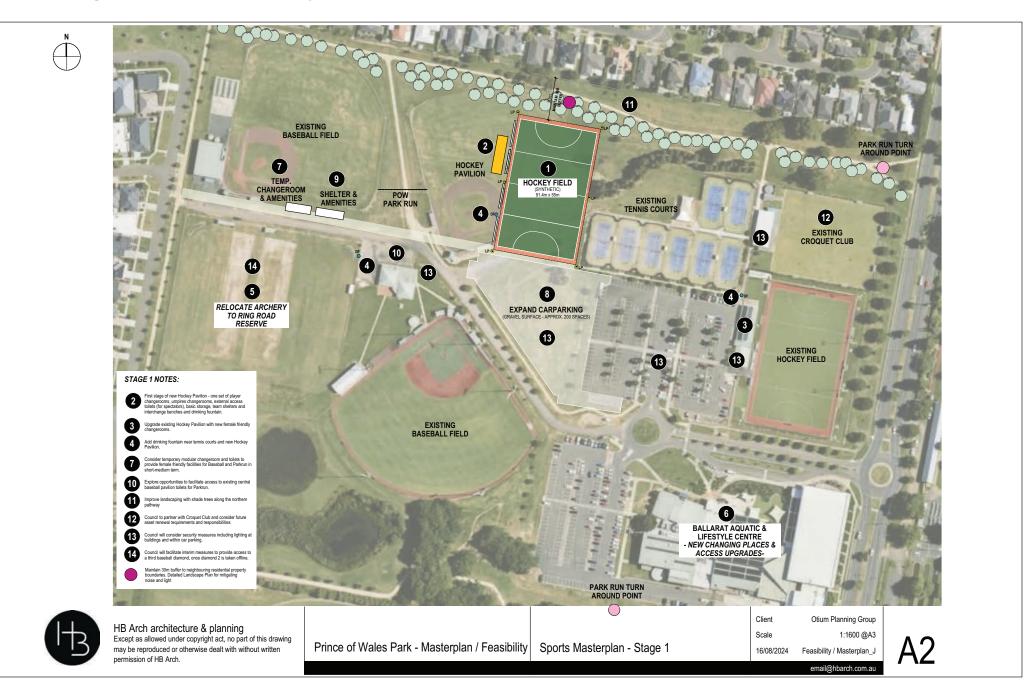


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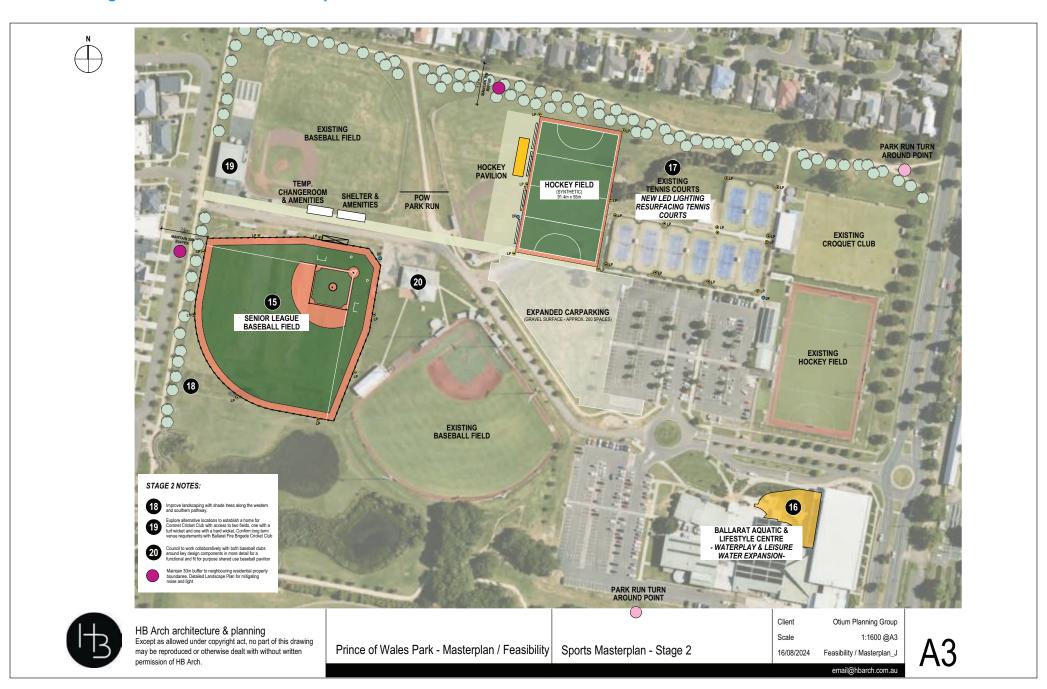
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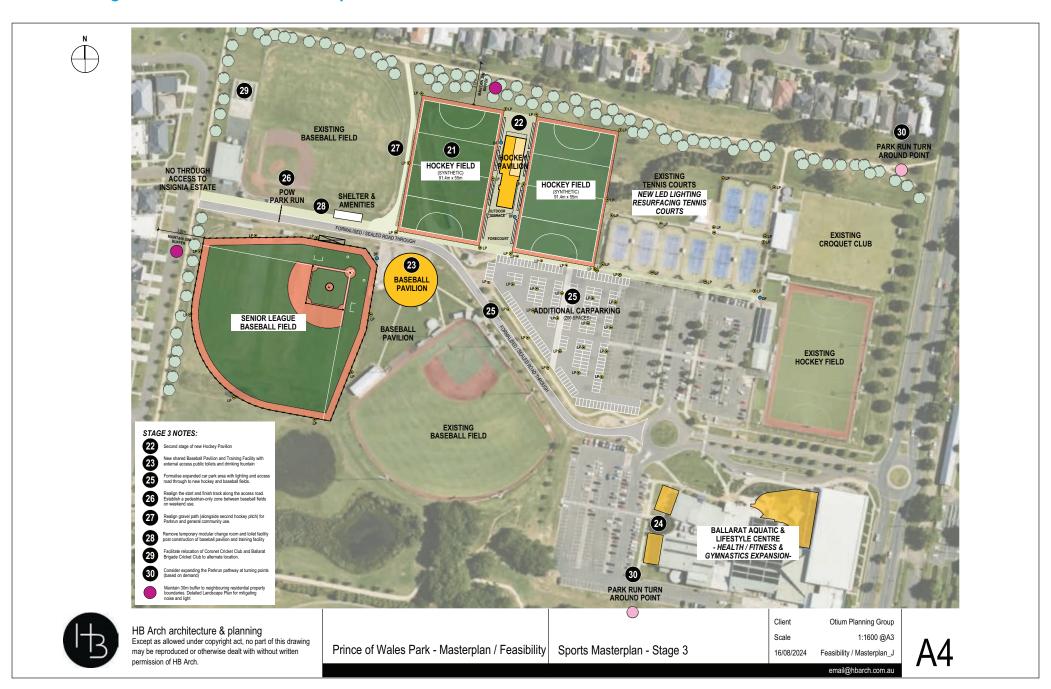
> Plan 2: Stage One Master Plan Development



> Plan 3: Stage Two Master Plan Developments



> Plan 4: Stage Three Master Plan Developments



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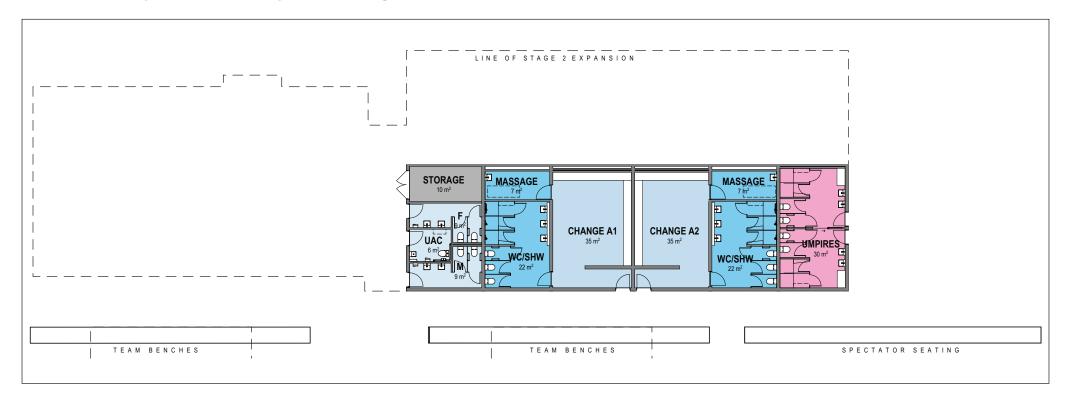
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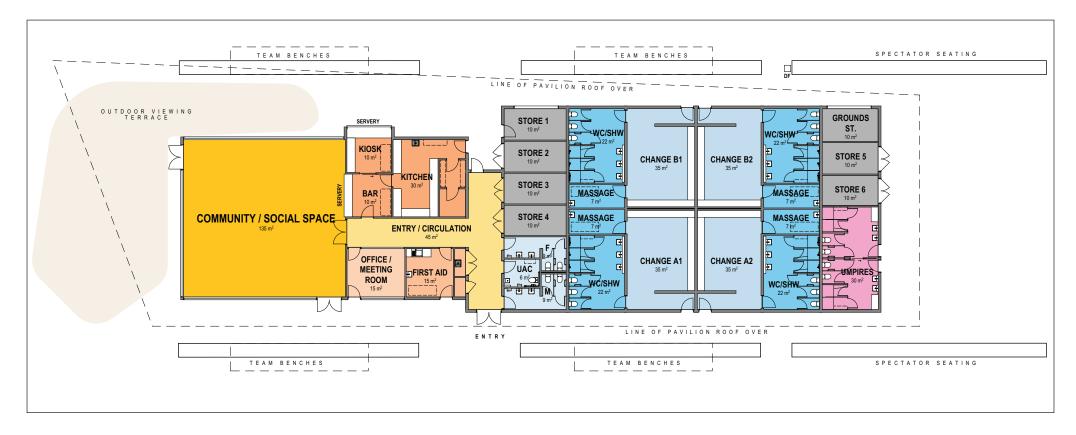
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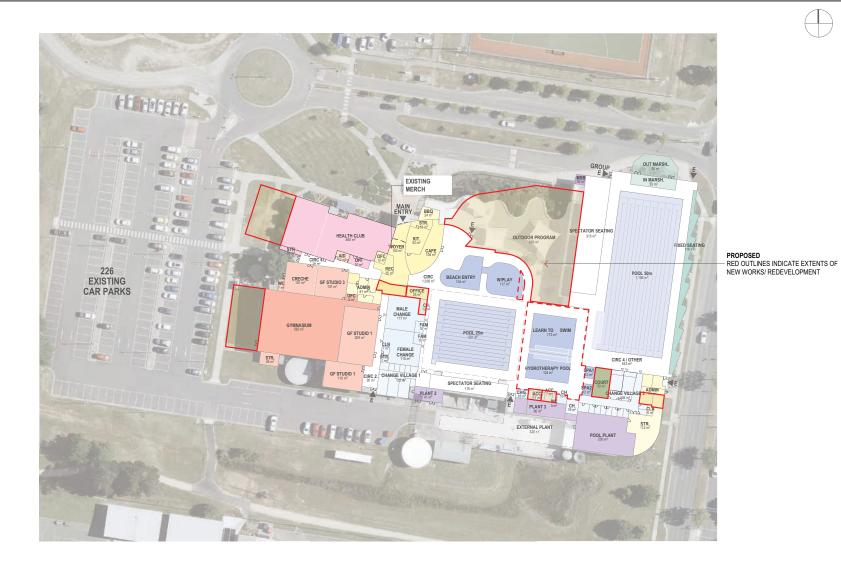
> Plan 5: Hockey Pavilion Concept Plan - Stage 1



> Plan 6: Hockey Pavilion Concept Plan - Stage 2



> Plan 7: Ballarat Aquatic and Leisure Centre Concept Plan



B

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Ballarat - Aquatic & Lifestyle Centre

Existing Site Plan A

 Revision
 B

 Client

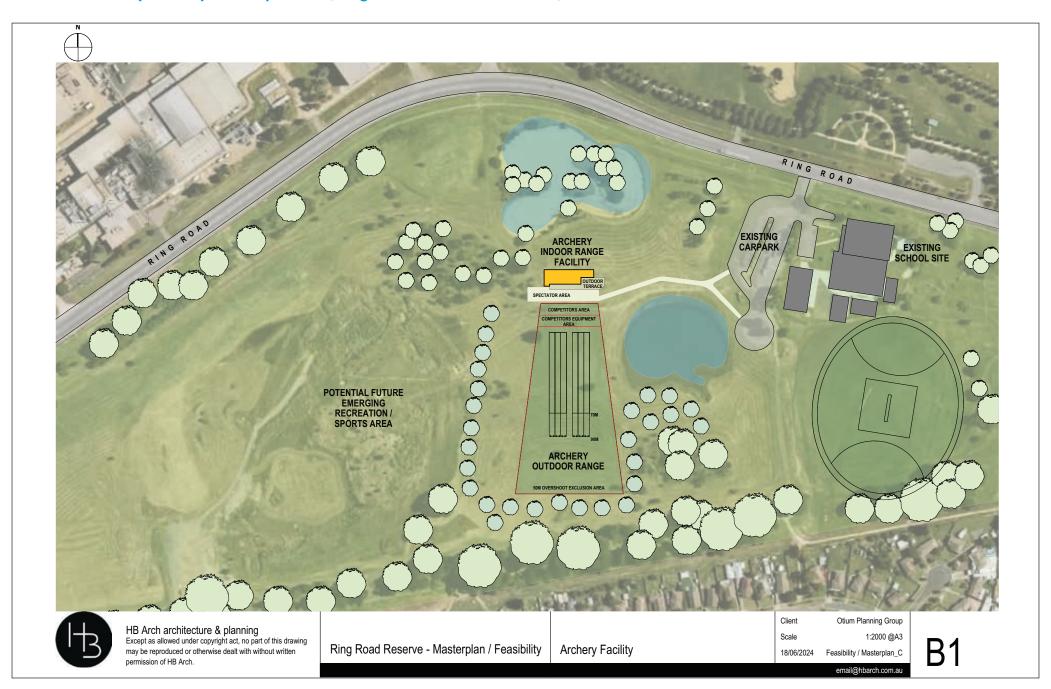
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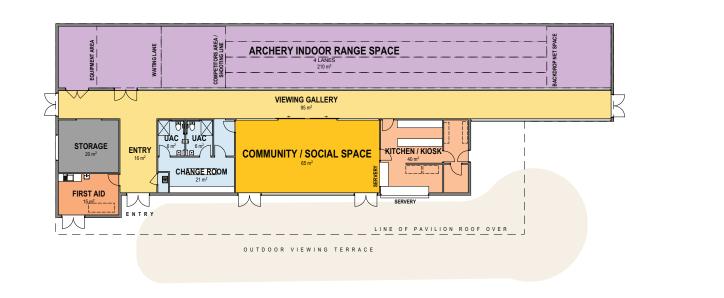
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email@hbarch.com.au

> Plan 8: Archery Facility Concept Plan (Ring Road Reserve Location)



> Plan 9: Archery Facility Concept Plan (Ring Road Reserve Location)





Archery Pavilion Concept Plan

Client
Scale
4/06/2024

1:200 @A3 Feasibility / Masterplan_A

email@hbarch.com.au

Otium Planning Group

B2



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