



**ATHLETICS WEST**

**State Facilities Plan**  
*Exec Summary Overview*

**2025-2028**



# Purpose

The purpose of the 2025–2028 State Facilities Plan is to ensure that Western Australia’s athletics infrastructure supports current participation patterns, emerging growth areas, and long-term pathway development.

The plan seeks to address gaps in access, quality, and capacity across both Track & Field and recreational running by guiding state, regional, and local stakeholders toward coordinated, high-impact investment decisions. In doing so, it balances community access, club sustainability, talent development, and major event hosting capability.





# Background-21-24 AW State Facilities Plan

## 2021 to 2024 State Facilities Plan

The Athletics West State Facilities Plan 2025–2028 builds directly on the foundations established through the 2021–2024 Strategic Facilities Plan, which provided the first comprehensive, state-wide assessment of athletics facility supply, demand and quality across Western Australia.

The previous plan identified priority growth regions, highlighted the importance of facility quality and amenities in sustaining participation, and established core planning principles focused on access, quality, demand, collaboration and targeted investment. Since that time, significant population growth, shifts in participation behaviour and increased pressure on shared community infrastructure have reinforced the relevance of these principles while also necessitating an updated evidence base and refined strategic focus.



# Background-Athletics West Strategic Direction

## **Athletics West Strategic Plan 25-28**

Athletics West developed a refreshed strategy in 2025 that spans through to 2028. A central value embedded within this strategy is innovation with the intention to continually evolve the sport. A key identified driver to deliver this is the development of improved organisational sustainability.

## **Athletics West State Facilities Plan 2025–2028**

The Athletics West State Facilities Plan 2025–2028 sets out a clear, evidence-based approach to aligning athletics and running infrastructure with participation demand across Western Australia. It responds to strong growth in recreational running, sustained junior engagement in athletics, and clear geographic mismatches between facility supply and where demand is occurring.

This plan builds on previous planning periods and incorporates updated participation and demand data to ensure facility investment decisions remain targeted, defensible, and future-focused.





# Context (Participation & Demand)

## **Aus Play Data-Australian Sports Commission (National and WA Context)**

Recent national and state-level participation evidence reinforces the need for an updated and targeted athletics facilities response in Western Australia. The Australian Sports Commission's AusPlay data (new online baseline established for 2023–25) confirms that running is one of the most participated physical activities nationally and in WA, largely occurring in non-organised and flexible participation formats, while track and field continues to show strong retention in junior age cohorts through club-based and school-linked programs.

AusPlay also highlights a sustained shift toward self-organised, informal and individual physical activity, with running consistently ranked among the top five activities for adults and showing higher participation growth than many traditional club-based sports. These trends reinforce the importance of facilities that can support both formal athletics pathways and high-volume casual running use, including access to quality tracks, training lights, shared community use and flexible programming opportunities.



# Context (ActiveXChange)

## ActiveXChange (WA Membership Analysis)

Complementing AusPlay, aggregated ActiveXchange membership and facility-use insights across Western Australia point to continued growth in running-related engagement, increased demand for multi-use outdoor facilities, and changing patterns of participation that favour accessibility, proximity and program flexibility. ActiveXchange data demonstrates that demand is strongest in high-growth outer metropolitan corridors and infill urban areas, where population growth and lifestyle participation outweigh the availability of legacy athletics infrastructure. The data also highlights increasing crossover between traditional athletics clubs, running groups and commercial operators, reinforcing the need for facilities that are adaptable, centrally located and capable of supporting mixed-use, peak-time demand across multiple participation format





# Context (CITS)

## Department of Creative Industries Tourism & Sport (CITS) (WA State Government Alignment)

The updated State Facilities Plan is strongly aligned with the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (CITS) Strategic Plan 2026–2029, particularly the priorities to Activate communities, Amplify investment and Advance sectors. The CITS strategy explicitly identifies investment in inclusive, community-focused sport and recreation infrastructure as a lever to increase participation, support population growth areas, and deliver long-term social and economic outcomes. The Athletics West facilities approach directly supports these objectives by prioritising infrastructure that is accessible, multi-purpose, inclusive and capable of servicing both grassroots participation and pathway development



# Context (ASC)

## Australian Sports Commission Play Well Strategy

At a national level, the plan also aligns with the Australian Sports Commission's Play Well Strategy, particularly the priority area of Activating places and spaces. Play Well emphasises the need to create and adapt sporting environments to better meet contemporary participation preferences, remove barriers to access, and support lifelong involvement in sport. By responding to demonstrated demand for running and athletics participation, improving the distribution and quality of facilities, and encouraging shared-use and activation models, the State Facilities Plan directly contributes to the Play Well vision that “everyone has a place in sport”





# Context (Overall)

## Overall Alignment

Finally, the Facilities Plan is a key enabler of the Athletics West Strategic Plan 2025–2028, which places innovation and organisational sustainability at the centre of future decision-making. Sustainable infrastructure planning—focused on demand-led investment, facility optimisation and strategic partnerships—supports Athletics West’s ability to grow participation, improve financial resilience, and adapt to changing participation models over time. Together, these aligned strategies provide a strong policy and evidence foundation for the updated State Facilities Plan and its recommended investment priorities



# WA Participation Snapshot-Adults (18+)

Participation data confirms that physical activity in Western Australia is dominated by informal, fitness-oriented activities, with running and jogging occupying a leading position among adults.

Approximately 16.7% of WA adults—around 404,000 people—participate in running or jogging, compared to 2.7% (around 65,000) who participate in athletics.





## WA Participation Snapshot- Children (0-18)

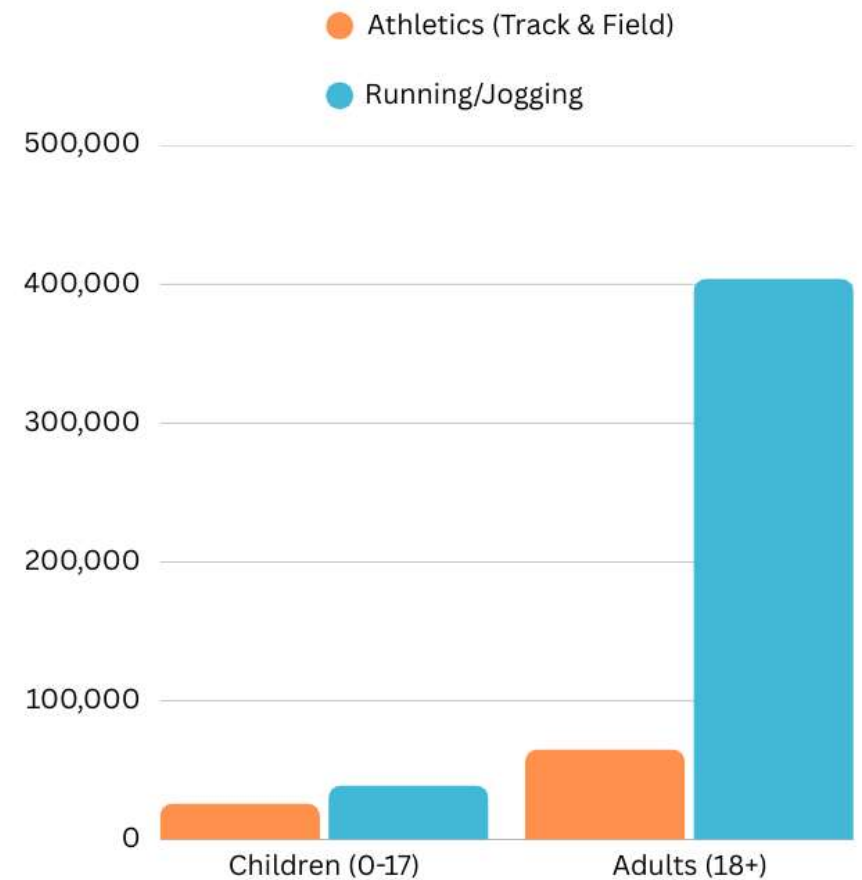
Among children participating in organised activity outside school hours, running and jogging also exceeds athletics participation, with around 39,000 children engaged in running compared to approximately 26,000 in Track & Field.

This gap reinforces the need for facilities that support both informal and structured activity, particularly for junior and pathway participants.



# WA Participation Snapshot

Running participation in WA dwarfs formal athletics participation, creating significant access pressure on a limited number of specialist facilities.





# Running vs Athletics: The Core Insight

The central insight underpinning this plan is the significant difference in scale between recreational running and formal athletics participation in WA.

While hundreds of thousands of Western Australians run regularly, only a small proportion transition into club-based athletics environments.



# Running vs Athletics: The Core Insight-2

- Athletics participation is comparatively niche
- Significant attrition from casual running to formal athletics
- Facilities must support:
  - Informal access
  - Warm-up and training space
  - Flexible, multi-use models





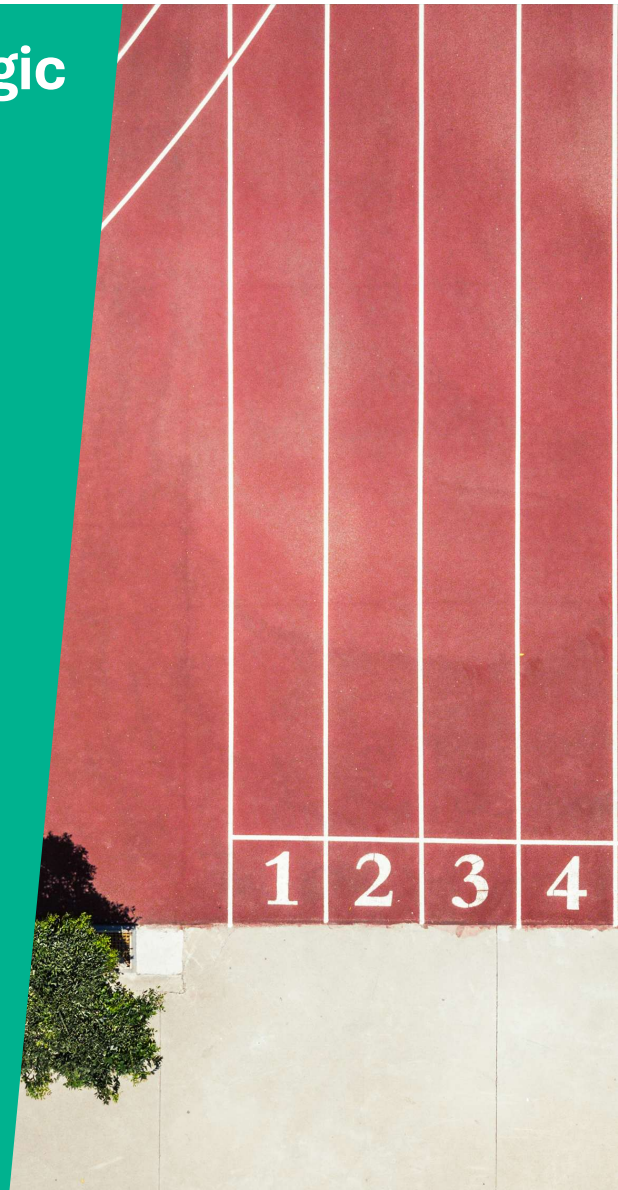
# Alignment to CITS Strategic Plan (2026-2029)-Strategic Alignment Overview

## Why this alignment matters

- WA running participation (~404k adults) far exceeds Track & Field (~65k), driving need for more accessible, flexible, inclusive infrastructure.
- CITS aims to create vibrant, inclusive, safe communities and invest in high-impact infrastructure across sport, culture and recreation.

## Key Areas of Alignment

1. Activate Communities (CITS Priority 1)
  - Expand access to running/warm-up areas, lighting and flexible community spaces.
  - Address metro + regional demand gaps to improve participation and safety.
2. Amplify Investment (CITS Priority 2)
  - Direct capital toward high-impact hubs (metro + regional).
  - Cambridge warm-up track enables national/international event capability and economic uplift (\$1–2m/yr).
- 3. Advance Sectors (CITS Priority 3)
  - Strengthen WA's athletics pathway and event hosting ecosystem.
  - Support sustainable long-term sector growth through performance-ready venues.
- 4. Achieve Together (CITS Priority 4)
  - Joint planning and project-readiness with VenuesWest, LGAs and AW
  - Data-driven decision making (ActiveXchange, AusPlay, facility audits).



# Alignment to CITS Strategic Plan (2026-2029)-Priority Projects

## Priority Projects

### Warm-Up Track (City of Cambridge)

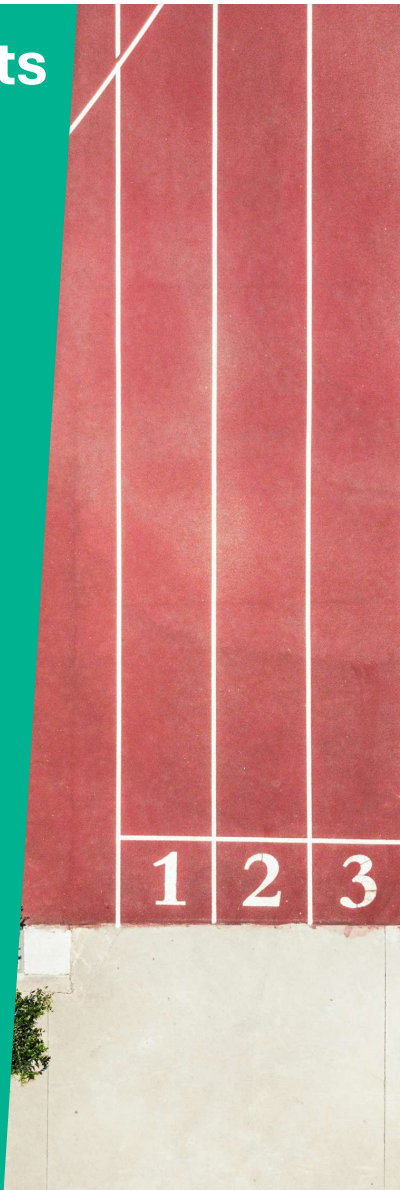
- solves event congestion (600–1,000 athletes)
- meets national/World Athletics standards.

### Metro Capacity Expansion:

- Wanneroo, Stirling, Swan, Joondalup, Rockingham, Cockburn;
- SE corridor: Gosnells, Armadale, Melville, Canning.

### Regional Athletics Hubs:

- Wheatbelt, MidWest/Gascoyne, Great Southern;
- address large unmet demand and low conversion





# Alignment to CITS Strategic Plan (2026-2029)-Key Enablers

## Key Enablers

### Investment & Funding:

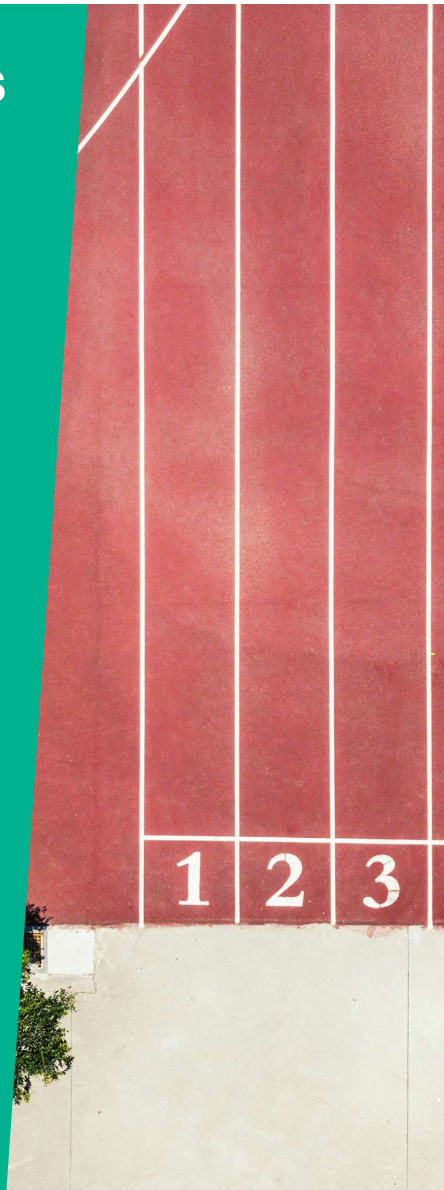
- CITS Priority 2 alignment—major infrastructure + long-term economic impact.

### Digital Access & Lighting:

- expanded bookings, LED upgrades, safe evening participation.

### Cross-agency Collaboration:

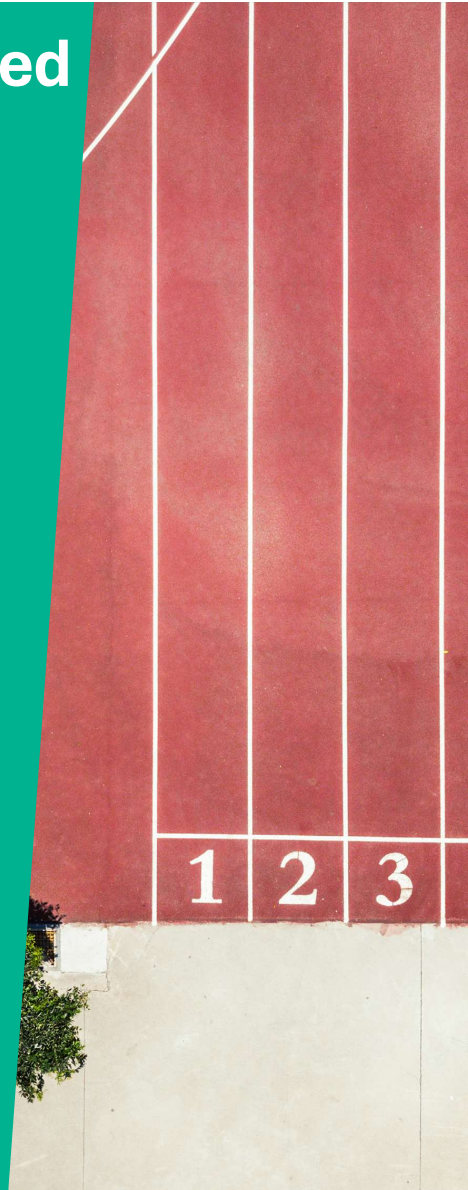
- AW, VenuesWest, Schools, LGAs — critical for delivery and event-readiness.



# Alignment to CITS Strategic Plan (2026-2029)-Expected Outcomes

## Expected Outcomes

1. Increased statewide participation across running & athletics.
2. Event competitiveness and economic uplift for WA (tourism, hospitality, local jobs).
3. More inclusive, accessible, community-activated sport spaces aligned to CITS values.
4. Stronger pathways: junior → club → high performance.





# Current Facility Supply (WA)

Western Australia's synthetic athletics infrastructure is highly concentrated, particularly within the Perth metropolitan area. The WA Athletics Stadium at Floreat serves as the state's premier venue, while Ern Clark Athletics Centre in Cannington provides additional capacity but is not available for individual casual training.

This places pressure on quality, consistency, and year-round access and highlights the vulnerability of the current facility network.



# Current Facility Supply (WA Metro)

Primary synthetic tracks (Perth metro)

- WA Athletics Stadium (Floreat)
  - World Athletics Class 1
  - 9-lane Mondo track
- Ern Clark Athletics Centre (Cannington)
  - World Athletics Class 2
  - No individual casual training access
- Outside these venues:
  - Heavy reliance on seasonal grass tracks
  - Limited regional synthetic options (Bunbury Only)



# Metro Perth: Facility Constraints

- Only two synthetic tracks servicing entire metro area
- Peak-time congestion at major events
- Limited warm-up and training space
- Access issues for individuals and emerging athletes

Growth corridors in the north, south, and south-east remain under-served, forcing longer travel times and constraining club development. Warm-up and warm-down space has emerged as a critical system-wide bottleneck.





# Key Planning Implications

These supply constraints have direct implications for athlete experience, club sustainability, and event quality.

Without additional warm-up infrastructure and localised access improvements, participation growth risks being capped by facility limitations rather than demand.

The planning response must therefore prioritise not only new builds, but smarter use of existing venues, access windows, and targeted upgrades that unlock additional usable capacity



# Key Planning Implications

- Warm-up space is a critical bottleneck
- Synthetic track access not aligned to demand geography
- Club capacity capped in high-growth LGAs
- Event hosting capability constrained without upgrades



## Metro Demand Gaps: Overview (ActiveXchange)

ActiveXchange demand modelling highlights substantial unmet demand across several Perth metropolitan LGAs.

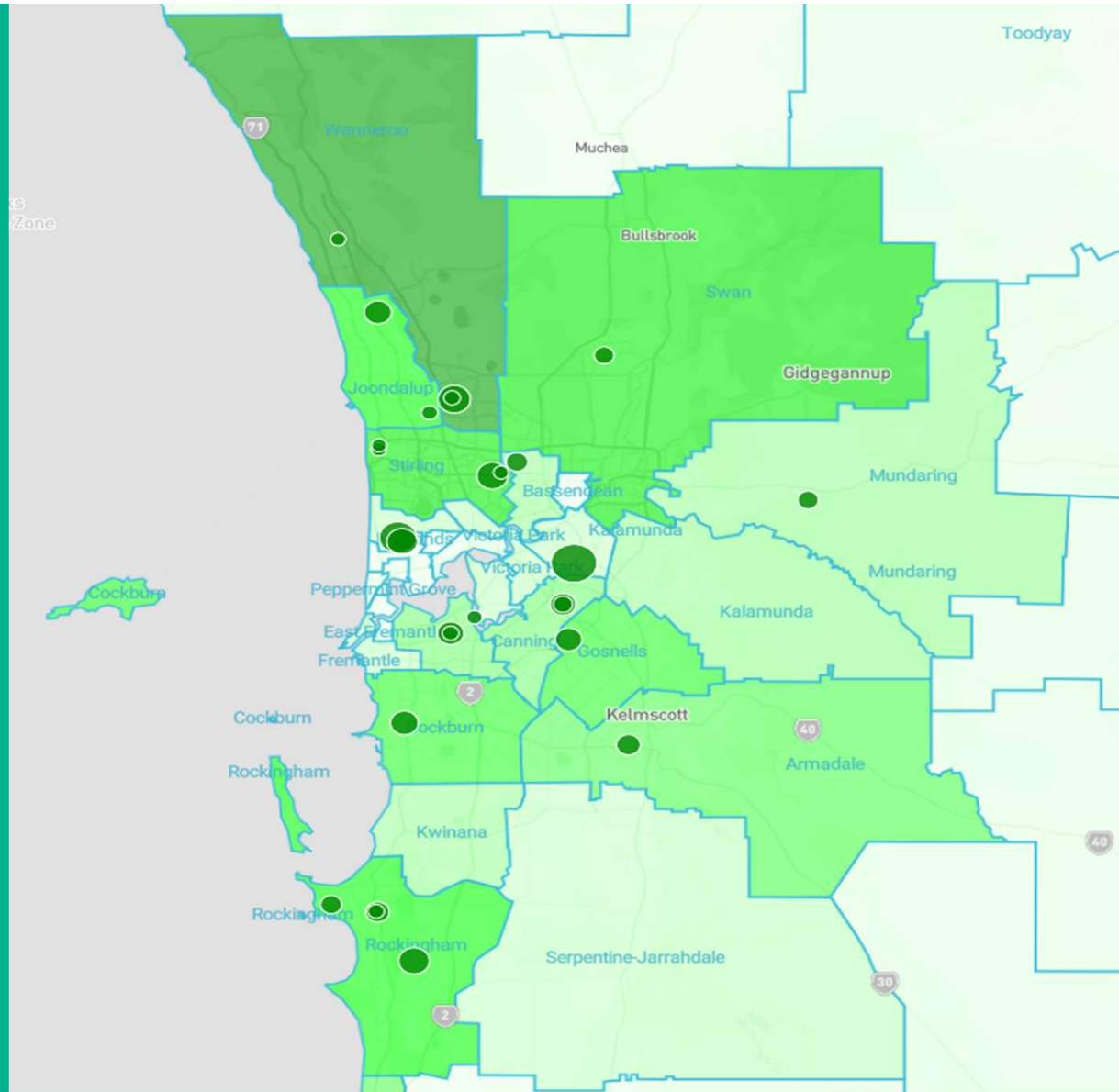
In many areas, membership levels are significantly lower than forecast demand, indicating that access and facility constraints—not interest—are limiting participation.

Low conversion rates between demand and membership are particularly evident in high-growth LGAs where population growth has outpaced facility provision.





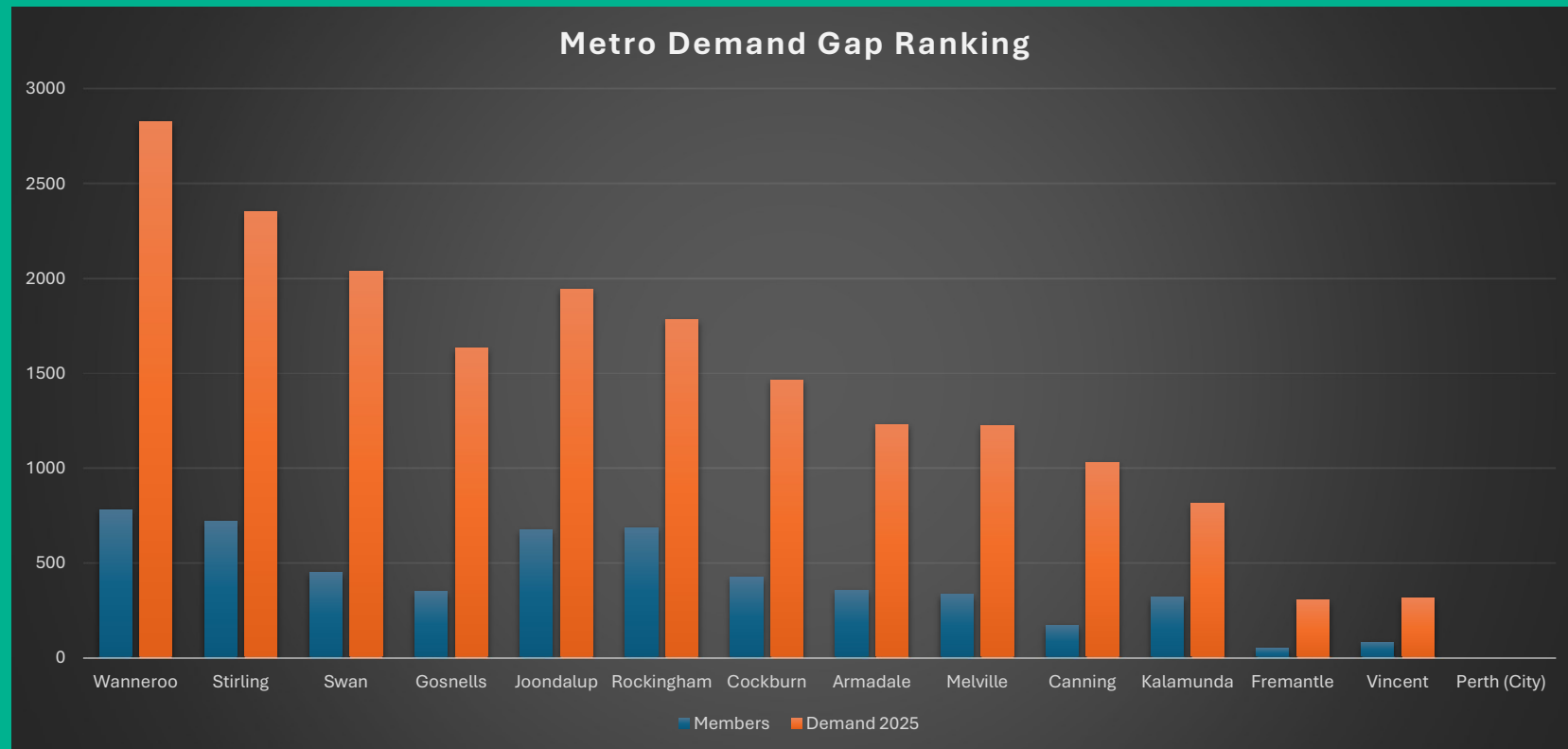
# Metro Demand Gaps: Overview (ActiveXchange)



# Metro Demand Gaps: Overview (ActiveXchange)

| LGA          | Members | Demand 2025 | Clubs / Notes                 | 21–24 priority | 25–28 action   |
|--------------|---------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wanneroo     | 779     | 2,826       | Kingsway (526) – AT CAPACITY  | ✓              | Hold           |
| Stirling     | 721     | 2,351       | Inglewood (494) – AT CAPACITY | ✓              | Hold           |
| Swan         | 451     | 2,040       | Ellenbrook (145)              | ✓              | Hold           |
| Gosnells     | 350     | 1,634       | Gosnells LAC (355)            | –              | Add            |
| Joondalup    | 673     | 1,945       | Joondalup (364)               | ✓              | Hold           |
| Rockingham   | 686     | 1,785       | Rockingham/Mandurah; Baldivis | ✓              | Hold           |
| Cockburn     | 424     | 1,465       | Cockburn (389)                | ✓              | Hold + deepen  |
| Armadale     | 356     | 1,230       | Dale (268)                    | –              | Add            |
| Melville     | 336     | 1,223       | –                             | –              | Add            |
| Canning      | 173     | 1,028       | Canning Districts (123)       | –              | Add            |
| Kalamunda    | 320     | 814         | –                             | Focus area     | Monitor        |
| Fremantle    | 49      | 305         | –                             | Focus area     | Targeted fixes |
| Vincent      | 81      | 318         | –                             | Focus area     | Targeted fixes |
| Perth (City) | 14      | 204         | CBD running activations       | –              | Program Access |

# Metro Demand Gap Ranking



The original priority LGAs continue to dominate the demand gap profile, while Gosnells and Armadale have emerged as clear new pressure points since the previous planning cycle.



## Metro Priority LGAs (2025-2028)

The original six priority LGAs from the 2021–24 plan—Wanneroo, Stirling, Swan, Joondalup, Rockingham, and Cockburn—continue to show the largest demand gaps and remain core areas for continued and deepened investment.

In addition, Gosnells, Armadale, Melville, and Canning have emerged as new or elevated priorities. These LGAs now demonstrate comparable unmet demand and represent critical growth corridors requiring earlier intervention.



# Metro Priority LGAs (2025-2028)

● Core hold/deepen priorities

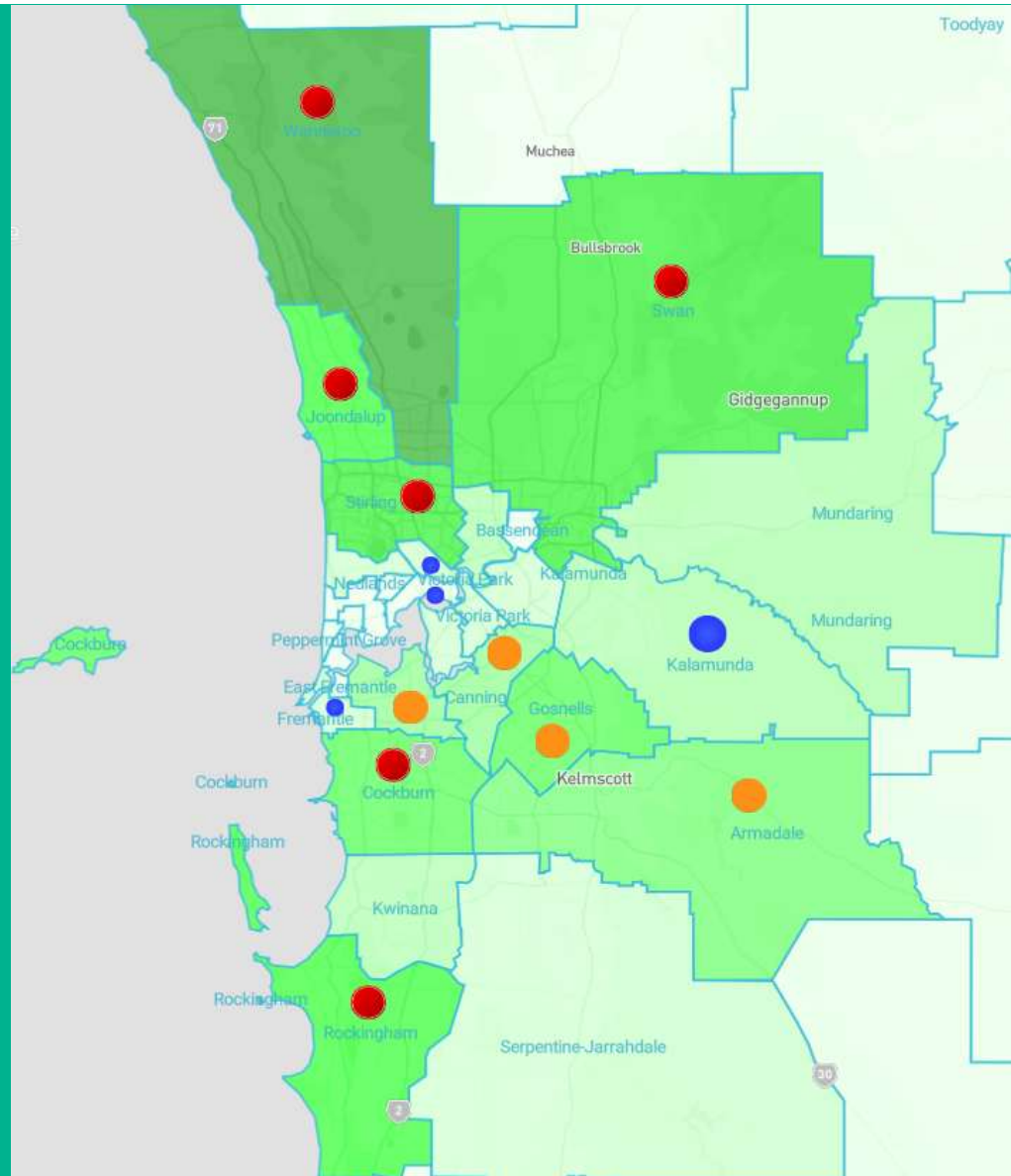
- Wanneroo
- Stirling
- Swan
- Joondalup
- Rockingham
- Cockburn

● New / elevated 2025-28 priorities

- Gosnells
- Armadale
- Melville
- Canning

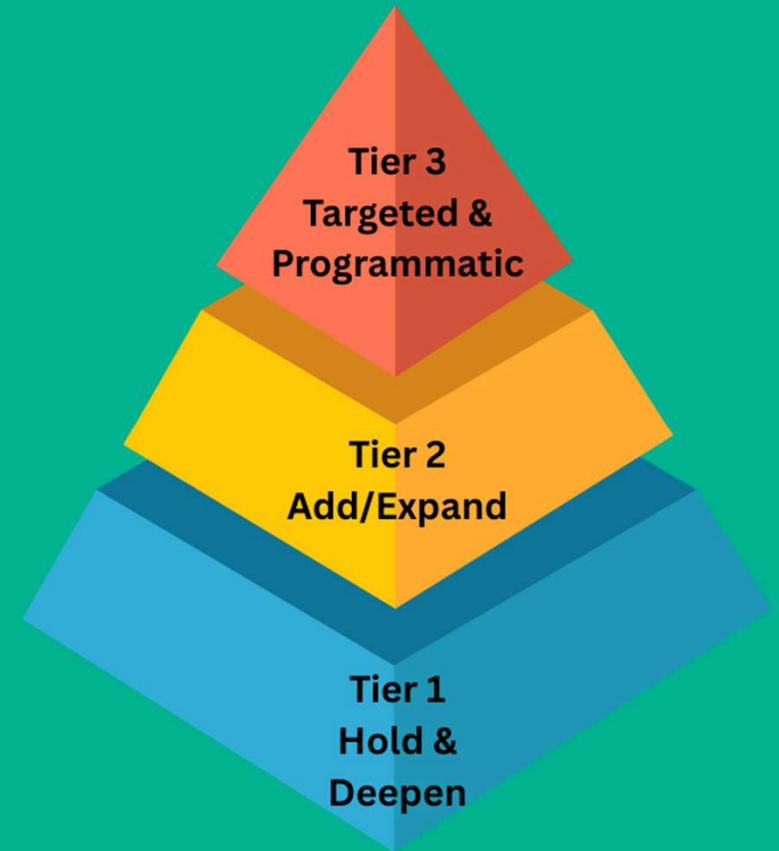
● Targeted / strategic fixes

- Kalamunda
- Vincent
- Fremantle
- Perth (CBD)



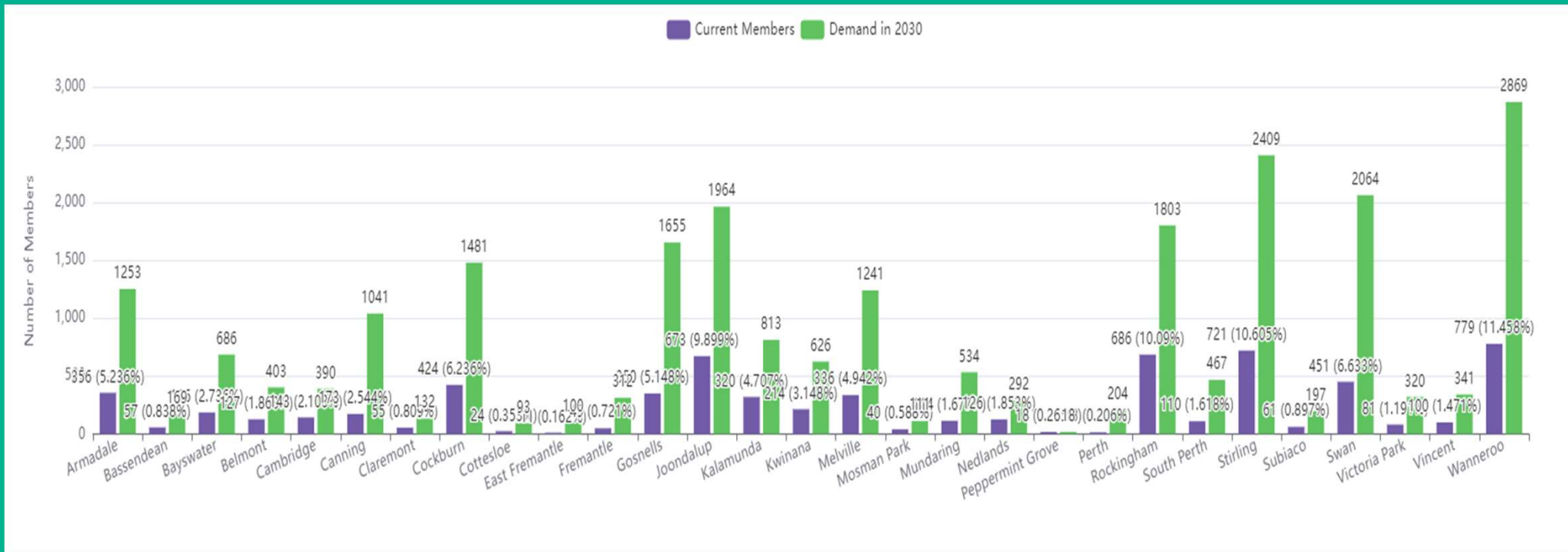
# 2025–28 Investment Framework

- Tier 3
  - Kalamunda, Vincent, Fremantle, Perth CBD
  - Lighting, storage, programming, activations
- Tier 2
  - Gosnells, Armadale, Melville, Canning
  - First-tranche upgrades and shared-use solutions
- Tier 1
  - Original six metro priorities
  - Focus on capacity relief, warm-up space, access windows





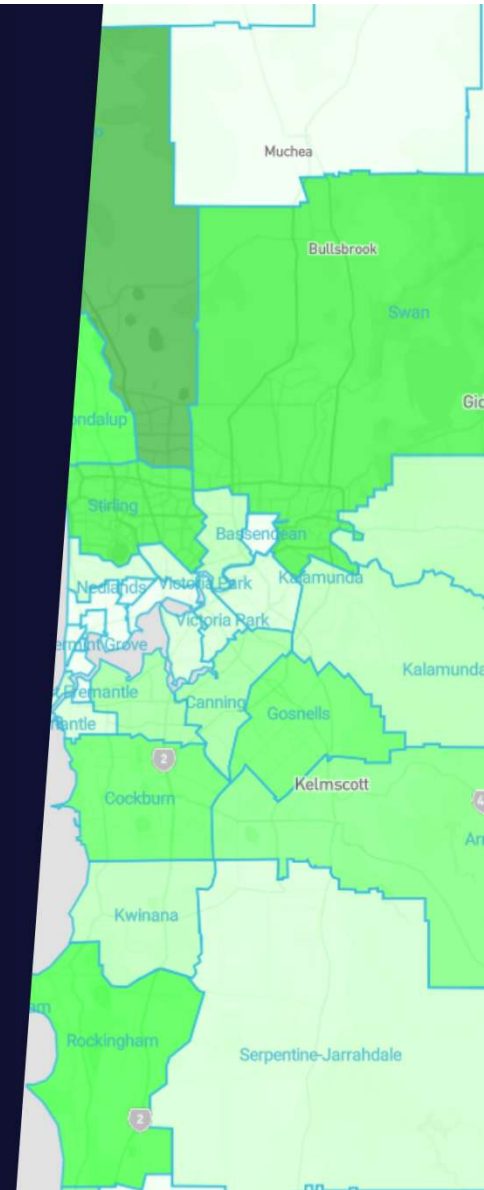
# Metro Demand Gaps: Overview (ActiveXChange)



# What's Changed Since 2021-2024

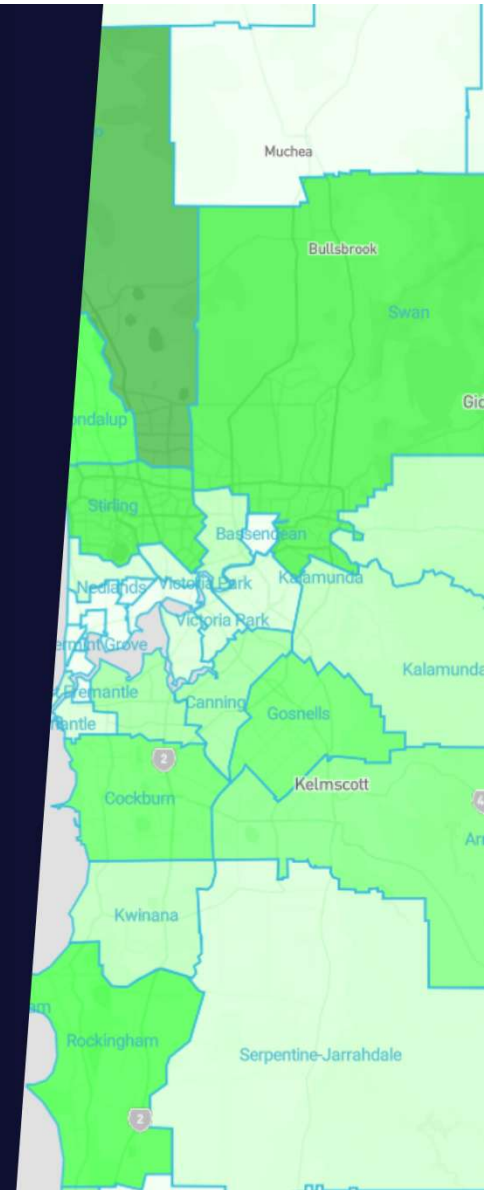
The 2025–28 data confirms the validity of prior priorities while also revealing important shifts. Demand pressure has intensified in the south-east growth corridor, extending the priority footprint beyond the original focus areas.

A continuous band of unmet demand has emerged south of the river, suggesting system-level benefits from coordinated, corridor-based facility upgrades rather than isolated interventions.



# What's Changed Since 2021-2024

- Original top six still show largest gaps
- South-east growth corridor pressure intensifying
- Continuous south-of-river demand band emerging
- Inner-metro LGAs remain strategic but with smaller gaps
- City of Perth shows low conversion, not infrastructure-heavy need





# Regional WA: Demand & Gaps

Regional Western Australia exhibits some of the largest unmet demand relative to membership, particularly in the Wheatbelt, MidWest/Gascoyne, Great Southern, Peel, and South West regions. Informal running participation is strong, but access to quality facilities and organised pathways remains limited.

This reinforces the need for flexible, multi-use regional models that support training, schools, and events rather than standalone competition venues.

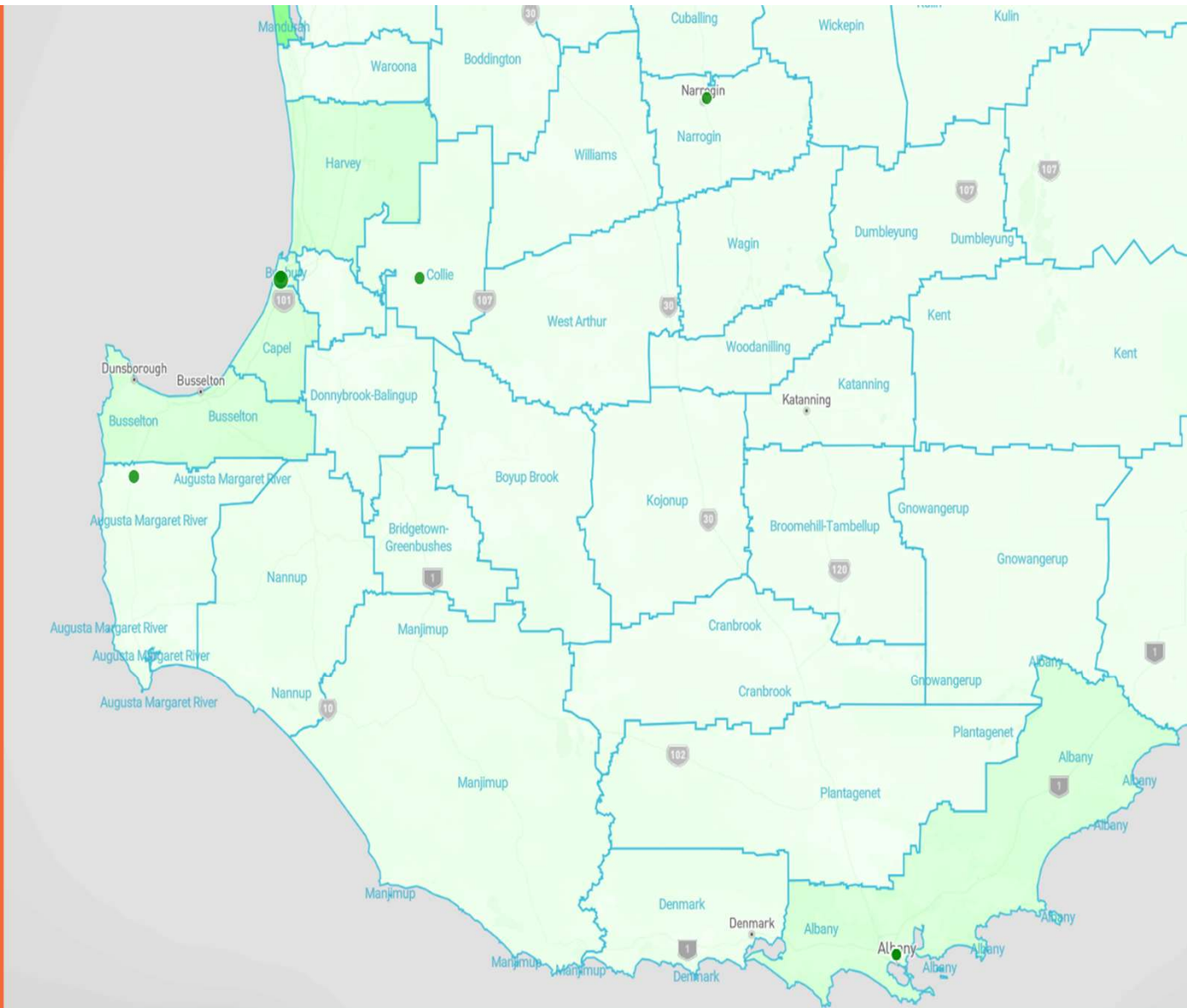
## Drivers

- Strong informal running participation
- Limited club access
- Inadequate or seasonal facilities



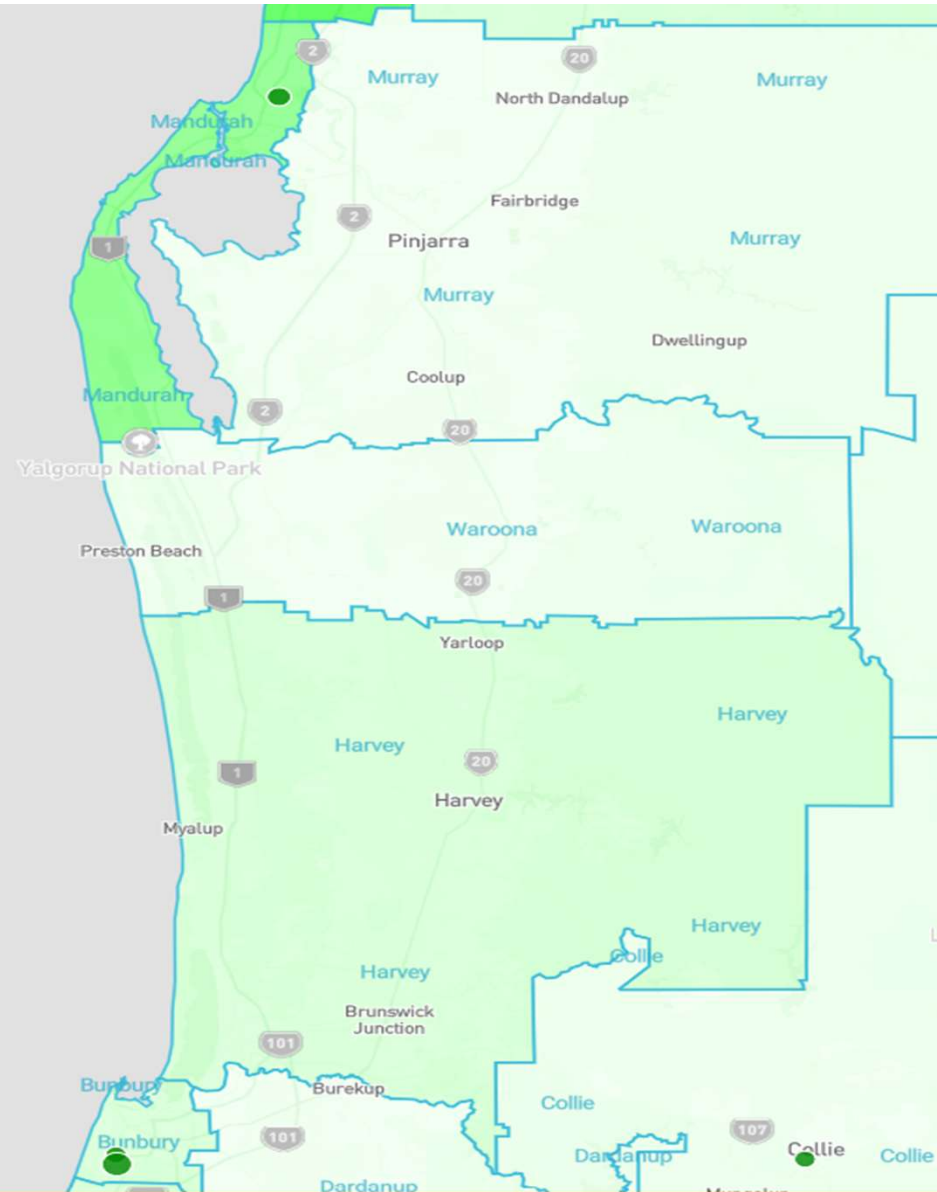
# Regional WA: Demand & Gaps (ActiveXchange)

## South West



# Regional WA: Demand & Gaps (ActiveXchange)

## Peel-Bunbury



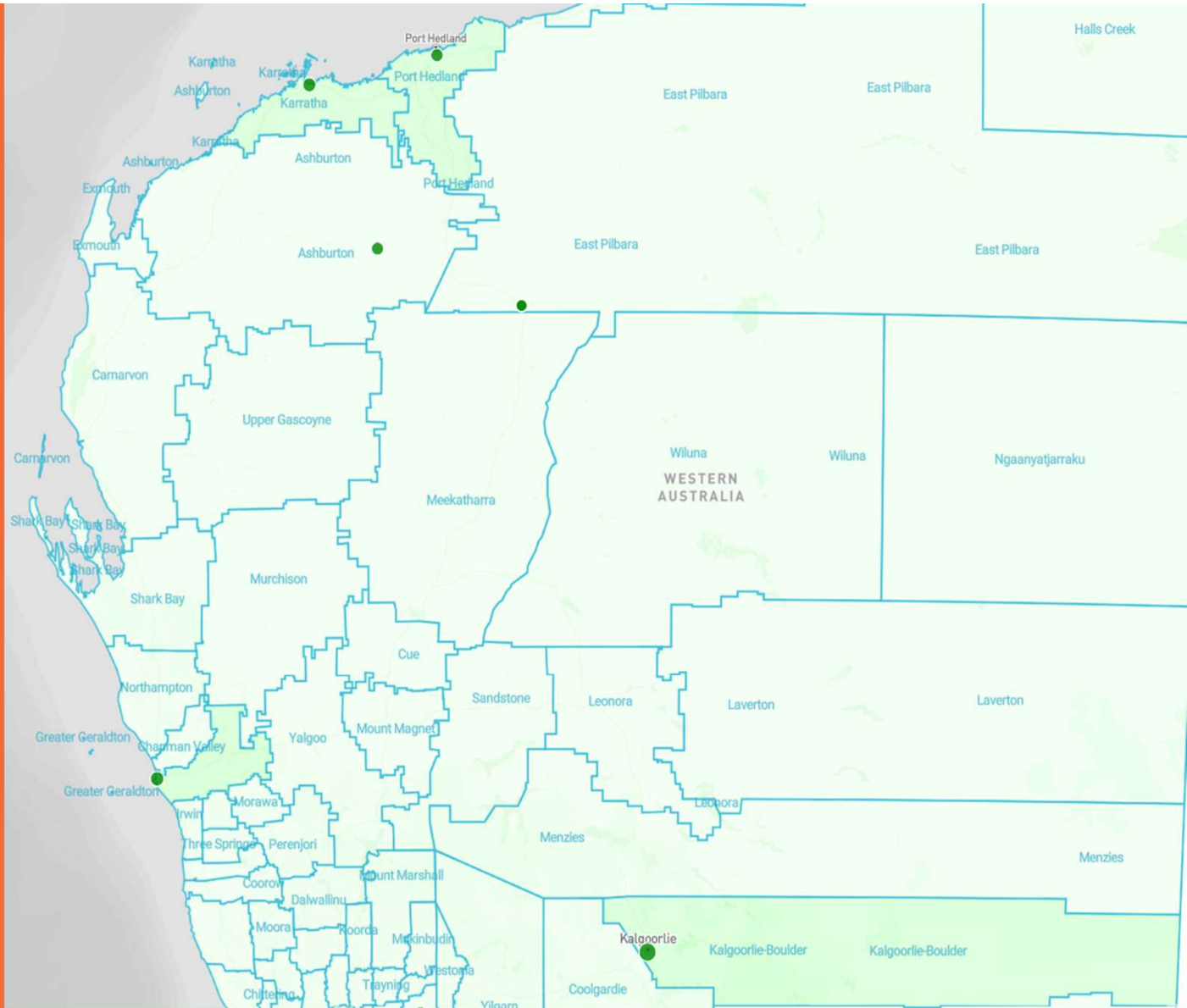


# Regional WA: Demand & Gaps

| Region/LGA                         | Members | Demand_2025 | Clubs / Notes                | Priority_21_24 | Priority_25_28 |
|------------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wheatbelt (Region)                 | 252     | 3,396       | Northam (135); Narrogin (56) | —              | Add            |
| South West (Region)                | 510     | 2,850       | —                            | —              | Add            |
| Peel (Region)                      | 375     | 1,946       | —                            | —              | Add            |
| Mid-West/Gascoyne (Region)         | 121     | 1,488       | Geraldton (115)              | —              | Add            |
| Great Southern (Region)            | 144     | 1,335       | Albany (115)                 | —              | Add            |
| Mandurah (LGA, Peel)               | 158     | 1,078       | —                            | —              | Add            |
| Margaret River/Augusta + Busselton | 110     | 821         | Capes AC (86)                | —              | Add            |

# Regional WA: Demand & Gaps (ActiveXChange)

## Midwest- Wheatbelt- Pilbara



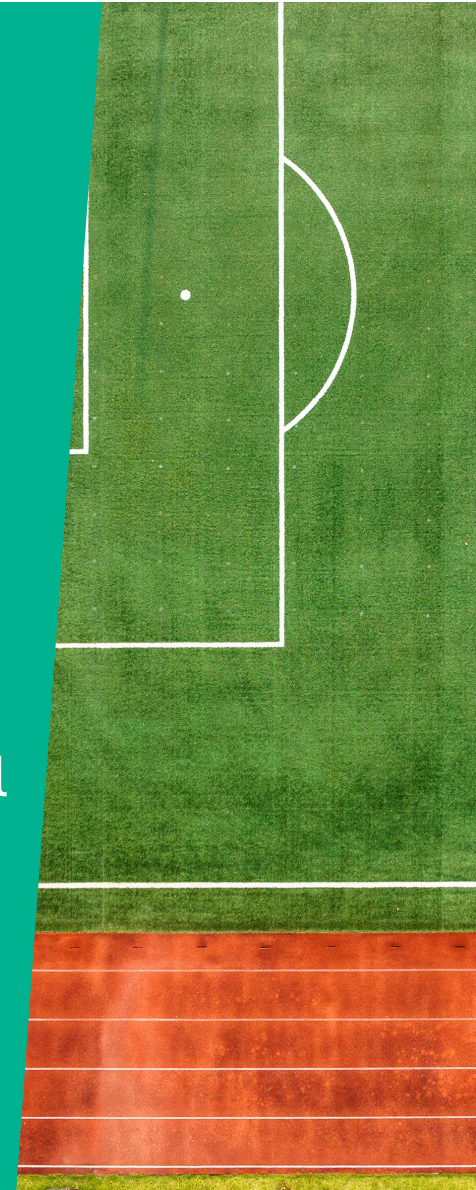
# Regional WA: Demand & Gaps



# Statewide Facility Strategy

Statewide, the strategy focuses on piloting satellite training hubs, upgrading shared-use regional ovals, and improving lighting and access windows to maximise year-round usability.

Facility design should intentionally support a spectrum of uses, from casual running and school carnivals to club training and pathway development, ensuring infrastructure investment aligns with actual participation behaviour.





# Warm Up Track Proposal (WA Athletics Stadium)

**Proponent:** Athletics West

**Location:** City of Cambridge multisport precinct

**Scope:** New warm-up track and field event areas

- Part of broader state facility readiness strategy
- Developed in collaboration with Venues West

**Rationale:**

- Essential requirement for national and international events
- Addresses congestion during major championships
- Supports simultaneous training and competition operations
- Enables elite and pathway athlete development



# Warm Up Track Proposal-Value Drivers

- Reinforces the Home of Athletics in WA
- Supports national & international event attraction
- Estimated \$1–2M economic benefit per annum
- Expands school and community access
- Improves inclusion and safety for para-athletes



# Warm Up Track Proposal-Planning Status & Readiness

The warm-up track project is at a concept-ready stage, with scope, benefits, and delivery pathways clearly articulated.

Athletics West and Venues West are positioning the project to ensure the WA Government is “project-ready” should capital funding opportunities arise.

The proposal aligns clearly with

- PlayOn WA 2030
- CSRFF
- State participation trends



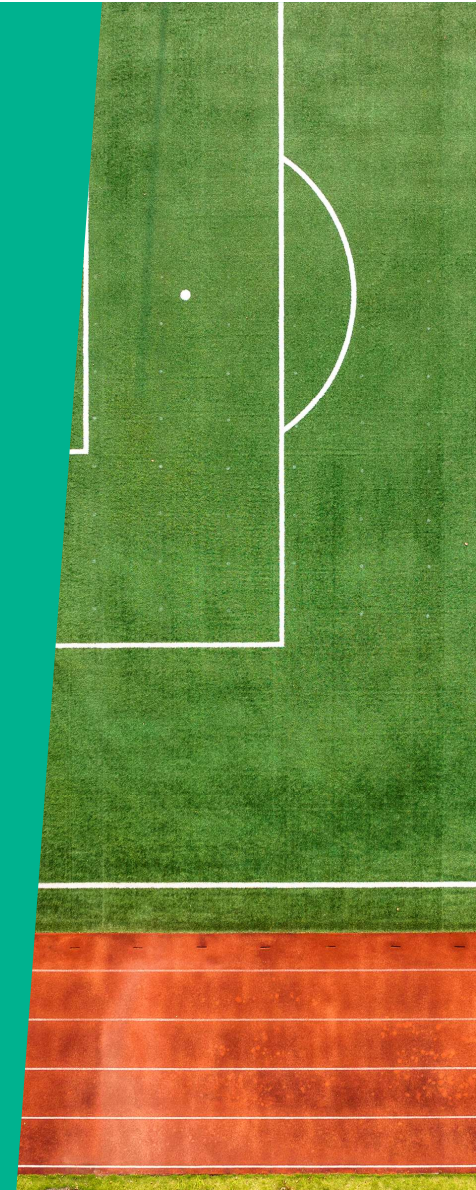


# Short Track Facilities

Athletics West has been consulting with Australian Athletics about complementary 'Short Track' Facilities in addition to 400m outdoor track facilities

## Advantages and Opportunities of short track facilities

- The land footprint is significantly smaller, creating opportunities to install athletics facilities on smaller parcels of land
- Lower construction and operating costs
- Lends itself more to co-location with other sporting activities
- The scale for 200m facility may afford more utility in other environments in particular schools





# WA Athletics Stadium Resurfacing (2027)

Athletics West and Venues West are progressing formal discussions regarding the planned track resurfacing program.

- Venues West has advised they are moving toward confirming Mondo as the preferred supplier for an 8-week resurfacing program in January–February 2027.
- The proposed scope and timing aligns with lifecycle, risk and performance assumptions within the 2025 State Facilities Plan.
- This approach supports asset optimisation, financial prudence and continuity of high-performance and community access.



# WA Athletics Stadium Resurfacing (2027)

Technical advice from Mondo and Spectrum Floors confirms the 2027 works will be limited to a 'retop-only' process.

- No asphalt reconstruction is required following the compliant substrate rebuild completed in 2022.
- This reduces overall project cost, shortens delivery timeframes, and accelerates athlete performance benefits on the new surface.
- Athletics West will maintain coordinated engagement with Venues West to manage risk, stakeholder expectations and delivery outcomes.



# Key Takeaways & Next Steps

Demand for athletics and running facilities continues to outpace supply across both metropolitan and regional WA. Recreational running participation is the primary driver of access pressure and must be explicitly considered in facility planning.

The 2025–2028 plan provides a clear, staged framework for investment, with defined priorities, scalable solutions, and a strong case for warm-up infrastructure as a critical system enabler.

## Drivers

- Metro and regional gaps both require action
- Warm-up infrastructure is a critical enabler
- Clear, staged priorities for 2025–28



# Thank You

Please reach out to Chris Crosby (GM-Business Services) at [chris@athleticswest.com.au](mailto:chris@athleticswest.com.au) if you have any further questions or enquiries

