

JULY 2026

NORTHERN TERRITORY ATHLETICS STRATEGIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Places to Participate. Places to Perform.

TREDWELL



Image: Rhonda Diano Oval



Image: Athletics NT

Acknowledgments

Athletics Northern Territory and Tredwell would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout the Northern Territory and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

Tredwell would like to thank the following people and/or organisations for their contribution to the development of the Northern Territory Athletics Strategic Facilities and Infrastructure Plan:

- Brad Cunnington, Director, Athletics Northern Territory
- Leanne Chin, Executive Officer, Athletics Northern Territory
- Adam Bishop, General Manager - Growth & Development, Australian Athletics
- Blake Steele, Participation Strategic Advisor, Australian Athletics
- Representatives of the Northern Territory Athletics Clubs

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Athletics plays an important role in supporting community health, participation, talent development and active lifestyles across the Northern Territory. As the recognised peak body for athletics in the Northern Territory, Athletics Northern Territory (ANT) delivers participation opportunities ranging from grassroots and school based programs through to high performance competition pathways. The Northern Territory Athletics Strategic Facilities and Infrastructure Plan (NTASFIP) has been prepared to provide a coordinated, evidence-based framework to guide future investment, renewal and development of athletics facilities across the Northern Territory over the next 10 years.

The NTASFIP responds to changing participation patterns, population growth, ageing infrastructure and the need to provide inclusive, accessible and sustainable facilities that support participation for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. It establishes a clear direction for facility provision, identifies infrastructure gaps and opportunities, and provides ANT with a strategic platform to advocate for future investment and partnerships.

Planning Precincts

To support a comprehensive assessment of athletics facility provision, demand and future infrastructure requirements across the Northern Territory, the NTASFIP adopts a precinct based planning approach. Eight planning precincts have been established, aligned with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) boundaries and demographic data utilised by Profile.id. This framework enables the analysis of population, demographic characteristics, projected growth, and key social and economic indicators across the Territory. The precincts comprise Darwin City & Darwin Suburbs, Palmerston, Litchfield, Alice Springs, Katherine, Barkly, Daly–Tiwi–West Arnhem and East Arnhem, providing a consistent basis for assessing current facility provision, identifying service gaps and prioritising future investment.

Facility Hierarchy

The Northern Territory affiliated athletics facility network comprises:

- Arafura Stadium (Darwin) – Regional
- Rhonda Diano Oval (Alice Springs) – District
- Freds Pass Recreation Reserve, Katherine Sports Ground, and Tennant Creek Primary School – Local.

Facility Audit and Consultation

The facility audit, stakeholder consultation and club survey identified that while the existing athletics network provides an important foundation for participation across the Northern Territory, many facilities require renewal and supporting infrastructure upgrades. Key issues include ageing infrastructure, accessibility barriers, limited shade, inadequate storage, non-compliant changerooms, lack of universally accessible showers, the need for improved lighting, technical athletics infrastructure and more sustainable, climate responsive facility design.

Participation trends indicate growing demand for athletics and recreational running, while projected population growth in key regions, particularly Palmerston, where the population is forecast to increase by approximately 61% by 2041, reinforces the need for targeted investment in existing facilities and investigation of future athletics infrastructure provision.

Vision



To create a thriving, inclusive and sustainable athletics network across the Northern Territory that encourages participation for everyone, regardless of age, ability, background or aspiration level. Through strategic planning and investment, Athletics Northern Territory will deliver accessible and high quality athletics facilities that support active and healthy communities, lifelong participation, social connection and athlete development pathways, while creating opportunities for Territorians to participate, compete and aspire to national, Paralympic and Olympic success.

Strategy and Action Plan

The NTASFIP identifies eleven strategic directions that will guide future facility planning, investment and advocacy across the Northern Territory. To support implementation, each strategy has been assigned a priority rating of major project, high, medium, lower or ongoing priority, reflecting the strategic importance, scale and complexity of the recommended actions and providing a framework for staged delivery over the next 10 years.

High Priorities

Strategy 1: Work in partnership with the Northern Territory Government to support the ongoing renewal, enhancement and activation of Arafura Stadium in Darwin as the Northern Territory's premier athletics facility.

Strategy 2: Advocate for the short term renewal and improvement of athletics infrastructure at Rhonda Diano Oval, while investigating the long term opportunity to develop a contemporary athletics hub within the future Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct in Alice Springs.

Major Project

Strategy 3: Advocate for and support the development of an affiliated athletics facility within the Palmerston region to support current and future population growth.

Medium Priorities

Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with The Fred Pass Sport & Recreation Board and precinct stakeholders to improve the functionality, accessibility and shared use outcomes of Freds Pass Recreation Reserve for athletics.

Strategy 5: Support the ongoing sustainability and improvement of the athletics facility within Tennant Creek through collaborative partnerships, incremental infrastructure upgrades and community-based participation initiatives.

Strategy 6: Advocate for and support the ongoing renewal, improvement and sustainable delivery of athletics facilities and participation opportunities within the Katherine region through collaborative partnerships, shared use planning and community based initiatives.

Lower Priorities

Strategy 7: Support the development and improvement of shared-use athletics and active recreation infrastructure across the Daly–Tiwi–West Arnhem and East Arnhem regions through partnerships, school-based facilities and community recreation initiatives.

Ongoing Priorities

Strategy 8: Support affiliated clubs and athletics providers through governance, volunteer, workforce and operational capacity building initiatives.

Strategy 9: Promote shared-use, multi-purpose and flexible infrastructure approaches to maximise the sustainability and utilisation of athletics facilities across the Northern Territory.

Strategy 10: Improve accessibility, inclusion and equitable participation outcomes within athletics facilities and infrastructure across the Northern Territory.

Strategy 11: Encourage sustainable, climate responsive and durable athletics infrastructure outcomes suited to Northern Territory conditions.

Conclusion

The NTASFIP provides a clear roadmap for the future development of athletics infrastructure across the Northern Territory. The NTASFIP recognises the importance of maintaining and renewing existing facilities, addressing identified service gaps, supporting participation growth and ensuring all Territorians have access to safe, inclusive and contemporary athletics infrastructure. Through strategic partnerships, targeted investment and a coordinated approach to facility planning and delivery, ANT will be well positioned to develop a sustainable, accessible and fit-for-purpose athletics facility network that responds to future participation demand, population growth and community needs.

01

Introduction



Image: Australian Athletics - Briseis Brittain (Para Athlete)

Project Overview

Athletics plays an important role in supporting community health, participation, talent development and active lifestyles across the Northern Territory. As participation trends, population growth and facility expectations continue to evolve, there is a growing need to ensure athletics infrastructure is planned strategically and sustainably to meet current and future demand.

This Northern Territory Athletics Strategic Facilities and Infrastructure Plan (NTASFIP) will provide a coordinated, evidence-based framework to guide the future development, upgrade and management of athletics facilities across the Northern Territory. The NTASFIP will consider existing facility provision, participation trends, demographic changes and regional needs to identify opportunities for investment and improved access to athletics infrastructure. Importantly, the project will support Athletics Northern Territory (ANT) in advocating for future funding and partnerships, while helping to strengthen the long term sustainability and growth of athletics participation across the Northern Territory.

The following project objectives have informed the development of the NTASFIP:

- Establish a clear understanding of the current state of athletics facilities, their quality, usage, condition, and capacity.
- Identify current and future facility provision gaps based on participation data, school networks, demographic projections, and population growth.
- Develop an evidence-based prioritisation of locations and facilities for investment & upgrades.
- Provide a strategic framework to guide future investment decisions and advocacy with local, state & federal governments.
- Explore facility options, including considerations for short track (200m) facilities in certain areas to complement full size/scale venues.
- Explore and recommend operational and funding models to support sustainable facility development and management.

Methodology

To achieve the project objectives, a four stage methodology was used to guide the preparation of the NTASFIP. The four stage project methodology included:

- 
- Stage 1: Project Start-up and Background Review
 - Stage 2: Facility Audit and Mapping Consultation
 - Stage 3: Demand, Gap and Needs Analysis
 - Stage 4: Strategy Development

Definition

Athletics is a sport comprising a range of track and field disciplines, including running, walking, jumping and throwing events, governed internationally by the rules and standards of World Athletics.

Vision



To create a thriving, inclusive and sustainable athletics network across the Northern Territory that encourages participation for everyone, regardless of age, ability, background or aspiration level. Through strategic planning and investment, Athletics Northern Territory will deliver accessible and high quality athletics facilities that support active and healthy communities, lifelong participation, social connection and athlete development pathways, while creating opportunities for Territorians to participate, compete and aspire to national, Paralympic and Olympic success.

Athletics Northern Territory

Athletics Northern Territory (ANT) is the peak body for athletics in the Northern Territory and the recognised state member association of Australian Athletics. As a not-for-profit, community focused organisation, ANT delivers athletics competitions, programs and services that support participation, development and performance pathways for people of all ages and abilities across the Northern Territory.

The organisation facilitates regular track and field competition throughout the year and works collaboratively with affiliated clubs to provide opportunities for training, coaching, competition and community engagement. ANT fosters an inclusive and welcoming athletics environment that encourages participation at all levels, from recreational involvement through to high performance pathways.

Clubs

The following clubs are currently affiliated with ANT:

- Alice Springs Athletics
- Alice Springs Running & Walking Club
- Darwin Athletics Club Inc
- Katherine Athletics Club
- Mature Athletes Darwin (MAD Frogs)
- Rural Athletics Centre
- Rapid Creek Track Club
- Tennant Creek Athletics Club

The Palmerston Athletics Club and Darwin Runners and Walkers Inc currently operate outside the ANT affiliation structure.

Club and National Calendar

The ANT 2026 calendar demonstrates a diverse range of athletics events conducted across the Northern Territory, including regular club competitions, school athletics carnivals, regional meets, development programs, fun runs, community participation events, championship events and high-performance competitions.

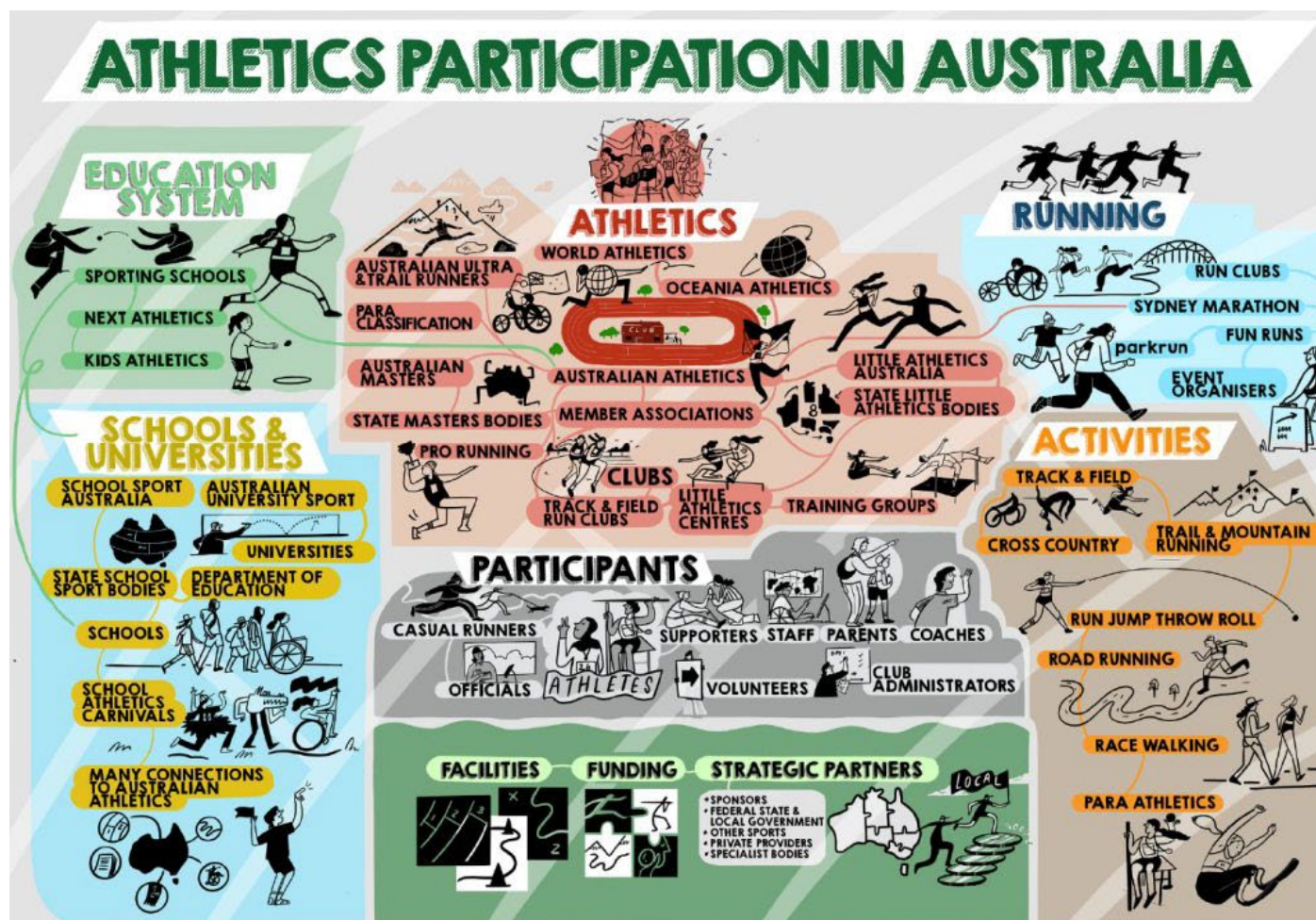
The calendar also highlights the geographic spread of athletics activity across the Northern Territory, with events occurring in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and other regional locations. Collectively, the calendar reflects the important role athletics plays in supporting participation pathways from grassroots and school based involvement through to territory, national and international level competition.

	Athletics Northern Territory Calendar 2026	
	Dates/times/events subject to change at short notice.	
DATE	NT EVENTS	LOCATION
21st-23rd January	Australian Athletics Wheelchair Championships	AIS Athletics Track, Canberra
25th-26th January	Australian Athletics 10,000m Race Walking Championships	AIS Athletics track, Bruce, Canberra
26th January	OZ RUN	Darwin Waterfront
1st February	Welcome Back Mpartntwe (ASRWC)	Simpson's gap Foot Path/flynn's grave End
7th February	Australian Athletics Short Track Championships	Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park, Melbourne
7th February	DEFENCE EXPO	Darwin WaterFront
14th February	FEB FIT	Palmerston Shopping centre
21st-22nd February	Australian Athletics 100km Championships	Parklands, Canberra
28th February	ANT - MEET 1 (Track) 60m, 100m, 200m, 800m, 2000m Steeplechase, Hammer	Arafura Stadium
March- TBC	Youth Athletics - Skill based Activity (12yrs+)	Arafura Stadium
8th March	Trail run CD National Park/West macs Monster qualife (RCTC)	Charles Darwin National Park
March-TBC	Youth Athletics - Skill based Activity (12yrs+)	Arafura Stadium
15th March	Australian Athletics Half Marathon Race Walking Championships	War Memorial Drive, Adelaide
16th March	RAC Come and Try (#1)	Freds Pass
18th March	RAC Come and Try (#2)	Freds Pass
21st March	RAC Come and Try (#3)	Freds Pass
21st March	ANT MEET 2 100m, 400m, Long Jump, Hammer, Discus	Arafura Stadium
27th-29th March	Australian Athletics Mountain Running Championships	Runaway/ Mount Wellington, Tasmania
28th March	RAC MEET 1	Freds Pass
11th April	RAC MEET 2	Freds Pass
9th-12th April	Australian Athletics Open & Para Championship	Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre, Sydney
18th April	RAC MEET 3	Freds Pass
15th-20th April	Australian Athletics Junior & Para Championship	Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre, Nathan, QLD
20th April	Flynn's Grave Dash: The ASRWC 5 & 10k Championship	Flynn's Grave
24th April	DAC/ANT MEET 3 60m, 100m, 400m, 800m, Long Jump, Shot Put, Javelin	Arafura Stadium
25th April	Australian Athletics Road Mile Championships	Ballarat, Victoria
7th May	3KM Handicap (RCTC)	Arafura Stadium
8th May	RAC MEET 4	Freds Pass
9th May	ANT MEET 4 60m, 200m, 800m, High Jump, Triple Jump, Discus	Arafura Stadium
10th May	Mother's Day Classic	Darwin Waterfront

Athletics Participation in Australia

The figure below presents Australian Athletics visual representation of the athletics participation ecosystem in Australia. The graphic illustrates the extensive network of participants, clubs, schools, universities, volunteers, coaches, officials, facilities, funding partners, event organisers and governing bodies that collectively support athletics participation across the country. It demonstrates that athletics extends far beyond traditional track and field competition, encompassing activities such as road running, cross country, trail running, race walking, para athletics and community based participation programs.

The visualisation highlights the interconnected nature of the athletics sector and the importance of collaboration between national, state and local organisations to support participation pathways and sustainable growth. It also reinforces the critical role that facilities and infrastructure play within the broader athletics ecosystem, providing the foundation that enables participation, training, competition, talent development and community engagement. The NTASFIP contributes to this broader vision by identifying opportunities to strengthen the Northern Territory's athletics infrastructure network and support accessible, inclusive and sustainable participation outcomes across all levels of the sport.



Source: LinkedIn Adam Bishop, GM Growth & Development at Australian Athletics

Strategic Direction

Key strategic and planning documents have been reviewed to inform the development of the NTASFIP. A summary of the documents reviewed is provided in Appendix A and includes, but is not limited to the following:

Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan, 2026 - 2034



Australia's Sport Participation Strategy, PLAYWELL Everyone has a place in sport, 2023



PLAYWELL Everyone has a place in sport, National Community Sport Infrastructure, Places to Play Plan, 2026



Northern Territory Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan: 2021 - 2025



Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct Master Plan, Northern Territory Government, 2025



Litchfield Council Netball Courts, Litchfield Council, 2025



AusPlay, A New Picture of How Australians Get Active, Australian Government, Australian Sports Commission, 2025



Australian Athletics, Short Track Facilities Overview and Guidance, 2026



Participation Trends

AusPlay

Data sourced from AusPlay and represented in the NT Data Tables (30 April 2026) for Participation by Activity (adults) and (Children) identified an estimated relative margin of error greater than 100% for activities including athletics, track and field, and running/jogging. As a result, the Northern Territory specific data has been deemed statistically unreliable and has not been utilised within this analysis.

National AusPlay survey results (January 2025 – December 2025) indicates that athletics at a national level, ranks 20th for adults with 1.3% participation. Adult participation was higher amongst males (1.7%) compared to females (0.9%).

Running/jogging ranks fourth for adults at the national level with a 17% participation rate.

In contrast, athletics and track and field participation amongst children ranked 10th nationally with a participation rate of 3.2%, demonstrating stronger engagement in younger age groups. Female participation (3.8%) exceeded male participation (2.8%), suggesting athletics has comparatively balanced and inclusive appeal amongst children when compared to a number of traditional team sports.

National - Participation by activity (adults)

Rank	Activity	Total %	Males %	Females %
1	Walking	50	43	58
2	Fitness/Gym	34	33	35
3	Bush walking	18	16	17
4	Running/jogging	17	19	14
5	Swimming	15	15	16
6	Cycling	8	10	6
7	Pilates	7	1	13
8	Football/soccer	6	9	3
9	Yoga	5	2	9
10	Tennis	5	6	4
20	Athletics, track and field	1.3	1.7	0.9

National - Participation by activity (children)

Rank	Activity	Total %	Males %	Females %
1	Swimming	23	22	24
2	Football/soccer	14	21	7
3	Basketball	7	9	5
4	Gymnastics	7	3	11
5	Australian football	6	9	3
6	Dancing (recreational)	6	1	11
7	Netball	5	1	10
8	Tennis	4	4	4
9	Cricket	3	5	1
10	Athletics, track and field	3.2	2.8	3.8



Image: Athletics NT - Sideline Images

Athletics Northern Territory Club Membership

Participation across ANT clubs has generally increased in recent years, particularly since 2023, indicating growing interest and engagement in athletics and running/walking based activities across the Northern Territory. ANT recorded strong growth, increasing from 10 participants in 2020 to 137 participants in 2025, while Darwin Athletics Club consistently maintained high participation and reached the highest membership figure in 2025 with 261 participants. Alice Springs Running & Walking Club also demonstrated consistently strong participation across the six-year period, exceeding 200 participants in both 2024 and 2025.

Rapid Creek Track Club demonstrated rapid growth, increasing from 40 participants in 2023 to 172 participants in 2025, suggesting increasing demand for athletics opportunities within the Darwin region.

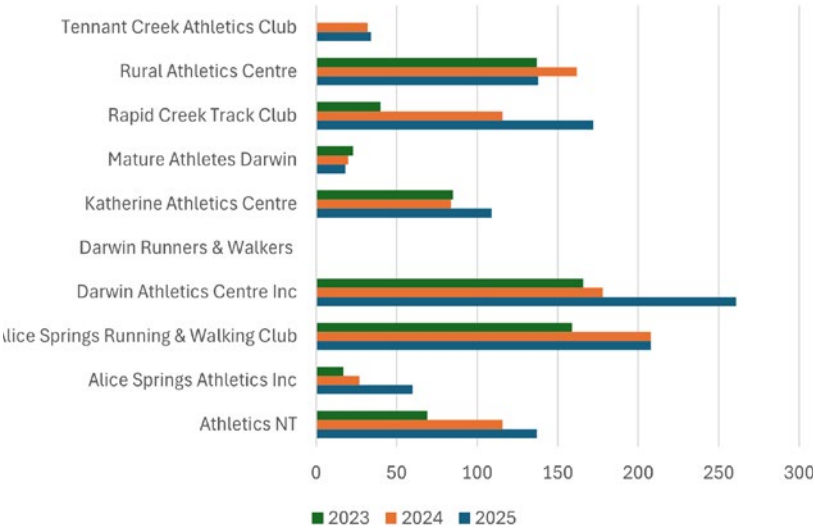
Regional organisations including Alice Springs Athletics and Rural Athletics Centre maintained relatively stable participation levels over the five year period. Katherine Athletics Club has experienced significant growth over the same period.

Mature Athletes Darwin contribute to the diversity of participation pathways available across the Northern Territory athletics sector.

Athletics Club Membership Numbers 2020 - 2025

Organisation Name	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Growth '23 to '25
Athletics NT	10	52	17	69	116	137	+99%
Alice Springs Athletics Inc	72	75	0	17	27	60	+253%
Alice Springs Running & Walking Club	195	148	163	159	208	208	+30%
Darwin Athletics Club Inc	177	164	151	166	178	261	+57%
Darwin Runners & Walkers Inc	204	195	193				
Katherine Athletics Club	65	84	72	85	84	109	+28%
Mature Athletes Darwin	10		19	23	20	18	-22%
Rapid Creek Track Club		13		40	116	172	+330%
Rural Athletics Centre	107	156	155	137	162	138	+1%
Tennant Creek Athletics Club					32	34	+6%

NT Athletics Club Membership Numbers 2023 - 2025



Growth of Running Participation

The growth of social running and run clubs has become a significant participation trend across Australia, with running increasingly viewed not only as exercise, but also as a social and lifestyle activity. National participation trends have identified continued growth in activities such as running, walking and fitness based recreation over the past decade. AusPlay research identified that more than 3.7 million Australians participate in recreational running, highlighting the growing popularity of accessible and flexible physical activity.

The popularity of run clubs has accelerated in recent years, particularly amongst younger adults, with social connection, mental health, affordability and wellness identified as key drivers. Community led run clubs are rapidly expanding across Australia, supported by social media, inclusiveness and opportunities for community connection.

This trend is also evident within the Northern Territory, particularly in Darwin, where social running groups and clubs continue to emerge and expand. Organisations such as Darwin Runners and Walkers and local Parkrun events provide accessible and low cost participation opportunities for a broad range of ages and abilities. Established organisations such as Darwin Runners and Walkers further demonstrate the long standing popularity of recreational running within the Northern Territory through regular events, social participation opportunities and pathways for both casual and competitive runners. The appeal of these groups is driven by the flexibility of participation, minimal equipment requirements, social connectivity, and alignment with the Northern Territory lifestyle and climate. Increasing awareness of health and wellbeing, together with the influence of digital platforms such as Strava and Instagram, has further enhanced the growth and visibility of running culture across the Northern Territory.



Image: Darwin Runners Walker Inc Facebook

02

Facility Audit and Mapping



Image: Arafura Stadium

Planning Precincts

To support a comprehensive analysis of athletic facility issues and opportunities across the Northern Territory, eight ‘precincts’ have been used to categorise geographic areas.

These precincts are aligned with the SA3 precincts created by the ABS and utilised by Profile.id which provides data for the region relating to population, demographics, projected growth, economic and social indicators based off the ABS Census:

- Darwin City & Darwin Suburbs
- Litchfield
- Palmerston
- Alice Springs
- Barkly
- Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem
- East Arnhem
- Katherine.

The following demographic profile provides a summary of key characteristics for each precinct, including:

- Current population (2024)
- Projected population (2040–41)
- Median age
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population
- Overseas-born population.

Current demographic information has been sourced from the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Region Summary profiles*, while projected population data has been sourced from the *Northern Territory Population Projections 2024 Release*.

Demographic and Regional Context

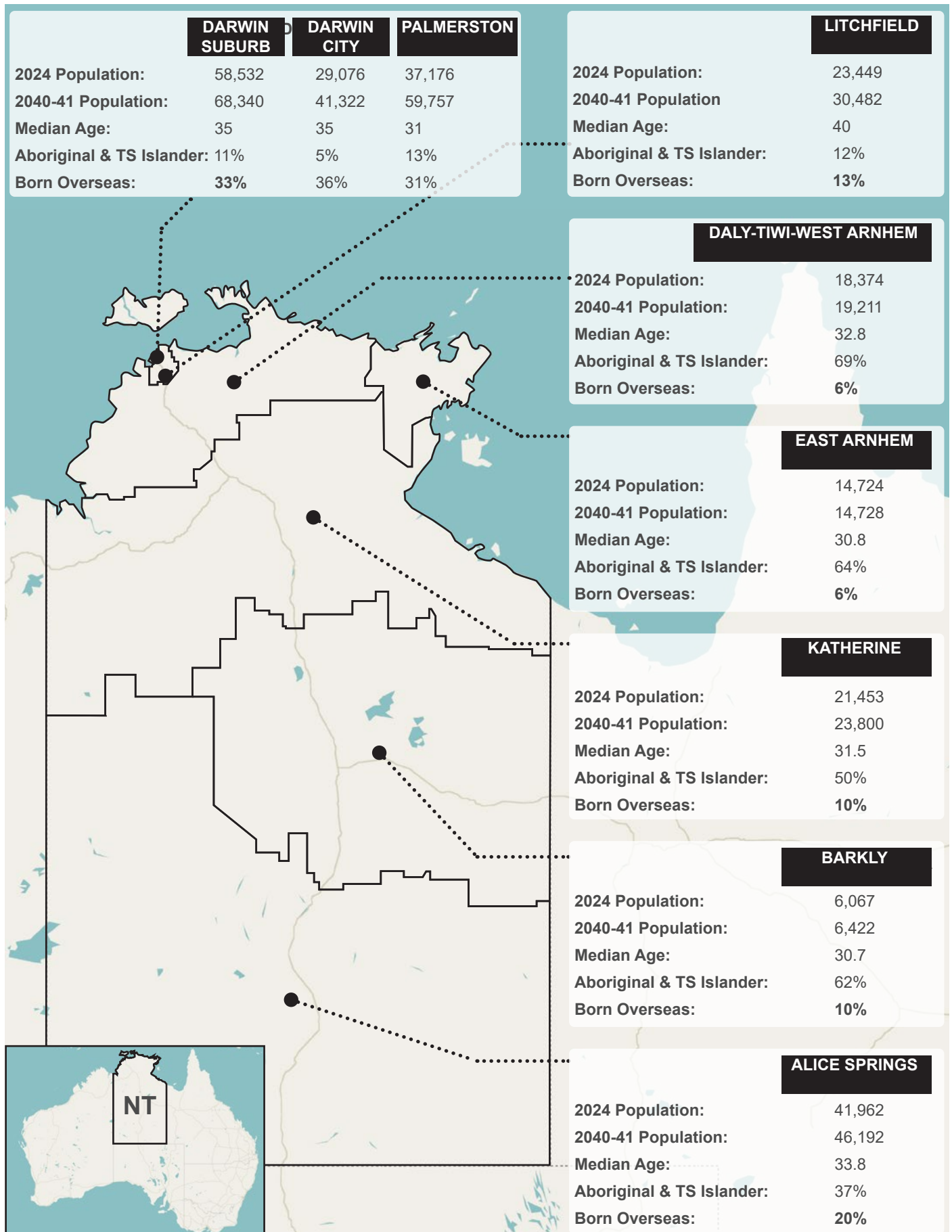
The Northern Territory presents a diverse demographic and geographic profile that has important implications for the future planning and provision of athletics facilities and infrastructure. The Darwin region, including Darwin City, Darwin Suburbs and Litchfield, together with Alice Springs, represent the Territory’s key population centres and projected growth areas, with strong population increases forecast through to 2040–41. These areas also demonstrate comparatively high proportions of overseas born residents, reinforcing the importance of providing accessible, inclusive and flexible athletics infrastructure capable of supporting participation across diverse communities and age groups.

Regional and remote precincts including Katherine, Barkly, Daly–Tiwi–West Arnhem and East Arnhem display younger median age profiles and significantly higher proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations compared to the Darwin region. These demographic characteristics reinforce the importance of athletics as an accessible and community based sport capable of supporting health, wellbeing, youth participation and social outcomes across remote and regional communities.

While some regional areas are forecast to experience modest population growth, others are projected to remain relatively stable, highlighting the need for a balanced and sustainable approach to facility investment.

The broad geographic distribution of population centres across the Northern Territory also reinforces the importance of a hierarchical athletics facility network ranging from local community-based facilities through to territory/ nationally significant venues. Ensuring facilities are appropriately distributed, accessible and aligned with contemporary athletics standards will be important to supporting participation pathways, talent development, competition delivery and event attraction across the Northern Territory. The following image illustrates the planning precincts and key demographics.

Planning Precincts & Key Demographics



Audit Process

Prior to undertaking the site audits, the first step of the process was to identify all existing athletics facilities for inclusion in the facilities inventory. This initial audit process involved comprehensive desktop research and collation and review of information regarding the existing facilities in the Northern Territory. Aerial mapping programs were used to confirm the existence of each athletics facility.

The subsequent site audits were undertaken in Darwin and Alice Springs. The site audits provided a detailed understanding of the athletics facilities across including their condition, functionality, and key infrastructure. The site audits also helped to verify the key issues and opportunities.

Facility Inventory

The facilities inventory of existing athletics facilities across the Northern Territory have been prepared based on information drawn from:

- Athletics Northern Territory website
- Key documents
- Aerial imagery
- Site visits and audits of key facilities
- Consultation.

The facilities inventory does not include the following types of facilities:

- Parks and Reserves (i.e. Natural areas)
- School facilities without an affiliated athletics club.

Facility by Locality

Athletics clubs affiliated with ANT across the Northern Territory are currently serviced by the following facilities:

Facilities by Locality (Profile.ID Precincts)

Darwin City & Darwin Suburbs	
Arafura Stadium	• Darwin Athletics Club Inc • Rapid Creek Track Club • Mature Athletes of Darwin
Litchfield	
Freds Pass Recreation Reserve	• Rural Athletics Centre
Alice Springs	
Rhonda Diano Oval	• Alice Springs Athletics • Alice Springs Running and Walking Club (training/storage only)
Note: Alice Springs Running and Walking Club utilises a range of trails and reserves for training and events (i.e. Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and the West MacDonnell Ranges)	
Katherine	
Katherine Sports Ground	• Katherine Athletics Club
Barkly	
Tennant Creek Primary School	• Tennant Creek Athletics Club
Purkiss Reserve	

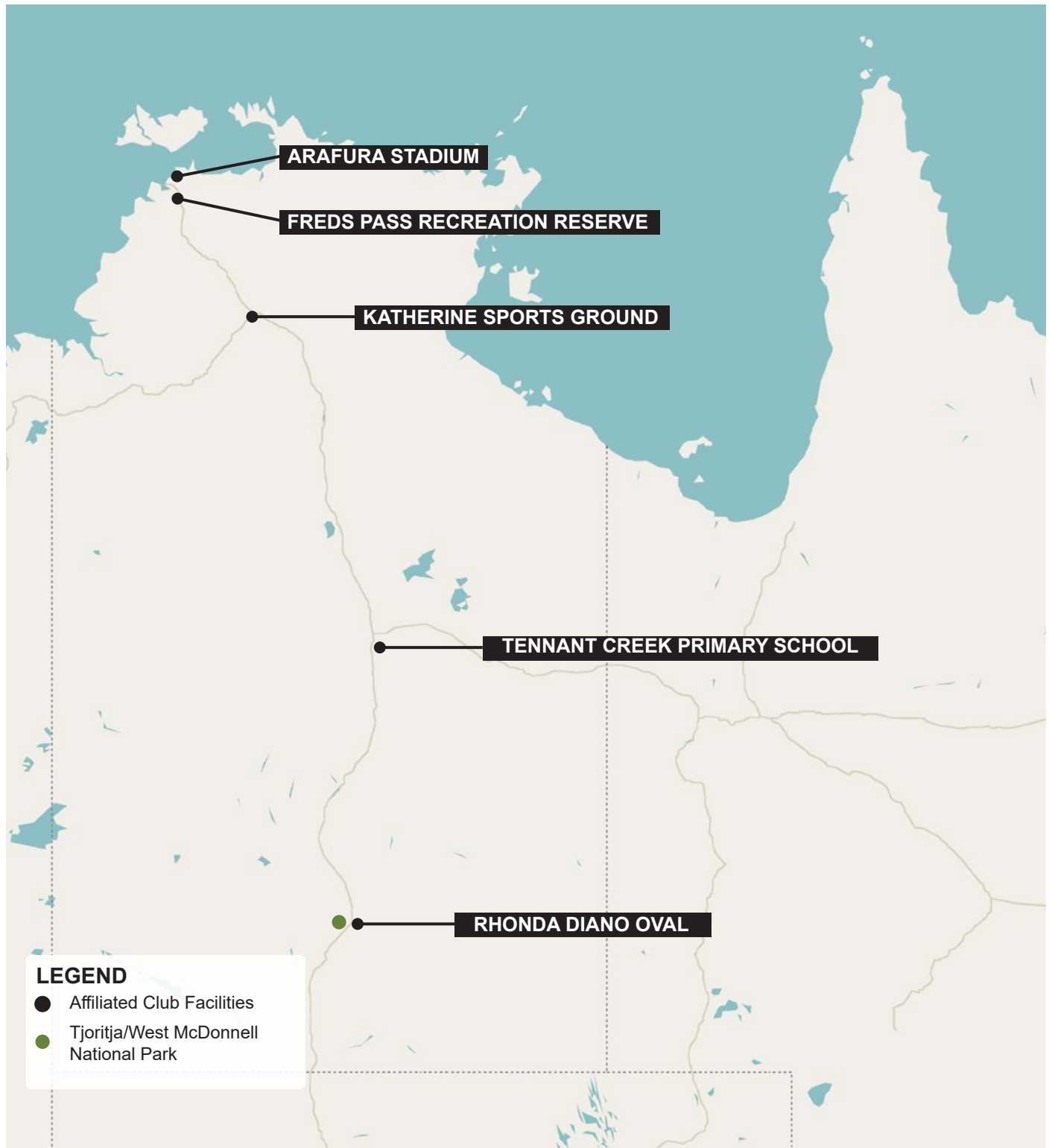
A number of athletics clubs across the Northern Territory currently operate independently and are not formally affiliated with ANT. These include:

Palmerston
• Palmerston Athletics Club
Darwin
• Darwin Runners and Walkers Inc

Northern Territory Athletics Facilities Map

The map below illustrates the location and distribution of facilities utilised by affiliated ANT clubs across the Northern Territory. In addition to formal athletics facilities, running and walking

clubs also utilise a diverse range of trails, reserves and national parks, such as Tjoritja/ West MacDonnell National Park, to support training, recreational activities and events.



Consultation

Stakeholder consultation undertaken as part of the project included workshops with the key stakeholder working group, interviews with key stakeholders and an online survey distributed to user clubs to gather feedback regarding existing facilities, usage patterns, opportunities and future priorities.

Online Survey

The following clubs completed the online survey:

- Rapid Creek Track Club
- Alice Springs Athletics Inc
- Alice Springs Running and Walking Club
- Rural Athletics Centre
- Tennant Creek Athletics Club.

Darwin Athletics Club also responded via email, however advised that they did not have any specific feedback to provide.

A summary of stakeholder responses and feedback is provided within the facility inventory pages.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

The purpose of the project is to establish an evidence-based, data-informed framework to identify, prioritise, and advocate for future facility investment that supports the long-term growth and sustainability of athletics participation in the NT.

The Strategic Facilities and Infrastructure Plan will:

- Establish a clear understanding of the current state of athletics facilities in the NT — their quality, usage, condition, and capacity.
- Identify current and future facility provision gaps based on participation data, school networks, demographic projections, and population growth.
- Develop an evidence-based prioritisation of locations and facilities for investment and upgrades.
- Provide a strategic framework to guide future investment decisions and advocacy with local, territory & federal governments.
- Explore facility options, including considerations for short track (200m) facilities in certain areas to complement full-size/scale venues.
- Explore and recommend operational and funding models to support sustainable facility development and management.

PROJECT APPROACH

The project approach to the Northern Territory Athletics Strategic Facilities and Infrastructure Plan include:

- Stage 1: Project Start-up and Background Review
- Stage 2: Facility Audit and Mapping
- Stage 3: Demand, Gap and Need Analysis
- Stage 4: Strategy Development

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Stakeholder consultation for the project will include:

- Workshop with key stakeholder working group
- Interviews with key stakeholders
- On-line Stakeholder Survey

COMMUNITY ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey of facility owners and user clubs has been developed.

Please scan the QR Code to contribute to the Athletics Strategic Facilities and Infrastructure Plan.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ANTPlan



*This survey closes Sunday 1st March 2026

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any further information regarding this project, please contact Tredwell Management:

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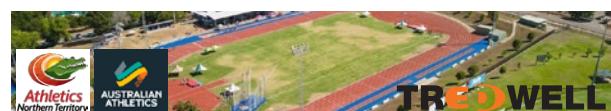


Image: Project Information Flyer

Workshop and Key Stakeholder Interviews

A stakeholder workshop with representatives of ANT and affiliated clubs and targeted interviews were also undertaken as part of the engagement process with the following organisations and clubs:

- Northern Territory Department of People, Sport and Culture
- School Sports NT
- Alice Springs Town Council
- Litchfield Council
- Fred Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve Management
- Northern Territory Department of Logistics and Infrastructure
- Andrea Rice Architects and Clouston Associates (designers of Gillen Oval redevelopment)
- Alice Springs Athletics Club
- Alice Springs Running and Walking Club
- Mature Athletes Darwin (MAD Frogs)
- Rural Athletics Centre.

Consultation outcomes from clubs are detailed within the facility profile pages, while responses from stakeholder organisations are summarised on the following pages.

Department of People, Sport and Culture

Discussion regarding athletics infrastructure within Alice Springs focused on Rhonda Diano Oval, ANZAC Oval and Gillen Oval. It was identified that upgrades to Rhonda Diano Oval are required, with support for improvements currently being advocated by ANT, Alice Springs Athletics Club and Alice Springs Running and Walking Club to the Alice Springs Town Council.

ANZAC Oval was identified as the home venue for rugby, meaning any future athletics development would require consideration of shared-use outcomes and engagement with rugby stakeholders. Key site constraints discussed included existing mature trees, sacred sites and the ability to accommodate a compliant rugby field within a potential athletics track configuration. Opportunities discussed included both a 400m athletics track and a smaller 200m “J-curve” style facility, noting the site is considered politically sensitive.

The Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct Master Plan currently provides for a grass 400m athletics track, however field event infrastructure such as jump pits and throwing facilities are not presently included in the first stage of development due to funding constraints. Concerns were also raised regarding future programming, shared use and capacity pressures associated with multiple sporting codes utilising the precinct, particularly given the focus on junior sport. The project is currently being managed by the Northern Territory Department of Logistics and Infrastructure.

Arafura Stadium was identified as performing a critical role as the Northern Territory’s premier athletics facility. It was noted that the existing synthetic track is anticipated to require replacement within the next 5–7 years, with future renewal funding needing to be considered.

Discussion also referenced the draft Marrara Master Plan, which is currently not publicly available and may not be formally released.

It is understood that the master plan considers broader precinct planning matters including future facilities, traffic management, accessibility and long-term precinct development opportunities.

School Sports NT

It was identified that middle and high schools currently utilise Rhonda Diano Oval for athletics carnivals, with schools required to conduct annual athletics events as part of their sporting programs. The site is also used by the School of the Air. Stakeholders noted that demand and interest from schools to utilise the facility is increasing, with strong support for the future development of a synthetic athletics track, preferably with a minimum of six lanes and ideally eight lanes to better accommodate school carnivals and broader athletics participation. While some schools continue to use their own ovals or alternative venues such as Fin Drive Oval, Rhonda Diano Oval remains a key athletics venue within the region.

Several operational and infrastructure challenges were identified, including the significant annual cost of line marking lanes (approximately \$13,000 per annum), limited spectator parking during school events due to neighbouring school parking restrictions, insufficient storage and administration space, lack of privacy within changerooms, and the need for the ice machine to be permanently plumbed in. Accessibility limitations were also highlighted, with current facilities not considered suitable for para-athletes due to the absence of compliant throwing circles and accessible toilet facilities.

Maintenance and safety concerns were raised regarding deteriorating track surfaces, cracked pavement, sand build-up in throwing areas, and the ongoing need to remove rubbish and broken glass from the site prior to use.

Stakeholders also noted that the existing shelter adjacent to the sprint track is not ideally located. Although the existing lighting is considered adequate for current use, particularly by the

running and walking club during early morning periods, stakeholders expressed a long-term aspiration for new clubrooms and improved supporting infrastructure to better service schools, clubs and the wider community.

Northern Territory Department of Logistics and Infrastructure, Andrea Rice Architects and Clouston Associates (Landscape Architects)

A public master plan for the Gillen Oval site was previously prepared by Bennett Architecture, with Andrea Rice Architects now progressing detailed design prior to a future design and construct process commencing in late 2026. The project aims to provide junior sporting field provision for multiple sports including soccer, AFL, rugby, athletics and cricket. It was noted that any future athletics provision would require both a track and supporting field event infrastructure to maintain current levels of functionality provided at Rhonda Diano Oval.

Alice Springs Town Council

The meeting with Alice Springs Town Council highlighted several immediate and long-term considerations for athletics facility planning in Central Australia. Athletics NT outlined the need for upcoming upgrades to Rhonda Diano Oval ahead of the Alice Springs Masters Games in October 2026, including the need to improve throwing circles and cages to address safety issues and ensure accessibility for para-athletes. There is an opportunity for Athletics NT and local stakeholders to pursue funding through Council's grant allocation process to support broader facility improvements. Discussion also explored the long-term question of the most suitable location for athletics in Alice Springs, whether to continue investing in Rhonda Diano Oval or consider relocation to an alternative site such as Gillen Oval. Council advised that it was planning to commence the development of a comprehensive sport and recreation strategy in the coming year, which will provide an important framework for future athletics planning and alignment with broader community infrastructure priorities.

Fred Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve Management, Litchfield Council

The meeting with Freds Pass Management, Litchfield Council and the Rural Athletics Centre highlighted both the strengths of the Freds Pass precinct and the significant challenges facing athletics at the site. Stakeholders noted that while the precinct is a well-used multi-sport hub, the athletics and support facilities are in reasonable condition, they lack disability access and require upgrades to meet contemporary standards including access to universally accessible changerooms, improvements to the grass track, realignment of the throwing cage and installation of sports lighting.

Demand for athletics continues to grow, driven largely by population expansion in Palmerston, which currently has no affiliated club. Operational challenges were also raised, including informal parking arrangements, shared use with other sports and weekend markets, and the substantial volunteer effort required to regularly line-mark the track. Any future works must navigate approval processes involving both the Freds Pass Association and Litchfield Council, reflecting the precinct's competing priorities. Overall, the discussion reinforced the need for a coordinated, long-term approach to facility renewal and capacity building to support sustainable athletics participation in the region.



Image: Key Stakeholder Workshop

Facility Hierarchy

Establishing a hierarchy of sport and recreation facilities assists in the review of existing facilities and the planning of new facilities. This is particularly important when assessing service levels for each class of facility and in obtaining external funding, as many of the funding programs are aligned to one or more levels of a facility hierarchy.

The hierarchy can be used to guide the strategic distribution of facilities and to ensure that service levels are appropriate to the

intended level of usage and the population catchment which is catered for.

For the purposes of this study, the hierarchy has been informed by the *Parks and Leisure Australia WA (PLAWA) Guidelines* for Community Infrastructure (2020), The *NSW Athletics Facility Strategy* and the *Tasmania Statewide Facilities Plan*.

The athletics facility hierarchy comprises five levels of provision, as outlined below.

Facility Type	Facility Role	Current Provision	Affiliated Facility
Territory	A premier athletics facility serving the Northern Territory, providing for high performance training and athlete development while accommodating the highest levels of competition, including international, national and territory events. Developed and designed to the highest technical and functional standards with a full synthetic track, comprehensive field infrastructure, dedicated warm up and training areas and specialised athlete and officiating amenities.	1	Arafura Stadium (Darwin)
Regional	A strategically located, full service athletics venue that provides for the full range of athletics activities, including participation, training, competition and high performance development. These facilities support regional and territory level events and typically comprise a full synthetic track, specialised technical infrastructure and associated support amenities.	0	No facilities of this level currently exist in the Northern Territory.
District	An athletics facility that supports community participation, training and local competition within a defined catchment. These facilities provide a range of athletics disciplines and programs and athlete pathway opportunities and may accommodate district-level events. Facilities typically comprise a grass track or modified athletics infrastructure, field event areas and supporting amenities. District facilities generally serve a major population catchment and provide a focal point for athletics participation and development within regional centres, such as Alice Springs.	1	Rhonda Diano Oval (Alice Springs)
Local	A athletics facility that supports introductory participation, training and recreational athletics activities within a local catchment. These facilities cater primarily for school and club based programs and may host small scale local competitions. Infrastructure is typically basic and may include shared use open space, grass running tracks, field event areas and supporting amenities.	3	- Freds Pass Recreation Reserve - Katherine Sports Ground - Tennant Creek Primary School
Temporary Venue	A recreation reserve, open space, trail or other public realm that can be temporarily configured to accommodate athletics activities, participation programs, training opportunities or one off competitions and events. Temporary venues may include school grounds, parks, shared use paths, roads and trails that support athletics participation.	As required	- Purkass Reserve, Tennant Creek - Telegraph Station Reserve (Alice Springs)

Standards

Athletics facilities across the Northern Territory range from local community and school based facilities through to a territory/nationally significant venue. As such, it is important that facility planning, development and renewal aligns with relevant international, national and industry best practice standards, including World Athletics facility standards, Australian Athletics design guidelines, and contemporary Australian sport and recreation infrastructure planning frameworks.

Facility requirements and technical standards will vary depending on the intended hierarchy level, level of competition and participation outcomes. Territory/national and regional level facilities are generally expected to incorporate higher order infrastructure and technical compliance measures. For example, the specifications and technical requirements for a standard 400m athletics track are referenced in the *Track and Field Facilities Manual* developed by *World Athletics (2019 Edition)*. Outlined below is the 400m standard track marking plan.

A recent report prepared by *Australian Athletics, Short Track Facilities Overview and Guidance* identifies the growing role that short track (200m) athletics facilities can play in complementing traditional 400m athletics venues.

The guidance highlights that short track facilities provide opportunities to reduce land requirements, lower infrastructure costs and support more flexible facility configurations while still accommodating a broad range of athletics disciplines.

The document also notes that short track facilities may support community participation, training and competition outcomes where the provision of a full sized 400m athletics facility is not feasible. Furthermore, the guidance emphasises the importance of ensuring athletics facility planning, design and development aligns with relevant World Athletics technical specifications.

400 METRE STANDARD TRACK, MARKING PLAN

SCALE - 1:350

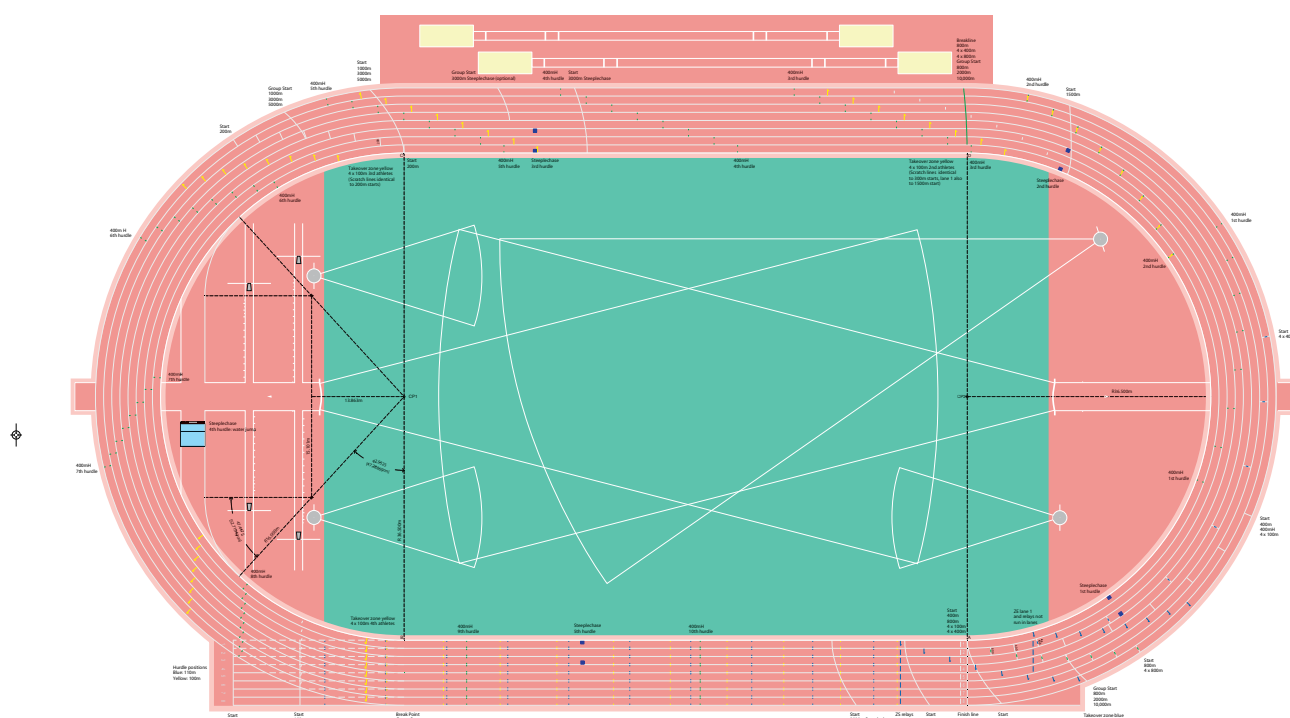


Image: 400m standard track marking plan

Facility Profile Pages

The following facility profiles provide a summary of each athletics facility currently utilised across the Northern Territory.

Each profile includes an overview of the:

- Facility location
- Ownership
- Management arrangements
- Hierarchy classification
- Affiliated clubs
- Inventory of existing infrastructure and amenities.

The profiles also incorporate findings from stakeholder consultation, including current activities, facility usage patterns, identified issues and future development priorities.

In addition, each profile includes a high level asset condition assessment and key considerations relating to the ongoing planning, renewal and improvement of the facility to support participation, performance, event hosting and long-term sustainability.

Arafura Stadium

Address: Marrara Sporting Complex, Darwin

Land Owner: Territory Government/Crown Land

Management: Athletics Northern Territory and Northern Territory Government

Hierarchy: Territory Athletics Centre

Affiliated Clubs: Darwin Athletics Club (DAC)
Rapid Creek Track Club (RCTC)
Mature Athletes of Darwin (MAD Frogs)



Facility Type	Existing
400m Athletics Track (synthetic)	1
100m Sprint Straight (synthetic)	1
110m Hurdles Straight (synthetic)	1
Throwing Circle	4
Throwing Cage	1
Jump Pit (synthetic)	2
High Jump Area (synthetic)	2
Javelin Runway (synthetic)	1
Pole Vault	1
Steeplechase Water Jump	1
Clubroom	No
Changerooms	Yes
Public Toilets	Yes
Shade	Yes
Storage Facility	Yes
Sports Lighting	Yes
Carparking (formal) 21-50 spaces	Yes




Images: Facility Profile Example

Consultation Findings

Asset Condition Rating - Arafura Stadium

Asset	Condition Rating RCTC*	Condition Rating Independent
Athletics - Track Facilities	Good	Good
Athletics - Field Facilities	Not Rated (NR)	Good
Clubrooms	Not Applicable (NA)	NA
Changerooms	NR	Satisfactory
Storage	NR	Satisfactory
Sportslighting	Good	Good
Shade Structures	Poor	Poor
Grandstand	NR	Satisfactory
Parking	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Public Toilets	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

*RCTC where the only club to provide feedback on the asset condition

Club Activities, Usage and Developments

Feedback	Darwin Athletics Club	Rapid Creek Track Club	Mature Athletes of Darwin
Type of Activities	- Running - sprinting (i.e. 100m/200m/400m), Running - middle distance (i.e. 800m/1,500m), Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m/5,000m/10,000m) - Relay Events, Race Walking - Discuss, Shot put, Javelin - High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump - Para-athletics	- Running - middle distance (i.e. 800m/1,500m) - Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m / 5,000m / 10,000m)	- No response was received to the survey - Attended workshop - The facility generally meets the current needs of the club and its users
Facility Usage Requirements	2hrs per week	4hrs per week	Additional storage and developing 'Frogs Corner'
Facility Development	No specific feedback from DAC, our needs are simple in that just need a track 2 hours a week! If we had older athletes, then would probably push for showers as per RCTC. Running recently in QLD, Vic & Perth, all had great showers.	1) More regular access to lanes 1&2 on the track 2) Access to showers 3) Storage space for our equipment 4) Greater availability of permanent shade structures + trackside drinking water availability	Second throw cage Additional shade New barrier for lane 1 & 2

Key Considerations

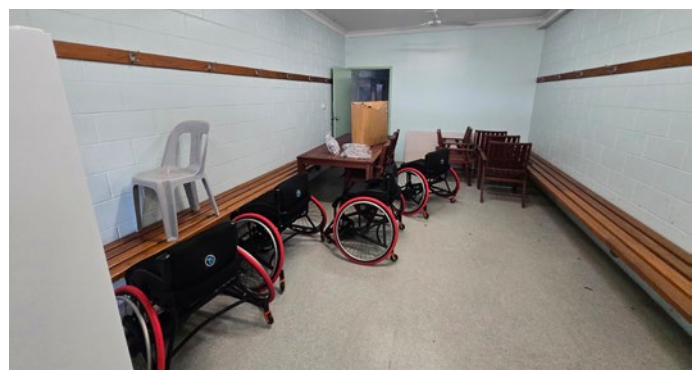
- Arafura Stadium performs an important role as the Northern Territory's premier athletics facility. The existing synthetic track is anticipated to require replacement within the next 5-7 years, with future renewal funding to be considered.
- As the NT's highest hierarchy athletics venue, the facility should continue to provide infrastructure and amenities that support athlete performance, event hosting and user experience across all levels of participation (i.e. school athletics carnivals, 2026 Oceania Athletics Championships).
- Stakeholders identified opportunities to enhance the functionality and comfort of the venue through the provision of contemporary universally accessible changerooms including showers, additional permanent shade structures and accessible trackside drinking water. Improved and expanded storage facilities were also identified as a priority to better support clubs, equipment management and event operations.
- Ongoing upgrades should seek to align with the facility's role as a leading athletics venue within the Northern Territory and support continued participation growth and event attraction opportunities.

Arafura Stadium

Address:	Marrara Sporting Complex, Darwin
Land Owner:	Territory Government/Crown Land
Management:	Athletics Northern Territory and Northern Territory Government
Hierarchy:	Territory Athletics Centre
Affiliated Clubs:	Darwin Athletics Club (DAC) Rapid Creek Track Club (RCTC) Mature Athletes of Darwin (MAD Frogs)



Facility Type	Existing
400m Athletics Track (synthetic)	1
100m Sprint Straight (synthetic)	1
110m Hurdles Straight (synthetic)	1
Throwing Circle	4
Throwing Cage	1
Jump Pit (synthetic)	2
High Jump Area (synthetic)	2
Javelin Runway (synthetic)	1
Pole Vault	1
Steeplechase Water Jump	1
Clubroom	No
Changerooms	Yes
Public Toilets	Yes
Shade	Yes
Storage Facility	Yes
Sports Lighting	Yes
Carparking (formal) 21 -50 spaces	Yes



Consultation Findings

Asset Condition Rating - Arafura Stadium

Asset	Condition Rating RCTC*	Condition Rating Independent
Athletics - Track Facilities	Good	Good
Athletics - Field Facilities	Not Rated (NR)	Good
Clubrooms	Not Applicable (NA)	NA
Changerooms	NR	Satisfactory
Storage	NR	Satisfactory
Sportslighting	Good	Good
Shade Structures	Poor	Poor
Grandstand	NR	Satisfactory
Parking	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Public Toilets	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

*RCTC where the only club to provide feedback on the asset condition

Club Activities, Usage and Developments

Feedback	Darwin Athletics Club	Rapid Creek Track Club	Mature Athletes of Darwin
Type of Activities	- Running - sprinting (i.e. 100m/200m/400m), Running - middle distance (i.e. 800m/1,500m), Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m/5,000m/10,000m) - Relay Events, Race Walking - Discuss, Shot put, Javelin - High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump - Para-athletics	- Running - middle distance (i.e. 800m/1,500m) - Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m / 5,000m / 10,000m)	- No response was received to the survey - Attended workshop <i>The facility generally meets the current needs of the club and its users</i>
Facility Usage Requirements	2hrs per week	4hrs per week	<i>Additional storage and developing 'Frogs Corner'</i>
Facility Development	<i>No specific feedback from DAC, our needs are simple in that just need a track 2 hours a week! If we had older athletes, then would probably push for showers as per RCTC. Running recently in QLD, Vic & Perth, all had great showers.</i>	1) More regular access to lanes 1&2 on the track 2) Access to showers 3) Storage space for our equipment 4) Greater availability of permanent shade structures + trackside drinking water availability	<i>Second throw cage</i> <i>Additional shade</i> <i>New barrier for lane 1 & 2</i>

Key Considerations

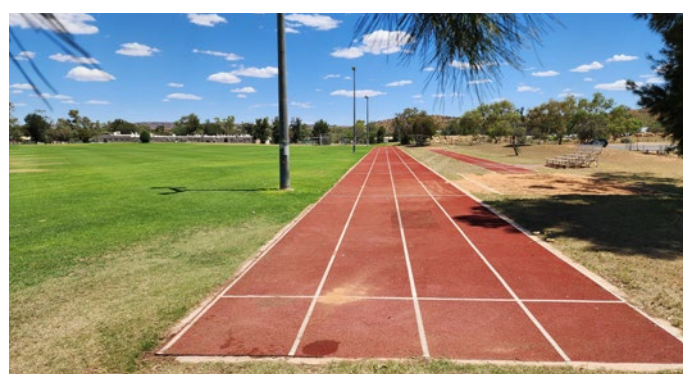
- Arafura Stadium performs an important role as the Northern Territory's premier athletics facility. The existing synthetic track is anticipated to require replacement within the next 5–7 years, with future renewal funding to be considered.
- As the Northern Territory's highest hierarchy athletics venue, the facility should continue to provide infrastructure and amenities that support athlete performance, event hosting and user experience across all levels of participation (i.e. school athletics carnivals, 2026 Oceania Athletics Championships).
- Stakeholders identified opportunities to enhance the functionality and comfort of the venue through the provision of contemporary universally accessible changerooms including showers, additional permanent shade structures and accessible trackside drinking water. Improved and expanded storage facilities were also identified as a priority to better support clubs, equipment management and event operations.
- Ongoing upgrades should seek to align with the facility's role as a leading athletics venue within the Northern Territory and support continued participation growth and event attraction opportunities.

Rhonda Diano Oval

Address:	Angguna Ave, Braiiting, Alice Springs
Land Owner:	Alice Springs Town Council
Management:	Alice Springs Town Council
Hierarchy:	District
Affiliated Clubs:	Alice Springs Athletics Inc (ASA) Alice Springs Running and Walking Club (ASRWC)



Facility Type	Existing
400m Athletics Track (grass)	1
100m Sprint Straight (grass and synthetic)	2
110m Hurdles Straight	No
Throwing Circle	1
Throwing Cage	1
Jump Pit (synthetic)	1
High Jump Area (grass)	1
Javelin Runway (cricket pitch)	1
Pole Vault	No
Steeplechase Water Jump	No
Clubroom	No
Changerooms	Yes
Public Toilets	Yes
Shade	Yes
Storage Facility	Yes
Sports Lighting	Yes
Carparking (formal) 21 - 50 spaces	Yes



Consultation Findings

Asset Condition Rating - Rhonda Diano Oval

Asset	Condition Rating ASA	Condition Rating ASRWC	Condition Rating Independent
Athletics - Track Facilities	Good	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Athletics - Field Facilities	Poor	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Clubrooms	NA	NA	NA
Changerooms	NR	NR	Poor
Storage	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory
Sportslighting	Poor	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Shade Structures	Poor	Excellent	Satisfactory
Grandstand	NR	NR	Satisfactory
Parking	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory
Public Toilets	Poor	Satisfactory	Poor

Club Activities, Usage and Developments

Feedback	Alice Springs Athletics Inc	Alice Springs Running and Walking Club
Type of Activities	- Running - sprinting (i.e. 100m/200m/400m), Running - middle distance (i.e. 800m/1,500m), Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m/5,000m/10,000m) - Relay Events, Race Walking - Discuss, Shot put, Javelin - High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump - Para-athletics	- Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m/5,000m/10,000m) - Race Walking - Trail Running, Ultra, Marathon, Half Note: Trails/Reserves incl. Telegraph Station Reserve, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park are utilised.
Facility Usage Requirements	5hrs per week	4hrs per week
Facility Development	<i>Upgrade shot put/discus circle/throwing areas</i> <i>100m synthetic track needs repairing due to cracks going across the synthetic surface</i> <i>Synthetic runways for long jump and triple jump have cracks and lifting in places</i> <i>Open to pair with another code if relocated.</i>	<i>This is a council facility, there are foot paths etc, but no disability toilets</i> <i>If relocated to a new site they would need adequate storage for club trailer, traffic management equipment and merch.</i>

Key Considerations

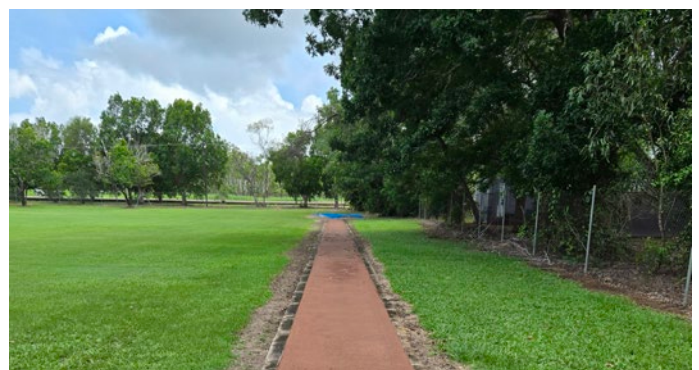
- Existing athletics infrastructure requires renewal and maintenance, including upgrades to the shot put and discus facilities to improve safety and accessibility, as well as repairs to the 100m synthetic track and long/triple jump runways where cracking and surface lifting is evident.
- While the facility includes accessible pathways as part of the broader council reserve, compliant accessible toilet facilities are currently not provided onsite. There is a need to provide universally accessible and compliant changeroom facilities for all users, as the current changerooms are non compliant and present child safety risks.
- A 400m synthetic athletics track within Alice Springs has previously been discussed as a infrastructure opportunity, however no confirmed project or funding pathway has been identified.
- The Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct Master Plan incorporates playing fields designed to support multiple sporting codes, with the potential to accommodate a grass athletics track and field event infrastructure subject to future funding. Detailed design is currently underway, with construction anticipated in late 2026 and/or early 2027.

Freds Pass Recreation Reserve

Address:	Bees Creek Road, Fred Pass
Land Owner:	Litchfield Council
Management:	The Freds Pass Sport & Recreation Board (FPSRB) on behalf of Litchfield Council
Hierarchy:	Local
Affiliated Clubs:	Rural Athletics Centre (RAC)



Facility Type	Existing
400m Athletics Track (grass)	1
100m Sprint Straight (grass)	1
110m Hurdles Straight	No
Throwing Circle	1
Throwing Cage	1
Jump Pit (synthetic)	1
High Jump Area (grass)	1
Javelin Runway (grass)	1
Pole Vault	No
Steeplechase Water Jump	No
Clubroom	No
Changerooms	No
Public Toilets	Yes
Shade	No
Storage Facility	Yes
Sports Lighting	Yes
Carparking (informal) 100+ spaces	Yes



Consultation Findings

Asset Condition Rating - Freds Pass Recreation Reserve

Asset	Condition Rating RAC	Condition Rating Independent
Athletics - Track Facilities	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Athletics - Field Facilities	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Clubrooms	NA	NA
Changerooms	NA	NA
Storage	Good	Good
Sportslighting	NR	Satisfactory
Shade Structures	NA	NA
Grandstand	NR	Satisfactory
Parking	Good	Satisfactory
Public Toilets	Satisfactory	Poor

Club Activities, Usage and Developments

Feedback	Rural Athletics Centre
Type of Activities	- Running - sprinting (i.e. 100m/200m/400m), Running - middle distance (i.e. 800m/1,500m), Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m/5,000m/10,000m) - Relay Events - Discuss, Shot put, Javelin - High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump - Para-athletics
Facility Usage Requirements	- Athletics - Track facilities 6hrs per week - Athletics - Field facilities 6hrs per week
Facility Development	<i>Facility may be developed/improved depending on level of deterioration of existing facilities, especially for field events. e.g. in 2025 we replaced the synthetics long jump runway. We are looking at expanding the long and triple jump facility from 1 runway to 2 (side by side), but only at discussion within the club at this stage.</i> <i>Further carparking areas are planned by the Reserve with the installation of netball courts. This new facility will also include changerooms and public toilet facilities to our knowledge. In going through this list, we identified the lack of disability access to the athletics track.....</i>

Key Considerations

- Freds Pass Reserve operates as a shared-use sporting precinct, with athletics co-located alongside rugby league which impacts on surface standard. Existing sports lighting infrastructure primarily services rugby league activities and does not provide full coverage across all athletics activity areas.
- The recently designed Litchfield Council Netball Courts upgrade, which includes changerooms and public toilet facilities, presents an opportunity to enhance supporting infrastructure and shared use outcomes for the athletics club.
- The athletics club supports inclusive participation opportunities, however the grass surface limits wheeled para-athletics events. Accessibility is also constrained, with limited disability access between parking areas and the athletics facilities.
- A synthetic 200m track has been considered, however delivery is unlikely without significant external funding support. The club is also exploring the potential expansion of the long and triple jump facility from one runway to two side-by-side runways, which is currently at the discussion stage.

Katherine Sports Ground

Address:	Stuart Highway, Katherine
Land Owner:	Katherine Town Council
Management:	Katherine Town Council
Hierarchy:	Local
Affiliated Clubs:	Katherine Athletic Club



Facility Type	Existing
400m Athletics Track (grass)	1
100m Sprint Straight (grass)	1
110m Hurdles Straight	No
Throwing Circle	2
Throwing Cage	No
Jump Pit (synthetic)	2
High Jump Area (grass)	1
Javelin Runway (grass)	1
Pole Vault	No
Steeplechase Water Jump	No
Clubroom	No
Changerooms	No
Public Toilets (shared)	Yes
Shade	No
Storage Facility	Yes
Sports Lighting	Yes
Carparking (formal) 21- 50 space	Yes



Consultation Findings

Asset Condition Rating - Katherine Sports Ground

Asset	Condition Rating KAC	Condition Rating Independent
Athletics - Track Facilities	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Athletics - Field Facilities	Poor	Poor
Clubrooms	NA	NA
Changerooms	NA	NA
Storage	Good	Good
Sportslighting	Poor	Poor
Shade Structures	NA	NA
Grandstand	NA	NA
Parking	Good	Good
Public Toilets	Good	Good

Club Activities, Usage and Developments

Feedback	Katherine Athletics Club
Type of Activities	- Running - sprinting (i.e. 100m/200m/400m), Running - middle distance (i.e. 800m/1,500m), Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m/5,000m/10,000m) - Relay Events, Race Walking - Discuss, Shot put, Javelin - High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump - Para-athletics
Facility Usage Requirements	6hrs per week
Facility Development	- A compliant throwing cage is required to replace the existing portable cage and temporary 20kg footings. - Existing sports lighting is limited, with only two of the four lights currently operational, and ticket purchases required to operate the lighting during training (\$7 per token = 1.15hrs) - Flooding and rainfall events have contributed to lifting and deterioration of the synthetic long jump surfaces. - While a new storage shed has recently been provided, additional permanent shelving and sealed storage areas are required to minimise vermin impacts. - Existing discus and shot put facilities are ageing and may require renewal or upgrade works.

Key Considerations

- Katherine Town Council is seeking to develop a long-term master plan and shovel ready designs for the Regional Sport, Recreation and Community Precinct centred around the Katherine Sportsground. The project focuses on upgrading and replacing the Henry Scott Recreation Centre with a modern multi-purpose indoor facility linked to the Katherine Aquatic Centre. While athletics is not specifically identified as a key project component, the tender references broader sportsground planning and future multi-sport infrastructure opportunities that may support athletics activities within the precinct.
- Existing athletics infrastructure requires renewal and maintenance, including provision of a compliant throwing cage to replace the existing portable fencing setup, upgrades to discus and shot put facilities, sports lighting, synthetic long jump surfaces, and additional vermin-proof storage boxes and shelving.
- There is a need to provide universally accessible and compliant changerroom facilities for all users.

Tennant Creek Primary School

Address:	31 Paterson St, Tennant Creek
Land Owner:	NT Dept of Education and Training
Management:	NT Dept of Education and Training
Hierarchy:	Local
Affiliated Clubs:	Tennant Creek Athletics Club



Facility Type -Tennant Creek Primary	Existing
400m Athletics Track (grass)	1
100m Sprint Straight (grass)	1
110m Hurdles Straight	No
Throwing Circle	2
Throwing Cage	No
Jump Pit (cement run up)	1
High Jump Area (grass)	Yes
Javelin Runway (grass)	Yes
Pole Vault	No
Steeplechase Water Jump	No
Clubroom	No
Changerooms	No
Public Toilets	Yes
Shade	No
Storage Facility	Yes
Sports Lighting	No
Carparking (formal) 0-20 spaces	Yes



Consultation Findings

Asset Condition Rating - Tennant Creek Primary School

Asset	Condition Rating TCAC	Condition Rating Independent
Athletics - Track Facilities	Poor	Poor
Athletics - Field Facilities	Poor	Poor
Clubrooms	NA	NA
Changerooms	NA	NA
Storage	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Sportslighting	NA	NA
Shade Structures	Poor	Poor
Grandstand	NA	NA
Parking	Poor	Poor
Public Toilets	Poor	Poor

Club Activities, Usage and Developments

Feedback	Tennant Creek Athletics Club
Type of Activities	- Running - sprinting (i.e. 100m/200m/400m), Running - middle distance (i.e. 800m/1,500m), Running - long distance (i.e. 3,000m/5,000m/10,000m) - Relay Events - Discuss, Shot put, Javelin - High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump - Running recreational events aimed at fun
Facility Usage Requirements	- Athletics - Track facilities 2hrs per week - Athletics - Field facilities 2hrs per week
Facility Development	<i>Having safe and secure place for children to participate in athletics in town.</i> <i>A lot relates to facility quality and provision.</i>

Key Considerations

- Tennant Creek is a remote community with a relatively small population base of approximately 2,949 people, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples representing a significant proportion of the community (55%). Accessible and inclusive sport participation opportunities such as athletics therefore play an important role in supporting community health, wellbeing and social connection.
- Tennant Creek Athletics Club primarily utilises the oval at Tennant Creek Primary School, with Purkiss Reserve also used to support athletics activities.
- Strong partnerships with schools and key stakeholders including the Barkly Regional Council and the Northern Territory Department of Education are critical to supporting participation, facility access and long term sustainability.
- The club's current financial position has been identified as challenging, with long-term financial sustainability remaining an ongoing consideration.
- Athletics and support facility provision in Tennant Creek is very basic and there is an opportunity to provide upgraded and additional facilities including universally accessible changerooms, sportslighting, additional shade, improved parking and public toilets.

03

Demand, Gap and Needs Analysis



Image: Tennant Creek Athletics Club Facebook

Athletics Facility Provision Benchmark Assessment

The following table provides a high level assessment of existing athletics facility provision across the Northern Territory relative to indicative population based benchmarks identified within the *Parks and Leisure Australia WA (PLAWA) Guidelines for Community Infrastructure (2020)*. It is acknowledged that the Northern Territory presents unique planning challenges relating to remoteness, dispersed

population patterns, climate, travel distances, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities and the shared use of existing sporting infrastructure. As such, the benchmarks should be considered as broad strategic guidance only and applied in conjunction with local participation trends, community need, facility condition, operational sustainability and broader social and community outcomes.

PLAWA, Guidelines for Community Infrastructure, 2020

Facility	Definition	Population Guideline	Facility Hierarchy, distance & spatial components
Athletics (grass and synthetic)	- Formal synthetic provision or marked grassed oval with ancillary jumping puts and throwing areas. - Population driven requirement to justify development based on need and a viable business case.	1:250,000 plus – Regional Level (synthetic) 1:40,000 to 1:50,000 - District level (grass) infrastructure with training areas potentially located on a school site subject to a shared use agreement.	5km population catchment for district facilities. 2km population catchment for neighbourhood (local) facilities.

Assessment of Affiliated Club Facility Provision

Precinct	Affiliated Club Facilities	Facility Hierarchy	Population 2024	Meets Benchmark	Projected Population 2040-41	Future High Level Provision Response
Darwin City Darwin Suburb	1	State/ Regional	87,608	Territory/ National facility servicing Territory-wide demand	109,662	Regional facility servicing the broader Northern Territory population (~268,000 residents)
Alice Springs	1	District	41,962	Provision aligns with indicative benchmark	46,192	Existing provision aligns with indicative benchmark
Palmerston	0	District	37,176	Limited school based athletics provision	59,757	Opportunity to provide a District level athletics facility within a growth area
Litchfield	1	Local	23,449	Local shared use athletics provision	30,482	Ongoing shared use local athletics provision
Katherine	1	Local	21,453	Shared use local athletics provision	23,800	Ongoing shared use local athletics provision
Barkly	1	Local	6,067	Exceeds - School based	6,422	Ongoing school based provision
Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem	0	-	18,374	No formal provision	19,211	No formal affiliated athletics facility provision
East Arnhem	0	-	14,724	No formal provision	14,728	No formal affiliated athletics facility provision

* 2025 Population Statement Northern Territory snapshot, Australian Government Centre for Population

Catchment Map



Arafura Stadium is the only state level athletics facility within the Northern Territory and services not only the Darwin population but also the broader Northern Territory population, forecast to reach approximately 268,000 residents by 2040–41.

While Arafura Stadium will continue to fulfill this important role, significant population growth is forecast within Palmerston, increasing from 37,176 residents in 2024 to 59,757 residents by 2040–41 (61% growth). Palmerston also has a relatively young population profile, with a high proportion of children, youth and family households that represent the primary participation market for athletics.

As population growth continues, there will be an increasing need to provide athletics infrastructure closer to where people live.

Accordingly, there is an opportunity to investigate the provision of a district level athletics facility within Palmerston's growth corridor. A district level facility would service an approximate 5 km catchment, support the establishment and growth of an affiliated athletics club, and provide accessible opportunities for participation, training and local competition. This facility would complement the state role of Arafura Stadium while strengthening the overall athletics pathway across the Northern Territory.

Freds Pass Recreation Reserve would continue to serve as a local level athletics facility, supporting grassroots participation and community based athletics activities within its local catchment.

04

Strategic Facility Provision



Image: Athletics Northern Territory - Sideline Images

Planning Principles

The following planning principles have been established to inform the NTASFIP and provide a strategic framework to guide the future planning, design, development and management of athletics facilities and infrastructure across the Northern Territory.

1. Plan, develop and manage athletics facilities in accordance with contemporary best practice principles relating to governance, financial sustainability, asset management and community access.
2. Develop and strengthen partnerships between Athletics Northern Territory, Australian Athletics, government, private sector, schools, councils, sporting organisations and community groups to support coordinated athletics facility planning across the Northern Territory.
3. Recognise the differing needs of local, regional and territory/national athletics facilities.
4. Encourage key stakeholder involvement in the planning, design and ongoing development of athletics facilities
5. Engage and collaborate with Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owners to support culturally informed planning and development.
6. Provide accessible, inclusive and equitable athletics facilities and spaces through the integration of universal design principles and contemporary accessibility standards within facility planning, design and renewal processes.
7. Maximise the use, renewal and activation of existing athletics infrastructure, school facilities, ovals and multi-purpose community spaces where they are appropriately located and capable of supporting athletics participation and development.
8. Ensure athletics facilities and infrastructure align with relevant World Athletics standards, Australian Athletics guidance, Australian Standards and activity specific safety and risk management requirements.
9. Integrate environmentally sustainable and climate responsive design principles into the planning, development and management of athletics facilities to minimise environmental impacts, improve resilience and support long term operational sustainability.
10. Maximise opportunities to attract athletics programs, events, training camps and sports tourism outcomes that contribute to regional activation and economic benefits.

Project Assessment & Timeframe

In order to effectively focus available funding to deliver athletics facilities and infrastructure, a phased and prioritised approach is required. Potential projects have been identified and broadly prioritised based on:

- **Need/Demand:** field observation, professional judgment and input from ANT and Australian Athletics
- **Feasibility:** project scale, resource and funding requirements, social, environmental and economic constraints, and likelihood of successful implementation
- **Location:** proximity to existing and future population areas, identified gaps in facility provision and connectivity to surrounding communities
- **Benefit:** overall social, health, economic and community benefits to the region.

Each action has an indicative timeframe for implementation:

- Short (2026- 2029): 3yrs
- Medium (2030 - 2035): 6yrs
- Longer (2036+): 10yrs+
- Ongoing.

These timeframes should be reviewed periodically.

Indicative Cost Estimate

An estimate of the resources required to implement each action has been identified to inform ANT with its budget processes. These are broad estimates and should be reviewed prior to implementation or as part of annual business and budget planning. The following indicative cost estimates have been used:

Cost	Estimated Cost Range
Low (L)	<\$500,000
Medium (M)	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000
High (H)	>\$1,000,000

Partners

There are a range of factors influencing athletics facility planning and development across the Northern Territory, including the need to coordinate with multiple stakeholders such as government departments, local councils, schools, sporting organisations and land managers. Recognising this, Athletics Northern Territory will need to work collaboratively with key partners to progress a number of the identified actions, noting that the successful delivery of some initiatives will rely on ongoing support, funding and partnership opportunities.

Partners include:

- Australian Athletics (AA)
- Athletics Clubs (AC)
- Traditional Owners/ First Nations Peoples (TO)
- Department of People, Sport and Culture (DPSC)
- Department of Logistic and Infrastructure (DLI)
- Department of Education and Training (DET)
- School of Sport Education (SSE)
- Municipal and Shire Councils (MSC)
 - Alice Springs Town Council (ASTC)
 - Belyuen Community Government Council
 - City of Darwin (CoD)
 - City of Palmerston (CoP)
- Coomalie Community Government Council
- Katherine Town Council (KTC)
- Litchfield Council (LC)
- Wagait Shire Council.
- Regional Councils (RC)
 - Barkly (BRC)
 - Central Desert (CD)
 - East Arnhem (EA)
 - Groote Archipelago (GA)
 - MacDonnell (MD)
 - Roper Gulf (RG)
 - Tiwi Islands (TI)
 - Victoria Daly (VD)
 - West Arnhem (WA)
 - West Daly (WD)
- The Freds Pass Sport & Recreation Board (FPSRB).

Action Plan Overview

The table below summarises the strategic directions identified within the Northern Territory Athletics Strategic Facilities Infrastructure Plan. The following pages provide a detailed Action Plan outlining the recommended actions, indicative timeframes, estimated costs and key delivery partners.

No.	Strategy	Precinct	Timeframe	Priority
Affiliated Athletics Facility Provision				
1	Work in partnership with the Northern Territory Government to support the ongoing renewal, enhancement and activation of Arafura Stadium in Darwin as the Northern Territory's premier athletics facility.	Darwin City Darwin Suburb	Ongoing	High
2	Advocate for the short term renewal and improvement of athletics infrastructure at Rhonda Diano Oval, while investigating the long term opportunity to develop a contemporary athletics hub within the future Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct in Alice Springs.	Alice Springs	Short - Medium	High
3	Advocate for and support the development of an affiliated athletics facility within the Palmerston region to support current and future population growth.	Palmerston	Medium - Long	Major Project
4	Work collaboratively with The Fred Pass Sport & Recreation Board and precinct stakeholders to improve the functionality, accessibility and shared use outcomes of Freds Pass Recreation Reserve for athletics.	Litchfield	Short - Medium	Medium
5	Support the ongoing sustainability and improvement of the athletics facility within Tennant Creek through collaborative partnerships, incremental infrastructure upgrades and community-based participation initiatives.	Barkly	Short - Medium	Medium
6	Advocate for and support the ongoing renewal, improvement and sustainable delivery of athletics facilities and participation opportunities within the Katherine region through collaborative partnerships, shared use planning and community based initiatives.	Katherine	Short - Medium	Medium
Non Affiliated Athletics Facility Provision				
7	Support the development and improvement of shared-use athletics and active recreation infrastructure across the Daly–Tiwi–West Arnhem and East Arnhem regions through partnerships, school-based facilities and community recreation initiatives	Daily-Tiwi-West Arnhem East Arnhem	Short	Lower
Other				
8	Support affiliated clubs and athletics providers through governance, volunteer, workforce and operational capacity building initiatives.	All Precincts	Short	Ongoing
9	Promote shared-use, multi-purpose and flexible infrastructure approaches to maximise the sustainability and utilisation of athletics facilities across the Northern Territory.	All Precincts	Short	Ongoing
10	Improve accessibility, inclusion and equitable participation outcomes within athletics facilities and infrastructure across the Northern Territory.	All Precincts	Short	Ongoing
11	Encourage sustainable, climate-responsive and durable athletics infrastructure outcomes suited to Northern Territory conditions.	All Precinct	Short	Ongoing

High Priorities

Strategy 1: Work in partnership with the Northern Territory Government to support the ongoing renewal, enhancement and activation of Arafura Stadium in Darwin as the Northern Territory's premier athletics facility.

Strategy 2: Advocate for the short term renewal and improvement of athletics infrastructure at Rhonda Diano Oval, while investigating the long term opportunity to develop a contemporary athletics hub within the future Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct in Alice Springs.

The images below showcase examples of contemporary athletics infrastructure from across Australia that integrate sustainability and climate responsive design principles. These facilities demonstrate best practice approaches to renewable energy, water efficiency, sustainable materials, sun protection and accessibility, informing future athletics infrastructure planning and investment with the Northern Territory.



Major Project

Strategy 3: Advocate for and support the development of an affiliated athletics facility within the Palmerston region to support current and future population growth.

Palmerston is forecast to experience substantial population growth. This growth is being driven by major residential expansion within the Palmerston–Holtze growth corridor, which has been identified by the Northern Territory Government as a key urban growth area for Greater Darwin.

Further reinforcing this growth trajectory, the Greater Holtze Area Plan was incorporated into the Northern Territory Planning Scheme in August 2024, establishing a long term framework for the development of approximately 3,300 hectares of land across Holtze, Kowandi, Holtze North and Howard Springs North. The plan supports the creation of new residential neighbourhoods, employment areas, schools, community infrastructure and connected open space networks, with the broader growth area anticipated to accommodate more than 11,000 additional homes over time.

The provision of a district level athletics facility within Palmerston would align with the strategic growth directions identified in the Greater Holtze Area Plan and respond to the needs of a rapidly growing and relatively young population.

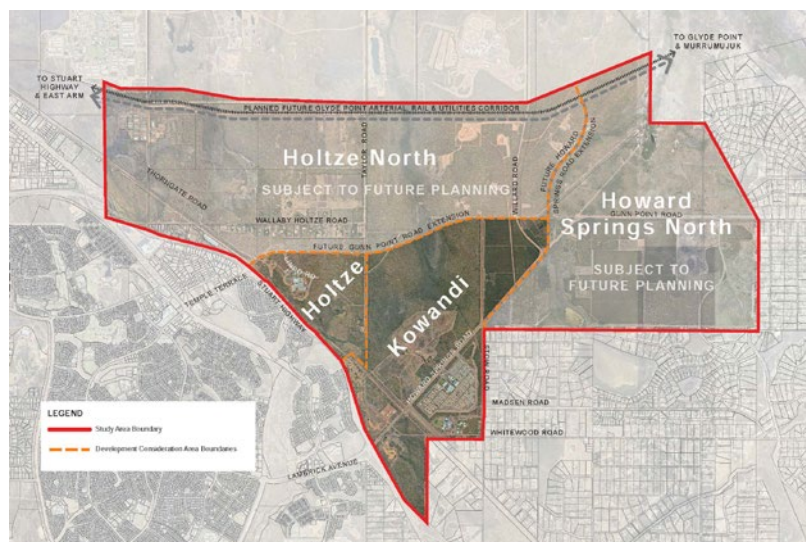


Image: Northern Territory Planning Commission, Greater Holtze Area Plan

Medium Priorities

Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with The Fred Pass Sport & Recreation Board and precinct stakeholders to improve the functionality, accessibility and shared use outcomes of Freds Pass Recreation Reserve for athletics.



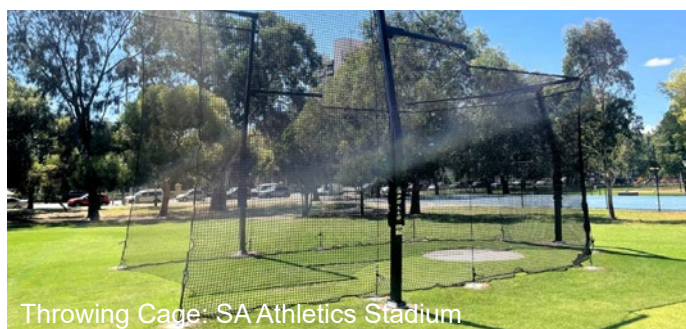
Public Amenities: Litchfield Council Netball Courts

Strategy 5: Support the ongoing sustainability and improvement of the athletics facility within Tennant Creek through collaborative partnerships, incremental infrastructure upgrades and community-based participation initiatives.



Shade Structure: Paterson St, Tennant Creek

Strategy 6: Advocate for and support the ongoing renewal, improvement and sustainable delivery of athletics facilities and participation opportunities within the Katherine region through collaborative partnerships, shared use planning and community based initiatives.



Throwing Cage: SA Athletics Stadium

Lower Priority

Strategy 7: Support the development and improvement of shared-use athletics and active recreation infrastructure across the Daly–Tiwi–West Arnhem and East Arnhem regions through partnerships, school-based facilities and community recreation initiatives



School of Sport Education, East Arnhem

Ongoing Priorities

Strategy 8: Support affiliated clubs and athletics providers through governance, volunteer, workforce and operational capacity building initiatives.

Strategy 9: Promote shared-use, multi-purpose and flexible infrastructure approaches to maximise the sustainability and utilisation of athletics facilities across the Northern Territory.

Strategy 10: Improve accessibility, inclusion and equitable participation outcomes within athletics facilities and infrastructure across the Northern Territory.

Strategy 11: Encourage sustainable, climate responsive and durable athletics infrastructure outcomes suited to Northern Territory conditions.

Strategy and Action Plan

DARWIN CITY and DARWIN SUBURB

Strategy 1: Work in partnership with the Northern Territory Government to support the ongoing renewal, enhancement and activation of Arafura Stadium as the Northern Territory's premier athletics facility.

Rationale: The Darwin region is forecast to experience continued population growth, with the Darwin Suburbs projected to increase from 58,532 to 68,340 residents by 2040–41, and Darwin City from 29,076 to 41,322. The region currently supports three affiliated athletics clubs, Darwin Athletics Club, Rapid Creek Track Club and Mature Athletes Darwin all of which utilise Arafura Stadium, identified within the facility hierarchy as a State Athletics Centre. Participation growth is particularly evident within Darwin Athletics Club (261 members) and Rapid Creek Track Club (172 members).

Located within the Marrara Sporting Complex, Arafura Stadium accommodates a broad range of activities including club training, school carnivals, regional and Territory championships, and national and international athletics events. As the Northern Territory's premier athletics venue, the facility must continue to align with relevant World Athletics standards and contemporary best practice design principles. Ongoing renewal and replacement of infrastructure will therefore be required to maintain the venue's functionality, safety and event capability. Key priorities identified through consultation include the provision of contemporary universally accessible changerooms and shower facilities, additional shade structures, improved accessible trackside drinking water, and expanded storage facilities to better support clubs.

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Key Partners
1.1	Advocate for and support the delivery of a staged asset renewal and capital works program for Arafura Stadium to maintain alignment with relevant World Athletics standards and contemporary best practice facility design principles.	Ongoing	High	ANT, AA, NT Government
1.2	Work collaboratively with facility managers and key stakeholders to support the ongoing renewal and maintenance of the synthetic athletics track, field event infrastructure, lighting and technical equipment to ensure the venue remains capable of hosting Territory, national and international events.	Ongoing	High	ANT, AA, NT Government
1.3	Encourage future planning and infrastructure upgrades to incorporate universal design, sustainability and climate responsive principles.	Ongoing	High	ANT, AA, NT Government
1.4	Advocate for the upgrade of changeroom and amenities infrastructure to provide contemporary, universally accessible facilities including showers and supporting amenities.	Short	High	ANT, AC, NT Government
1.5	Support improvements to athlete and spectator amenity through the provision of additional shade structures, seating and accessible trackside drinking water.	Short - Medium	Medium	ANT, AC, NT Government
1.6	Advocate for expanded and improved storage facilities to better support athletics clubs, equipment management and event operations.	Short - Medium	Low	ANT, AC, NT Government
1.7	Advocate for funding partnerships and external grant opportunities for training and competition equipment and infrastructure.	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AC, NT Government
1.8	Investigate opportunities to increase utilisation of the venue through school partnerships, participation programs, event attraction and club development initiatives.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, AA, AC, SSE, DET, TO
1.9	Advocate for the integration of athletics infrastructure within future open space, recreation and sporting precinct planning within the Darwin growth areas.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, CoD, DET, TO

Strategy and Action Plan

ALICE SPRINGS

Strategy 2: Advocate for the short term renewal and improvement of athletics infrastructure at Rhonda Diano Oval, while investigating the long term opportunity to develop a contemporary athletics hub within the future Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct.

Rationale: The Alice Springs region is forecast to experience modest population growth, increasing from 41,962 residents to approximately 46,192 by 2040–41. The region currently supports two affiliated athletics clubs, Alice Springs Athletics and Alice Springs Running and Walking Club, which utilise Rhonda Diano Oval, identified within the facility hierarchy as a Regional level athletics venue. Alice Springs Running and Walking Club primarily utilises the venue for training and storage purposes, with broader club activities also occurring across a range of trails and reserves including the West MacDonnell Ranges. Alice Springs Athletics has experienced strong recent membership growth, increasing from 17 members in 2023 to 27 members in 2024 and 60 members in 2025, while Alice Springs Running and Walking Club has maintained a consistent membership base of 208 members in both 2024 and 2025.

Existing athletics infrastructure at Rhonda Diano Oval requires renewal and upgrading to improve safety, accessibility and functionality. Key priorities include upgrades to the shot put and discus facilities, together with repairs to the 100m synthetic track and long/triple jump runways where cracking and surface lifting are evident. While the broader reserve includes accessible pathways, compliant accessible toilet facilities are not currently provided onsite. There is also a need to deliver universally accessible and compliant changeroom facilities for all users, with the existing changerooms identified as non-compliant and presenting child safety concerns.

The potential development of a 400m synthetic athletics track within Alice Springs has previously been identified as a long-term infrastructure opportunity, however no confirmed project scope, delivery model or funding pathway has been established. The Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct Master Plan includes playing fields designed to support multiple sporting codes, with the potential to accommodate a grass athletics track and associated field event infrastructure subject to future planning and funding. Detailed design for the precinct is currently underway, with construction anticipated in late 2026 and/or early 2027. This presents a future opportunity to investigate the development of a contemporary athletics hub integrated within a broader multi-sport precinct for Alice Springs.

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Key Partners
2.1	Advocate for and support short term renewal and maintenance works at Rhonda Diano Oval to improve the safety, accessibility and functionality of the existing athletics facility, including: - upgrades to throwing facilities - renewal of the 100m synthetic track and jump runways - lighting improvements and associated supporting infrastructure. - provision of compliant and universally accessible changerooms and toilets should the site continue to be utilised as a longer term athletics venue	Short - Medium	Low - High	ANT, AC, ASTC, NT Government
2.2	Work collaboratively with Alice Springs Town Council, Northern Territory Government and key stakeholders to investigate the long term opportunity to develop athletics infrastructure within the Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct, including consideration of a Regional level athletics track, field event facilities and supporting infrastructure capable of creating a contemporary athletics and multi sport hub for Alice Springs.	Short	High	ANT, AC, ASTC, NT Government TO
2.3	Support and advocate for athletics participation programs, school partnerships and community activation initiatives that provide positive recreation, health and social connection opportunities for young people within Alice Springs, including Aboriginal youth and communities experiencing barriers to sport participation.	Ongoing	Low - Medium	ANT, AA, AC, DET, SSE ASTC, TO
2.4	Advocate for external funding opportunities and partnership investment to support future athletics facility planning and infrastructure delivery within the Alice Springs region.	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AA, NT Government

Strategy and Action Plan

PALMERSTON

Strategy 3: Advocate for and support the development of an affiliated athletics facility within the Palmerston region to support current and future population growth.

Rationale: The Palmerston region is forecast to experience continued population growth, with the population projected to increase from 37,176 to 59,757 residents by 2040–41. The region currently has no affiliated Athletics Northern Territory clubs, however the non-affiliated Palmerston Athletics Club currently utilises facilities at Palmerston College.

The broader region is also serviced by the Rural Athletics Centre, located at Freds Pass Recreation Reserve. While this facility continues to play an important role in supporting athletics participation, the site is shared with multiple user groups and constrained by available space and infrastructure capacity. It is also recognised that athletes residing within the Palmerston and Litchfield regions may also travel to Arafura Stadium to access higher level training, competition and athletics infrastructure.

Given the projected growth of the Palmerston region, there is an opportunity to investigate the development of an athletics facility capable of supporting increased participation, school use, club development and local competition opportunities. This may include exploring opportunities to re-establish affiliation with Palmerston Athletics Club, partnerships with local schools and Council, and identification of a suitable long term site capable of accommodating contemporary athletics infrastructure and multi-use community outcomes.

Note: The Parks and Leisure Australia WA Community Infrastructure Guidelines (2020) identify a benchmark provision rate of approximately one grass athletics facility per 40,000–50,000 residents, with associated training infrastructure potentially accommodated on school sites subject to appropriate shared use agreements.

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Key Partners
3.1	Advocate for and support a feasibility assessment to investigate the need, demand, preferred location and facility requirements for a future athletics facility within the Palmerston region. Key considerations: • Hierarchy level (Local or Regional) • Investigation of a short track athletics configuration • Consideration of a flexible site layout capable of accommodating a range of athletics infrastructure elements • Opportunity to support para-athletics • Explore opportunities for shared use infrastructure, including changerooms, clubrooms, storage, lighting, public toilets and parking.	Medium	Medium	ANT, CoP, NT Government, TO
3.2	Work collaboratively with the City of Palmerston, schools and other key stakeholders to identify potential sites capable of accommodating a future athletics facility.	Long	Low	ANT, CoP, NT Government, DET, TO
3.3	Investigate opportunities to support the re-establishment and affiliation of Palmerston Athletics Club with Athletics Northern Territory.	Short	Low	ANT, AC
3.4	Advocate for the integration of athletics infrastructure within future open space, recreation and sporting precinct planning within the Palmerston growth area.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, CoP, TO
3.5	Encourage the development of school and community athletics participation programs to strengthen local demand and support long term club sustainability within the Palmerston region.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, AA, AC, DET, SSE, TO
3.6	Advocate for external funding opportunities and partnership investment to support future athletics facility planning and infrastructure delivery within the Palmerston region.	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AA, NT Government

Strategy and Action Plan

LITCHFIELD

Strategy 4: Work collaboratively with The Freds Pass Sport & Recreation Board (FPSRMB) and precinct stakeholders to improve the functionality, accessibility and shared use outcomes of Freds Pass Recreation Reserve for athletics.

Rationale: The Litchfield region is forecast to experience continued population growth, increasing from 23,449 residents to approximately 30,482 by 2040–41. The region currently supports one affiliated athletics club, the Rural Athletics Centre, which operates from Freds Pass Recreation Reserve and is identified within the facility hierarchy as a Local level athletics venue. Participation has remained relatively stable, increasing from 107 registered members in 2020 to 138 members in 2025.

The facility plays an important role in supporting affiliated athletics participation for communities located south of Darwin and within the broader rural region. The site is shared with multiple user groups, including the Litchfield Bears Rugby Club and the Freds Pass Rural Markets, which creates limitations in relation to space, scheduling and future infrastructure expansion.

Recent planning and investment by Litchfield Council, including the proposed netball courts redevelopment incorporating new changerooms and public toilet facilities, presents an opportunity to improve supporting infrastructure and shared-use outcomes for athletics.

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Key Partners
4.1	Collaborate with the Freds Pass Sport & Recreation Management Board (FPSRMB) and Rural Athletics Centre to support minor renewal and maintenance works that improve the functionality, safety and presentation of the athletics area, including: - Integration of the proposed netball courts and amenities to ensure athletics access and operations are not compromised - Lighting renewal - Disability access improvements - Investigation of an additional jump runway	Short - Medium	Low - Medium	ANT, FPSRMB, AC
4.2	Support Rural Athletics Centre and FPSRMB to advocate for grant funding and partnership opportunities that support incremental upgrades and renewal works to maintain the venue to an appropriate standard for local athletics participation and training.	Ongoing	Low - Medium	ANT, FPSRMB, AC, NT Government
4.3	Encourage the development of school and community athletics participation programs to strengthen local demand and support long term club sustainability within the Palmerston region.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, AA, AC, DET, SSE, TO
4.4	Support the ongoing role of Freds Pass Recreation Reserve as a Local level athletics venue servicing the Litchfield region, while recognising higher order athletics development and competition opportunities may be accommodated through future facility investigations within Palmerston. <i>Refer to Strategy 2 - Palmerston</i>	Ongoing	Low	ANT, FPSRMB, AC, NT Government

Strategy and Action Plan

BARKLY

Strategy 5: Support the ongoing sustainability and improvement of the athletics facility within Tennant Creek through collaborative partnerships, incremental infrastructure upgrades and community-based participation initiatives.

Rationale: The Barkly region is forecast to experience minimal growth, increasing from 6,067 residents to approximately 6,422 by 2040–41. Within the region, Tennant Creek has a population of approximately 2,949 people, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples representing a significant proportion of the Barkly community (approximately 62%).

Tennant Creek Athletics Club is the region's affiliated athletics club and currently supports approximately 34 members. The club primarily utilises facilities at Tennant Creek Primary School, with Purkiss Reserve also used to support athletics activities and events. Existing athletics and supporting infrastructure within Tennant Creek is relatively basic, with opportunities to improve facility functionality, accessibility and participant amenity through upgrades such as universally accessible changerooms, sports lighting, shade provision, parking and public toilet facilities.

Strong partnerships with schools and key stakeholders, including Barkly Regional Council and the Northern Territory Department of Education, are critical to supporting participation opportunities, facility access and the long term sustainability of athletics within Tennant Creek. The club's current financial position has been identified as challenging, with ongoing funding, volunteer capacity and long term operational sustainability remaining important considerations for the future delivery of athletics programs and facility improvements within the region.

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Key Partners
5.1	Work collaboratively with Tennant Creek Athletics Club, Tennant Creek Primary School, Barkly Regional Council and other key stakeholders to support the ongoing delivery and sustainability of athletics participation opportunities within Tennant Creek for the benefit of the local community.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, AC, DET, BRC, NT Government, TO
5.2	Advocate for and support incremental upgrades to athletics and supporting infrastructure at Tennant Creek Primary School, including: - improvements to accessibility - sports lighting - shade - changerooms - access to public amenities.	Short - Medium	Low - Medium	ANT, AC, DET,
5.3	Work collaboratively with Aboriginal organisations, schools, Traditional Owners and community stakeholders to support culturally inclusive athletics programs, participation initiatives and community events that encourage greater involvement of Aboriginal children and young people in athletics and active recreation within the Barkly region.	Short	Low - Medium	ANT, AC, DET, BRC, NT Government, TO
5.4	Assist Tennant Creek Athletics Club to strengthen long term operational sustainability through volunteer support, governance assistance, partnership development and advocacy for grant funding opportunities.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, AC, BRC
5.5	Advocate for external funding opportunities and partnership investment to support future athletics facility planning and infrastructure delivery within the Barkly region.	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AA, NT Government

Strategy and Action Plan

KATHERINE

Strategy 6: Advocate for and support the ongoing renewal, improvement and sustainable delivery of athletics facilities and participation opportunities within the Katherine region through collaborative partnerships, shared use planning and community based initiatives.

Rationale: The Katherine region is forecast to experience modest population growth, increasing from 21,453 residents to approximately 23,800 by 2040–41. Katherine functions as the primary regional service centre for the broader Big Rivers region, supporting a dispersed population across remote communities and townships throughout the northern and central Northern Territory. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples represent a significant proportion of the regional population (approximately 50%).

Katherine Athletics Club is the region's affiliated athletics club and supported approximately 109 members in 2025. The club primarily utilises facilities at Katherine Sportsground. Katherine Town Council is currently progressing long-term planning for the Regional Sport, Recreation and Community Precinct centred around Katherine Sportsground. The project includes the proposed redevelopment and replacement of the Henry Scott Recreation Centre with a contemporary multi-purpose indoor facility linked to the Katherine Aquatic Centre. While athletics is not currently identified as a primary project component, the broader precinct planning process presents opportunities to support future athletics facility improvements and shared-use infrastructure outcomes within the precinct.

Existing athletics infrastructure requires renewal and upgrading to improve safety, accessibility and functionality. Key priorities include provision of a compliant throwing cage to replace the existing temporary fencing arrangement, upgrades to shot put and discus facilities, improvements to sports lighting, renewal of synthetic long jump surfaces, additional vermin-proof storage solutions and provision of universally accessible and compliant changeroom facilities. There is also an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and partnership outcomes between Athletics Northern Territory and Katherine Athletics Club to support long-term participation, governance, facility planning and the sustainable delivery of athletics within the region.

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Key Partners
6.1	Advocate for and support incremental renewal and upgrading of athletics infrastructure at Katherine Sportsground, including: - provision of a compliant throwing cage - upgrades to shot put and discus facilities - sports lighting improvements - renewal of synthetic jump surfaces - additional storage infrastructure.	Short - Long	Low - High	ANT, AA, KTC, NT Government
6.2	Work collaboratively with Katherine Town Council and key stakeholders to ensure athletics is appropriately considered within future planning and development of the Regional Sport, Recreation and Community Precinct.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, AC, KTC
6.3	Strengthen collaboration and partnership outcomes between Athletics Northern Territory and Katherine Athletics Club to support club sustainability, participation growth, volunteer development and long-term facility planning outcomes.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, AC
6.4	Support community participation initiatives, school partnerships and inclusive athletics programs that encourage greater involvement in athletics across Katherine and the broader Big Rivers region, particularly for Aboriginal communities and young people.	Ongoing	Low - Medium	ANT, AA, AC, DET, SSE, KTC, TO
6.5	Advocate for external funding opportunities and partnership investment to support future athletics facility planning and infrastructure delivery within the Katherine region.	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AA, NT Government
6.6	Advocate for the integration of athletics infrastructure within future open space, recreation and sporting precinct planning across remote communities, recognising the importance of flexible, shared-use and community based participation opportunities.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, KTC

Strategy and Action Plan

DAILY-TIWI-WEST ARNHEM

EAST ARNHEM

Strategy 7: Support the development and improvement of shared-use athletics and active recreation infrastructure across the Daly–Tiwi–West Arnhem and East Arnhem regions through partnerships, school-based facilities and community recreation initiatives.

Rationale: The Daly–Tiwi–West Arnhem region is forecast to experience modest population growth, increasing from 18,374 residents to approximately 19,211 by 2040–41, while the East Arnhem region is forecast to remain relatively stable, increasing marginally from 14,724 residents to approximately 14,728 by 2040–41. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples represent a significant proportion of the population within both regions, accounting for approximately 69% of the Daly–Tiwi–West Arnhem region and 64% of the East Arnhem region.

There are currently no affiliated athletics clubs located within either region. Athletics participation is generally informal, school-based and community driven, occurring across multi purpose sporting ovals, recreation reserves and school facilities within regional centres and remote communities. Given the dispersed settlement patterns, remoteness and relatively small population bases across many communities, opportunities for athletics participation are typically supported through shared-use infrastructure and broader sport and recreation programming.

Nhulunbuy functions as a key regional centre within East Arnhem and presents opportunities to support community and school-based athletics participation. Athletics activities within Nhulunbuy are primarily facilitated through school sport programs, including athletics and cross-country carnivals delivered by Nhulunbuy High School, Nhulunbuy Primary School and Nhulunbuy Christian College. Informal participation is also supported through local community running groups including Nhulunbuy Runners North.

Similarly, Jabiru functions as an important regional service centre within the West Arnhem region and presents opportunities to support informal athletics and running participation through existing community infrastructure. While Jabiru does not currently contain a formal athletics club or dedicated athletics facility, the West Arnhem Regional Council delivers a range of sport and recreation programs focused on increasing participation, community engagement and skill development outcomes across the region.

There are opportunities to further strengthen athletics participation within both regions through partnerships with schools, councils, community organisations and local stakeholders, including investigation of future club development opportunities and incremental improvements to shared-use recreation infrastructure within key regional centres and remote communities.

Ref	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Key Partners
7.1	Advocate for incremental improvements to shared-use sporting ovals, school grounds and recreation reserves that support athletics, running and active recreation opportunities within regional centres and remote communities.	Ongoing	Low - Medium	ANT, AA, DET, RC, NT Government
7.2	Support community participation initiatives, school partnerships and inclusive athletics programs that encourage greater involvement in athletics across the Daily-Tiwi-West Arnhem and the East Arnhem region, particularly for Aboriginal communities and young people.	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AA, NT Government
7.3	Advocate for the integration of athletics infrastructure within future open space, recreation and sporting precinct planning across remote communities, recognising the importance of flexible, shared-use and community based participation opportunities.	Ongoing	Low	ANT, RC

Strategy and Action Plan

CLUB & SERVICE PROVIDERS				
Strategy 8: Support affiliated clubs and athletics providers through governance, volunteer, workforce and operational capacity building initiatives.				
Ref	Action	Timeframe	Cost	Key Partners
8.1	Support club governance and strategic planning in key areas: - child safety - risk management - financial management - volunteer training	Ongoing	Low	ANT, AA, AC
8.2	Strengthen relationships between Athletics Northern Territory and affiliated clubs.	Short	Low	ANT, AC
8.3	Investigate sustainable club delivery models in regional and remote areas.	Short	Low	ANT, AA, RC, AC
SHARED USE AND MULTI-SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE				
Strategy 9: Promote shared-use, multi-purpose and flexible infrastructure approaches to maximise the sustainability and utilisation of athletics facilities across the Northern Territory.				
9.1	Encourage integration of athletics infrastructure within multi-sport precincts and in future sportsground renewals	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AA, NT Government
9.2	Support shared-use agreements with schools and councils	Ongoing	Low	ANT, DET
ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION				
Strategy 10: Improve accessibility, inclusion and equitable participation outcomes within athletics facilities and infrastructure across the Northern Territory.				
10.1	Advocate for the integration of: - universally accessible changerooms, amenities and supporting infrastructure - culturally inclusive facility planning - encourage female-friendly and child safe facility design	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AA, NT Government, TO, MSC, RC
10.2	Support participation opportunities and inclusive initiatives for: - Aboriginal communities - People with a disability - Older adults - Other underrepresented groups	Ongoing	Low	ANT, TO, Advocacy Groups
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESPONSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE				
Strategy 11: Encourage sustainable, climate-responsive and durable athletics infrastructure outcomes suited to Northern Territory conditions.				
11.1	Consider climate impacts within future athletics facility planning - Encourage renewable energy - Support water-sensitive and environmentally sustainable infrastructure approaches - Encourage shade provision and heat mitigation measures	Ongoing	Low - High	ANT, AA, NT Government, MSC, RC

Appendices



Image: Athletics Northern Territory - Sideline Images

Appendix A - Literature Review

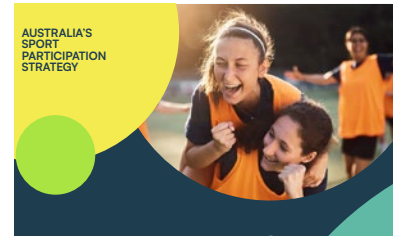
Appendix A - Literature Review

Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan, 2026 - 2034



Participation trends in Australia are continuing to evolve, with people increasingly seeking flexible sporting opportunities that align with their lifestyle, schedule and location preferences. There is also a growing shift away from traditional competition based models towards more social, inclusive and enjoyable participation experiences that support health, wellbeing and community connection. The image below outlines the eight key themes aligned with the Play Well framework.

Australia's Sport Participation Strategy, PLAYWELL Everyone has a place in sport, 2023



Our Vision: Everyone has a place in sport.

Our Mission: We will create safe, welcoming, inclusive and fun sporting experiences.

Achievement will be guided through six priority areas.

1. Empowering people and organisations
2. Driving lifelong involvement
3. Activating places and spaces
4. Building connections
5. Equitable access
6. Transforming culture

Plan Overview

The Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan 2026 – 2034 consists of eight key themes that align with Play Well and aim to drive the continued growth of athletics in Australia.

EVERYONE HAS A PLACE IN ATHLETICS

Collaboration and culture

Enhance collaboration and alignment between stakeholders, increase support, and improve culture to deliver a more effective athletics ecosystem.

Participation products and transitions

Develop, strengthen, and connect participation opportunities to support participants to engage and re-engage with athletics throughout their lives.

Accessibility

Increase access to athletics by adapting and expanding offerings to meet contemporary consumer needs and fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Infrastructure and places

Pursue strategic and evidence-based athletics infrastructure development and explore non-traditional facilities, places, and events to facilitate participation opportunities and drive growth.

The Athletics workforce

Develop, support, and celebrate coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff to improve the participant experience, and ensure athletics can meet demand for future participation growth.

Technology and digital

Leverage data, systems, digital tools, and technology solutions to enhance decision-making, improve efficiency in delivery and optimise the participant experience.

Storytelling

Harness the power of storytelling to highlight the reach, power, and impact of athletics participation beyond high-performance outcomes.

Futureproofing

Secure the future of athletics in Australia by embracing and catering to the full spectrum of athletics participants, addressing climate impacts, and defining Brisbane 2032 legacy outcomes.

Appendix A - Literature Review

PLAYWELL Everyone has a place in sport, National Community Sport Infrastructure, Places to Play Plan, 2026



The timeline for final refinement of the plan and preparation of first iteration and supporting resources for launch is June 2026.

Northern Territory Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan: 2021 - 2025



The Northern Territory Government Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan 2021–2025 identifies a key strategic goal of increasing regular participation in sport and active recreation to improve the health and wellbeing of Territorians. The Plan also outlines the Government's role in developing policies, programs and sector support initiatives that encourage and enable Territorians to lead active lifestyles. While the Strategy has now reached the end of its nominated timeframe, it continues to provide relevant strategic direction and highlights the importance of ongoing investment and planning for sport and active recreation across the Territory.

Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct Master Plan, Northern Territory Government, 2025



The Gillen Oval Multi-Sport Precinct Master Plan incorporated adaptable irrigated playing fields designed to support multiple sporting codes and maximise year round utilisation of the facility. The fields can be configured to accommodate a variety of sporting formats and activities, including at a minimum a grass athletics track and potentially field facilities such as throwing circles and jump pits subject to funding. The project is currently undergoing a detailed design process with construction anticipated in late 2026 and/or early 2027.

Litchfield Council Netball Courts, Litchfield Council, 2025



The Litchfield Council commissioned a concept design for the provision of a new netball facility at Webber Park at the site of the Community Hall. The proposed site plan consists of:

- Four courts
- Player Amenities
- New Public Amenities
- Car Park
- Lighting & Fencing.

The proposed concept interfaces directly with the athletics/rugby league field and facilities such as the throwing cage.

Appendix A - Literature Review

AusPlay, A New Picture of How Australians Get Active, Australian Government, Australian Sports Commission, 2025



Participation rates - Australians 15+:

- In the previous 12 months, 85% of Australians aged 15+ participated in some type of sport or physical activity at least once. This equates to around 18,662,000 individuals.
- Just under half of Australians aged 15+ (48%) participate in some form of sport or physical activity at least three times per week.
- Informal sport has higher participation than organised sport across all frequencies.

Participation rates - Children 0 - 14:

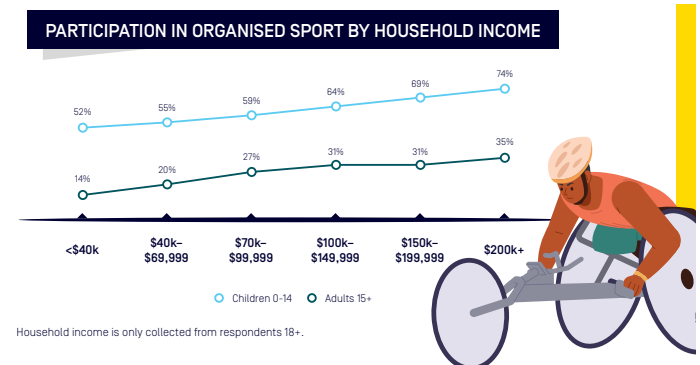
- Around half of Australian children (52%) participate in organised sport or physical activity outside of school hours at least once a fortnight.
- Sport-related activity is the predominant type of out-of-school hours organised activity for Australian children, with around two-thirds having participated at least once in the previous 12 months.

Overview of participation throughout life:

- Organised sport and physical activity is important in the lives of children, peaking in the 9-11 age group. While participation in organised sport declines in the mid-teens, there are still over half (54%) of the 15-17 age group getting active in this way and around a quarter (27%) participating through a sports club or association.

Participation by household income:

- Participation in organised sport increases with household income for both adults and children.



Where activity takes place:

The five most common locations for activity among Australians 15+ were:

- Public space
- Home environment
- Gym/fitness club/sports/leisure centre
- Free community facilities
- Sports club or association facilities.

The five most common locations for activity among Australian children 0-14 were:

- Sports club or association facilities
- Gym/fitness club/sports/leisure centre
- Private or commercial premises
- Public space
- Free community facilities.

Appendix A - Literature Review

Australian Athletics, Short Track Facilities Overview and Guidance, 2026



World Athletics introduced the term “Short Track” in 2023 to replace the traditional term “Indoor Athletics”, recognising that 200 m tracks can be developed indoors, outdoors, or as temporary facilities. While Australia currently has no permanent 200 m short track facilities, the discipline has been formally adopted through the Australian Short Track Championships.

Australian Athletics considers 200m short track facilities as a complementary addition to traditional 400m tracks, providing more opportunities for participation where land, cost or site constraints limit full sized facilities. Key benefits include:

- Smaller footprint suitable for constrained sites
- Lower construction and operating costs
- Greater flexibility for co-location with other sports and community facilities
- Lends itself to co-location with other sporting activities
- The scale may afford better utility for other environments such as schools
- Can be developed indoors or outdoors
- Useful as warm-up facilities at major venues
- World Athletics and Australian Athletics recognition of performances when facilities are appropriately.

Size Comparison

Facility	Approx Area
400m Track	14,710m ²
200m Short Track	3010m ²

A 200 m facility occupies approximately 20% of the area required for a conventional 400m track, making it feasible in urban, school and multi-sport environments.

Short track facilities can be configured in numerous ways and may include:

- Extended 100m sprint straight
- Long jump and triple jump runways
- Pole vault facilities
- High jump areas
- Shot put circles
- Indoor or outdoor construction
- Banked tracks (typically elite or temporary facilities)
- Non-banked tracks (common for permanent outdoor facilities)
- Hybrid systems that can convert between banked and flat configurations.

Australian Athletics strongly supports development of a marquee indoor athletics facility in Australia capable of hosting national and international competitions while providing year-round community access.

Such a facility would:

- Fill a gap in Australia’s athletics infrastructure
- Support training and competition in controlled conditions
- Provide resilience to extreme heat and weather events
- Increase participation opportunities for schools and the wider community.

Refer to <https://www.athletics.com.au/facilities/> for additional information.

Appendix B - Australian Athletics Short Track Facilities Overview and Guidance



**AUSTRALIAN
ATHLETICS**

SHORT TRACK FACILITIES

OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE



SHORT TRACK ATHLETICS FACILITIES OUTLINE

JANUARY 2026

Introduction

Globally, Athletics has traditionally divided competition between two separate track types – these being outdoor 400m tracks and indoor 200m tracks. In May 2023¹, World Athletics announced the introduction of “short track” to replace the term “indoor” which had traditionally described events conducted on a 200m track, predominantly indoors and generally conducted in colder climates. This move was aimed at allowing more flexibility in the establishment and use of 200m venues across the globe, including the permanent construction of 200m tracks outdoors or temporary 200m tracks in city locations.

As at January 2026, there are no permanent existing or planned 200m tracks, either indoors or outdoors in Australia. The introduction of short track by World Athletics led to the creation of the Australian Short Track Championships in 2024, with event disciplines pertaining to short track staged within existing 400m facilities – most recently at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre and Lakeside Stadium in Melbourne.

The Case for Short Track Facilities

Whilst Australian Athletics’ priority is to ensure the provision of an adequate number of high quality, fit for purpose 400m outdoor track and field facilities, the introduction of short track as a legitimate global discipline has created more flexibility and legitimacy for the potential installation of 200m short track facilities in the Australian environment. We see 200m short tracks as an opportunity to complement 400m facilities by expanding the number of available spaces for Australians to participate in athletics and to fit within a range of different environments where full-scale 400m facilities are simply not viable.

There are several advantages and opportunities created by short track including:

- The land footprint is significantly smaller, creating the option to install an athletics facility in locations where smaller parcels of land are available for development.
- The smaller footprint provides potential opportunities to lower construction and operating costs.
- The smaller footprint of a 200m track lends itself to co-location with other sporting activities, potentially increasing appeal and viability for landowners and operators.
- The scale of a 200m facility may afford better utility for other environments such as schools.
- Like 400m facilities, these facilities can be constructed outdoors.

¹ Short track competition formally came into effect on 1 November 2023.



- Where available land restricts the provision of a second 400m facility as a warmup track to accommodate the hosting of major events, a 200m track may be a viable alternative.
- Performances on appropriately certified 200m facilities are, depending on the level, recognised by Australian Athletics, and World Athletics.²

Purpose

The purpose of this *Short Track Facilities Overview* document is to:

1. Highlight the opportunities that 200m short track facilities provide to expand the type and number of spaces for Australians to participate in athletics.
2. Make landowners, facility operators, and key stakeholders of Australian Athletics aware of the opportunities that exist to consider the construction of 200m short track facilities to complement 400m facilities.
3. Demonstrate the flexibility that 200m short track facilities may afford to stakeholders to incorporate components of athletics in to existing or future multipurpose sporting facilities and public spaces.

Illustrative Concepts

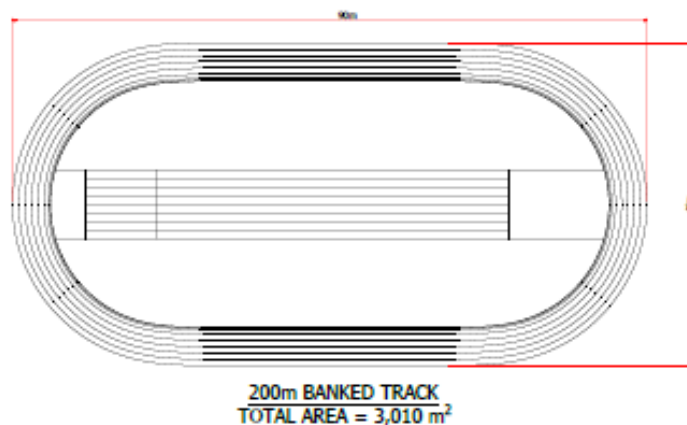
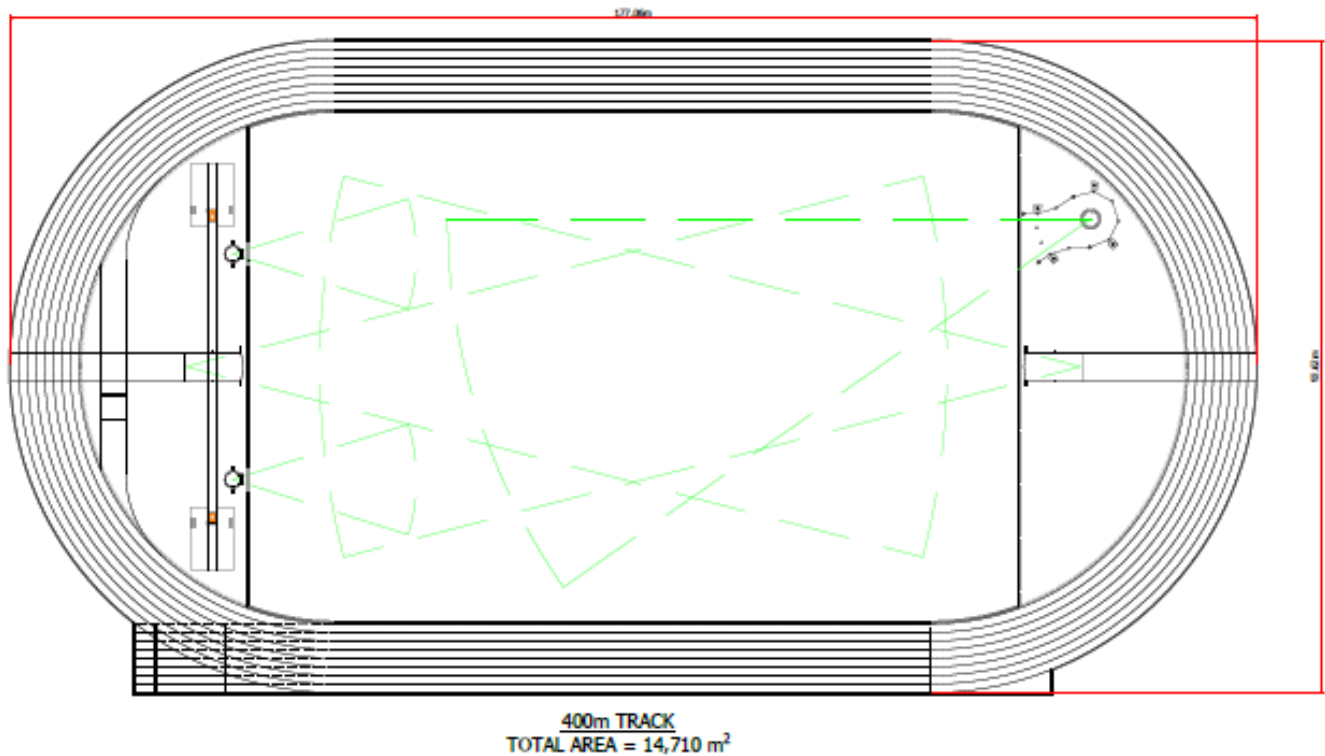
Australian Athletics has partnered with SPORTENG – a leading Australian sporting facilities design and engineering firm with significant experience in the development of athletics facilities - to develop some concept drawings for short track facilities. The following section presents these concept drawings to demonstrate potential use cases and configurations for 200m facilities. These concepts are provided for illustrative purposes only. The World Athletics rules should be referred to for specific information relating to the technical design and construction of short track facilities.

² Subject to all relevant criteria being met and subsequent ratification where required.



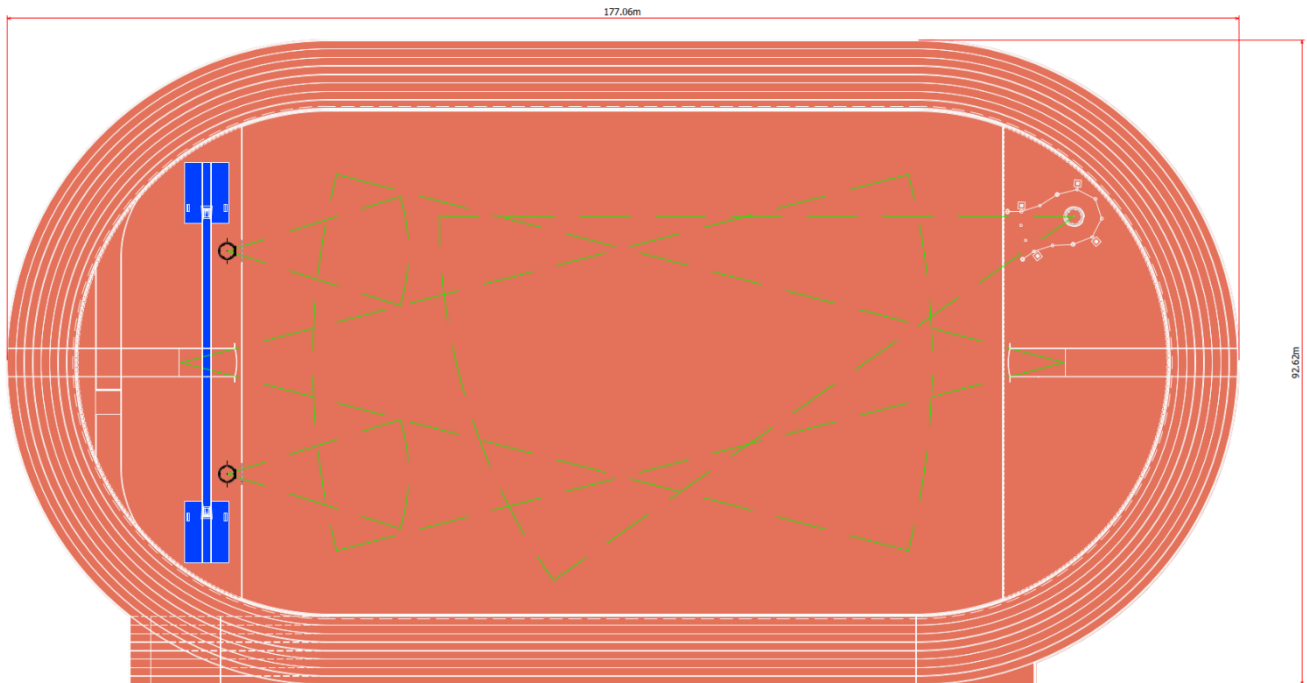
Standard 400m Track and 200m Short Track Comparison

The diagram below provides a visual comparison between a 400m track and a 200m track. The total area of a 400m facility is over 14,000 square metres. In comparison, a 200m track has a footprint of just over 3,000 square metres.

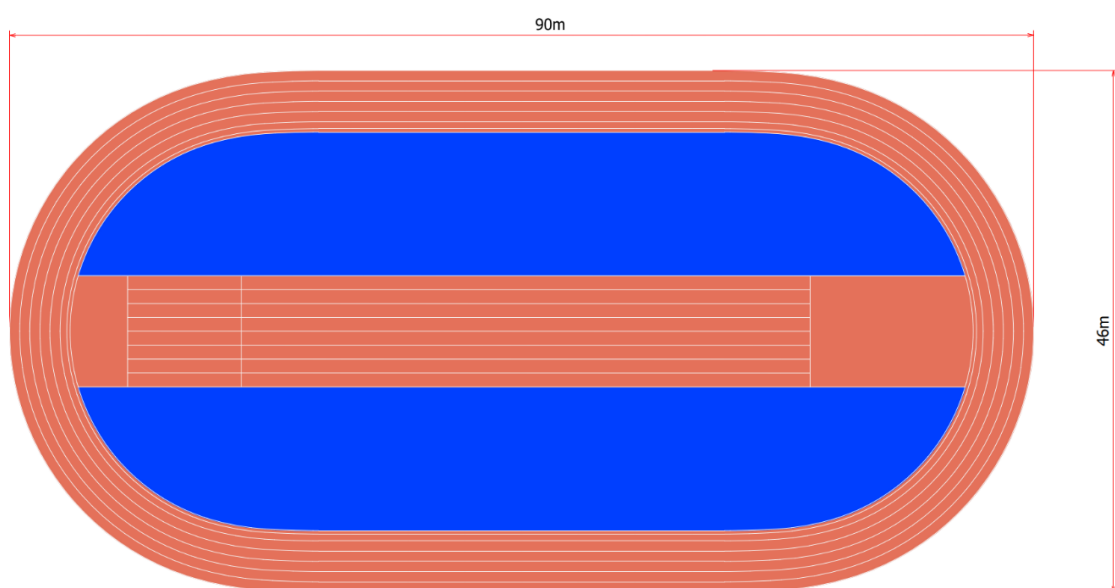


Note that unlike the previous page, the 200m and 400m track layouts below are not in the same scale. The images below are designed to show the comparative length and width measurements of a typical 400m and 200m track.

400m facility



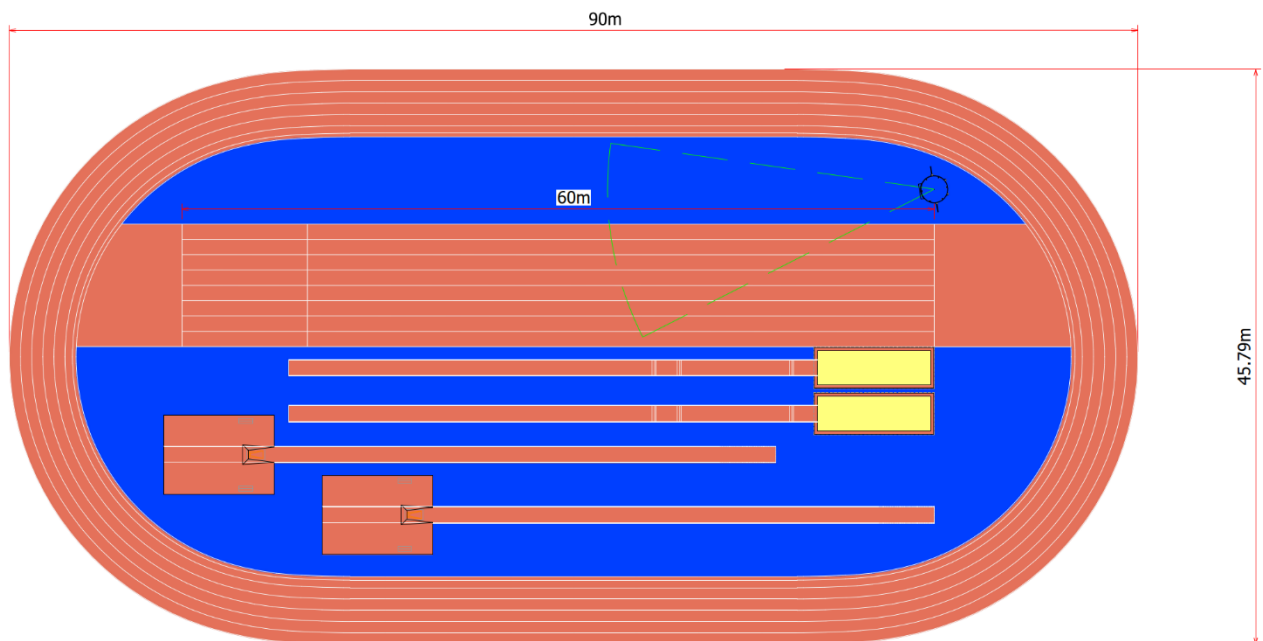
200m Facility





200m Short Track Layout

The illustration below shows an example of a 200m indoor short track layout, noting that, like 400m facilities, there are a range of different variations and configurations that can exist in line with the World Athletics rules and technical specifications.

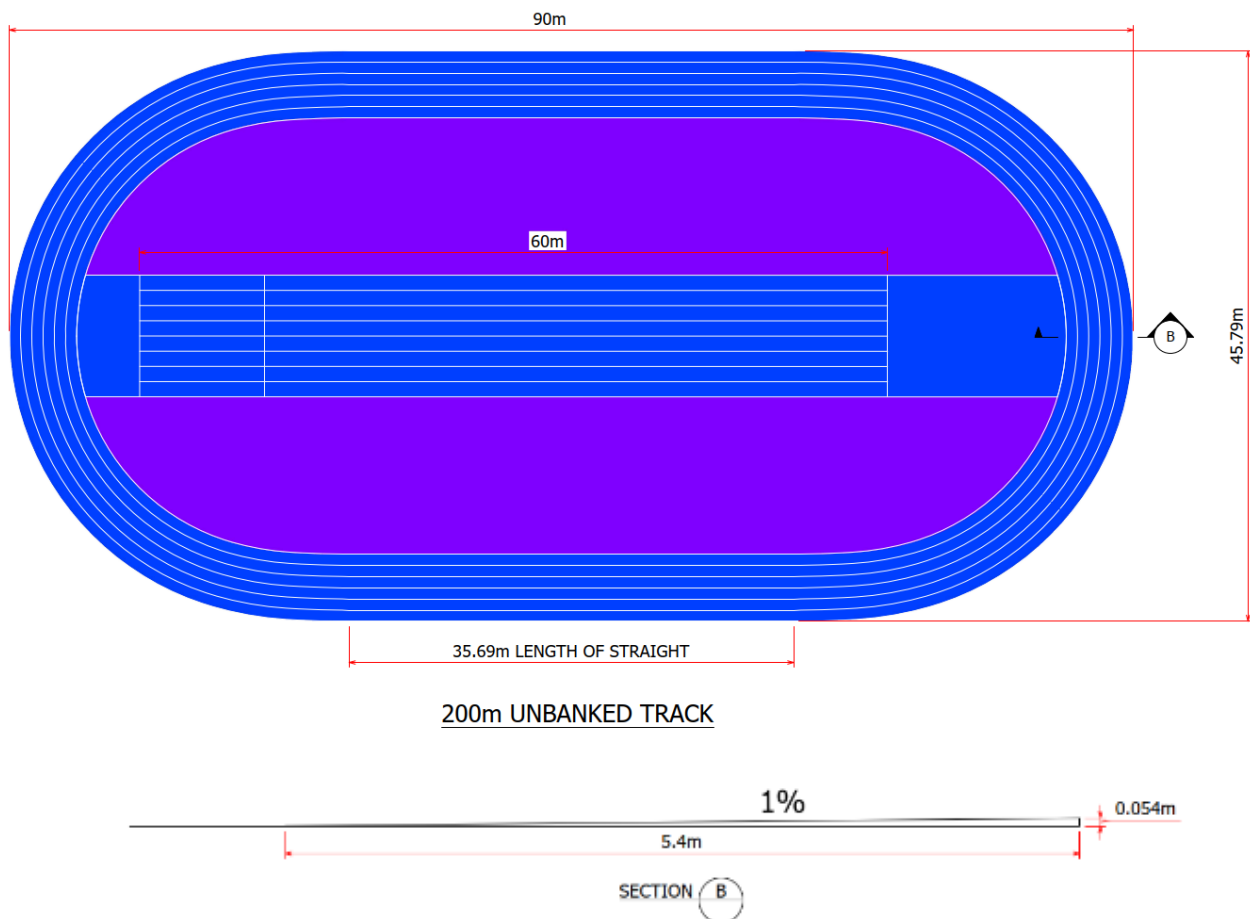
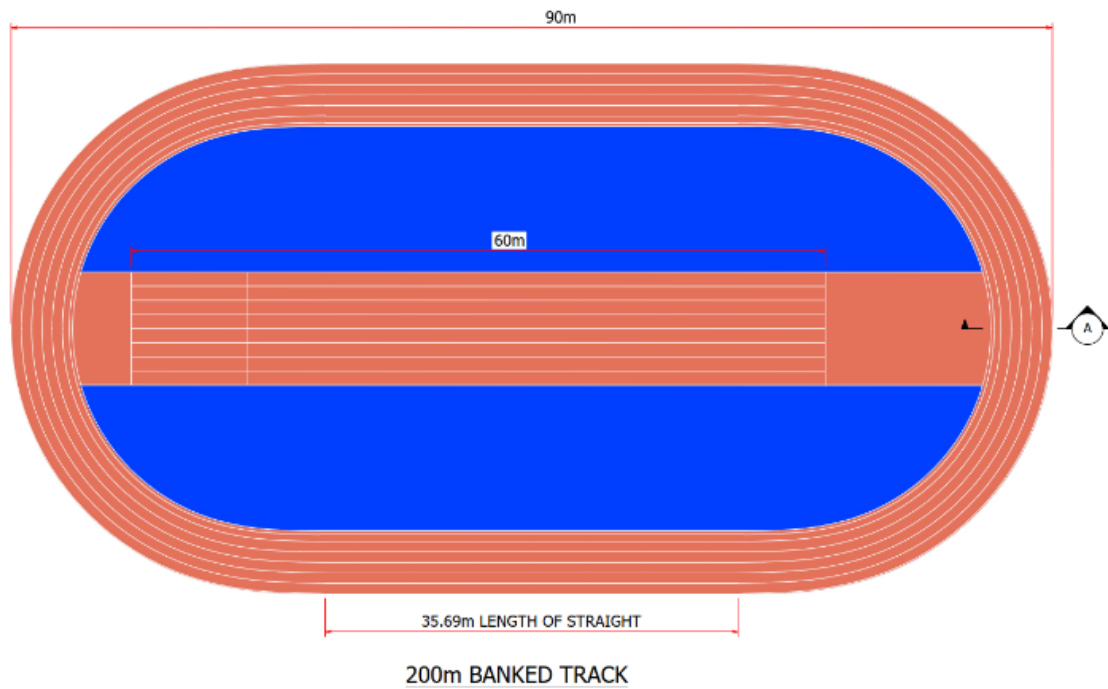


Banked and Non-Banked Short Tracks

Additionally, 200m short tracks can be constructed with or without banks creating opportunities for different configurations. Banked short tracks are generally reserved for higher-end or temporary facilities and assist athletes in navigating the significantly tighter bends in comparison to traditional 400m facilities. Non-banked tracks are generally installed outdoors, but can also be installed indoors as a permanent solution as a dedicated facility.

Additionally, there are options that allow for both banked and non-banked tracks in the same facility. For example, an outdoor hydraulic system can be installed under the 200m track. This then allows for the conduct of World Athletics international level meets by adding banks and converting back to a flat, non-banked facility when required, creating all-round usage for a short track facility.

The illustrations on the next page outline the difference in gradients between banked and non-banked facilities.

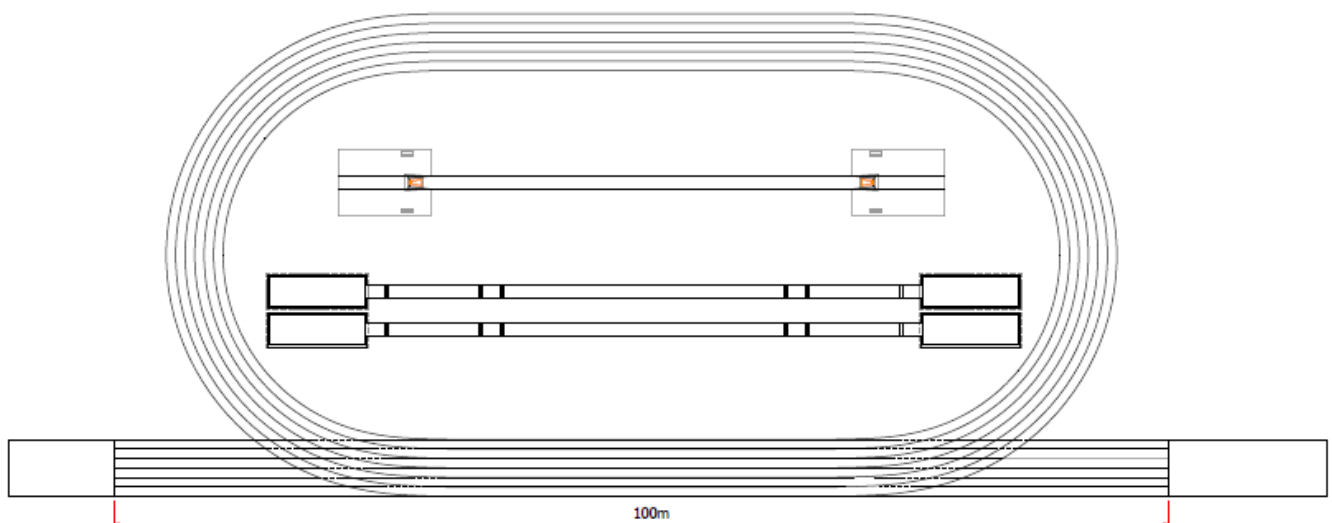
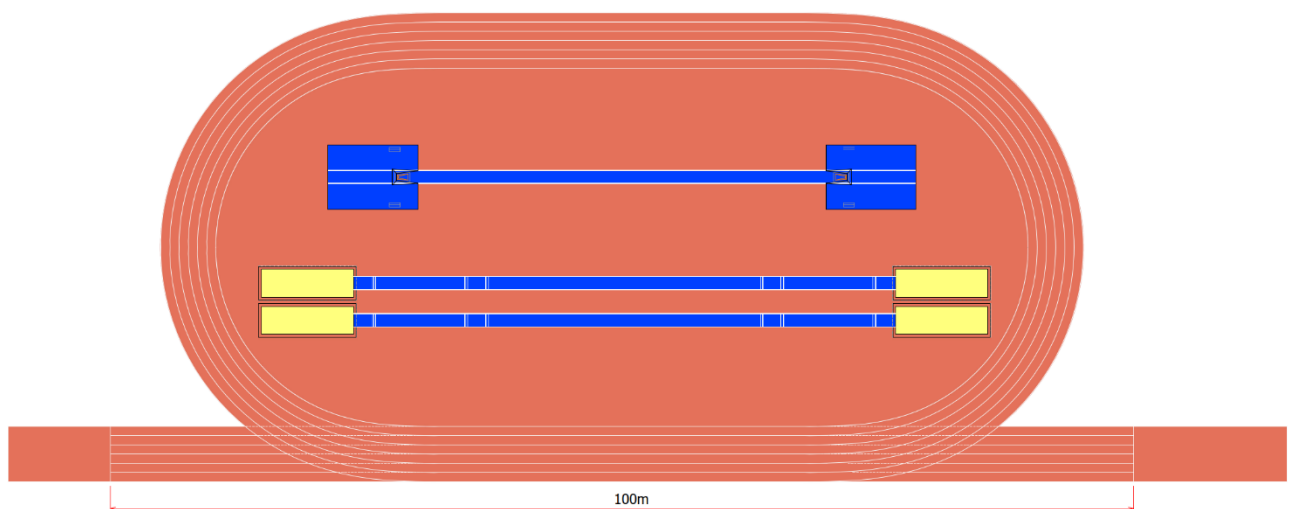


Short Track Concepts

The following section provides four separate examples of 200m short track facility configurations. Concepts are shown in both colour and mono. These examples demonstrate an outdoor application with an extended 100m main straight.

Example 1

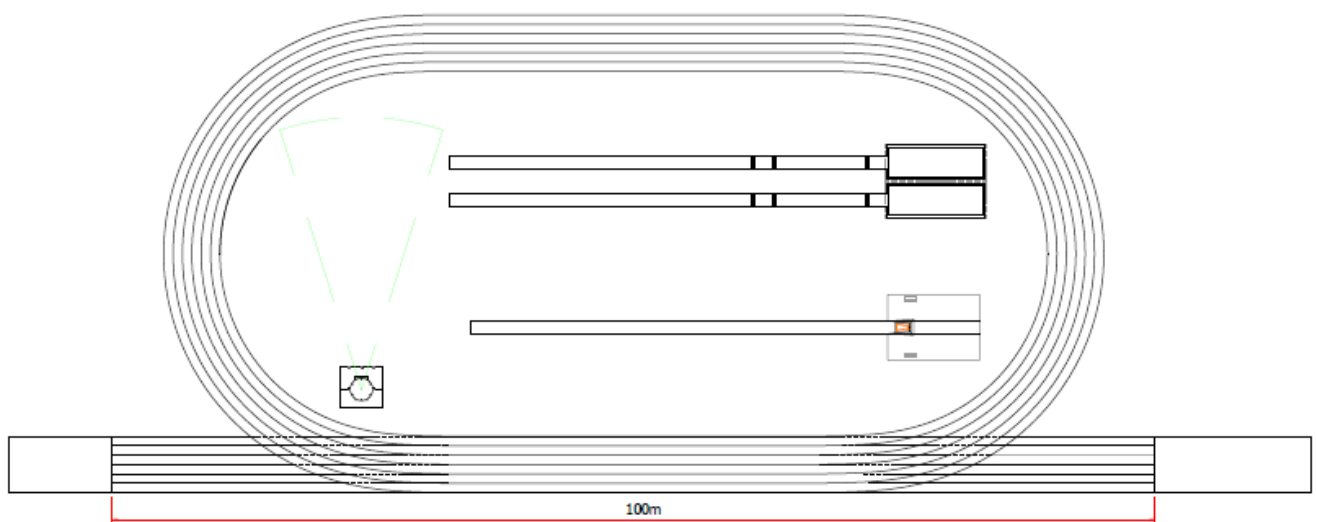
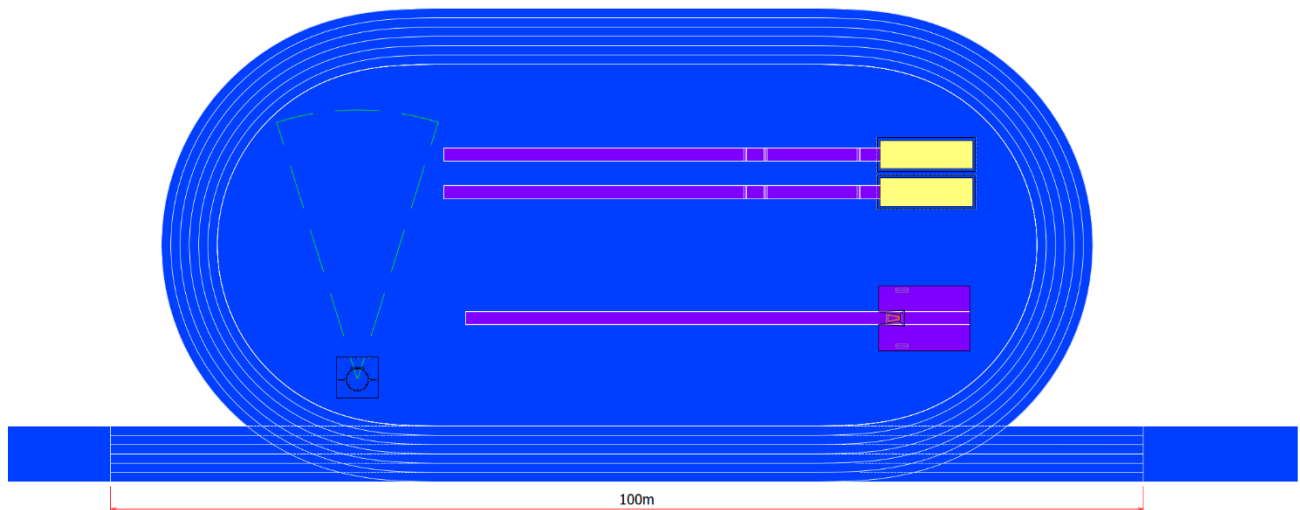
Incorporating 4 long jump/triple jump, and 2 pole vault runways and pits.





Example 2

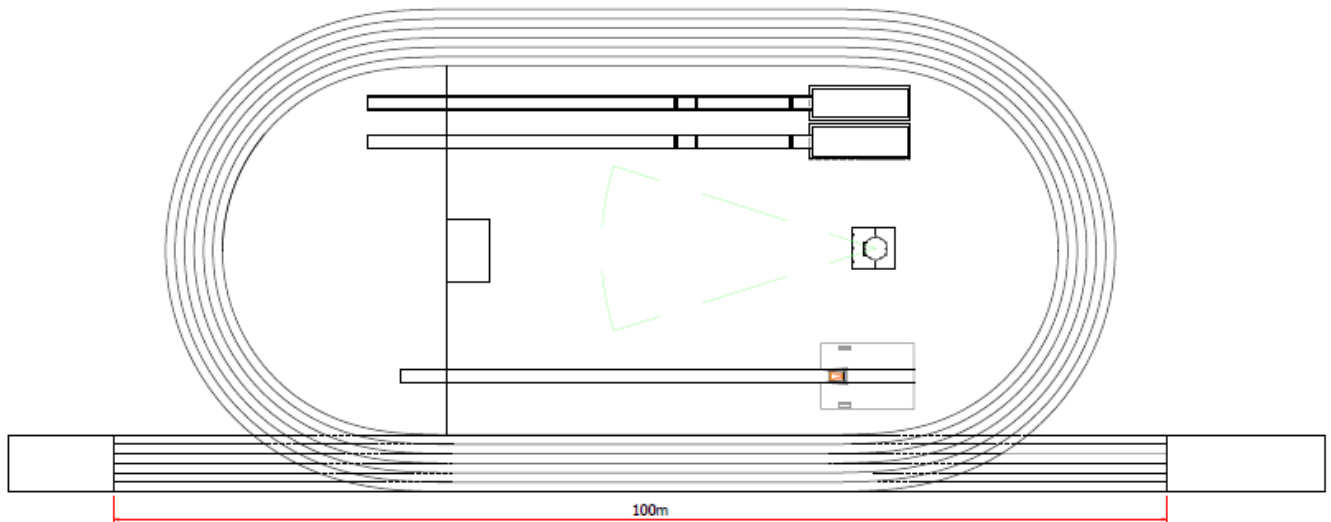
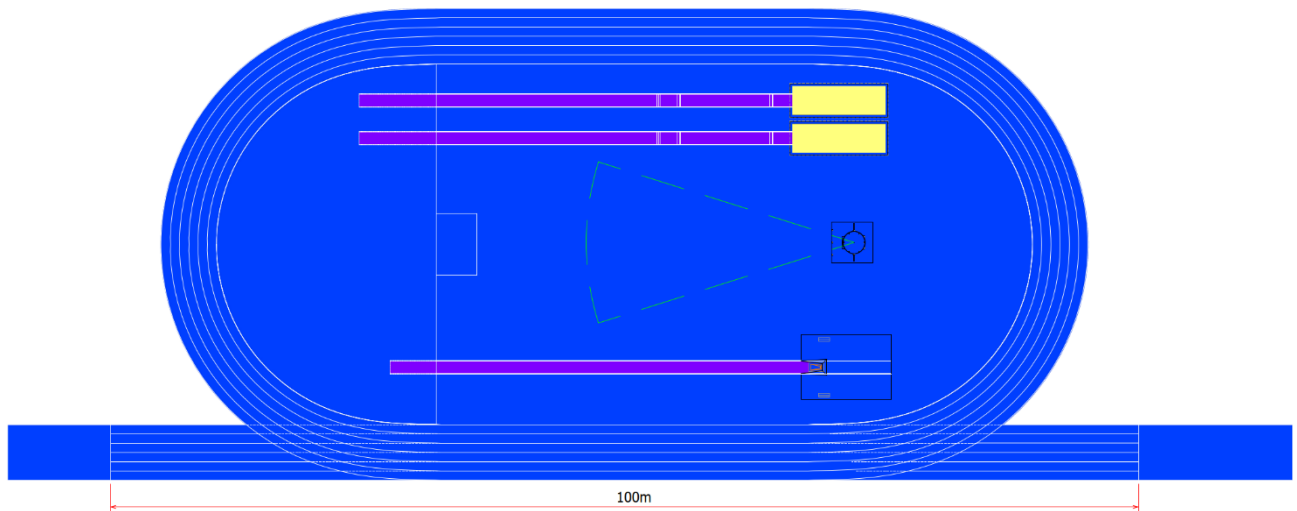
Incorporating 1 shot put circle, 2 long jump/triple jump runways and pits, and 1 pole vault runway and pit.





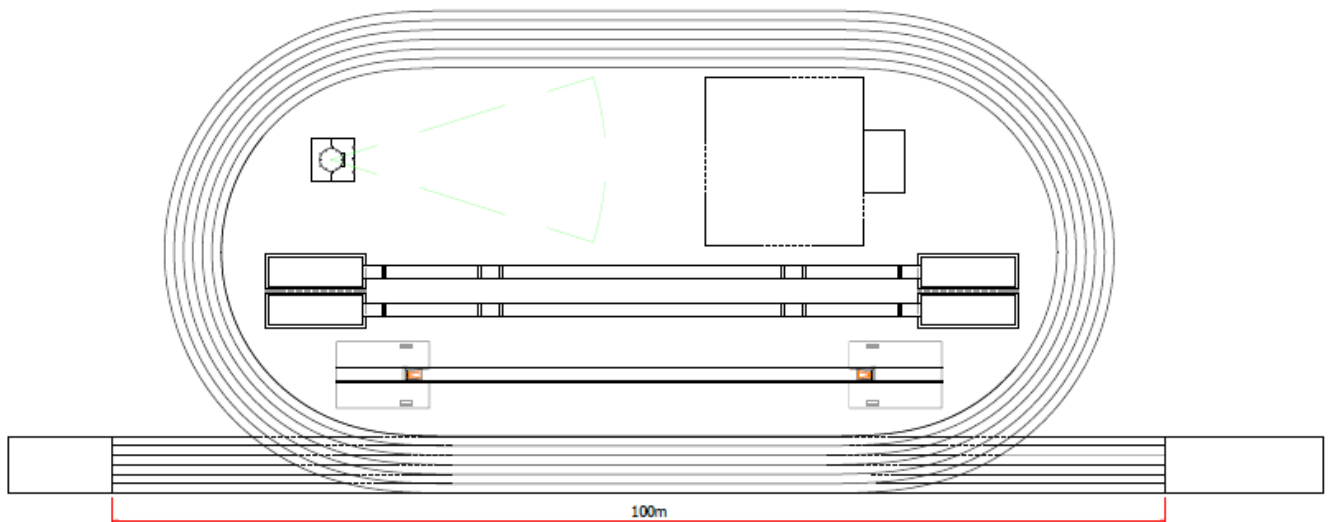
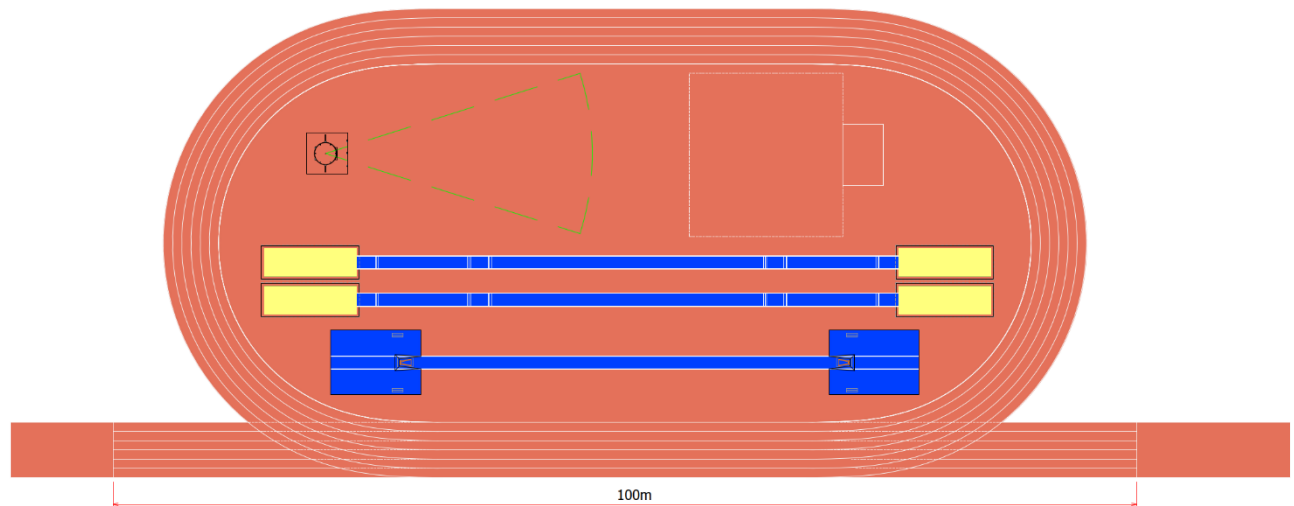
Example 3

Incorporating 1 shot put circle, 1 high jump, 2 long jump/triple jump, and 1 pole vault runway.



Example 4

Incorporating 1 shot put circle, 1 high jump, 4 long jump/triple jump, and 2 pole vault runways and pits.



Marquee Indoor Facility

Australian Athletics and its state and territory Member Associations would enthusiastically support the construction of a dedicated marquee indoor competition athletics facility in Australia that could be used for National and International level events, as well as regular use by state / territory Member Associations, schools, community groups and the general public. Such a facility would provide a unique athletics competition and participation environment that does not yet exist in Australia. It would deliver a missing competition venue in Australian Athletics and provide for participation in athletics, potentially alongside community fitness opportunities, in a controlled environment on a year-round basis.

Given the international indoor season is conducted during the height of the Australian summer and with athletics competition in Australia increasingly exposed to rising climate-induced temperate and flood event impacts, such a facility would be an important addition to athletics facilities in Australia to support ongoing competition and participation in the sport.



Image source and acknowledgement: Mondo www.mondoworldwide.com

Technical Specifications

As at January 2026, World Athletics is currently updating its book of rules relating to short track facilities. Once complete, these regulations and specifications can be found on the World Athletics website at <https://worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information>

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