Tasmania Athletics Facilities Strategy

2026-2036



Final Strategy

October 2026

Many thanks to the people who helped inform this strategy, including Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania, the Athletics Tasmania Branches: Athletics South, North West Athletics and Northern Athletics, the broader athletics community and stakeholders, including club members, little athletics centres, local councils, SATIS, TIS and DECYP.

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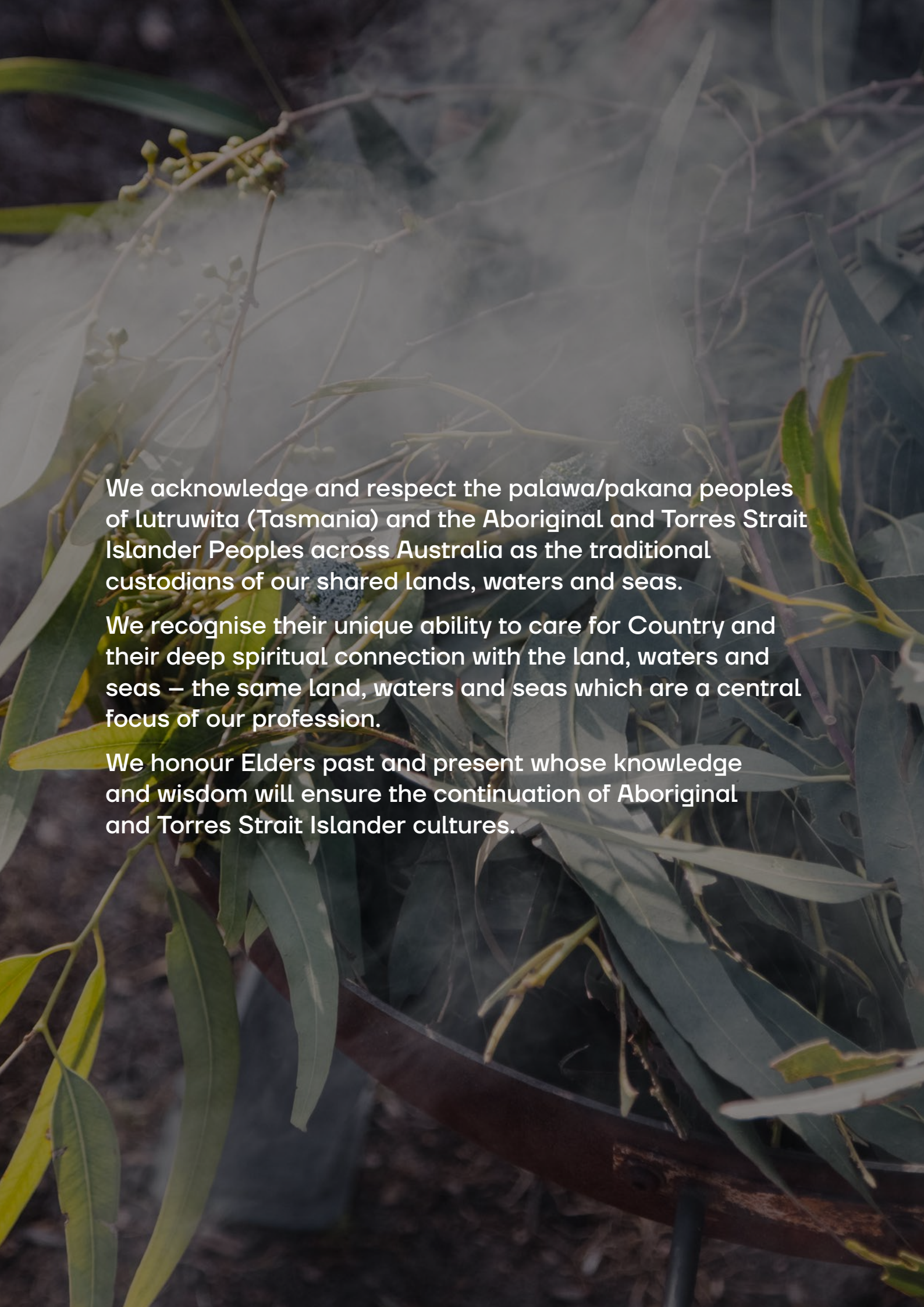
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Document Control

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04/08/2026	Prelim Draft Strategy	
18/08/2026	Revised Draft Strategy V2	Updated following initial client feedback.
12/10/2026	Final Strategy	Final issue following client review



We acknowledge and respect the palawa/pakana peoples of lutruwita (Tasmania) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across Australia as the traditional custodians of our shared lands, waters and seas.

We recognise their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection with the land, waters and seas — the same land, waters and seas which are a central focus of our profession.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure the continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

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Appendix A State of Play

Appendix B Athletics Facilities and Club Hierarchy Framework

Key Abbreviations

AA	Australian Athletics
ASC	Australian Sports Commission
AT	Athletics Tasmania
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DECYP	Department for Education, Children and Young People
LAA	Little Athletics Australia
LAC	Little Athletics Centre
LAT	Little Athletics Tasmania
LGA	Local Government Area
SATIS	Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools
SSA	School Sports Associations
TIS	Tasmanian Institute of Sport

Executive Summary

Athletics is the foundation sport. Running, jumping and throwing are among the first things a child does in a schoolyard, and for many Tasmanians they remain part of life throughout adulthood. That breadth is its great strength and its central planning challenge. A five year old at their first Little Athletics meet and a state representative chasing a qualifying time need very different things. Planning well means knowing which venue does which job, and investing accordingly.

At the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, Australia topped the athletics medal table with 34 medals, 12 of them gold, with para athletics fully integrated into the program. Interest lifts after a Games, fastest among children who have just watched something they want to try. With Brisbane 2032 ahead, that interest should build. Whether it lasts depends on there being a track, a serviceable run-up and a welcoming club within reach.

Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania have united under a single Chief Executive and staffing structure, with a shared vision for athletics to become the lifelong sport of choice for all Tasmanians. The Tasmania Athletics Facilities Strategy is the infrastructure companion to that vision, setting out where the State's facilities stand today, what will be asked of them over the coming decade, and how investment should be prioritised.

What the evidence tells us

The Strategy is built on a statewide facility audit, a community survey, consultation with councils, schools, the Tasmanian Institute of Sport and the athletics community, demographic and demand analysis, and a purpose-built facility and club hierarchy framework. Together this work points to five findings.

- Tasmania has a sound network in the right places. Around thirty venues, anchored by the Domain Athletics Centre and the Penguin and St Leonards hubs, are well matched to the key regions where Tasmanians live and where growth is projected.
- Clubrooms, changerooms, toilets, storage and shelter drew poor ratings in every region.
- Accessibility falls short of contemporary expectations for para athletes, families, officials and older Tasmanians.
- The synthetic track network is thin and ageing together. Three tracks carry every senior club, all facing renewal within a narrow window.
- Demand is broadening faster than membership suggests, driven by growth in informal running.

Where we are heading

The vision is a united network of accessible, high-quality athletics facilities, fit for purpose at every level of the sport. Three commitments follow.

› Look after what we have. Renewal and improvements before expansion.

› Raise the floor. Safe, shaded grass track venues with decent amenities reach the most Tasmanians for the least investment.

› Build with others. Athletics rarely holds or funds a venue alone; councils, schools, cricket and AFL offer the strongest opportunities.

How we will get there

The Strategy sets out three strategic focus areas, six guiding principles and a schedule of key strategies with named responsibilities, timing and targets. It is supported by a facility and club hierarchy framework that defines what each level of the network is for and what it should provide, so that investment is directed where it is needed and clubs and centres are not asked to over-capitalise.

The Strategy runs to 2036, with a major review in 2030 ahead of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, and annual monitoring against participation and demand.



1. Introduction

1.1 What led to this Strategy

Athletics in Tasmania is governed by two organisations: Athletics Tasmania (AT) and Little Athletics Tasmania (LAT). Over recent years the two have moved towards an integrated, whole-of-sport approach, culminating in a joint operational model with a single Chief Executive Officer and staffing structure. That direction is now being followed nationally, with Little Athletics Australia and Australian Athletics reaching agreement in December 2025 to unify the sport, for formal implementation from April 2026.

The joint model optimises resources, reduces duplication and improves the consistency of services to members and stakeholders. It also aligns participation, pathways and performance outcomes under a single strategic direction, providing a stronger foundation for the long-term sustainability, accessibility and growth of the sport.

AT and LAT have jointly developed a whole-of-sport strategic plan, Towards 2032, which draws on national initiatives and events while responding to the priorities of the Tasmanian athletics community. Its vision is for athletics "to become the lifelong sport of choice for all Tasmanians".

This Facilities Strategy delivers directly on that plan. Under the priority Supporting our Organisation, Towards 2032 commits the sport to raise the standard of facilities across the State, so that Tasmania has fit-for-purpose, well-maintained facilities for training through to venues capable of hosting national events. It names two supporting initiatives: complete a review of existing facilities used by Tasmanian athletics, and develop and implement a Tasmanian athletics facilities strategy.

Inspiring Place was engaged to deliver both, comprising:

- a State of Play report setting out the current situational analysis of athletics facilities in Tasmania; and
- a Statewide Facilities Strategy establishing the hierarchy and framework to guide priorities for future investment.

1.2 Why the Strategy is needed

Athletics is one of Australia's most accessible and foundational sports, and national interest in flexible, health-focused and recreational formats continues to grow. These low-cost community formats are broadening the visibility of athletics and creating new entry points into ongoing participation.

Athletics facilities carry programs, development pathways, events and competition at every level of the sport. Planning for the future means understanding



what is currently provided, where it is, what condition it is in, and what will be asked of it over the next decade. Facilities that are well located and offer the right mix of infrastructure and amenities keep clubs and centres viable and make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to take part and progress. Those that are not quietly cost the sport participants.

In Tasmania, demand for athletics facilities and investment will be shaped by broader national and global trends:

- growing expectations of inclusion and accessibility, now a baseline requirement rather than an upgrade;
- strong growth in running and informal athletics activity, including marathons, fun runs and road running, across all ages;
- aggregation of sporting facilities into multi-sport hubs and precincts, with seasonal programming to lift utilisation;
- climate variability and rising demand for all-weather and sheltered training environments, which bears on Tasmania more than most States;
- the emergence of short track and indoor configurations, whose smaller footprint makes them viable where a full 400 metre facility is not; and
- integrated land use planning that services urban growth areas with open space, sporting infrastructure and public transport, alongside education departments opening school grounds to compatible community use.

Together these trends point to increased demand for accessible informal participation spaces and flexible, multi-use facilities, alongside targeted growth in organised pathways. The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games sits behind all of them, lifting the profile of athletics and opening a window in which the case for facility investment is easier to make than it will be afterwards.

This Strategy sets out how the facility network is maintained, improved and prioritised so that the sport can meet demand rather than ration it.

1.3 What is the Strategy

1.3.1 Purpose and scope

The purpose of the Tasmania Athletics Facilities Strategy is to identify and prioritise future athletics infrastructure investment across Tasmania.

The Strategy aims to:

- improve the accessibility, convenience and quality of athletics participation opportunities in all regions;
- understand the servicing needs and priorities of athletics facilities across the State, with a focus on regional areas;
- identify and prioritise key infrastructure needs at Little Athletics centres and schools, and dedicated grass-based athletics facilities;
- support the ongoing maintenance, renewal and upgrading of existing synthetic surfaces to ensure safety, performance and continued suitability for competition;
- identify sustainable shared-use opportunities with compatible sports, without compromising the quality and priority of athletics delivery; and
- assess the capacity of Tasmania's premier athletics facilities to host state and national-level competition, and guide the upgrades required.

The largest share of athletics participation in Tasmania happens at district and local centres, most of them volunteer-run, on council or school land. This Strategy therefore treats the everyday needs of local participants as the first call on investment: safe and well-maintained tracks, functional field event infrastructure, accessible toilets and changerooms, shade, shelter and storage. These are modest improvements individually, and together they reach the greatest number of Tasmanians for the least investment.

This is a matter of sequence rather than exclusion. State-level capability matters, and Towards 2032 commits the sport to facilities capable of hosting national events. The two are connected, because the pathway from a first Little Athletics season to state and national competition only works if both ends of the network function. As investment is often constrained, the Strategy directs it to the participation base first and to elite and event capability second.

The Strategy has been developed to align with Towards 2032: Athletics in Tasmania, the whole-of-sport strategic plan of Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania.

The vision of Towards 2032 is for athletics "to become the lifelong sport of choice for all Tasmanians", underpinned by four values: be bold to be better; collectively deliver success; know and do what is right; and celebrate our people.

Towards 2032 sets four priorities: Our Story, to lead the way; Participation and Products; Supporting our Organisation; and Supporting our Future. This Facilities Strategy delivers principally against Supporting our Organisation, which commits the sport to raise the standard of facilities across the State so that Tasmania has fit-for-purpose, well-maintained facilities for training through to venues capable of hosting national events. It also contributes to Participation and Products through improved access to, and quality of, participation opportunities.

Towards 2032 names two initiatives under that priority: complete a review of existing facilities used by Tasmanian athletics, and develop and implement a Tasmanian athletics facilities strategy. It also defines how success will be measured, including an increase in investment in capital works projects to develop or improve existing facilities, and continuous improvement at each survey of facilities, using the State of Play report as the baseline. This Strategy is structured so that progress can be reported against both measures.

ATHLETICS TASMANIA & LITTLE ATHLETICS TASMANIA

TOWARDS 2032 ATHLETICS IN TASMANIA STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

To become the lifelong sport of choice for all Tasmanians.

VALUES

BE BOLD TO BE BETTER

We seek out new ideas and embrace change. We take informed risks, learn from experiences so that we can do better.

COLLECTIVELY DELIVER SUCCESS

We encourage teamwork and collaboration to deliver our strategic goals. We listen, engage and work with others and strive for success.

KNOW AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT

We encourage each other to create an inclusive, safe and supportive environment. We maintain ethical practices and remain accountable, while making a difference.

CELEBRATE OUR PEOPLE

We reward, recognise and celebrate individual and team stories and success. We build and promote our collective knowledge.

PLAN

PRIORITIES

OBJECTIVES

OUR STORY - TO LEAD THE WAY

- We will ensure that we increase awareness and recognition of the sport so that all Tasmanians consider athletics for an active healthy lifestyle.
- We will ensure we are represented and have influence in the Tasmanian sporting landscape, advocating for athletics across the diverse range of activities (mountain running, park runs, school sports, track and field, etc.).
- We will unify Little Athletics Tasmania and Athletics Tasmania into a single organisation.

PARTICIPATION AND PRODUCTS

- We will ensure that Tasmanians have an opportunity to experience, join and remain in the sport irrespective of their interests or abilities.
- We will ensure that we deliver and adapt our products to ensure that they are compliant, modern, and attractive to participants.

SUPPORTING OUR ORGANISATION

- We will support and develop the coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff that deliver the sport.
- We will raise the standard of facilities around the state to ensure we have fit-for-purpose, well maintained facilities - for training all the way through to facilities capable of hosting national events.
- We will ensure the efficient, quality governance of the sport.

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

- We will ensure that we are a sustainable, fit-for-purpose organisation capable of serving our current and future members for years to come.
- We will build partnerships across sports and business to increase funding, participation and efficient use of facilities.

1.3.2 How the Strategy was developed

The Strategy was prepared in five stages.

- **A. Project initiation**
- **B. State of Play**
- **C. Hierarchy and Framework**
- **D. Draft Strategy**
- **E. Final Strategy**

The evidence base for the Strategy comprises seven lines of inquiry:

- review of contemporary literature and policy, to establish the strategic and planning context and current trends in athletics provision and participation;
- review of Athletics Tasmania, Little Athletics Tasmania and Australian Athletics strategic documents and policies;
- analysis of socio-demographic data, drawing on the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Local Government Association of Tasmania REMPLAN, and the Tasmanian Population Projections;
- analysis of athletics participation and demand, including a purpose-built facility demand model applied consistently across all Tasmanian local government areas;
- an audit of athletics facilities in the northern, north west and southern regions of the State;
- consultation with Athletics Tasmania, Little Athletics Tasmania, the athletics regional associations, clubs and centres, councils, schools, the Tasmanian Institute of Sport and the broader athletics community, including a statewide community survey; and
- development of a hierarchy and framework for athletics venues and facilities in Tasmania, classifying venues by role and defining the standard of provision expected at each level.

This work is documented in two supporting reports, both included as appendices. The appendices were prepared in the lead-up to this strategy; where figures or dates differ, this Strategy reflects the most current information (October 2026).

The State of Play report (Appendix A) sets out the current situational analysis for athletics in Tasmania. It covers the strategy and policy context, the delivery system, participation trends, facility needs and demand, the outcomes of stakeholder consultation, and a venue-by-venue audit of athletics facilities across the State.

The Facility and Club Hierarchy Framework (Appendix B) classifies athletics venues into four levels and defines the role, infrastructure, programs and management arrangements expected at each. It is informed by the analysis of trends in facility provision, existing provision and identified stakeholder needs, participation and demand analysis, and consultation with the State bodies and regional associations.



2. Insights into Athletics in Tasmania

2.1 Delivery of athletics

Athletics in Tasmania is delivered by a small paid staff and a large volunteer base across four levels, from local to national. The distribution matters for facilities planning, because the work of maintaining, marking out and operating an athletics venue falls almost entirely to the local end of that chain.

Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania operate under a single Chief Executive and staffing structure, supported by three regional associations that manage bookings, equipment and regional competition. Week-to-week delivery sits with nineteen Little Athletics centres and nine senior clubs, the latter concentrated at the three synthetic track venues. Schools, the Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools and the Department for Education, Children and Young People are among the heaviest seasonal users. Councils own and maintain most venues and are therefore central to almost every action in this Strategy.

The event and competition profile at Appendix A, Section 3.1, sets out this activity across the year. Two features stand out: the three synthetic venues appear in almost every category of summer competition, concentrating demand on these key regional assets; and a substantial share of athletics activity occurs away from them, at external cross country and road event locations.

2.2 Current participation in athletics

Close to 3,000 Tasmanians were registered members in 2025-26: 2,056 with Little Athletics Tasmania and 927 with Athletics Tasmania, distributed broadly in line with population at an engagement rate of 0.5 per cent statewide. Little Athletics reaches around four per cent of school-aged Tasmanians in the North and South, and two per cent in the North West. Detailed membership by region, age and gender is at Appendix A, Section 3.3.

Tasmania is holding while the sport grows nationally. Little Athletics registrations nationally rose 6.2 per cent in 2024-25, closer to 16 per cent adjusted for the de-affiliation of Athletics West, the third highest post-Olympic and Paralympic growth in forty years. Tasmanian registrations have been broadly stable across the same period. That gap is the clearest signal in this evidence base, and the condition and capability of the facility network is a material part of the explanation.

Membership is following population. Centres in the growth municipalities of Clarence and Brighton are growing; Burnie and Devonport have declined consistently; most northern centres outside Launceston carry fewer than fifty athletes. Senior registrations grew in all three regions in 2025-26.

The pathway breaks at two points. Participation builds to around nine or ten years of age and then declines. Some causes lie beyond this Strategy, but two are structural: all nine senior clubs are based at the three synthetic tracks, so young athletes in Circular Head, Sorell or the Huon Valley have no local next step; and restricted weekday access means the venue suiting a nine-year-old on Saturday often does not suit a fifteen-year-old training seriously. At the other end, masters participation in the South is nearly double in the 35 to 44 age group what it is at 25 to 34, and holds to 65 and over. That second wave is absent in the North and North West. Where a well-serviced, openly accessible track exists, adults return.

Participation now extends well beyond membership. The Cadbury Marathon Festival, owned and delivered by Athletics Tasmania, drew more than 4,000 participants in 2026, exceeding the entire registered membership of the sport in Tasmania. Recreational running, school carnivals and casual training rely on athletics infrastructure without appearing in any registration figure. The Domain Athletics Centre carries substantial casual use through the City of Hobart's open access arrangement, unusual nationally for a venue of its type and among the strongest assets in the network.

The workforce is thin. Tasmania had 209 accredited coaches at 31 March 2026. With nine affiliated senior clubs, the same people carry club, regional and State roles simultaneously. Venues that are easier to run reduce the load on the people the sport cannot afford to lose.

Para participation is performing. Of 88 state records set in 2025-26, 35 were para records, and Tasmanian athletes earned World Para Athletics Championships selection. Consultation identified facility accessibility, not program availability, as the binding constraint at several venues.

What the athletics community told us. The community survey drew responses across all three regions. Just over half said they could easily participate locally; around a third said facilities do not meet their needs. Facilities were most commonly rated fair, with a third of northern respondents rating them poor and North West respondents the most satisfied. Track resurfacing was the single most consistent request. Clubrooms, changerooms, toilets and storage drew poor ratings in every region, with specific need identified for female-friendly, gender-neutral and accessible adult change facilities. Shade, shelter and drainage were raised almost universally, alongside interest in all-weather training environments and consistent concern about throwing infrastructure below competition standard. Full survey results are at Appendix A, Section 4.2.

Consultation added two further themes: a desire for stronger coordination across the pathway, and interest from AFL Tasmania and Cricket Tasmania in shared-use and collaborative investment.

Tasmania does not currently hold participation data at local government area level, nor systematic records of para participation, school carnival or casual venue use. The migration of Little Athletics Tasmania to the national membership platform provides a consistent registration dataset for the first time, and Section 4 builds on it.



DELIVERY OF ATHLETICS FROM GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL



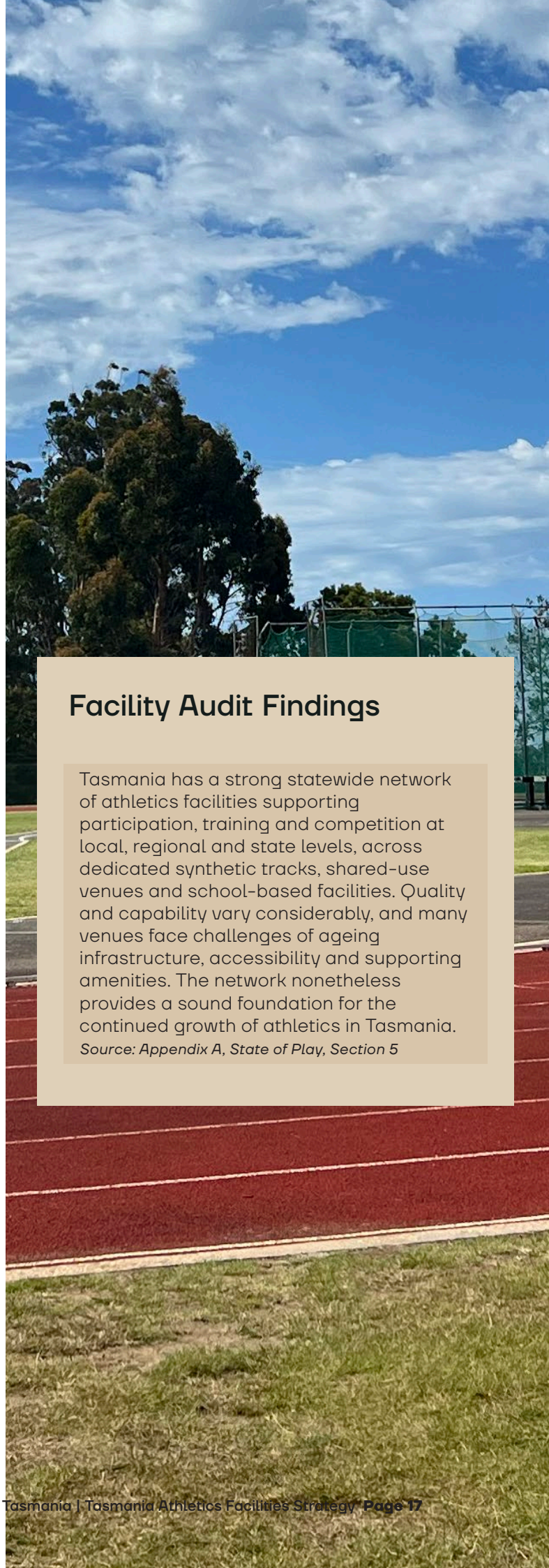
2.3 Existing athletics facility network

Athletics is delivered across approximately thirty venues, from school ovals operating as athletics centres for a few hours each Saturday through to a fully serviced synthetic track. The Facility and Club Hierarchy Framework at Appendix B classifies these into four levels: one State Athletics Centre at the Domain, two regional hubs at Penguin and St Leonards, sixteen district and local centres, and nine temporary venues. Expected provision at each level is set out at Appendix B, Table 3.7.

Coverage is not the network's problem. The State Athletics Centre and both regional hubs sit centrally within their regions, close to areas of positive population growth, and most district and local centres fall within reasonable travel distance of the populations they serve.

Three characteristics define the network. It is well distributed. It depends entirely on three synthetic tracks, with all nine senior clubs based at them and no redundancy if one becomes unavailable. And those three tracks are ageing together, with Penguin scheduled for renewal in 2026/2027 and the Northern Athletics Centre surface nearing end of life. Venue-by-venue audit findings are at Appendix A, State of Play, Section 5.

Taken together, the network is well located but under-provided. The immediate priority for this Strategy is the everyday quality of the district and local centres where most participation happens: accessible amenities, functional field event infrastructure, shade, shelter and storage. Building from that base, the second priority is the capability of the State Athletics Centre and the two regional hubs to support pathway progression and to host state and national competition. Section 3.2 sets out the challenges in detail.

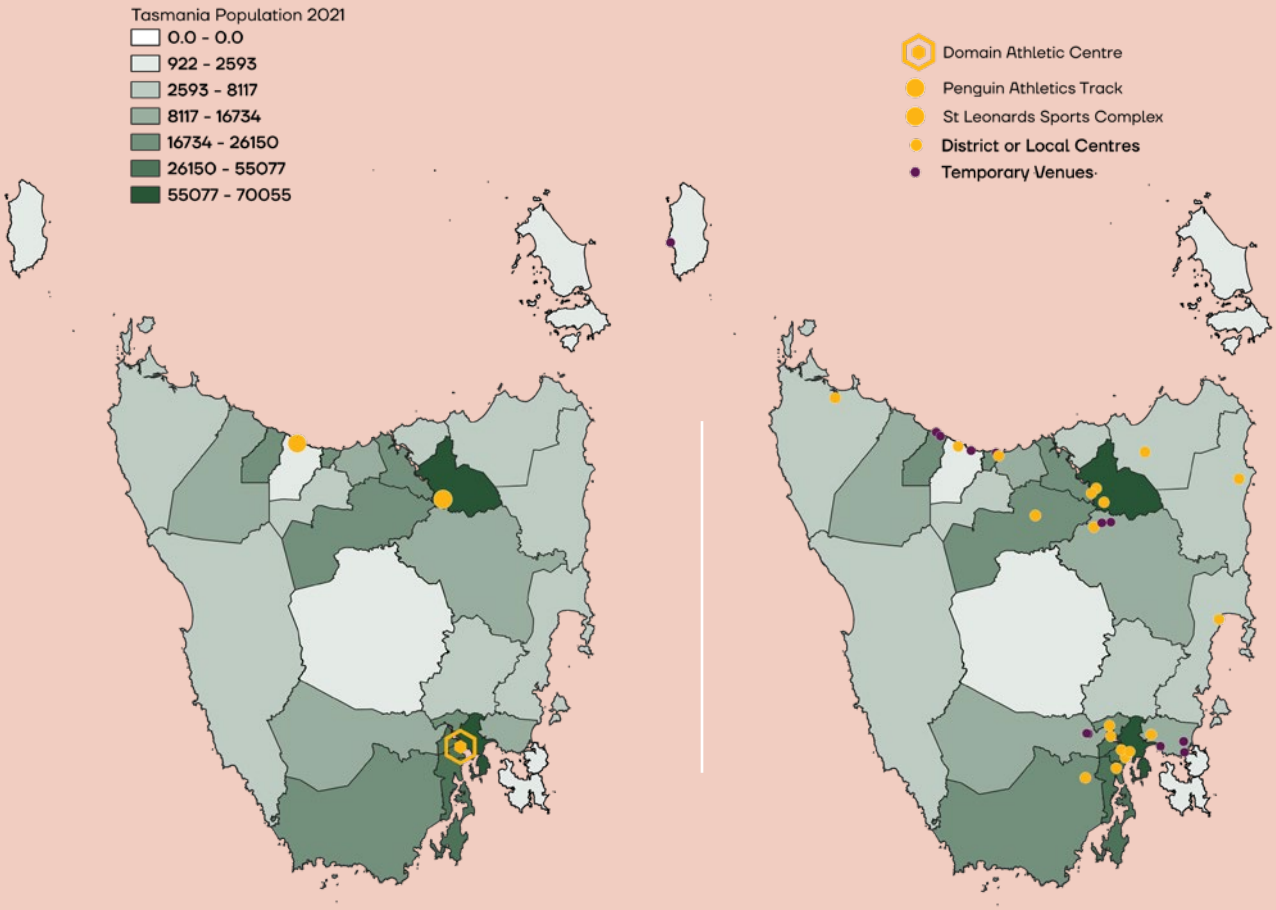


Facility Audit Findings

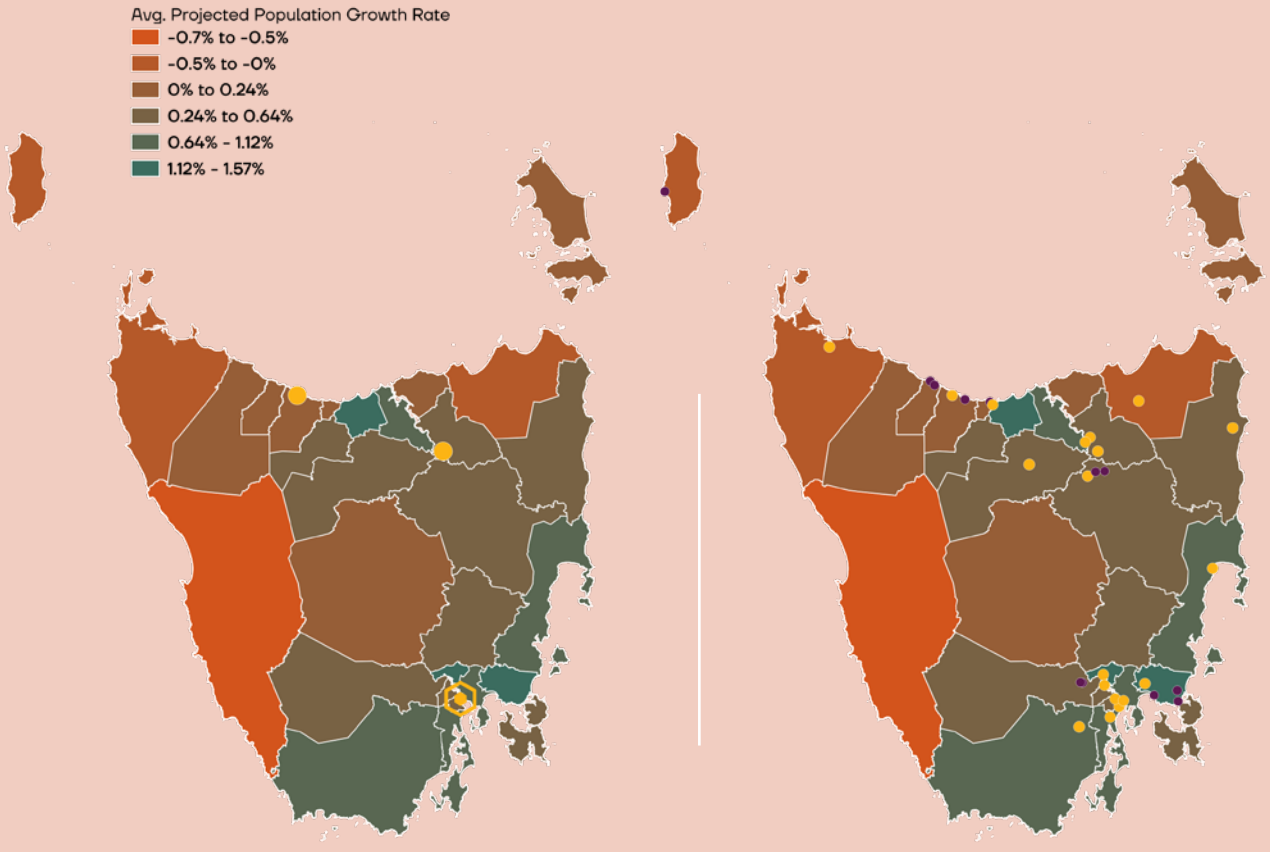
Tasmania has a strong statewide network of athletics facilities supporting participation, training and competition at local, regional and state levels, across dedicated synthetic tracks, shared-use venues and school-based facilities. Quality and capability vary considerably, and many venues face challenges of ageing infrastructure, accessibility and supporting amenities. The network nonetheless provides a sound foundation for the continued growth of athletics in Tasmania.

Source: Appendix A, State of Play, Section 5

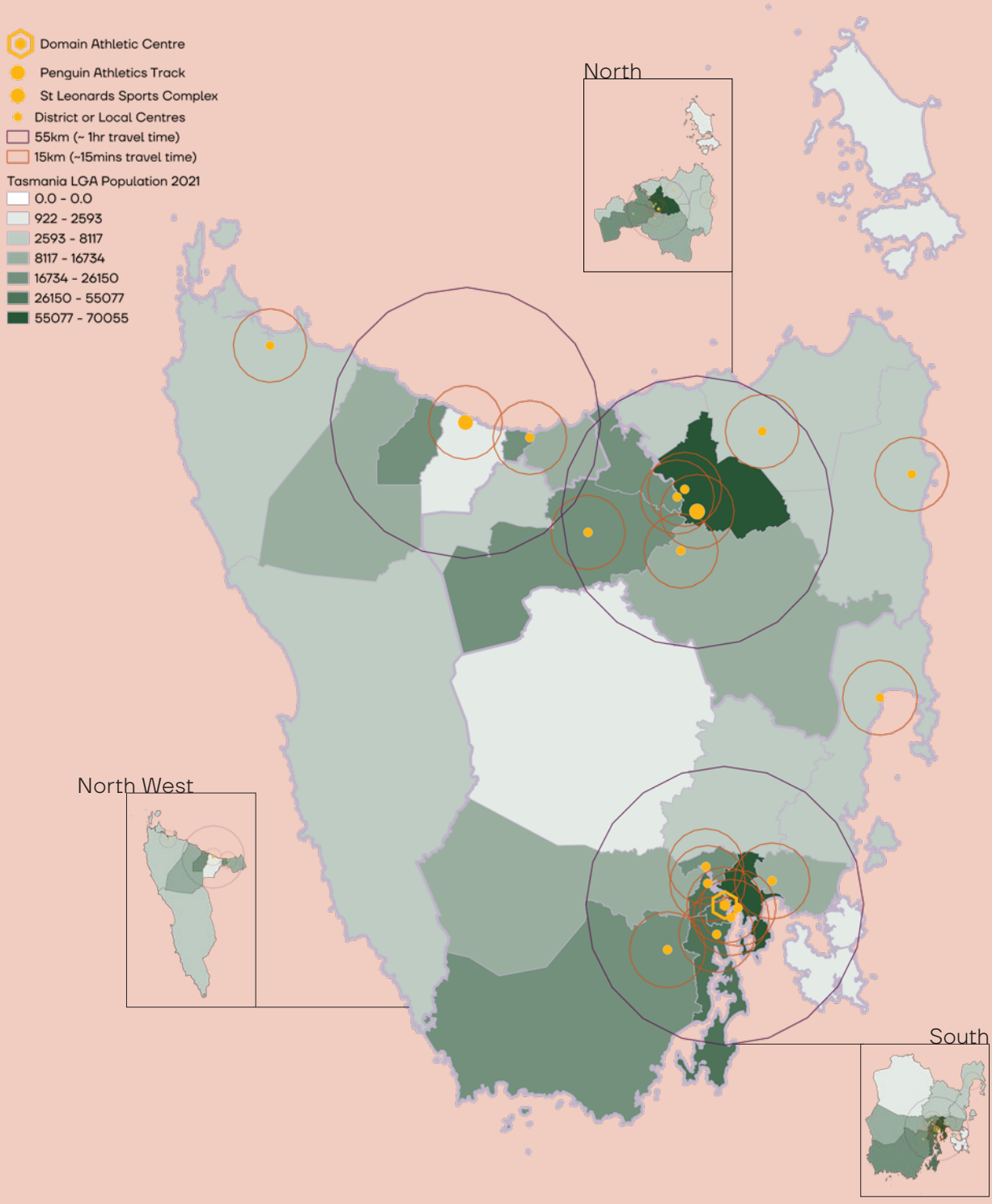
Map 2.1 Distribution of Facilities by Current (2021) LGA Population



Map 2.2 Distribution of Facilities by Projected Avg. Population Growth Rate



Map 2.3 Distance from District or Local Centres and Regional Hubs



The adopted buffer distances are intended to represent approximate acceptable travel times to athletics facilities based on facility hierarchy and function. District or local centre level facilities have been assigned an indicative acceptable travel time of up to 30 minutes (represented on Map 4.3 by a 15km radius, recognising indirect roads), while regional facilities have been assigned an indicative acceptable travel time of up to 1 hour (approximately 55km). These indicative travel distances are informed by contemporary sport and recreation planning approaches which recognise that users are generally willing to travel greater distances to access specialised regional sporting infrastructure than local-level recreation facilities, alongside consideration of local understanding of Tasmanian travel expectations and settlement patterns.

3. Strategic Drivers and Influences

3.1 Strategic influences

Several national and State forces are converging in the same decade. Together they set what Tasmania should be planning for.

3.1.1 National and State strategic alignment

This Strategy has been developed to align with national, State and sport-specific policy direction.

The Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan 2026-2034 (AANPP), launched in 2026, is the sport's first co-designed national participation strategy, targeting 5 million annual participants and 200,000 registered athletes, coaches and officials by 2034 across eight priority themes, including Infrastructure and Places. This Strategy aligns with and supports AANPP delivery at a Tasmanian level.

Across these frameworks the priorities are consistent: participation for all ages and abilities; accessible and inclusive facilities; modern, fit-for-purpose infrastructure; pathways from community participation to high performance; coordination between government, councils and sporting organisations; and facilities that are sustainable and adaptable to future demand. This Strategy is structured to deliver against each.

Framework	Relevance to athletics facilities in Tasmania
National Sport Strategy 2024-2034 (Sport Horizon)	Directs investment towards accessible, inclusive, high-quality facilities alongside high performance environments
Play Well Participation Strategy 2023; Win Well 2032+	Positions participation growth and performance as complementary, both requiring fit-for-purpose infrastructure
Places to Play National Community Sport Infrastructure Plan (2026)	Establishes national criteria shaping Commonwealth infrastructure funding
Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan 2026-2034 (AANPP)	Infrastructure and Places is one of eight priority themes, directing evidence-based facilities planning and advocacy for investment that this Strategy delivers at a Tasmanian level
Towards 2032: Athletics in Tasmania	Commits the sport to fit-for-purpose, well-maintained facilities from training through to national event capability, and commissions this Strategy directly
Tasmanian Government sport, recreation and health frameworks	Sets the State policy context for participation and community infrastructure investment

3.1.2 Population and demographic change

Every Tasmanian local government area except Flinders grew between 2016 and 2023, with growth concentrated in the four municipalities bordering the Derwent and in and around Launceston. Sorell and Brighton recorded the State's highest proportional growth, at twenty-two and twenty per cent. Projections indicate the pattern will continue, with Greater Hobart accommodating a significant share of future growth.

Three implications follow. Pressure increases on the southern network, particularly the Domain Athletics Centre, already the busiest venue in the State. Accessible district-level provision becomes more important in the growth municipalities, where membership is already rising at Clarence and Brighton. And centres in areas of static or declining population face a question of viability rather than capacity, which facilities investment alone will not resolve.

Tasmania's older-than-average population is also an opportunity. Athletics is one of the few sports able to serve people across the full span of life, and the masters participation pattern in the South, absent in the other two regions, demonstrates what a well-serviced, openly accessible track can support.

3.1.3 Changing participation patterns

Six trends are reshaping demand for athletics facilities.

- **Growth in informal running.** Strong growth in parkrun, fun runs, trail running and marathons has not converted proportionally into club membership, but does drive demand for accessible, openly available places to run.
- **Whole-of-sport participation measurement.** The sport nationally is shifting from counting members to understanding participants. Facility planning must account for school, casual, recreational and masters use.
- **Inclusion and accessibility as baseline.** Accessible movement, amenities and spectator areas, female-friendly and gender-neutral provision, and child-safe environments are now expectations rather than upgrades. Several Tasmanian venues do not meet them.
- **Aggregation into multi-sport precincts.** Shared precincts improve utilisation, reduce duplication and strengthen investment cases. Athletics suits this well, its summer season complementing the winter codes.
- **Climate variability**. Wet weather, wind and cold constrain training in Tasmania more than most States, driving demand for sheltered seating, improved drainage and covered training environments.
- **Short track configurations.** Australian Athletics guidance identifies growing interest in 200 metre configurations, whose smaller footprint suits locations where a full 400 metre facility is not viable. Outdoor short track is the more achievable model for Tasmania in the short to medium term.

Brisbane 2032 sits behind all six. A home Games lifts the profile of athletics, brings investment decisions forward, and opens a window in which the case for facility funding is easier to make than it will be afterwards. That window covers roughly the first half of this Strategy's life.



3.2 Strategic drivers

What is driving the need for investment and change in Tasmania's athletics facilities? Two bodies of evidence answer it. The audit, survey and consultation identify the condition, capability and sustainability challenges facing the existing network. The facility demand model identifies where potential demand is greatest across the State.

3.2.1 Athletics venue and facility challenges

The facility audit, community survey and stakeholder consultation undertaken for this Strategy produced a consistent picture. Tasmania is not short of athletics venues. The challenges are of condition, capability, access and long-term sustainability, summarised below into seven themes and each addressed by actions in Section 4.

- Track and field infrastructure condition
- Supporting amenities
- Accessibility and inclusion
- Capacity, access and scheduling pressure
- Travel, geography and the pathway
- Shared use and multi-purpose functionality
- Asset renewal, cost and volunteer capacity

Track and field infrastructure condition

- All three synthetic venues remain scheduled for resurfacing in the immediate future. Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania have identified the need to be actively involved in venue operators' decision-making so that works do not overlap, and to account for both competition and school hirer requirements.
- The Northern Athletics Centre presents the most acute condition issues, with the track, jumps infrastructure and supporting buildings all assessed as poor.
- Throwing infrastructure below competition standard was raised at multiple venues, including at regional hub level.
- District and local centres show recurring issues of uneven grass surfaces, ageing jump runways and limited field event provision, constraining efficient competition delivery.

Supporting amenities

- The condition and availability of supporting amenities was the single most consistent theme across the whole body of consultation.
- Clubrooms, changerooms, toilets, equipment storage, shade, shelter and spectator seating drew poor ratings in every region.
- Several district and local centres have limited or no access to changerooms, meeting space or canteen facilities, particularly where athletics is a secondary tenant.
- These provisions determine whether families stay for a full competition morning, whether officials volunteer again the following season, and whether a venue can host a carnival at all.

Accessibility and inclusion

- Audits identified venues with limited accessible toilets, no accessible adult change facilities, non-compliant accessible routes and constrained spectator accessibility.
- Both the Northern Athletics Centre and Penguin Athletics Track nominated accessibility upgrades as key priorities.
- Community consultation identified that facilities at several venues do not meet contemporary accessibility or child safeguarding standards, and identified need for female-friendly and gender-neutral provision.
- Accessible movement, amenities and spectator facilities are expected outcomes at every level of the facility hierarchy, from the State Athletics Centre to district and local centres.

Capacity, access and scheduling pressure

- Reliance on three synthetic tracks concentrates demand and risk across a very small number of assets.
- The Domain Athletics Centre faces increasing summer pressure across club training, Little Athletics, school carnivals, state events, high-performance use and open community access.
- Restricted access was the strongest single theme in northern community feedback, with junior athletes unable to access the Northern Athletics Centre for weekday training.
- Stakeholders raised the prospect of two synthetic tracks being unavailable concurrently, which current renewal timing makes a live possibility with no alternative capacity in the network.

Travel, geography and the pathway

- Distribution and travel-time mapping confirms the network provides relatively high coverage against current population distribution and projected growth.
- Long travel times remain a significant barrier for participants regularly travelling to a regional hub or district centre for training and competition.
- The barrier is structural: with all senior clubs based at the three synthetic tracks, continuing in athletics beyond Little Athletics depends on being able to reach one of three locations.
- Distance to Little Athletics centres is also a barrier to entry at grassroots level in parts of the State.

Shared use and multi-purpose functionality

- Most district and local centres operate as shared-use facilities alongside other codes, schools or broader recreation precincts.
- Shared use reduces duplication but creates operational friction around access, scheduling, storage and responsibility for infrastructure.
- Several venues identified scope to work more closely with co-located users to improve amenities.
- AFL Tasmania and Cricket Tasmania both expressed openness to shared-use and collaborative investment approaches that could support upgrades, improve utilisation and strengthen funding cases.

Asset renewal, cost and volunteer capacity

- The cost and coordination of renewal is the most significant long-term challenge facing the network.
- Smaller volunteer-managed district and local centres have limited capacity to prepare funding applications, manage projects or fund co-contributions.
- Coordinated statewide planning of the three approaching synthetic renewals is essential if disruption to competition and pathways is to be managed rather than absorbed.
- With only nine affiliated senior clubs statewide, the same people carry club, regional and State roles simultaneously. Athletics South has identified that continued delivery depends on more people coming forward as officials, coaches and administrators.
- Venues that are easier to operate, with adequate storage, sheltered officiating positions and reliable amenities, directly reduce the load on a stretched volunteer workforce.

Underlying all seven themes is the challenge, as in many sporting codes, of collecting the full range of data. Tasmania does not currently hold consistent statewide data on venue utilisation, school carnival use, casual use or participation at local government area level. Action 1.1.1 addresses this. Closing this gap will strengthen the evidence for decision-making and grant applications.

3.2.2 Potential demand for athletics in Tasmania

The Athletics Facility Demand Model has been developed to identify where potential demand for athletics infrastructure is greatest across Tasmania. Demand modelling is standard practice in sport and recreation infrastructure planning, and is used alongside participation, facility provision, accessibility and stakeholder information to inform investment priorities. In the absence of participation data at local government area level, a demographic-based model provides a consistent statewide assessment.

The model applies four indicators recognised as key drivers of demand for community sport and recreation infrastructure:

- current population, based on 2021 ABS Census data, as an indicator of existing demand and the size of the potential participant base, including participants, spectators, volunteers and officials;
- projected population aged 0 to 59 years in 2053, from TasPOPP 2024 medium series projections (Dept. of Treasury and Finance), representing the future population most likely to participate in athletics;
- average population growth rate to 2053, identifying areas where demand may increase significantly even where current population is modest; and
- school enrolments in 2025, as a proxy for youth participation potential.

Each indicator was assessed at local government area level and scored 1 to 5 using a quintile-based classification, giving a maximum total demand score of 20. Quintiles divide the 29 local government areas into five groups of approximately equal size for each indicator, so ratings reflect relative ranking rather than fixed numerical thresholds. Scores were summed to produce an overall demand score, and demand categories assigned from Very Low to Very High.

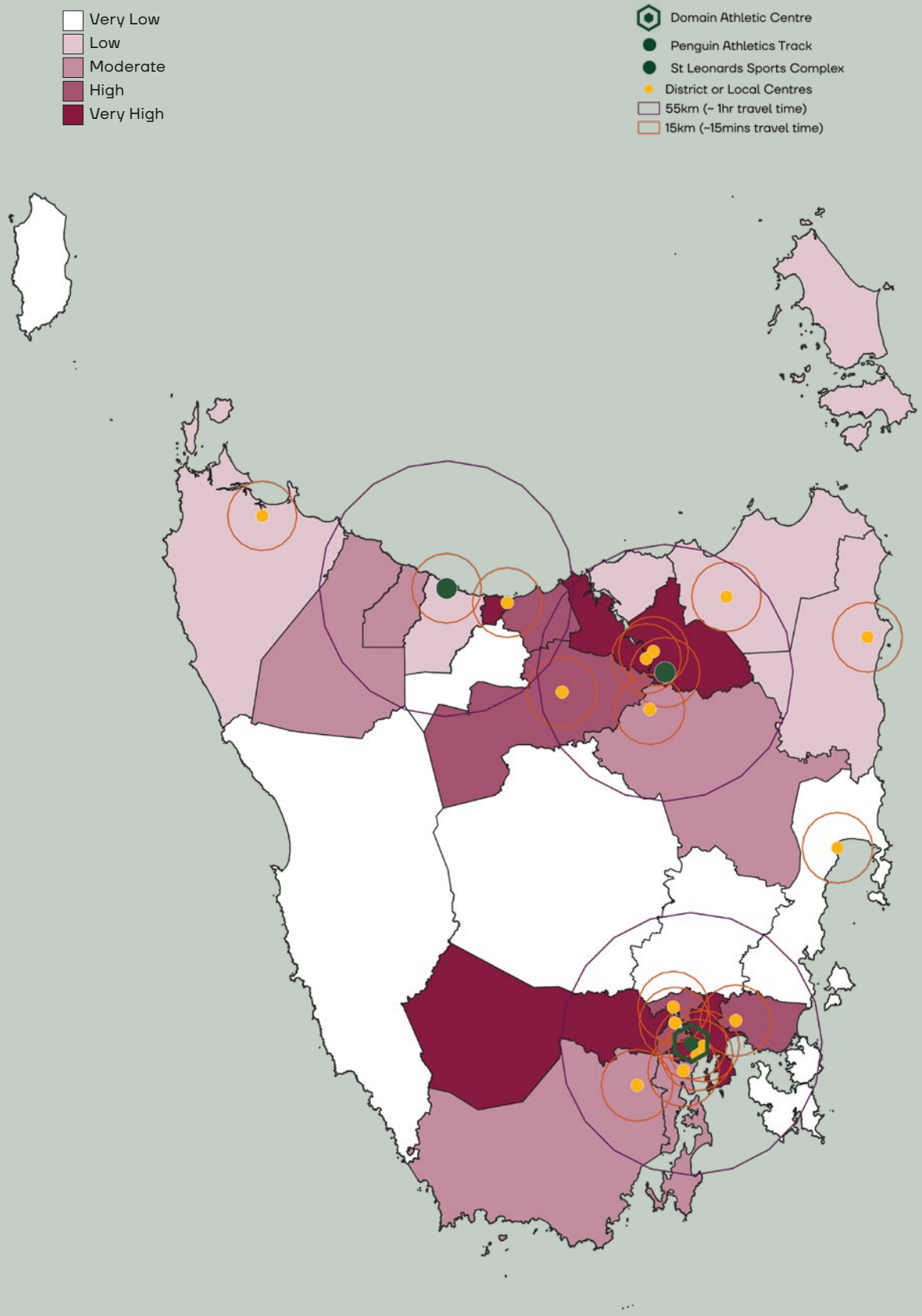
Read alongside the supply and travel distance analysis at Appendix B, Section 4.1, the demand model reinforces that Tasmania's existing network is broadly well located. Map 3.1 shows the State Athletics Centre and both regional hubs sitting within or close to the municipalities of highest potential demand, and most district and local centres positioned within or adjacent to areas where demand is projected to grow. Where centres sit in growth municipalities, the case is for improving what is there to support local access and grassroots participation; where demand is projected to plateau or decline, facilities investment needs to be considered alongside other measures to support participation. The implication is one of sequence rather than location: the priority for the next decade lies in the condition, capability and accessibility of the existing network rather than in new venue sites.

Limitations

The model is a strategic planning tool rather than an exact measure of demand. Participation in athletics is shaped by many factors beyond population characteristics, including facility availability and quality, travel distance, socio-economic conditions, local sporting culture, volunteer capacity, school programming and club strength. The model also assumes demographic growth will translate into demand for athletics facilities, which does not always occur in practice, and school enrolments indicate participation potential rather than actual participation.

Results should therefore be read as an indication of relative demand and strategic priority, not a definitive measure of current or future participation. Applied consistently across all Tasmanian local government areas, the model identifies where priority locations may occur and warrant further investigation, and is intended to inform conversations with councils and stakeholders alongside existing facility provision.

Map 3.1 Potential athletics demand in Tasmania by municipality



Note: Temporary venues are not mapped.

4. Athletics Facilities Strategy and Action Plan

4.1 Our vision and focus

Towards 2032 sets the vision for athletics in Tasmania: to be the lifelong sport of choice for all Tasmanians. Facilities are how that vision becomes real for most people, because the venue is where much of the sport is actually experienced. The Tasmania Athletics Facilities Strategy vision is:

Support and grow Tasmanian athletics through a network of well maintained, inclusive and welcoming facilities in every region.

Our focus

Delivering the vision over the next decade means holding to three commitments.

› Look after what we have. The first call on investment is the renewal and improvement of the existing network. Tasmania's venues are in broadly the right places. What they need is condition, capability and care. Coordinated statewide planning of synthetic track renewal is the most urgent single task in this Strategy.

› Raise the floor. The largest share of athletics participation in Tasmania happens at district and local centres run by volunteers on council and school land. Improvements at this level, to surfaces, shade, toilets, storage and accessibility, reach the most Tasmanians for the least investment and are where the sport should concentrate its advocacy.

› Build with others. Athletics rarely holds a venue alone and will rarely fund one alone. Councils own most of the network, schools host a significant part of it, and compatible codes share much of the rest. Partnership is a key delivery mechanism for this Strategy.

4.2 Objectives and guiding principles

The Strategy is organised around three strategic focus areas, each with a strategic objective and two guiding principles. Together they respond directly to the seven challenge themes in Section 3.2.1 and to the gaps identified in the Facility and Club Hierarchy Framework at Appendix B, Section 4.2.

Table 4.1 Strategic Focus Areas, Objectives and Guiding Principles

Strategic Focus	Strategic objective	Guiding Principles
1. Places for everyone	Ensure athletics facilities across Tasmania are safe, accessible, well maintained and welcoming, so that people of every age and ability can take part, coach, officiate, volunteer and spectate.	1.1 Quality and capability 1.2 Safe, inclusive and universally designed places
2. Pathways and performance	Maintain a connected network of venues that supports progression from a first Little Athletics season through to state competition, with the State Athletics Centre capable of hosting state championships and selected national events.	2.1 A connected pathway network 2.2 State-level capability and events
3. Partnerships and stewardship	Work with councils, schools, government and compatible sporting codes to plan, fund, manage and renew athletics facilities in ways that are financially and environmentally sustainable for the long term.	3.1 Sustainable operation and stewardship 3.2 Partnerships and shared use

Strategy outcomes

Delivery of the Strategy will produce four outcomes for the Tasmanian athletics facility network.

- **A fit-for-purpose network.** Athletics facilities across Tasmania are renewed and maintained to standards appropriate to their role in the facility hierarchy, supporting safe, high-quality participation and competition at every level.
- **Accessible and inclusive places**. Every Tasmanian, including people living with a disability, families, officials and older participants, can use athletics facilities with dignity and ease.
- **Sustainable clubs, centres and venues.** Clubs and centres operate from venues they can afford to run, supported by clear management arrangements, strong partnerships and climate-responsive design.
- **Better information, better decisions**. Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania hold the data needed to make and win the case for investment.

4.3 Strategic facilities framework

The following framework translates the vision, objectives and principles into key strategies, arranged under the strategic focus areas. Each identifies who leads, when the work falls, what it aligns to, its indicative cost, its readiness, its complexity and what it depends on. The format follows that adopted for the Domain Athletics Centre implementation plan, so the statewide and venue-level programs can be read together.

Strategic Facilities Framework

	Strategic Focus 1	Strategic Focus 2	Strategic Focus 3
Themes	Places for everyone	Pathways and performance	Partnerships and stewardship
Objectives	Ensure athletics facilities across Tasmania are safe, accessible, well maintained and welcoming, so that people of every age and ability can take part, coach, officiate, volunteer and spectate.	Maintain a connected network of venues that supports progression from a first Little Athletics season through to state competition, with the State Athletics Centre capable of hosting state championships and selected national events.	Work with councils, schools, government and compatible sporting codes to plan, fund, manage and renew athletics facilities in ways that are financially and environmentally sustainable for the long term.
Principles	1.1 Quality and capability; 1.2 Safe, inclusive and universally designed places	2.1 A connected pathway network; 2.2 State-level capability and events	3.1 Sustainable operation and stewardship; 3.2 Partnerships and shared use
Strategies	24 Key Strategic actions established		

Strategic Actions Rating Scales

Timeframe

Band	Period
Immediate	2026 to 2027
Short	2027 to 2029
Medium	2029 to 2032
Long	2032 to 2036+

Cost

Band	Range
Low	Under $250,000
Medium	$250,000 to $1 million
High	Over $1 million

Readiness

Band	Definition
Identified	Identified as a need through engagement or condition assessment. Not scoped, costed or designed
Scoped	Requirements defined and location confirmed. No design or approvals
Designed	Design complete. Approvals obtained or in progress
Programmed	Funded and scheduled in a capital works or renewal program

Complexity

Band	Definition
Low	Single organisation can deliver. No external approvals
Medium	Multiple stakeholders, or minor planning approvals required
High	Multiple stakeholders plus a planning, heritage, environmental or sport certification pathway

Strategic Focus 1: Places for everyone

Strategic objective. Ensure athletics facilities across Tasmania are safe, accessible, well maintained and welcoming, so that people of every age and ability can take part, coach, officiate, volunteer and spectate.

Principle 1.1 Quality and capability

Key strategy	Priority	Timeframe	Alignment	Cost	Readiness	Lead	Complexity	Dependency
1.1.1 Establish and maintain a statewide athletics facility asset and usage register, covering condition, renewal timing, membership, competition, school carnival and casual use, using the audit at Appendix A as the baseline and the membership platform for participation data	High	Immediate	Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan 2026-2034 (AANPP) Technology and Digital theme (improve participation data collection and systems), Towards 2032 (facility survey baseline measure); Places to Play Plan (2026, evidence-led network planning); Active 2030 (access to infrastructure, facilities and spaces); Facilities Strategy s3.2.1	Low	Scoped	AT and LAT with councils and DECYP	Medium	Enables 1.1.2, 3.2.4
1.1.2 Coordinate renewal of the three synthetic tracks so that no more than one is unavailable at any time, confirming a sequenced program with the three host councils and aligning the state event calendar to it	High	Immediate	World Athletics Manual; Sport Horizon (National Sport Strategy 2024-2034); Active 2030; AANPP Infrastructure and Places theme (evidence-based facilities investment), Hierarchy Framework s4.2.5; Events Commission 2025-26	High	Identified	AT and LAT, City of Hobart, City of Launceston, Central Coast Council	High	Depends on 1.1.1
1.1.3 Advocate for upgrades to field event infrastructure and venue lighting, prioritising throwing areas and jump runways below competition standard, and extending the Domain Athletics Centre lighting precedent to the two regional hubs	High	Short to Medium	World Athletics Manual; Win Well High Performance Strategy 2032+ (quality training and competition environments); AANPP Infrastructure and Places theme (advocate for increased investment in athletics facilities), Places to Play Plan (2026); Hierarchy Framework Tables 3.3 to 3.5	High	Identified	Councils with AT and LAT advocacy	Medium	Sequence after 1.1.2 at synthetic venues
1.1.4 Support district and local centres to improve grass track surfaces, line marking, drainage and maintenance, through shared guidance and advocacy to landowners	High	Short	Play Well Participation Strategy 2023 (activating places and spaces); Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan 2023; Hierarchy Framework Table 3.5; council open space and recreation strategies	Low	Identified	AT and LAT, LACs councils and DECYP	Low	None

Principle 1.2 Safe, inclusive and universally designed places

Key strategy	Priority	Timeframe	Alignment	Cost	Readiness	Lead	Complexity	Dependency
1.2.1 Partner with landowners to assess accessibility, universal design and child safeguarding at all athletics venues, beginning with the State Athletics Centre and the two regional hubs	High	Short	DDA 1992 and AS 1428; Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023; Play Well Participation Strategy 2023 (equitable access); Places to Play Plan (2026, nationally consistent universal design); Design for Everyone Guide 2026; Hierarchy Framework s4.2.3	Low	Scoped	AT and LAT councils and DECYP	Medium	Enables 1.2.2
1.2.2 Prioritise upgrades to toilets, changerooms, spectator areas and flexible meeting or function space, including accessible, all-gender and female-friendly provision and accessible adult change facilities	High	Short to Medium	DDA 1992 and AS 1428; Places to Play Plan (2026, reducing barriers for women and girls and people living with a disability); Play Well Participation Strategy 2023 (equitable access); Her Path to Play 2025-26; Hierarchy Framework Table 3.7; Capital City Strategic Plan 2023	High	Identified	Councils and DECYP with AT and LAT advocacy	Medium	Depends on 1.2.1
1.2.3 Improve shade, shelter and sheltered seating across the network, recognising Tasmanian conditions	High	Short	Healthy Tasmania 2022-2026 and Healthy, Active Tasmania 2026-2046 (environments for health and wellbeing); Places to Play Plan (2026, climate-resilient facilities); Design for Everyone Guide 2026; Community survey findings; Hierarchy Framework s2.2.4	Medium	Scoped	Councils, LACs and clubs	Medium	None
1.2.4 Identify and promote venues capable of supporting wheelchair and other para athletics activity, and work with the Tasmanian Institute of Sport to remove facility barriers to para participation	Medium	Short	Play Well Participation Strategy 2023 (equitable access); Win Well High Performance Strategy 2032+; AANPP Accessibility theme (expand disability participation options beyond para-classification); Little Athletics Australia True Inclusion Model; Hierarchy Framework Table 3.7	Low	Identified	AT and LAT TIS and councils	Low	Informed by 1.2.1

Strategic Focus 2: Pathways and performance

Strategic objective. Maintain a connected network of venues that supports progression from a first Little Athletics season through to state competition, with the State Athletics Centre capable of hosting state championships and selected national events.

Principle 2.1 A connected pathway network

Key strategy	Priority	Timeframe	Alignment	Cost	Readiness	Lead	Complexity	Dependency
2.1.1 Adopt and maintain the facility hierarchy at Appendix B as the basis for planning, investment and advocacy across the athletics network	High	Immediate	Places to Play Plan (2026, right mix, distribution and configuration of facilities); Sport Horizon (National Sport Strategy 2024-2034); AANPP Infrastructure and Places theme (develop evidence-based state and national facilities plans), Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework; Towards 2032	Low	Designed	AT and LAT	Low	Underpins all strategies
2.1.2 Improve weekday training access for junior and developing athletes at the two regional hubs, working with venue managers and tenant clubs	High	Short	Play Well Participation Strategy 2023 (driving lifelong involvement); Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan 2023 (promoting availability of St Leonards); Community survey findings; Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework, Table 3.4	Low	Identified	AT and LAT regional centres and host councils	Low	Relates to 3.1.1
2.1.3 Work with district and local centres in growth municipalities to strengthen provision where junior participation is rising, including Clarence, Brighton, Kingborough and Sorell	Medium	Short to Medium	TasPOPP 2024 projections; Greater Hobart Sport Infrastructure Strategy 2026; Active 2030 (increased participation for all); Facility demand model	Medium	Identified	AT and LAT, LACs councils	Medium	Informed by 1.1.1

Principle 2.2 State-level capability and events

Key strategy	Priority	Timeframe	Alignment	Cost	Readiness	Lead	Complexity	Dependency
2.2.1 Secure and develop the Domain Athletics Centre as Tasmania's State Athletics Centre, delivered through the DAC Master Plan and its implementation plan, and sustaining the national circuit competition returned to Tasmania through the Hobart Track Classic	High	Immediate to Short	DAC Master Plan 2026; Win Well High Performance Strategy 2032+; Sport Horizon; Greater Hobart Sport Infrastructure Strategy 2026; Queens Domain Master Plan 2013-2033; Capital City Strategic Plan 2023; Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework Table 3.3; World Athletics Manual	High	Designed	City of Hobart with AT and LAT	High	Refer DAC implementation plan
2.2.2 Support the City of Launceston to plan and deliver renewal of the Northern Athletics Centre, addressing track, jumps, buildings, accessibility and weekday access arrangements	High	Immediate to Medium	Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan 2023 (master plan the Northern Athletics Centre and Northern Hockey Centre precinct); Active 2030; Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework; Table 3.4; Community survey findings; World Athletics Manual	High	Identified	City of Launceston with AT, LAT and NTA	High	Depends on 1.1.2
2.2.3 Maintain and improve the Penguin Athletics Track as the North West regional hub, including reinstatement of pole vault and upgraded throwing infrastructure	High	Immediate to Medium	Active 2030 (access to infrastructure, facilities and spaces); Places to Play Plan (2026); Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework, Table 3.4; World Athletics Manual	High	Programmed	Central Coast Council with AT, LAT and NWA	Medium	Track renewal 2026/2027 precedes field works
2.2.4 Investigate alternative training environments for Tasmania, covering outdoor short track configurations in the shorter term and a covered or indoor facility in the longer term	Medium	Medium to Long	Australian Athletics Short Track Guidance; Win Well High Performance Strategy 2032+; Places to Play Plan (2026, multifunctional hubs); AANPP Infrastructure and Places theme (guidance for complementary facilities such as 200m short track); Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework, s2.4.2	Low	Identified	AT and LAT TIS, councils, State Government	Medium	Informed by 1.1.1
2.2.5 Secure long-term access to a cross country and out-of-stadium venue in each athletics region, recognising the growth of road, trail and mass participation events	Medium	Medium	Play Well Participation Strategy 2023 (driving lifelong involvement, informal participation); AANPP Participation Products and Transitions theme (expand recreational running offerings), Healthy Tasmania 2022-2026; Tasmania Athletics State of Play s3	Low	Identified	AT and LAT regional centres and landowners	Medium	None

Strategic Focus 3: Partnerships and stewardship

Strategic objective. Work with councils, schools, government and compatible sporting codes to plan, fund, manage and renew athletics facilities in ways that are financially and environmentally sustainable for the long term.

Principle 3.1 Sustainable operation and stewardship

Key strategy	Priority	Timeframe	Alignment	Cost	Readiness	Lead	Complexity	Dependency
3.1.1 Confirm management and governance arrangements for the State Athletics Centre and both regional hubs, clarifying responsibility for maintenance, asset protection, programming and community access, and establish a Tasmanian Athletics Facilities Reference Group of track owners, operators, regional centres and council representatives	High	Immediate to Short	Places to Play Plan (2026, governance alignment and shared-use frameworks); Sport Horizon (coordinated action across governments and sport); Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework, Table 3.3 (hybrid management model); Local Government Act 1993	Low	Identified	AT and LAT host councils and regional centres	Medium	Enables 2.1.2, 3.1.2
3.1.2 Protect and promote open community access arrangements, using the City of Hobart model at the Domain Athletics Centre as the reference	High	Ongoing	Play Well Participation Strategy 2023 (equitable access); AANPP Infrastructure and Places theme (improve access to existing venues and non-traditional spaces); Healthy Tasmania 2022-2026; Capital City Strategic Plan 2023; Open Space Strategy 2026-36; Sport Horizon	Low	Designed	AT and LAT councils	Low	Relates to 3.1.1
3.1.3 Provide volunteer-run centres with a practical toolkit for funding applications, project management and asset planning, including case studies of well-delivered improvements	High	Short	Places to Play Plan (2026, workforce and volunteer development); Sport Horizon; Tasmania Athletics State of Play s4.2; Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework; s4.2.5	Low	Identified	AT and LAT	Low	Draws on 1.1.4, 1.2.3
3.1.4 Apply climate-responsive and environmentally sustainable design principles to new and renewed athletics infrastructure, covering drainage, water use, shade, materials and dark sky lighting	Medium	Ongoing	Places to Play Plan (2026, environmentally and operationally sustainable, climate-resilient facilities); Hierarchy Framework s2.2.4; Queens Domain Master Plan 2013-2033; Sport Environment Alliance guidance	Low	Identified	AT and LAT councils and designers	Low	Applies to all capital items

Principle 3.2 Partnerships and shared use

Key strategy	Priority	Timeframe	Alignment	Cost	Readiness	Lead	Complexity	Dependency
3.2.1 Develop shared use guidance covering access, scheduling, storage, maintenance responsibility and cost sharing, for use by clubs, centres, councils and co-located codes	High	Short	Places to Play Plan (2026, shared-use frame-works); Greater Hobart Sport Infrastructure Strategy 2026 (seasonal congestion and duplication); Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework s2.2.3; Sport Horizon	Low	Identified	AT and LAT councils and other codes	Low	Enables 3.2.2
3.2.2 Pursue the shared use and collaborative investment opportunities identified with AFL Tasmania and Cricket Tasmania	Medium	Short to Medium	Places to Play Plan (2026, multifunctional hubs); Greater Hobart Sport Infrastructure Strategy 2026; Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework s2.2.3; Tasmania Athletics State of Play s5.2.1	Medium	Identified	AT and LAT AFL Tasmania, Cricket Tasmania, councils	Medium	Depends on 3.2.1
3.2.3 Strengthen partnerships with DECYP, SATIS and individual schools to improve school-based athletics venues and support community access to school grounds	Medium	Ongoing	Play Well Participation Strategy 2023 (building connections); Healthy Tasmania 2022-2026 (collaborating with schools, councils and health agencies); Sport Horizon; Tasmania Athletics Hierarchy Framework, s2.2.3	Low	Identified	AT and LAT DECYP and SATIS	Medium	Relates to 1.1.4
3.2.4 Advocate for a dedicated athletics infrastructure funding pathway with the State Government, and embed athletics priorities within council open space, recreation and sport strategies	High	Short	Towards 2032 (capital works investment measure); Active 2030; Places to Play Plan (2026); AANPP Infrastructure and Places theme (advocate for increased investment in athletics facilities across the country); Sport Horizon; Greater Hobart Sport Infrastructure Strategy 2026; Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan 2023	Low	Identified	AT and LAT State Government and councils	Medium	Depends on 1.1.1

4.4 Pathway to delivery and action

Delivering this Strategy depends on four things: a clear framework for what each facility is for, clarity about who does what, honest monitoring, and a realistic view of where the money comes from.

Most of what this Strategy asks of Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania is inexpensive. The majority sit in the Low cost band, being advocacy, coordination, guidance, data collection and partnership work. What they require is staff and volunteer time, relationships with councils and landowners, and consistency of message over a decade. The capital burden sits with a smaller number of council-led items, principally the synthetic track renewals along with the staged approach to amenities, storage, shade and accessibility upgrades at the State Athletics Centre, regional hubs and local centres.



4.4.1 Facilities hierarchy framework

The Facility and Club Hierarchy Framework at Appendix B defines four levels of athletics facility, the role each plays in the network, and the infrastructure, programs, services and management arrangements expected at each level. Expected attributes are set out at Table 4.3, distinguishing required from preferred provision.

The hierarchy works in two directions. It gives councils, schools and funders a clear statement of what is appropriate at a given venue, supporting well-targeted investment. Equally, it protects clubs and centres from over-capitalising by making clear what is not expected of a district or local centre. A grass track Little Athletics venue is not a lesser synthetic track; it is doing the job the network needs it to do.

Adopting the hierarchy is action 2.1.1 and underpins every other strategy in this framework. It should be the reference point for every facility conversation Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania have over the next decade.

Table 4.2 Athletics Facility Hierarchy Framework

Facility Type	Facility Role	Current Provision
State Athletics Centre	The premier athletics venue in Tasmania, serving as the principal location for the highest level of competitions, athlete development, and high-performance training within the state. These venues are designed to meet the performance, training, and competition needs of athletes, while also supporting state-level events, aspiring to national events, and fostering the continued development of athletics from grassroots through to elite participation. 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
Regional Hub	Fully serviced, strategically located athletics venue designed to support the full spectrum of athletics activity, including competitions, programs, athlete development pathways, and high performance training and coaching. These facilities serve as a focal point for athletics within a defined athletics region (North, North West and South), supporting club and centre activity while enabling progression to higher levels of competition. Providing a full synthetic track, comprehensive field infrastructure, and associated support amenities for athletes, officials and spectators. Developed to a standard capable of hosting regional and selected state-level competitions and events. These venues play a critical role in strengthening regional capacity, supporting talent development, and providing competition and training environments that meet contemporary athletics standards.	2
District or Local Centre	Little Athletics Club or Centre venue developed and designed primarily to support Little Athletics training, programs, events and competitions, and may also accommodate open-age training and participation. These facilities serve participation at the local level (small centres) or district level (larger centres), providing accessible, community-based opportunities for grassroots athletics. Typically comprising seasonal grass tracks and basic field event infrastructure, these facilities are designed to a standard that enables safe, functional and regular use, and supports strong foundational participation and athlete development.	16
Temporary Venue	A recreation ground or open space that can be temporarily configured to support athletics activities, programs, or one-off events. These venues may accommodate school activities, community events, or informal and affiliated competitions, and provide flexible opportunities to support participation where dedicated athletics infrastructure is not available. These facilities typically comprise temporary marked running tracks, throwing areas, or jumping areas established on grass or open fields. They do not include dedicated athletics infrastructure or permanent athlete, officiating, or spectator amenities. Their primary role is to enable introductory participation, community activation, and event delivery in a flexible and accessible setting, rather than ongoing training or formal competition.	9 (known venues)

Table 4.3 Summary of expected facility attributes for each facility hierarchy level.

Legend

- ● attribute is required at this level
- ○ attribute is preferred at this level
- — attribute not expected at this level

Expected Facility Attributes		Hierarchy Level			
		State Athletics Centre	Regional Hub	District or Local Centre	Temporary Venue
Track	synthetic track (10x 100m straights and min 8x 400m lane)	●	●	—	—
	grass track 6-8x 400m (marked when needed)	—	—	●	●
	competition level lighting	●	●	—	—
	DDA compliant access to track	●	●	○	—
	DDA compliant access around full track	●	○	—	—
	barrier fencing around full track	●	○	○	—
Field	long/triple jump pits (1-2x)	●	●	●	—
	high jump area (1x)	●	●	●	—
	discus area (1x)	●	●	●	—
	discus/hammer throw cage (1-2x)	●	●	●	—
	discus/hammer throw area with tie downs (1x)	●	●	○	—
	shot put area (1-2x)	●	●	●	—
	shotput area with tie downs (1x)	●	●	○	—
	javelin area (1-2x)	●	●	●	—
	pole vault (1x)	●	●	○	—
Off-track amenities	administration office	●	●	—	—
	meeting/function space	●	●	—	—
	event/competition technology and operational space	●	●	○	—
	accessible gym	●	○	—	—
	dedicated warm-up and training areas	●	○	—	—
	equipment storage (on-site)	●	●	○	—
Athlete support amenities	clubroom(s)	●	●	●	—
	athlete changerooms (accessible*, male and female)	●	●	○	—
	athlete toilets (accessible*, male and female)	●	●	●	●
	sheltered team and technical official areas	●	●	●	○
	first aid room	●	●	—	—
	drug testing facility	●	●	—	—
	multi-purpose room	●	○	—	—
	access to necessary utilities (electricity and water)	●	●	●	—
	adequate sound system	●	●	○	—
Visitor/ spectator support amenities	seating (500-1000+ capacity)* incl. accessible seating and access	●	●	—	—
	sheltered spectating areas (incl. seating)	●	●	○	○
	public toilets (accessible, male and female)	●	●	●	●
	kiosk	●	●	●	—
	social/multi-use community space	●	○	—	—
	sufficient carparking on-site with accessible parking	●	●	○	○
	access to safe off-site carparking	○	○	●	●

*refer to facilities, infrastructure and services provision tables at Appendix B for State Athletics Centre and Regional Hub for specific requirements

4.4.2 Stakeholder roles and partnerships

Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania own almost none of the infrastructure this Strategy addresses. That is normal for community sport, and it means the sport's influence comes through three roles.

Advocate. Speaking with one voice on infrastructure priorities. Unification gives Tasmanian athletics a single clear position for the first time, and this Strategy is what that position rests on.

Guide. Providing the technical direction that World Athletics and Australian Athletics standards do not cover for community-level venues. The facility hierarchy is how the sport does this in Tasmania.

Partner. Working with councils, schools, government and compatible codes so athletics facilities are planned, funded and managed alongside everything else on the same land.

4.4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Strategy runs from 2026 to 2036, with a major review at 2030 in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Reporting draws on the two measures of success already committed to in Towards 2032: an increase in investment in capital works projects to develop or improve existing facilities, and continuous improvement at each survey of facilities, using the State of Play report as the baseline.

Population projections should be drawn from TasPOPP, published by the Department of Treasury and Finance, which provides Excel data tables at local government area level. The 2026 Census should be incorporated into the demand analysis as soon as results are available, and will materially improve the model at Section 3.2.2, which currently relies on 2021 data.

The sport should also commit to closing the data gaps identified through this work: venue utilisation, school carnival use, casual use, and participation at local government area level. The membership platform now used for Little Athletics registrations provides the foundation, and action 1.1.1 delivers it. Without this, each review will rest on the same partial evidence base as this one.

4.4.4 Funding and investment opportunities

No single source will fund the priorities in this Strategy. Delivery depends on assembling contributions, and the sport's role is to make each one easier to secure by being clear, consistent and evidence-based.

- Local government capital programs. Councils own most of the network and fund most of its renewal. Getting athletics needs into council long-term asset management plans and capital works programs is the highest-value activity available to the sport, and it costs nothing but relationship and preparation.
- State Government sport and recreation funding. Existing programs, including those prioritising accessible and inclusive facilities such as Her Path to Play, supported by advocacy for a dedicated athletics infrastructure pathway.
- Australian Government community sport infrastructure programs. Informed by the Places to Play National Community Sport Infrastructure Plan, and by the profile Brisbane 2032 gives athletics through to the early 2030s.
- Shared and joint investment with other codes. Projects serving more than one sport are consistently more competitive than single-code projects. The openness expressed by AFL Tasmania and Cricket Tasmania should be pursued deliberately rather than opportunistically.
- Education sector partnerships. Joint investment with DECYP and independent schools, particularly where a school venue also serves a Little Athletics centre or community.
- Club and centre contributions. Small-scale improvements delivered locally, supported by the toolkit at action 3.1.3, which addresses the capacity constraint limiting what volunteer-run centres can realistically pursue.

Appendix A



STATE OF PLAY

ATHLETICS TASMANIA AND LITTLE ATHLETICS TASMANIA

August 2026

This State of Play Report is the first step in developing the Tasmania Athletics Facilities Strategy.

Thanks to the people who helped inform this strategy, including members of the Tasmanian Athletics community who provided input through an online survey, and stakeholders including Council staff from across Tasmania, local Little Athletics Centre volunteers, SATIS, DECYP and TIS.

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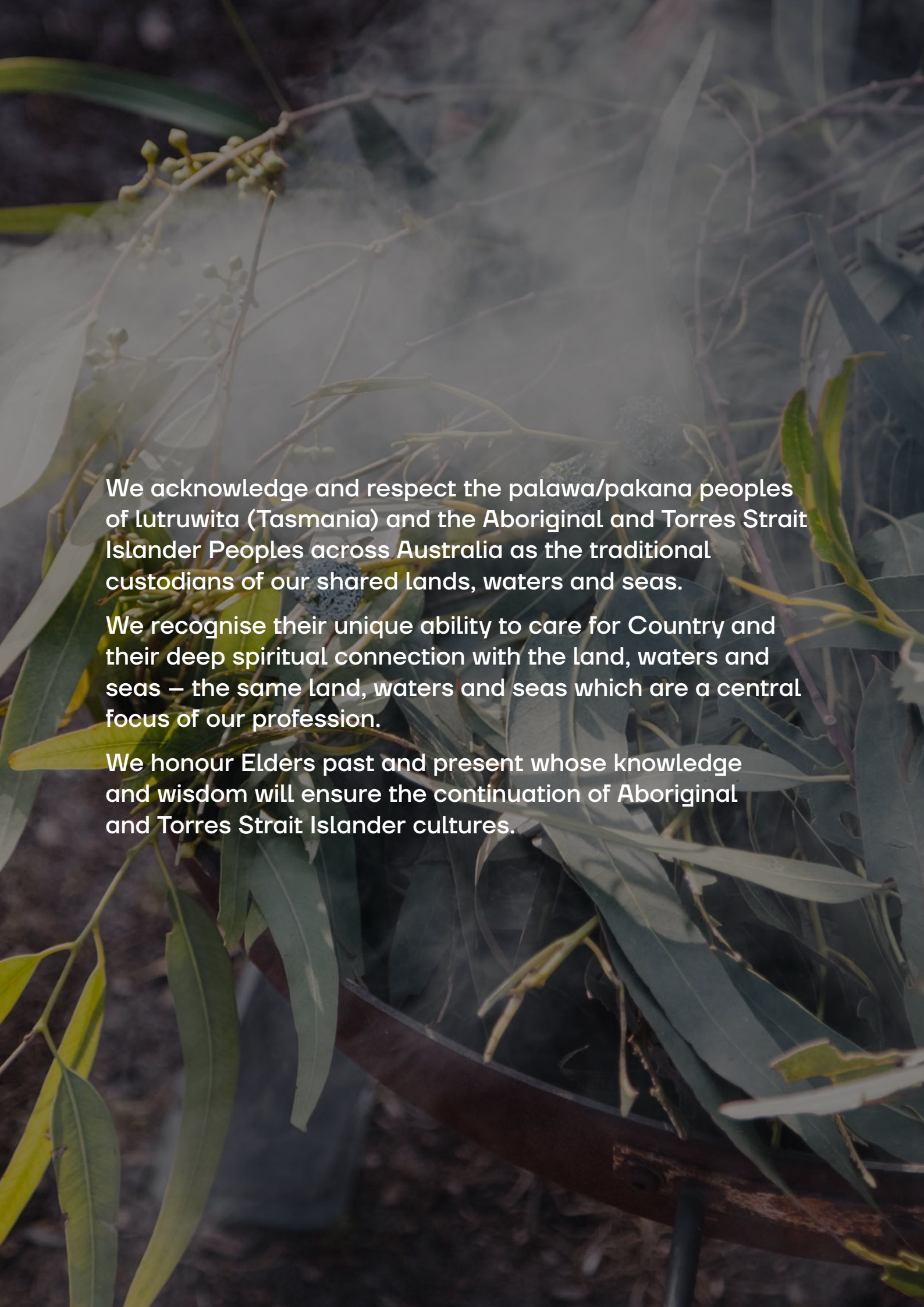
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Document Control

Date	Revision	Notes
19.12.2025	Draft State of Play report (Version 1)	For Review, noting information yet to be received is highlighted in magenta
17.04.2026	Draft State of Play report (Version 2)	Revisions to Version 1 were made in response to client feedback. The report has been finalised, with 'strategic pillars' to be updated upon receipt from the client.
29.05.2026	Final Draft (Version 3)	Revisions to Version 2 in response to client feedback. Revisions include updates to strategic pillars and changes to some Sections.
04.08.2026	Final Report (Version 4)	Finalisation for addendum to Strategy.
18.08.2026	Final Report (Version 5)	Revised addendum to Strategy from client feedback.



We acknowledge and respect the palawa/pakana peoples of lutruwita (Tasmania) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across Australia as the traditional custodians of our shared lands, waters and seas.

We recognise their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection with the land, waters and seas — the same land, waters and seas which are a central focus of our profession.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure the continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

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Key Abbreviations

AA	Australian Athletics
ASC	Australian Sports Commission
AT	Athletics Tasmania
DECYP	Department for Education, Children and Young People
LAA	Little Athletics Australia
LAC	Little Athletics Centre
LAT	Little Athletics Tasmania
LGA	Local Government Area
SATIS	Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools
SSA	School Sports Associations
TIS	Tasmanian Institute of Sport

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Athletics Tasmania (AT), together with Little Athletics Tasmania (LAT), is developing a Statewide Athletics Facilities Strategy to identify and prioritise future athletics infrastructure investment across Tasmania. The Strategy aims to:

- **understand the servicing needs and priorities of athletics facilities** across the state, with a focus on regional areas;
- **improve accessibility, convenience and quality** of athletics participation opportunities in all regions;
- **identify and prioritise key infrastructure needs**, including synthetic tracks, synthetic/rubberised surfaces at Little Athletics centres or schools, and dedicated grass-based athletics facilities;
- **support ongoing maintenance, renewal and upgrading of existing synthetic surfaces** to ensure safety, performance and continued suitability for competition;
- **audit Tasmania's premier athletics facilities** to assess their capacity to host state / national-level competitions and guide required upgrades;
- **explore sustainable shared-use opportunities** with compatible sports without compromising the quality and priority of athletics delivery.

"The strategy will provide a long-term framework to guide planning, development, and investment in facilities at all levels. It is an important step towards ensuring our sport continues to grow, remains accessible to all, and meets the needs of current and future participants."

Athletics Tasmania

1.2 Approach

This State of Play Report provides an overview of athletics provision and participation in Tasmania, its purpose is to provide the grounding for the strategic directions to come. It includes a summary of the strategy and policy context, the current delivery system, participation trends, an analysis of facility needs and demand, outcomes from stakeholder consultation, and an audit of existing athletics facilities across the State.

The State of Play report is underpinned by six lines of inquiry:

- review of contemporary literature and policy to understand strategic and planning context and current trends in athletics provision and participation;
- review of Athletics Tasmania, Little Athletics Tasmania and Australian Athletics strategic documents and policies;
- analysis of socio-demographic data using Australian Bureau of Statistics, Local Government Association Tasmania, REMPLAN, and Population Projections Dashboard;
- consultations with stakeholders and the athletics community;
- audit of athletics facilities in the north, north west and southern regions of Tasmania;
- proposed hierarchical framework for athletics venues and facilities in Tasmania.

1.3 Project stages

A. **Project initiation**

B. **State of Play**

C. **Hierarchy and Framework**

D. **Draft Strategy**

E. **Final Strategy**

2. Strategic Context

2.1 Athletics in Australia

Athletics in Australia is governed by Australian Athletics and Little Athletics Australia.

2.1.1 Australian Athletics

Australian Athletics (AA) (formerly known as Athletics Australia) is the national sporting organisation for Athletics, representing age groups Under 14 through to Under 20, Open and Masters. The Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan 2026-2034 (AANPP), launched in 2026, is the sport's first co-designed national participation strategy, targeting 5 million annual participants and 200,000 registered athletes, coaches and officials by 2034 across eight priority themes, including Infrastructure and Places. The *Australian Athletics Strategic Plan 2023-2032* is guiding the sport to 2032 and the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

At the core of the AA strategy is inspiring, empowering and supporting the athlete inside everyone, underpinned by the understanding that athletics is universal, accessible, and grounded in the simple joy of movement that we all share.

Key priorities under the AA strategy will focus on *High Performance*, *People and Culture*, *Sport Delivery and Partnerships*, *Community and Participation*, and *Organisational Sustainability*.

Creating supportive, collaborative environments that enable athletes and coaches to succeed on the world stage, particularly in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032, will be central to the High Performance pillar. Sport Delivery and Partnerships will focus on igniting passion for athletics, enhancing experiences that showcase the sport, and strengthening the profile of athletes and the Australian Athletics brand.

The Community and Participation priority will be to expand involvement in the sport by offering a diverse range of products and initiatives that champion inclusion, with a focus on children and young people, women and girls, people with disability, the LGBTQIA++ community, and continued engagement with First Nations people.

For People and Culture, the enduring objective will be to develop a capable, empowered and sustainable workforce supported by a strong volunteer base. Meanwhile, Organisational Sustainability will centre on building a unified, well-governed and financially resilient sport that works collectively towards shared goals.

Strengthened by recent success on the global stage, including at the Olympics, World Under-20 Championships and Paralympics, and supported by initiatives delivered through the AA Strategy, Australia has seen significant national growth in both participation and interest in athletics.

The AA strategy demonstrates a clear and sustained commitment to building an athletics system that is genuinely inclusive of people living with disability across both participation

and high-performance pathways. Major initiatives, including a dramatic expansion of national and international classification opportunities, targeted programs to increase participation for children and adults with disability, and ambitious para-high-performance medal targets for 2026–2032, show that the national system expects continued growth in para-athlete numbers and an increasingly sophisticated performance pathway. These efforts are supported by broader organisational priorities that emphasise "sport for all," inclusive workforce capability, culturally safe and accessible environments, and strengthened partnerships with state and territory associations to deliver consistent experiences nationwide.

2.1.2 Little Athletics Australia

Little Athletics Australia (LAA) is aligned with AA and is the peak body for the Little Athletics program. In the financial year 2023/2024 LAA reported approximately 55,000+ volunteers throughout the year and a total of approximately 138,000 participants nationally.

Key strategic pillars outlined in the *Little Athletics Australia Strategic Plan 2024-25* focus on strengthening the organisation as a vibrant, community-centred sport:

- **leading with a clear vision to protect and evolve Little Athletics as a foundation for all sports;**
- **elevating its brand to broaden awareness and inspire participation; and**
- **building strong partnerships that enhance value and long-term financial sustainability.**

The strategy also prioritises empowering the community through education, enriching the participant experience through nationally consistent, family-focused programs, and upholding robust governance with a strong commitment to child safety, inclusion, and diversity.

AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS HAS SEEN MAJOR GROWTH IN ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION IN RECENT YEARS



Athlete membership (AA) increased by 13.1% since 2023 and 204% since 2000-01

Through the 2023-2024 Athletics Season

52%
INCREASE IN ATTENDEES

188%
INCREASE IN TOTAL VIEWING TIME

Through the 2023-2024 Athletics Season

6.2%
INCREASE IN ACCREDITED COACHES

99.2%
INCREASE IN COURSE COMPLETIONS FROM 2022-23

2.2 The National Sport Policy Context

Several national strategies and policies underpin the planning and development of sports facilities in Australia.

2.2.1 Win Well Strategy

Athletics is one of many sports recognised within the *Win Well High Performance Strategy 2032+* implemented by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

The strategy focuses on promoting athlete wellbeing and long-term success by integrating high-performance support, holistic care, and sustainable development across all levels of sport.

The Win Well strategy reinforces the importance of providing high-quality training environments and competition venues that prioritise athlete wellbeing in Tasmania. Such facilities are essential to support balanced performance preparation, holistic athlete development, world-class coaching, and the creation of a sustainable, skilled workforce.

2.2.2 Play Well Strategy

The ASC's *Play Well Participation Strategy 2023* seeks to create accessible sporting environments and experiences to suit all ages, backgrounds, genders and abilities.

The strategy provides direction for facility and infrastructure provision in Tasmania through six priority areas aimed at creating safe, welcoming, inclusive and fun sporting experiences. These include *Driving Lifelong Involvement*, *Building Connections*, *Activating Places and Spaces*, and promoting *Equitable Access*.

A key deliverable for the priority area *Activating Places and Spaces* is the development of a *National Community Sport Infrastructure Plan* (the *Places to Play Plan*).

2.2.3 Places to Play Plan

The *Places to Play Plan* was released by the Australian Sports Commission on 30 July 2026 under the Play Well national community sport infrastructure initiative, reshaping how community sport and active recreation facilities are planned, delivered and utilised across Australia.

In response to changing participation patterns, increasing costs, and ageing and fragmented sporting infrastructure, the Plan shifts the focus from simply delivering individual assets towards creating a more connected, accessible and future-focused network of community facilities. Central to this approach is ensuring the right mix, distribution and configuration of spaces to support vibrant, multifunctional hubs that integrate sport, recreation, education, culture and broader community services.

The Plan prioritises high-quality participation experiences and community wellbeing, rather than measuring success solely through capital investment outcomes. It outlines that facilities are to be designed and managed to support flexible and shared-use, improving equity of access and reducing barriers to participation for women and girls, multicultural communities, and people living with disability. The Plan also promotes environmentally and operationally sustainable facilities that are resilient to climate pressures, adaptable to changing demographics, and responsive to contemporary community health and wellbeing needs.

Successful implementation of the Plan relies on coordinated action across a range of enabling areas, including governance alignment, workforce and volunteer development, shared-use frameworks, and the application of nationally consistent universal design principles.

In the context of athletics in Tasmania, the Plan reinforces the importance of developing flexible, inclusive and sustainable athletics infrastructure. It highlights the need for athletics facilities to function as accessible community hubs that can respond to changing participation trends, support multi-use opportunities where appropriate, and maximise long-term social and health benefits for Tasmanian communities.

2.2.4 Sport Horizon

The *National Sport Strategy 2024-2034: Sport Horizon* implemented by the Australian Government, sets a shared vision for Australian sport to 2034, focusing on unlocking potential by boosting participation, enhancing performance, and enriching the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

It emphasises the vital role of sport in improving physical and mental health, supporting personal growth for people of all ages, strengthening social connection, and expanding sport's significant economic contribution.

The plan encourages investment in accessible, inclusive and high-quality facilities that enable widespread engagement opportunities in athletics, while also supporting high-performance environments that contribute to national sporting success.

> Working together we will harness the power of sport for healthy, active and connected communities, to create positive, meaningful change.
>
> *Sport Horizon, Vision*

2.3 Athletics in Tasmania

Athletics in Tasmania is governed by two unified but distinct organisations: Athletics Tasmania (AT) and Little Athletics Tasmania (LAT). In recent years, the two organisations have moved towards a more integrated, whole-of-sport strategic approach culminating in the implementation of a joint operational model featuring a single Chief Executive Officer and staffing structure. This transition builds on a long period of growing collaboration between the two organisations, alongside broader increasing momentum in the athletics community in Tasmania and nationally.

The new model has been established to optimise resources, reduce duplication, and improve the quality and consistency of services delivered to members, stakeholders and the broader Tasmanian athletics community. It provides a stronger foundation for the long-term sustainability, accessibility and growth of athletics in Tasmania by aligning participation, pathways and performance outcomes under a more coordinated vision for the sport.

Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania have jointly developed an ambitious whole-of-sport strategic plan that draws on national initiatives and events, while responding to the priorities and aspirations of the Tasmanian athletics community. The shared vision of both organisations is for athletics "*to become the lifelong sport of choice for all Tasmanians.*"

The Statewide Athletics Facilities Strategy (this project) is a joint initiative that supports this vision by establishing a united, long-term framework to guide the planning, development and investment of athletics facilities across all levels of the sport.

ATHLETICS TASMANIA & LITTLE ATHLETICS TASMANIA

TOWARDS 2032 ATHLETICS IN TASMANIA STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

To become the lifelong sport of choice for all Tasmanians.

VALUES

BE BOLD TO BE BETTER

We seek out new ideas and embrace change. We take informed risks, learn from experiences so that we can do better.

COLLECTIVELY DELIVER SUCCESS

We encourage teamwork and collaboration to deliver our strategic goals. We listen, engage and work with others and strive for success.

KNOW TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT

We encourage each other to create an inclusive, safe and supportive environment. We maintain ethical practices and remain accountable, while making a difference.

CELEBRATE OUR PEOPLE

We reward, recognise and celebrate individual and team stories and success. We build and promote our collective knowledge.

PLAN

PRIORITIES

OBJECTIVES

OUR STORY - TO LEAD THE WAY

- We will ensure that we increase awareness and recognition of the sport so that all Tasmanians consider athletics for an active healthy lifestyle.
- We will ensure we are represented and have influence in the Tasmanian sporting landscape, advocating for athletics across the diverse range of activities (mountain running, park runs, school sports, track and field, etc.).
- We will unify Little Athletics Tasmania and Athletics Tasmania into a single organisation.

PARTICIPATION AND PRODUCTS

- We will ensure that Tasmanians have an opportunity to experience, join and remain in the sport irrespective of their interests or abilities.
- We will ensure that we deliver and adapt our products to ensure that they are compliant, modern, and attractive to participants.

SUPPORTING OUR ORGANISATION

- We will Support and develop the coaches, officials, volunteers, and staff that deliver the sport.
- We will raise the standard of facilities around the state to ensure we have fit-for-purpose, well maintained facilities – for training all the way through to facilities capable of hosting national events.
- We will ensure the efficient, quality governance of the sport.

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

- We will ensure that we are a sustainable, fit-for-purpose organisation capable of serving our current and future members for years to come.
- We will build partnerships across sports and business to increase funding, participation and efficient use of facilities.

2.4 The Tasmanian Sport Policy Context

A number of strategies, policies and priorities for investment for Tasmania are relevant to guiding the Statewide Athletics Facilities Strategy.

Key state level documents include the *Active 2030 Strategy* and the *Healthy Tasmania: Five-Year Strategic Plan 2022-2026*.

At the regional level, key documents include the *Greater Hobart Sport Infrastructure Strategy* and the *Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan 2023*.

2.4.1 Active 2030

The *Active 2030 Strategy* is being developed by the Tasmanian Government to ensure that sports and recreation initiatives and investments are guided by a long-term vision.

It will provide strategic direction to guide Tasmanian Government investment in sport and active recreation.

A discussion paper was prepared in 2021 with the vision for 'Tasmania to be the Place to Play'. The main objective is to increase participation in sport and active recreation by:

- enabling increased participation for all;
- providing access to infrastructure, facilities and spaces; and
- supporting pathways to high performance.

2.4.2 Healthy Tasmania

***Healthy Tasmania: Five-year Strategic Plan* aims to create the conditions for all Tasmanians to live healthy, active lives supported by environments that strengthen social connection, wellbeing and equity.**

The strategy positions physical activity - supported by inclusive and accessible sport and recreation infrastructure - as central to improving population health. For athletics, this provides a strong policy foundation for:

- investing in modern, accessible facilities;
- enhancing community-level participation pathways;
- collaborating with schools, councils and health agencies;
- delivering inclusive, health-promoting programs; and
- aligning with broader preventive health and wellbeing priorities.

The Tasmanian Government is in the process of developing the *Healthy, Active Tasmania: 20-year preventative health strategy 2026-2046* which will replace the Healthy Tasmania strategy at its conclusion in 2026. A Discussion Paper has been published to direct the strategy. Focus Area 3 'improve our environments for health and wellbeing', emphasises the importance of developing and improving environments so they are accessible for all.

2.4.3 Greater Hobart Sport Infrastructure Strategy

This strategy aims to improve collaboration between local councils across Greater Hobart, for the provision and management of sporting facilities, and to address common challenges.

The strategy is currently under development and is being led by City of Hobart on behalf of the six Greater Hobart councils (Hobart, Clarence, Glenorchy, Kingborough, Brighton and Sorell). It is driven by the need to address common challenges faced by community sport facilities including:

- a general need for modern, fit-for-purpose sporting facilities;
- inadequate facilities to support growing participation including the growth of women and girls sport;
- seasonal congestion across sporting codes;
- inefficient duplication of facilities; and
- disjointed priorities and advocacy due to the lack of an overarching infrastructure strategy.



Image credit: Tas Carnivals

2.4.4 Northern Tasmania Sports Facility Plan

This plan was developed in collaboration with West Tamar Council, City of Launceston Council, George Town Council, Meander Valley Council, and the Northern Midlands Council. The plan addresses formal sport and active recreation facilities provision, to ensure that the long-term needs of the community are adequately catered for.

Guiding principles of the plan emphasise collaboration between councils, sustainable investment that delivers social, environmental and economic benefits, and adaptable facilities that can respond to changing community needs. The plan also prioritises efficient use of resources and a commitment to diversity by removing barriers to participation, and ensuring facilities cater for all community members.

Recommendations for improving athletics infrastructure and facilities in northern Tasmania include:

- investigate inclusion of Little Athletics training facilities at the George Town Sports Complex re-development;
- undertake a master plan for the Northern Athletics Centre and Northern Hockey Centre precinct to determine the future needs of both facilities;
- promote the availability of the centre of St Leonards track for use by winter sports groups to train; and
- monitor the demand for additional facilities based on the growth of the sport (and population growth).



Key Takeaways - Strategic Context

The current policy and strategic context provides a strong and coordinated foundation for the future planning and development of athletics facilities in Tasmania. Across national, state and regional policy, there is consistent emphasis on increasing participation, improving accessibility and inclusion, supporting lifelong involvement in sport, and delivering sustainable, high-quality sporting infrastructure. At the same time, growing national momentum within athletics, the lead-up to Brisbane 2032, and the shift towards a more unified whole-of-sport model in Tasmania collectively reinforce the need for coordinated, future-focused athletics facilities that support participation, performance pathways and broader community outcomes across the State.

3. Participation Insights

3.1 Delivery of Athletics in Tasmania

There are several pathways for participation in athletics in Tasmania.

Little Athletics

Little Athletics centres, based in local communities or districts, are the grassroots foundation for athletics participation.

- Ages 5-15 (under 6-under 15)
- Summer season October-March includes modified track and field events (running, jumping, throwing)
- Winter season April to September includes cross country running
- Emphasis on 'family, fun and fitness'
- Typically weekly after school training and Saturday competition meets are offered
- Little Athletics Centres are based in local communities, typically using council or school facilities, and providing summer utilisation of winter sport facilities

Club competition

- Clubs offer a summer track and field season (October-March) and winter Cross Country (April-September)
- Club athletics is suitable for older children, open age adults and masters age adults
- Regional athletics centres (Domain, Penguin and Northern) host weekly track and field competition programs for registered athletes.
- Athletes are registered with local clubs and have opportunities for training and coaching, and competition
- Open to all abilities, not just elite level
- Volunteer driven

School sport

School athletics carnivals are the most common way for children to participate in athletics. Athletics carnivals are facilitated by the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) for state schools, and School Sports Associations (SSAs), including the Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools (SATIS), often with assistance from Athletics Tasmania and the key regional associations.

- Primary and secondary school carnivals are typically offered by individual schools, using council or school facilities
- Regional carnivals for selected athletes held by SSAs in the south and north
- State carnivals (State All Schools, State SATIS)



- National competition is available for successful athletes, with Athletics Tasmania playing a role.

High performance

Tasmanian Institute of Sport (TIS) and Athletics Tasmania offer development support for talented athletes as a pathway to high performance sport.

- TIS offers Talent Identification program, which identifies potential talent in young athletes.
- The Talent ID program can lead athletes to a performance pathway if certain performance criteria are met
- A high performance scholarship is available to talented athletes if AA performance guidelines are met.

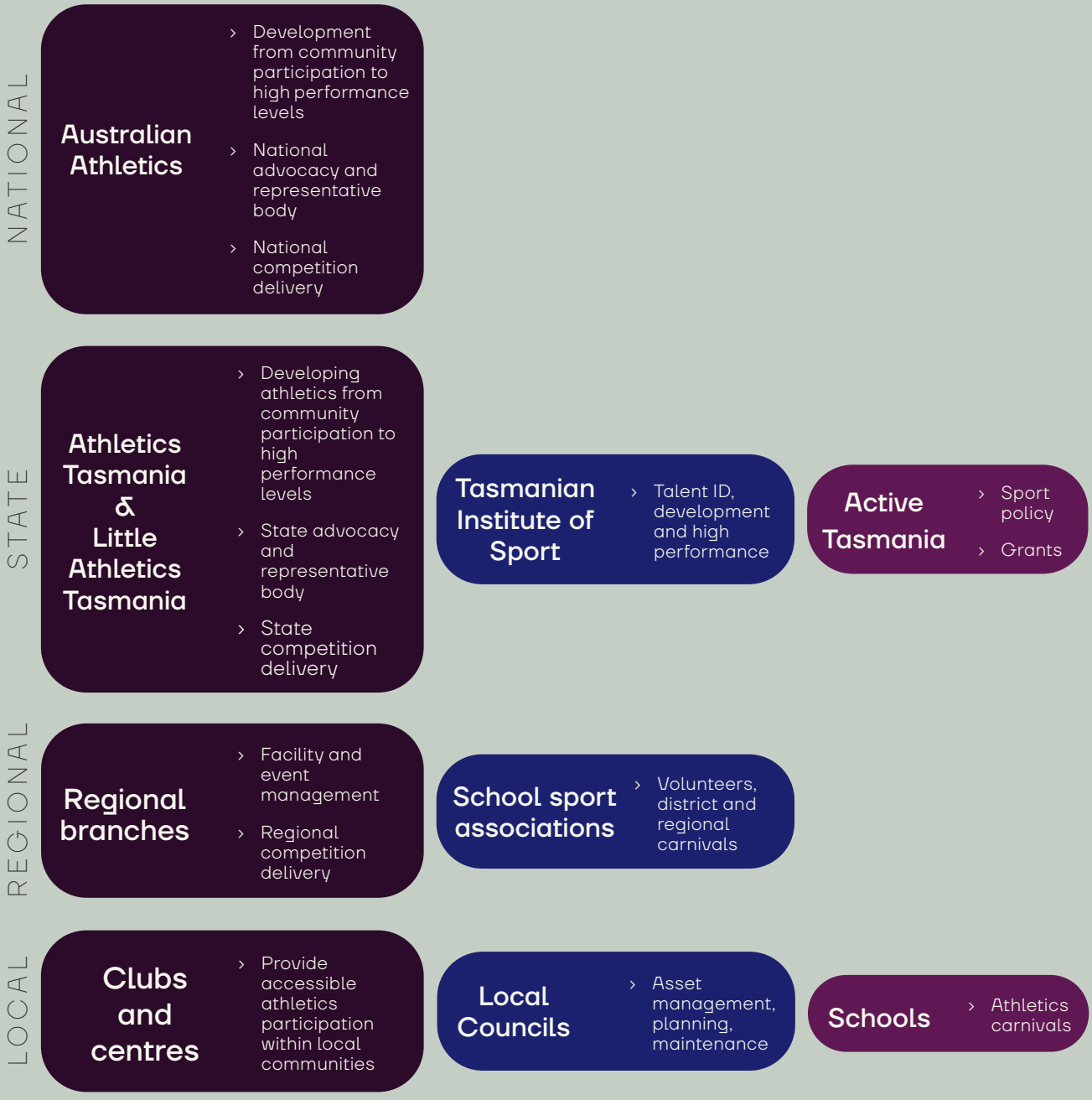
Athletics Tasmania delivers AA's Target Talent Program to assist and develop athletes in U14-U20 who have achieved top 6 at the National All Schools.

Events and Competitions

Athletics facilities support a structured pathway of participation and competition in Tasmania, progressing from introductory and community participation through to regional, state, and national competition.

The current delivery pathway, and event and competition profile of Athletics in Tasmania is summarised in the following pages.

DELIVERY OF ATHLETICS FROM THE NATIONAL TO THE GRASSROOTS



EVENT AND COMPETITION PROFILE

	Event Type	Organiser	Example events	Typical venues
	Summer (October to March)			
WEEKLY	**Training and skill development**	Schools, Individuals, Coaches, Clubs, TIS	School PE programs, Little Athletics programs, Club training, Individual and Squad training	School grounds, local recreation grounds, local/regional athletics venues
WEEKLY	**Club and inter-club meets**	Clubs, Regional Athletics Centres	Athletics South Interclub, North West Interclub	Domain Athletics Centre (South), St Leonards Sports Complex (North), Penguin Athletics Track (North West)
ANNUAL	**Regional athletics carnivals**	Regional Athletics Centres, AT	Northern Combined Events Day, NTA Open Invitation Day, Athletics South Reunion Day	Domain Athletics Centre (South), St Leonards Sports Complex (North), Penguin Athletics Track (North West)
ANNUAL	**Statewide athletics carnivals and championships**	AT and LAT	Little Athletics Tasmania Coles Summer Carnival, Tasmanian Combined Events Championships, Tasmanian Open & Masters 3000m Championships	Domain Athletics Centre, St Leonards Sports Complex, Penguin Athletics Track
ANNUAL	**Regional school-based competitions and carnivals**	SSA, AT, Regional Athletics Centres	Northern High Schools Division, Southern SATIS Carnival, Northern Independent Junior SSA Carnival	Domain Athletics Centre (South), St Leonards Sports Complex (North), Penguin Athletics Track (North West)
ANNUAL	**Statewide school-based competitions and carnivals**	SSA, AT, Regional Athletics Centres	Tasmanian All Schools Track and Field, State High Schools Carnival, SATIS Carnival, PSST Carnival	St Leonards Sports Complex
ANNUAL	**Regional or statewide community events and competitions**	AT, Regional Centres, Clubs, Tasmanian Athletic League	Night of Fives, Regional 'Come and Try' programs, Tasmanian Athletic League Carnivals	Domain Athletics Centre (South), St Leonards Sports Complex (North), Penguin Athletics Track (North West), external locations (Tasmanian Athletic League Carnivals, marathons and road running)
ANNUAL	**Community events and competitions (fun runs, marathons)**	External organisers (advertisers nationally/ internationally)	Burnie 10, Run the Bridge, Bluff2Boat	Events are typically location-based
	Winter (April - September)			
WEEKLY	**Athletics and cross-country training and development**	Schools, Coaches, Clubs, Individuals	Little Athletics programs, Club training, Individual and Squad training	Local recreation grounds, local/ regional athletics venues
ANNUAL	**Statewide and regional Cross-Country competitions**	AT, LAT, SSA	All Schools Cross Country, Tasmanian Cross Country Championships, Southern High Schools Cross Country	external locations (non-athletics based)
ANNUAL	**Community events (marathons and fun runs)**	External Organisers, AT (as Partners)	Tasmanian Mile, Launceston Running Festival	events are typically location-based

3.2 Understanding Participation Beyond Membership

Traditionally, participation in athletics has largely been measured through formal membership and registration data, including club memberships and Little Athletics registrations. While these figures remain an important indicator of the organised competition base of the sport, they provide only a partial picture of overall participation and demand for athletics infrastructure.

Athletics is increasingly adopting a "whole-of-sport" participation approach that recognises the broad range of ways people engage with athletics beyond formal club structures. As a foundational sport centred on running, jumping and throwing, athletics underpins participation across many other sports and recreational activities. Participation therefore extends beyond affiliated competition to include recreational runners, school athletics participants, fun run participants, casual users of athletics facilities, masters athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers.

Nationally, Australian Athletics has released its first whole-of-sport participation plan, the Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan 2026-2034 (AANPP), while several state jurisdictions are already implementing broader participation models aimed at supporting lifelong engagement in athletics and improving understanding of participation trends across the full athletics ecosystem.

In this context, membership trends should be viewed as one measure of participation rather than a complete representation of the sport's reach, facility usage or infrastructure demand. Athletics facilities, particularly synthetic tracks and athletics centres, often support substantial informal, school and community use that is not captured through registration data alone. This broader understanding of participation is particularly important for facilities planning, as it provides a more realistic assessment of current usage, latent demand and future infrastructure needs.

The shift toward whole-of-sport participation models also aligns with broader national strategies such as the *National Sport Strategy 2024-2034* and the *Play Well Participation Strategy 2023*, which emphasise lifelong participation, inclusion, accessibility and community wellbeing alongside traditional competition outcomes.

For Tasmania, this has significant implications for the future planning and provision of athletics facilities:

> As participation opportunities diversify and the sport continues to evolve, future demand for athletics infrastructure is likely to extend well beyond the needs of registered members alone, reinforcing the importance of accessible, flexible and high-quality facilities capable of supporting a growing and increasingly diverse participant base across the State.

Section 3.3 provides an overview of the estimated level of athletics participation in Tasmania based on currently available membership and registration data.

3.3 Current Membership Snapshot

3.3.1 Athletics Regions

Athletics provision in Tasmania establishes three regions across the state: North West, North and South based on Local Government boundaries.

During the Athletics season, the sport is delivered around the state by the Little Athletics Centres. The three synthetic track facilities provide good regional options for youth participants to continue to develop and stay within the sport, by joining senior clubs.

North West

The North West region has a total athletic membership of 323 across Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics, in 2025/26.

Total Members 2025/26	Total population 2021[1]	Total engagement rate
323	95,263	0.3%

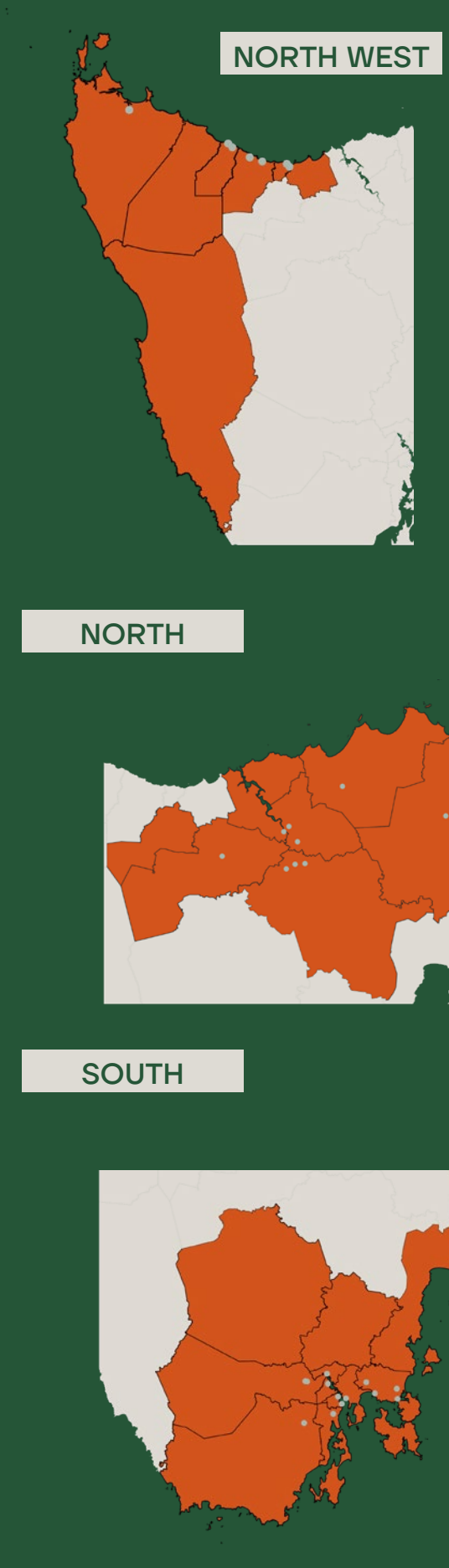
Athletics participation, events and competitions are delivered by the regional association, North West Athletics, and three senior clubs (North West Athletics Club, Tasmanian Masters Athletics, and University of Tasmania Athletics), and three Little Athletics Centres (Burnie LAC, Circular Head LAC, and Devonport LAC).

Total School Enrolment 2025[2]	Total Little Athletics 2025/26	Total engagement rate
12,712	255	2%

The North West consists of nine Local Government Areas (LGA) spanning over a total area of approximately 22,500km^2. Most of this area is sparsely populated.

Key population centres in the North West are Burnie (total population 19,918) and Devonport (26,150 persons)[1]. The North West Athletics Club and the Burnie Little Athletics Centre have the greatest number of registered athletes in this area (113 members in 2025/26).

ATHLETICS REGIONS AND FACILITY DISTRIBUTIONS



There are eight venues located in the region, situated along the coast including one dedicated athletics facility with a synthetic track located in Penguin. The Penguin Athletics Track is the hub of athletics participation and competition in the north west.

North

The Northern region consists of eight LGAs established over approximately 20,000km^2. The region has a total of 819 registered athletes in 2025/26.

Total Members 2025/26	Total population 2021[1]	Total engagement rate
819	151,208	0.5%

Athletics participation, events and competitions are delivered through Northern Tasmanian Athletics, the regional association responsible for track bookings, equipment and meets. Four senior clubs participate in athletics in the north (North Launceston Athletic Club, Newstead Athletics, Tasmanian Masters Athletics, and University of Tasmania Athletics), and seven Little Athletics Centres.

Total School Enrolment 2025[2]	Total Little Athletics 2025/26	Total engagement rate
16,355	674	4%

Most LGAs in the North have a relatively low population. Launceston is the key population centre with an approximate population of 70,055 individuals in 2021[1]. West Tamar and Meander Valley are the next most populated areas (25,145 and 20,709 total population, respectively).

Nine athletics venues are available in the region which include one dedicated synthetic track facility, the Northern Athletics Centre (NAC) within the St Leonards Sports Complex. NAC is the regional centre for athletics in the north.

The Launceston Little Athletics Club and South Launceston Little Athletics Club have the greatest number of registered athletes in the North (131 and 280 members, respectively, in 2025/26) both organisations primarily utilise the Northern Athletics Centre.

South

Southern Tasmania has a population of approximately 288,818; the largest population of the three regions.

There are six clubs in the South affiliated with Athletics Tasmania, and nine Little Athletics Centres. Clarence LAC and Kingborough LAC, located in growth areas, have the largest Little Athletics membership base in the South (239 members and 189 members, respectively in 2025/26).

Total Members 2025/26	Total population 2021[1]	Total engagement rate
1,620	288,818	0.5%

Total School Enrolment 2025[2]	Total Little Athletics 2025/26	Total engagement rate
28,012	1,127	4%

The South consists of 12 LGAs over approximately 25,500km^2. The population is most dense in the four LGAs that border Derwent River: Clarence, Hobart, Glenorchy and Kingborough, with Clarence being the most populated (61,531) and Kingborough being the least populated (40,082).

13 athletics facilities are located in the region including one dedicated synthetic track facility, the Domain Athletics Centre located at the Queens Domain, Hobart.

Across Tasmania's North West, North and South, athletics participation is supported by regional associations, clubs and Little Athletics Centres across large and mostly low-density areas, with the highest membership concentrated around the major population centres.

3.3.2 Little Athletics Membership

Registration data from Little Athletics Centres (LAC) across the state from 2021/22 to 2025/26 shows that participation in Little Athletics has remained relatively stable over the past five years, with a slight, overall, downward trend in some smaller centres while others have experienced increasing membership.

Participation numbers are greatest in the South (>1000 junior athletes), where the population is greatest, followed by the North (>650 junior athletes) and the North West (>250 junior athletes).

In Southern Tasmania, Queenborough, Kingborough, Hobart Districts and Clarence LACs have the greatest number of registered members. Clarence LAC has the largest number of registered athletes and registrations are growing, reflecting Clarence's strong population growth in recent census periods. East Derwent LAC located in Bridgewater, has comparatively lower numbers but has seen consistent growth in numbers since 2021, reflecting the housing and population growth in the Brighton LGA.

In Northern Tasmania most centres have small memberships (<50 athletes), except for the three centres closest to Launceston City. Among these three centres, North Launceston-White City LAC and Launceston LAC have experienced slight growth over the past five years, while South Launceston LAC has shown a decline.

Burnie LAC and Devonport LAC have the greatest numbers in the North West (just upwards of 100 registered junior athletes), however both centres have seen consistent decline in numbers.

Male and female participation has remained relatively balanced across regions, with only minor variations. Generally, the North and North West have had slightly more female junior athletes than the South. However, these regional differences - and changes over time - are minor, with no significant shifts observed during the investigation period.

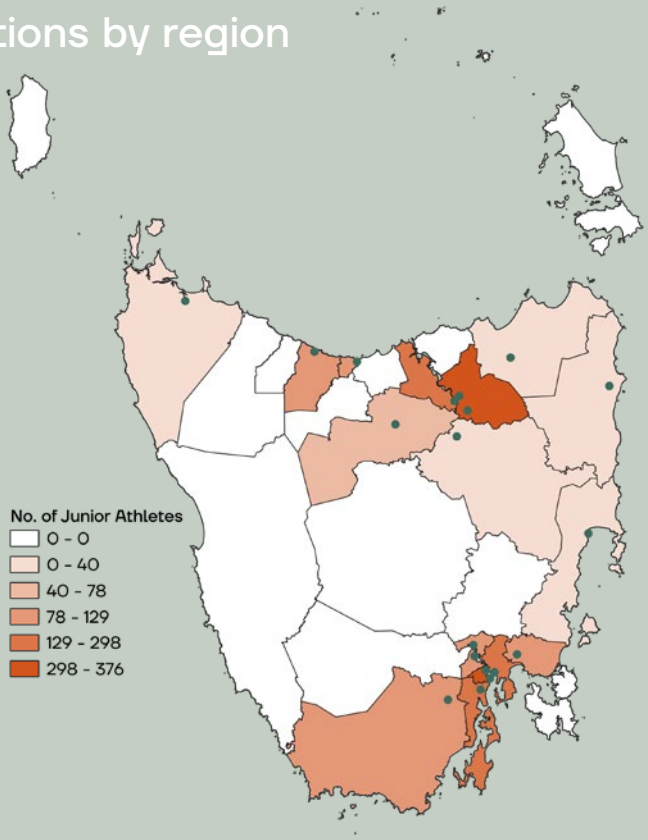
Participation in Little Athletics generally grows until around 9-10 years of age, after which numbers begin to decline. Registration data indicates a slight difference in this trend between boys and girls. For female athletes, participation typically starts to drop between ages 9 and 11. For male athletes, participation peaks slightly earlier - around ages 8 and 9 - before declining in the following years.

LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE REGISTRATIONS BY GENDER 2021-2026

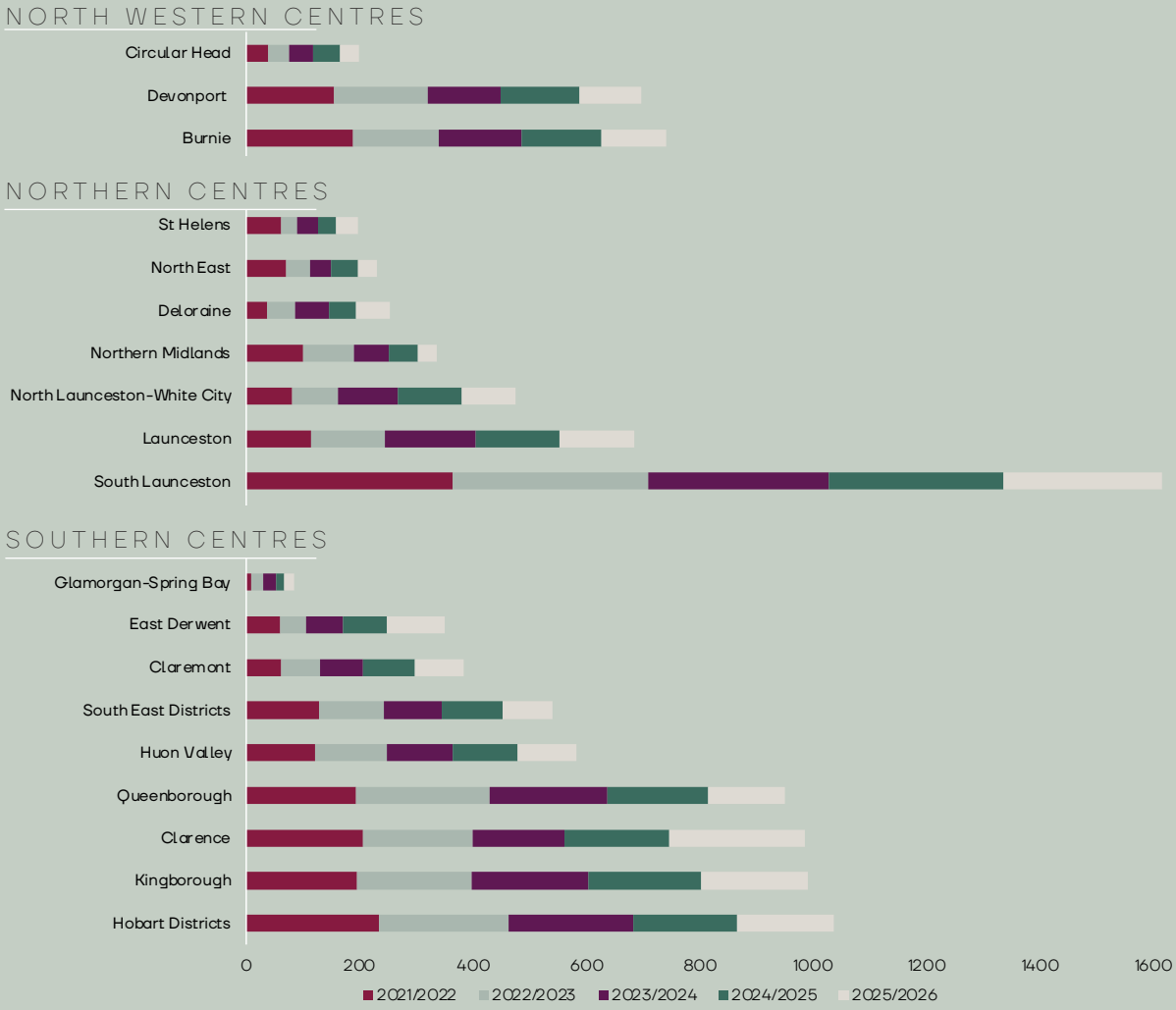


Little Athletics Centre distributions by region

The map (right) shows the density of Little Athletics Centre membership (2025/2026) by LGA. Some LGAs have multiple Centres - for example, Hobart Districts (Domain Athletics Centre) and Queenborough (Sandown Park, Sandy Bay) are both within the City of Hobart. Participants in some LGAs may travel to a centre in a neighbouring LGA if there is not a centre available locally. For example, LAC participants who live in Southern Midlands would join LACs in Sorell or Brighton. Burnie LAC appears as Central Coast Council area in this map because the centre is based at the Penguin Athletics Track.



The chart below shows the relative size of LAC membership and changes over time (2021 to 2026). Registration numbers at most centres has remained relatively stable with slight increase or decrease in registrations from year to year. Centres in Clarence and Brighton are showing growth.



3.3.3 Athletics Tasmania Membership

Registration data from Athletics Tasmania for the 2025/26 season shows greatest numbers, and also slightly higher participation rate in the south.

Participation numbers are greatest in the South (493 athletes registered with Athletics South), where the population is greatest, followed by the North (145 athletes registered with Northern Tasmanian Athletics) and the North West (68 athletes registered with North West Athletic Club).

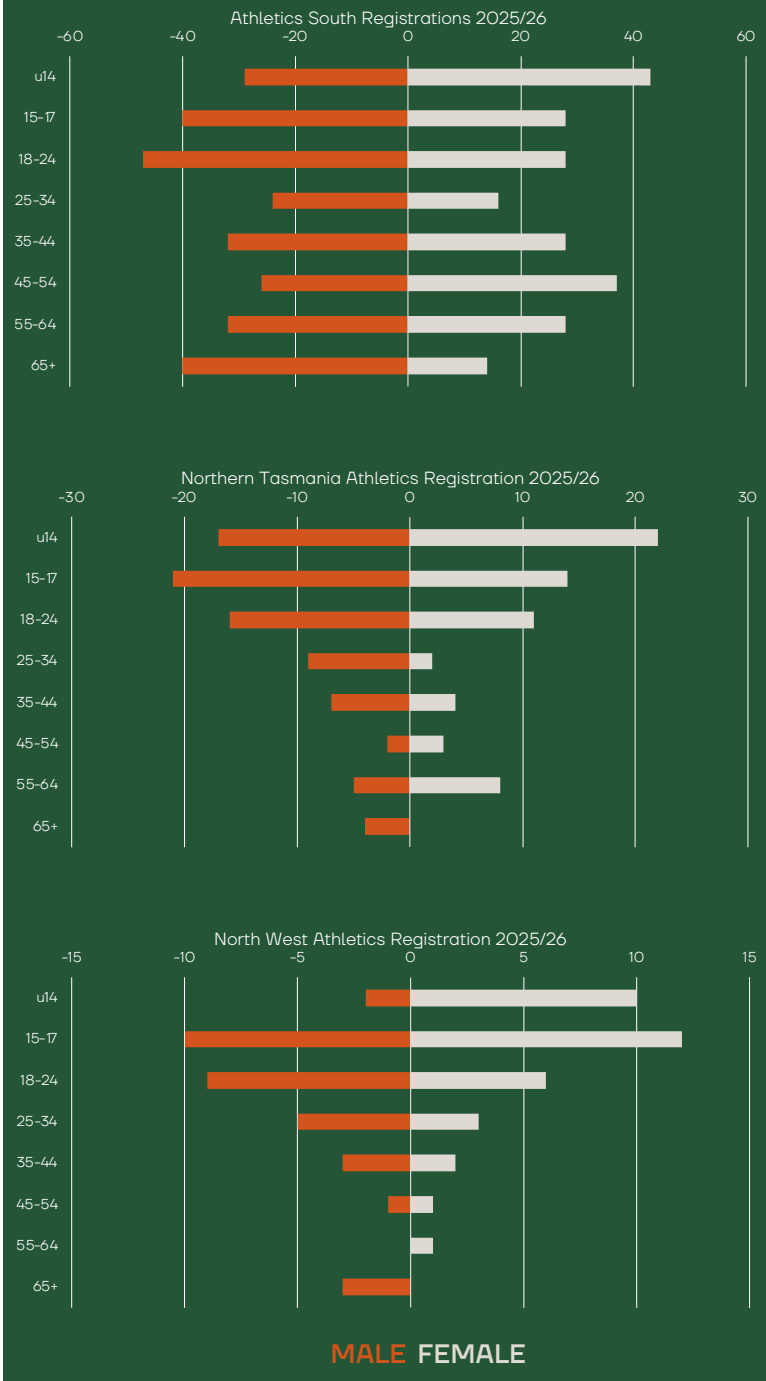
There are 125 non-club registered athletes in Tasmania, almost exclusively school aged competitors who have registered in order to compete in national competitions. A portion of these athletes (in the 10-14 age group) are likely to also be registered with Little Athletics Tasmania.

Male and female participation is relatively balanced across regions, with only minor variations. Generally, the North West number of male and female athletes are relatively even (35 female athletes and 33 male athletes). In the South and North, AT registrants are slightly more likely to be male (9.9% in the South and 11.7% in the North). However, these differences are minor, and without comparative data from previous years, gender based participation trends cannot be discerned.

Athletics Tasmania registration (not inclusive of non-club registrants) is strongest in the youth age groups (under 25) in all regions, and for males and females.

There are regional differences for older athletes' participation. In all three regions, participation drops in the 25-34 age group. In the North and North West the numbers remain low for all older age groups, however in the South participation for 35-44 year olds is nearly twice that of 25-34 year olds, for both men and women, and these numbers remain steady through to 65+ for men, and around 55 for women.

ATHLETICS TASMANIA REGISTRATIONS BY GENDER AND REGION 2025/26





Key Takeaways - Participation Insights

While participation growth within organised athletics in Tasmania has historically been modest, a range of emerging national and community trends suggest significant potential for future growth. Increasing national momentum within athletics, growing interest in flexible and recreational participation formats, and renewed strategic focus on participation and pathways collectively position Tasmania well to strengthen and expand participation across the sport in the coming years.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

4.1 Engagement Overview - stakeholders

Consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders and athletics participants to inform the strategy development.

A survey was distributed to all athletics clubs and centres and their respective membership, and a separate survey regarding specific athletics facilities was distributed to all facility managers and operators, including councils, Department for Education, Children and Young People, Little Athletics Centres and Athletics Tasmania regional branches. Discussions were held with representatives from Councils and AT regional branches, Tasmanian Institute of Sport (athletics and para-athletics) and relevant organisations in the education sector.

Representatives from the following key organisations participated in the stakeholder engagement process:

- Athletics Tasmania
- Little Athletics Tasmania
- City of Hobart
- City of Launceston
- Central Coast Council
- Devonport Council
- Northern Midlands Council
- Kingborough Council
- Break O'Day Council
- Brighton Council
- Tasmanian Institute of Sport
- Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools
- Department for Education, Children and Young People
- Northern Tasmanian Athletics
- Athletics South
- North West Athletics
- Little Athletics Clubs/Centres: Burnie, Devonport, Circular Head, South Launceston, Launceston, Deloraine, St Helens, North East, Northern Midlands, Kingborough, and Huon Valley

Volunteers and officials, athletes and parents of junior athletes representing a range of clubs and Little Athletics Centres, also participated via the athletics community survey.

4.2 Athletics Community Survey

Athletics is strongly supported from the grassroots, and local athletics clubs and centres have key roles in the use, management and development of athletics facilities across Tasmania. Supported by the invaluable efforts of volunteers, coaches and officials, these organisations deliver community-level athletics programs, activities, events and competitions.

Athletics in Tasmania is represented by 3 regional centres, 9 Athletics Tasmania affiliated clubs and 19 Little Athletics Centres.

The survey was distributed to all clubs and centres, and promoted to the broader athletics community via AT's social media channels. A total of 111 Tasmania athletics community members responded to the survey during November 2025. Respondents included athletes, parents of junior athletes, coaches, volunteers, and officials.

Insights derived from the survey are summarised in the following pages and will inform the strategic framework of the Facilities Strategy.

4.2.1 Respondent Community Profile

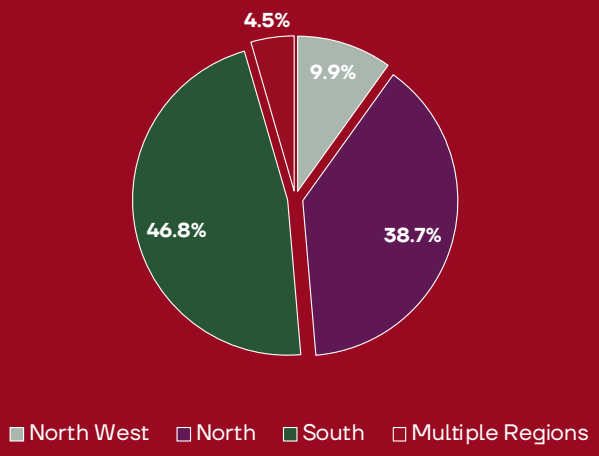
Respondents to the survey primarily used facilities in the North (43 respondents) and facilities in the South (52 respondents). We received 11 responses from athletics community members who use facilities located in the North West region, and five responses from members who use facilities in multiple regions.

Most survey participants were involved in track events (45.9%) or in both track and field events equally (47.7%).

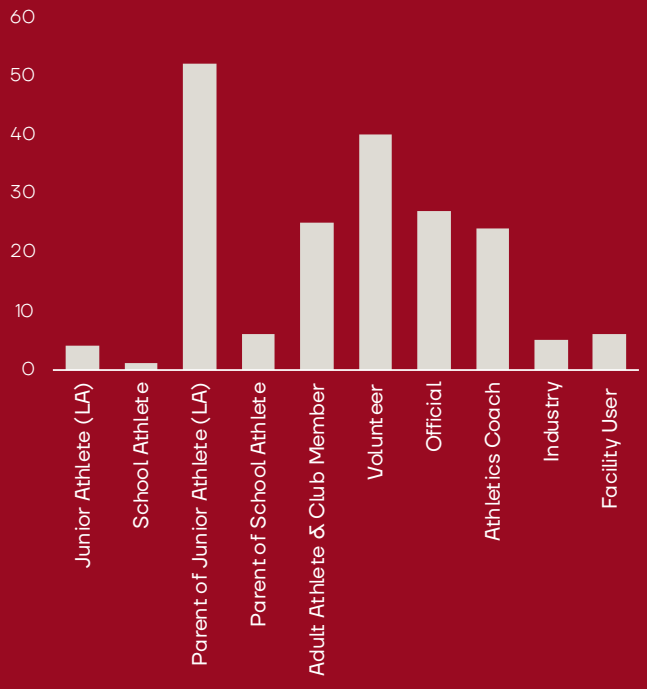
The majority of respondents were parents of junior age athletes who participate in Little Athletics (48.6%), club volunteers (36.9%), athletics officials (24.3%), and adult athletes and athletics club members (22.5%).

ATHLETICS COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Percentage of responses from each Athletics region



Survey respondent's involvement in Athletics



4.2.2 Common issues

Community members largely rated athletics facilities in Tasmania as 'Fair' across the state (>45% of responses).

24% of facilities in the South and 33% of facilities in the North were voted as 'Poor'. 27% of responses from users in the North West rated the available facilities as 'Good'.

Most participants (52.3%) stated that they are able to easily participate in athletics in their region. However, 31.5% of survey responses stated that facilities in their region do not meet their needs.

Ratings for existing infrastructure and amenities were generally even across facilities in the North West, North and South.

Most listed amenities and infrastructure in the South were rated as 'Fair'. Notably, ratings for clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets, equipment storage and gym facilities were mostly rated as 'Poor'.

In the North, most infrastructure and amenities were rated as being either 'Good' or 'Fair', however, clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets, spectator areas, seating, shade and shelter and gym facilities largely received a 'Poor' rating.

Members in the North West rated most amenities and infrastructure as 'Good' or 'Fair' with the exception of track surface quality, clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets, gym facilities and shade and shelter which received a relatively high number of 'Poor' ratings. Gym facilities were rated as either 'Poor' or as 'not relevant'.

Community members were asked what specific improvements are needed for the athletics facilities they use in Tasmania. The following emerged as common issues and suggested improvements:

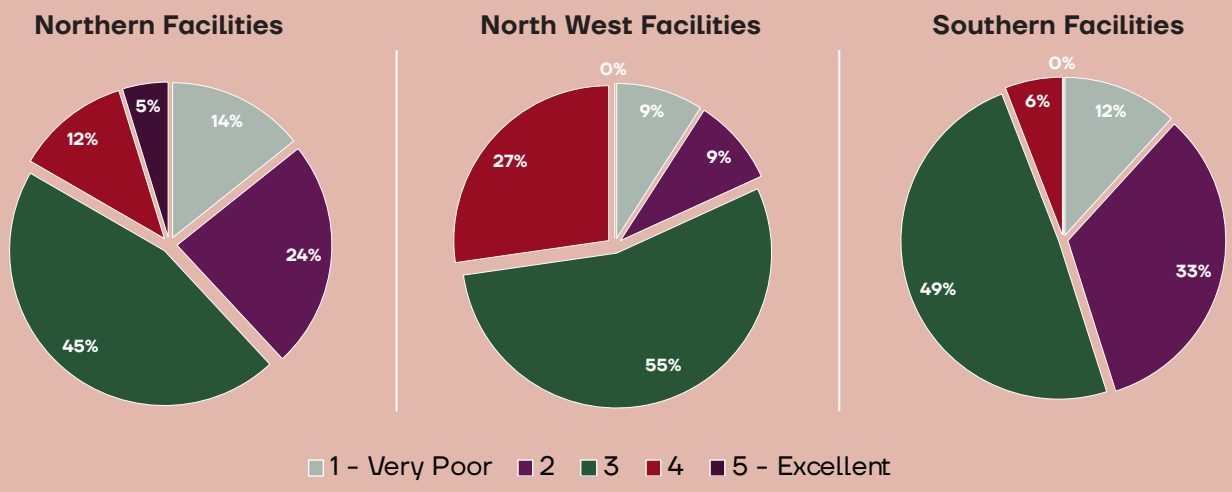
- most responses had a strong emphasis on **upgrading and maintaining existing facilities** across all areas of the state;
- a primary suggestion across all synthetic track venues is the **need to resurface tracks**;
- **upgrades to throwing areas** (hammer throw, discus, javelin, etc.) to meet competition standards;
- most facilities lack **appropriate shade, shelter and seating,** specifically, more sheltered seating is required;
- **accessibility** of facilities was raised by a number of community members, and this is critical to para athletes;
- **toilets and change-room facilities at major and community-level facilities require upgrading and modernising**, in particular, community members noted that current facilities do not meet accessibility and child-safeguarding standards, additional facilities (female friendly/gender neutral toilets/change-rooms, accessible toilets), accessible adult changing facilities, are needed;
- **weather and climate impacts** on the use of certain venues and associated facilities was noted with many respondents emphasising the need for sheltered seating across all venues, and issues with drainage in some venues;
- demand for **indoor and all-weather facilities and warm-up areas and recovery facilities** - many respondents highlighted the need for indoor facilities to support training during wet and winter months; and
- need to improve **maintenance of grounds (track and field areas) and facilities** was highlighted by many members including mowing, lining of tracks, fencing, planting, etc.

There is a strong state-wide need to modernise and maintain athletics facilities, including resurfacing tracks, upgrading throwing areas, improving shade, seating, toilets and change-rooms and improving maintenance of amenities and infrastructure.

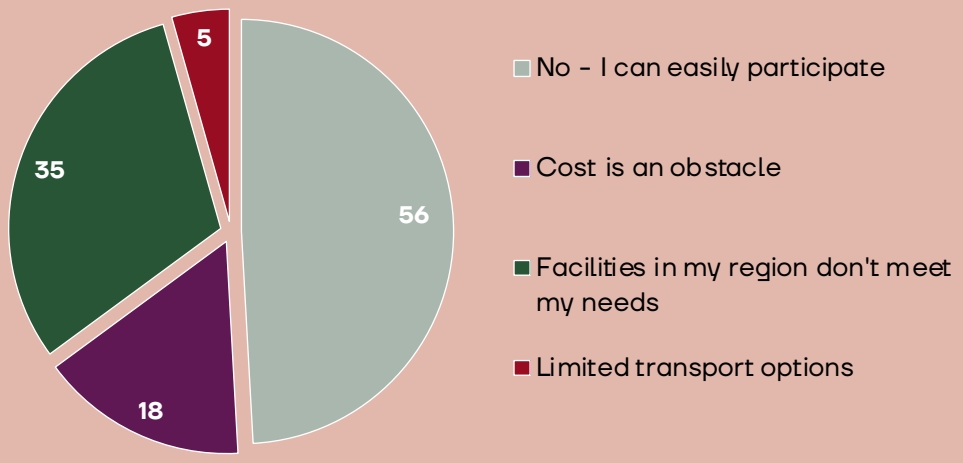
Key issues and improvements identified for specific venues are detailed in Section 5.

Athletics Community Survey - Facilities Provision

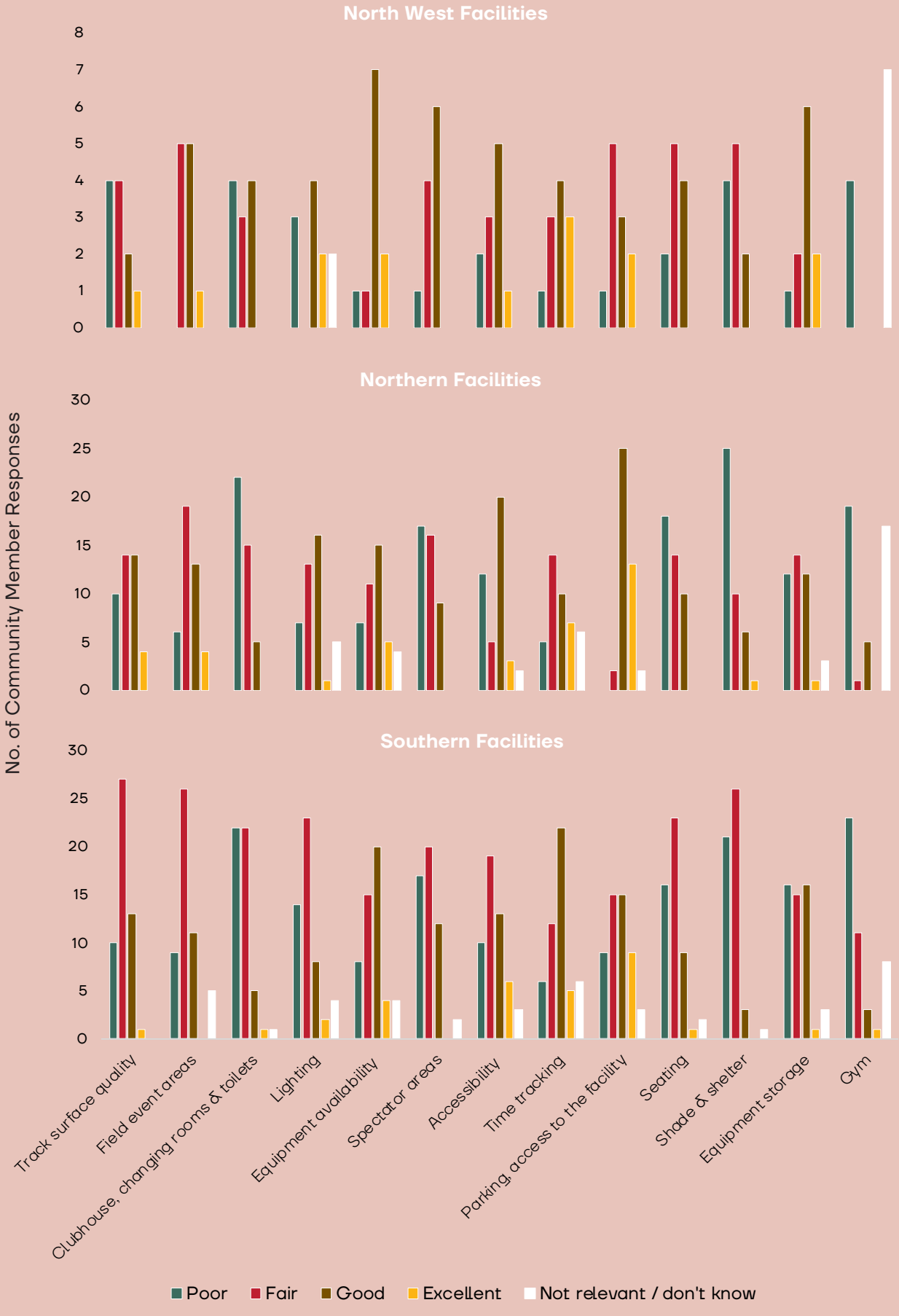
Overall, how would you rate the quality of athletics facilities that you use in Tasmania?

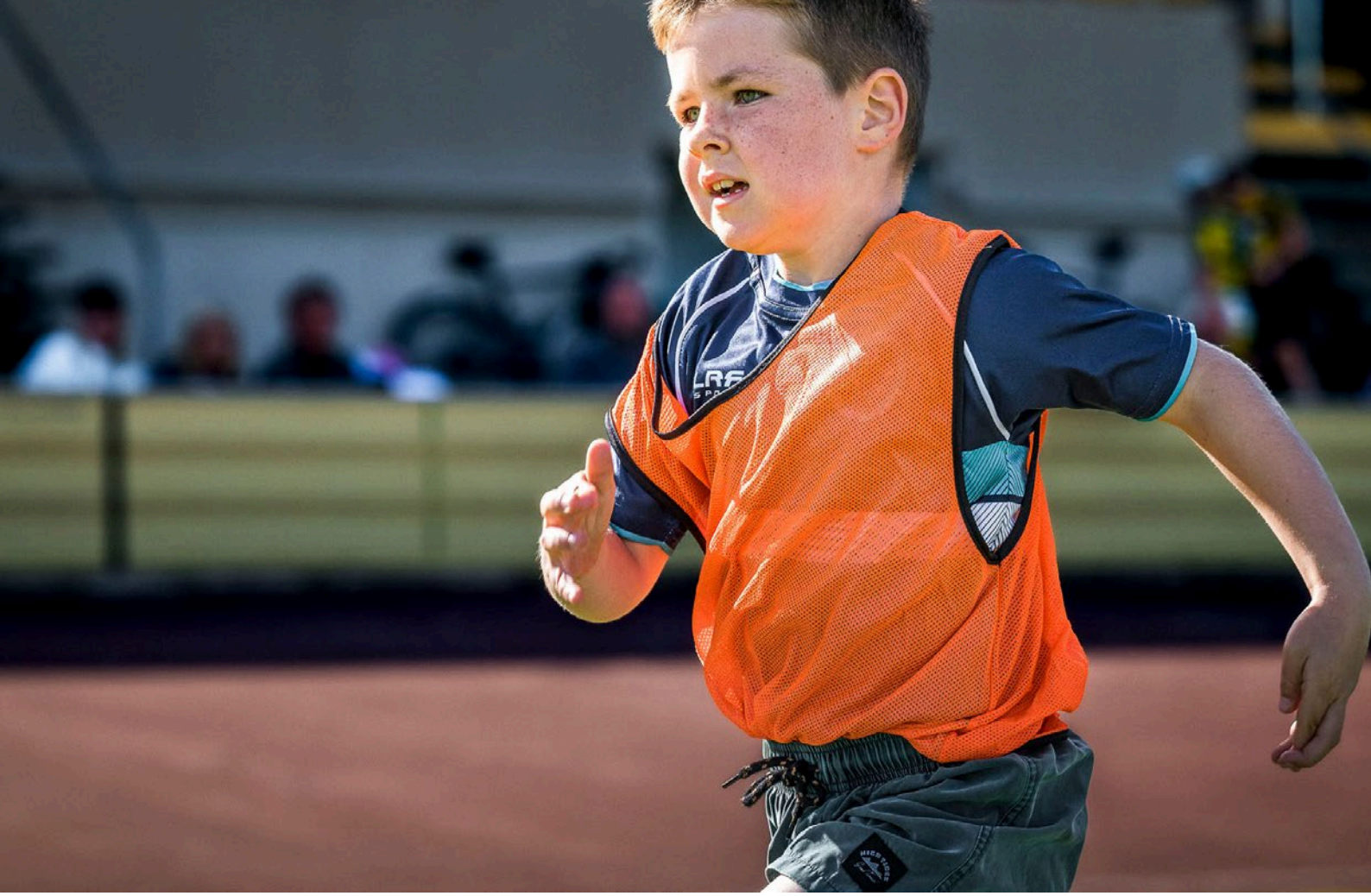


Do you experience any barriers or difficulties participating in athletics in your region?



Thinking about the athletics venue/centre you use most often, please rate the facilities:





4.2.3 Opportunities to grow Athletics in Tasmania

Community members were also asked what other actions could be taken to support Tasmanian athletes, and to encourage more Tasmanians to participate in Athletics. The following key themes emerged from these suggestions:

- **unify participation pathways** by creating a seamless Little Athletics to Seniors transition through stronger alignment between schools and clubs, unified systems, and potential integration of Little Athletics and Athletics Tasmania pathways;
- **strengthen coaching capacity** by expanding coach and official development, especially in the North West, by increasing availability, affordability, and clarity around coaching pathways and event-specific expertise;
- **increase school engagement** by strengthening promotion in schools through athlete/coach visits, in-school programs, and improved scheduling of major school events (e.g., reconsider timing of All Schools Championships);
- **reduce cost barriers** by lowering participation costs and provide targeted financial support (registrations, travel subsidies, emerging athlete funding) to boost retention and access;
- **enhance culture and inclusion** by fostering a more welcoming, social, and inclusive athletics culture by removing participation barriers (e.g., restrictive cut-offs) and encouraging stronger collaboration across organisations;
- **improve public and member access** by reconsidering existing systems of access by the public and by registered club members at key facilities across the state; and
- **diversify events and competitions** by broadening the geographic distribution of state meets, streamlining competition formats, and pursuing opportunities to host additional national-level events.



Key Takeaways: Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement highlighted strong statewide support for athletics and a clear need for continued investment in facility renewal and improvement across Tasmania. Consultation consistently identified priorities relating to resurfacing of synthetic tracks and maintaining existing infrastructure, improving accessibility and amenity standards, expanding all-weather and indoor training opportunities, and strengthening inclusive participation pathways. Feedback also reinforced the importance of coordinated planning, stronger alignment across athletics pathways and organisations, and improving the flexibility, accessibility and sustainability of facilities to support future growth and evolving participation needs across the State.

5. Venues & Facilities

Information about each facility is presented in this section. The assessment of each facility draws on facility audits that combine asset owner and club/centre input, site visits, state government sport facilities data and community perspectives provided through the community survey. Asset owner and club/centre input were obtained from audit forms that were distributed to facility owners and to clubs/centres who are the primary occupants of the given venue (Attachment 1).

There are some limitations to the data, notably that the condition of facilities has been rated on a 5 point scale by facilities owners and/or users, and the perspective of the person completing the audit might have influenced answers.

5.1 Facilities by Region

NORTH WEST

The regional hub for athletics in the North West is **Penguin Athletics Track (PAT)**, located at Dial Regional Sports Complex within the Central Coast Council municipal area. This stand-alone, dedicated facility has a synthetic track which is due to be renewed in 2026/2027.

Other athletics facilities in the North West include:

- Girdlestone Park in East Devonport which hosts the Devonport Little Athletics Centre;
- Devonport Oval which is used for the annual Devonport Carnival event;
- West Park Oval in Burnie, which is similarly used for annual Carnival events; and
- Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre in Smithton which hosts the Circular Head Little Athletics Centre.

NORTH

The regional hub for athletics in the North is **Northern Athletics Centre** (NAC) located at St Leonards, within the City of Launceston.

NAC is a stand-alone dedicated athletics facility with a synthetic track, which is nearing end of life. The St Leonards facility hosts Northern Tasmanian Athletics and South Launceston Little Athletics Centre.

Other facilities providing athletics opportunities in the North include:

- Windsor Park, which hosts Launceston Little Athletics Centre;
- Rocherlea Recreation Ground, which hosts North Launceston-White City Little Athletics Centre;
- Deloraine Primary School, which hosts Deloraine Little Athletics Centre;
- St Helens Recreation Ground, which hosts St Helens Little Athletics Centre;
- Scottsdale Primary School, which hosts North East Little Athletics Centre; and
- Longford Recreation Ground, which hosts Northern Midlands Little Athletics Centre.

SOUTH

In southern Tasmania, the hub for athletics is the **Domain Athletics Centre (DAC)**, located within the Queens Domain parkland in the City of Hobart. Other facilities in the south include:

- Pembroke Park in Sorell, which hosts South East Districts Little Athletics Centre;
- Sandown Park in Sandy Bay, home of Queenborough Little Athletics Centre;
- Gormley Park, home of Kingborough Little Athletics Centre;
- Huonville Athletics Ground, home of Huon Valley Little Athletics Centre;
- Weily Park, home of East Derwent Little Athletics Centre;
- Clarence High School, home of Clarence Little Athletics Centre;
- Abbotsfield Park, hosting Claremont Little Athletics Centre; and
- Swansea Recreation Ground, home of Glamorgan-Spring Bay Little Athletics Centre

5.2 Shared Use and Co-location

Most athletics venues across Tasmania operate within shared-use environments and are co-located with a range of other sporting, recreation and community activities. Venues used by Little Athletics Centres are typically shared with other sporting codes, most commonly cricket and AFL, through various lease, licence or seasonal tenancy arrangements established with either the venue owner or primary tenant. Little Athletics Centres noted generally positive working relationships with co-users of these venues, although some operational challenges can arise during seasonal transition periods between cricket, football and athletics use.

Similarly, all three dedicated synthetic athletics tracks in Tasmania are located within broader sporting precincts that accommodate a range of complementary uses, including other sporting facilities, recreation spaces and community infrastructure. The synthetic athletics venues also support formal shared-use arrangements with other sporting organisations. For example, the Penguin Track accommodates the North West Umpires Association, while the Northern Athletics Centre shares facilities with the Northern Hockey Centre.

5.2.1 Future Collaboration and Facility Partnerships

Brief consultation was undertaken with AFL Tasmania and Cricket Tasmania in March 2026 which highlighted that shared-use arrangements between athletics and football and cricket generally function positively across Tasmania. The organisations noted strong working relationships and relatively limited operational conflict. Most challenges identified relate to seasonal transition periods and programming coordination between the sports.

For athletics in Tasmania, partnerships and shared-use arrangements with other sporting codes are likely to remain an important consideration in future facility planning, particularly in relation to infrastructure renewal, operational sustainability and the delivery of multi-functional sporting precincts capable of supporting a broad range of community and sporting outcomes.

Importantly, consultation with Cricket and Australian Football identified opportunities for stronger strategic partnerships and collaborative investment into athletics facilities. Both AFL Tasmania and Cricket Tasmania expressed openness to exploring shared-use opportunities and partnership approaches that could help support facility upgrades, improve utilisation and strengthen funding opportunities for future infrastructure improvements.

5.3 Audit of Athletics Facilities

The following pages present information about each athletics venue in Tasmania. As noted previously, this information on the existing athletics facilities at each venue does not constitute a detailed or comprehensive assessment. Rather, it summarises the facilities available and their condition, as reported and rated by the relevant club, centre, or facility owner/manager.

Penguin Athletics Track

Located within the multi-sport Dial Regional Sports Complex, the Penguin Athletics Track is a dedicated, synthetic track facility and the regional hub for athletics in the North West. The following information is drawn from on-site conversations with the Central Coast Council, North West Athletics Club and Burnie Little Athletics Centre, as well as from the Athletics Community survey and an audit form completed by Council and Burnie LAC.

Current facilities

Stand-alone, regional athletics facility within a multi-sport hub.

Event facilities

- Track
  - synthetic (Rekortan, 2012)
  - 9x lanes, 400m, 100m straight
  - planned upgrade in 2026/2027
  - steeple chase barriers
- Jumps
  - 2x synthetic long/triple jump approaches and pits
  - 2x high jump approaches, synthetic
  - approaches to jumps are rated poor to fair
- Throws
  - 2x discus/shotput concrete circles, throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approach
  - No pole vault or hammer cage
  - condition of throwing facilities are rated as in poor condition

Ancillary facilities

- 4x lighting towers with 100-200 lux lighting with some lighting gaps at javelin and high jump sectors
- toilets: 6x female (1x ambulant), 3x male toilets, 2x urinals
- 1x female change room, 1x male change room, 1x first aid room

TASMANIA NORTH WEST



- 4x male showers (open), 4x female shower cubicles
- toilets and changing facilities are rated as fair to good
- 2x meeting room, no club room
- 1x canteen (small to medium sized)
- 3x storage sheds

Accessibility features

- event facilities are accessible, and there are 5 para athletes who currently use the facility
- no accessible toilet or accessible adult change facility

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Central Coast Council

Home of

- North West Athletics Club (principal tenant)
- Burnie Little Athletics

Other users

- North West Umpires Association
- Penguin District School, NW schools
- North West Primary School Sports Association
- Tasmanian Institute of Sport
- AFL Tasmania
- General public (fee for use)

Training and competition

- Weekly training and competition
- Inter-centre events and carnivals
- District, regional and state school events
- Relay for life



Other sports in the complex

AFL 2x ovals, Tennis, Wood chopping, Basketball, Netball, Badminton, Squash

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  - Burnie LAC - 113
  - North West Athletics Club - 68
- Membership trend for Little Athletics over the past 5 years show a decline.

Stakeholder perspectives

- 8 community members responded to the community survey, and an on-site meeting was held with Burnie LAC, NW Athletics and Central Coast Council.
- High levels of satisfaction among stakeholders
- Seen as a good quality, local and regional track servicing the North West
- Some would like to see national competitions and higher standard of throwing infrastructure
- 82% NW participants rated facilities as good or very good (highest satisfaction of the regions)
- Needs identified:
  - additional toilets, accessible toilets
  - additional car parking for carnivals, accessible car parking
  - shaded seating areas around facility particularly for field events
  - gym (North West Athletics Club)
  - upgrade change rooms
  - pole vault to be reinstated
  - upgrades to field facilities including throwing cages to allow state level events
  - 'same quality of facilities and opportunities as Hobart'

Opportunities and needs

- Upgrade synthetic track (replacement planned for 2026 / 2027)
- A need for improved accessibility including unisex accessible toilets and accessible adult changing room
- Investigate options for formalising overflow car parking and safe pedestrian access to facility
- Identify opportunities to greater utilisation of the facilities, such as for winter training and rectangular pitch sports including exploring opportunities for a long-term partnership with NW Umpires Association



1 Penguin Athletics Centre

2 Car park

3 Toilets

4 Covered seating

5 Potential future car parking if required to accommodate school and regional meets

TASMANIA NORTH WEST



Girdlestone Park, East Devonport

Located in East Devonport, Girdlestone Park's primary tenant is the East Devonport Football Club. Devonport Little Athletics Centre is active on the site during the summer season. The following information is drawn from an on-site visit and the audit form completed by Devonport Little Athletics Centre.

Current facilities

Shared LAC facility with AFL football club.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass
  - 8x lanes, 400m, 100m straight
  - in fair to good condition, maintained by Devonport City Council in consultation with the Devonport Little Athletics Centre
- Jumps
  - 4x long jump pits and 1x triple jump pit (5 in total)
  - hot mix/asphalt approaches, average-good condition
  - 1x high jump approach on grass, set up on the day
- Throws
  - 1x discus concrete circle, 3x shot put concrete circles
  - 1x throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approach
  - 1x Turbo jav/vortex lane
  - throwing facilities rated average-good

Ancillary facilities

- 6 lighting towers with unknown lux and unknown gaps (not used by the LAC)
- toilets - 2x toilet blocks, both accessible
- 2x female, 2x male toilets
- no change rooms, no showers, no neutral change rooms, no accessible adult change facility
- condition of toilet and change facilities rated poor
- small club room but it is not used, shared with the football club (their coaches box)
- covered spectator area
- small canteen
- large shed for storage

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Devonport City Council, solely responsible for maintenance, cleansing, asset planning and management

Home of

- East Devonport Football Club
- Devonport Little Athletics

Other users

- Local schools for athletics carnivals
- Camper vans
- Devonport Junior Soccer Association (annual Devonport Cup weekend)
- General public (open to the public for use)

Membership and demand

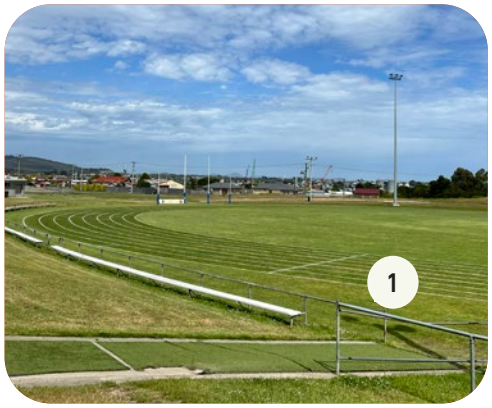
- Current membership:
  Devonport LAC - 109
- Membership trend is declining

Stakeholder perspectives

- Devonport LAC are satisfied with facilities and have a good working relationship with Devonport City Council, working together on future plans
- Toilets and change rooms need attention
- Shot put circle to be relocated for convenience
- High levels of satisfaction among stakeholders
- Seen as a good quality, local LAC servicing the Devonport community
- 82% NW participants rated facilities as good or very good (highest satisfaction of the regions).

Opportunities and needs

- Master Plan currently underway to guide upgrades to the East Devonport Recreation Centre and Girdlestone Park precinct. Devonport City Council has discussed needs of Little Athletics Tasmania and Athletics Tasmania to inform the Master Plan. The draft Master Plan is set to be released for public comment in mid-2026.
- LAC has limited access to infrastructure, toilet and change facilities are in poor condition
- Opportunity for shared or seasonal access to East Devonport Football Club's new toilets and changing facilities







1 Athletics Track, throws

2 Long/triple jumps area

3 East Devonport Football Club rooms, including new, contemporary toilets and change facility

4 Fenced shot put circles

5 RV camper area



Devonport Oval

Devonport Oval is used for the annual Devonport Athletics Carnival, but is not a regular athletics venue. The following information is based on an on-site visit and conversation with Devonport City Council.

Current facilities

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 8x lanes, 400m, 100m straight
  - maintained by Devonport City Council in consultation with the Devonport Athletic Club

Ancillary facilities

- large grandstand
- cycling track around outside of oval
- club rooms (football and cricket)
- toilets
- car parking

Use, management and access

Other users

Cricket, AFL

Asset owner / manager

Devonport City Council

Devonport Oval Sports Complex is currently undergoing a major $60 million upgrade, which will include:

- three court, indoor community hall
- three court, showcourt hall
- outdoor courts
- multi-club social and admin facilities
- cricket and high performance training facilities
- car parking and landscaping

Principal sports provided for in the upgrade include AFL, basketball, netball and cricket.

Stakeholder perspectives

- Secretary of Devonport Athletic Club is satisfied that facilities are sufficient to support the annual carnival event
- Devonport City Council prepares the track in the lead up to the competition

Opportunities and needs

- Opportunity for Devonport Oval to have a greater role hosting athletics/running use in summer, co-located with cricket, on a high quality grass track.





West Park Oval, Burnie

West Park Oval in Burnie is used for the annual Burnie Athletics Carnival, but is not a regular athletics venue. The following information is based on an on-site visit and desktop research.

Current facilities

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass
  - 8x lanes, 400m, 100m straight
  - maintained by Burnie City Council

Ancillary facilities

- large grandstand
- cycling track around outside of oval
- club rooms (football and cricket)
- toilets

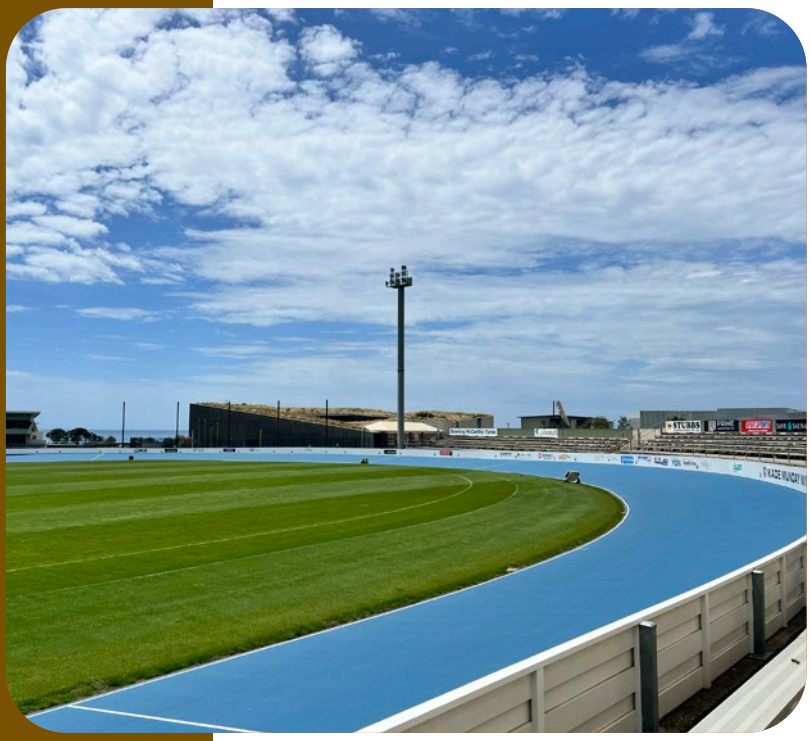
Use, management and access

Other users

Cricket, AFL

Asset owner / manager

Burnie City Council



Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre, Smithton

The Circular Head Little Athletics Centre is based at the Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre located on the corner of Nelson and Grant Streets in Smithton. The facility is located within a multi-use sports and recreation venue. The facility is used by the Little Athletics Centre for weekly competitions during the summer season, and for school carnivals. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by Circular Head LAC.

Current facilities

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 8x lanes, 300m, 100m straight
  - the condition of the track is rated by the Little Athletics Centre as being in fair condition
- Jumps
  - 1x long/triple with synthetic approach, no defined pit for long jump.
  - 1x high jump with grass approach
  - both jumps are rated to be in fair condition
- Throws
  - 1x Javelin approach in fair condition

Ancillary facilities

- 3x lighting towers with unknown lux and coverage, noting lux level is not relevant to Little Athletics activities
- 6x girls and 4x boys toilets
- accessible toilet, accessible changing facility (male, female and gender neutral)

TASMANIA NORTH WEST



- 2x showers
- condition of toilets and changing facilities are rated to be in fair condition
- 1x accessible club room (used only by the LAC)
- 1x office space
- 1x shed (approximately 12x6m or size of 2 car bays) for equipment storage
- 1x covered spectator seating area
- 1x small canteen
- 25x car parking spaces with street parking for overflow parking
- 1x bus/coach parking and 1x accessible parking and no bike racks

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Circular Head Council is the facility owner and is responsible for maintenance, programming, and event management.

The Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre Committee shares responsibilities for waste management, asset planning and management with Council, and the Committee is responsible for equipment management.

Home of:

- Circular Head Little Athletics Centre

Other users

- School athletic carnivals

Membership and demand

- Current membership: Circular Head LAC - 33
- Membership was in a growth trend but has declined sharply since 2024/25

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- Installation of a long jump pit was identified by the LAC as a key emerging priority, however, cost is a major concern.
- An additional long/triple jump track is needed and would allow LAC meets to run more efficiently.
- Opportunity to provide support and guidance in securing funding for required track and field infrastructure and upgrades, and to clarify the infrastructure requirements needed to support athletics participation.







1 Track
2 Long/triple jump area
3 Throw areas
4 Clubroom/office
5 Car parking
6 Toilets/change facilities

TASMANIA NORTH



Northern Athletics Centre, St Leonards

Located within the multi-sport St Leonards Sport Centre, the Northern Athletics Centre is a dedicated, synthetic track facility and the hub for athletics in the North of Tasmania, hosting regional and state level senior and junior competition. The following information is primarily drawn from an on-site visit and conversation with the Northern Athletics Centre and City of Launceston, and audit form completed by South Launceston LAC.

Current facilities

Stand-alone, regional athletics facility within a multi-sport hub.

Event facilities

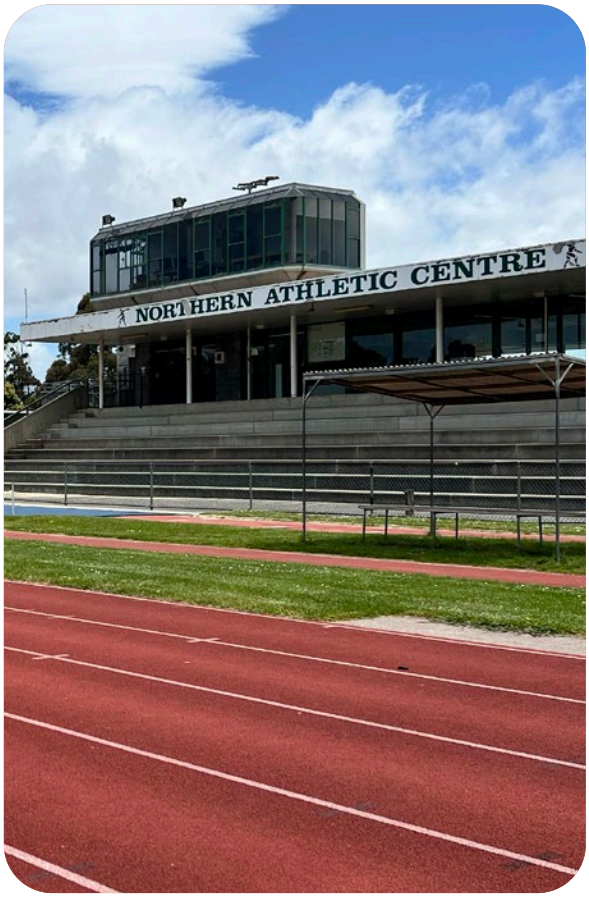
- Track
  - synthetic (Rekortan, 2017)
  - 8x lanes, 400m
  - 10x lanes for 100m on front straight
  - track is considered to be in very poor condition by SLLAC and NTA
  - upgrade due in 2027
- Jumps
  - 3x pits for long/triple jump (only 2 are suitable for triple jump, 1 is considered suitable for children only)
  - approaches to pits considered to be in very poor condition due to water seeping under the track and lifting boards
  - 2x high jump sites, a tight fit to have two competitions running concurrently
  - 1x pole vault bag
- Throws
  - 1x discus ring in permanent cage
  - 1x discus ring in demountable cage
  - 2x shot put circles
  - 1x javelin approach
  - 1x hammer cage

Ancillary facilities

- 4 lighting towers with 100-200 lux lighting and no gaps
- no accessible toilet
- grandstand, competition tower, club rooms, canteen, toilets all in one building, shared with Hockey in off season
- building in very poor condition
- toilets inadequate and in poor condition
- 2x canteens (LAC and NTA use separate canteens)
- 2x storage areas under grandstand

Accessibility features

- accessibility into the venue is not compliant due to gradient of ramped entrance
- lift to the club rooms, but no accessible toilet
- no accessible adult change facility



Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

City of Launceston: asset owner

Northern Tasmanian Athletics (NTA) facility manager

Shared responsibilities for maintenance set out in lease agreement

Home of

- Northern Tasmanian Athletics (NTA) are the principal tenant and manager of the facility during the athletics season
- South Launceston Little Athletics Centre hire the track from NTA
- NTA affiliated Athletics Clubs

Other users

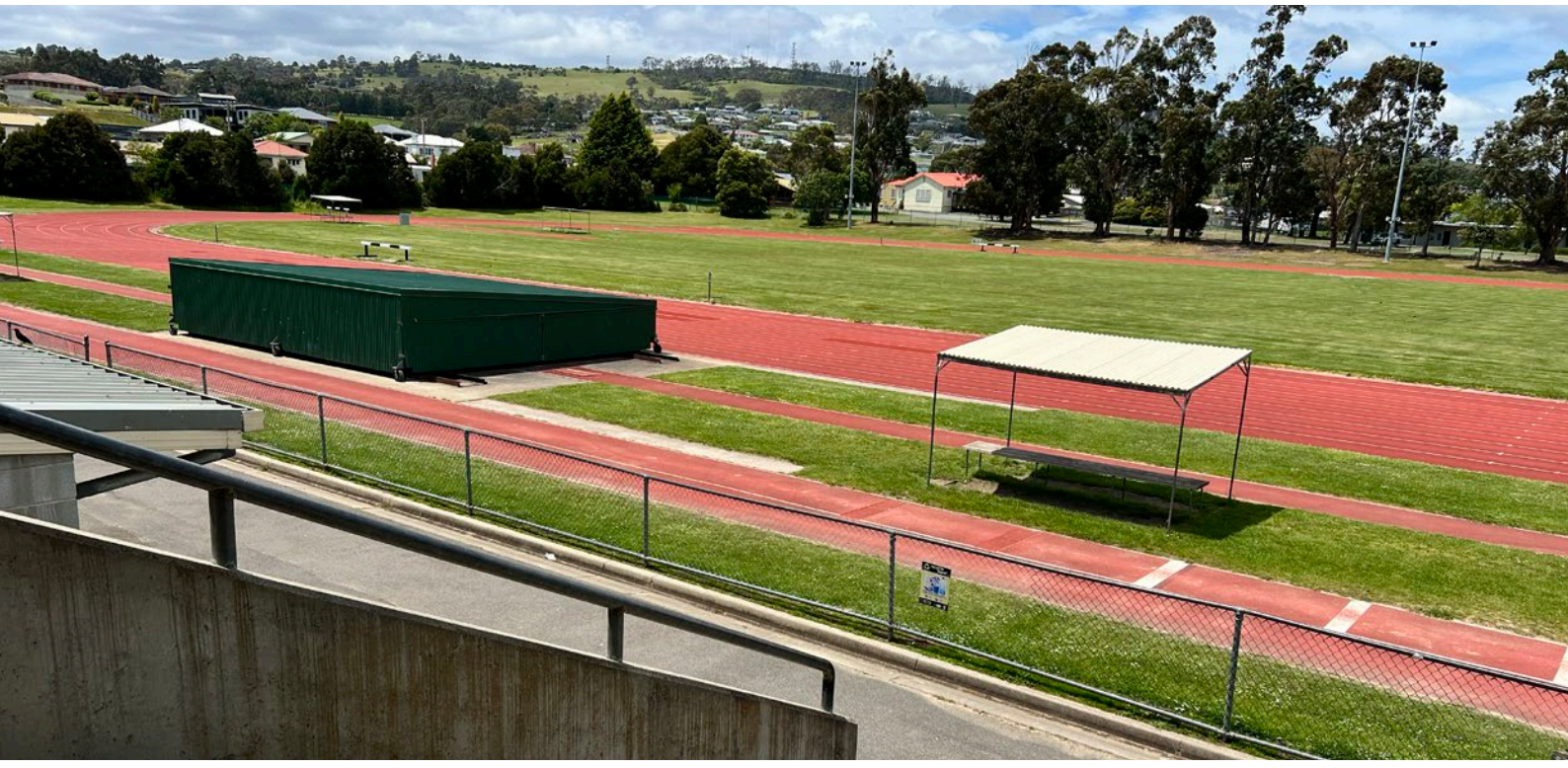
- Coaching groups
- School carnivals
- SATIS (preferred state competition venue)
- Northern Hockey Centre occupies adjacent pitches and shares building facilities during off season

Training and competition

- Weekly training and 20x Little Athletics competitions per year, and 4 Little Athletics related state meets
- NTA weekly senior competition, 17 across the season,
- 4 Athletics Tasmania state meets
- District, regional and state school carnivals
- Relay for life

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  - South Launceston LAC - 280
  - Northern Tas Athletics - 145
- Membership trend is declining in both junior and senior age groups
- South Launceston is the largest Little Athletics Centre in the state, however membership trend is declining (from 363 in 21/22).





1 Northern Athletics Centre, fully fenced and restricted access

2 Club rooms and amenities shared with Hockey

3 Hockey centre

4 Croquet

5 Car parking

6 BMX club

Stakeholder perspectives

- 42 respondents to community survey commented on NAC, and generally low levels of satisfaction with the facility
- Strong theme relating to restrictions on access, inability to access track for training during the week for junior athletes
- Issues with condition of track surface, toilets, change facilities, club rooms, accessibility
- A desire for 'one centre not two clubs' relating to the separation between NTA and SLLAC, separate facilities, etc.

Opportunities and needs

- Upgrade synthetic track, in sequence with Penguin (2026) and Hobart (2027) to minimise disruption to athletics in the statewide context
- Participate in future master plan (City of Launceston) to identify future needs and address infrastructure deficits and configuration of buildings, toilets and in-field area
- Consider opportunities for winter sporting groups to train, to maximise use of any upgraded facilities
- Improve all abilities access including entry to the venue, toilets, changing, shade and all facilities
- Consider ways to increase access of the facility to the growing local community, while preventing vandalism and safety concerns.

Windsor Community Precinct, Riverside

Windsor Community Precinct, at 432 West Tamar Road, Riverside, is a large multi-sport facility within the West Tamar Council area, with a range of playing fields and community infrastructure. It is home to Launceston Little Athletics Centre during the athletics summer season. The venue is also home to Launceston Football Club, and hosts athletics carnivals for local schools. **The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by Launceston Little Athletics Centre.**

Current facilities

Shared LAC facility with AFL football club.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 6x lanes
  - 400m track, with separate 100m straight
  - track is considered in excellent condition
- Jumps
  - 4x long/triple jump approaches, 2x concrete and 2x synthetic
  - rated in very good condition
  - 2x high jump approach on grass, rated in excellent condition
- Throws
  - 2x discus, 2x shotput circles, all on grass
  - demountable throwing cage (put up each time)
  - 2x javelin approaches, grass
  - throwing facilities rated excellent by LLAC

Ancillary facilities

- 4x lighting towers with unknown lux and excellent coverage

TASMANIA NORTH



- 1x accessible toilet
- male, female and neutral change rooms, 6 showers
- toilets and change facilities rated very good condition by LLAC
- storage shed 20x15m for equipment
- no other facilities (club room, offices, canteen, etc) are used by the LAC
- 100+ parking spaces available, room for multiple buses, 2x accessible spaces, bus stop nearby, no bike racks

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

West Tamar Council, solely responsible for maintenance, cleansing, asset management West Tamar Council is also responsible for the equipment used by the LAC

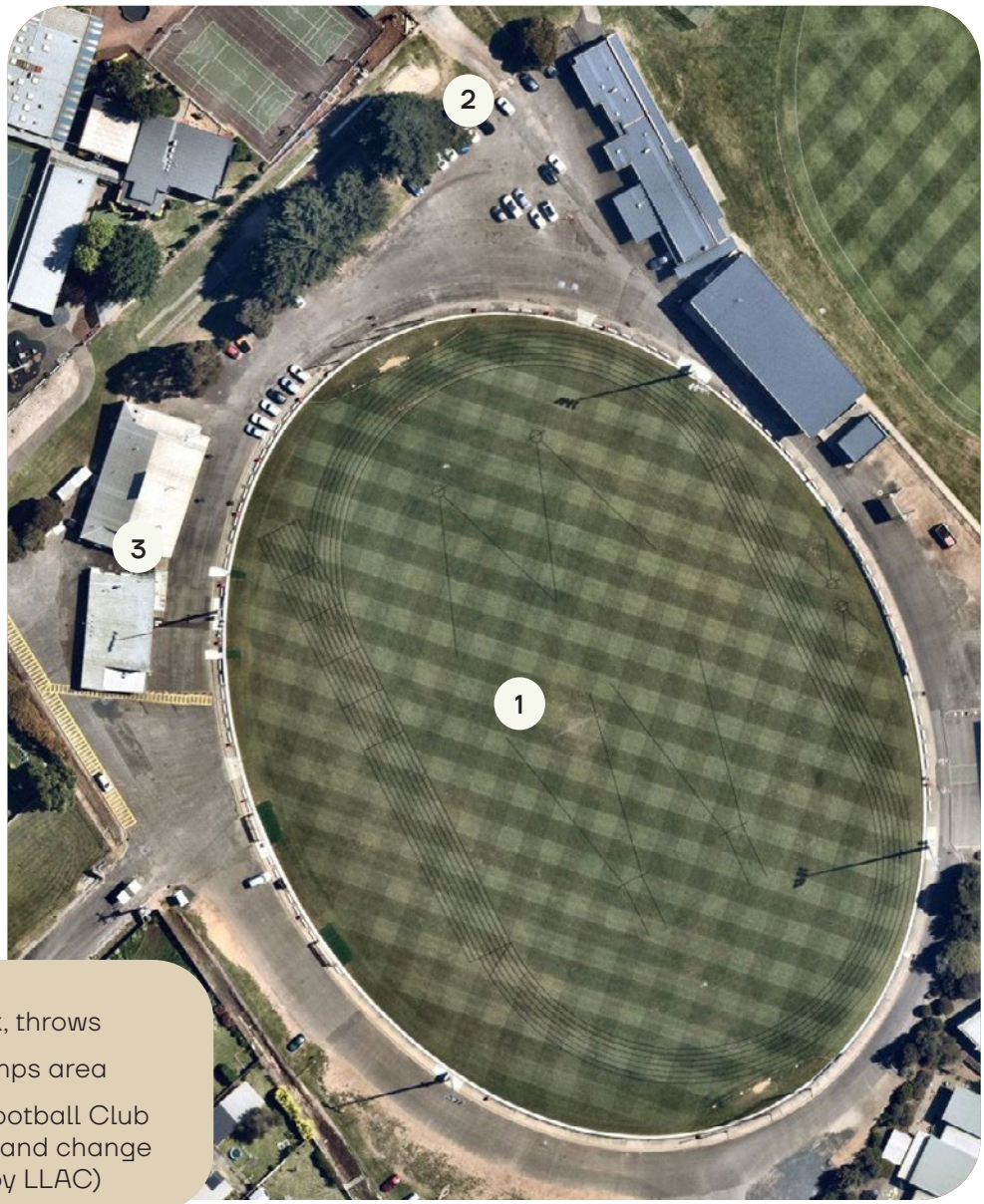
Membership and demand

- Current membership: Launceston LAC - 131
- Membership trend is stable-growing

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- No specific priorities have been identified by the LAC
- To support growth of the Centre, there is an opportunity for Little Athletics to explore sharing facilities to a greater degree with the Launceston Football Club, to provide canteen, meeting space, social spaces, etc.
- AFL Tasmania have indicated that upgraded change rooms at this is a priority and access to improved facilities would also benefit Little Athletics participants.





1 Athletics Track, throws

2 Long/triple jumps area

3 Launceston Football Club rooms (toilets and change rooms used by LLAC)

TASMANIA NORTH



Rocherlea Football Ground, Launceston

North Launceston-White City Little Athletics Centre shares the Rocherlea Football Ground with the Rocherlea Football Club. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by the North Launceston-White City LAC, and a site visit.

Current facilities

Shared LAC facility with AFL football club.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass
  - Outside track 6x lanes, for 150, 200, 400, 80, 1500 and outside hurdles 200 and 300
  - Inside track 8x lanes 100, 70 and hurdles
  - 322m track, with separate 100m track
  - track is considered in excellent condition, fairly even with good drainage
- Jumps
  - 1x big pit with 2x approaches (synthetic)
  - rated in excellent condition
  - 1x high jump approach on grass, set up on the day
- Throws
  - 3x concrete circles
  - throwing cage (put up each time)
  - 1x javelin approach
  - throwing facilities rated good, but has long grass and bushland around it which is not ideal
  - Shotput is in very good condition, but is located on the side of the roundabout, with the LAC expressing safety concerns

Ancillary facilities

- 4-6 lighting towers with unknown lux and excellent coverage (not used by the LAC)
- toilets - 2x female, 4x male, 1x neutral
- accessible adult change facility
- male, female and neutral change rooms, 6 showers
- toilets and change facilities rated excellent condition by LAC
- no club room but a small room is used as an office for the season (used by football club during athletics off season)
- small canteen (used by football club in athletics off season)
- covered spectator area
- storage in 'container building' (front is container doors and walls are brick) used to store equipment year round

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

City of Launceston (CoL), solely responsible for maintenance, cleansing

NLWC LAC books dates and events prior to the season with City of Launceston

NLWC LAC contributes ideas, fundraising and grant applications (with Council's approval) for new assets

NWLC LAC responsible for track markings, equipment and timing gates

LCC replaces sand in pits

Home of

- Rocherlea Football Club
- North Launceston-White City Little Athletics Centre (September to March)

Other users

- Other football clubs for training
- General public - birthday parties and community events

1 Athletics Track, throws

2 Long/triple jumps area

3 North Launceston Football Club rooms



Membership and demand

- Current membership: North Launceston White City LAC - 96
- Membership trend is stable



Stakeholder perspectives

- Respondents to the community survey nominated the following in relation to Rocherlea:
  - more storage
  - more toilet facilities
  - upgrades to equipment



Opportunities and needs

- There is an opportunity to develop a relationship with the football club for greater access to toilets, club rooms and other amenities.

TASMANIA NORTH



Deloraine Primary School

Deloraine Little Athletics Centre is located at Deloraine Primary School, a state school run by Department for Education Children and Young People (DECYP). The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by Deloraine Little Athletics Centre.

Current facilities

Shared LAC facility with school football club.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 6x lane 363m and 100m straights
  - the track is rated in poor condition by the LAC due to rabbit holes and uneven surfaces.
- Jumps
  - 1x long/triple jump pit with 2x runways (synthetic)
  - in poor condition, the pit is functional however, approaches need to be replaced.
  - 1x high jump, tiger turf approach
  - high jump approach is in fair condition however, can be slippery due to sand on turf.
- Throws
  - 2x discus/shot put circles
  - 1x throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approach
  - throws in rated in fair condition

Ancillary facilities

- no lighting
- 3x toilets (1x male, 1x female 1x accessible) in excellent condition
- no changing facilities or showers
- 2x sheds for storage
- 1x canteen (small)
- no clubroom or covered pavilion/ spectator area
- 30x car parking (3x accessible spots) with road parking for bus/coaches and overflow parking for large events

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Facility is located at Deloraine Primary School; DECYP is the facility owner and manager.

Ground maintenance is undertaken by the school and the school committee is responsible for programming, asset planning and management, event management and equipment.

Home of

- Deloraine Little Athletics Centre (weekly athletics meetings)

Other users

- Deloraine Primary School (school events, athletics carnivals and school football)

Membership and demand

- Current membership: Deloraine LAC- 60
- Membership trend is increasing

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- The long jump runways require replacement and holes and uneven track surface needs to be corrected. The LAC notes that the cost of undertaking these improvements are a major concern.



1 Athletics Track, throws
2 Jumps area
3 Throws area



St Helens Sport and Recreation Ground

St Helens Athletics Centre is located at St Helens Recreation Ground, a council-run multi sport facility. The athletics facility is a stand-alone track and infield, with cycling velodrome on the outside. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by the St Helens LAC.

Current facilities

Shared LAC facility within wider sports precinct and other sports users.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass track, 6x lanes 400m, with a 100m straight separately located in the infield
  - condition of track is rated by the LAC as poor, uneven running surface due to poor maintenance
- Jumps
  - 1x big long/triple jump pit with synthetic approach
  - 2x high jump approaches on grass with strip of synthetic on both sides
  - condition of long/triple jumps are rated as poor, requiring maintenance/weed removal
- Throws
  - 2x concrete circles
  - throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approach
  - throw areas are in fair condition but requires weed removal.

Ancillary facilities

- no lighting
- toilets - 5x female, 2x male, 1x urinal, 1x accessible /neutral
- there is an accessible adult change facility
- condition of toilets and change facilities is very good (within sports stadium)
- club room shared with St Helens Athletics, St Helens District High School and Tas Carnivals
- Small canteen and servery
- Administration office, 2x storage sheds
- Ample parking

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Break-O-Day Council is the owner and manager of the facility and is responsible for maintenance, programming, waste management and asset planning/ management. Equipment is the shared responsibility of Council and St Helens LAC.

Home of

- St Helens Little Athletics Centre (weekly meets)

Other users

- St Helens Athletics
- St Helens District High School
- Tasmanian carnivals
- Regional athletics carnivals
- Athletics coaching and training
- cyclists (velodrome)
- football clubs

Membership and demand

- Current membership: St Helens LAC - 39
- Membership trend is increasing, with current year numbers higher than previous three years.



1 Athletics Track, throws and jumps

2 Velodrome

TASMANIA NORTH



Scottsdale Primary School

North East Little Athletics Centre is located at Scottsdale Primary School, a facility owned and managed by Department for Education Children and Young People (DECYP). The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by the North East Little Athletics Centre.

Current facilities

Shared LAC facility with AFL football club.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 6x lanes, 300m, with 100m straight
  - average-good condition, part of the school oval and can be uneven, but serviceable
- Jumps
  - 1x pit with approach, synthetic grass over concrete
  - rated in average-good condition, but weeds encroach
  - 1x high jump approach on grass, set up on the day
- Throws
  - 3x concrete circles
  - moveable circles and throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approach, grass

Ancillary facilities

- no lighting
- toilets - 3x male cubicles and urinal, 3x female cubicles
- no adult changing facilities
- change rooms are part of the toilet block, not dedicated change facilities, no showers
- 4x6m equipment shipping container

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

DECYP is the facility owner and manager

Home of

- North East Little Athletics Centre - weekly competitions during the season

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  North East LAC - 34
- Membership trend is declining



1 Athletics Track, throws and jumps

Longford Recreation Ground

Longford Recreation Ground is the home of Northern Midlands Little Athletics Centre. The primary users of the ground are Longford Football Club (winter) and Longford Cricket Club (summer). There is a dedicated LAC area for jumps and throws in the south eastern pocket of the site, with running events held on the oval. A new indoor sport and fitness provides a multi-sport presence but encroaches on the athletics facility. A 2030 master plan recommends LAC be relocated to the northern part of the site. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed in part by Northern Midlands Council and in part by Northern Midlands LAC as well as from a site visit.

Current facilities

Shared LAC facility with local Cricket and Football Clubs.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 6-8 lanes 375m, 100m straight
  - track is rated in excellent condition by the LAC
- Jumps
  - 2x long/triple jump pits and approaches, synthetic grass surface, rated in fair condition by the LAC noting wear and tear and grass overgrowth on the track
  - high jump competed on oval (grass approach)
- Throws
  - 2x discus/shotput concrete circle
  - 1x javelin approach
  - in poor condition as rated by LAC due to major wear and tear on discus structure and cracks in concrete circle (shotput), and hardened surface of javelin approach

TASMANIA NORTH



Ancillary facilities

- 4x lighting poles to oval (100 lux), coverage is adequate but 200 lux preferred by clubs
- 2x accessible toilets (1x in stadium, 1x external)
- 8x gender neutral change rooms (with showers), 2x umpire change rooms
- 10x male and female toilets
- toilets and changing facilities in excellent condition, recently renovated (late 2010s)
- 1x club room (shared with Cricket and Football clubs)
- pavilion and covered spectator area (overlooking oval - away from athletics area)
- Dedicated storage shed for LAC
- 50x dedicated LAC car parking

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Northern Midlands Council owns the facility

Facility is managed by the Longford Recreation Ground Management Committee who is responsible for most management aspects; asset planning and management is undertaken in collaboration with Council.

Home of

- Northern Midlands Little Athletics Centre (summer)
- Longford Football Club (competition and training)
- Longford Cricket Club (competition and training)

Other users

- Grounds and facilities available for hire for public/private events

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  Northern Midlands LAC - 34
- Membership trend is steeply declining

Emerging opportunities and needs

- Northern Midlands Council have implemented some of the actions listed in 2030 Longford Recreation Ground Master Plan including: upgrade of the stadium and grandstand, scoreboard, storage, car park, entrance and sports centre.
- The Master Plan recommends relocation of Little Athletics facilities to open space north of oval - Council notes that recommendations are at this stage, Concept only and implementation will depend on arising needs. No funding has been secured for relocation as yet.
- Jumps and throws areas require upgrade.









1 Long/triple jumps area

2 Throws circle

3 Storage shed

4 Club rooms, pavilion and toilets

5 Longford indoor sports & fitness centre

6 Potential future Little Athletics Centre area

TASMANIA SOUTH



Domain Athletics Centre, Hobart

Located within Hobart's Queens Domain parkland and sports precinct, the Domain Athletics Centre is a dedicated, synthetic track facility, the regional hub for athletics in the south, and the state hub for athletics. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by City of Hobart, as well as conversations with Athletics South.

Current facilities

Stand-alone, regional athletics facility with Class II World Athletics Certification located within parkland and a multi-sport precinct.

Event facilities

- Track
  - synthetic (Rekortan, 2016)
  - 8x lanes for full length of track, 400m
  - 10x lanes for 100m on main straight
  - 2x 100m straights
  - track is considered to be in very good condition by City of Hobart
  - upgrade planned in 2027
- Jumps
  - 2x pits for long/triple jump
  - 4x approaches, synthetic, very good condition
  - 1x high jump approach, synthetic, very good
- Throws
  - 2x discus, 3x shot put circles
  - 2x throwing cages
  - 2x javelin approach
  - Pole vault area: 1x landing 2x approaches, synthetic

Ancillary facilities

- 6x lighting towers with 200 lux lighting and no gaps, recently upgraded
- 1x public accessible toilet
- 5x female, 3x male (urinal) toilets
- No accessible adult change facility
- male and female change rooms
- 2x male and 2x female showers
- toilets and change facilities generally considered to meet basic needs but requires upgrade
- club room leased to Athletics Tasmania, accessible via ramp includes bar, commercial kitchen, meeting room, function space, offices, storage
- Gym on site in separate building
- Covered grandstand
- canteen with small servery
- storage is in disused water tank and container, and existing buildings

Accessibility features

- the track does not have compliant access
- some areas are accessible including function room and accessible toilets
- no accessible adult change facility

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

City of Hobart (owner and manager)

Home of

- Athletics Tasmania/Little Athletics Tasmania
- Athletics South (and affiliated Athletics Clubs)
- Hobart Districts Little Athletics (Redbacks)

Other users

- Kingborough Little Athletics (for annual carnival)
- Coaching groups (e.g. Bennett Athletics)
- Running groups (e.g. Hobart Run Club)
- School carnivals
- SATIS (southern regional)
- General public (facility is open to the public 6.00am-9.00pm year round when no bookings)

- Gridiron (training 1 night per week over winter)
- District, regional and state school carnivals
- Relay for life
- Occasional use by other sports codes (Soccer, Football, etc.) for events/training

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  - Hobart Districts LAC:170
  - Athletics South: 493
  - Membership trend is decreasing in both junior and senior age groups
  - Domain Athletics Centre is home to several senior clubs and the largest number of senior athletes in the state

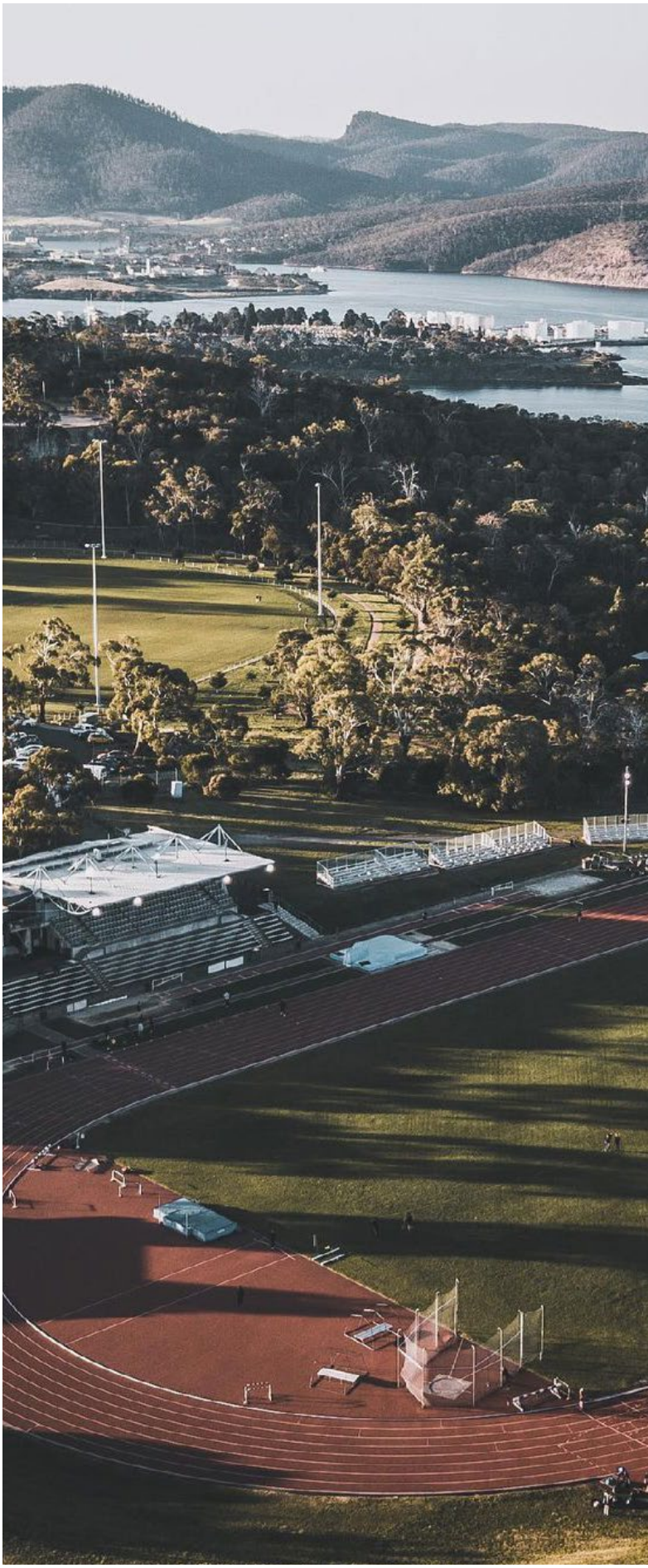
Stakeholder perspectives

- 42 respondents to community survey commented on DAC, and about half of those are satisfied with the facility
- Feedback themes included weather protection, gym facilities, warm up areas, more throwing areas, consolidated storage, fencing, upgraded change-rooms and greater access to change facilities

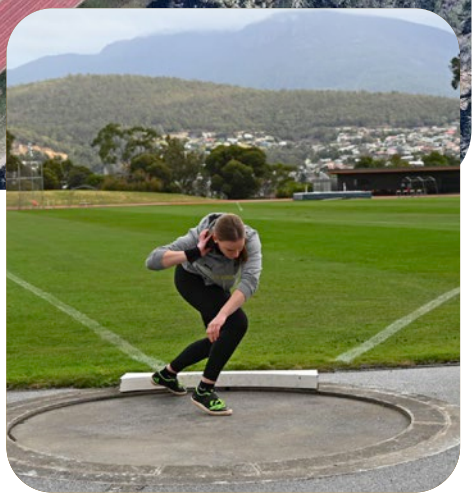
Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- Replacement of synthetic track is planned for early 2027
- Lighting has recently been upgraded
- Throwing surfaces recently upgraded
- Priorities emerging from stakeholders include:
  - Warm up areas
  - Alternative throws area
  - Toilet capacity
  - Gym facility
  - All weather facility

A Master Plan for Domain Athletics Centre is being developed to identify opportunities and gaps.









1 Synthetic track

2 In-field

3 Throw areas

4 Jumps area

5 Storage area

6 Grandstand, pavilion and administration

7 Training facility

8 Car parking



Abbotsfield Park, Claremont

Abbotsfield Park in Claremont is principally a local AFL club facility, home of Claremont Football Club, and the home of Claremont Little Athletics and Claremont Cricket Club in the summer. It hosts athletics carnivals for schools in Hobart's northern suburbs. The following information is drawn from the audit form completed by Claremont LAC.

Current facilities

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 8x lanes, 400m, with 100m straight
  - LAC considers the track to be in very good condition
- Jumps
  - 2x long/triple jump pits and approaches, with artificial turf for long jump runway, in good-average condition
  - 1x high jump approaches on grass, good condition
- Throws
  - 2x concrete circles, no throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approach
  - throwing facilities are considered not well located in relation to other events and activities

Ancillary facilities

- no lighting
- 1x accessible toilet, 1 each male and female toilets
- accessible adult change facility, male and female change rooms
- condition of toilets and change rooms is good-average
- club rooms belong to the football club, and these are used by little athletics for meetings
- club room is accessible, however no bar, kitchen facilities, canteen, etc is used by the LAC
- sloped seating (not covered) for spectators
- small storage shed for equipment
- 50 car parking spaces, with overflow for larger events. No bus/coach parking, no accessible parking, 1 set of bike racks, bus stop is nearby

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Glenorchy City Council is the facility owner and manager, and responsible for maintenance.

Little Athletics Centre responsible for equipment.

Home of

- Claremont Little Athletics Centre (weekly meets on Friday evenings during summer)

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  Claremont LAC - 86
- Membership trend is growing

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- Glenorchy City Council undertake ground resurfacing regularly, and have no other plans for upgrades at this stage.



1 Track
2 Jumps and throws area
3 Storage shed
4 clubrooms

TASMANIA SOUTH



Sandown Park, Sandy Bay

Sandown Park in Sandy Bay is home to Queenborough Little Athletics Centre during the summer season, The facility is used by Hobart Beachside Soccer Club during winter. The following information is drawn from the audit form completed by City of Hobart and a site visit.

Current facilities

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass track with painted lines, 8x lanes
  - 223m inside lane, with 1x 100m straight
  - track is in excellent condition (although can vary over the season)
- Jumps
  - 4x long/triple jump approaches and pits, synthetic, in fair condition
  - 1x high jump approach, synthetic, very good condition, however a second area would be ideal to accommodate demand
- Throws
  - 4x shot put and discus throws areas, marked on grass no throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approach, marked on grass
  - throws facilities rated as fair, as no dedicated throw areas.

Ancillary facilities

- Lighting, partial
- toilets: 1x accessible, 3x neutral gender toilets
- limited accessible adult change facility
- no female, male, gender neutral change rooms available, no showers
- accessible club room, shared with Hobart City FC
- no pavilion or covered spectator area
- small canteen
- shed for storage
- some off street parking, and street parking available

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

City of Hobart

Home of

Queenborough Little Athletics Centre

Hobart City (Beachside) FC during winter

Weekly Little Athletics meets between October and March

Facility is accessible for wheelchair users, prams, etc.

Membership and demand

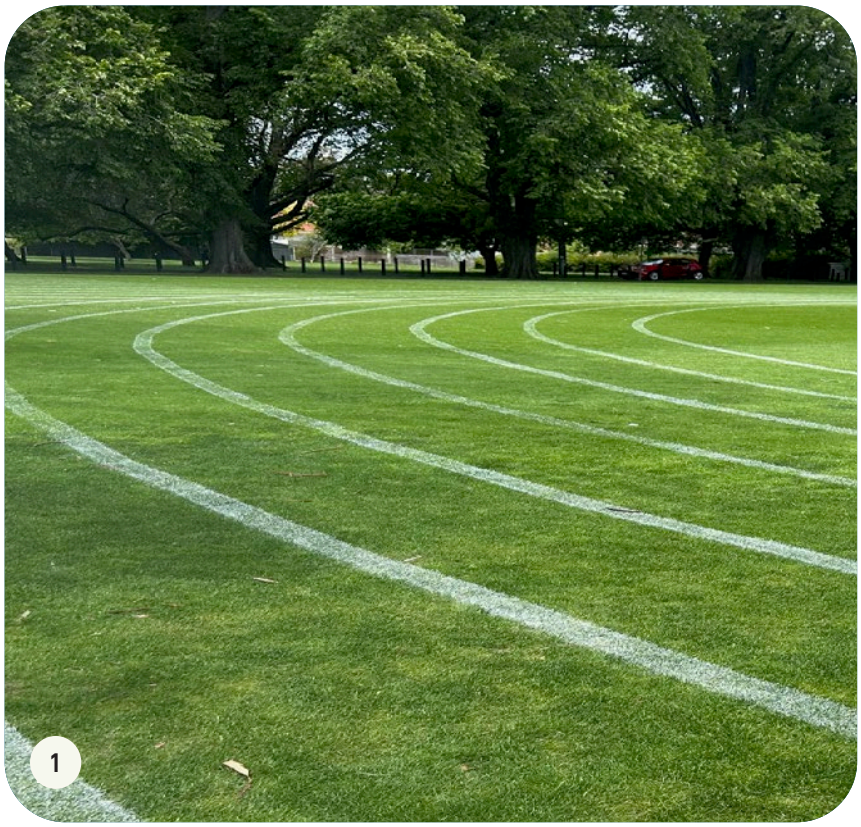
- Current membership: Queenborough LAC - 134
- Membership trend is declining

Stakeholder perspectives

- City of Hobart are planning to upgrade the change facilities in future years, and recognise Queenborough Little Athletics Centre's need for 2nd high jump area.

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- Second synthetic high jump area (mat is slippery in the infield)
- Additional change rooms and facilities are required as the current set services two ovals







1 Track and throws

2 Long/triple jump approaches and pits

3 Storage shed

4 Toilets and change-rooms

5 High jump area

6 Car park

Gormley Park, Kingston

Gormley Park is within the Kingborough Sports Complex, a large multi-sport precinct in a significant growth area in the south of the state. The Kingborough Little Athletics Centre is active and successful. The following information is drawn primarily from the audit form completed by Kingborough Council and by user input from the athletics community survey, as well as from a site visit.

Current facilities

LAC facility shared with Football Club located within broader sports precinct.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 6x (circular), 8x (straight)
  - rated in excellent condition
- Jumps
  - 3x synthetic approaches to long/triple jump
  - No specific high jump location, 3x set ups are used within the field, grass
- Throws
  - 3x discus/shot put circles, 2x throwing cages (very good condition, separate from main field)
  - 2x javelin approaches set up in field

Ancillary facilities

- Lighting for training purposes only, 6x towers, 3x globes on each
- toilets: 1x accessible, 2x male, 2x female
- change facilities: 1x male, 1x female, no accessible adult change facility, no showers
- condition of toilets and change facilities is average
- club room, accessible, not shared
- storage room, kiosk, undercover verandah, tiered seating (not covered)
- 1x large shed 8x5m, 1x shipping container for storage
- adequate parking and overflow

TASMANIA SOUTH



Use, management and access

Facility owner, manager, maintenance

Kingborough Council

Home of

- Kingborough Little Athletics Centre
- Kingborough Lions FC (Soccer) in winter

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  Kingborough LAC - 189
- Membership trend is steady, and Kingborough is a growth area.

Stakeholder perspectives

- 11 respondents to the community survey commented on Gormley Park, and about half of those are satisfied with the facility
- Feedback themes included:
  - concern about the future of little athletics at Gormley Park due to the approved plan for AFL High Performance Centre, and its impact on the athletics facility.
  - desire for upgraded clubrooms, toilets and change rooms
  - calls for improved jumps approaches, high jump area and a full 400m track
  - call for shade and car parking

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- Relocation of throws area will be required as additional sports field is to be installed adjacent to Gormley Park (AFL High Performance Centre project).
- LAC has ambitions for a 400m track, as per the 2023 Master Plan, and approaches are being investigated to enable this.
- Improved lighting to accommodate night-time events.



Gormley Park Master Plan (Inspiring Place, 2023)







1 Track and throws

2 Long/triple jump approaches and pits

3 Throws including cages

4 Club room, toilets and change-rooms, tiered seating

5 Car park



Huonville Recreation Ground

Huonville Athletics Ground, home of Huon Valley Little Athletics Centre, is a well used facility located in a multi-sport precincts near Huonville High School and Huonville Primary School. Other facilities in the complex include Huonville Swimming Pool, Huon Valley Soccer Club, Huonville Lions Junior Football Club (AFL), Huonville Netball Courts, a half court basketball court and fenced dog park. The following information was primarily drawn from the audit form completed by the Huon Valley LAC, as well as from a site visit.

Current facilities

Shared LAC facility within broader sports and recreation precinct.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 7x lanes, 400m with 100m straight
  - rated in very good condition by the LAC
- Jumps
  - 3x synthetic approaches to long/triple jump, condition of approaches is fair (for the two main approaches) and very poor for the 'training pit'
  - 1x synthetic high jump approach, in fair condition
- Throws
  - 2x discus/shot put circles, 1x throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approaches set up in field
  - throwing facilities rated good

Ancillary facilities

- no lighting
- toilets: 3x accessible, 2x male, 4x female, 1x disability
- no change facilities or showers, no accessible adult change facility
- condition of toilets rated average
- club room, accessible, shared with Huon Valley Soccer Club in winter
- 2x storage room, undercover verandah, canteen/kitchen.
- shaded/undercover area near start line and connected to canteen.
- ample car parking
- adequate parking and overflow

Use, management and access

Facility owner, manager, maintenance

Huon Valley Council

Home of

- Huon Valley Little Athletics Centre
- Huon Valley Soccer Club (winter)
- Local Schools for athletics carnivals
- Run, Move, Connect
- Casual public use

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  Huon Valley LAC - 104
- Membership trend is gradually declining

Stakeholder perspectives

- Jumps facilities (approaches) identified by Huon Valley LAC as needing renewal.

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- New jumps approaches are required.







1 Track

2 Long/triple jump approaches and pits

3 High jump area

4 Throws cage

5 Clubroom and toilets





Weily Park, Bridgewater

Weily Park at 25 Weily Park Road Bridgewater, is a shared recreation ground owned and managed by Brighton Council, and home to the East Derwent Little Athletics Centre. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by Brighton Council, as well as from a site visit.

Current facilities

East Derwent Little Athletics Centre hosts weekly training and meets during the summer athletics season. The facility is shared with Dosa Soccer Club, Weily Park Rockers Cricket Club and other non-permanent users throughout the year.

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 6x lanes, 400m, with 100m straight
  - average-good condition
- Jumps
  - 3x pits with rubber/soft fall approaches, good-average condition
  - 1x high jump approach on synthetic grass, good-average condition
- Throws
  - 3x concrete circles, 1x throwing cage
  - 2x javelin approaches
  - good-average condition

Ancillary facilities

- lighting, est. 100 lux with gaps, 6x poles
- public toilets, 2x male and 2x female cubicles, no accessible toilet (condition fair)
- no accessible adult changing facilities
- change rooms available (male, female, gender neutral) with 4x showers in each change room (condition very good)
- canteen, no club room
- 4x6m equipment shipping container and store room
- 40 parking spaces + 30 overflow, no bus or coach parking, no accessible car parking spaces, no bus stop nearby, no bike parking.

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Brighton Council is the facility owner and manager, with Centre responsible for event management.

Home of

- East Derwent Little Athletics Centre - weekly competitions during the season

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  East Derwent LAC - 101
- Membership trend is growing
- Bridgewater is a growth area

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- Change-rooms, public toilets and club facilities are old and tired



1 Track and throws

2 Long/triple jump approaches and pits

3 Discus circle

4 High jump area

5 Storage container





South East Sports Complex, Sorell

South East Sports Complex (or Pembroke Park) in Sorell is a large multi-sports hub servicing the growing south eastern district. Pembroke Park has three zones, with Athletics being co-located with cricket and AFL. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by the South East Districts Little Athletics Centre.

Current facilities

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 6-8x lanes, 360m, with 100m straight (8x lanes)
  - fair condition, uneven surface and not flat
- Jumps
  - 4x synthetic approaches in good condition
  - 2x high jump approaches on grass, set up on the day on the oval. Issue with bar height measurements as the oval is uneven.
- Throws
  - 2x concrete circles, 1x throwing cage
  - 1x javelin approaches
  - throwing facilities rated excellent condition

Ancillary facilities

- lighting is available, good quality, but expensive and not used for Little Athletics.
- 4x gender neutral toilets, 1x male, 1x female
- no dedicated accessible adult changing facilities, but space could be available for an adult plus carer if required
- change rooms available (male, female, gender neutral) with showers in each change room
- club room belongs to football/cricket clubs, but can be used on request if needed

TASMANIA SOUTH



- kitchen, toilets, office, bar area and open seating area, medium canteen are available for LAC use
- Uncovered pavilion for viewing
- Storage shed 8x4m
- ample car parking, including accessible spaces, bus/coach parking, overflow. No bus stop nearby, no bike parking

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Sorell Council is the facility owner and manager, and responsible for maintenance.

Little Athletics Centre responsible for event management and equipment.

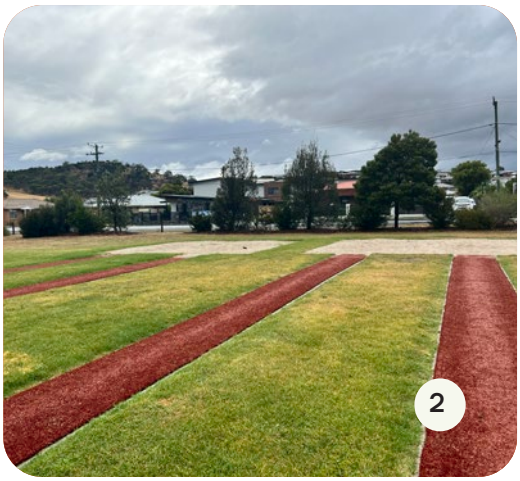
Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  South East Districts LAC - 88
- Membership trend is gradually declining
- Sorell is a growth area, and athletics participation is anticipated to grow slightly over the next 25 years (Draft SE Sports Complex Master Plan, 2025, Inspiring Place)

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- Sorell Council is developing a draft master plan for the South East Sports Complex.
- Recommended actions include:
  - future proof little athletics facilities with upgraded, fit-for-purpose surfacing
  - provide new park shelter with multi-purpose picnic table for Little Athletics use
- The uneven running track surface is the biggest issue for the LAC, and this could be rectified if one of the cricket/football ovals is renovated as part of implementing the master plan.







Extract from Draft South East Sports Complex Master Plan (Inspiring Place, 2025)



1 Track and throws

2 Long/triple jump approaches and pits

3 Throws including cage



Swansea Recreation Ground

Swansea Recreation Ground is a multi-sports and community open space venue on the East Coast of Tasmania. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by the Glamorgan-Spring Bay LAC.

Current facilities

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 8x lanes, 300m, with 100m straight
  - condition of track is variable. Not irrigated so hard and dry during warm summers, but can also get very wet.
- Jumps
  - 1 synthetic grass approach for long/ triple jump in fair-poor condition, 1 pit
  - no formal high jump approach, this is on grass, set up on the day on the oval.
- Throws
  - no concrete circles, no throwing cage, discus, shot put and javelin marked on grass
  - condition is variable

Ancillary facilities

- no lighting
- 1x accessible gender neutral toilet, 1x male, 1x female
- no dedicated accessible adult changing facilities,
- no change rooms available or showers
- toilets in poor-fair condition, maintained by council
- no club room facilities
- Storage shed 8x3m
- ample car parking, unmarked
- bus stop nearby

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council is the facility owner and manager, and responsible for maintenance.

Little Athletics Centre responsible for equipment.

Membership and demand

- Current membership:
  Glamorgan Spring Bay LAC - 16
- Membership trend is stable

Emerging opportunities, gaps and needs

- The poor and variable surface of the running track surface is the biggest issue for the LAC and will likely be an impediment to growth of the centre, despite its growing status. The oval is unirrigated, has drainage issues and is frequently damaged by helicopter and ambulance access for medivac situations.
- If the ground isn't likely to be improved, the nearest active oval which is irrigated appears to be in Triabunna, over 1 hour away. Triabunna could be explored as an option for Little Athletics during the summer season.



1 Track and throws

2 Long/triple jump approaches and pits

3 Toilets and amenities

TASMANIA SOUTH



Clarence High School

Clarence Little Athletics Centre is located at Clarence High School, a facility owned and managed by Clarence City Council. The Clarence Little Athletics Centre has a weekly meet every Saturday during the summer season, and typically have a regular training session every Tuesday afternoon. Clarence High School holds annual carnivals at the facility which is supported by the Clarence LAC by hiring out their timing gates and operator. The following information is primarily drawn from the audit form completed by Clarence LAC.

Current facilities

Event facilities

- Track
  - grass, 8x lanes, 400m, with 10x 100m straight
  - track is level and well-maintained
- Jumps
  - 4x caged sandpit with synthetic approach
  - 2x synthetic high jump approaches
  - long jump/triple areas are rated very good by the LAC; high jump approaches are showing signs of wear with a number of thinner patches where weeds grow through
- Throws
  - 2x shotput circles with stop bar (stop bar is slightly smaller than specification)
  - 1x discus circle with cage
  - 1x javelin approach
  - throwing facilities require improvement, the LAC notes the shorter than required stop bar and ageing discus cage; the javelin approach meets needs of most athletes, however has a shorter run-up than required for older/ best athletes.

Ancillary facilities

- no lighting
- 2x sets of toilets assigned male or female
- 2x accessible toilets, all gender
- open space area before toilets can be used as changing area but LAC uses this space as a makeshift club room
- room divider used if needed to faciliate gender neutral change rooms
- 2x showers
- toilets are rated by the LAC to be in fair condition, maintained by Council
- no club room facilities
- 1x canteen (small)
- 1x announcing tower with loud speakers
- 2x storage sheds suitable to meet LAC needs and access to additional side room for storage needs during season
- adequate car parking to meet needs of Clarence LAC membership
- no bus/coach space or designated accessible parking, street parking available for overflow needs

Use, management and access

Asset owner / manager

Clarence City Council owns and manages the facility and is responsible for grounds maintenance, asset planning and management, event management, bookings and waste management, etc.

Clarence Little Athletics is responsible for their equipment (Storage space provided by Council).

Home of

- Clarence Little Athletics Centre (weekly competitions and training during season)

Other users

- Clarence High School athletics carnival

- Used by School for other sporting activities including Cricket and Football
- Used by public for events/functions

Membership and demand

- Current membership: Clarence LAC - 239
- Membership trend is growing rapidly, Clarence is a major growth area
- The LAC have not been able to use the facility for regular Tuesday training due to not having someone to run sessions.

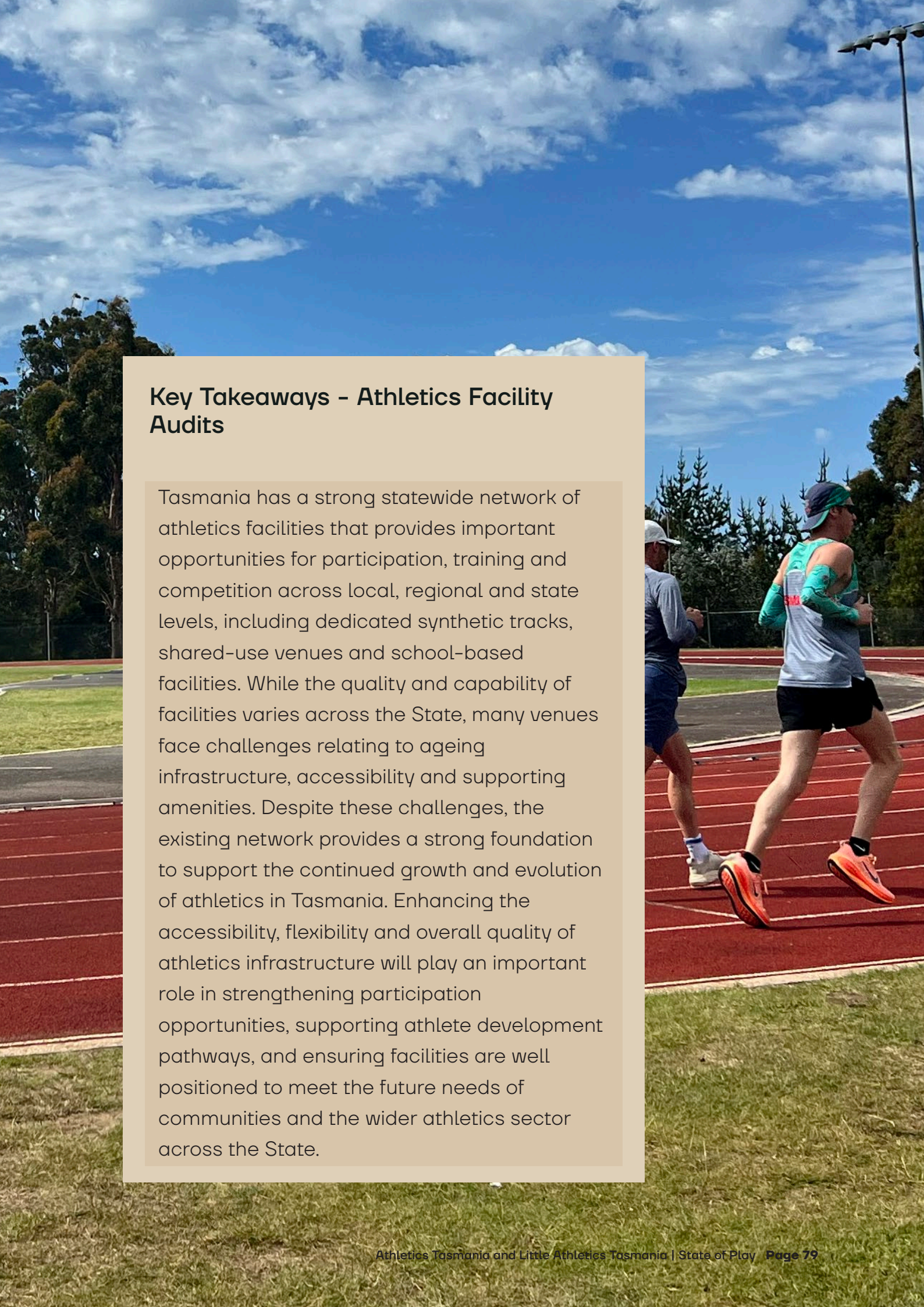
1 Track

2 Throws

3 Long/triple and high jump approaches and pits

4 Sports centre and pavilion with toilets, canteen





Key Takeaways - Athletics Facility Audits

Tasmania has a strong statewide network of athletics facilities that provides important opportunities for participation, training and competition across local, regional and state levels, including dedicated synthetic tracks, shared-use venues and school-based facilities. While the quality and capability of facilities varies across the State, many venues face challenges relating to ageing infrastructure, accessibility and supporting amenities. Despite these challenges, the existing network provides a strong foundation to support the continued growth and evolution of athletics in Tasmania. Enhancing the accessibility, flexibility and overall quality of athletics infrastructure will play an important role in strengthening participation opportunities, supporting athlete development pathways, and ensuring facilities are well positioned to meet the future needs of communities and the wider athletics sector across the State.

6. Forward planning

Planning facilities for the future requires understanding the current provision and making predictions about future demand and opportunities for growth.

In Tasmania, demand for athletics facilities and investment will likely be shaped by broader trends in Australia and globally, such as:

- a focus on inclusivity and accessibility to promote participation for everyone;
- the improving brand and profile of athletics leading to increased interest and participation;
- excitement of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, raising the profile of athletics;
- ongoing awareness of the association between health and physical activity;
- the explosion in participation in running and other informal athletics-related activities (including marathons, fun runs, road running) for people of all ages;
- the emphasis on aggregation of sporting facilities, and the development of multi-sport hubs and seasonal programming as a continuing trend in community infrastructure development;
- education departments aiming to increase use of school-based green spaces by opening school grounds up for compatible community and commercial uses; and
- increasingly integrated land use planning to ensure urban growth areas are well serviced with open space and community and sporting infrastructure, and connected with public transport.

Many of these factors link directly to grant funding, thereby having a significant influence on opportunities for facility development.

6.1 Regional supply and demand

Local demographic and population projections are relevant for understanding Tasmanian specific needs, and these are outlined in the following pages. The following pages also include heat maps showing current population size and projected population rate across all LGAs for each region. Synthetic tracks are indicated in red, all other track locations on maps are indicated in yellow.

6.1.1 North West

North West Tasmania has a total population of 116,148 across nine LGAs (2021 Census count). Devonport and Burnie constitute the greatest population centres in this region.

The North West has the lowest population size and has the lowest number of registered junior (Little Athletics) and AT athletes.

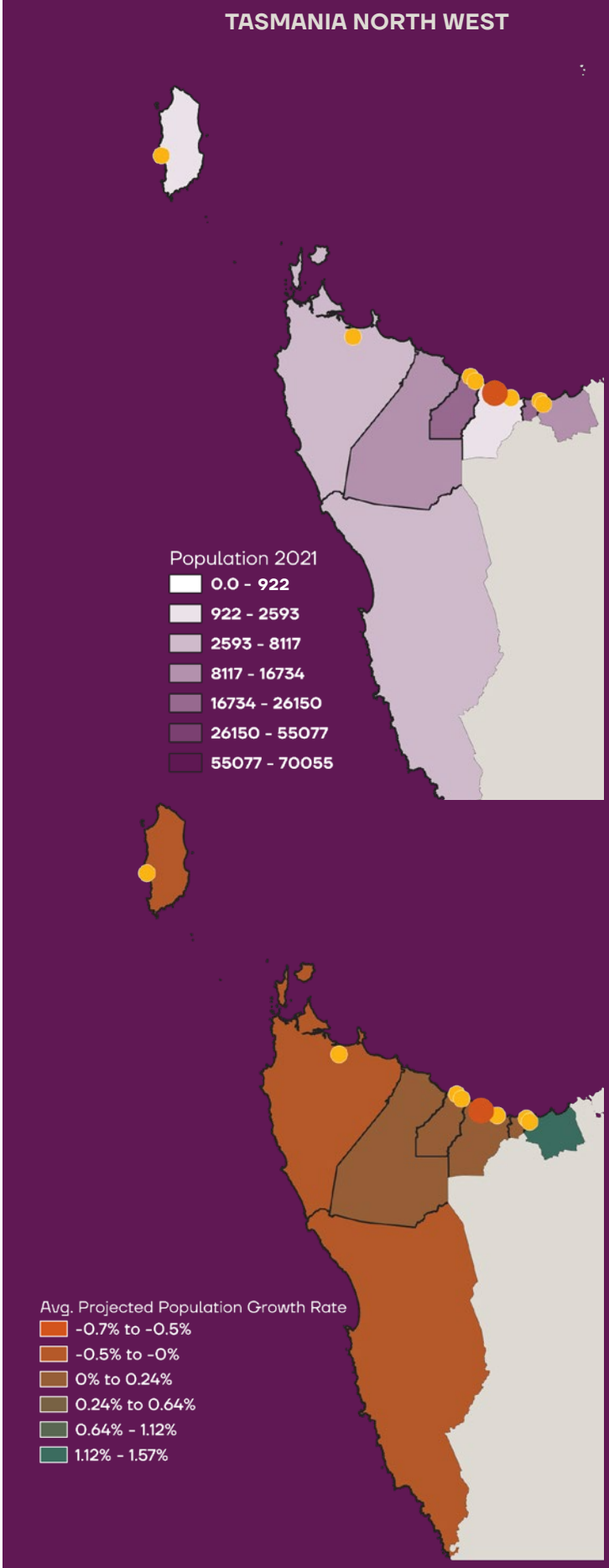
Population projections for the North West to 2053 (medium series)[3] indicates that the:

- overall population is projected (medium series) to increase across the region by 4.1%. This is primarily due to an increase in people aged 65 and above;
- population aged 14 and under is projected to fall from 20,318 (17.1% of the regional population) in 2021 to 16,569 (13.4%) by 2053; and
- population of people aged 15-64 is projected to decrease from 71,957 (60.5% of the regional population) in 2021 to 67,171 (54.2%) in 2053.

Burnie and Devonport represent the largest population centres in the North West. Both LGAs have a relatively low projected population growth rates (to 2053)- Burnie has a projected population growth rate of 0.09, and Devonport has a growth rate of 0.21[4].

Latrobe, which has the third largest population size in the region, has a population growth rate of 1.49, making this LGA the second fastest growing area in Tasmania.

The region has eight athletics venues, including one dedicated facility with a synthetic track, the Penguin Athletics Track located in Penguin (Central Coast LGA). The remaining are grass tracks located primarily in ovals and shared with cricket, football (soccer), and Australian Rules football (see Section 5).



6.1.2 North

Northern Tasmania has a total population of 151,208 and includes eight LGAs (2021 Census count). Launceston is the greatest population centre in this region.

This region has the second largest population size of the three regions and the second highest number of registered Little Athletics and Athletics Tasmania members.

Population projections for the North to 2053 (medium series)[3] indicates that the:

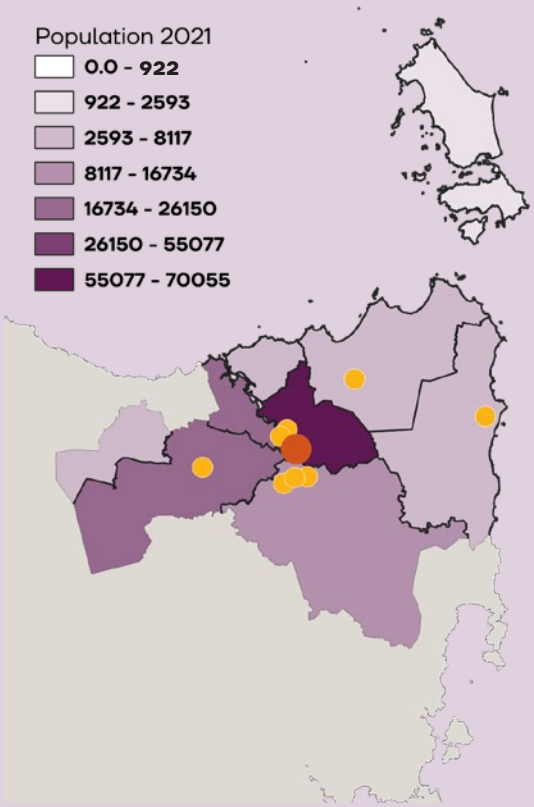
- overall population is projected to increase by 10,242 persons by 2053, as with the North West region, this increase is due to a projected increase in individuals aged 65 and above;
- population of persons aged 14 and under is projected to decrease by approximately 3000 by 2053 (13.4% of overall population); and
- people aged 15 to 64 years is projected to decrease slightly from approximately 95,530 (in 2021) to 93,085 in 2053.

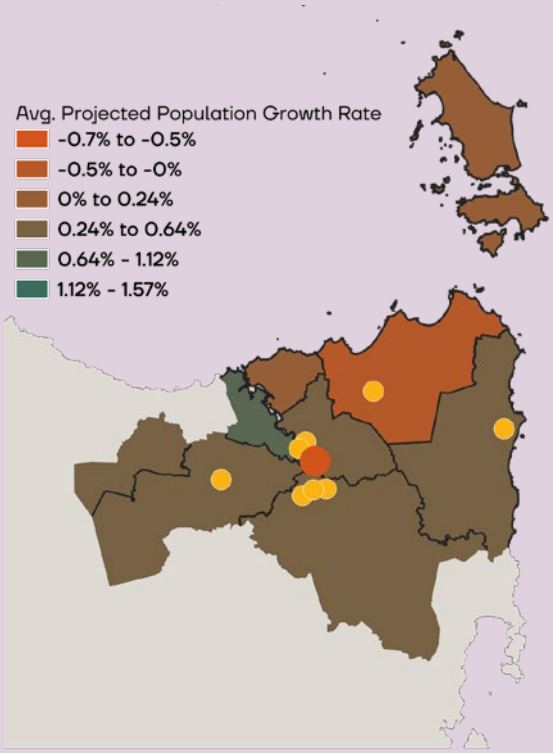
Majority of the North Tasmania population is concentrated to the Launceston LGA (population >70,000), which is also the most populated LGA in the state of Tasmania. Launceston has a relatively low projected growth rate of 0.3[4].

West Tamar and Meander Valley are the next largest population centres with approximately 25,145 and 20,709 persons, respectively. West Tamar also has the greatest population growth rate of all LGAs in this region (0.76). All other LGAs have a relatively low projected population growth rate (0.01 to 0.57). Dorset has declining growth rate (-0.32).

The North has nine athletics venues, with a dedicated athletics venue including a synthetic track located at St Leonards Sports Complex, St Leonards (see Section 5).

TASMANIA NORTH





6.1.3 South

Southern Tasmania is the most populated region of Tasmania with a total population of 288,818 people residing across 12 LGAs (2021 Census count).

The South has the largest number of registered athletes.

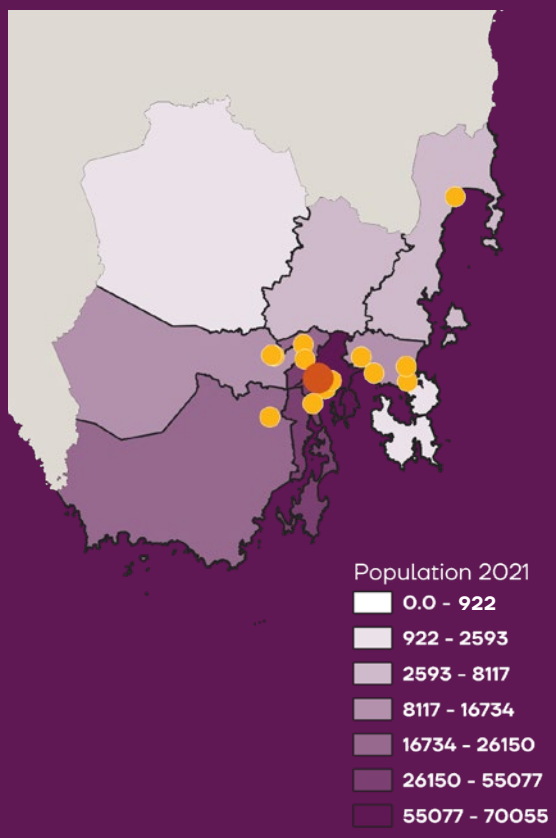
Population projections for the South to 2053 (medium series)[3] indicates that the:

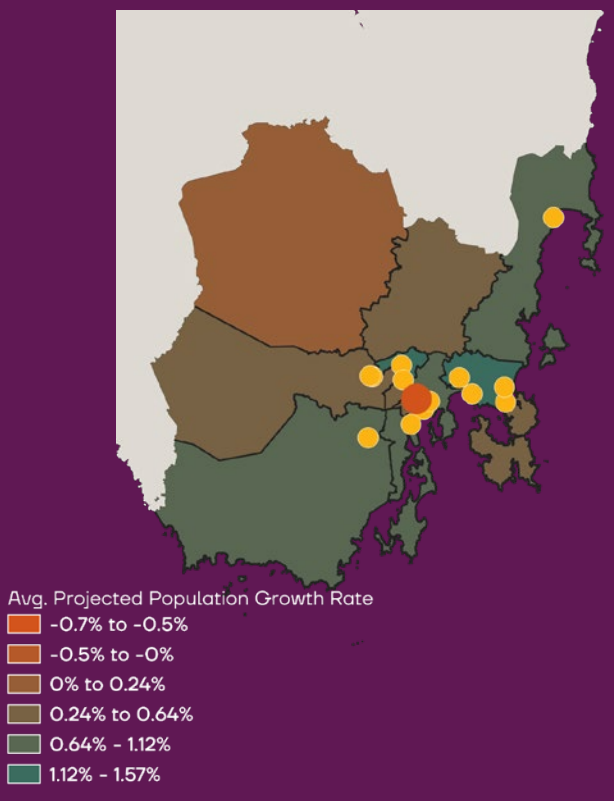
- overall population is projected to increase to 351,021 in 2053;
- the population of people aged 14 and under is projected to increase slightly by approximately 1,150 persons;
- the population of people aged 15 to 64 is projected to increase by around 17,000 persons making up approximately 58.5% of the population - a drop from 64.1% in 2021.

Most populated LGAs are Clarence (61,531), Hobart (55,077), Glenorchy (50,411), and Kingborough (40,082). Of these, Kingborough has the highest growth rate (1.12), followed by Clarence (0.85)[4]. Brighton and Sorell have the highest projected growth rate in this region (1.49 and 1.57, respectively).

The south consists of 13 athletics facilities - 12 grass tracks and one dedicated athletics facility located at the Queens Domain, Hobart (see Section 5).

TASMANIA SOUTH





6.2 The Future of Athletics in Tasmania

While membership and registration data suggest a stable outlook for participation, several emerging national and state trends indicate strong potential for continued growth in athletics participation and facility demand across Tasmania.

Athletics remains one of Australia's most accessible and foundational sports, supporting participation across a wide range of formats, age groups and ability levels. As a sport built around running, jumping and throwing, athletics also underpins physical literacy and athletic development across many other sports and recreational activities, reinforcing its ongoing relevance within the broader sporting landscape.

Nationally, participation trends show growing interest in flexible, individual and health-focused physical activity, particularly running, fitness and recreational participation formats. Activities such as parkrun, fun runs, running groups and recreational athletics programs have experienced significant growth in recent years, reflecting increasing community demand for low-cost, informal and socially connected participation opportunities[5]. These formats are particularly important as they provide accessible entry points into athletics and physical activity, often acting as pathways into more structured forms of participation over time[6].

Australian Athletics has identified significant opportunities to grow participation through more flexible and community-focused participation models and has released its first whole-of-sport participation plan, the Athletics in Australia National Participation Plan 2026-2034 (AANPP). As previously noted, this work is occurring alongside broader national initiatives, which place increasing emphasis on lifelong participation, inclusion, accessibility and community wellbeing.

The lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is also expected to act as a major catalyst for participation growth, increasing the visibility of athletics and supporting investment in pathways, programs and infrastructure nationally[7].

Together, these trends point towards increasing future demand for athletics participation opportunities and athletics facilities in Tasmania, presenting a significant opportunity for the State to align with and benefit from the growing national momentum, participation growth and strategic investment currently occurring across athletics in Australia.

Importantly, this demand is likely to extend beyond traditional club-based competition and include increasing expectations for accessible, inclusive, flexible and multi-functional facilities capable of supporting school athletics, informal recreation, fitness activity, community events, training and high-performance pathways.

These trends highlight the importance of forward planning for athletics infrastructure that can respond to changing participation patterns and support the long-term growth of the sport across the State.



Key Takeaways - Forward Planning

Future demand for athletics facilities in Tasmania is likely to be shaped by a combination of population growth in key regions, growing interest in informal and recreational athletics participation, and increasing national momentum within the sport. While many existing facilities continue to support participation effectively, ageing infrastructure, accessibility limitations and gaps in supporting amenities present challenges to meeting evolving community expectations and future participation needs. At the same time, Tasmania's existing statewide network of athletics facilities provides a strong platform to support future growth, with increasing demand likely for accessible, flexible and multi-functional facilities capable of supporting school athletics, community participation, recreational activity and athlete development pathways across the State.

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Attachment 1

Statewide Athletics Facilities Strategy 2025-26

Facility Audit Form

The purpose of this Facility Audit is to collect current data about the range of facilities that are used for Athletics in Tasmania. The information collected will inform the Tasmanian Athletics Statewide Facilities Strategy.

We invite owners/managers of facilities (i.e. councils, schools), Athletics Clubs and Little Athletics Centres who use the facility on a regular basis, and other relevant user groups such as regional Athletics agencies, to complete and return this Facilities Survey.

In addition to this audit, there is a survey for athletics community members running concurrently to this audit process, it can be accessed here https://forms.gle/wit4vBXwvckNeYKt7

For enquiries or assistance, please contact Sarah Bendeich or Dimuthu Jayakody of Inspiring Place on 6231 1818.

Please return this completed audit form to: dimuthu@inspiringplace.com.au by 13 November 2025.

Athletics Tasmania

Little Athletics Tasmania

inspiring place

If your organisation owns/manages more than one athletics facility, please provide a separate form for each facility.

1. About the athletics facility and its use

		Please place your answers in this column
1.1	**Name of Facility** *e.g. Windsor Park*	
1.2	**Address**	
1.3	**Facility owner** *E.g. Launceston City Council, DECYP, Clarence High School.*	
1.4	**Facility manager** *If different to facility owner*	
1.5	**Who uses the facility?** *For facility owners, please list all the users of the facility (athletics/little athletics, schools, other sports competition and training, arts/cultural groups, commercial users, casual public use, etc.*	
1.6	**Describe the athletics activities and frequency** *E.g. weekly training and competition, regional relays and championships, inter-centre events and carnivals, district, regional, state school events, local shield meets, state championships, etc.*	

2.About the track and field facilities

2a	Track	
2a.1	*Surface synthetic, grass*	
2a.2	*Year of installation if synthetic*	
2a.3	*Number of lanes*	
2a.4	*Track length e.g. 300m, 400m*	
2a.5	*Does the track have a 100m straight (or a separate area?)*	

2b	Jumping areas	
2b.1	*Long jump/triple jump – number of approaches*	
2b.2	*Long jump/triple jump – surface of approaches*	
2b.3	*High jump – number of approaches*	
2b.4	*High jump – surface of approaches*	

2c	Throwing areas	
2c.1	*Discus/shot put – number of concrete circles*	
2c.2	*Javelin – number of approaches*	
2c.3	*High jump – number of approaches*	
2c.4	*High jump – surface of approaches*	

2d	Other	
2d.1	*Any other track and field facilities not mentioned*	

3.Please provide information about the ancillary facilities:

3a	**Lighting**	
3a.1	*Lighting (Y/N)*	
3a.2	*Lux level (if relevant)*	
3a.3	*If there is lighting, how many lights/ light towers are there?*	
3a.4	*If there is lighting, are there any gaps in the lighting coverage?*	

3b	**Toilets and changing**	
3b.1	*Number of Accessible toilets*	
3b.2	*Number of female, male, gender neutral toilets?*	
3b.3	*Is there an accessible adult change facility / Changing Places facility?*	
3b.4	*Are Female, Male, Gender neutral change rooms available?*	
3b.5	*Number of showers*	
3b.6	*Condition of toilets and change facilities?*	

3c	**Club room, storage, viewing**	
3c.1	*Is there a club room?*	
3c.2	*Is it shared with or used by other groups? (list other user groups)*	
3c.3	*Is it accessible?*	
3c.4	*List building facilities e.g.bar, kitchen, meeting rooms, spectator areas, administration, timekeeping, gymnasium, etc.*	
3c.5	*Is there a pavilion or covered spectator area?*	

3c.6	*Is there a canteen? (indicate servery size S,M,L)*	
3c.7	*What are the storage facilities? E.g. shipping container, shed (size), club rooms, etc.*	

4.Please provide information about parking and transport

4	**Parking and transport**	
4.1	*Number of parking spaces approx.*	
4.2	*Number of Bus/coach parking bays*	
4.3	*Number of Accessible parking spaces*	
4.4	*Overflow parking for large events*	
4.5	*Bike parking: number of racks*	
4.6	*Is there a bus stop nearby*	
4.7	*Are pedestrian facilities safe and accessible?*	

5. Some facilities operate under shared management models. Please indicate who is responsible for different roles and responsibilities with respect to this facility

5	**Roles and responsibilities**	
5.1	*Grounds maintenance (mowing and turf, security, landscaping, etc)*	
5.2	*Bookings and event scheduling*	
5.3	*Cleansing, waste management*	

5.4	*Asset planning and management, e.g. planning for renewal of assets (buildings, track, etc)*	
5.5	*Event management*	
5.6	*Equipment – maintenance, storage, renewal, etc.*	
5.7	*Other*	

6. Please provide information about plans, upgrades and priorities related to the facility

6	**Plans and priorities**	
6.1	*Are there planned improvements, renewals, upgrades or developments for this facility? If so, please describe the scope of improvements planned for the next 5 years.*	
6.2	*Are there any emerging priorities or gaps that will require future planning?*	
6.3	*Are there any other relevant strategies and plans that this facility falls under, e.g. open space plans, recreation plans, etc.*	

7. Please provide any other information or notes that might be relevant for a Statewide Facilities Strategy:

8. If we need to contact you for more information, please provide your name, job title, email address, phone number (or those of the relevant officer in your organisation)

End of audit form. Thank you for your time!

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Appendix B



Athletics Facilities & Club Hierarchy Framework

ATHLETICS TASMANIA AND LITTLE ATHLETICS TASMANIA

August 2026

This Facilities and Club Hierarchy and Framework is the second step in developing a Tasmania Athletics Facilities Strategy, following the completion of the State of Play Report.

Thanks to the people who helped inform this strategy, including Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania and Athletics Tasmania Branches: Athletics South, North West Athletics and Northern Athletics.

For enquiries about the project please contact:

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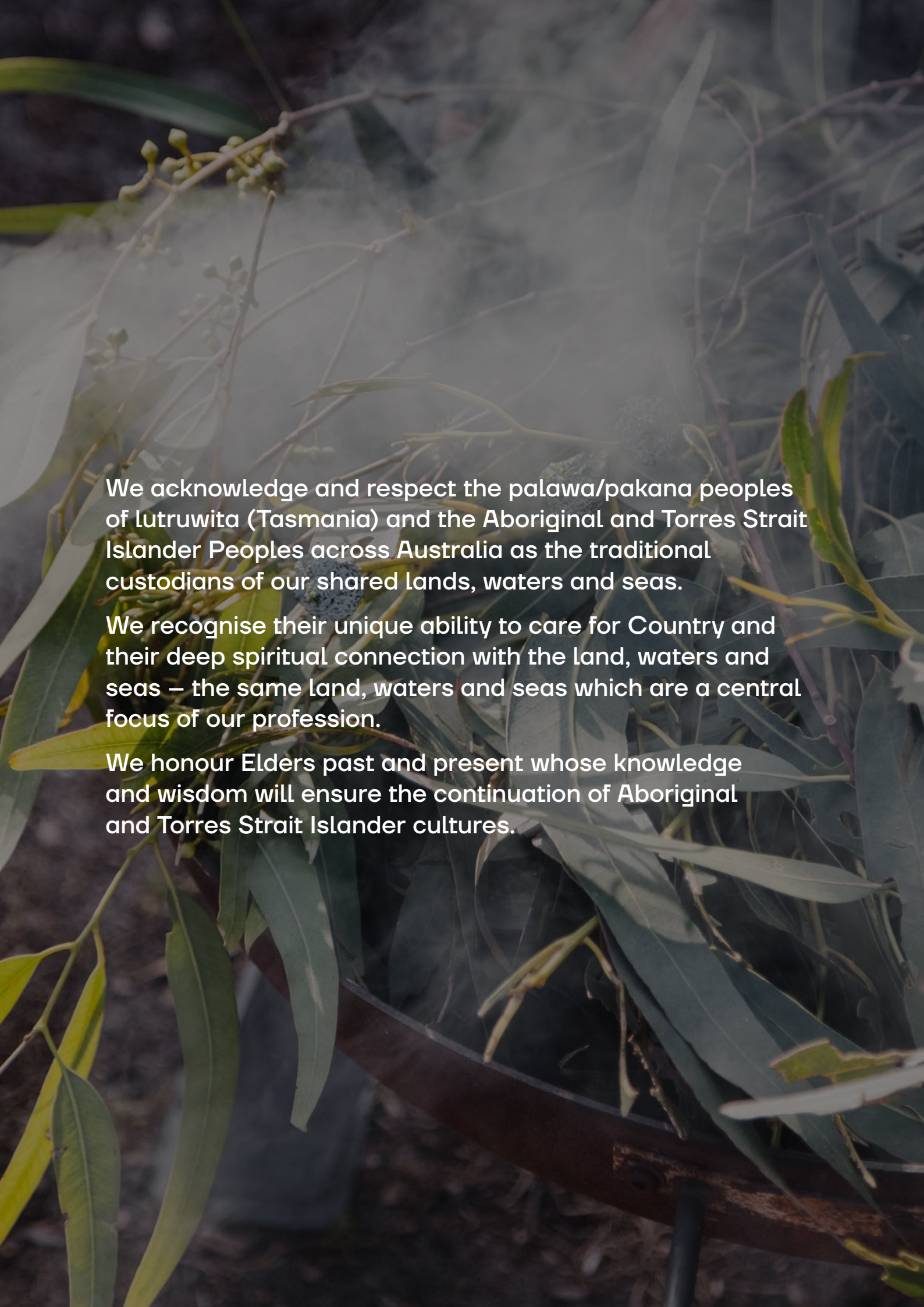
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Document Control

Date	Revision	Notes
17.04.2026	Draft (Version 1) for Client Review	Text/sections highlighted in magenta text are to be completed following consultation on the framework and discussion with Client.
29.04.2026	Final Draft (Version 2)	Updated following Client feedback for discussion with key stakeholders.
04.08.2026	Final Report (Version 3)	Finalisation for addendum to Strategy.
18.08.2026	Final Report (Version 4)	Revised addendum to Strategy from client feedback.



We acknowledge and respect the palawa/pakana peoples of lutruwita (Tasmania) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across Australia as the traditional custodians of our shared lands, waters and seas.

We recognise their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection with the land, waters and seas — the same land, waters and seas which are a central focus of our profession.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure the continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

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Key Abbreviations

AA	Australian Athletics
ASC	Australian Sports Commission
AT	Athletics Tasmania
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DECYP	Department for Education, Children and Young People
LAA	Little Athletics Australia
LAC	Little Athletics Centre
LAT	Little Athletics Tasmania
LGA	Local Government Area
SATIS	Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools
SSA	School Sports Associations
TIS	Tasmanian Institute of Sport

1. Introduction

Athletics facilities support a wide range of programs, development pathways, events and competitions at every level of the sport.

Making sure facilities are well located and provide the right mix of infrastructure and amenities is essential to keeping athletics strong and sustainable. Well-planned facilities help clubs and centres remain viable, while also making it easier for people of all ages and abilities to participate and progress in the sport.

The facilities hierarchy outlined in this report identifies the role and standard of each facility type. The framework provides a rationale for future planning decisions regarding upgrades and investment, helping to optimise use of limited funding, and ensuring that development is efficient and sustainable.

1.1 Approach

The facilities and club hierarchy and framework has been developed to align with the strategic objectives of Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania.

The framework and hierarchy described in the following sections was developed following a statewide facilities audit, demands analysis, and stakeholder consultation that was conducted to define the current 'state of play' and inform a statewide facilities strategy for Tasmania.

Specifically, the hierarchy and framework is underpinned by the following:

- analysis of trends in facilities and infrastructure provision (Section 2);
- existing provision of facilities and identified stakeholder needs (as described in the State of Play report);
- athletics participation and demands analysis (as described in the State of Play report); and
- consultation with Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania and Athletics regional branches.

1.2 Project Stages

This work is part of a larger body of work to inform a statewide athletics facilities strategy for Tasmania. Project stages and progress are outlined below.

- **A.** **Project initiation**
- **B.** **State of Play**
- **C.** **Hierarchy and Framework**
- **D.** **Draft Strategy**
- **E.** **Final Strategy**


CHEMIST WAREHOUSE

2. Broader Trends in Planning and Provision of Sports Facilities

2.1 National and State Priorities for Sports

National and state plans and strategies for sports delivery in Australia and Tasmania are detailed in the State of Play report developed for the Tasmania Athletics Facilities Statewide Strategy.

Key national strategies are the:

- National Sport Strategy 2024-2034 - Sport Horizon;
- Win Well High Performance Strategy 2032+;
- Play Well Participation Strategy 2023; and
- Places to Play: National Community Sport Infrastructure Plan (2026).

Key state level documents include the *Active 2030 Strategy* and the *Healthy Tasmania: Five-year Strategic Plan 2022-2026*.

Overall, strategies consistently emphasise accessible participation, quality infrastructure, wellbeing outcomes, and coordinated investment in sport facilities and pathways.

Key shared priorities across national and state documents relevant to planning and investment in facilities and infrastructure are:

- increasing participation in sport and physical activity across all ages and abilities;
- providing accessible, inclusive and equitable sporting facilities and environments;
- investing in modern, high-quality and fit-for-purpose infrastructure;
- supporting pathways from community participation to high-performance sport;
- improving collaboration and coordination between governments, councils and sporting organisations; and
- ensuring facilities and sport systems are sustainable and adaptable to future demand.

2.2 Facilities Planning and Design

2.2.1 Policy and Planning Approaches

The current and continuing trend in policy and planning across Australian states has been towards integrated and multi-use facilities.

The trend towards multi-sport facilities allows asset owners (typically local governments) to cater to diverse community needs and interests and maximise the use of expensive facilities, and thereby ensuring better return on investment, long term sustainability and financial viability.

When planning sport facilities, councils tend to:

- co-locate community infrastructure and integrate and share provision across government, community and the private sectors;
- upgrade facilities to accommodate evolving needs, ensure flexibility for various uses, and allow for future adaptability;
- provide multi-use, linked open space networks; and
- design sports facilities and building capacity to meet current and future needs, and to be flexible/adaptable to unexpected change.

2.2.2 Universal and Inclusive Design

There is a clear shift in sports and recreation planning towards universal and inclusive design, recognising that traditional facility models have not met the needs of all users – particularly women and girls, people living with disability, families, and culturally diverse communities.

Guidance such as the *Design for Everyone Guide: A Guide to Sport and Recreation Settings (March 2026)* reinforces this shift, promoting environments that are welcoming, accessible, safe and adaptable for people of all ages, genders and abilities.

This includes a move towards:

- universal and all-gender change facilities, accessible toilets, and spaces that cater for different cultural and family needs (e.g. parents rooms);
- well-lit, visible and easy-to-navigate environments, incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to support perceived and actual safety;
- provision of communal spaces that support connection, spectatorship and broader community use, beyond just competition; and
- ensuring fair allocation of space and time across genders, age groups and abilities.

In addition to the physical design of community infrastructure, there is growing recognition by councils that inclusive programming and governance are also required, to ensure maximum use and participation by under-represented groups.

This shift is reflected in funding and policy settings. Programs such as the *Her Path to Play 2025-26* implemented by Active Tasmania prioritise investment in safe, inclusive and accessible facilities that support women and girls' participation, alongside broader outcomes for equity and inclusion. Similarly, grant criteria across jurisdictions increasingly require projects to demonstrate how they will deliver inclusive, universally accessible environments.



2.2.3 Collaboration and Partnerships

Recent policy and planning trends across Australia and Tasmania show a clear shift towards more consolidated and collaborative approaches to sport and recreation infrastructure planning.

In response to changing participation patterns, rising infrastructure costs and increasing expectations around accessibility and utilisation, contemporary planning frameworks now prioritise network and precinct-based planning over isolated single-sport facilities.

Historically, many sporting facilities were developed incrementally to support individual clubs or codes, often resulting in fragmented facility networks, duplicated infrastructure and inconsistent facility quality.

Benefits of Consolidation and Collaboration

Increasingly, governments and sporting organisations are prioritising multi-use hubs and shared sporting precincts designed to support broader community use, improve operational efficiency and deliver more sustainable long-term infrastructure outcomes.

Multi-use and co-located facilities can:

- improve facility utilisation and operational efficiency;
- reduce duplication of infrastructure and lifecycle maintenance costs;
- support broader community access and more diverse participation opportunities;
- strengthen opportunities for external funding and investment partnerships; and
- improve integration with surrounding community infrastructure, schools and open space networks.

This trend is also linked to increasing emphasis on cross-sector partnerships involving sporting organisations, schools, local government and community stakeholders, with national policy (e.g. the *Sports Horizon* Strategy) increasingly promoting coordinated approaches to facility planning, investment and management.

Shared-Use and Partnership Opportunities

Industry guidance identifies athletics and oval-based sports as common components of multi-use sporting environments, with shared-use arrangements often supported by alternating summer and winter competition seasons[1].

This is evidenced by numerous sports venues across Australia that are shared between Athletics and Cricket, AFL, Soccer and Rugby, including in Tasmania.

For Tasmania, these trends highlight opportunities to further strengthen strategic partnerships between athletics and compatible sporting and community partners, particularly within shared sporting venues, other compatible sports, and school-based environments. Shared-use arrangements may include seasonal access agreements, leases, licences, joint management arrangements or broader partnership-based delivery models involving councils, schools and sporting organisations.

Key Considerations for Shared-Use Models

While consolidated and collaborative facility models present significant opportunities, their successful implementation requires careful planning and coordination between stakeholders[2,3].

Best-practice guidance identifies the importance of:

- establishing a shared vision and clear mutual benefit between partners;
- clearly defining governance, operational and maintenance responsibilities;
- formalising arrangements through agreements relating to access, scheduling, maintenance, cost-sharing and decision-making processes;

- ensuring ongoing communication and stakeholder engagement between user groups;
- aligning facility design and operational requirements with the needs of all users;
- managing seasonal transitions, programming and equitable access across sports and user groups; and
- maintaining the functional and technical requirements of athletics facilities while accommodating compatible co-users and broader community access.

These considerations will be important in supporting effective, sustainable and well-coordinated shared-use and partnership models for athletics facilities across Tasmania.

2.2.4 Climate Change

Climate change is increasingly shaping how sports facilities are planned, designed and managed[4].

Rising temperatures and more frequent heat waves are increasing potential risks of thermal stress (e.g. heat exhaustion and hyperthermia) on the health and performance for athletes and on the health of spectators[5].

Prolonged exposure to thermal stressors, and physical exertion involved in sport put athletes at a higher risk of experiencing heat related illnesses. Para athletes face additional challenges in regards to hydration and thermoregulation which increases the potential for adverse health risks and impacts on performance due to heat impacts[6].

Further to impacts on people, sports infrastructure is increasingly exposed to climate-related stressors, including extreme heat, intense rainfall, drought and bushfire risk[4].

Natural turf playing surfaces are affected by drought and water restrictions, while synthetic surfaces and other surfaces such as sand, can reach unsafe temperatures during heat events.

Facilities may also experience more rapid material degradation, higher maintenance costs, and reduced usability due to weather-related cancellations. These factors can reduce the reliability and availability of sports spaces.

In response, sports facility provision is shifting towards more climate-responsive and resilient models including:

- increased provision of shade, cooler surface materials, and integration of urban greening to reduce ambient temperatures;
- investment in lighting and scheduling flexibility to support early morning, evening and seasonal shifts in use;
- greater emphasis on indoor-outdoor integration and multi-sport venues to maintain participation during adverse weather;
- water-sensitive and climate-resilient design considerations including improved irrigation efficiency, drought-tolerant turf species, and drainage systems; and
- adoption of heat policies, closure thresholds, and climate risk assessments within planning and operations[4,5].



2.3 Demand for Athletics

2.3.1 Demand for Athletics in Australia

Athletics participation in Australia is growing, largely driven by strong increases in informal running and recreational activity (e.g. fun runs, ParkRun, marathons)[7,8] and increasing national momentum within the sport as a result of Australian Athletics initiatives and the lead up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

While participation in traditional club-based athletics has grown more modestly, Australian Athletics anticipates ongoing growth in overall demand[9,10,11], supported by the:

- popularity of community-based formats;
- increasing focus on health and wellbeing; and
- the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games.

The growth in participation is expected to increase demand for accessible, informal participation spaces as well as more flexible, multi-use athletics facilities, alongside targeted growth in organised participation pathways.

2.3.2 Community and Low-Cost Formats

Recent research indicates a sustained, significant increase in adult participation in non-organised physical activities such as walking, running and cycling. Data from AusPlay shows that this growth in convenient, self-directed exercise has not translated proportionally into increased participation in structured sport, with many people opting out of formal competitions and club-based formats[12, 13].

Within athletics, this shift is reflected in the strong growth of informal and community-based participation models.

Low-cost, accessible formats such as ParkRun and mass participation events (e.g. fun runs and marathons) are expanding and playing a significant role in driving grassroots engagement. These formats typically demonstrate high retention rates and act as important entry points into athletics, supporting the development of long-term physical activity habits beyond traditional club pathways.

2.3.3 Athletics in Tasmania

Population Trends

All Tasmanian Local Government Areas (LGAs), except Flinders, grew between 2016 and 2023. The southern region, particularly around the capital city, continues to be significantly more populated.

The Greater Hobart area (Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart, and Kingborough LGAs) and Launceston experienced the highest growth in the number of people.

Sorell and Brighton saw the highest proportional growth since 2016, at 22% and 20% respectively. Population growth is expected to continue to be concentrated in and around Hobart, putting strain on existing infrastructure and services.

Athletics Participation in Tasmania

Current participation trends in Tasmania were explored in detail in the State of Play report. While current membership trends suggest relatively stable participation, several emerging national and state trends indicate strong potential for future growth in athletics participation and facility demand across Tasmania.

Athletics remains one of Australia's most accessible and foundational sports, with growing interest nationally in flexible, health-focused and recreational participation formats. These community and low-cost formats are increasing the visibility and accessibility of athletics and creating new pathways into ongoing participation.

At the same time, Australian Athletics is progressing a whole-of-sport participation approach focused on inclusion, lifelong participation and community engagement, supported by broader national initiatives and the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic

and Paralympic Games. In Tasmania, the recent unification of Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania under a more coordinated whole-of-sport model presents a significant opportunity to strengthen participation pathways, align strategic planning and support a more integrated approach to facilities, programs and athlete development across the State.

Together, these trends point towards increasing demand for accessible, flexible and high-quality athletics facilities capable of supporting participation, recreation, training and performance pathways into the future.

2.4 Facility Attributes and Infrastructure

2.4.1 Track Types and Certification

Track Surfaces

Grass tracks play a key role in Tasmania's athletics network, with most venues across the state consisting of grass surfaces of varying quality and maintenance.

These are primarily used by Little Athletics for seasonal (spring/summer) participation and local competition, and are often shared with AFL and cricket. These venues typically support localised participation rather than large-scale competition and events, due to limited capacity and amenities. Many of these facilities rely heavily on volunteer effort, as well as support from local councils and co-tenants.

Tasmania has three synthetic athletics tracks, which serve as the primary hubs for senior athletics clubs and regional branches. These venues are critical pieces of infrastructure, supporting higher-level training, competition, and major events.

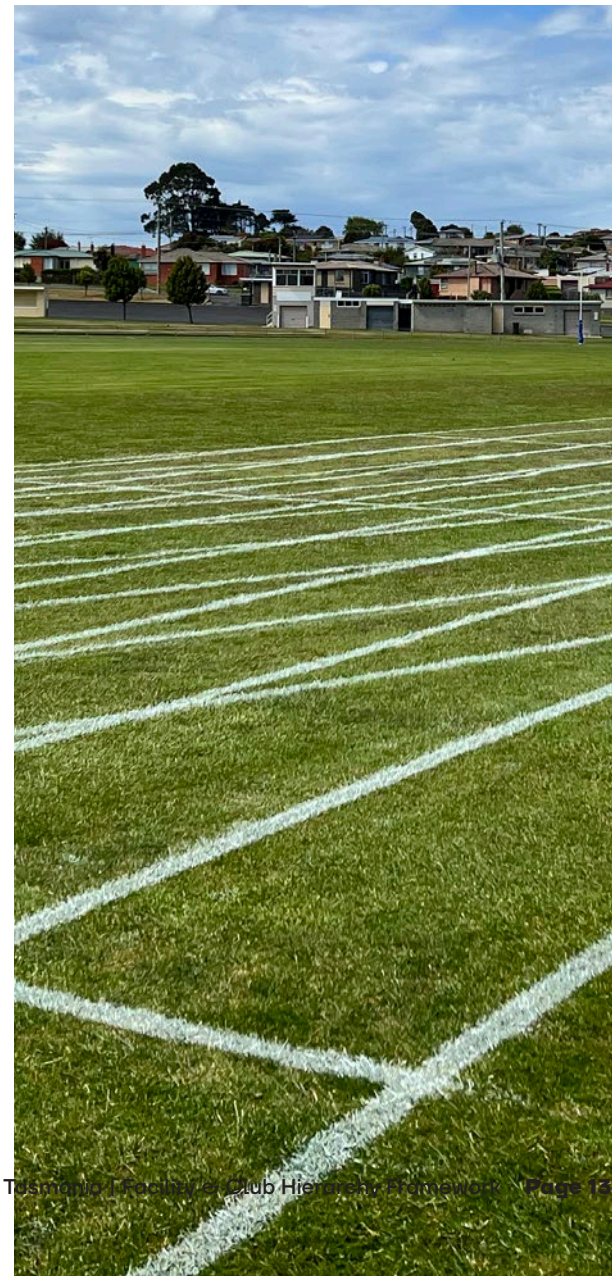
There are two main types of synthetic track systems used in Australia: Mondo and Polytan (Rekortan).

Mondo Track Surfaces

Mondo surfaces are typically used in elite settings and are known for their harder, lower friction surfaces which gives the perspective of faster performance, making them well suited to competition and for wheelchair athletes. However, they are generally more expensive, have shorter lifespans under heavy use, and are less suited to high-volume training due to increased impact on athletes.

Polytan Track Surfaces

Polytan surfaces are more commonly used across Australia and are generally more affordable and durable, making them better suited to multi-use and high training loads, although they are sometimes perceived as slower. Polytan was recently nominated as the Australian Athletics' official track partner (3-year partnership). All three synthetic tracks in Tasmania are Polytan surfaces.



The cost of installing or resurfacing a synthetic track is significant, with full replacement of an 8-lane (400m) track estimated at $2–2.5 million (2025). Tracks typically require resurfacing every 7 to 10 years, depending on usage, maintenance and environmental exposure. Local councils managing Tasmania's synthetic tracks have noted that wear and tear has been greater than expected, reflecting high levels of use.

All three synthetic tracks in Tasmania are currently due for replacement around 2027, creating a potential risk to the athletics network. Given these venues are the only facilities capable of hosting regional and state-level events, stakeholders have identified significant pressure on the system if multiple tracks are offline simultaneously.

The quality of installation is widely recognised, and emphasised by stakeholders in Tasmania, as critical to track performance and longevity. Poor installation can result in premature deterioration, inconsistent surfaces and safety risks.

Construction requires specialist expertise, strict dimensional tolerances and appropriate environmental conditions. Industry guidance notes that tracks should be installed in dry, stable weather conditions, as moisture and temperature fluctuations can affect curing and bonding. This limits the available installation window for track replacement in Tasmania.

Overall, there is a trend towards higher-quality, more durable track surfaces that can support both community use and competition, alongside increasing interest in material innovation, customisation and sustainability.

Track Certification

World Athletics (formerly IAAF) sets the international standards for athletics facilities, including track certification required for official competition and record eligibility.

Certification provides assurance that a track meets consistent quality and performance standards, although it is not essential for community-level use. Non-certified tracks cannot host official results or records and may not meet all technical requirements

There are two certification levels: Class I and Class II.

Class 1

Required for major international competition. Certification involves rigorous testing, including laboratory and on-site surface testing, precise surveying, and strict compliance with all dimensions and markings. Valid for 5 years.

Class II

Suitable for national, state and regional competition. Requirements include certified surveying, surface testing and compliance with key design standards. Valid for 10 years.

Australia currently has 5 Class I tracks and 45 Class II tracks, with one Class II facility in Tasmania (Domain Athletics Centre).

Certified tracks must meet strict requirements relating to:

- geometry and dimensions (e.g. 400m length, lane widths, radii);
- surface performance (shock absorption, energy return, traction); and
- construction accuracy and drainage

There is a growing expectation that new or upgraded facilities are designed to meet certifiable standards, even where certification is not immediately pursued. This helps to:

- future-proof infrastructure;
- enable higher-level competition; and
- support athlete development pathways.

Stakeholder consultation indicates a preference for additional Class II certified tracks in Tasmania, to improve consistency across regions, support more distributed hosting of events, and provide contingency if the Domain Athletics Centre is unavailable.

Certification involves a significant upfront cost (approximately USD $30,000), which can be a barrier for some facilities.

Overall, the trend is towards higher-quality, standardised facilities, with certification increasingly seen as a way to support competition pathways and strengthen the athletics network.

2.4.2 Short Track and Indoor Facilities

Short track and indoor athletics facilities are emerging as an increasingly important consideration in the future planning of athletics infrastructure.

Traditionally, athletics competition has been divided between outdoor 400m tracks and indoor 200m tracks. However, the recent evolution of "short track" competition has created opportunities for more flexible facility models, including both indoor and outdoor 200m track configurations designed to complement traditional 400m athletics venues.

The recent *Short Track Facilities Overview and Guidance* prepared by Australian Athletics highlights growing national interest in short track infrastructure and identifies significant long-term opportunities for the development of dedicated indoor and short track facilities across Australia.

Compared to full-scale 400m facilities, short track venues require a substantially smaller footprint, creating opportunities to deliver athletics infrastructure in locations where land availability, site constraints or cost may limit the feasibility of larger facilities.

Their scale and flexibility also increases opportunities for integration within:

- schools;
- multi-sport precincts;
- community recreation hubs; and
- shared-use sporting environments.

The growing focus on indoor and short track facilities also reflects broader trends towards more flexible, multi-use and climate-responsive sporting infrastructure.

Controlled or partially sheltered environments can support:

- year-round participation, training and competition opportunities; and
- community recreation, school-use and athlete development pathways.

As climate variability and extreme weather events increasingly impact outdoor sport, these facility models may become more important in supporting ongoing participation and programming continuity.

Growing interest and demand in more flexible, year-round training and participation environments identified through athletics stakeholder and community consultation (undertaken as part of this project), suggests there may be long-term opportunities to explore the strategic role of indoor athletics infrastructure within Tasmania.

In the short to medium term, outdoor short track facilities may provide a more achievable and adaptable model for supporting training, community participation and athlete development, while also addressing growing demand for dedicated warm-up, training and supplementary athletics spaces (see Section 2.4.3). Their smaller footprint and capacity for integration within existing athletics and sporting venues creates opportunities to support more flexible and efficient use of athletics infrastructure across the State. This is particularly important given indoor athletics facilities are typically high-cost and resource-intensive and are generally better suited to long-term regional or statewide investment.



2.4.3 Warm-up and Training Areas

There is increasing recognition of the importance of dedicated warm-up and training areas within athletics facilities. These spaces support athlete preparation, injury prevention and efficient event delivery, while also enabling concurrent training and community use.

Contemporary national level competition guidance emphasises the need for:

- separate warm-up areas or tracks, ideally with similar surface quality to the main track;
- dedicated field event training spaces (jumps and throws); and
- integration of strength, conditioning and recovery areas.

Given constraints around space availability and funding, there is a growing focus on efficient and flexible design solutions, including:

- shared or multi-purpose spaces that can function as warm-up areas, training zones or informal recreation areas;
- use of infield or perimeter spaces for warm-up where full duplicate tracks are not feasible;
- staged development approaches, allowing facilities to expand over time as demand and funding permit; and
- designing spaces that can support multiple sports and user groups, improving utilisation and strengthening the case for investment.

Overall, the trend is towards integrated, space-efficient and multi-functional training environments that maximise usability within site and budget constraints.



3. Building a Hierarchy for Athletics Facilities in Tasmania

3.1 The Hierarchy Framework

Athletics facilities in Tasmania are classified into the hierarchy outlined in Table 3.1 on the following page.

The hierarchy sets the intended role of each facility type and provides a framework to assess the standard of provision and level of investment for each facility.

The Tasmania Athletics Facilities Strategy ensures that facilities at each hierarchy level cater to suitable population and geographic catchments and support the full spectrum of athletics activities for all ages and ability levels.

The framework is informed by the existing distribution of facilities and infrastructure, athletics participation pathways and user groups, and current and future demand.

3.1.1 Current Provision and Facilities Inventory

There are currently 19 known Athletics facilities (not counting 'Temporary Venues') in Tasmania which support a range of participation, programming, competition and event delivery.

Regionally, the southern region, which has the higher regional base population, has the greatest number of facilities (9 known venues). The northern region and the north west have 7 and 3 known facilities, respectively.

The nominated *State Athletics Centre*, the Domain Athletics Centre, is located in the South. This venue is also the base for Athletics South which is the regional branch (see user group descriptions in Section 3.1.2) for the southern Athletics region, as well as the base for Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania.

The Domain Athletics Centre is distinguished by its existing infrastructure given the strategic location, scale and quality of facility provision. This enables the Centre to function concurrently as both the State Athletics Centre and the Regional Hub for southern Tasmania.

The North and North West Athletics regions are supported by *Regional Hub* facilities. These venues are located within regional sports precincts and are centrally positioned to enable and support athletics participation and growth at a regional scale.

District and Local Centres are located across various LGAs in the state, many in or near denser population centres. As noted, most facilities of this category are located in the South where there is a larger regional population base.

Table 3.1 Athletics Facility Hierarchy Framework

Facility Type	Facility Role	Current Provision
State Athletics Centre	The premier athletics venue in Tasmania, serving as the principal location for the highest level of competitions, athlete development, and high-performance training within the state. These venues are designed to meet the performance, training, and competition needs of athletes, while also supporting state-level events, aspiring to national events, and fostering the continued development of athletics from grassroots through to elite participation. 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
Regional Hub	Fully serviced, strategically located athletics venue designed to support the full spectrum of athletics activity, including competitions, programs, athlete development pathways, and high performance training and coaching. These facilities serve as a focal point for athletics within a defined athletics region (North, North West and South), supporting club and centre activity while enabling progression to higher levels of competition. Providing a full synthetic track, comprehensive field infrastructure, and associated support amenities for athletes, officials and spectators. Developed to a standard capable of hosting regional and selected state-level competitions and events. These venues play a critical role in strengthening regional capacity, supporting talent development, and providing competition and training environments that meet contemporary athletics standards.	2
District or Local Centre	Little Athletics Club or Centre venue developed and designed primarily to support Little Athletics training, programs, events and competitions, and may also accommodate open-age training and participation. These facilities serve participation at the local level (small centres) or district level (larger centres), providing accessible, community-based opportunities for grassroots athletics. Typically comprising seasonal grass tracks and basic field event infrastructure, these facilities are designed to a standard that enables safe, functional and regular use, and supports strong foundational participation and athlete development.	16
Temporary Venue	A recreation ground or open space that can be temporarily configured to support athletics activities, programs, or one-off events. These venues may accommodate school activities, community events, or informal and affiliated competitions, and provide flexible opportunities to support participation where dedicated athletics infrastructure is not available. These facilities typically comprise temporary marked running tracks, throwing areas, or jumping areas established on grass or open fields. They do not include dedicated athletics infrastructure or permanent athlete, officiating, or spectator amenities. Their primary role is to enable introductory participation, community activation, and event delivery in a flexible and accessible setting, rather than ongoing training or formal competition	9 (known venues)

3.1.2 Facility User Groups

Athletics facilities serve a range of user groups, each with differing needs and requirements for infrastructure and amenities to enable and support participation.

Table 3.2 sets out the different groups and their expected level of utilisation and the key uses of athletics venues and facilities. This classification of user groups is not a hierarchy and is established only as a guide to identify the standard of provision and level of service required by facilities to enable and support athletics participation by each group.

The type of user group, their level of utilisation and key activities and programs are used to inform the attributes of each athletics facility type, the programs and services catered for at each facility, as well as the planning and management conditions for each venue.

Table 3.2 Descriptions of groups using athletics venues and facilities (continues following page)

User Group	Description	Level of Utilisation	Key Activities/Programs
Local senior athletics clubs and Little Athletics Clubs/Centres	Local senior athletics clubs and Little Athletics Centres that offer a pathway to athletics participation including providing opportunities for training, coaching and competition. These are clubs and centres based on local communities (smaller clubs/centres) or on a LGA or multiple LGAs (larger clubs/centres) that are the grass roots foundation for athletics participation. Clubs and centres are open to all ability levels (not just elite level).	Weekly (seasonal - summer) athletics meets and competition Regular (year-round) training for high and elite level competition Regular (seasonal - winter) training for Cross Country competition and events Seasonal events and competitions (participation in)	Training and coaching for (registered) competition High performance training Local and regional events and competitions Equipment storage or hire
Non-club registered athletes	Athletes that are registered with Athletics Tasmania but are not affiliated with a club or centre	Regular (year-round) training	Coaching and competition training High performance training

User Group	Description	Level of Utilisation	Key Activities/Programs
Regional centres	Regional athletics centres are the organising and administrative body of registered athletics Clubs in a given athletics region (in Tasmania these are the North West Athletics Club, Northern Tasmanian Athletics and Athletics South)	Seasonal events and competitions (organising - state and regional) Community and introductory events	Organising and facilitation of regional and statewide events Facilitation and administration of athletics activities Equipment storage and provision Facilities tenancy/management
Schools and School Sport Associations	Local schools, regional and state school sports associations (SATIS) and DECYP organise local, regional and statewide schools-based athletics carnivals	Seasonal (summer) for local, regional and statewide school Athletics carnivals and competitions.	Organising and facilitation of school events (individual schools) Organising and facilitation of regional and statewide events (SATIS and DECYP) Facilities and equipment hire
Tasmanian Institute of Sport	The TIS offer development support for talented athletes as a pathway to high performance sport	Regular (year-round) training and skill development programs	High Performance training and pathway programs for elite competition (all abilities and para-athletics) Talent identification program Facilities hire
Community/ non-affiliated groups	These are community-based local clubs that offer athletics-related activities and programs that are not registered with Athletics Tasmania (e.g. run clubs)	Regular (seasonal or year-round) use at an informal basis.	Venue hire for regular club events when available
Other Sports Codes	Other sports clubs and centres may have seasonal tenancy of a venue or may hire out the venue for training and other purposes	Seasonal (winter) or occasional	Venue hire Partnerships and shared use of amenities and support infrastructure

Table 3.2 Descriptions of groups using athletics venues and facilities (continues from previous page)

3.2 Tasmania Athletics Facilities Hierarchy

The facility attributes, programs and services and planning and management conditions for each hierarchy level (table 3.3) is provided in the following pages.

All facilities should be managed to support long-term financial and environmental sustainability, while maximising utilisation wherever possible. Environmental sustainability considerations include implementing adaptations necessary to plan for the impacts of a changing climate. Facilities must also be maintained to an appropriate standard to ensure safe, equitable, and unimpeded participation for athletics-related user groups. This includes regular maintenance of the track and infield (including line marking) in accordance with standards and guidance provided by Australian Athletics and World Athletics as is relevant to the venue and associated user groups.

While these requirements are not detailed within the following descriptions of provision for each facility type, they are assumed to be applicable across all levels of the facility hierarchy.

Expected facility attributes for each hierarchy level is summarised in Table 3.7.

3.2.1 State Athletics Centre

The Domain Athletics Centre is the State Athletics Centre catering to the highest level of competition and event delivery.

The venue is located within a larger sports and recreation precinct and caters to all user groups listed in Table 3.2, including athletics clubs, individual athletes, schools, high-performance and elite athletes, community groups and other sports codes. The Domain Athletics Centre is owned and operated by City of Hobart and is managed under an open access policy, allowing casual community use of the synthetic track. It is also the home of Athletics South, Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania.



Domain Athletics Centre

Table 3.3 Facilities, infrastructure and services provision for State Athletics Centre

Facility Attributes	
Track	› 10x lane 100m synthetic track; 8-10x lane 400m synthetic track › competition level lighting (minimum 200 lux) › marked for distance, hurdles and relays › safe and DDA compliant movement, access and entry to and around track › barrier fencing around full track
Field	› 2x long/triple jump and high jump areas › 2x caged discus/hammer throw (1x throwing cage fitted for tie downs), shot put (1x circle fitted for tie downs) and javelin approaches › 1x pole vault
Off-track amenities	› administration and event management offices and function/meeting space › event timing, photo finish and presentation technology › sufficient equipment storage › accessible gym (to contemporary use standards) › dedicated warm-up/training areas
Support amenities for athletes and clubs	› changerooms and toilets (male, female, accessible (2x minimum) › first aid and multi-purpose room (including drug-testing facilities) › clubroom(s) › sheltered team and technical official areas with accessible seating and access › appropriate access to necessary utilities (including electricity, water) and technologies (e.g. appropriate sound system) for competition and training
Support amenities for visitors / spectators	› accessible seating and accommodation (1000+ capacity) with appropriate shelter › spectator toilets and amenities (female, male, parent and accessible) › kiosk and social/multi-use community space › carparking including sufficient disability parking and safe pedestrian access and movement
Programs and Services	
High Performance	› home of Athletics Tasmania and Little Athletics Tasmania › para-athletics training and skill development › high performance coaching, training and skill development
Event use	› state events with aspirations to selected national events › state championships (including all schools and Little Athletics) › regional events and championships
Club / Community	› senior clubs and Little Athletics clubs/centre hire › school athletics carnivals › community/non-affiliated groups hire › other sports codes hire
Planning and Management Conditions	
Hierarchy	› State Athletics Centre (x1) - statewide catchment area › Class II World Athletics Certification
Management	› hybrid model (local Council-owned, Athletics Tasmania-operated) combining asset protection with sport expertise and enabling: · clear delineation on maintenance and asset protection responsibilities · strong sport-specific programming · shared access with public and community users › year-round operation
Venue drivers	› principal centre for Athletics in Tasmania › Tasmania talent identification and selection › economic benefits driven through event delivery and through venue hire (community/non-affiliated groups and other sports codes)

3.2.2 Regional Hub

These are fully serviced athletics venues, strategically located to serve as the focal point for Athletics in each of the three Athletics regions.

The Penguin Athletics Track is the regional hub for the North West region, and the Northern Athletics Centre, St Leonards is the regional hub for the North. The Domain Athletics Centre acts as both the State Athletics Centre and the regional hub for the South.

The Penguin Athletics Track

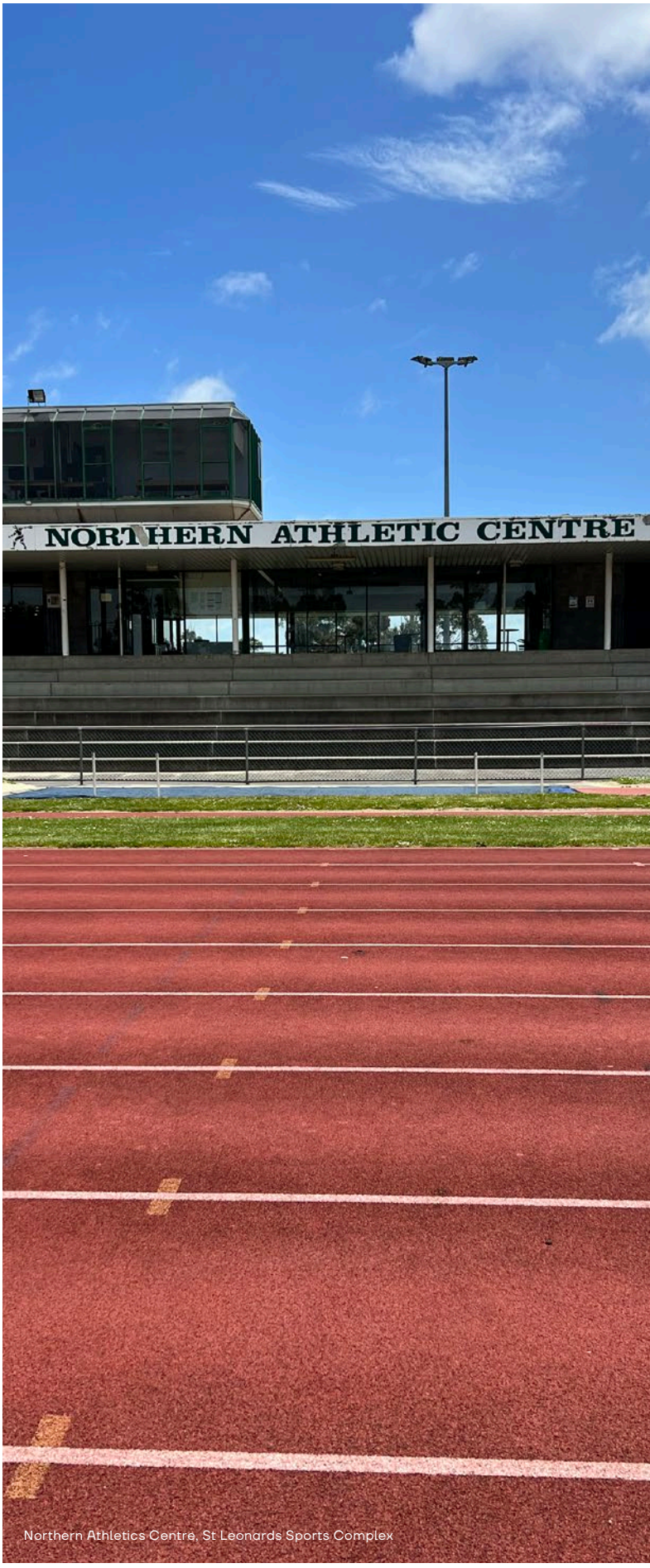
This venue is located within the Dial Regional Sports Precinct, a major sports precinct located in Penguin, Tasmania. The Penguin Athletics Track is owned and managed by the Central Coast Council and operated by the North West Athletics Club who are the primary tenants of the facility and the Tasmanian Athletics branch in north west Tasmania.

The venue is accessible to registered athletes and through hire arrangements with the Central Coast Council. It is not open to public or casual use.

The Northern Athletics Centre

The Northern Athletics Centre is a part of the St Leonards Sports Complex, a major sports precinct in Launceston, Tasmania. The venue is owned by City of Launceston and operated by Northern Tasmanian Athletics, who are the primary tenants, during the Athletics season. The Northern Hockey Centre shares building facilities during the off-season.

As with the Penguin Athletics Track, the venue is accessible to registered athletes and through hire arrangements made with Northern Tasmanian Athletics. It is not open to public or casual use.



Northern Athletics Centre, St Leonards Sports Complex

Table 3.4 Facilities, infrastructure and services provision for Regional Hubs

Facility Attributes	
Track	› 10x lane 100m and 8-10x 400m synthetic track › competition level (200 lux) lighting › marked for distance, hurdles and relays › DDA compliant access to track; accessible › barrier fencing around full track preferred
Field	› 1-2x long/triple jumps, shot put (1x shot put circle with tie downs) and high jump › 1-2x discus and/or hammer throwing cages (1x throwing cage fitted for tie downs) › 1x pole vault and javelin approach
Off-track amenities	› administration office and meeting/function space › event timing, photo finish room › sufficient equipment storage › accessible gym (to contemporary use standards) preferred
Support amenities for athletes and clubs	› toilets and changerooms (male, female, accessible) (2x minimum) › sheltered technical and official area › equipment hire › first aid room (multi-purpose room preferred) › clubroom(s) › appropriate access to necessary utilities (including electricity, water) and technologies (e.g. appropriate sound system) for competition and training.
Support amenities for visitors/ spectators	› accessible seating and accommodation (500+ capacity) with appropriate shelter › spectator toilets and amenities (female, male and accessible) › accessible social and multi-use community space preferred › kiosk › carparking including sufficient disability parking and safe pedestrian access and movement
Programs and Services	
High Performance	› home of Athletics regional branches › high performance coaching, training and skill development › para-athletics training and coaching
Event use	› regional and selected state events, championships and competitions › state school championships and carnivals
Club/ Community	› senior club and Little Athletics club/centre hire › local school carnivals › Little Athletics gala days › seasonal or one-off hire by other sports codes
Planning and Management Conditions	
Hierarchy	› Centre for athletics participation for regional population (regional catchment)
Management	› hybrid model (local Council-owned and regional branch operated) combining asset protection with sport expertise and enabling: · clear delineation on maintenance and asset protection responsibilities · strong sport-specific programming › year-round operation
Venue drivers	› economic benefits from regional and state scale event delivery › economic benefits through seasonal/complementary or one-off hire by other sports codes › Tasmania talent identification and selection › regional pathway for elite and high-performance participation › regional Athletics administration

3.2.3 District or Local Club/ Centre

These facilities primarily support Little Athletics clubs or centres. There are 16 facilities of this hierarchy level across the state including three school-based venues:

North West:

- Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre, Smithton
- Girdlestone Park, East Devonport

North:

- Windsor Community Precinct, Riverside
- Rocherlea Football Ground, Launceston
- Deloraine Primary School, Deloraine
- St Helens Sports Ground, St Helens
- Scottsdale Primary School, Scottsdale
- Longford Recreation Ground, Longford

South:

- Abbotsfield Park, Claremont
- Sandown Park, Sandy Bay
- Gormley Park, Kingston
- Huonville Recreation Ground, Huonville
- Weily Park, Bridgewater
- Pembroke Park, Sorell
- Swansea Recreation Ground, Swansea
- Clarence High School, Clarence

Most facilities are shared with another sports code, or with schools or used for other community events (see State of Play report for details on users).



Weily Park, Bridgewater

Table 3.5 Facilities, infrastructure and services provision for District or Local Club/Centres

Facility Attributes	
Track	› 6-8 lane 100m and 400m grass track › marked for hurdles, distance and relays › barrier fencing around full track preferred
Field	› 2-4x long/triple jump pits › 1-2x discus with 1x throwing cage (and fitted with 1x tie downs preferred) › 1-2x shot put areas (with 1x fitted with tie downs preferred) › 1x high jump › 1x javelin approach › 1x pole vault preferred › approaches and other field infrastructure to support technical specifications for range of age groups as required, preferred
Off-track amenities	› on-site storage preferred › access to a clubroom › event timing equipment preferred
Support amenities for athletes	› toilets facilities (male, female, accessible) › changerooms (male, female, accessible), preferred › sheltered/shaded team and technical officials area
Support amenities for visitors/ spectators	› kiosk › spectator/public toilets › sheltered seating area preferred › access to safe car parking (on-site preferred), and public transport within walking distance
Programs and Services	
Event use	› one-off club/community events › annual (summer) local athletics carnivals and competitions › local/district cross-country events (winter)
Club/ Community	› Little Athletics weekly training and meets (summer) › seasonal (summer) school /PE program
Planning and Management Conditions	
Hierarchy	› Athletics centre for local/district level participation › community and school-based grassroots athletics participation
Management	› Seasonal operation, volunteer operation: · Council-managed (facility owner) and Little Athletics Club/Centre operated during Athletics season · School-managed and Little Athletics club/centre operated during Athletics season · Primary tenant (e.g. football club, cricket club) and Little Athletics club/centre operated during season › Strong partnership/collaboration with other tenants of the venue (e.g. football club, cricket club) preferred to enable: · shared responsibility around asset protection and maintenance, storage and shared use of amenities and infrastructure, preferred
Venue drivers	› base of Little Athletics clubs and centres › local access and introduction to Athletics participation › volunteer education

3.2.4 Temporary Venue

These are venues that may be available or are regularly used for athletics and athletics-related activities. There are numerous facilities of this level located across Tasmania.

Some are known locations but venues can change based on availability and/or needs of the specific event or activity.

Use of these venues are typically organised with the venue owner or management by the event/activity organiser (could be any athletics facility user group). Suitability of the venue for a specific event or activity is the responsibility of the event/activity organiser.

Known temporary venues include: West Park Oval, Devonport Oval, Boyer Oval, Currie Oval, Twynwald Park, Morven Park, Dodges Ferry Recreation Ground, Dunalley Recreation Ground and Copping Hall Sports Field. These are listed in the *Tasmanian Community Sports Infrastructure Portal* as venues where athletics activities occur.



West Park Oval, Devonport

Table 3.6 Facilities, infrastructure and services provision for Temporary Venues

Facility Attributes	
Track	› grass track - marked for relevant training/event activities when needed
Field	› discus, shot put, javelin line marked when needed
Off-track amenities	› optional
Support amenities for athletes	› toilets (male, female, accessible) › some sheltered areas for athletes and officials preferred
Support amenities for visitors/ spectators	› access to shared carparks › access to public toilets (male, female, accessible) › some sheltered seating for visitors preferred
Programs and Services	
Event use	› one-off or ad-hoc community/non-affiliated/affiliated club events › annual local carnivals and competitions (affiliated and non-affiliated) › cross-country events
Club/ Community	› occasional local club/centre use › individual/private training
Planning and Management Conditions	
Hierarchy	› temporary facility for local use - LGA catchment › casual, one-off, hired use
Management	› various models depending on venue › club/centre or user group as hirers of facility
Venue drivers	› economic benefits from event delivery

Table 3.7 Summary of expected facility attributes for each facility hierarchy level.

Legend

- ● attribute is required at this level
- ○ attribute is preferred at this level
- — attribute not expected at this level

Expected Facility Attributes		Hierarchy Level			
		State Athletics Centre	Regional Hub	District or Local Centre	Temporary Venue
Track	synthetic track (10x 100m straights and min 8x 400m lane)	●	●	—	—
	grass track 6-8x 400m (marked when needed)	—	—	●	●
	competition level lighting	●	●	—	—
	DDA compliant access to track	●	●	○	—
	DDA compliant access around full track	●	○	—	—
	barrier fencing around full track	●	○	○	—
Field	long/triple jump pits (1-2x)	●	●	●	—
	high jump area (1x)	●	●	●	—
	discus area (1x)	●	●	●	—
	discus/hammer throw cage (1-2x)	●	●	●	—
	discus/hammer throw area with tie downs (1x)	●	●	○	—
	shot put area (1-2x)	●	●	●	—
	shot put area with tie downs (1x)	●	●	○	—
	javelin area (1-2x)	●	●	●	—
	pole vault (1x)	●	●	○	—
Off-track amenities	administration office	●	●	—	—
	meeting/function space	●	●	—	—
	event/competition technology and operational space	●	●	○	—
	accessible gym	●	○	—	—
	dedicated warm-up and training areas	●	○	—	—
	equipment storage (on-site)	●	●	○	—
Athlete support amenities	clubroom(s)	●	●	●	—
	athlete changerooms (accessible*, male and female)	●	●	○	—
	athlete toilets (accessible*, male and female)	●	●	●	●
	sheltered team and technical official areas	●	●	●	○
	first aid room	●	●	—	—
	drug testing facility	●	●	—	—
	multi-purpose room	●	○	—	—
	access to necessary utilities (electricity and water)	●	●	●	—
	adequate sound system	●	●	○	—
Visitor/ spectator support amenities	seating (500-1000+ capacity)* incl. accessible seating and access	●	●	—	—
	sheltered spectating areas (incl. seating)	●	●	○	○
	public toilets (accessible, male and female)	●	●	●	●
	kiosk	●	●	●	—
	social/multi-use community space	●	○	—	—
	sufficient carparking on-site with accessible parking	●	●	○	○
	access to safe off-site carparking	○	○	●	●

*refer to facilities, infrastructure and services provision tables for State Athletics Centre and Regional Hub for specific requirements

4. Gaps in Supply and Provision

4.1 Where are the Gaps in Supply?

The distribution of athletics facilities across Tasmania based on facility type, current population density by LGA and the projected average population growth rate for each LGA is illustrated on the maps on the following page (Maps 4.1 and 4.2). Broadly, the:

- the State Athletics Centre and two regional hubs are centrally located within each athletics region and close to LGAs with average positive population growth; and
- the district and local centres are generally situated within accessible distance to population centres within the local LGA and surrounding LGAs.

These distribution maps (Maps 4.1 and 4.2) demonstrate that the current supply and distribution of facilities generally provide a robust level of provision to support current participation across Tasmania, and a strong foundation to support future demand.

To further assess potential gaps in the supply of athletics facilities, indicative travel distance buffers have been applied to local/district facilities and regional hubs within each athletics region.

The acceptable travel distance/time map (Map 4.3) show these buffer distances overlayed against current LGA population distribution.

At a broad statewide level, the distance/travel time mapping reinforces that the existing athletics facility network provides a relatively high level of regional coverage when considered against current population distribution and projected growth areas (Maps 4.2 and 4.3).

Stakeholder consultation, however, identified that long travel times can still present a significant participation barrier for some users who are regularly required to travel long distances to regional hub facilities or district centres for training and competition.

The issue of long travel times is particularly relevant in Tasmania due to the structure of the athletics network, where all senior athletics clubs are currently based at the three regional hubs with synthetic tracks. As a result, participation in senior athletics is highly dependent on access to the synthetic track network and the ability of participants to travel to these facilities. Distance to Little Athletics Centres can also present a barrier to entry at the grassroots level.

Furthermore, while stakeholders acknowledged the significant benefit provided by the existing three synthetic tracks, consultation also identified that the regional

network experiences considerable pressure, especially in the south where the Domain Athletics Centre is experiencing increasing demand during the summer athletics season. Stakeholders also raised concerns over situations where one or more synthetic tracks become concurrently unavailable; this was raised particularly given that all three synthetic tracks are currently due for resurfacing in 2027.

The reliance on a limited number of regional synthetic facilities in Tasmania creates challenges for training, competition and event scheduling, particularly during peak seasonal demand and periods of renewal or maintenance.

Trends in athletics participation in Tasmania and nationally indicate strong potential for future growth in participation and demand for athletics facilities (see State of Play report)

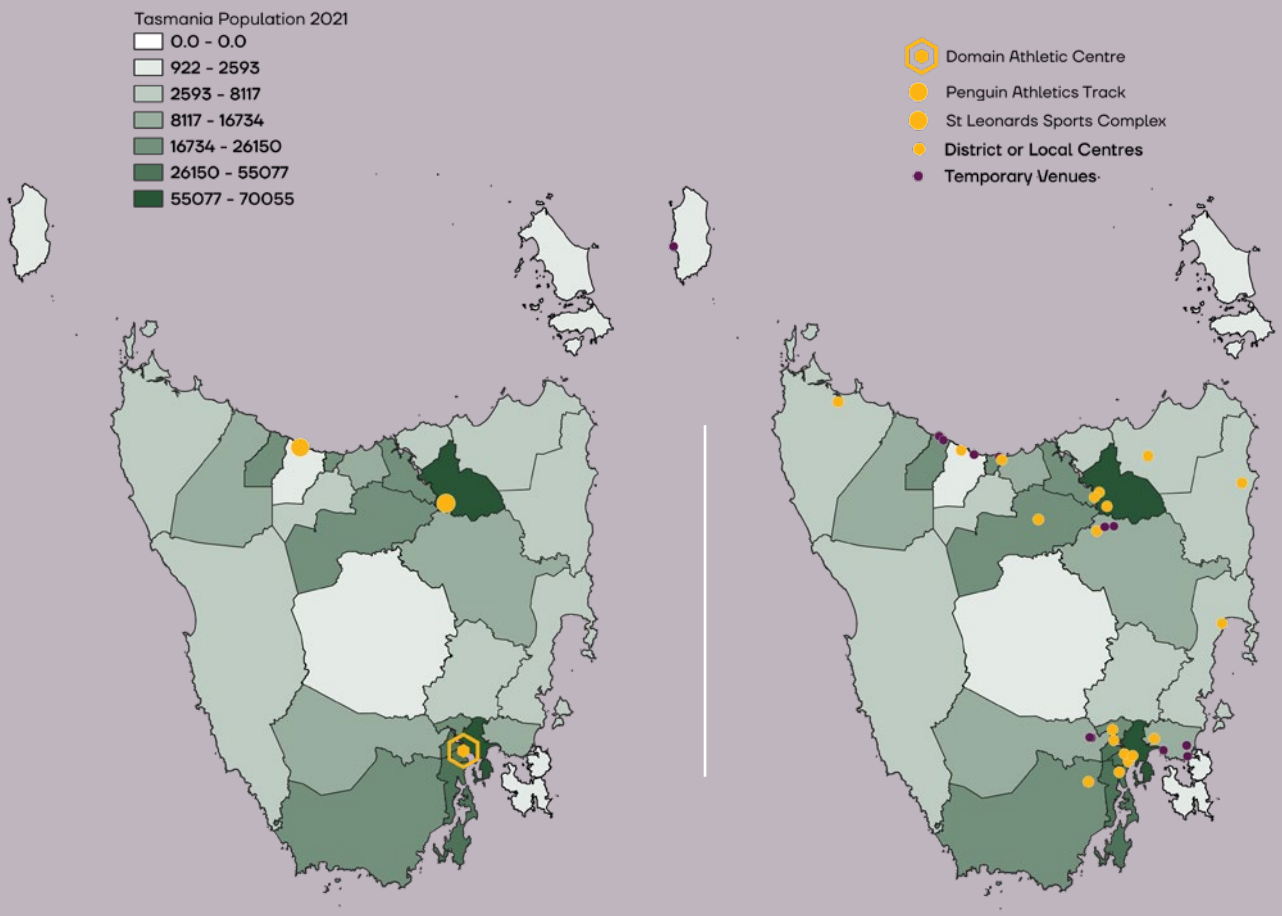
This analysis of athletics facility supply, based on the current population distribution, projected population growth and the accessibility (i.e. travel distances) of the existing athletics facility network, suggests that the:

- future demand is likely able to be accommodated in the short to medium term through improvements and optimisation of existing facilities; and
- in the longer term, however, investment in additional facilities may be required to address capacity constraints during peak athletics seasons and support continued participation growth.

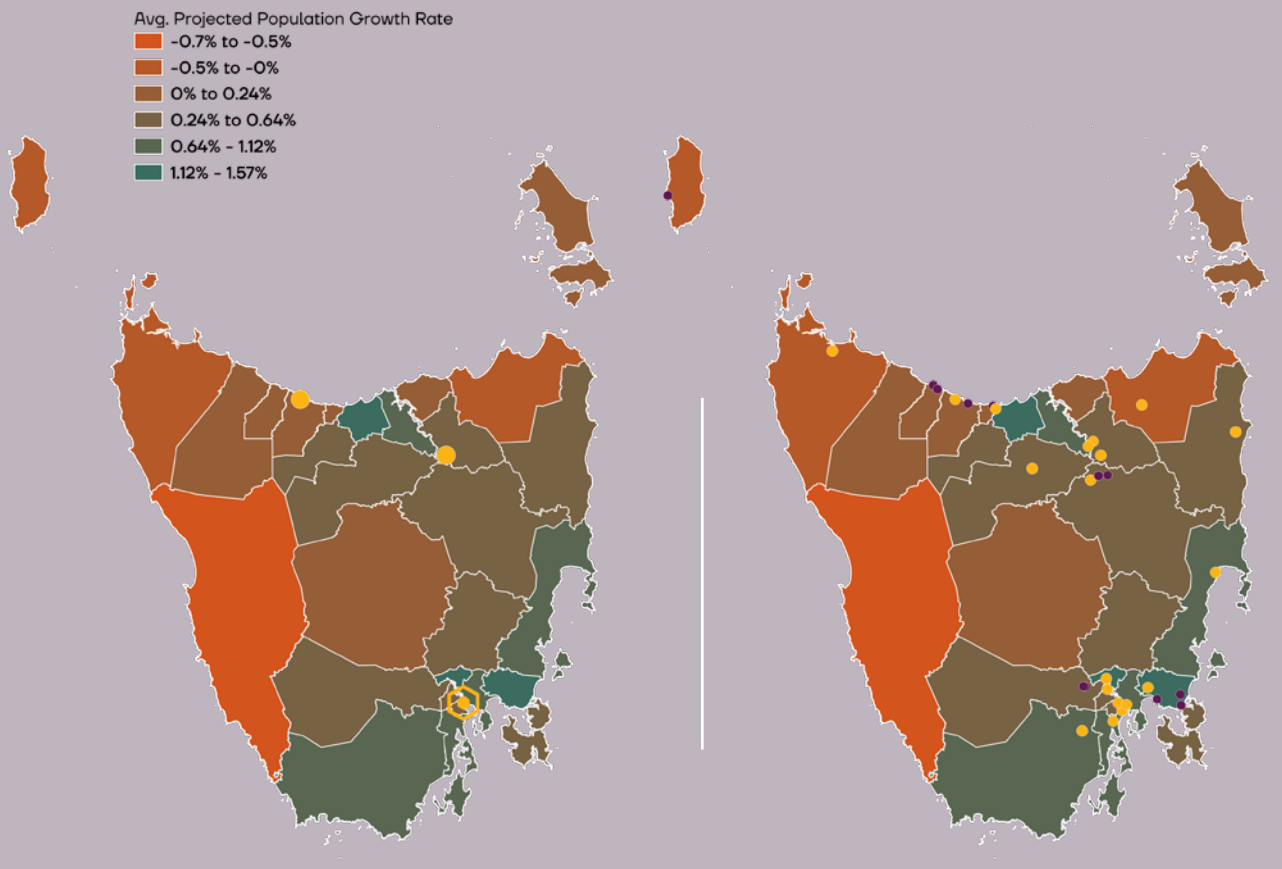
The following section outlines the emerging gaps and opportunities identified in relation to facility attributes, supporting infrastructure and overall facility condition across the statewide athletics network.



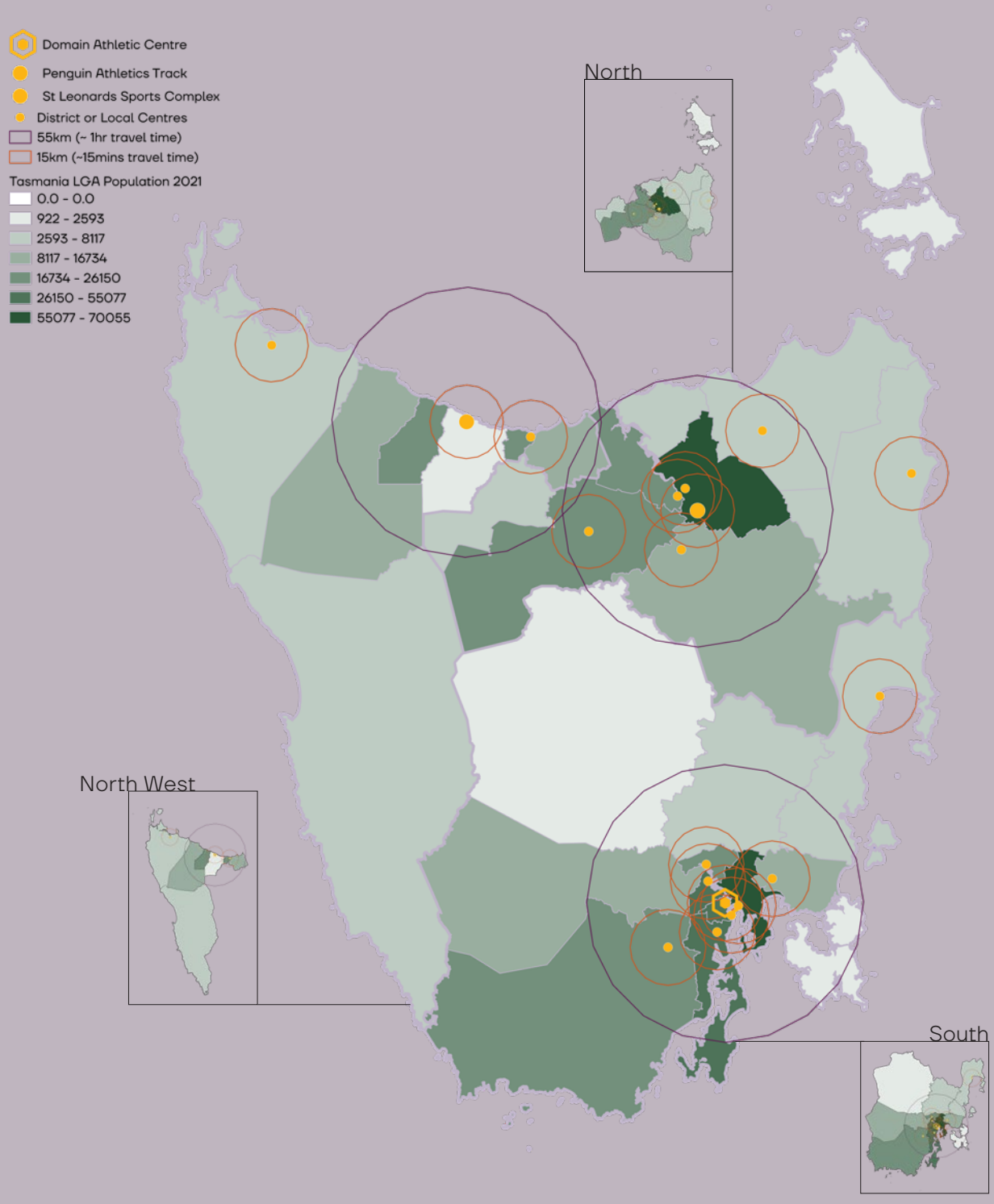
Map 4.1 Distribution of Facilities by Current (2021) LGA Population



Map 4.2 Distribution of Facilities by Projected Avg. Population Growth rate



Map 4.3 Distance from District or Local Centres and Regional Hubs



The adopted buffer distances are intended to represent approximate acceptable travel times to athletics facilities based on facility hierarchy and function. District or local centre level facilities have been assigned an indicative acceptable travel time of up to 30 minutes (represented on Map 4.3 by a 15km radius, recognising indirect roads), while regional facilities have been assigned an indicative acceptable travel time of up to 1 hour (approximately 55km). These indicative travel distances are informed by contemporary sport and recreation planning approaches which recognise that users are generally willing to travel greater distances to access specialised regional sporting infrastructure than local-level recreation facilities, alongside consideration of local understanding of Tasmanian travel expectations and settlement patterns.

4.2 What are the Gaps in Facilities Provision?

While the current athletics network generally provides the core infrastructure required at each hierarchy level, there are several consistent gaps in provision emerging across the statewide network relating to facility quality, functionality, accessibility and capacity.

4.2.1 Track and Field Infrastructure

Across both regional hubs and local/district facilities, there is identified need to improve the quality, flexibility and functionality of the track and field infrastructure.

Regional Hub facilities generally provide the expected level of infrastructure required to support regional competition, pathways and athlete development, including synthetic tracks and comprehensive field event infrastructure.

However, audits identified facilities where ageing surfaces, deteriorating approaches and outdated infrastructure are impacting functionality and user experience. This was particularly evident at the Northern Athletics Centre where the track, jumps infrastructure and supporting buildings were identified as being in poor condition.

At District and Local Centres, most venues generally provide the foundational grass track and field infrastructure expected within the hierarchy framework. However, recurring issues included:

- uneven grass track surfaces;
- ageing jump runways;
- limited throwing infrastructure; and
- a need for additional field event facilities to improve operational efficiency and support participation growth.

4.2.2 Supporting Amenities

Across all hierarchy levels, the condition and availability of supporting amenities for spectators and athletes emerged as a major theme.

While Regional Hubs are expected to provide contemporary changerooms, toilets, storage, clubrooms and event support spaces, several facilities were identified as lacking infrastructure that meets contemporary expectations. Storage limitations, ageing clubrooms, inadequate toilets and limited sheltered areas were recurring issues raised through stakeholder consultation and facility audits across all hierarchy levels.

Several local or district centres facilities identified limited or no access to changerooms, meeting spaces or canteen facilities, particularly where athletics operates within shared-use venues. At a number of these venues, opportunities were identified to strengthen partnerships with co-located sports clubs or schools to improve access to existing amenities and shared infrastructure (see State of Play report, Section 5).



4.2.3 Accessibility and Inclusive Participation

Accessibility and inclusive participation emerged as a consistent statewide issue. The hierarchy framework identifies accessible movement, toilets, changerooms and spectator facilities as expected infrastructure outcomes across State Athletics Centre, Regional Hub and Local or District Centre facilities.

Facility audits identified several facilities with limited accessible toilets, no accessible adult change facilities, non-compliant accessible routes or constrained spectator accessibility. Regional facilities, including the Northern Athletics Centre and Penguin Athletics Track, identified accessibility upgrades as key priorities to better support para-athletics, inclusive participation and equitable access outcomes.

These infrastructure outcomes were further identified as priorities to meet contemporary sporting standards for accessibility, inclusivity and for child and youth safety.

4.2.4 Shared Use and Multi-Purpose Functionality

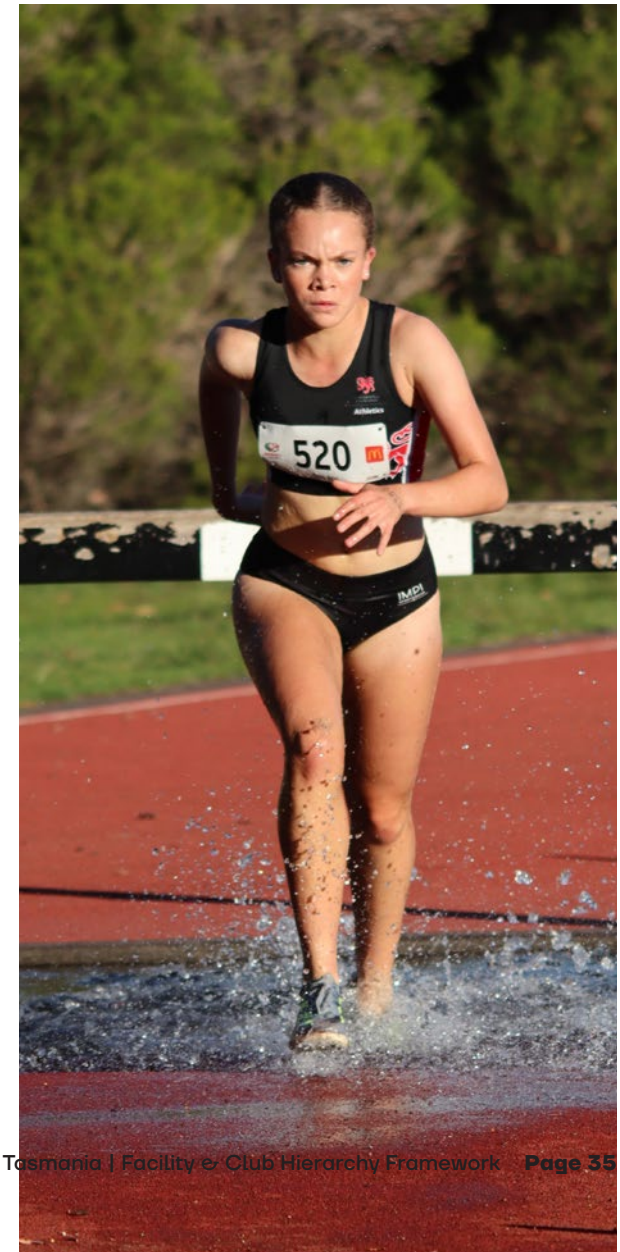
Most District and Local Centres operate as shared-use facilities alongside other sports codes, schools or broader recreation precincts. Shared-use arrangements provide important opportunities for efficient infrastructure use and reduced duplication, but also create operational challenges relating to access, scheduling, storage and infrastructure responsibilities.

Several facilities identified opportunities to improve collaboration with co-located users to support upgrades to amenities, changerooms and social spaces, while Regional Hubs also identified opportunities to increase year-round utilisation through complementary training and event uses.

4.2.5 Asset Renewal and Long-Term Sustainability

A broader statewide theme emerging from the audits is the need for ongoing asset renewal planning and clearer long-term investment pathways. The hierarchy framework identifies the importance of maintaining facilities to safe and contemporary standards, while supporting long-term financial and environmental sustainability.

Across the network, stakeholders consistently identified concerns regarding the cost of infrastructure renewal, maintenance and upgrades, particularly at smaller volunteer-managed District and Local Centres. Planned synthetic track renewals at Regional Hub facilities highlight the importance of coordinated statewide renewal planning to minimise disruption to athletics participation and competition pathways.



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