



Appendix 1b

12.1 G21 and AFL Barwon Towards 2030: Strategy

Feedback from public exhibition summary

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 7:00pm

Via Videoconference (Zoom)

G21 & AFL Barwon Towards 2030 Strategy

Public Exhibition Period - Summary of comments on draft Strategy (31 May - 11 July 2021)

NOTE: Feedback resulting in a change to the Strategy is highlighted in green under the 'Action for Strategy' column

Page #	Comments	Feedback from Project Control Group (PCG)	Theme	Action for Strategy
23	All Abilities netball participation numbers included along with FIDA football. A minimum four-teams have participated in the All Abilities netball competition which has been running since at least 2013. Those participants should be recognised and included in the report. Participation data can be provided by Netball Victoria.	Update Strategy with data	Strategy data	Included information around All Abilities netball data to the infographic on page 32
25	AFL umpire participation data listed, but no reference to netball umpire data?	Netball umpire data not readily available	Strategy data	None
50	football umpire programs and recruitment strategies outlined here could and should be extended to netball umpires.	Netball umpire data not readily available	Strategy data	None
40	reference to AFL Victoria advocacy to government and contribution to clubs. Note: Netball Victoria also waived 2020 affiliation fees and implemented a Small Grant program to support their capacity post COVID.	This was only a once off funding program that is not ongoing.	Strategy data	None
43	encourage the inclusion of a reference to requiring a closer alignment to DET when planning, designing and constructing facilities to ensure they comply with the relevant sport's standards and built so the facilities are accessible and appropriate for community sport use. **This should be extended to developer contributions in growth areas.	This is already reflected in the Strategy. DCP planning undertaken by LGAs occurs in collaboration with DET and is recommended to continue to assist with provision	Partnerships	None
45	support the opportunity to explore shared umpire spaces that can cater for both football and netball.	Agreement for this to be included.	Facilities	Updated wording to include shared umpire spaces page 45
49	urge AFL Barwon to work in partnership with Netball Victoria to implement any club development initiatives, especially where separate football and netball club governance structures exist, to ensure netball is awarded an opportunity to contribute to the discussion	Agreement for this to be included.	Club development	Updated wording to include this initiative on page 49
49	club development. Highlight the need to support establishment of new clubs. Need to communicate the consideration of senior competition structures in the long term. By 2030 there will need to be an understanding of where new clubs such as Surf Coast Suns and Armstrong Creek will be playing senior netball and football. In addition to this we welcome the inclusion of sport development documents as referred on p53.	Supporting the establishment of clubs and both games in growth areas is already reflected in Strategy. The specifics will be picked up in AFLB's competition plans.	Competition development	None
51	NOTE: both AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria will be changing registration and competition management platforms in 2021/2022. This presents an opportunity to include reference under this section of the document "utilisation of technology platforms that enable greater efficiencies in club administration duties".	Noted	Club development	None
53	First paragraph - In addition, the use of existing indoor venues for netball should be considered to support demand. The use of indoor venues for club based netball however is only endorsed by Netball Victoria for training and development programs, not competition. This is an AFL Barwon competition decision, not a directive of Netball Victoria.	Noted	Facilities	None
N/A	With 2030 strategy, there is a pathway for kids / teens with FIDA in the region, maybe there can be a strategy for an opportunity and awareness for kids / teens who are vision impaired and blind to play AFL Blind. Happy to discuss this further with you. AFL Blind is growing in Melb, starting to gain in Ballarat, there is an opportunity to this down here with help from Blind Sports Recreation Victoria who can help with this strategy also. Being vision impaired myself I would work with you as I currently from Geelong and would like to help grow the game for people with vision impairment or blind.	Added wording to reflect this initiative amongst others including FIDA football	Competition development	Updated wording
N/A	There needs to be a continuing upgrade of facilities outside of the Geelong area. The change rooms in the CDFNL have hardly been updated over the last 30 years.	Noted. Facility audit tables are updated to reflect current condition of all venues within G21 Region. Ongoing upgrades to infrastructure a priority for the Strategy.	Facilities	None
N/A	Hi, just wondering if you have visited the birregurra recreation reserve and looked at the facilities? The town has grown in recent years and will continue to grow and the football rooms are in urgent need of upgrades. I would love to meet someone on a typical Thursday afternoon/evening to show you the Auskick program through to the senior grades and how desperate we are for better rooms we can all fit in.	Colac Otway Shire has been working with the club and recreation reserve COM to progressively upgrade the facilities at the reserve over the last 5 years - power upgrade completed, netball/tennis courts and lighting upgraded, funding secured to upgrade the oval lighting.	Facilities	None

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N/A	<p>I would like to commend the work gone into the plan and would like to endorse the priority areas and recommendations. From my observations, consideration needs to also be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promotion relegation for senior football - junior netball grading like junior football - development of the South Barwon reserve to offer younger age groups a multiple game precinct for football much like kardinia park is for netball on a friday night - this may free up and protect club main grounds - development of appropriate facilities at the Deakin Oval for elite pathway programs - awareness of football is not just needing winter oval access. Senior and higher age groups such as u18/19s tend to have a few month off (Sept/Oct/Nov) and then start their pre-season again. This, and the difficulty of cricket pitches on the centre circle (drainage, serious injuries) creates enormous difficulties for shared oval use with cricket. - Lighting would also be a huge benefit at junior grounds to allow a more flexible use of grounds during winter. Non lighted grounds are pretty much useless after 5pm. 	<p>South Barwon Reserve not currently used for football. CoGG to consider in future strategic planning of the Reserve. Deakin University AFL facilities already captured in plan</p> <p>Lighting is a priority of the Strategy and audit tables reflect current provision. Access to facilities outside of winter for AFL is recognised within the Strategy and an ongoing priority. Competition equalisation is touched on within the Strategy but also in AFL Barwon's 12 Month "Play On" Plan and future strategic plan.</p>	Facilities/ Competition development	None
N/A	<p>With the growth in the local community I'd like to see new clubs introduced. I have a strategy to start new clubs but to also keep the large amount of under 19s at clubs playing footy for the club they love.</p> <p>Obviously it is hard to start new football clubs, needing to fill 2 senior sides and aswell as netball teams, my suggestion is to start a 3rds competition away for clubs with large numbers to keep people playing along with a way to introduce new teams to build through the 3rds comp until they are established enough to field Football and netball sides.</p> <p>The 3rds comp works well in Melbourne competitions a little less serious form of footy and with enough numbers could work via Grading like the 19s comp. We loose a large number of footballers every year from the 19s who think senior footy is to serious.</p>	<p>Competition equalisation is touched on within the Strategy but also in AFL Barwon's 12 Month "Play On" Plan and future strategic plan.</p>	Competition development	None
N/A	<p>I firmly believe that female football must be made more of a priority especially when it comes to umpiring. Helping clubs for gender neutral facilities (updating of current facilities) and also regarding umpiring changerooms (not just players rooms).</p> <p>AFL Barwon need to work out in relation to female football, to help stop the leaking of players from country clubs into the city clubs. This does not help clubs in the outer regions to develop their female football programs. I'll be honest, I am sick of the big clubs talking and poaching girls from U15 and U18. This has not helped us in relation to building a senior women's team. Maybe zoning or limiting to one team in juniors to assist clubs in developing senior womens football. This may be hard for coastal clubs. Female divisions, this needs to be looked at for U15 and U18 girls. Hard this season with not alot of teams but for U15g I think 3 div would have worked due to the nature of some teams getting beaten convincingly. The same as the U19 male division. We want to keep girls playing and enjoying their experience.</p> <p>For male football, I also believe zoning especially in the U18's. These are the lifeline of clubs going forward. Clubs look at these lads to develop into senior players. I am concern the drop off from U18 through to the Senior Level. I hope the U17's have a great growth spurt in U18's as I dont see many of them playing the year after against fully grown men.</p> <p>The only other way to combat this is to have 3 level senior comp (Seniors, Reserves and Thirds). We want to see as many participants stay within the sport. Hopefully a reserve side comp can be expanded into the senior women's program.</p> <p>Lastly, more investment is needed into umpiring and umpiring standards. For teams that play for points, umpires need to be league appointed and if possible, not from the club they are associated with. Too many times this season, I have seen very biased, border line cheating decisions on the field from AFL Barwon appointed club umpires. If this can not be achieved, then investment into personnel to travel around the leagues to watch and provide feedback is needed. The comps need to be fair and adjudicated in a non biased manner.</p>	<p>Competition equalisation and umpire development is touched on within the Strategy but also in AFL Barwon's 12 Month "Play On" Plan and future strategic plan.</p>	Competition development	None
N/A	<p>It would be great if one of the largest junior clubs in the region got support for new rooms to accomodate the growth, however Geelong Council keep pushing back. We have 250 Auskickers, 80 female players under 12 and 300 male players 13 and below. Terrible facilities that have no female rooms or toilets, which is creating real concerns. What needs to happen to get action? The Federal government has \$580k to invest, yet local council won't invest. As a result State Government won't either. A working group to determine who needs what in Ocean Grive has been 18 months in progress and still no outcome? I see it as an excuse to delay any investment. Oakdene ground is planned for rooms yet no club works out of here? Should that be an option that Cobras look at?</p>	<p>Development of the Ocean Grove Sports Infrastrcutre Plan is curently underway and has identified several key strategies to address the demand for sports development now and into the future. The draft plan is now in development and will be released for public exhibition later in 2021.</p>	Facilities	None
N/A	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As one of the impacted participating LGA's, Golden Plains Shire Council have reviewed the Draft Strategy. On behalf of Council and our Management Team I wish to submit the following feedback in hope it contributes to the final Strategy Update and to ensure the recommendations are realistic and achievable for our Council and Community.</p> <p>1. Council request that the recommendations/goals of the Strategy be aspirational, as opposed to deliverable, within the ten (10) year timeframe. As GPS rely heavily on external funding to deliver many of our projects, we simply cannot commit to delivery within the proposed period.</p> <p>2. Council believe that the responsibility to develop the capacity of local football and netball clubs ultimately sits with the sporting associations and peak bodies. Whilst Council have a role to play in community development and building the capacity of volunteers, AFL Barwon and the Regional Sports Assembly are better placed to provide direct support to clubs.</p> <p>Council remain committed to supporting the ongoing development and implementation of this Strategy and look forward to seeing the final version.</p>	<p>Golden Plains Shire has advised that will now consider reflecting these points listed within the Council Report assoicated with the adoption of the Final Strategy rather than changes being required to the Stratgegy itself.</p>	Council endorsement	None
N/A	<p>We are particularly keen to support Priority 4 as we have a club issue around participation but also believe in the Colac Area there is a broader community issue. We believe a local committee focussed on driving club engagement to support the AFL Vic/AFL Barwon game development strategies will be imperative the the strength of our competition between now and 2030.</p>	<p>Noted support for Priority 4 - AFL B will include further details around strategic support for clubs in their future organisation strategic plan.</p>	Club development	None

Page #	Comments	Feedback from Project Control Group (PCG)	Theme	Action for Strategy
N/A	<p>The term Diversity needs to be broadened - to be inclusive of players in low socio-economic areas as well. For a few years now there is much focus on Female friendly sport/facilities and this is great ! However, for sport to survive in the areas deemed less affluent - we need to put some of that same energy into the struggling clubs. We need to develop connections with the new arrivals and introduce them to football and netball - we need to make the facilities in those areas a priority to attract new participants.</p> <p>Every year we see more being afforded to the Clubs that are already thriving, as such Clubs (mainly in the North) must try and source funds, through competitive measures, to do their own minor improvements - in the process, losing players to the bigger and more lush clubs. The bigger clubs then seem more worthy of budget funding - as they have growth in their area/participation - it is a vicious circle.</p> <p>I also want to mention that I was not a fan of the generalisation when suburb status was penned - labelling an area as uneducated / not working (though some truth in it) only serves to make some in the area feel unworthy or angered - and unfortunately, this is where stigma is further fuelled - labelling all from an area under the same umbrella is detrimental and serves no positive purpose. In fact, it becomes a catalyst in struggling clubs futile attempts to lure participants from other regions or areas of G21, as prospective participants do not wish to be affiliated with such poor status in the Community.</p> <p>At the end of the day - we want as many young persons in the G21 region to play sport and be proud of their Club and Facilities - I think a little more 'fair play' should be considered when prioritising projects - plan for the growth areas AND help areas struggling with growth to thrive !</p>	<p>Prioritising investment based on need is underpinned throughout the document as well as within the action plan. Investing where demand and need is demonstrated most is a key recommendation of the Strategy as well as a priority from the previous 2015 iteration.</p>	Infrastructure Investment	None
N/A	<p>I have been involved in local footy for nearly 2 decades in Melbourne league.</p> <p>When I moved to the Bellarine in the late 1990s I took a keen interest in results of local leagues.</p> <p>Over the past 5-8 years I have been increasingly concerned about the huge disparity in results in male GFL, GDFL and BFL. It seems inevitable before the season starts that St Albans, North Shire, Corio, Anakie, Newcomb and Portarlinton will not play finals.</p> <p>I know that promotion/relegation was raised several years ago and then dismissed.</p> <p>My suggestion would be to create 4 divisions of 10, 8, 8 and 8 teams with a final five in top division and a final 4 in the others. This would mean 2 extra teams make finals each season.</p> <p>There is little difference in travel time to Winchelsea compared to Portarlinton. The relegation 'race' would ensure teams at the lower end of the ladder still have something to play for once they are no longer in the finals picture. Smaller divisions and promotion would enable a closer competition and hopefully reduce the number of blowouts which happen every week.</p> <p>Supporters of teams which struggle to win would finally be playing similar standard teams giving greater chance of winning games and therefore keeping the club sustainable.</p> <p>My background is statistics so would be happy to crunch some numbers if needed.</p>	<p>Competition equalisation is touched on within the Strategy but also in AFL Barwon's 12 Month "Play On" Plan and future strategic plan.</p>	Competition development	None