

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

Public exhibition on the Draft G21 Football Strategy 2023 - 2033 occurred from 31 July 2023 to 10 September 2023.

Following the Draft Strategy being noted by all five G21 LGAs at their respective Council meetings, the document was released for public exhibition.

Feedback was hosted on the project consultant's website and each LGA advertised the public exhibition period via their social media platforms. In some cases, individual LGAs used additional communication methods (e.g. newsletters) to contact football stakeholders.

The Geelong Region Football Committee promoted the public exhibition period at their monthly meeting and distributed the link to provide feedback to their network.

20 submissions were received. Most submissions included feedback on multiple topics related to the Strategy. Feedback themes have been grouped on the subsequent pages of this document.

ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS

 **20**
Submissions

 **5+**
Social Media posts

 **6 week**
Engagement period

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Theme	No. of responses received	Summary of feedback	Responses and change to report (if required)
Sub regional and regional facility development	3	<p>The Armstrong Creek facility was a priority of the previous Strategy and still not delivered.</p> <p>Requesting consultation regarding future regional facility development.</p> <p>Regional facility development is required to demonstrate future commitment to football.</p>	<p>Noted and acknowledged however no change. The updated Strategy has confirmed that the sub-regional facility is still the key infrastructure priority for football to 2023.</p> <p>A regional football facility feasibility study was recently been undertaken by the City of Greater Geelong for the north-western areas of the municipality alongside football stakeholders however deemed a longer-term prospect at this stage. No change to report.</p>
Greater support for Geelong Galaxy	4	<p>Facility allocation for Geelong Galaxy (female football club) including pitches and club rooms.</p> <p>Movement of the club with no certain home has distributed its participant base.</p>	<p>The Strategy is focused around continuing and improving inclusivity and supporting fair and equal access to facilities. As the Strategy has a regional focus, it does not include specific recommendations for existing clubs as this may change over time. The Strategy in its intent however will support outcomes for female participation and in turn the Geelong Galaxy. No change to report.</p>
Create more pitches and fields of play for football	4	<p>Reduce the ratio of fields to players, preference of providing pitches that are available to football all year round.</p>	<p>Action 2.1 in the Strategy is to 'Advocate for the continued investment into creating more sustainable football facilities including improved playing surfaces, sports lighting and change rooms'. This supports feedback received. Providing pitches that are available all year round is difficult for LGAs to accommodate given they have so many competing priorities to access playing surfaces. No change to report.</p>
Improve pitch quality	4	<p>Increase lighting and surface quality of football pitches.</p>	<p>Action 2.1 in the Strategy is to 'Advocate for the continued investment into creating more sustainable football facilities including improved playing surfaces, sports lighting and change rooms'. This supports feedback received. No change to report.</p>

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Golden Plains facility provision	1	More funding towards football facilities in remote areas of Golden Plains Shire.	<p>Whilst there is likely to be some demand for football (soccer) in more remote/regional areas, forecasting suggests that we need to build facilities in Golden Plains Shire where there is sufficient people within the active age cohort (5-39) to sustain demand. Hence why a focus on Bannockburn growth area is recommended in the Strategy. No change to the report.</p> <p>Remote townships are unlikely to have the capacity to sustain a new football club, which is supported by current and projected population statistics. However, Council believe there is opportunity to support football in the North of the Shire, with Ross Creek identified as a potential location for future infrastructure. No change to the report.</p>
Facilities in Colac Otway	2	<p>Focussed investment in football facilities in Colac Otway Shire is needed.</p> <p>There is a need for a more centrally located football facility.</p> <p>The Colac Otway Rovers have no solid home base. Training facilities at Central Reserve require attention.</p> <p>Alternative venues and facility upgrades at existing venues is needed.</p> <p>Opportunities for futsal to be provided in Colac.</p>	<p>Colac Otway Shire Council acknowledges there is a lack of suitable football (soccer) facilities in the Shire for competition and training. The Strategy appropriately addresses actions for the future provision of football (soccer) facilities within the Shire including the planning and construction of fit for purpose, multi-use, gender neutral soccer facilities in the Colac/Elliminyt area. Whilst the actions related to providing new facilities are medium to long term priorities, this rating considers Council's current resource and financial capabilities for implementing the actions. No change to the report.</p> <p>Council has considered alternative venues for training and matches, however acknowledge there are facility gaps in being able to support alternative venues in the interim until new facilities can be constructed. Ensuring the Colac Otway Rovers AFC sustainability will be crucial to investing in dedicated soccer facilities. As identified in the Strategy, the club, like the other G21 region clubs, will need to actively participate in club development, game development, participation and marketing recommendations identified in the Strategy. No change to the report.</p> <p>Support for futsal to be trailed at the Bluewater Centre is acknowledged and outlined within the report. No change to the report.</p>
Club culture and welcoming environments	2	<p>Support clubs to create more inclusive and welcoming environments.</p> <p>Support financial inclusivity to ensure everyone can participate.</p>	<p>Strategic Priority 1 'Club Development' in the Strategy outlines initiatives and actions to support clubs through programs and education. This will assist in creating the welcoming environments desired. No change to report.</p>

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Player, coach and referee development	2	<p>Ensure referee education, player pathways, player retention and marketing are paramount.</p> <p>Support clubs to develop coaches and volunteers.</p> <p>Support referee development and retention.</p> <p>Support clubs to be more welcoming and inclusive.</p>	<p>This is all covered in the Strategy so great that it is supported in the feedback. No change to the report.</p>
New club development	2	<p>Strategy needs to include more around the formation of new clubs, especially in the new emerging growth areas as well as in localities where football is not catered for (e.g Newtown/Highton/Fyansford as well as in the Borough of Queenscliffe).</p>	<p>The Strategy identifies that the development of any new club(s) will be ideally situated in the designated growth areas of G21. At this point in time, this is focused around the Armstrong Creek sub-regional venue and potentially Surf Coast Shire. There are no other new venues to accommodate new or potential clubs identified to 2033. The next opportunity will be in the NWGGA growth area however is a medium to longer term prospect. Through the analysis of population and participation data, there is insufficient demand at this point in time to support the creation of football club and facility in the Borough of Queenscliffe. No change to report.</p>
Futsal and futsal development	3	<p>Concern over current affiliated Football Victoria futsal provider and data provided.</p> <p>Consider how other private providers can be supported to deliver futsal participation.</p> <p>Support for the delivery of futsal programs in other LGAs where it is not presently provided.</p> <p>Consider opportunities to support futsal through development of new indoor facilities.</p>	<p>Data within report is verified and support by the Project Control Group. No change to report.</p> <p>Update report to support other futsal providers to become affiliated with FV to deliver programs and competitions. Change to report made.</p> <p>Opportunity to include futsal within new and existing indoor facilities is included within the document. No change to report.</p>