Western Australia TE ACILITY REPORT

JULY 2022



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Football West is pleased to present its State Facility Report following a comprehensive audit of West Australian football clubs.

The audit, conducted by Football West and with the support of our clubs and associations, has identified significant gaps in quality of facilities needed to meet stakeholder expectations and support the demand for increased participation.

The importance of having adequate facilities for our community is critical to support the development and growth of football beyond 2022.

The challenges that the football community faced have been confirmed through the audit conducted. Clubs and participants require upgraded facilities across Western Australia to meet the demand from increasing participation levels and ensure they meet the standards expected for all those within our community.

The key areas identified for investment and upgrades include change rooms, lighting, clubhouse, female friendly facilities and pitch conditions. This was of increased concern in regional Western Australia with a significant requirement for upgraded lighting infrastructure to secure grounds during peak times.

This document provides an evidence-based approach to key facility requirements across Football West clubs to support the growth of the game moving forward and ensures that as part of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Western Australia, we can deliver a legacy for current and future generations.

This State Facility Report aligns with Football West's Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 and Football Australia's 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Legacy Plan.

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Jamie Harnwell

Chief Executive Officer Football West







WHO DOES FOOTBALL IN THE WEST REPRESENT?

Football is the world game and represents almost 150 countries in the West Australian football community.

Football in Western Australia has been the number one participated team sport for the last five years. With over 5,000 weekly matches in WA, football is played and watched by in suburban parks by hundreds of thousands.

Regional participation represents 24% of football participation in Western Australia and has offered programs and competitions to over 50,000 regional participants. This has been a direct result from the implementation of dedicated Community Participation Officers in every region.

On the back of Football West's Female Football Plan 2018-2022, we have seen a 45% growth in female participation including over 50,000 female players participating in competitions, programs and events.

The rise in female participation has been a direct result of the 22 dedicated female only programs offered to the football community and highlights the need for female friendly change rooms across Western Australia to support participation and growth.

The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup will see Perth host international teams which will inspire the next generation of West Australian footballers.

The need for investment into WA facilities to support the growth of the football community is outlined in this report and the importance of adequate facilities to support and encourage current and future generations of West Australian footballers.



4% Growth Per Year

25% CaLD Backgrounds

24% Regional Participation

32% Female Participation



WHY INVESTMENT IS CRITICAL

Football West is dedicated to providing opportunities, education, development and positive experiences through football for all.

Football is the world game and the joy and experiences available in Western Australia through the game of football is no different.

Through building a strong football community and a commitment to outstanding service delivery, Football West is driven to providing opportunities to all, regardless of who you are or where you may live.

The provision of quality football environments is integral to achieving our goals and creating a sustainable blueprint for growth.

The contribution of football to Western Australia's community, social and economic life does not stop with the regular engagement of over 250,000 West Australians.

Their involvement in football makes our communities healthier, happier and safer. It creates opportunities for employment and volunteering, and is proven to grow the economy. Community sports are also an important mechanism for reducing crime, engaging the disaffected, encouraging educational attainment and creating social inclusion and cohesion.

Sport Australia's Value of Community Sport Infrastructure Report (KPMG, 2018) recognises the annual economic impact of community sport infrastructure in Australia to be \$6.3billion, with associated health and social benefits totaling a further \$10b. As Australia's most popular team sport (according to Sport Australia's annual Ausplay survey), football plays a significant role in driving these benefits.

Football is a vehicle that bonds people to their community and increases the overall livability of our state. It also builds community and social connectedness. Social and economic resurgence will be even more prevalent to the West Australian community beyond the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Football, and sport more broadly, have a significant role to play in our state and national economic recovery. It also plays a significant role for our young people, through improvement of their physical and mental wellbeing. With 73% of our regular participants aged under 18, football can be a vehicle for supporting and educating our youth.

What we do next will also have an impact on the future generations of the game and we believe that as a sport, they will be spurred on by:

- A post COVID-19 environment where clubs and players can participate freely and domestic competitions and events can be delivered without interruption.
- The success of the Matildas at the Tokyo Olympics (in 2021) and the leadership role our own West Australian players had on team success.
- The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia, with Perth set to host matches and provide critical team training venues.
- Surging demand for the game at community level and catering for the diversity of our participants, coaches, officials, supporters and volunteers.



HOW CAN FOOTBALL SUPPORT COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES?

There is a unique opportunity to support West Australian football and local communities. Our commitment to improve infrastructure for future generations aligns with the objectives of government and our industry partners.

A vibrant, inclusive and resilient WA community

Physical activity and sport is vital to the health and wellbeing of West Australians and our communities. Football West's strategic direction and program delivery contribute to community wellbeing, help to activate our children and engage with all sectors of society. Football has the capacity to engage all.

As a sport we are committed to keeping participants and their families healthy, giving kids a great start in life and in football and ensuring that our systems and programs focus on ensuring everyone has a positive experience.

Celebrating cultural and community diversity

Football is played by 200 nations worldwide, many of which are represented across the West Australian population. Indigenous Australians are also more engaged in football than ever before with 60% growth in Indigenous football programs in recent years.

The continued provision and participation in football's range of programs including Street Football, Africa Down Under, All Abilities Futsal and Paralympic Football programs and events are central to our focus.

Football West is committed to supporting the Western Australia Government to breaking down barriers to participation and creating an active environment where all feel able and welcome to participate and play. We will focus on ensuring all football facilities and clubs play their role in facilitating these outcomes.

Driving towards gender parity

Football Australia and Football West are committed to driving participation in the women's game up to and beyond 2023. In line with the Football Australia, we are targeting 40% female participation across all football activities by 2040. What we do now will have a profound impact on football for girls and women from grassroots level through to the professional game.

Football West, in conjunction with Football Australia, is committed to developing a legacy for female football participation for children, within schools and for multicultural communities. Through the build-up to the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, supporting high performance teams, generating leaders of the future and creating economic benefits through international opportunities (including additional events) will be critical.

Delivering jobs, events and economic growth

Football's major infrastructure projects including the development of the State Football Centre at Queens Park and HBF Park provide the capacity to drive local jobs through construction and ongoing through their management and operations. The ability of high-quality infrastructure to help attract and deliver major regional, state and domestic events is significant, as is their capacity to support the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

The WA football coaching network alone is estimated to be worth \$16million annually and is just one element of the state-wide football economy.



OUR FACILITY GAPS

Of the 165 unique venues that are used for football activities every week across Western Australia, Football West has conducted detailed provision, compliance and quality audits on 135 individual venues.

The key findings of these 135 audits are presented below and are considered reflective of the football facility landscape in WA.



64%

of facilities do not have female friendly change rooms



63%

of clubs have match official change rooms with only 35% being female friendly

39%



of facility change rooms are classed as moderate or lower

63%



of shower facilities are not female friendly and lockable

15%

of facilities do not have access to a clubroom

<mark>6%</mark> of faciliti

of facilities do not have change rooms

14%

of playing surfaces do not have lighting, which restricts training and night fixtures

10%

of lighting systems assessed failed to meet minimum 50 lux training standards



OUR FUTURE FOCUS

WHAT IS OUR FOCUS?

To ensure there is an accessible network of sustainable football facilities across Western Australia. The network will be capable of supporting the game's future needs at all levels of the football pathway and will build the capacity of clubs and the game to respond to its evolving needs.

WHAT TYPE OF	Football West infrastructure objectives							
INFRASTRUCTURE DO WE WANT BY 2031?	ACTIVATED	INCLUSIVE	FIT-FOR-PURPOSE		TALENT ENABLED		SUSTAINABLE	
		Stuato aio avi	witing Howwil	ll we achieve ou	r abiastivas?			
	IMPROVE EXISTING VENUE CAPACITY	SUPPORT DIVERS	SITY AND	HIGH P	PERFORMANCE ASTRUCTURE	PLAN	I FOR FUTURE GROWTH	
HOW DO WE GET TO WHERE WE WANT TO BE?	Build the capacity of football infrastructure through venue improvements and developments that meet collective stakeholder needs and address identified gaps in the facility network.	Ensure all football facilities and related amenities are available, accessible and support the delivery of all football programs to ensure a positive experience for all users.		Delivery of critical event and first-class football facilities that support the attraction and delivery of major events, domestic professional competition and local talent programs.		Build strategic partnerships with the local government sector, planners, developers and new communities to ensure a football footprint is established in all new residential areas.		
OUR PRIORITIES	 Increased match capable lighting More LED lighting systems Improved change room quality More change rooms for match officials 	 Ensure all change roo gender requirements Talent pathway and I all regions Shared school and c 	s D facilities in	Queens Park 2. Deliver the F improvemer 3. Secure and 6 4. Relocate Foo 5. Support the	HBF Stadium	stakeh 2. Regior growtl 3. Facility	y development guidelines studies of successful growth	





ENHANCING THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE

More than \$90m in investment is required to support our focus on football facilities.

It is understood that the football community alone cannot deliver this level of investment and a collaborative approach to investing is required.

We believe the \$90m required to improve the existing infrastructure we use and to deliver the infrastructure we need into the future can be met through shared and targeted investment from:

- Australian Federal Government
- Mestern Australian Government
- Local Councils
- Football Australia
- Clubs
- Schools and the education network
- Local communities
- Business and commercial sector.

This level of investment would deliver:

A "Lit Up" Football Community (\$7.5m)



via 50 new LED playing field lighting projects that delivery 100+ lux lighting systems to areas where lighting provision is low and Australian Standards are not being met



An Equitable Off-Field Environment (\$35m)

via 70 change room provision and improvement projects that deliver all gender amenities for players and referees for at least 75% of football venues

Perfect Pitches to Nurture our Talent (\$10m)



via 20 playing pitch redevelopment projects and/or synthetic pitch installations at premier venues that provide for our highest levels of competition and talent



Sustainable Community Clubs (\$37.5m)

via 25 clubroom building and/or rebuilding projects to ensure every "home club" environment has the capacity to attract participants, grow over time and deliver a quality football, social and family experience

Long-Term Plans for the Future (\$150,000)

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via detailed and integrated growth area plans and guidelines

for football and related facilities that support Local and State Government objectives and ensure that shared investment is spent in the areas that need it most





