

# State Facility Strategy 2019





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specialists

The Queensland Government provided funding to Softball Queensland through the Get Planning Spaces Program to improve the quality of evidence-based decision making and strategic planning for sport and recreation across Queensland.



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The Softball Queensland State Facility Strategy provides all stakeholders in the softball community with a clear direction for future facility planning and development. It provides an analysis of existing provision and demand, compliance with facility standard expectations, projects future needs and highlights key facility gaps and opportunities.

The Strategy provides a snapshot of facility requirements in order to ensure a hierarchy of facilities across the State with the capacity to host all levels of softball. Importantly, there is no expectation for every association to be looking to develop high-level facilities in order to host events. The focus for associations should be on providing for local players with a quality range of softball products at a functional venue and aiming to assist with the day-to-day operations of each association - not necessarily meeting the hosting criteria of State and National level tournaments.

One of the key considerations highlighted in the Strategy is the current oversupply of diamonds at an association operational level. Softball Queensland has previously undertaken significant consultation and research on softball delivery models to determine a preferred players per diamond ratio and when applying this model, not a single association is currently under-supplied to meet local demand. To put this into perspective, the player per diamond ratio is currently more than three times what is recommended.

Further, the Strategy identified the clear differences in softball delivery between individual associations. What separates softball from other sports is that each association is allowed to undertake training and fixture delivery models of their choice. Without the need of the traditional "home-and-away" scheduling handed down from the peak body, each association conduct their own activities. This allows venues the freedom to train and conduct competition on a flexible basis with some opting for weekday training and weekend games, while others prefer to train and compete during the week with limited activity on the weekend. Lastly, some venues are able to play under lights while others are limited to hosting weekend competitions during the daylight hours. As a result, consultation was conducted with all associations to gain a greater understanding of individual needs.

Observations from site inspections and interviews uncovered a common theme. Playing facilities at each venue (diamonds, dugouts, back-nets and fencing) were generally of a high or suitable standard. This is verified by survey results indicating that 85% of associations rated their own facilities as suitable or exceeds needs. In contrast, inspections at the venues highlighted a gap in the delivery of key ancillary features. This included unsuitable clubhouses, canteens, amenities, storage, and spectator facilities.

Given that funding facility development will inevitably fall upon local associations, councils and the Queensland State Government, it has been essential that the Strategy represents realistic and achievable outcomes. In order to meet the current and future demands of softball, a state-wide focus on upgrade of ancillary features has been proposed. These upgrades are a reflection of venues that no longer offer fit-for-purpose facilities to patrons, in particular, spectators.

To guide development and future operations of each association, the Strategy includes a hierarchy that identifies the requirements for an association-, state- and national/international-level venue. It is important to note that these benchmarks should only be considered as a guide with ultimate facility development reflective of the day-to-day association activity, availability of land and access to necessary funding and resources.





State-wide implementation			
Action	Priority	Lead	SQ's role
Ensure that the State Facility Strategy becomes a standing item for the Softball Queensland AGM and Conference. Discuss key outcomes and identify future actions of note (e.g. upgrades to the ancillary facilities)	Short-term and ongoing	SQ	Strategic direction
Communicate and endorse the facility hierarchy and their preferred facility requirements to softball, Council and State Government stakeholders	Short-term and ongoing	SQ	Strategic direction
Encourage associations to focus on ancillary facilities rather than playing facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spectator facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shaded seating areas for groups</li> <li>permanent shade structures between diamonds</li> <li>easily accessible toilets</li> <li>retain shade trees where possible</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clubhouses/canteens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seek functional spaces such as small canteens/servery, officials' areas and covered outdoor areas</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>investigate opportunities to incorporate additional storage within clubhouse/canteen upgrades</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Signage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>liaise with councils to improve directional signage from the local street network</li> <li>construct attractive site entry signage</li> <li>construct informative signage identifying diamond layout</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Short-term and ongoing	SQ Associations	Strategic direction
Prepare a simple facility development plan template that associations can complete to guide facility planning and development. Encourage the associations to use the State Facility Strategy as a guiding tool and for facility planning to become a standing agenda item at association committee meetings	Short-term	SQ	Provider
Continue to support associations seeking grants to achieve facility priorities identified in the State Facility Strategy (e.g. letters of support, providing references to preferred facility construction contractors, reviewing construction quotes, reviewing grant applications)	Short-term and ongoing	SQ Association committees	Partner Strategic direction
Encourage association committees to prepare facility renewal plans (and appropriate budgets) in association with landlords	Short-term and ongoing	SQ Association committees	Partner Strategic direction





# Introduction and purpose

Softball Queensland (SQ) acknowledge that the development of quality softball facilities across Queensland is critically important to the long-term sustainability and growth of the game. For this reason, in late 2018, ROSS Planning was engaged to prepare a State Facility Strategy. The Strategy will ensure Softball Queensland can provide clear leadership regarding the future development of facilities. This includes providing high quality advice to Government to optimise return on investment, community benefits and the delivery of whole-of-sport outcomes.

This long-term strategy for facilities will assist both the sport and government make decisions regarding the priority of potential facility developments considering:

- compliance with facility standard expectations
- current usage levels (and understanding capacity).

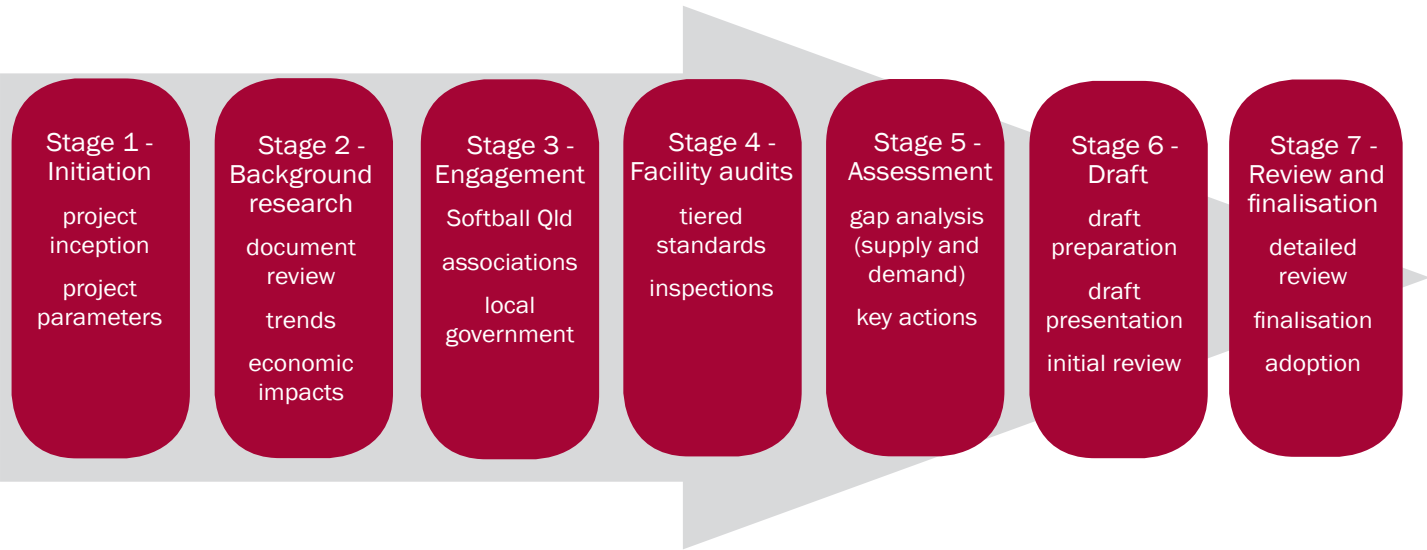
It is important to note, that the vast majority of softball associations are based at council-managed facilities. As such, development of the Strategy has included close consultation with council officers.

Ultimately, the Strategy will assist Softball Queensland and the member associations to continue to deliver a quality product by addressing facility requirements and aligning with the organisation’s 2019 ambition:

*Softball Queensland set out to provide leadership for the development and delivery of softball in Queensland ensuring growth in participation and increased enjoyment by everyone through appropriate standards of administration and behaviour and enhancing relationships between all stakeholders*

# Approach

The methodology used in the development of this Strategy has been broken down into seven stages. The figure below shows the sequential development of the project. In reality, a number of stages were undertaken concurrently. The information gathered and generated throughout this process provides the various outputs required to produce a robust quality Strategy.





# Delivery of softball in Queensland

There are two key pathways for softball participation in Queensland - association-based system and school-based system. Additionally, a number of associations conduct alternate programs including holiday clinics and slow-pitch.

## Association-based delivery

The association-based system provides a softball competition structure for more than 6,500 registered players/participants across Queensland. For the vast majority of associations, participation is based on a traditional 'club-based' model. However, unlike many traditional sports, associations can 'share' players between each association (a popular option for alternating summer/winter seasons). Clubs converge on a central association facility to compete in weekly fixtures (unlike a 'home-and-away' approach undertaken in sports such as the various football codes and cricket). Unlike these traditional sports, the majority of clubs also conduct training at the association venue. It is the association facilities that are the focus of this Strategy.

Clear representative pathways exist for both junior and senior players in the association-based system through competitions such as Open State Championships, the State Age Championships and National Championships. Facility requirements for these carnivals are detailed in the following sections.

## School-based delivery

Softball continues to be a sport delivered in both the public and private school systems. Participants have the opportunity to compete in a range of programs endorsed by Softball Queensland with the aim of supporting the delivery of softball throughout schools. In recent years, more than 60 programs were delivered in schools throughout Queensland on behalf of Softball Queensland.

From a representative perspective, opportunity exists for students aged to 19 years to represent school sport districts, regions and potentially Queensland.

School softball training and matches are undertaken at both individual schools (where facilities exist) and at association facilities.





## State-wide participation

In 2018, there were 20 associations operating under the Softball Queensland 'banner'. Additional participation in Softball Queensland programs includes registration in the South East Queensland Masters competition and standalone programs such as 'Ozpitch'. Considered together, Softball Queensland was the peak body for 6,566 players and 2,382 non-playing members in 2018.

It is recognised that participation in softball is greater than this with a number of associations conducting social softball competitions (with players not necessarily registered with Softball Queensland). Additionally, there are many school students playing weekly school competitions that are not members of affiliated associations.

The Australian Sports Commission's AusPlay survey results for 2018 indicate that more than 28,000 children and 47,000 adults, for a total of 75,000 participants were involved in organised softball Australia-wide. While child participation has increased since 2017 to 24,300 (a 20% increase), adult participation has fallen from 57,000 (17% decrease). Interestingly, Softball Australia 2018 membership data indicated membership as being 26,711. This means that roughly 65% of softball participants are not registering as a Softball Australia member (and/or over-reporting in the AusPlay survey). While there will be some cross-overs in the data sets making direct comparison difficult (e.g. 15 year old players are considered juniors in the Softball Queensland registration but would be included as adults in the AusPlay survey), there are clearly considerable numbers of juniors and seniors participating in softball (that are not registered with Softball Queensland).



## Participation trends

Between 2014 and 2018, participation in Softball Queensland-affiliated competitions has remained steady, decreasing only slightly from 7,110 to 6,566 (a decrease of 7.65%). In terms of raw numbers (rather than proportions) the largest participation increases achieved between 2014 and 2018 are listed below:

<input type="checkbox"/> Hervey Bay Softball Association	197
<input type="checkbox"/> Redlands Softball Association	84
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Coast Softball Association	47.

It should be noted that the Softball Queensland Masters competition attracted an additional 403 participants in 2018 compared to 2014. It is also important to recognise that population projections alone are not necessarily the key determinant of a strong growing association. While significant population increases have been achieved in areas such as the Gold Coast, marked population changes have not been observed in Redlands, or Hervey Bay. In these instances, factors such as quality facilities, programs and competitions may be leading to participation increases. Finally, it is worth noting that increases at Hervey Bay may also be due to a result of a recent move from a number of Bundaberg clubs to the Hervey Bay Association.

The largest registration decreases are attributed to:

<input type="checkbox"/> Brisbane Softball Association	- 289
<input type="checkbox"/> Redcliffe Softball Association	- 223
<input type="checkbox"/> Bundaberg Softball Association	- 215
<input type="checkbox"/> Mount Isa Softball Association	- 197.

Here again, the decrease observed at Bundaberg can be attributed to clubs moving to play at Hervey Bay.

Clearly, meeting the needs of growing associations and understanding whether facility issues may have attributed to losses in decreasing associations is a key component of the Strategy.





# Facility hierarchy

A tiered approach to facility hierarchy has been established to assist Softball Queensland, councils and associations in determining current and future facility requirements. Importantly, these tiers need to be considered with a sense of 'flexibility'. The manner in which associations conduct training and fixtures, amount of school use accommodated, availability of field lighting and field sharing all impact the facilities required for each association to operate. Regardless, the provision of facility tiers (and ancillary inclusions) can be used as an indicative guide for facility development decision-makers.

## Tier 1 - International/National

A facility capable of hosting the highest level one-off feature matches and tournaments. These facilities meet the expectations of both the International Softball Federation and Softball Australia.

It is important to note that these facilities are also appropriate for all levels of softball below the international/national tier. They may be used for regular weekly club and school training and fixtures and host regional and state-level tournaments.

International/National facility			
On-field facility requirements	Off-field facility requirements	Functionality	Examples
<input type="checkbox"/> lighting (650 lux infield, 450 lux outfield) on at least 1 diamond <input type="checkbox"/> minimum 76.2m to outfield fence (males) and 67.06m (females) for fastpitch <input type="checkbox"/> skinned infield <input type="checkbox"/> backstop fencing (7m-9m), side fencing (1.2m-2m) and outfield fencing (1.2m-2m) <input type="checkbox"/> dirt warning track for side and outfield fencing <input type="checkbox"/> 2 enclosed dugouts (minimum 9m x 1.2m) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 bullpens <input type="checkbox"/> 2 batting cages <input type="checkbox"/> 2 foul poles (minimum 4.57m high) <input type="checkbox"/> suitable scoreboard <input type="checkbox"/> minimum 1 diamond (and 2 practice diamonds), 4 diamonds for tournaments	<input type="checkbox"/> suitable spectator seating (preferably with cover) <input type="checkbox"/> practice field <input type="checkbox"/> minimum of 2 changerooms (4 where combined mens' and womens' events are conducted) <input type="checkbox"/> umpire's changeroom and meeting room <input type="checkbox"/> separate amenities suitable to meet spectator, player and official requirements <input type="checkbox"/> technical office area <input type="checkbox"/> statistician's room <input type="checkbox"/> statistician's area to the side of home plate <input type="checkbox"/> drug testing area (meeting room and private bathroom)	<input type="checkbox"/> International 'friendlies' <input type="checkbox"/> Underage World Cup <input type="checkbox"/> National Softball Championships	<input type="checkbox"/> Redlands





## Tier 2 - State

A facility capable of hosting regular state-levels events in addition to regular association functions.

State facility			
On-field facility requirements	Off-field facility requirements	Functionality	Examples
<input type="checkbox"/> lighting for open age competition (650 lux infield, 450 lux outfield) <input type="checkbox"/> lighting for under age competition (530 lux infield, 320 lux outfield) <input type="checkbox"/> minimum 76.2m to outfield fence (males) and 67.06m (females) <input type="checkbox"/> skinned infield <input type="checkbox"/> backstop fencing (7m-9m) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 enclosed dugouts <input type="checkbox"/> minimum 4 diamonds	<input type="checkbox"/> minimum of 2 changerooms (4 where combined mens' and womens' events are conducted) <input type="checkbox"/> umpire's changeroom <input type="checkbox"/> amenities suitable to meet spectator requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> Softball Queensland State Championships <input type="checkbox"/> Queensland School Sport Primary and Secondary State Championships	<input type="checkbox"/> Caboolture <input type="checkbox"/> Far North Queensland <input type="checkbox"/> Hervey Bay <input type="checkbox"/> Ipswich <input type="checkbox"/> Mackay <input type="checkbox"/> Redcliffe <input type="checkbox"/> Toowoomba

## Tier 3 - Association

A facility capable of hosting regular association training and competitions (and association-conducted tournaments). It is also important to note that Association-level facilities may be able to host state-level tournaments through temporary facility upgrades. For instance, portable toilets, moveable shade structures and seating can all add to the experience of patrons. For players, temporary home-run fencing and dugouts can bring association-level diamonds up to a higher-level.

Association facility			
On-field facility requirements	Off-field facility requirements	Functionality	Examples
<input type="checkbox"/> unlit OR lighting (250 lux infield, 150 lux outfield) <input type="checkbox"/> minimum 76.2m outfield (males) and 67.06m (females) <input type="checkbox"/> skinned infield, skinned running tracks, skinned bases or full grass <input type="checkbox"/> backstop fencing <input type="checkbox"/> player seating for each diamond	<input type="checkbox"/> amenities suitable to meet player, official and spectator requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> weekly association fixtures and irregular carnivals <input type="checkbox"/> potential for regular school fixtures <input type="checkbox"/> club, school and representative training	<input type="checkbox"/> Mount Isa <input type="checkbox"/> Townsville <input type="checkbox"/> Wynnum

Appendix A includes a tier classification for each of the existing associations





# Events and facility requirements

Softball Australia, Softball Queensland, School Sport Australia and Queensland School Sport offer a range of higher-level championships and tournaments. Building upon the on- and off-field facility requirements detailed in the previous section for each tier level, this section provides a summary of the preferred diamond numbers for each of the events.

National-level (Softball Australia)	
Event	Diamond requirements (for matches)
<input type="checkbox"/> U14 Girls' Regional Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U14 Boys' Regional Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U16 Girls' National Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U16 Boys' National Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U18 Women's National Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U18 Men's National Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U23 Women's National Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U23 Men's National Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Women's National Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Men's National Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 diamonds
National-level (School Sport Australia)	
Event	Diamond requirements (for matches)
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 years and under (boys and girls)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 years and under (boys and girls)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 diamonds
State-level (Softball Australia)	
Event	Diamond requirements (for matches)
<input type="checkbox"/> U14 Girls' State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U14 Boys' State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U16 Girls' State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U16 Boys' State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U18 Women's State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> U18 Men's State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Women's State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Men's State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> Softball Queensland Masters	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> Murri Women's Tournament	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 diamonds
State-level (School Sport)	
Event	Diamond requirements (for matches)
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12 years Girls' State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12 years Boys' State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> 13-19 years Girls' State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 diamonds
<input type="checkbox"/> 13-19 years Boys' State Championship	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 diamonds

While most associations have enough diamonds to host many of these events, for higher-level tournaments the quality of the diamonds and ancillary facilities is a key consideration.

Both Softball Queensland and Queensland School Sport are committed to sharing these events at quality facilities spread across the State. However, the desire to host events should not be the driving factor behind associations looking for facility upgrades. Rather, growth in player numbers at association level and the resulting demand for additional quality facilities should be the primary consideration.

Importantly, quality off-diamond experiences are also required for patrons attending events and tournaments. Facilities such as open areas for visiting teams to set-up tents, ample overflow car parking, entertainment and food/beverage options, shaded areas near diamonds and appropriate amenities are all important elements of hosting successful tournaments. Merely having the required number of diamonds will not guarantee patron satisfaction.





# Facility demand

## *Methods of assessment*

In many cases sports facility demand is determined using a population standards model (e.g. 1 diamond per 10,000 residents in a catchment). Whilst this 'mathematical-type' approach can be useful when planning new facilities in greenfield sites, it is not an accurate approach for planning for existing facilities as they do not necessarily reflect the popularity of a sport in a particular location, quality of facilities provided and quality of coaching and programs provided. Importantly, there are no new (greenfield) venues proposed in this Strategy. Therefore, a participation and capacity model will be used. Softball Queensland has previously undertaken significant consultation and research on softball delivery models to determine a preferred maximum players per diamond ratio of 120. This indicates that associations up to 120 players require at least one diamond, between 121 and 240 require at least two diamonds and so on.

Using this preferred capacity model there is not a single association currently under-supplied by diamonds in order to undertake association-level operations. Indeed, the vast majority of associations are well over-supplied with diamonds, reflecting a desire to host state and national tournaments (rather than necessarily focussing on facility demand at an association-level). To highlight the vast supply of diamonds across the State, this Strategy has identified more than 130 diamonds currently in some form of operation by associations servicing a regular playing base of approximately 5,000 (not including the participants in the Softball Queensland Masters tournament). This equates to a players per diamond ratio of 38 - more than three times the provision of that prescribed by Softball Queensland.

The development of this Strategy has involved inspection of every association facility combined with consultation with representatives from each association and council officers. As a result, the facility demand assessments (and the prioritised actions for each association) in the Strategy recognise and reflect the individual nuances of each association and each council (rather than solely rely upon standards and capacity modelling). It is one of the interesting nuances of the sport, that each association is largely allowed to undertake training and competition delivery models of their choice. Rather than being constrained to scheduling home-and-away fixtures on set days as prescribed by the peak body, each association conduct their own activities. This results in some venues hosting both training and fixtures mid-week with little activity on weekends, others conducting the majority of activities under lights while others are heavily confined to weekend competitions during daylight hours.





## Survey results

A facility survey was distributed to every association as further evidence to back-up discussions undertaken with each association. 19 separate associations completed the surveys (or 95% of associations). Non-respondents were sent reminders on multiple occasions. With such a large response rate, survey results support the interviews and facility inspections carried out with each association.

### Membership expectations

- ☐ It is exciting to see that 85% of respondents note expectations of membership increases across the next 3 years. Key reasons for these predictions include:
  - increased targeted promotion
  - planned facility upgrades
  - implementation of new development plans.

### Facility suitability

Respondents were asked to rate the suitability of a range of facilities at their venues.

- ☐ The vast majority (90%) indicate that the current number of diamonds meet existing demand
- ☐ Facilities such as DIAMONDS, BACK NETS, DUG OUTS AND CAR PARKING all scored suitability ratings of 85% or above
- ☐ Storage was clearly not considered suitable. 55% of respondents noted them as not suitable or that the association had none
- ☐ Toilets and changerooms were also not highly regarded with 40% of respondents noting they were unsuitable or that the association had none
- ☐ Facilities for umpires or officials and office and meeting facilities are not appropriate at half of the associations that returned surveys.

### Facility improvements

Respondents listed their top 3 facility improvements. The findings below represent these top 3 priorities being combined. The 7 most frequent responses were:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clubhouse/canteen upgrade      | 22% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing diamond fencing        | 18% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing diamond/base upgrades  | 11% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting upgrades              | 10% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet and changeroom upgrades | 7%  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator facility upgrades    | 7%  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storage                        | 7%  |

As an indication of survey validity, these facility priorities generally reflect those facilities identified as suitable/unsuitable from an earlier question in the survey.

### Hosting carnivals

- ☐ 80% of respondents indicated that they had previously conducted carnivals of some type
- ☐ 12 associations indicated that they had previously conducted large carnivals (e.g. State Championships and State School Championships)

### Discussing facility development

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had discussed facility development opportunities with their landlords (e.g. councils). A number of respondents included comment as to whether this was a positive or negative experience. In a positive sign for facility development, all respondents had undertaken discussions with their landlords (all councils).







## Observations from inspections and interviews

As a sign that most associations are well 'in-tune' with their facilities, the outcomes of facility inspections largely reflect the findings identified by the associations through the surveys and direct engagement.

### Unsuitable clubhouse and canteens

Inspections highlighted the large number of facilities across the State lacking a suitable clubhouse and/or canteen facility. Whilst the majority of such facilities are in need of a minor upgrade or extension, it is particularly concerning the number of clubhouses without adequate space for umpires and/or meetings and administrative matters. There appears to be scope for Softball Queensland to take a more active lead (alongside associations and councils) with regard to appropriate upgrade designs and processes. This does not necessarily suggest the need for significant buildings, more the need for ensuring such facilities are functional for the required purposes.

It is also important that associations consider the importance of establishing sinking funds to assist with clubhouse upgrades. This can allow for change before conditions become so poor that the clubhouses become unsuitable for predicted use.



### Re-thinking toilets, changerooms and showers

Inspections verified survey results regarding a lack of toilets and change facilities at many venues.

Upgrading and constructing new facilities will be a key goal for a number of associations. There may be scope to provide unisex toilet cubicles (where more pedestals can be developed in a smaller area) rather than the traditional male and female facilities.

Given that traditional changerooms such as those associated with the various football codes are not considered a major part of softball, preference is for small change spaces to be developed. However, to accommodate participants who may need to go straight to work or a function directly after training or competition, one or two shower cubicles may be provided.



### Supporting spectators

Many association facilities are simply large venues with grass or skinned playing fields developed as diamonds serviced by a clubhouse. Many venues feature unshaded tiered seating in ad-hoc locations,

but usually close to the player dugouts. While these structures may appear to cater well for spectators, shaded structures close to canteens and other ancillary facilities may be more appropriate. These structures could also be accommodated by less formal, shaded bench/picnic table seating located around the diamonds to allow families/groups to both view the games and provide pleasant gathering nodes.

As existing diamonds are upgraded or new diamonds are planned, greater emphasis needs to be placed on the needs of spectators. It is recognised that providing shade structures and seating incurs additional costs. However, ensuring that parents/guardians, siblings, and friends of players enjoy their experience as a spectator can help in player retention and to attract new players to the sport.



### Family-friendly facilities

Given the relatively long duration of softball games, the provision of ancillary facilities such as playgrounds and large grassy areas, adjacent to playing fields, can greatly improve the ability of facilities to cater for family groups, including siblings of participants. By creating these 'family-friendly' features, associations provide a more enjoyable experience for participants and spectators, thus improving their ability to attract and retain members.

Further, this increased patronage will also provide improved revenue-raising opportunities through canteen sales.





## Facility layout

Many facilities across the State suffer from ad-hoc development, resulting in disjointed layouts of diamonds and ancillary facilities such as changerooms/toilets and viewing areas.

The most functional facilities inspected comprised of a simple four-leaf clover format, with large open spaces between the fields and a central, covered common area that catered for players, officials and spectators. Where necessary, this 'clover' configuration can be complemented by additional diamonds at the farther corners of the fields, allowing more flexibility in the delivery of competition and training options. This can relatively easily cater to the highest level of Championships that require 6 diamonds.

It is also noted that to accommodate the 20 diamonds required for Masters competitions, it is preferable for a facility to be located within a sporting complex where access to other playing fields can be easily arranged for such events.



## Unsuitable storage solutions

During the project, many associations indicated that storage for maintenance and playing equipment, and canteen operations, was inadequate. These inadequacies included the size, location and structure of the storage available, and in some cases, the complete lack of storage options.



Given that most associations are responsible for the maintenance of the playing surfaces, this lack of adequate storage can significantly impact upon the quality of the facilities. Further, without adequate storage for canteen supplies, effective operations and revenue-raising abilities may be constrained.

While stand-alone sheds and shipping containers are the most readily available options for storage, future designs of clubhouses should look at the inclusion of dedicated storage spaces (with both internal/external access), especially in regard to canteen supplies/equipment.

## Facility Signage

Very few associations have directional signage from the adjoining street network. This is a particular issue given a number of associations are 'tucked away' in residential areas. Many councils provide directional signage to key destinations (using existing street signs) once they are alerted to the need.



Also, there are very few venues that have a large prominent sign clearly showing the diamond layout. This is particularly important for venues hosting regular championships/carnivals given that it can be somewhat daunting to find a particular diamond after searching for a car park and arriving to a busy venue with games in action.







## Brisbane Softball Association

### Membership considerations

- ☐ 2019 winter season membership
  - Seniors: 123
- ☐ 2018/19 summer season
  - Seniors: 203
  - Juniors: 131
- ☐ Membership trend - recent decline
- ☐ Membership prediction - continued slight fluctuations

### Facilities summary

- ☐ Downey Park is one of Brisbane's premier multi-field venues with capacity for hosting State level championships. Facility upgrades should continue to reflect this status
- ☐ The Association shares the grounds with Brisbane Women's Hockey, forcing the use of temporary diamonds and limiting the potential to expand the number of permanent diamonds at the venue
- ☐ Parking can be very difficult on game days causing delays

### Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Well used facility in the summer season
- ☐ Training is undertaken 3 days each week (in the winter season only training can occur due to presence of hockey and netball)
- ☐ Competition fixtures held on Saturdays

### Current facilities - Downey Park

#### Diamonds

- ☐ 16 diamonds
  - 2 skinned diamonds (lit to competition standard)
  - 14 grass diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts on Diamond 1, remaining diamonds all feature temporary dugouts
- ☐ Diamonds 1 and 2 have full length backnets, temporary backnets used on diamonds 3-16
- ☐ Layout on permanent diamonds is good, however temporary diamond layout can cause confusion during large tournaments

#### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large clubhouse with amenities, canteen, bar, storage, function rooms and dedicated umpires' area
- ☐ Equipment shed for machinery with additional storage space underneath the clubhouse
- ☐ Large covered grandstand attached to the clubhouse
- ☐ Grandstands scattered across the venue
- ☐ Limited permanent shade structures at the venue, spectators bring their own
- ☐ Unsealed car parking beside the clubhouse, sealed car parking bay and on-street parking
- ☐ Limited internal signage (particularly troublesome when all 16 diamonds are in use)
- ☐ Council playground on the opposite end of the diamonds





## Current facilities - Meadowlands Park

### Diamonds

- ☐ 12 diamonds
  - 1 fully skinned diamond (lit to competition standard)
  - 11 grass diamonds (1 lit to competition standard)
- ☐ Covered dugouts on 5 diamonds
- ☐ 3 diamonds feature home run fencing
- ☐ Full length backnets on 5 diamonds, 2 diamonds feature partial back netting
- ☐ Layout is very large and open

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Small demountable office block with meeting rooms
- ☐ Fully functional canteen
- ☐ Shipping containers are used as storage
- ☐ Diamonds 1 and 2 are serviced by a spectator grandstand
- ☐ Limited permanent shade structures at the venue
- ☐ Sealed car parking fronting the entry, additional street parking is also available
- ☐ Limited internal signage
- ☐ Council playground
- ☐ Council dog park and walking paths

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Meadowlands Park is a quality multi-field venue with capacity for hosting State-level championships
- ☐ The lack of permanent ancillary features at the venue is limiting Association's ability to grow
- ☐ Council playground and dog park adjacent to softball diamonds creates an inviting, family-friendly environment





Downey Park



Meadowlands Park





## Facility priorities<sup>1</sup>

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority <sup>2</sup>
BDP1	Undertake clubhouse renovations	To provide the venue with a quality clubhouse and upgraded toilet and shower facilities	Short-term
BDP2	Install disability access at the clubhouse	To provide access to all abilities To ensure facilities at the venue are inclusive and family-friendly	Short-term
BMP1	Flood-proof the canteen, office block and toilets	To ensure ancillary features remain in workable condition To limit the damage to facilities in major weather events	Short-term
BMP2	Install a permanent storage shed	To consolidate current temporary storage containers To provide the venue with adequate storage	Short-term

1 - For each association, prioritised facility actions have been established by considering association-level demand, state-wide facility context and local government directions and preferences

2 - A short-term priority recommendation should be undertaken as soon as resources allow (e.g. within 2 years) while medium-term (within 5 years) and longer-term priorities (in the next 5-10 years) have longer timeframes attached to them







# Bundaberg Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018/19 season membership - 91 total
  - Seniors: 28
  - Juniors: 63
- ☐ Membership trend - significantly decreasing
- ☐ Membership prediction - to slowly increase as the Association recovers from loss of players to Hervey Bay

## Facilities summary

- ☐ The Association has seen significant player turnover in the last 3 competition years with players leaving to compete in the Hervey Bay Softball Association
- ☐ Association has no capacity to expand the facility
- ☐ Diamond 4 overlays Diamonds 1 and 2, causing scheduling conflicts when all 4 diamonds are in use
- ☐ As the venue is located on a busy road, entry to the facility should be improved to ensure player and spectator safety

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Limited usage across the year
- ☐ Training undertaken 3 days each week
- ☐ Competition fixtures held on Saturdays

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 4 diamonds (plus an additional T-Ball diamond)
  - 1 skinned running track diamond
  - 3 grass diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ No home run fences (other than T-Ball diamond)
- ☐ Good diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds
- ☐ Diamond 4 features floodlighting suitable for training purposes, however remaining diamonds are unlit

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large clubhouse with amenities, canteen, bar, storage, administration and umpires' room
- ☐ Small storage shed and shipping container
- ☐ Small tiered seating servicing Diamonds 1 and 2
- ☐ Shade trees on the boundary of the property offer natural shade while the site is scattered with shade cloths and sails
- ☐ Unsealed car parking and areas for bus drop-off
- ☐ Good directional and information signage
- ☐ Limited internal signage





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
BDG1	Install lighting on Diamonds 1 and 2 to competition standard	To allow for evening fixtures To alleviate issues concerning Diamond 4 overlaying onto Diamonds 2 and 3	Short-term
BDG2	Upgrade the dugouts on all 4 diamonds to include a full enclosure for players	To ensure players are well protected from the elements and to ensure ancillary features represent the quality of the facility	Short-term
BDG3	Construct fencing located between Clayton Road and the diamonds	To improve safety to both players and spectators To ensure the venue remains a family-friendly environment	Short-term







# Caboolture Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2019 season membership - 478 total
  - Seniors: 285
  - Juniors: 193
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - to continue at current levels

## Facilities summary

- ☐ A quality multi-field venue featuring 2 fully skinned diamonds and the capacity to host state championships
- ☐ Association (and Council) have created an inviting and family-friendly environment
- ☐ As the venue fronts a busy road, improving the signage at the entry would be beneficial to reflect the quality of the facilities on offer

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Well-used facility during winter season
- ☐ Quality venue with well maintained diamonds and an excellent layout

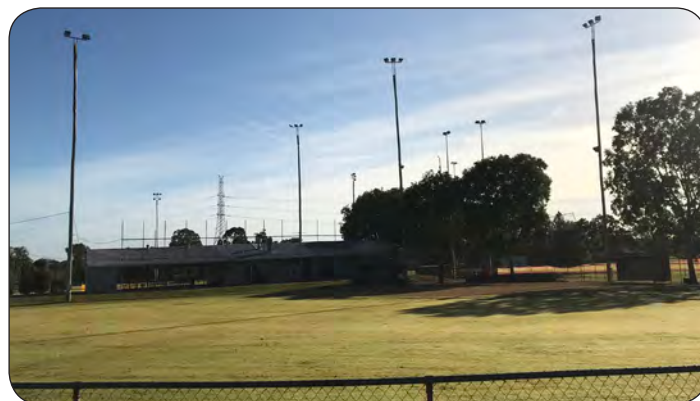
## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 10 diamonds (plus an additional grass diamond to be developed in the future)
  - 2 fully skinned diamonds
  - 4 skinned based diamonds
  - 4 grass diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ Home run fences on 2 diamonds, the remainder are open
- ☐ Good diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds
- ☐ Diamonds 1-5 are all lit

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large clubhouse with office, umpire rooms, meeting room, kitchen and First Aid area
- ☐ 8 changerooms with toilets and showers
- ☐ Registered commercial kitchen and canteen on site
- ☐ Association has a very good storage fit out with an existing work shed and additional storage above the batting cages
- ☐ Each diamond has permanent seating structures
- ☐ Limited permanent shade structures
- ☐ Unsealed car parking on Dances Road and additional footpath parking
- ☐ Adjacent car park at the Church is used as a bus drop-off/turnaround area for tournaments
- ☐ Good directional and information signage
- ☐ Limited internal signage
- ☐ Small playground located in the corner of the venue





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
CBL1	Improve the entry and streetscape of the venue	To improve the entry of the venue To ensure the venue remains an attractive and welcoming space for players and spectators	Short-term
CBL2	Undertake terracing and concreting project	To increase seating capacity To control overland waterflow on the diamonds	Short-term
CBL3	Install safety netting	To ensure venue remains a safe environment for players and spectators	Medium-term
CBL4	Undergo an extension or expansion of current storage shed facilities	To allow for the storage of new machinery that are required for the maintenance of the diamonds	Medium-term







# Far North Queensland (Cairns) Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018/19 season membership - 115 total
  - Seniors: 52
  - Juniors: 63
- ☐ Membership trend - recent decline (due to loss of senior male division)
- ☐ Membership prediction - to continue at current levels

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Well utilised facility during summer season (junior baseball use in summer)
- ☐ Council facility closed to public use
- ☐ Popular venue for events/championships such as:
  - Regional Academy training and development sessions
  - Representative team training, umpiring and scoring courses

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 4 high quality diamonds, 3 fully skinned and diamond 4 skinned bases
- ☐ Large, quality brick and colourbond dugouts on all diamonds
- ☐ Quality backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ No home run fences but diamonds fully enclosed
- ☐ Excellent layout over two levels, joined by long ramp
- ☐ Main diamond (only) fully lit

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ No actual clubhouse but modern amenities building (shared with baseball) with:
  - 2 changerooms
  - toilets
  - canteen
- ☐ Medium-sized storage shed adjacent to amenities building, also shared with baseball
- ☐ 2 batting cages on both upper and lower levels
- ☐ Small, shaded grandstands on Diamonds 1 and 2, shaded tired seating (limited on lower Diamonds, but with large, grassy areas for spectators)
- ☐ Large shaded common area between Diamonds 1 and 2 with small shade structures behind home plate on 3 and 4
- ☐ Shaded viewing area over lower diamonds adjacent to amenities building
- ☐ Small dedicated, sealed car park adjacent to building with other sealed parking available throughout the precinct
- ☐ Good directional and information signage throughout the precinct
- ☐ No playground

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Very high quality facility (only 4 years old) within a modern, functional sporting precinct
- ☐ Although diamonds are separated on two different levels, access around the facility is appropriate, with quality viewing opportunities due to the site's topography. Minor landscaping works could greatly improve these opportunities
- ☐ Due to other playing fields within the precinct, there is potential for hosting large events/championships/carnivals
- ☐ Located within a growth area of the City, the facility has the ability to provide softball opportunities to the region for many years into the future





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
FNQ1	Extend the existing amenities building to allow inclusion of clubhouse facilities such as meeting/training rooms, office space, social/club room, etc	To improve the administration and operations of the Association and provide a 'headquarters' for both the Association and the sport in the region	Short-term
FNQ2	Improve drainage for lower playing fields and investigate installing power/field lighting	To allow fields to cope with local weather conditions and provide increased playing and training opportunities	Medium-term
FNQ3	Develop additional storage shed	To allow separation of maintenance equipment and canteen storage	Medium-term
FNQ4	Clear and terrace the area between upper and lower levels	To improve viewing over lower level and general appearance of the site	Medium-term
FNQ5	Install permanent home run fencing on Diamond 1	To provide a professional field able to host top level competition	Longer-term







# Gladstone Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018/19 season membership - 94 total
  - Seniors: 27
  - Juniors: 67
- ☐ Membership trend - after steady decreases membership has started to grow again
- ☐ Membership prediction - Association will be focused to maintain current growth

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Heavily used facility across the year
- ☐ Training is undertaken four nights each week
- ☐ Games are played Thursday and Friday

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 3 diamonds
  - 1 fully skinned diamond (lit to competition standard)
  - 2 skinned home plate diamonds (both unlit)
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ Home run fence on Diamond 1
- ☐ Good diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large clubhouse with canteen, storage, administration and social area
- ☐ No changerooms at the venue
- ☐ Public amenities on-site
- ☐ Large storage shed for equipment and mowers
- ☐ Covered spectator seating on all diamonds
- ☐ Establishing shade trees
- ☐ A quality family friendly venue
- ☐ Sealed and unsealed parking available at the venue however cars are at risk of foul balls
- ☐ Very good internal and external signage
- ☐ Ample area for bus drop-off and turnaround

## Facilities summary

- ☐ A quality venue with clear potential to increase participation and host tournaments more frequently.
- ☐ Association (and Council) have created an inviting and family-friendly environment
- ☐ With only 3 diamonds the venue is not able to host all tournaments. The provision of a fourth diamond would enable the Association to bid for larger tournaments
- ☐ A Memorial Park Master Plan is currently being prepared and will lead future facility development





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
GST1	Construct an additional diamond, bringing total number to four	To allow more flexible delivery of games and training	Short-term
GST2	Undertake the construction of a changeroom with toilets and showers	To provide adequate amenities to players and spectators	Short-term
GST3	Upgrade fencing on all diamonds	To ensure the facility meets standard expectations and remains a safe environment for players, spectators and visitors  To allow the Association to bid for a wider range of tournaments	Medium-term







# Gold Coast Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2019 season membership - 141
  - Seniors: 106
  - Juniors: 35
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - steady

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility - shared with football
- ☐ Well utilised during winter season
- ☐ Currently host the Pan Pacific Games masters bi-annually
- ☐ May be better utilised once current master plan is finalised

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 2 quality fully skinned diamonds and 1 grassed, junior diamond, all with high quality outfields
- ☐ New colourbond dugouts on main diamond, with basic ones on other 2 diamonds
- ☐ Training lighting on infield of Diamond 2
- ☐ All backnets in good condition
- ☐ No home run fencing
- ☐ Layout of two main diamonds not able to allow use at same time

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ No clubhouse since previous structure destroyed by fire 3 years ago
- ☐ Medium-size storage shed with no changeroom, canteen or toilet facilities
- ☐ Temporary, portable canteen facilities currently being utilised
- ☐ Access to public toilets within complex
- ☐ Temporary seating being used
- ☐ Batting cages adjacent to storage shed, also used for play area for children
- ☐ Small, sealed car park adjacent with other parking available within complex
- ☐ No dedicated bus drop-off to softball, but available within complex
- ☐ No signage identifying softball at entry or within complex

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Located within the highly popular Pizzey Park sporting complex, the future of the Association at the site is not certain, subject to the outcomes of a master plan for the complex being undertaken by Council
- ☐ Any developments/improvements are on hold until the completion of the master plan, which may recommend relocation of the Association to another site which is yet to be determined
- ☐ Current facilities do allow the continued operations of the Association, but the situation does not allow for future planning of the site





## Facility priorities

Due to the current master planning being undertaken at Pizzey Park, no immediate or long-term facility developments are proposed for the site. Once the master plan is complete, the Association will be able to identify future facility needs, either at the current site or a new, as yet unidentified, site.







# Hervey Bay Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018/19 season membership - 248 total
  - Seniors: 131
  - Juniors: 117
- ☐ Membership trend - rapid increase in last 3 years
- ☐ Membership prediction - participation is not expected to increase beyond current numbers

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Association has experienced a steep increase in playing members that have transferred over from the Bundaberg Softball Association
- ☐ Central diamond layout makes the venue easy and safe to navigate for both players and spectators
- ☐ As the venue is located on a busy road, entry to the facility should be improved to ensure player and spectator safety

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Heavily used facility year-round
- ☐ Quality facility with well maintained diamonds and an excellent layout

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 4 diamonds
  - 4 fully skinned diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ Home run fence on Diamond 3, the remainder are open
- ☐ Quality diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds
- ☐ Diamonds 3 and 4 are lit

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large clubhouse with meeting rooms, umpires' area and a bar
- ☐ No changerooms at the venue
- ☐ Amenities building
- ☐ Canteen is located in the middle of the diamonds
- ☐ Large storage shed for machinery and equipment
- ☐ Small storage shed for a pitching machine
- ☐ Shaded tiered seating on all diamonds
- ☐ Sealed and unsealed parking along with a bus turnaround
- ☐ Very good signage used at the venue





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
HBY1	Upgrade the clubrooms and meeting facilities at the venue	To provide the venue with a quality clubhouse To allow for smooth operation on game days	Medium-term
HBY2	Construct changeroom facilities at the venue	To provide adequate change facilities	Longer-term
HBY3	Install home run fencing	To protect the diamonds from damage To allow diamonds to 'rest' when not being used for fixtures	Longer-term







# Ipswich Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018/19 season membership - 474 total
  - Seniors: 236
  - Juniors: 238
- ☐ Membership trend - has been steadily increasing in the last 3 years
- ☐ Membership prediction - to continue current growth

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Mondays are the only day where the facility is not used for training
- ☐ Friday evening and all-day Saturday for competition

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 8 diamonds
  - 3 fully skinned diamonds (lit to competition standard)
  - 5 grass diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts on 6 of the 8 diamonds
- ☐ Backnets on 5 diamonds with removable nets on the grass diamonds
- ☐ Permanent home run fences on 3 diamonds
- ☐ Terrific diamond layout

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large single-storey clubhouse with changerooms, amenities, umpires room, canteen, meeting rooms and offices
- ☐ 6 permanent shade structures provide a quality area for spectators
- ☐ Fully secured 15m x 6.8m storage shed
- ☐ 1 covered spectator grandstand
- ☐ Large unsealed car park
- ☐ No internal or external signage on site

## Facilities summary

- ☐ A high quality multi-field venue with the capacity to hold State Championships. Facility upgrades should continue to reflect this status
- ☐ As a heavily used venue hosting training on a regular basis, the provision of a training bullpen fitted with a batting cage would be beneficial
- ☐ A formalised car parking system is required moving forward as the Association continues to grow
- ☐ The lack of signage does not reflect the quality of the facilities on offer at the venue





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
IPS1	Install bullpens that can also serve as batting cages on Diamonds 1 and 2	To attract more players to use the facility	Short-term
IPS2	Construct protective netting on Diamond 1	To ensure the safety of spectators on the deck outside the canteen from foul balls	Short-term
IPS3	Undertake a facility car parking upgrade plan. Formalise sealed car parking along the 'front' of the facility	To improve parking arrangements To alleviate waterflow issues that occur in heavy rain events	Longer-term
IPS4	Construct a small playground next to the clubhouse overlooking Diamond 1	To ensure the venue offers family-friendly options to users and spectators	Longer-term







# Logan City Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2019 season membership - 529
  - Seniors: 320
  - Juniors: 209
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - steady

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility with the Association under the lessee, the Meakin Park Junior Sporting Association (MPJSA)
- ☐ Well utilised during winter season
- ☐ Currently only Sunday competition

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 6 operational diamonds (with 2 additional diamonds currently not utilised)
  - training-level lighting across all diamonds
  - 2 fully skinned
  - 4 grass only
- ☐ Covered brick dugouts on main 2 diamonds and smaller, corrugated iron dugouts on remaining
- ☐ Quality backnets on 2 main diamonds and smaller on remaining
- ☐ No home run fencing
- ☐ Functional layout with adequate space between the main 2 diamonds, however, some cross-over can occur when all diamonds are operating

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Access to lessee's (MPJSA) clubhouse facilities such as change rooms, toilets and showers, but no revenue received through canteen
- ☐ Small storage shed for maintenance equipment and a small office
- ☐ 6 small tiered seating stands (uncovered) and various bench seats around site
- ☐ Large shaded spectator area between main diamonds (Association currently accessing a further three of the same)
- ☐ No playground on site
- ☐ Small, sealed car park that is inadequate with visitors parking on-street or across the road at adjacent soccer facility
- ☐ No dedicated bus drop-off with buses parking on-street
- ☐ No signage identifying softball facility within the sporting precinct, but noted on large precinct signage at both precinct entry points

## Facilities summary

- ☐ The traditional host of masters competitions, the facility is the sole provider of softball within the Logan LGA
- ☐ Operations of the Association are constrained due to the tenancy arrangements on the site
- ☐ Additional player facilities such as field lighting and batting cages are required for the venue to provide improved opportunities
- ☐ Ancillary facilities for spectators are very limited and would benefit from increased shade, car parking and family-friendly features (such as a playground)
- ☐ Given the facility's location within a busy sporting precinct, exposure would be increased with improved signage





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
LOG1	Install additional shade structures	To provide improved spectator and player comfort	Short-term
LOG2	Improve field lighting	To allow more flexible delivery of games and training	Short-term
LOG3	Construct batting cages	To provide improved training opportunities	Medium-term
LOG4	Develop additional diamonds	A total of 10 functional diamonds, with lighting, would allow more flexible delivery of training and competition options and increase the ability to host larger carnivals/championships	Longer-term







# Mackay Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2019 season membership - 240
  - Seniors: 131
  - Juniors: 109
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - steady

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Solely tenanted by Association
- ☐ Well utilised during winter season
- ☐ Various other programs/events include:
  - Batter Up
  - School sports trials
  - School Sport State Championships
  - SQA State Championships
  - Social 7s

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 4 quality skinned base diamonds
  - Diamonds 1 and 2 lit
- ☐ Simple, corrugated iron dugouts on all diamonds, all in good condition
- ☐ Large, quality backnets on Diamonds 1 and 2 with smaller ones on 3 and 4, but in good condition
- ☐ Home run fencing on three diamonds
- ☐ Functional layout with adequate space between diamonds

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Medium-large clubhouse containing:
  - canteen with servery opening to covered viewing area (with tables and chairs) over diamond 1 with an adjacent, shaded licensed area
  - men's, women's and disabled toilets
  - office, umpires' room, storage and meeting rooms
- ☐ 9m x 6m storage shed for maintenance equipment, with other equipment stored externally
- ☐ 2 small tiered seating stands and 4 bench seats located between diamonds 1 and 2, under a large shade sail structure
- ☐ Batting cages, located between diamonds 1 and 2, currently not being utilised
- ☐ No playground on site
- ☐ Informal, gravel car park with large grassy areas around site for additional informal parking
- ☐ No dedicated bus drop-off
- ☐ Signage on clubhouse and at road frontage

## Facilities summary

- ☐ General playing facilities are of a high quality, but with the need to level the playing fields
- ☐ High quality facility with opportunities to develop a range of ancillary facilities to improve the overall facility attraction
- ☐ The large open spaces make the facility capable of hosting large events and could also accommodate the development of a fifth diamond
- ☐ Future expansion of the site could be constrained by surrounding residential areas





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
MKY1	Level playing fields	To provide a safe and professional playing surface, able to host a full range of levels of competitions	Short-term
MKY2	Extend the clubhouse and storage shed (including upgrade of canteen facilities and possible external amenities)	To provide increased functionality and improved services to members and visitors	Medium-term
MKY3	Develop a fifth diamond (and possibly a t-ball diamond)	To allow increased flexibility of delivery of training and competition options and to cater for larger events	Medium-term
MKY4	Improve field lighting	To provide increased safe training and competition options	Longer-term
MKY5	Improve frontage and internal signage	To improve promotion of facility and improved wayfinding within site	Longer-term







# Maryborough Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018/19 season membership - 149 total
  - Seniors: 71
  - Juniors: 78
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - steady

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Monday-Wednesday club training
- ☐ Representative training on Sunday
- ☐ Saturday competition

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 6 diamonds
  - 1 skinned track diamond
  - 1 skinned bases diamond
  - 4 turf diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds, home run fences are installed on Diamonds 1, 2 and 4
- ☐ All diamonds are unlit
- ☐ Quality diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Medium sized clubhouse with administration area, amenities, and a social area
- ☐ 3 changerooms with additional umpires' room
- ☐ Storage shed for machinery on site with an additional three storage containers (one for each club)
- ☐ Canteen with a complete fit out, small covered spectator area is next to the canteen
- ☐ Shelter behind home plate on Diamond 1
- ☐ No permanent shade structures at the venue, spectators know to bring their own
- ☐ Family friendly venue with a small playground
- ☐ Unsealed road frontage parking and area for bus turnaround
- ☐ Good internal and external signage

## Facilities summary

- ☐ A quality venue with capacity to host state championships.
- ☐ Open diamond layout along with quality internal signage makes the venue easy and safe to navigate for both players and spectators
- ☐ As the venue is located on a busy road entry to the facility should be improved to ensure player and spectator safety
- ☐ Association (and council) have done an excellent job creating a family-friendly venue





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
MBH1	Install lighting on at least one diamond	To allow greater use of the facility, particularly at night To ensure softball can grow in the region by attracting new players	Short-term
MBH2	Construct an umpires' changeroom	To ensure the venue can be an attractive option for state championships	Short-term
MBH3	Install outfield fencing on the fourth diamond	To provide safe, high quality outfields for both players and spectators	Medium-term







# Mount Isa Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2019 winter season membership - 178
  - Seniors: 102
  - Juniors: 76
- ☐ Membership trend - membership has dropped significantly over the past 3 years
- ☐ Membership prediction - to steadily increase

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Limited facility usage
- ☐ Facility is currently not used for training
- ☐ Competition fixtures are held on Saturdays

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 5 grass diamonds (Diamond 5 is not in use)
- ☐ Covered dugouts on all diamonds
- ☐ Backnets on 2 diamonds
- ☐ No home run fences on any of the diamonds

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Storage shed
- ☐ Canteen
- ☐ Amenities building
- ☐ Unsealed parking is located next to the 'entry' to the facility
- ☐ Street parking is also available
- ☐ Large covered grandstand that offers quality views of the playing diamonds
- ☐ Limited shaded spectator areas
- ☐ Small uncovered playground
- ☐ Minimal site signage

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Western Queensland's premier softball venue. Facility upgrades should aim to improve upon the facilities at the venue
- ☐ With no clubhouse at the venue, the Association is currently without a 'home' to conduct meetings, store memorabilia and operate from
- ☐ With limited use, there is no need to expand the playing fields. Instead, a focus on supporting the current diamonds should be undertaken ensuring the spectator and player experience is of a high quality





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
MTI1	Install playing lights at the facility	To provide greater flexibility on gamedays To allow for evening play that limits games being played in the heat	Short-term
MTI2	Construct spectator shade areas and a grandstand	To provide suitable shaded seating options	Short-term
MTI3	Construct a clubhouse at the facility	To provide an area that's the 'home' of softball in Mount Isa	Medium-term
MTI4	Install a shade structure at the playground	To provide the facility with a shaded play area	Longer-term







# Noosa Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2017/18 season membership - 57
  - Seniors: 10
  - Juniors: 47
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - expect an increase with Diamond 1 to be fully lit by late 2019

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Weekday evening training
- ☐ Saturday morning competition for Juniors
- ☐ Saturday afternoon competition for Seniors

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 8 diamonds
  - 1 skinned running track diamond
  - 7 grass diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ No home run fences
- ☐ Good diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds
- ☐ Diamonds are all unlit however Diamond 1 is set for an upgrade in late 2019

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Small clubhouse with canteen, meeting room, amenities and spectator area
- ☐ 3 storage shipping containers
- ☐ Shade trees offer good protection from the heat
- ☐ Very good family-friendly facility
- ☐ Large unsealed car park with turnaround area
- ☐ Additional parking and area for bus turnaround at adjoining Sports Complex

## Facilities summary

- ☐ One of two multi-field softball venues servicing the Sunshine Coast region. Facility upgrades should focus on improving the ancillary features at the venue
- ☐ Upgrades to the clubhouse and canteen are required as both are currently too small and not functional on game days
- ☐ Limited storage space has resulted in damage to equipment. A central storage shed is required
- ☐ As a well-used venue on fixture days, a more formalised car parking system would be beneficial





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
NSA1	Upgrade the clubhouse	To allow meetings and administrative matters to be conducted inside. Currently, meetings are held outside due to the lack of space	Short-term
NSA2	Upgrade the canteen area	To allow for smoother operation on training and game days	Short-term
NSA3	Install a storage shed at the venue	To ensure equipment is secured and protected from damage	Short-term
NSA4	Upgrade the drainage at the venue	To ensure field quality is maintained in major weather events	Short-term
NSA5	Formalise and seal the car park	To improve parking arrangements and limit dust that is generated by patrons on game days	Longer-term
NSA6	Construct permanent grandstands to service the diamonds	To ensure the facility has ample options for spectator seating	Longer-term







# Redcliffe Leagues Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018/19 season membership - 470 total
  - Seniors: 268
  - Juniors: 202
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - slight increase

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council managed facility
- ☐ Heavily used facility across the year
- ☐ Club and representative training occurs year-round
- ☐ Winter competition runs from May-August with the summer season held from October-March

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 8 diamonds
  - 2 fully skinned diamonds (both lit to competition standard)
  - 3 skinned base diamonds
  - 3 grass diamonds (plus space for 2 T-Ball diamonds)
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ Permanent home run fences on 3 diamonds
- ☐ Good diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between and around diamonds

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large single-storey clubhouse with canteen, bar, administration, storage and social area
- ☐ Additional amenities (and storage) building servicing the northern diamonds
- ☐ Covered seating area between Diamonds 1 and 2
- ☐ Scattered bench seating for spectators across the venue
- ☐ Ample car parking space with both sealed and unsealed bays on 3 sides of the venue
- ☐ Areas for bus parking, drop off and turnaround
- ☐ Limited directional and information signage
- ☐ No playground

## Facilities summary

- ☐ One of the Moreton Bay region's premier softball venues with capacity for hosting state level tournaments. Facility upgrades should aim to improve upon this status
- ☐ Association (and Council) have created an inviting and family-friendly environment. The provision of a playground at the venue would further add to this
- ☐ Clubhouse is suffering from structural problems and a full refurbishment is required
- ☐ As a heavily used venue capable of hosting regular large tournaments, additional amenities to service spectators and visitors would be beneficial





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
RCL1	Upgrade the clubhouse	To provide the Association with a fit-for-purpose clubhouse To ensure the venue remains a safe environment for players and spectators	Short-term
RCL2	Install 6 foot high perimeter fencing around the diamonds	To ensure diamonds can not be accessed while fields are 'repairing' in the off-season	Short-term
RCL3	Construct a play area at the facility	To provide a safe play area for children where they can be supervised by spectating adults	Medium-term
RCL4	Install permanent shade structures on the back diamonds at the 'rear' of the facility	To provide cover for spectators	Medium-term
RCL5	Formalise the car parking along the 'rear' of the facility	To improve parking arrangements	Medium-term







# Redlands Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018 season membership - 409 total
  - Seniors: 198
  - Juniors: 211
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - slight increase

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Heavily used facility across the year
- ☐ Key venue for hosting tournaments

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 8 diamonds
  - 5 fully skinned diamonds (2 lit to international/national standard and 2 lit to club competition standard)
  - 3 skinned base diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts, home run fences and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ Quality diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large two-storey clubhouse with two changerooms, amenities, canteen, storage, administration and social area
- ☐ Additional amenities (and storage) building servicing the northern diamonds
- ☐ Large storage shed
- ☐ Large uncovered and small uncovered grandstands overlooking the main diamond
- ☐ Scattered bench seating for spectators across the venue
- ☐ Indoor training facility
- ☐ Covered playground (to be replaced by Council in 2019)
- ☐ Rotunda and paved gathering area with stand-up tables, and picnic settings (rotunda to be replaced by Council in 2019)
- ☐ Unsealed car parking and areas for bus drop-off
- ☐ Limited directional and information signage

## Facilities summary

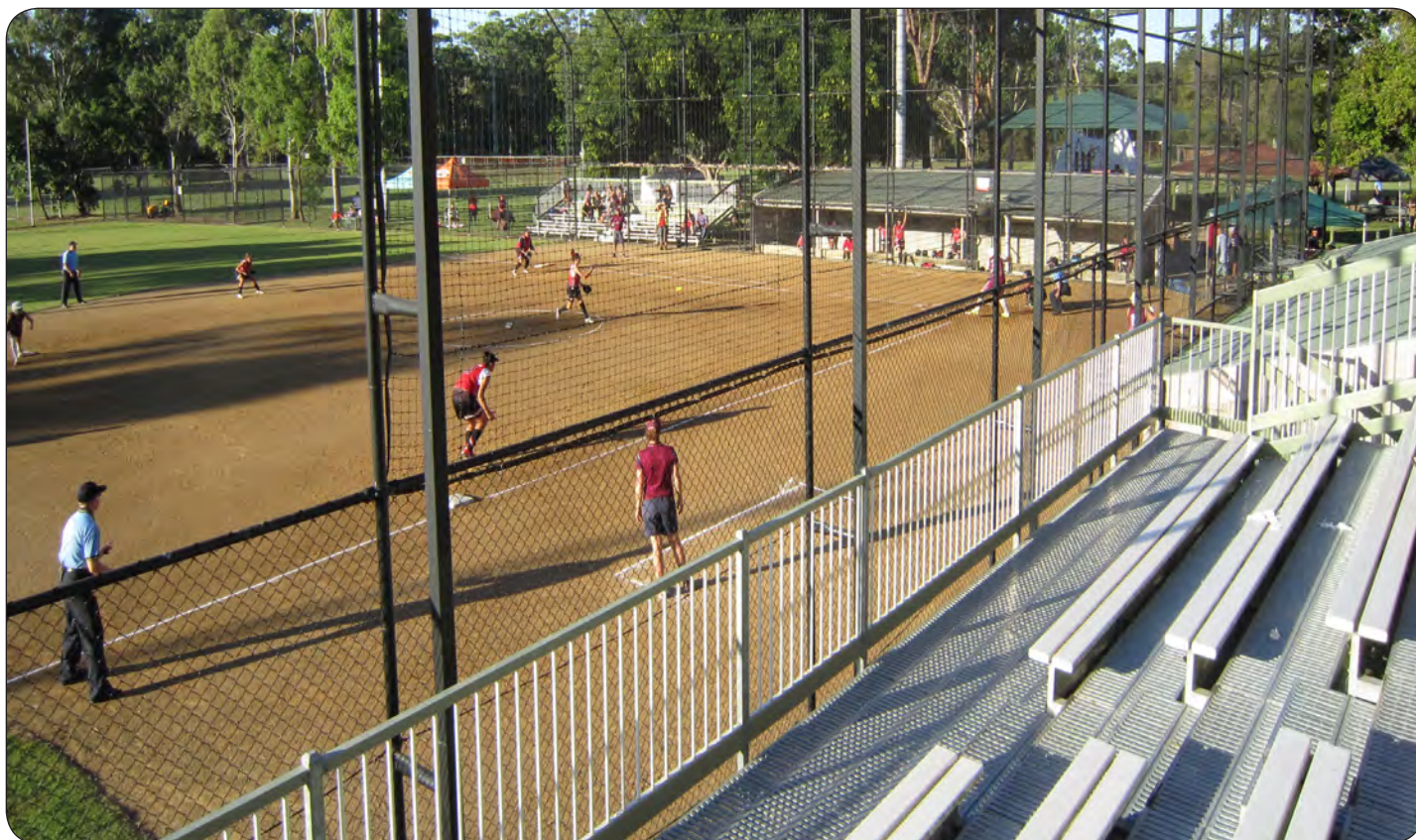
- ☐ Queensland's premier multi-field softball venue with capacity for hosting all levels of tournament. Facility upgrades should continue to reflect this status
- ☐ Association (and Council) have created an inviting and family-friendly environment
- ☐ Without adequate directional and entry signage the facility is somewhat 'hidden'. With eight diamonds spread across the venue, diamond layout signage is also required
- ☐ As a heavily used venue hosting regular large tournaments, a more formalised car parking system would be beneficial





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
RED1	Upgrade the lighting on Diamonds 4 and 6 to international/national standard	To allow for smooth operation of large tournaments To ensure no need for capping team entries	Short-term
RED2	Construct shade cover over the two spectator grandstands on Diamond 1	To provide suitable cover. During the warmer months these grandstands are not used as they are too hot	Short-term
RED3	Undertake a facility car parking upgrade plan. Formalise sealed car parking along the 'front' of the facility	To improve parking arrangements	Short-term
RED4	Construct a front entry fence at the facility	To allow for gate-takings during tournaments. Fences would be locked open outside tournaments	Short-term
RED5	Install irrigation on Diamonds 2, 4 and 6	To provide four high-quality diamonds at the venue	Short-term
RED6	Construct a perimeter boundary fence at the rear of the facility	To protect the facility against trespassers and vandalism	Medium-term
RED7	Purchase a large walk-in freezer for the canteen area	To replace the five small freezers currently used	Medium-term





# Rockhampton Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018 season membership - 363 total
  - Seniors: 175
  - Juniors: 188
- ☐ Membership trend - steadily increasing over last 3 years
- ☐ Membership prediction - to continue steady growth

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Quality venue with opportunities to develop additional family-friendly facilities to improve the spectator experience
- ☐ Diamond layout is easy to use and offers quality viewing areas while providing shade to spectators
- ☐ Upgrades to the road entry should be undertaken in the future to improve site functionality

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Monday-Friday training
- ☐ Saturday competition

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 4 diamonds
  - 4 fully skinned diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ National standard home run fences on Diamonds 1 and 2
- ☐ Good diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds
- ☐ Diamond 1 is lit to competition standard, however the remaining diamonds are currently unlit
- ☐ Warm up pitching cage

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large but dated clubhouse with canteen, amenities, meeting room and disabled toilet access
- ☐ 2 changerooms with toilets and showers
- ☐ Storage of equipment currently held off-site
- ☐ Venue features good shaded areas with a large central shelter, small individual covered seating and tiered seating facing each diamond
- ☐ Large sealed car park with bus parking
- ☐ Very good directional and information signage





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
ROC1	Upgrade the lighting on Diamond 2	To allow more flexible delivery of games and training	Short-term
ROC2	Install spectator facilities under the main shelter	To provide adequate spectator facilities at the venue	Short-term
ROC3	Install batting practice cages	To provide a quality facility supported with similar features	Short-term
ROC4	Construct a disabled ramp and associated facilities	To ensure facility is accessible to all abilities	Short-term







# Suncoast Hinterland Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2017/18 season membership - 62 total
  - Seniors: 21
  - Juniors: 41
- ☐ Membership trend - declining
- ☐ Membership prediction - declining

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Training is undertaken each day of the week
- ☐ Competition fixtures are held on a Saturday

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 4 diamonds
  - 4 grass diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ Diamonds all face into each other, reducing the need for home run fences
- ☐ Good diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds
- ☐ Diamond 1 is lit for training, however the remaining diamonds are currently unlit

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Large two-storey clubhouse with canteen, amenities, changerooms, meeting room, storage and large top deck viewing area
- ☐ Bench spectator seating servicing Diamond 1 with tiered seating on Diamonds 2-4
- ☐ No permanent shade structures on the site
- ☐ No formalised or sealed parking at the venue, however there is ample room for cars to park at the site
- ☐ Informal bus parking and turnaround area
- ☐ Limited directional and information signage
- ☐ Large awning off the clubhouse provides covered views across the facility

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Quality venue with opportunities to develop additional family-friendly facilities to improve the spectator experience
- ☐ The Association (and Council) have undertaken upgrades to facilities since ROSS Planning last conducted their site visit
- ☐ Future upgrades should focus on providing a range of spectator facilities, in particular shaded seating options
- ☐ To alleviate waterflow issues more formalised car parking would be beneficial





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
SUN1	Install shaded seating options to service the venue, including a shade structure on the viewing deck	To provide suitable shaded seating options	Short-term
SUN2	Extend backnets on all of the diamonds	To improve safety, functionality and appearance	Short-term
SUN3	Undertake a facility car parking upgrade plan. Formalise sealed car parking at the facility	To improve parking arrangements To alleviate waterflow issues that occur in heavy rain events	Short-term
SUN4	Install a playground at the venue	To ensure the venue offers family-friendly options to users and spectators	Short-term
SUN5	Undertake asbestos treatment at the clubhouse	To ensure the venue is safe for players, spectators and visitors	Short-term
SUN6	Install lighting on Diamond 2	To provide greater flexibility on gamedays To allow for evening play and limit games being played in the heat	Medium-term







# Toowoomba Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2018/19 season membership - 326 total
  - Seniors: 126
  - Juniors: 200
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - steady

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility shared with touch (and soccer on separate fields)
- ☐ Well utilised during summer season on Saturdays, except for diamond 4 being only used occasionally

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 4 diamonds, 3 fully skinned and 1 skinned base diamond
- ☐ National competition standard lighting on Diamond 1 with training-level lighting on Diamond 3
- ☐ Covered timber and metal dugouts in good condition on all diamonds
- ☐ Quality backnets on all diamonds but could be improved by replacing chainwire
- ☐ Temporary home run fencing used
- ☐ Batting cages located at Diamonds 2 and 3
- ☐ Layout somewhat disjointed due to locations of diamonds not being adjacent to each other, but reasonable accessible due to nature of the complex

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Shared clubhouse with touch, located between Diamonds 1 and 3 (but not located for viewing games) containing:
  - male and female changerooms (with showers), toilets and canteen
- ☐ Large storage shed for maintenance equipment at Diamond 3 and a smaller shed next to the canteen
- ☐ 2 small tiered seating stands (uncovered) at both Diamonds 1 and 3 and another at Diamond 2 with portable unit also available. Shade sails over bench seats also in place at all Diamonds
- ☐ Small, shaded playground between clubhouse and Diamond 1
- ☐ Large, sealed car park servicing Diamond 1 and clubhouse with access road, street parking and informal parking servicing other diamonds
- ☐ Buses use main car park for drop-off during carnivals
- ☐ Signage for the venue is currently being upgraded

## Facilities summary

- ☐ An attractive and functional venue with only minor improvements required to improve Association operations
- ☐ Operations of the Association can sometimes be constrained by other user groups
- ☐ Upgraded facilities such as backnets, field lighting and installation of a home run fence (at least on Diamond 1) are the main required improvements
- ☐ Given the facility's location within a busy sporting precinct, exposure would be increased with the proposed improved signage





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
TBA1	Update all backnets with new coated chainwire (and paint posts)	To improve safety, functionality and appearance	Short-term
TBA2	Investigate the possibility of developing a permanent, 6 foot home run fence on Diamond 1	To provide a more professional playing field, especially for higher-level games (subject to liaison with touch and Council)	Medium-term
TBA3	Upgrade field lighting on Diamond 3 to competition standard	To allow greater flexibility in delivery of competition and training options	Medium-term







# Townsville Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2019 season membership - 34 (all seniors)
- ☐ Membership trend - steady
- ☐ Membership prediction - steady

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Venue is used infrequently during the winter season, with no other sports using the site
- ☐ Council facility currently under repair due to recent flood damage
- ☐ No advice received regarding other regular events, championships/carnivals

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

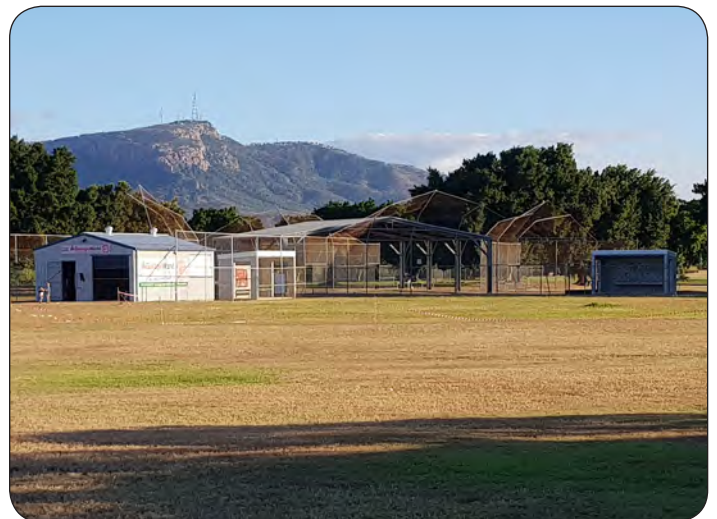
- ☐ 4 diamonds, all fully grass, with diamond 4 not currently being used (Diamonds 1 and 2 currently under repair due to recent flood damage)
- ☐ No lighting on any diamonds
- ☐ Basic, block dugouts in fair condition on Diamond 1 with uncovered bench seats at others
- ☐ Small backnets on all diamonds that will require replacing chainwire in the near future
- ☐ No permanent home run fencing due to Council restrictions, with temporary fencing used for carnivals
- ☐ No batting cages

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ No dedicated clubhouse, but medium-sized storage shed with limited facilities
- ☐ No meeting room (meetings held off-site)
- ☐ Access to public (Council) toilets that has a shower
- ☐ No permanent spectator seating but a very large shade structure centrally located between diamonds
- ☐ Significant shade trees located at all diamonds for spectators
- ☐ No playground on-site
- ☐ Medium-sized, sealed car park servicing the site with no obvious bus drop-off zone
- ☐ No signage identifying softball at entry or within site

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Currently recovering from recent, significant flood damage, the facility is in need of a range of repairs and improvements to bring it to a satisfactory standard
- ☐ The playing surfaces are of concern with a need for levelling and improved irrigation. Due to the site being an ex-landfill, any such improvements will need to consider the likelihood of ongoing subsidence and be designed appropriately
- ☐ Given the local climate, consideration should be given to the installation of field lighting to allow the Association to offer more attractive playing/training conditions





## Facility priorities

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
TVL1	Develop field lighting on Diamond 1	To allow the Association to provide a wider range of training and playing options, especially in response to the local climate	Short-term
TVL2	Continue to undertake necessary playing field improvements such as surface levelling and improved irrigation	To address the sub-standard quality of the current playing surfaces and allow their ongoing maintenance and safety	Short-term
TVL3	Upgrade backnets through (at least) the replacement of the existing chainwire	To improve functionality and safety (and general appearance of the facility)	Medium-term
TVL4	Seek funding for the replacement of equipment damaged by recent floods	To allow ongoing operation of Association	Medium-term







# Wynnum Softball Association

## Membership considerations

- ☐ 2019 season membership - 76 (all seniors)
- ☐ Membership trend - membership has remained steady for the past 3 years
- ☐ Membership prediction - membership is expected to increase with upgrades to the playing surface enabling the Association to utilise more space and additional diamonds

## Facilities summary

- ☐ Association (and Council) should continue to upgrade both the playing fields and the supporting infrastructure in order to create an attractive and inviting venue for both players and spectators (in accordance with the recently adopted Master Plan)
- ☐ Lack of external signage upon 'entry' to the site

## Facilities usage

- ☐ Council facility
- ☐ Training occurs on weekdays (during daylight hours) with clubs allowed to train at their discretion
- ☐ Competition occurs on Saturdays from 8am-5pm

## Current facilities

### Diamonds

- ☐ 5 diamonds (plus 2 Council-owned diamonds used on a seasonal license)
  - 2 skinned bases diamonds
  - 3 grass diamonds
- ☐ Covered dugouts and backnets on all diamonds
- ☐ No diamond has home run fencing or lighting
- ☐ Good diamond layout that allows patrons to freely move between diamonds

### Ancillary facilities

- ☐ Small clubhouse with canteen and administration and a separate storage shed
- ☐ Council amenities building (permanently locked)
- ☐ Limited permanent spectator seating structures
- ☐ Scattered shade trees across the venue offer natural shade for spectators





## Facility priorities

□ All actions should align with the adopted Master Plan

Reference	Action	Rationale	Priority
WYN1	Undertake upgrades to the playing surface	To ensure players have access to a safe playing surface To alleviate ground movement issues	Short-term
WYN2	Construct a new clubhouse	To provide a quality venue for all patrons	Short-term
WYN3	Install a larger storage area	To provide the venue adequate storage for maintenance equipment	Medium-term





This State Facility Strategy represents an opportunity for Softball Queensland, councils, the softball community, State and Federal Government to maintain and build upon the quality of softball infrastructure through clear planning and considered decision-making.

Implementation of the actions will require strong leadership, appropriate resources and a commitment to making some difficult decisions. Importantly, key stakeholders should ensure a co-ordinated approach to delivery of facility outcomes.

The Strategy has identified no need for new venues, instead identifying associations requiring upgrades to key ancillary facilities. Targeted association recommendations have also been included for those requiring upgrades to the playing layout or field lighting. Softball Queensland will continue to work closely with facility landlords and associations to assist and further prioritise these actions.

The recommendations presented in the implementation plan below are higher-level directives required to ensure the Strategy gains traction within the Softball Queensland community as the guiding tool for facility-related decision-making. Priorities are assigned for each action. A short-term priority recommendation should be undertaken as soon as resources allow (and within 2 years) while medium-term (within 5 years) and longer-term priorities (in the next 5-10 years) have longer timeframes attached to them.

The information provided is designed as a flexible guide - changes in user priorities or earlier opportunities for funding may alter implementation.





State-wide implementation			
Action	Priority	Lead	SQ's role
Ensure that the State Facility Strategy becomes a standing item for the Softball Queensland AGM and Conference. Discuss key outcomes and identify future actions of note (e.g. upgrades to the ancillary facilities)	Short-term and ongoing	SQ	Strategic direction
Communicate and endorse the facility hierarchy and their preferred facility requirements to softball, Council and State Government stakeholders	Short-term and ongoing	SQ	Strategic direction
<p>Encourage associations to focus on ancillary facilities rather than playing facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spectator facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– shaded seating areas for groups</li> <li>– permanent shade structures between diamonds</li> <li>– easily accessible toilets</li> <li>– retain shade trees where possible</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clubhouses/canteens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– seek functional spaces such as small canteens/servery, officials' areas and covered outdoor areas</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– investigate opportunities to incorporate additional storage within clubhouse/canteen upgrades</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Signage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– liaise with councils to improve directional signage from the local street network</li> <li>– construct attractive site entry signage</li> <li>– construct informative signage identifying diamond layout</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Short-term and ongoing	SQ Associations	Strategic direction
Prepare a simple facility development plan template that associations can complete to guide facility planning and development. Encourage the associations to use the State Facility Strategy as a guiding tool and for facility planning to become a standing agenda item at association committee meetings	Short-term	SQ	Provider
Continue to support associations seeking grants to achieve facility priorities identified in the State Facility Strategy (e.g. letters of support, providing references to preferred facility construction contractors, reviewing construction quotes, reviewing grant applications)	Short-term and ongoing	SQ Association committees	Partner Strategic direction
Encourage association committees to prepare facility renewal plans (and appropriate budgets) in association with landlords	Short-term and ongoing	SQ Association committees	Partner Strategic direction
Liaise closely with key stakeholders from identified associations where diamond consolidation may be possible. Preference is for back-to-back diamonds that allow for central clubhouse and spectator areas	Medium-term	SQ Identified associations	Strategic direction
Encourage associations to use the association-level facility requirements (tier 3) as a guide when considering facility upgrades	Medium-term	SQ Identified associations	Strategic direction
Encourage associations based in Central and North Queensland (where extreme temperatures can be an issue) to develop lit diamonds to meet demand for both association-based training and competition purposes	Medium-term	SQ Identified associations	Strategic direction
Discourage associations from undertaking facility upgrades for the purposes of attracting tournaments. Rather, temporary facilities such as home run fencing, back-nets, spectator seating, toilets and food vans should be considered on these irregular occurrences	Medium-term	SQ Identified associations	Strategic direction
Undertake an internal review of the State Facility Strategy within five years	Medium-term	SQ	Provider Strategic direction
Undertake a complete (external) review of the State Facility Strategy within ten years	Longer-term	SQ	Provider Strategic direction





## Facility classifications

Association facility	Current classification	Future directions
Brisbane (Downey Park)	<input type="checkbox"/> International/national (feature diamond only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain the feature and secondary diamonds and ensure continued access to field space for temporary diamonds
Brisbane (Meadowlands Park)	<input type="checkbox"/> Association (although includes a large number of diamonds)	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility
Bundaberg	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility (with a focus on developing playing standard lighting)
Caboolture	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as a state-level facility
Far North Queensland	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as a state-level facility (and investigate opportunities to improve drainage on the lower fields)
Gladstone	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility (and develop a fourth diamond)
Gold Coast	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure an association-level (or above) facility remains available on the Gold Coast (depending on the outcomes of the Pizze Park master plan)
Hervey Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as a state-level facility
Ipswich	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as a state-level facility (and develop bull pens/ batting cages for Diamonds 1 and 2)
Logan City	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility
Mackay	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as a state-level facility (with a vision to re-level playing fields)
Maryborough	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility (and investigate options to light two diamonds to competition standard)
Mount Isa	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility (with a focus on lighting at least two diamonds to competition standard)
Noosa	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility
Redcliffe	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as a state-level facility (with the addition of further shaded spectator areas on the northern diamonds)
Redlands	<input type="checkbox"/> International/national	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as the premier multi-diamond facility (and upgrade lighting on diamonds 4 and 6)
Rockhampton	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as a state-level facility (with a lighting upgrade to Diamond 2)
Suncoast Hinterland	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility (with a focus on developing ancillary facilities for players and spectators)
Toowoomba	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as a state-level facility
Townsville	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility (and develop competition standard lighting on Diamond 1)
Wynnum	<input type="checkbox"/> Association	<input type="checkbox"/> Retain as an association-level facility (and undertake diamond upgrades in line with the adopted master plan)





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