

## MONASH FOOTBALL (SOCCER) PLAN - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

The draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan was developed in consultation with Monash football clubs and Football Victoria (the Monash Football Forum and Football In Monash Discussion Paper). At the 23 February 2021 meeting, Council agreed to publicly exhibit the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan for further community comment/feedback.

Community consultation on the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan included:

- **A community survey**, completed on Council’s Shape Monash webpage, which was open from 7 April to 14 May 2021. The following survey link was circulated to all Monash football clubs. <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/monash-football-plan>
- **Emails and phone calls** with football clubs that sought further information and clarification on key actions posed in the draft plan.
- **April 2021 edition of the Monash Bulletin** – an article in the Monash Bulletin, distributed to all households in Monash, encouraging broader community feedback on the draft plan.

At the completion of the consultation period, a total of 17 submissions were received in response to the survey.

A summary of the survey responses is as follows:

### Q1. Respondent Postcode

Answer choices	Percent	Count
3170 – Mulgrave, Waverley Gardens	29.41%	5
3150 – Glen Waverley, Brandon Park & Wheelers Hill	11.76%	2
3149 – Mt Waverley, Pinewood & Syndal	11.76%	2
3145 – Malvern East, Darling, Caulfield East	5.88%	1
3165 – Bentleigh East	5.88%	1
3056 – Brunswick	5.88%	1
3168 – Clayton, Notting Hill	5.88%	1
3111 – Donvale	5.88%	1
3125 – Bennettswood, Burwood, Surrey Hills South	5.88%	1
Not provided	11.76%	2

## Q2. Respondent User Type – What best describes you?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Club coach	23.53%	4
- Parent of junior player/players	23.53%	4
- Club committee member	17.65%	3
- Not involved in a club, but wanted to have a say	17.65%	3
- Club member (social member)	11.76%	2
- Club member (player)	5.88%	1
- Other		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>17</b>

## Q3. To what extent do you agree with the guiding principles Council has used to develop actions in the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan?

Guiding Principles	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION Inclusive and flexible football participation opportunities, including social and modified formats	82.35% (14)	5.88% (1)	11.76% (2)
HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES Football facilities that meet modern standards and are durable, fit-for-purpose and inclusive	82.35% (14)	5.8% (1)	11.76% (2)
SUSTAINABLE CLUBS Monash football clubs that are successful, viable and committed to serving the broader Monash community	82.35% (14)	17.65% (3)	0

## Q4. Unsupportive feedback on the guiding principles include:

	Percent	Count
- Instead of exploring the introduction of new participation opportunities that are more affordable, Council should be addressing the issue of increasing costs of already high seasonal fees and coaching programs	5.88%	1
- Insufficient need to justify the cost of “high quality facilities”, nor the requirement for clubs to be “successful”.	5.88%	1

## Q5. To what extent do you agree with the actions on Community Participation proposed in the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan?

Community Participation Actions	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree
1.1 Council to expand its community activation program and partner with clubs to grow non-traditional modes of participation, such as walking football, small-sided games and all-abilities programs.	76.47% (13)	17.65% (3)	5.88% (1)
1.2			

1.2 All football clubs to provide flexible and affordable membership options that cater for casual and informal play.	82.35% (14)	17.65% (3)	0
1.3 All Monash football clubs to commit to increased opportunities for women and girls to participate, including the establishment of participation targets for clubs.	100% (17)	0	0
1.4 Council to develop a plan for multi-use facilities that can accommodate junior programs, futsal and small-sided football games and activities.	100% (17)	0	0
1.5 Council to explore the site suitability of new synthetic football pitches, including partnerships with schools, that can be allocated by Council to all clubs, 12 months of the year.	88.24% (15)	0	11.76% (2)

**Q6. To what extent do you agree with the actions on High Quality Facilities proposed in the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan?**

<b>High Quality Facilities Actions</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
2.1 Subject to external funding and Council budget adoption, all lit football pitches in Monash to meet minimum floodlighting standards for community level training by 2031.	94.12% (16)	5.88% (1)	0
2.2 Subject to external funding and Council budget adoption, surface upgrade projects to occur at Davies Reserve, Gardiners Reserve, Argyle Reserve, Tally Ho Reserve and Carlson Reserve, including upgrades to pitch irrigation and drainage.	70.59% (12)	29.41% (5)	0
2.3 Explore the feasibility and suitability of pavilion amenity upgrades at Mayfield Park, Tally Ho Reserve and Southern Reserve.	64.71% (11)	35.29% (6)	0
2.4 Subject to external funding and Council budget adoption, pavilion redevelopments to occur at Carlson Reserve, Brandon Park Reserve and Gardiners Reserve.	82.35% (14)	17.65% (3)	0
2.5 Clubs and Council to explore external State and Federal Government funding opportunities for investment into Senior NPL facilities at relevant venues.	82.35% (14)	5.88% (1)	11.76% (2)

**Q7. To what extent do you agree with the actions on Sustainable Clubs proposed in the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan?**

<b>Sustainable Clubs Actions</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
3.1 All football clubs to participate in the Active Monash Sports Clubs Framework to build capacity and improve broader community and social outcomes.	100% (17)	0	0
3.2 Establish a Working Group to guide the development of Third Party Arrangement Principles for agreements between clubs and commercial operators, coaching academies and businesses.	76.47% (13)	17.65% (3)	5.88% (1)
3.3 Council to prioritise the allocation of pitches to community level participation over elite pathway academies and commercial coaching entities.	88.24% (15)	5.88% (1)	5.88% (1)
3.4 Jack Edwards Reserve and Gardiners Reserve to service the community as Monash's only two Senior NPL venues.	47.06% (8)	35.29% (6)	17.65% (3)
3.5 All Monash football clubs to commit to increased diversity at committee level, including representation from women and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.	100% (17)	0	0

**Q8. Unsupportive feedback on the actions of the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan include:**

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
- Not supportive of synthetic pitches	11.76%	2
- Freeway Reserve should be added into the list of sites proposed for a surface upgrade in the plan	5.88%	1
- Belief that limiting only 2 NPL venues will mean smaller clubs will be neglected for facility improvements	5.88%	1
- Concerned about no available funding for Community Participation initiatives	5.88%	1
- Would like more focus in the plan on facility improvements in the Mulgrave area	5.88%	1
- Would like more focus on a dedicated football precinct that is the home of no particular club	5.88%	1

**Q9. Summary of items that people like most from the overall Monash Football (Soccer) Plan**

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
- Supportive of proposed facility upgrades	23.53%	4
- The plan covers several important facets, including growing female participation and non-traditional modes of football	23.53%	4
- Supportive that the plan was developed after consultation with clubs and community	11.76%	2
- The plan supports the opportunity to explore new venues and participation opportunities	11.76%	2

**Q10. Additional comments or feedback regarding the overall Monash Football (Soccer) Plan**

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
- Supportive of more synthetic pitches in Monash	11.76%	2
- Would like leash-free status to be removed from Jack Edwards Reserve	11.76%	2
- Supportive of the plan focusing on lighting and pitch upgrades for football training	11.76%	2
- Healthy focus on community level football	11.76%	2
- Opportunity for increased focus on non-club and unstructured football participation opportunities for Monash families	5.88%	1
- Appears fair	5.88%	1
- Would like Ashwood Reserve included in the list of priorities for football investment projects	5.88%	1
- Would prefer a more holistic approach to sport in Monash, as opposed to just focusing on football (soccer)	5.88%	1

**Q11. Gender of respondents and/or family members they are representing**

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Male	53.06%	26
Female	46.94%	23
Other/non-binary	Nil	Nil

1. Please list your postcode:	2. Please select the option that best describes you:	If you disagree with any of the actions, please explain why.	Tell us what you most like about the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan.	Any other comments or feedback regarding the draft Monash Football (Soccer) Plan.	Officer Comments
3170	Club committee member	We would like Freeway Reserve to be considered for a surface upgrade project. Freeway Reserve has poor drainage and a poor surface which the tenant club (Brandon Park) are required to look after and preserve in order to host matches at this venue. Brandon Park FC have had to look at hiring external venues for training in order to preserve the pitch in order to play matches.	The plan was developed through consultation with the clubs. Important topics were discuss between all clubs and key issues were raised. From there, the draft Monash Football plan was developed. It's also really great to see the close working relationship between Monash council and the clubs.		Freeway Reserve is now mentioned in the list of recommended surface upgrade projects in the final plan (action 2.2).
3170	Parent of junior player	Limiting only 2 venues for NPL - when we should try and develop more venues that are lacking the facilities. The big clubs are only getting bigger and charge huge fees - in particular NPL for juniors. The smaller clubs lack the facilities that needs the investment and facilities improvement.	Seek new venues that we can have small sided games and community use.	A new venue - perhaps on a smaller scale something similar to KNOX cages that the community can use. Not everything has to be structured and to join clubs just to play football. Encourage all to play football and focus on participation and facilities. Focus on community, social soccer, small sided football.	The plan seeks to increase non-traditional participation formats in Monash to encourage both club and non-club participation.
3056	Club member (social member)	The only consideration is there appears to be no additional funding available for Community Participation? When only 41% of Monash residents play with local Clubs - is a lack of Community Participation or promotion causing this? Or is it the Clubs themselves not offering the right environment, facilities or product?	Focus on upgrading facilities	Appears fair	Through this plan, Community Participation outcomes will be strived for in partnership with clubs and Football Victoria.
3111	Club member (player)		Upgrading of local reserves to better soccer grounds for all to use	Please UPGRADE ASHWOOD RESERVE INTO A BETTER SOCCER GROUNDS, the reserve has single handedly provided inclusion and diversity to various multicultural groups with various soccer tournaments and sporting events held during the year e.g. Victorian Sikh Association	The Monash Football Plan considers all venues in Monash that accommodate structured and unstructured football participation.
3150	Club coach			We need more synthetic soccer pitches and lighting. Five a side synthetic pitches alongside an 11 a side full size pitch at Ashwood reserve would be great!	The plan gives Council, clubs and Football Victoria greater onus to explore opportunities for additional synthetic pitches in Monash.
3165	Club coach		Its a well planned work and covers all the facets needing current attention;	Competition/Program: Elite Soccer (NPLV) Club Effected: Oakleigh Cannons FC / Chisholm United FC Issue: Ground (Grass) constant and weekly damages Cause: Dogs digging creating holes/ extraction burning grass creating uneven surface areas Problem: Safety issues of Players during training and game days; Possible Risk Management/Insurance issues/claims	Request to remove leash-free status at Jack Edwards Reserve noted.  New Action (2.6) proposed to review the dog off leash status at senior NPL venues as part of the Domestic Animal Plan (2021-25).

				Solution: The Grass ground area to be dedicated to Elite Football. Eliminate dog park	
3145	Club committee member		It covers a diverse section of community football , both elite and community	Council needs to allocate JE grass ground solely for football and eliminate the use of it as a Dog Park , this is an extremely serious issue which all council offices are aware of with photographic evidence , the damage that is caused daily on the ground ( ditches , holes and burnt sections of the ground due to dog urine and faeces is not acceptable for elite soccer and especially accommodating the National Premier League standard that the Cannons are part of . This could become a safety issue for our players during training and game day and it has been highlighted on numerous occasions, council may be liable if a serious injury occurs. Please take this issue as extremely serious	Request to remove leash-free status at Jack Edwards Reserve noted.  New Action (2.6) proposed to review the dog off leash status at senior NPL venues as part of the Domestic Animal Plan (2021-25).
3170	Parent of junior player	Improvements on all facilities in the Mulgrave area are required especially in the Haverbrack Estate. Most venues mentioned completely ignore Mulgrave as usual. We are the forgotten part of Monash.	Club access to woman's and girls.	Focus on lighting in areas such as Gladeswood reserve to slow night train in winter months. 2 to club rooms there for soccer clubs, facility needs to be upgraded too.	All football pitches in Mulgrave have been considered in the development of the plan. The plan also gives Council the onus to seek external funding opportunities for floodlighting.
	Club coach		I especially like the inclusion of different modes of football and to diversify into girls and womens football. As such, provision of fit for purpose venues and pavilions to provide gender-friendly facilities is very important.		Noted
3168	Club coach	We should have a dedicated precinct to provide a venue that is not associated with any single football clubs. Jack Edwards Reserve is associated with Oakleigh Football club and Gardiner's reserve is associated with Eastern lions. We need a dedicate Venue that can be used by any club for 12 months of the year. I am associated with a Fijian base community sports and we are often unable to obtain Venues for sports and recreation for the Fijian Community.	The fact that Monash have taken first steps towards creating a soccer hub		Action 1.5 in the plan gives Council the onus to explore sites that can be allocated by Council to all clubs, 12 months of the year.
3170	Parent of junior player		Focus on community clubs. Improvement to playing services.	It reads well. I agree on the focus on community clubs. Some clubs are spread over several grounds. If the opportunity arises to consolidate grounds into one location it should be investigated. E.g. Capital Reserve could be redeveloped to contain several pitches.	Action 1.5 in the plan gives Council the onus to explore sites that can be allocated by Council to all clubs, 12 months of the year.
3149	Not involved in a club but wanted to have a say		The plan seem to satisfy the need of a society to develop its future sport force and a healthier life, which match my expectation.		Noted

3150	Club committee member		The fact that we have the opportunity to have input in the future develop of football in the Monash Area	I think we need to consider the installation of more synthetic pitches. For example, Brandon Park Reserve is a prime location for a synthetic upgrade. Other municipalities have done so - Narre Warren and Gardiner Res have recently done so. The closest we have is Knox - more synthetic facilities would be a suggested priority	Action 1.5 from the plan gives Council the onus to explore the site suitability of new synthetic football pitches, including partnerships with schools, that can be allocated by Council to all clubs, 12 months of the year.
	Parent of a junior player	I think that the council should be able to accommodate access to pitches for the elite and community level soccer, there is no reason why one needs to take precedent over another. It is only through the development of players in the elite academies that will enable the sport to grow and for players reach their full potential.	Upgrading of facilities and pitches is desperately needed in the City of Monash. When driving around the council boundaries there is a stark difference between the facilities and pitches for AFL and Cricket as opposed to those for soccer. It is timely that the council looks to support the many young people that participate in soccer in the municipality.	The council has spent considerable funds on the excellent pavilion at Caloola Reserve but the pitch is still of very poor quality. Consideration should be given to upgrading the pitch at this facility as well.	Several pitches have been prioritised in the plan for a surface upgrade project based on Council's capital works priorities.
3170	Club member (social member)				
3125	Not involved in a club, but wanted to have a say	Benefits of synthetic pitches are marginal but the environmental cost large. These should be avoided  Council should focus its funding efforts on community sport not NPL		A more holistic sports plan should be adopted rather than just focusing on soccer. Council should support a variety of sports and help all sports integrate. Singular focus on soccer has a negative impact overall on diversity, especially considering it is one of the worst sports for female participation.	Benefits of synthetic pitches can be quite significant given the all-year participation benefits that synthetic surfaces can bring, especially for a sport such as soccer which relies heavily on the surface condition and rollability. This plan is one of a series being developed for Monash, including tennis, football (soccer), cricket and Australian rules football.
3149	Not involved in a club, but wanted to have a say	Use of synthetic turf and dedication to soccer reduces other needs in the community (such as dog recreation areas that are non-existent in Mount Waverley).			Planning for any synthetic venues will be considerate of broader community needs, including leash-free areas where appropriate.