

# IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

The WAFC Strategic Facilities Plan is an aspirational 10-year plan designed to be practical and realistic in its implementation, with key actions to be delivered between 2020 to 2030. Stakeholder wide commitment to implementation, communication, cooperation, involvement and ownership of recommended priority areas and supporting actions will be essential to the future sustainability and growth of football.

## IMPLEMENTATION 2021

STRATEGY	NO.	RECOMMENDATION	2021	COMMENT
<b>Getting more out of existing facilities</b>	1.1	Work collaboratively with local government to ensure all clubs have access to training standard lights.	✓	Communications between the WAFC and the LGA's was very good in 2021, with solid relationships formed with applicable LGA staff members. 5 venues achieved training standard lighting levels
	1.2	Work collaboratively with local government to increase the number of venues with match capable lighting.	✓	As above. However, whilst the relationships have improved, commitment to funding projects remains difficult. 12 venues achieved match standard lighting levels.
	2.1	Prioritise the upgrade and conversion of player change rooms and umpire amenities to cater for all gender use.	✓	Great Northern Football League retrofit of all seven (7) clubs will be replicated in South West Football League and Goldfields Football League in 2022. Project planning underway.
	2.2	Support the delivery of AFL preferred modular change rooms in key regions to meet amenity provision gaps and provide stakeholders with a high quality, cost efficient option.	—	No new modular facility projects commenced in 2021. However, WAFC worked closely with Ausco (AFL modular partner) to initiate positive discussions with relevant LGA's interested in modular construction.
	3.1	Identify projects where ground capacity and participation can be increased by upgrading playing surfaces through improved drainage, irrigation and grass types.	—	One project of this nature was identified though will not be completed until early 2022. This project is near One Arm Point in the Kimberley and is being achieved via a successful Kimberley Planning Commission Grant. Project due for completion early 2022.
<b>Enhancing relationships with our stakeholders</b>	4.1	Establish a Local Government Reference Group to be the key consultative forum.	✓	Now that this group is set up, three (3) meetings per annum will be scheduled.
	4.2	Establish Communication and Engagement Plan for Local Government.	✗	Not achieved in 2021.
	4.3	Work with Local and State Government to establish a State-wide Project Framework and Regional Plans for priority regions.	—	Not specifically focused on to this point.
	5.1	On behalf of leagues and clubs, the WAFC to have a greater involvement in the planning, funding and delivery of projects involving local government.	✓	WAFC has provided clubs a greater level of support than previously. EM Facilities and Manager – Facilities and Government Relations are close to all major projects.
	5.2	Provide ongoing training, education and facility planning tools to leagues and clubs that enables them to understand the process and requirements for securing funding for an infrastructure project.	—	Remains an ongoing work-in-progress- Facilities and Government Relations proactive in guiding clubs through funding applications.

**KEY:** ✓ Achieved — Work in progress ✗ Not achieved

STRATEGY	NO.	RECOMMENDATION	2021	COMMENT
<b>Enhancing relationships with our stakeholders</b>	6.1	Using the preliminary findings in the WAFL Facilities Review, undertake a business case that further identifies the commercial needs and opportunities at WAFL facilities.	—	Not applicable until 2022, however, Business case has commenced to increase the WAFL Facilities Fund to a minimum of \$1m per annum.
	6.2	Establish suitable alternate grounds to ensure all WAFL and Talent programs are catered for.	—	Subiaco Oval user agreement for WAFL State Talent programs to commence utilising the playing surface, however, alternate WAFL venues still very much a work-in-progress.
<b>Develop facilities that meet demand and to establish a home for football for the WAFL</b>	7.1	Partner with LGAs on the future planning and development of football facilities to accommodate future population growth.	✓	Regular LGA meetings have been held, with a key topic of conversation being future population oval requirements.
	7.2	Partner with metropolitan LGAs and the education sector for shared access to new or existing facilities.	—	A specific strategy to utilise school grounds will be included in the 2022 objectives.
	8.1	Undertake a detailed review of country football facilities and identify suitable locations for the establishment of regional football hubs.	—	Annual facility audits completed and submitted to the AFL. Ongoing process, however, sites such as Hands Oval in Bunbury and Broome Recreation & Community centre are two (2) identified potential hubs.
	9.1	Commence planning and support from relevant stakeholders and agree on a site for the future home of the WAFL.	—	site preference for the WAFL Board is Subiaco Oval, however, feasibility is a concern at this point. Ongoing discussions between WAFL and the State Government will provide a solution in 2022.

<b>KEY:</b>	✓ Achieved	— Work in progress	✗ Not achieved
-------------	------------	--------------------	----------------

## SUMMARY

Following the launch of the WAFL's Strategic Facilities Plan (2020-2030) in mid-2020, positive steps were taken in 2021 in terms of completing Female Facilities and Lighting projects. 12 lighting projects were completed (target of 11) and 16 Female amenities upgrades were completed (target of 14) which was a great result in the first full year of the Facilities plan being delivered upon.

The WA Facilities team provided support to 42 projects, managed by Local Government and football clubs in 2021. 15 projects received funding via the AFL Facilities Fund and WAFL Facilities support budget. In total, the AFL Facilities Fund committed \$1.2M to support WAFL Facility projects in 2021.

The Strategic Facilities Plan has a very strong focus on enhancing community facilities, though also has AFL Tier 2 status as an objective. Leederville and Fremantle Ovals were identified by the WAFL and AFL as the preferred venues to host televised evening AFLW and AFL Mens Pre-season fixtures, requiring a minimum of 1000 lux lighting. Leederville Oval is currently part of the WA Government's Community Sports & Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) process, with the City of Vincent very supportive of the overall goal for the venue. Fremantle Community Bank Oval is undergoing a detailed business case for a broader facility redevelopment, and 1000 lux lighting forms part of those discussions between the WAFL, South Fremantle Football Club and the City of Fremantle.

Of the other WAFL facilities, East Fremantle Football Club move temporarily to the WACA ground for 2022 as their headquarters undergoes an approximate \$35m redevelopment. Likewise, Perth Football Club's home at Lathlain Park has approval for a \$15m redevelopment of their facility which will incorporate space for community usage. All other WAFL venues have plans in place to develop their facilities; Claremont (lighting), Swan Districts (Large scale redevelopment and lighting), West Perth (Lighting) and Peel Thunder (Additional facilities and enhanced lighting).

Regionally, plans for a \$15m redevelopment at Hands Oval in Bunbury continue to progress and this will make the venue a high quality hub for football in the South West region. Other important projects will be undertaken in the South West Football and Goldfields Football Leagues, with changeroom shower retrofitting making both of these leagues inclusive for all participants. Discussions have also commenced with the Shire of Broome over a new sports facility at the Broome Recreation & Aquatic Centre, with a focus on building a Leadership and Learning Centre within the overall precinct.

Announced in late September, the AFL and WA State Government committed a combined \$5,000,000 across five (5) years towards delivery of the Kimberley Football Strategy. Infrastructure is an important component of the strategy as illustrated by the following facility objectives;

1. Develop a five year capital expenditure plan to consider key locations, community need, gaps and funding partners
2. Identify specific projects to upgrade and improve lighting in all Kimberley regional centres and remote communities
3. Establish a Centre of Excellence in Broome to support the development of players, umpires, coaches and administrators

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- As per the 2022 Operational Plan's performance measures, an increase to the WA Football Facilities Fund from \$100,000 per annum to a minimum of \$1,000,000 has been approved. This amount will be matched by the AFL and will be administered via a set of application guidelines. Details of the fund and its application will be distributed to the WA football industry. Previously, WAFL has been able to offer nominal contributions to such things as Business Cases and Feasibility studies, so this fund will allow WAFL to support projects that are 'stuck' due to local government and club funding shortfalls.
- To have completed a Feasibility Study and Business Case on the proposed WAFL Future Home, including principle support from the State Government. At present, the WAFL has seven (7) years remaining on our lease at Tuart College and, whilst this is currently providing a very suitable home for WA Football, the intention is to return to Subiaco Oval provided it is feasible to do so.
- 12 lighting projects and 16 female retrofitting (amenities) projects are the targets for 2022