

# IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

The West Australian Football Commission (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 2022

STRATEGY	NO.	RECOMMENDATION	2022	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.	✓	WAFC continued to work collaboratively with Local Government Authorities (LGA's) throughout 2022. WAFC had a booth at the 2022 WA Local Government Convention & Trade Exhibition which was great to meet with multiple local governments face to face and allow for questions and information.
	1.2	Work collaboratively with local government to increase the number of venues with match capable lighting.	✓	As above, with 17 venues achieving training/match standard lighting levels.
	2.1	Prioritise the upgrade and conversion of player change rooms and umpire amenities to cater for all gender use.	✓	Local Governments continue to play a key role in this process. 12 venues achieved changeroom upgrades across 2022 to cater for all gender use. Retrofit projects are ongoing with the South West and Goldfields Football Leagues, due for completion in 2023.
	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.	—	Whilst no modular facility projects were achieved in 2022, one is due to be on the ground in 2023. This Ausco product will provide an opportunity for other local governments to walk through a finished product and we will continue to advocate this.
	3.1	Identify projects where ground capacity and participation can be increased by upgrading playing surfaces through improved drainage, irrigation, and grass types.	✓	The irrigation project at One Arm Point in the Kimberley has been completed with great success. The West Kimberley Football League will be looking to fixture games there from 2023. Further projects have been identified to upgrade drainage, irrigation, and grass types at other venues.
<b>Enhancing relationships with our stakeholders</b>	4.1	Establish a Local Government Reference Group to be the key consultative forum.	—	WAFC is working to reinstate this group towards the end of 2023.
	4.2	Establish Communication and Engagement Plan for Local Government.	✓	This is now active and in place.
	4.3	Work with Local and State Government to establish a State-wide Project Framework and Regional Plans for priority regions.	—	WAFC continues to build on our Facilities WIP document, working and communicating closely with Local and State Governments on projects and funding. A regional specific facilities plan is also being developed for the Kimberley and will be completed in 2023.
	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 Manager Facilities and Government Relations continues to provide a greater level of support to leagues and clubs regarding all projects. WAFC will drive projects on behalf of football stakeholders.
	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. WAFC continues to be proactive in guiding clubs through funding applications and providing key contacts for projects.

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

STRATEGY	NO.	RECOMMENDATION	2022	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.	—	WAFL Facilities review is being updated for 2023. Four (4) WAFL venues are currently going through planning and redevelopment works.
	6.2	Establish suitable alternate grounds to ensure all WAFL and Talent programs are catered for.	—	WAFL clubs have been active in identifying suitable alternate grounds to ensure their programs are catered for. WAFC are also in the final phases of confirming a permanent home for the State Talent Program.
<b>Develop facilities that meet demand and to establish a home for football for the WAFC</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. Further presentations are also being done for regional sports forums.
	7.2	Partner with metropolitan LGAs and the education sector for shared access to new or existing facilities.	—	Further work is being done with the AFL to activate more school grounds for community sport use.
	8.1	Undertake a detailed review of country football facilities and identify suitable locations for the establishment of regional football hubs.	—	Further work continues in this space. Annual audits completed for all facilities.
	8.2	Commence planning and support from relevant stakeholders and agree on a site for the future home of the WAFC.	—	Ongoing conversations with the State Government regarding the site at Subiaco Oval and potential other locations.

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

A further 17 lighting projects (target 12) and 12 changeroom upgrade (target 16) projects were completed during 2022 across facilities utilised by football clubs which continues to deliver on the Strategic Facilities Plan. Some projects suffered delays through the ongoing impacts that COVID has had on the building industry and will be reflected in the 2023 report.

Following the 2021 AFL Grand Final being held in WA, the AFL committed \$1 million as a legacy to improve football facilities across the state. The WAFC matched this commitment, to develop the 2022 WA Football Facilities Fund. This fund was committed to 50 projects and will deliver over \$90 million worth of infrastructure. To date, three of these projects have successfully been completed with a further 30 projects due for completion in 2023. Following the success of the 2022 WA Football Facilities Fund, the WAFC and AFL are working towards a further \$2 million commitment for a 2023 WA Football Facilities Fund.

Along with this fund, the WAFC have committed further to facilities in WA, with the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan reflecting Facilities and Infrastructure as a key pillar, and an additional staff member being identified to assist in the facilities coordination.

Of the WAFL facilities, the \$35 million redevelopment of East Fremantle Oval is progressing, and further work continues with the AFL, State Government and City of Vincent to deliver 1000 lux lighting at Leederville Oval. Claremont Oval's lighting upgrade has been completed, and lighting upgrades at Bassendean Oval and HBF Arena are progressing. Further planning works and design development continues for the redevelopment of Lathlain Park and Fremantle Oval.

2022 also saw the Lakelands Park Sporting Complex in Mandurah named the winner of the prestigious National Project of the Year as part of the AFL's annual Ken Gannon Community Football Facilities Awards. The \$7.9 million dollar project with 10 hectares of open space in the City of Mandurah consists of three senior reserves, competition-standard lighting at all three ovals, AFL goal posts and an inclusive district level sports facility that meets AFL guidelines.

Regionally, the redevelopment of Hands Oval in Bunbury is progressing. Further work continues to be done with the South West, Goldfields and Peel Football Leagues regarding changeroom retrofits to make them suitable for all athletes. As part of the Kimberley Football Strategy, forums, consultation, and site visits have been taking place to build towards developing the Kimberley Football Facilities Plan. The plan is due to be completed in 2023 and will consider key locations, community needs and gaps for facilities in the region, with the aim to guide investment and future facility projects.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

- Further \$2 million commitment from AFL and WAFC for 2023 WA Football Facilities Fund.
- Confirmed site for the WAFC Future Home to allow detailed planning and design to get underway.
- Minimum two (2) AFL Tier 2 venues identified and works progressing in WA.
- Investigate a Hybrid/Synthetic Business Case with identified LGA partner.
- 11 lighting projects and 15 inclusive changeroom projects are the targets for 2023.
- Successful delivery of the WAFC PILA Goal Post subsidy program.