

Link to South Australia's **Strategic Plan Objectives**

Increased use and ongoing development of 'fit-for-purpose', accessible recreation and sport facilities will contribute to the following targets:

Objective 1: Growing Prosperity

Tourism industry	Increase visitor expenditure in South Australia's tourism industry from \$3.4 billion in 2001 to \$5.0 billion by 2008 by increasing visitor numbers and length of stay and, more importantly, by increasing tourist spending. (T1.13)
Strategic infrastructure	Increase investment in strategic areas of infrastructure, such as transport, ports and energy to support and achieve the targets in South Australia's Strategic Plan. (T1.16)

Objective 2: Improving Wellbeing

Healthy South Australians	Increase healthy life expectancy of South Australians to lead the nation within 10 years. (T2.2)
Overweight	Reduce the percentage of South Australians who are overweight or obese by 10% within 10 years. (T2.6)
Sport and recreation	Exceed the Australian average for participation in sport and physical activity within 10 years. (T2.7)

Objective 5: Building Communities

Regional infrastructure	Build and maintain infrastructure to develop and support sustainable communities in regions. (T5.11)
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Objective 6: Expanding Opportunity

Aboriginal wellbeing	Reduce the gap between the outcomes for South Australia's Aboriginal population and those of the rest of South Australia's population, particularly in relation to health, life expectancy, employment, school retention rates and imprisonment. (T6.1)
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Background

Provision of facilities and funding

Recreation and sport providers include the three levels of government and a range of community and private sector organisations. The majority of recreation and sport facilities are provided and maintained by State and local government (approximately 40% state and 50% local). Australian Government funding for facility development is minimal in comparison, and declining.

The State Government is responsible for the management and operation of 10 significant level recreation and sports facilities. The State Government supports elite sport through the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) and other government funding programs and services.

Private sector support is predominantly in the areas of fitness, learn to swim and alternative sports, but remains relatively minor in terms of facility provision. The majority of this support is sponsorship and focuses on the management and marketing of elite sport.

Current infrastructure

South Australia has 308 facilities catering for international, national, state and regional level sporting competitions, events and training for 87 different sports. Of these, 225 are classified as being of regional level. The users of these facilities come from a wide catchment.

Most international, national and state standard facilities are located in the metropolitan area. There are many more local level facilities throughout the state such as school courts, local ovals, community sports fields and recreation centres.

Community trends and expectations

South Australia aims to exceed the Australian average for participation rates in sport and physical activity. Currently almost half of the adults in South Australia are not being active enough to gain health benefits.

More than 40% of Australian adults are overweight or obese, and national trends indicate that these conditions are on the increase. Obesity among children and across all age groups of the Indigenous population is of increasing prevalence and concern. Improving the level of physical activity through sport and recreation is one way to overcome this problem.

Modern lifestyles have resulted in a trend away from team sports to individual sports and unstructured physical activities. The most popular are walking, aerobics/fitness, cycling, swimming, golf, tennis and running. The number of spectators at elite sports events is on the rise, but attendances at 'week-to-week' sporting competitions in which the elite players are not involved are decreasing.

Sports clubs and associations and participants in sport at a local level have an expectation that facilities will be developed and equipped to a reasonably high quality, and expectations are growing. Standards for international and national level facilities are consistently improving to assist elite sport development and performance.

Challenges and Opportunities

Asset Management and Maintenance

Ageing infrastructure, increasing maintenance requirements and development expectations will need to be addressed if the state's sports and recreation facilities are to be maintained as 'fit for purpose', and to meet both the changing needs of the community and legislative requirements.

The burgeoning participation in unstructured recreational pursuits, particularly among young people, is placing additional demands on community facilities to become multi-purpose.

To be sustainable, facilities should be accessible, flexible and multi-use and be capable of being used day and night and in adverse weather conditions. Consideration in this context must also be given to the diversity of the population, including issues associated with obesity and ageing, and the needs of Indigenous people, migrants and people with disabilities.

Strategic Priorities

- Refocus the design, provision and distribution of appropriate recreation and sporting facilities throughout the state to improve access to and use of them at the community level.
- Achieve greater coordination between State and local governments and the private sector to develop sustainable, multi-use and adaptable facilities to meet changing community needs.

National and International Events

The state has a contractual commitment to host the 2007 World Police and Fire Games. South Australia has also secured a number of additional national and international sporting events in the next three years (e.g. track cycling, rowing and the Oceanic championships) and is pursuing a number of others (e.g. golf, BMX, table tennis, rugby union and league, hockey and lacrosse).

South Australia can build upon the success and reputation of successful major sporting events, e.g. the Tour Down Under and National Track Cycling Championships. Additional facilities for criterium racing and mountain-bike riding, and ongoing development of the Superdrome will help position Adelaide as Australia's premier cycling destination.

Strategic Priorities

- Ensure South Australia has sporting facilities capable of hosting international and national events.
- Improve coordination between State Government agencies and the sports industry to attract and retain major sporting events.

Community Level Recreation and Sports

The following infrastructure needs have been identified in community level facilities:

- Pool facilities – there are three indoor pools in the metropolitan area and an inequitable distribution of 50-metre indoor pools in the state. Within metropolitan Adelaide, some areas lack 25-metre indoor pools while other areas experience some duplication.
- Indoor courts – there is an inequitable distribution of indoor courts for community use (e.g. suitable for basketball, netball and badminton). Some areas lack such facilities; others have an oversupply, which makes maintaining quality a challenge. New courts developed for schools are often three-quarter size, making them unsuitable for use by the broader community.
- Recreational trails – continued sustainable development of the state recreational trails network is required to meet the growing demand for unstructured recreation, particularly walking and cycling, and to support tourism initiatives.
- Soccer pitches – an increase in the popularity of soccer, particularly among girls, has resulted in a deficiency of pitches in the metropolitan area.

There are also opportunities to increase use of the state's existing facilities including the expansion and greater use of key sporting hubs to meet the needs for elite level sporting facilities e.g. State Sports Park, ETSA Park and Santos Stadium.

The increased use of government land and buildings, particularly education facilities, will help meet community recreation and sport needs. This can be facilitated by improved partnerships between State and local governments and community organisations.

South Australia is well placed to capture the growth in popularity of unstructured recreational activities (predominantly walking and cycling) through the state trails network e.g. Mawson Trail, Riesling Trail, Coast Park, River Torrens Linear Park, Heysen Trail and Yurrebilla Trail.

Strategic Priorities

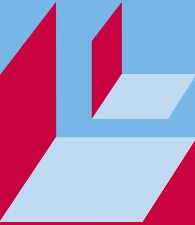
- Develop cross-government policy and design guidelines to ensure local school sport facilities maximise school and community use.
- Promote the shared use and take up of existing publicly-owned sporting infrastructure through partnership opportunities between state and local government.
- Support the development of local and regional recreation and sport and open space strategies.
- Focus community level funding towards areas with demonstrated needs and identified infrastructure priorities e.g. community level swimming pools, indoor courts, recreational trails and soccer pitches.
- Review the provision and distribution of public pools and indoor recreation and sport centres.

Projects

Project	Priority #	2005/6– 2009/10	2010/11– 2014/15	SASP Targets
Increase the capacity and quality of government facilities				
Redevelop SASI's elite sporting facilities within a strategically located sports precinct * Lead – State Government	2		*	2.2 2.7
Continue development of Eagle Mountain Bike Park to provide for public use, state and national competition Lead – State Government	2	*		2.2 2.7
Develop the state's recreational trails network Lead – State Government	3	*	*	1.13 2.2 2.7
Provide accommodation in association with major sporting hubs (e.g. State Sports Park) Lead – private sector	3		*	1.13 2.2 2.7
Improve existing facilities				
Facilitate greater use of public school facilities by community sporting groups Lead – State Government	1	*	*	2.2 2.6 2.7
Facilitate the maintenance of and improvements to existing outdoor pools Lead – local government	2	*	*	2.2 2.7
Redevelop the western grandstand facilities at Adelaide Oval Lead – community sector	3		*	2.2 2.7
Develop new infrastructure				
Develop a State Aquatic Centre at Marion for international and national competition Lead – Australian Government, State Government, local government. (subject to funding commitment)	1	*		1.13 2.7
Provide a permanent criterium cycling track for international, national and state competition Lead – State Government	2		*	1.13 2.2 2.7

* Lead – lead responsibility for promoting, developing and evaluating the project.

Priority – preliminary rankings. Priority numbers do not represent a final commitment by the State Government or other lead entities. See the Delivering the Plan section for further details.



Recreation And Sport