



Torquay Hockey Club

SYNTHETIC HOCKEY PITCH FEASIBILITY REPORT

FINAL I May 2015

inside **EDGE**
sport and leisure planning

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive summary

The Torquay Hockey Club Synthetic Pitch Feasibility Report was commissioned by the Surf Coast Shire, prepared by sport and recreation industry consultants (*insideEDGE* Sport and Leisure Planning) with support from the Torquay Hockey Club. The key purpose was to investigate the potential feasibility of providing a floodlit synthetic hockey pitch within Torquay for use by the rapidly expanding Torquay Hockey Club and other compatible community uses.

The preparation of the report and associated findings has included consultation with Shire staff, hockey stakeholders (at local, regional and state levels) and with the Surf Coast Secondary College. It includes research into existing regional hockey infrastructure provision, hockey participation trends, local and regional sport structures and the identification of current and future needs.

The Torquay Hockey Club is one of three new hockey clubs established in Victoria in the past decade and a key club within the growing Geelong hockey network. The Torquay Hockey Club currently train at the Torquay Sports Precinct and play competitive matches at Stead Park in Geelong. The Club has grown to 11 teams and 156 players in five years, with growth attributed to its friendly, welcoming and professionally managed organisation that focuses on providing a range of opportunities for beginners, juniors and adults. The club has extensive connections within and throughout the local community and is considered by the hockey community as a national success story for the sport.

Executive summary

The Torquay Hockey Club is outgrowing its training base and will be under pressure within the next five years to cater for continued growth in the sport locally, given its attractiveness and unique proposition to a broad age group and to boys, girls, men and women.

This report identifies a need for an additional synthetic hockey pitch to be developed within the G21 region within the next 5 to 10 years, based on infrastructure and population ratio planning and the current provision and access to existing hockey pitches in the Geelong area. However, ratio planning does not account for the rapid development of the Torquay Hockey Club. If growth projections continue, demand for a synthetic hockey pitch within Torquay to service the Surf Coast Shire and into neighbouring Armstrong Creek for hockey, touch rugby and other school and community uses could be justified within the next 3-5 years.

Travel times to existing Geelong based pitches for regular training and matches, creates barriers to local hockey growth. The Geelong Hockey Association is supportive of the need for an additional pitch within the Association and would assist to accommodate local competition scheduling at Torquay. New regional participation initiatives being developed by Hockey Victoria to create greater localised involvement in hockey will also be piloted and delivered over the coming years, and will likely create additional positive demand for hockey in Torquay and from surrounding townships.

Executive summary

Site specific investigations into potential siting options of a synthetic hockey pitch in Torquay were conducted at four sites; Surf Coast Secondary College, Torquay Sports Precinct, The Quay and Connewarre Reserve. The Surf Coast Secondary College and Torquay Sports Precinct were the two most preferred options.

Following a project stakeholder workshop held on 1st October 2014, the Surf Coast Secondary College site firmed as the preferred location due to key partnership opportunities between club, school and Council, the likely availability of land within the next 3 to 5 years, capacity to utilise existing school support amenities, the limited impact on existing community infrastructure and ability to provide increased capacity to service the expected growth in student population over the coming years.

Preliminary costs to develop a floodlit synthetic hockey pitch at the Surf Coast Secondary College are estimated to be between \$1.5 and \$1.8 million. Project funding would need to be sought from multiple partners including State Government, Surf Coast Shire, education sector and community partners.

The Torquay Hockey Club, with support from Hockey Victoria, the Geelong Hockey Association and the Surf Coast Secondary College firmly believe that hockey will further prosper through the Surf Coast Shire with the development of a synthetic hockey pitch and believe that significant community, sport and social benefits can be derived from such a project.

Executive summary

Key benefits of developing a synthetic hockey pitch in Torquay highlighted through this report include:

- Supports further local growth in sports participation, particularly hockey
- Contributes to broader G21 sport, event and regional development
- Generates community infrastructure balance and equity between sports
- Generates hockey tourism and increases visitation outside of peak holiday periods
- Reduces travel barriers and cost to individual participants
- Supports increased skill development and pathway connections for young players
- Promotes multi and maximised use of community infrastructure
- Creates a significant partnership between sport, government and community stakeholders
- Assists in supporting the Torquay Sports Precinct build-out and attracting external investment.

This report recommends that a detailed business case be developed to further explore the feasibility and timing of construction of a synthetic hockey pitch in the G21 region, potentially in Surf Coast Shire, with consideration of the overall viability of other hockey facilities in the region. It is recommended that a detailed business case include technical site investigations, management plan, outline designs and quantity surveyor costs be developed to fully understand long-term use and viability of a synthetic hockey pitch, and realistic funding models that consider Hockey Victoria advocacy to Victorian Government for facility development priorities across the state.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project objectives

- **The key project objective is to identify the need, cost and potential viability of providing a full-size synthetic hockey pitch within Torquay**, primarily to support local hockey activities and development, and to provide a home for the Torquay Hockey Club (THC).
- **The project's key deliverables** include:
 - Review of available potential sites for any proposed pitch and associated amenities
 - Identification of the local drivers for hockey demand in Torquay and surrounding areas
 - Identification of the existing travel barriers to participation in hockey within the G21 region
 - Assessment of the strategic and geographic context for the provision of a synthetic hockey pitch in Torquay
 - Recommendation(s) on the likely way forward for the potential provision of a synthetic hockey pitch in Torquay.

Project methodology

The following methodology has been employed to deliver the project objectives and deliverables:

- Project commencement meeting and briefing with Surf Coast Shire (SCS) and THC
- Visit identified potential sites and undertake a site options analysis
- Review background information on Torquay Hockey Club
- Conduct a postcode and demographic analysis of existing Hockey Victoria registered players
- Identify potential hockey growth areas in G21 Region
- Conduct consultation with Surf Coast Shire, Torquay Hockey Club, Hockey Victoria/Australia, Geelong Hockey Association and Surf Coast Secondary College
- Develop a **Preliminary Findings Report** - identifying key project objectives, needs, triggers, benefits, limitations, capacity and impacts of proposed sites
- Workshop with key sport, government and community stakeholders to present and discuss Preliminary Findings Report and agree next steps
- **Final report and recommendations** (this report)

OVERVIEW OF STATE AND REGIONAL HOCKEY AND THE KEY DRIVERS OF DEMAND

Hockey Victoria's future direction to 2016

- Increasing the number of people playing hockey to 25,000.
- Introducing the sport to over 150,000 school aged children through Hookin2Hockey and school clinic programs.
- Investing 15,000 hours working directly with Clubs and Associations on increasing the number of accredited coaches and umpires by 25%.
- Achieve recognition from stakeholders as a leader in fostering safe, welcoming and inclusive hockey environments.
- Growing the game in every aspect which will result in success for everyone involved in Victorian hockey.



Victorian hockey participation

An analysis of ERASS and Hockey Census data for organised and non organised hockey, and Hockey Victoria registered player and team information data has informed the following summary of hockey participation in Victoria.

Participation and penetration rates

- 2008 Census revealed there were 90,579 hockey players in club and modified competitions in Australia. This was a decrease of 12.91% from 2007.
- Based on ERASS data - 48,983 people indicated that they participated in some form of hockey activity in Victoria in 2011 (organised and non organised).
- In Victoria almost 18,000 registered players were recorded in 2007. Latest Hockey Victoria data indicates player registrations have increased to over 21,000 in 2013 (over 15% growth).
- According to ERASS the participation rate for adults (15+) in organised hockey activities in Victoria is estimated at 0.6% (10 year average from 2001 to 2010), which is below the national average of 0.9%.
- Based on 2013 Hockey Victoria registered player numbers (21,375) and the current Victorian population figures (2014), the estimated penetration rate for hockey across Victoria is 0.4% of the total population.

Key Participation Areas

Hockey Victoria manage a range of hockey competitions and programs, with their affiliate Clubs and Associations offering members a variety of membership options. The following information analyses the composition of registered hockey players by membership type and the key trends.

Summary of Hockey Victoria registered players

- Of the 21,375 registered players in 2013, 8,520 are Senior players (40%) and 7,033 (33%) are Juniors.
- The *Hookin2Hockey* program currently represents 11% (2,384) of the total playing membership.
- There are currently 1,651 (7%) registered Veteran participants in Victoria.
- Increasing junior participation numbers is a core objective of Hockey Victoria.



Hockey Victoria 2013 registered player type

The Hockey Player Market

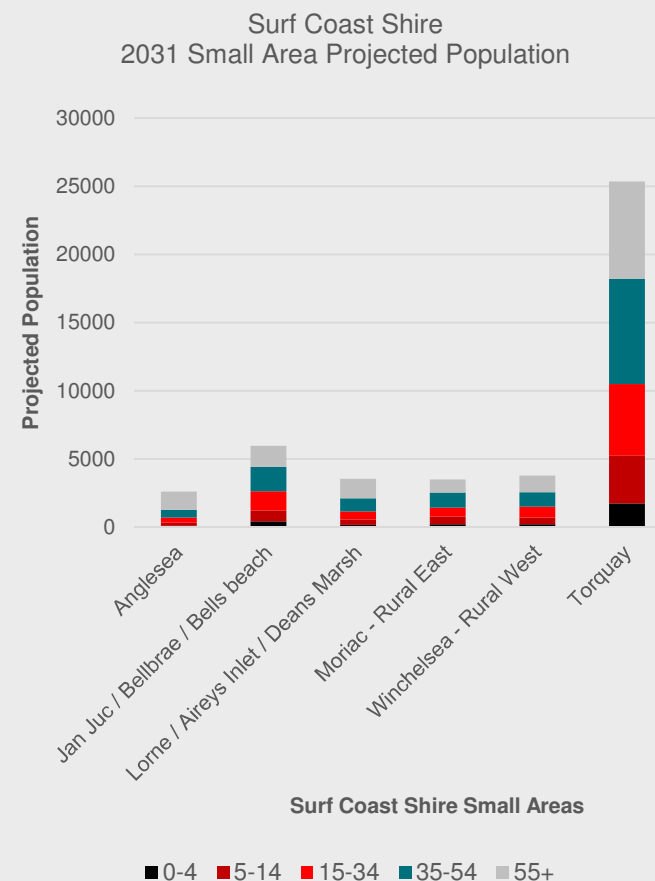
The hockey player profile in Victoria

- ERASS data indicates that approximately 2.6% of the Victoria population (over 15 years in age) between the ages of 15 to 24, followed by 35 to 44 (1%) and 25 to 34 (0.9%).
- In reality, Hockey Victoria registered player data indicates the strongest participation rates for hockey are between the ages of 10 and 17, with over 1,000 registered ten year olds recorded (5% of the total player numbers) – this indicates strong potential demand for future 11 and over age groups and junior competitions.
- Of the 21,375 registered hockey players in Victoria 55% are males and 45% are females.
- There is a increasing trend towards masters and veterans hockey for both male and female players, retaining them in the sport longer and players returning to the game after taking time out.



The typical hockey player in the Surf Coast Shire

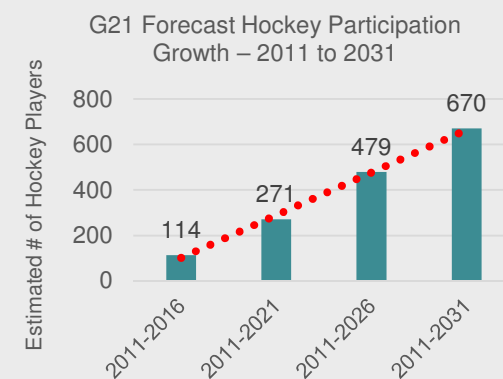
- With hockey being predominantly played by participants aged between 10 and 34, the adjacent graph indicates (shades of red) the Surf Coast Shire small areas likely to generate the largest volume of hockey participants and hence the demand for provision of hockey facilities.
- Not surprisingly given the higher population, the area of Torquay and neighbouring Jan Juc are forecast to experience the largest number of 10-34 year olds to 2031, supporting potential growth in hockey within key age playing cohorts.
- With 65% of current Torquay Hockey Club members residing within Torquay, the adjacent population growth suggests that the Club would be well positioned to capture more of this local market in the future.



G21 projected hockey participation growth

As depicted by the tables below and adjacent graph, the G21 Region is forecast to experience an estimated growth of 670 Hockey players between 2011 and 2031. The City of Greater Geelong will continue to produce the largest volume of additional hockey players (78% of players across G21 Region), with the Surf Coast Shire forecast to produce an additional 87 hockey players between 2011 and 2031.

The largest spike in participation growth is likely to be between 2021 and 2026, with a forecast 208 additional hockey players, as new land development areas continue to be built-out.



| LGA | 2011-2016 (estimated number of players and % growth) | | 2011-2021 (estimated number of players and % growth) | | 2011-2026 (estimated number of players and % growth) | | 2011-2031 (estimated number of players and % growth) | |
|---------------------|---|-----|---|-----|---|------|---|------|
| Greater Geelong | 87 | 5% | 207 | 11% | 367 | 20% | 524 | 28% |
| Surf Coast Shire | 16 | 8% | 37 | 17% | 65 | 30% | 87 | 40% |
| Golden Plains Shire | 10 | 7% | 27 | 17% | 43 | 27% | 50 | 32% |
| Colac Otway Shire | 1 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 7 | 4% | 12 | 7% |
| Queenscliffe | 0 | -1% | -2 | -8% | -3 | -14% | -3 | -15% |

| Five Year Period | Additional G21 Hockey Players |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2011-2016 | 114 |
| 2016-2021 | 156 |
| 2021-2026 | 208 |
| 2026-2031 | 184 |
| Total | 670 |

Structure of Hockey in Victoria

The THC sits within Hockey Victoria's Western Metropolitan Region, comprising of 14 clubs and recording 2,180 registered members (2013 seasonal figures). More specifically the THC is affiliated with the Geelong Hockey Association (GHA), which is made up of nine local clubs.

During the 2013 season the average club membership for the Western Metro Region was 155 and the THC represented just over 5% of total regional player registrations.



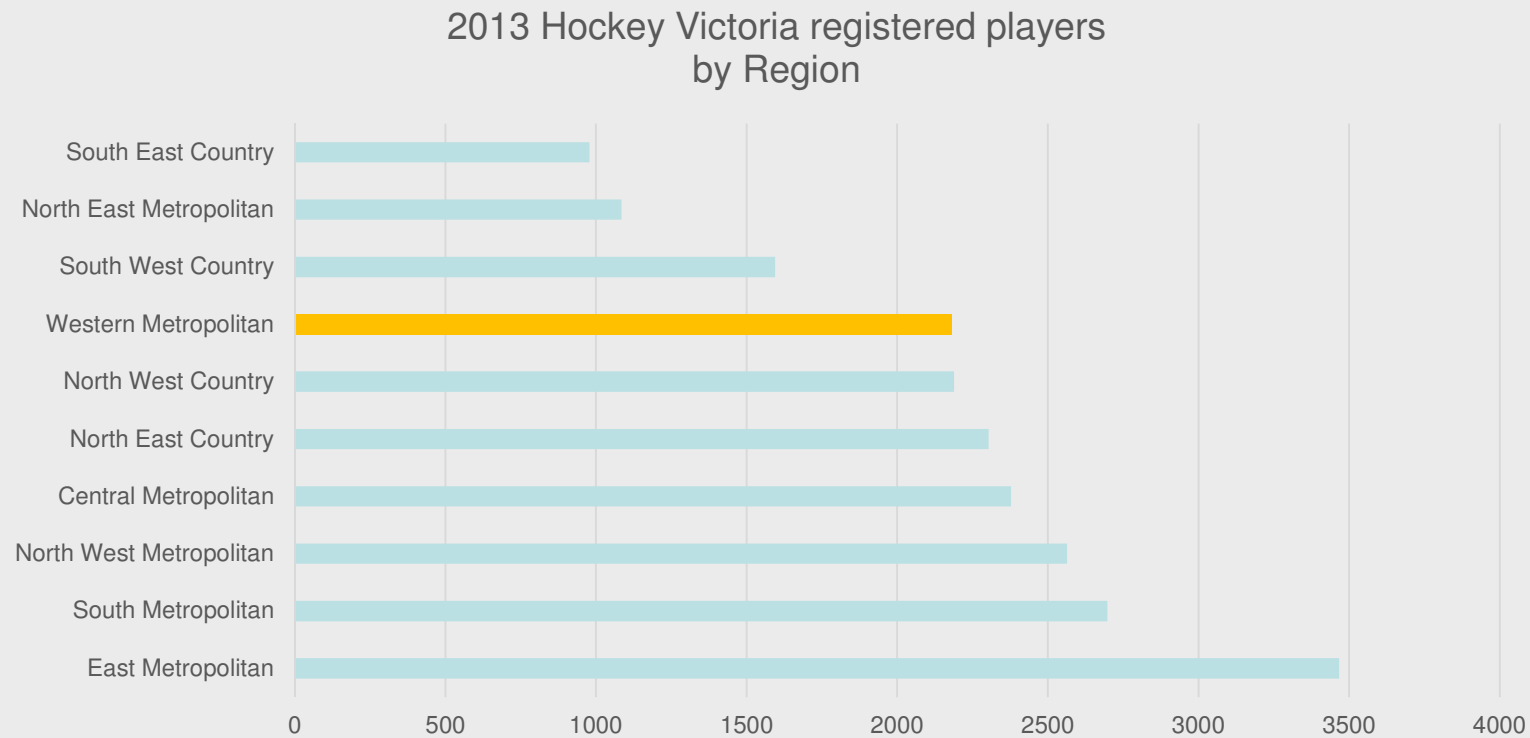
Hockey in Victoria's Western Metropolitan Region

Hockey in Victoria is divided into 10 Regions (six metropolitan and four regional country zones). The Torquay Hockey Club is affiliated with the Geelong Hockey Association, which forms part of Hockey Victoria's Western Metropolitan Region.

Below are some key facts and figures relating to Hockey in the Western Metropolitan Region based on 2013 Hockey Victoria data:

- Hockey Victoria's Western Metropolitan Region comprises of 14 clubs
- 2013 registered members totalled 2,180 (approximately 10% of the State's membership)
- The 2013 average Club membership number is 155 (Torquay Hockey Club currently has 156 members)
- The GHA have 10 affiliated clubs and 60 teams participating in the 2014 winter competition (*Data on 'St Ignatius College' is unknown*)
- In 2013 the GHA had 583 registered players across all affiliated clubs
- Torquay Hockey Club contributed 20% of the 2013 GHA player base

Regional hockey participation across Victoria



GHA 2014 club participation overview

| Club Name | Home Ground | # of Teams 2014 | % of Total GHA Teams (2014) | # of Players 2014 | # of Players 2013 | % of Total GHA Players (2013) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bellarine Hockey Club | Stead Park | 4 | 6.5% | TBC | New club | N/A |
| Corio Hockey Club | Stead Park | 3 | 5% | TBC | 30 | 5% |
| Geelong College | Geelong College | 2 | 3.5% | TBC | 37 | 6.5% |
| Geelong Hockey Club | Stead Park | 5 | 9% | TBC | 46 | 8% |
| Golden Plains Hockey Club | King Lloyd Reserve / Stead Park | 4 | 6.5% | TBC | 35 | 6% |
| Kardinia International College | Stead Park | 7 | 11.5% | TBC | 55 | 9.5% |
| Newtown City Hockey Club | King Lloyd Reserve | 17 | 28% | TBC | 175 | 30% |
| Saints Hockey Club | Stead Park | 7 | 11.5% | TBC | 89 | 15% |
| St Ignatius College | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| Torquay Hockey Club | Stead Park / King Lloyd Reserve | 11 | 18.5% | 156 | 116 | 20% |
| TOTAL | - | 60 | 100% | 583 | 583 | 100% |

SNAPSHOT OF THE TORQUAY TORNADOES HOCKEY CLUB

Torquay Hockey Club



Established in 2010, the Torquay 'Tornadoes' Hockey Club has evolved from a single U/13 mixed team, to a club boasting 11 teams (156 players) in 2014. Attributing recent growth in membership numbers to a friendly, welcoming and professionally managed club atmosphere, the club is one of the fastest growing hockey organisations in the country.

On-field, the THC coaches aim to develop a better understanding of tactics in their players through developing skills in an enjoyable, family-friendly environment, tailored to their level of ability. Off-field the club prides itself on its quality sports management and club development approach.

The club has developed a strong link and partnership with the Surf Coast Secondary College (415 pupils), which is key provider of junior players and a supporter of the local hockey pathway development program facilitated through the school and the club.

Providing opportunity for junior through to senior hockey competition, the THC train at a local grass football oval (part of the Surf Coast Shire Precinct in Torquay) and play home and away matches at several locations including the Geelong Hockey Complex (Stead Park) in Corio, King Lloyd Reserve in Newtown and Geelong secondary school facilities including Geelong Grammar and Geelong College.

Torquay Hockey Club

The Torquay Hockey Club, in only five short seasons has achieved significant growth in both junior and senior hockey participation (and particular in female growth), growth that has not been seen in other areas across the state.

Since 2005, Hockey Victoria reports that only three new hockey clubs have been established within Victoria. The clubs are the Torquay Hockey Club (Surf Coast Shire), Bellarine Hockey Club (City of Greater Geelong) and the Golden Plains Hockey Club (Golden Plains Shire) – all three of which are based in the G21 region, indicating some of the strongest growth in hockey of any region in Victoria.

The Torquay Hockey Club have identified a number of reasons for their Club's growth:

- Thriving nature of sport on the Surf Coast
- Gender equity
- Inclusiveness
- Support from the sport
- Social capital
- A sustainable model of growth

Torquay Hockey Club

Sport on the Surf Coast: The Surf Coast Shire's participation in sport is amazing across a number of sports, with active participation akin to the lifestyle that residents enjoy. Sports with strong local participation include Australia Rules football, netball, soccer, basketball and surf lifesaving, with touch football also emerging as a popular local activity. The Torquay Hockey Club understands this creates a challenge for the Surf Coast Shire, however many other municipalities would love to have local community sport thriving. Hockey is just another example of community sporting growth.

Gender equity: A primary driver for Torquay Hockey Club's growth is that the club has had an equal emphasis on both female and male participants.

Inclusiveness: The club also offers a sporting opportunity to all levels of ability and does not focus just on winning. The feedback received from parents is inclusiveness and participation is a primary reason for our growth. We have an emphasis on having fun – the primary motivator for people (and particularly children) to participate in active sport.

Support from Hockey Victoria: The club has enjoyed significant support from Hockey Victoria over the past five years. An example of this was in 2013 when a series of clinics in the Surf Coast Shire resulted in 40 new juniors joining the club and the doubling in size in one year.

Torquay Hockey Club

Social Capital: The Torquay Hockey Club has worked very hard to develop social capital within the club. When the club started there was one coach and one hockey family. The club now has 8 coaches, numerous volunteers, 6 umpires and strong administration support.

A sustainable model of growth: The Torquay Hockey Club has had a very structured model to enable sustainable growth. Each year additional steps are taken to strengthen the club. For example in 2013 the club fielded its first senior teams and grew significantly in juniors. In 2014 the club added to that strength by fielding a first division women's team and doubling senior female participation. The development of a home ground will be a future step in the process of being sustainable.

Torquay Hockey Club activities

The THC currently uses and accesses the following facilities for the following range of training and competition activities.

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Men's Division 1 | 18 rounds plus 3 finals | Stead Park |
| Men's Division 2 (1) | 18 rounds plus 2 finals | Stead Park |
| Men's Division 2 (2) | 18 rounds | Stead Park |
| Women's Division 1 | 18 rounds | Stead Park |
| Women's Division 2 | 18 rounds | Stead Park |
| Under 17 | 14 rounds | Stead Park |
| Under 13 Torquay | 13 rounds | Stead Park |
| Under 13 Tornados | 13 Rounds | Stead Park |
| Under 11 Torquay | 14 rounds | Lloyd Reserve (Newtown) |
| Under 11 Torquay | 14 rounds | Lloyd Reserve (Newtown) |
| Under 9 Minki | 14 Rounds | Lloyd Reserve (Newtown) |

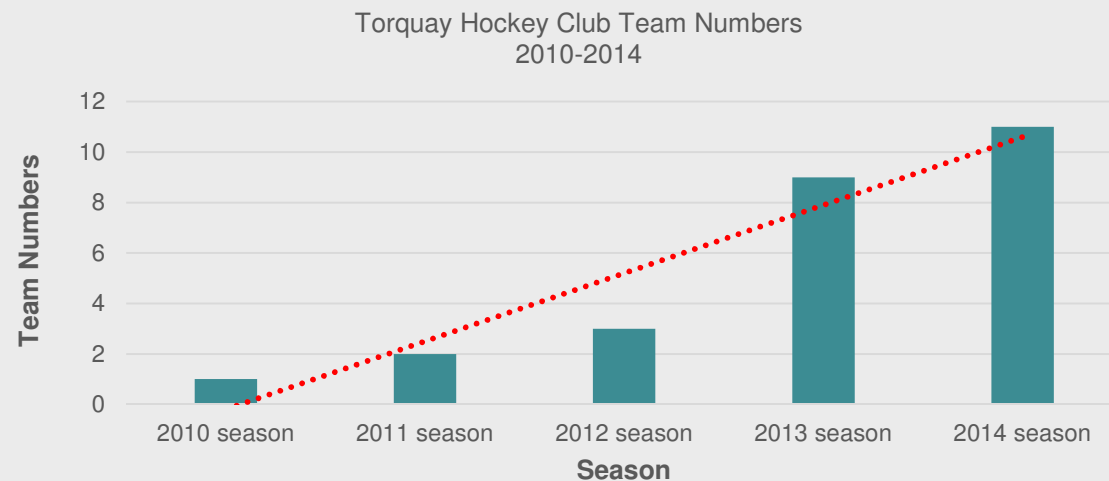
Over the course of the 2014 season, all THC Men's, Women, Under 13 teams also played some games at Geelong College and Geelong Grammar until the new second pitch at Stead Park was opened in July.

THC training is conducted from March to September on Wednesday's for 3 hours every week at the Torquay Sports Precinct, on grass oval used for touch rugby and AFL.

Torquay Hockey Club team numbers

| Teams | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------------|-------|
| Year | Men's | Women | U/17 | U/15 | U/13 | U/11 | Minkey U/9 | Total |
| 2010 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 2011 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| 2012 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| 2013 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 2014 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | 11 |

The significant rise in team numbers has delivered a penetration rate of 0.36% for Hockey Victoria registered members residing within the Surf Coast Shire, which is only slightly below the state average of 0.4%.

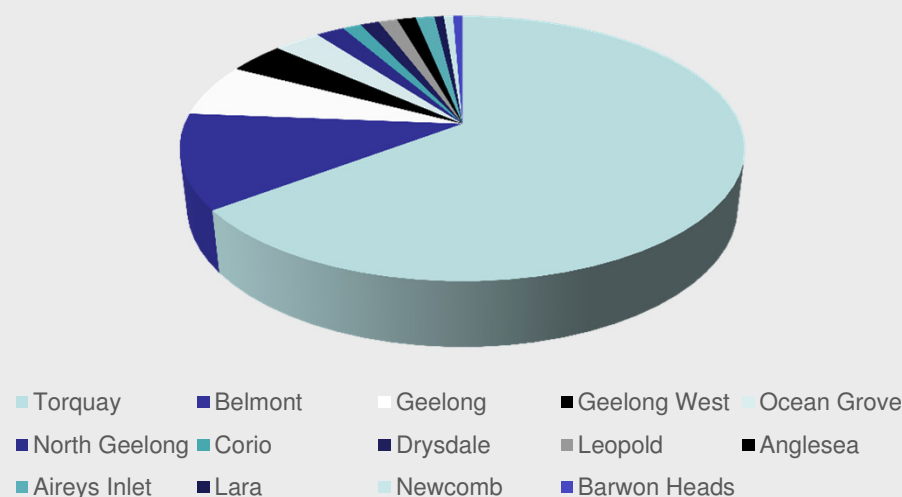


This indicates potential for future growth. It also indicates that Torquay is performing almost to the state average without the same levels of facility access afforded to other areas across Victoria.

Torquay Hockey Club member catchment (2014)

| Postcode | Suburb | # of Members |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 3228 | Torquay | 101 |
| 3216 | Belmont | 18 |
| 3220 | Geelong | 10 |
| 3218 | Geelong West | 6 |
| 3226 | Ocean Grove | 5 |
| 3215 | North Geelong | 3 |
| 3214 | Corio | 2 |
| 3222 | Drysdale | 2 |
| 3224 | Leopold | 2 |
| 3230 | Anglesea | 2 |
| 3231 | Aireys Inlet | 2 |
| 3212 | Lara | 1 |
| 3219 | Newcomb | 1 |
| 3227 | Barwon Heads | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 156 |

Torquay Hockey Club Member Catchment by Postcode of Residence



Approximately 65% of the THC's 2014 membership reside within the Club's hometown of Torquay. 67% of the THC's 2014 members are from the Surf Coast Shire, with the remaining 33% residing the City of Greater Geelong. Only 6 current members reside in the northern suburbs of Geelong, the location of the only community synthetic hockey pitch within the G21 region.

Torquay Hockey Club member catchment (2014)

- **Approximately 65% of the THC's 2014 membership reside within the Club's hometown of Torquay.**
- 67% of the THC's 2014 members are from the Surf Coast Shire, with the remaining 33% residing the City of Greater Geelong.
- Only 6 current members reside in the northern suburbs of Geelong, the location of the only community accessible synthetic hockey pitches within the G21 region.
- Only 4 players reside in Surf Coast Shire areas outside of Torquay. Given the majority of the Shire population outside of Torquay are located to the South-West and inland West of Torquay, pitch locations in North Geelong do not support growth of the sport into areas such as Anglesea (48km from Stead Park), Aireys Inlet (58km) and Lorne (77km) due to distance.
- The Surf Coast Secondary College will be a key market from which to grow hockey participation locally – in 2014 their pupil numbers were 415, with aspirations to grow to 920 students within the next five years to 2020.

THE HOCKEY FACILITY LANDSCAPE


Hockey facilities in Victoria

- There are currently 66 hockey venues and 80 hockey pitches provided across Victoria.
- Of the 66 hockey venues in Victoria, 38 (58%) are located in Metropolitan Melbourne and the remaining 28 (42%) are located in country areas.
- There are approximately 60 synthetic hockey pitches and 20 grass pitches. The majority of grass hockey pitches are located in regional Victoria.
- There is a mixture of sand filled, water based and hybrid pitches across the state – the majority being sand filled.
- The map on the following page identifies the location and type of venue for all known hockey facilities in the West Metro Zone (pink), home of Geelong Hockey Association. This does not include Geelong Grammar and Geelong College synthetic pitches.





Hockey facilities in the G21 Region


| LGA | Synthetic Hockey Pitches | 2014 Population | Facility Provision Ratio | 2024 Population | Facility Provision Ratio | Benchmark Pitch Provision Ratio |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Greater Geelong | 4* | 224,266 | 1 : 56,067 | 268,793 | 1 : 67,198 | 1 : 100,000 population / 300 club members |
| Surf Coast Shire | 0 | 29,247 | - | 39,211 | - |  |
| Golden Plains | 0 | 20,673 | - | 25,467 | - | |
| Colac Otway | 0 | 21,126 | - | 23,513 | - | |
| Queenscliffe | 0 | 3,072 | - | 3,255 | - | |
| G21 Region | 4 | 298,384 | 1 : 74,596 | 360,239 | 1 : 90,060 | |

*Assumes access to Geelong Grammar and Geelong College pitches.

The above table indicates that based on general benchmarks that the G21 is currently well serviced by synthetic pitches, with a pitch to population ratio of 1 to 74,596. However, if we assume the two school pitches are unavailable (for whatever reason), this ratio would blow out to 1 to 112,133. This ratio would continue to increase to 2024 should no new synthetic pitches be built in the region.

The following slide also indicates that the Western Metropolitan and South West Country Zones (of which the Surf Coast Shire is a part of) are likely to be under provided for in terms of synthetic hockey pitches by 2026.

Hockey facilities in Hockey Victoria's Western Metropolitan and South West Country Zones

| Hockey Victoria Zone | Synthetic Hockey Pitches | 2011 Population | 2011 Facility Provision Ratio | 2026 Population | 2026 Facility Provision Ratio | Benchmark Pitch Provision Ratio |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| HV Western Metropolitan Zone | 8 | 745,556 | 1 : 93,195 | 994,332 | 1 : 124,292 | 1 : 100,000 population / 300 club members |
| HV South West Country Zone | 2 | 178,516 | 1 : 89,258 | 212,150 | 1 : 106,075 |  |
| Combined HV Western Metropolitan and South West Country Zones | 10 | 924,072 | 1 : 92,407 | 1,206,482 | 1 : 120,648 | |

Note: HV's **Western Metropolitan Zone** comprises of the following LGAs: Brimbank, Greater Geelong, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong and Wyndham.

HV's **South West Country Zone** comprises of the following LGAs: Warrnambool, Surf Coast, Southern Grampians, Queenscliffe, Moyne, Golden Plains, Glenelg, Colac Otway and Corangamite.

Data from **both Zones has been included** in the above table due to the fact the Torquay Hockey Club form part of the Geelong Hockey Association, recognised in HV's Western Metropolitan Zone, however the G21 Region LGAs of Surf Coast, Golden Plains Colac Otway and Queenscliffe form part of HV's South West Country Zone.

Hockey Facilities in the G21 Region

Geelong Hockey Complex

Stead Park, Corio

Two synthetic pitches



King Lloyd Reserve

Windsor Road, Newtown

One grass pitch



GEELONG HOCKEY GROUNDS

Find addresses and maps to hockey grounds in Geelong. For schedules and results details for [hockey clubs](#) near you.

Geelong College

Address: Rankin Field, Claremont Avenue, Newtown, Victoria 3220 [Read more](#)

Geelong Grammar

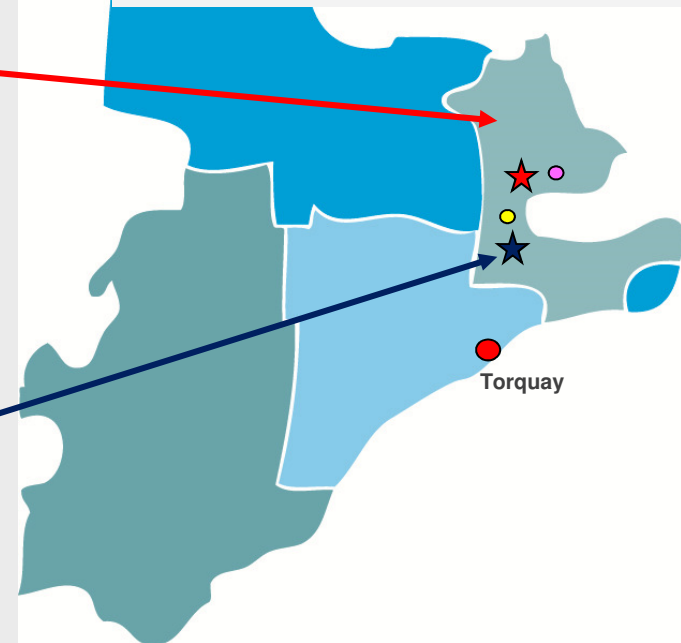
Address: Foreshore Road, Corio, Victoria 3214 [Read more](#)

Lloyd Reserve

Address: King Lloyd Reserve, Newtown, Victoria 3220 [Read more](#)

Stead Park

Address: St Georges Road, Corio, Victoria 3214 [Read more](#)



Sport facility ratios in the Surf Coast Shire

| Sport | Number of grounds / courts / pitches | 2014 Surf Coast Shire Population | Facility Provision Ratio | Number of registered competition / club participants (residing in Surf Coast Shire) | Ratio of participants to grounds / courts / pitches |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Australian Rules Football | 6 | 29,247 | 1 : 4875 | 1,658 | 1 : 276 |
| Basketball | 4 | 29,247 | 1 : 7311 | 630 | 1 : 158 |
| Netball | 8 | 29,247 | 1 : 3655 | 551 | 1 : 68 |
| Soccer | 3 (2 grass, 1 synthetic) | 29,247 | 1 : 9749 | 355 | 1 : 118 |
| Tennis | 64 | 29,247 | 1 : 457 | 389 | 1 : 6 |
| Hockey | 0 | 29,247 | - | 105 | - |
| Average(s) | - | 29,247 | 1 : 5209 | 614 | 1 : 125 |

Based on key sport facility to participant ratios, the provision of a dedicated hockey pitch within the Shire would be close to the average ratios across other sports, being 1:125. Any further growth in Surf Coast Shire based hockey participants would see hockey reaching higher than average ratios, challenging the need for greater equity in facility provision across a range of active local sporting activities.

SITE OPPORTUNITIES

Options development

- **Four preliminary site opportunities (or options) have been identified** for detailed investigation into their appropriateness and viability to accommodate the development and operation of a synthetic hockey pitch.
- Connewarre Recreation Reserve, Dans Road, Connewarre
- The Quay Reserve, Horseshoe Bend, Torquay
- Torquay Sports Precinct, Surf Coast Highway, Torquay
- Surf Coast Secondary College, Surf Coast Highway, Torquay
- A summary of site strengths and considerations for each site is provided on the following pages.

Connewarre Recreation Reserve, Connewarre



Connewarre Recreation Reserve – strengths

| Strengths | Strengths |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant land and open space on which to develop, while maintaining existing natural turf areas to sustain existing sporting use/uses. • Sporting fields and potential hockey pitch have the opportunity to connect to existing community infrastructure, however existing change rooms are inadequate to support hockey use. • Car parking and access to overflow parking areas appear more than adequate to accommodate increased Reserve usage. • Given the existing provision as a natural turf sporting field with limited visible constraints, it is likely that synthetic pitch development could be cost effective if ground conditions are favourable. • Limited adjacent land area constraints and limited adjacent residents who would be potentially be impacted. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the site is located outside of Torquay (13km), the site location has good proximity to the Armstrong Creek growth area and Bellarine Peninsula residential areas |

Connewarre Recreation Reserve – considerations

| Considerations | Considerations |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing community infrastructure (community hall), while in place, is not configured to support sporting ground usage. Limited connection to any potential food/beverage provision and spectator accommodation. Existing change facilities and toilets are inadequate to support hockey pitch usage. No provision of sports field lighting indicates additional power supply costs may apply. Reserve specified as a Local Level Reserve - Hockey facilities require a District or Regional Level site for optimum viability, exposure and catchment. Synthetic hockey pitch development does not form part of the existing Connewarre Recreation Reserve Master Plan. Distance from Torquay (13 km) and the main SCS residential population – would create increased travel by THC players, with combination of travel to training outside of Torquay, as well as travel to competition venues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location may limit use potential and inability to promote and drive weekday use by schools from the Torquay area, due to bus in-out requirements. Isolated site, which is not ideal for the synthetic pitch development, management and security. Site isolation is likely to have a negative impact on training attendances due to travel, limited amenity and reliance on vehicle transport, which limits junior player accessibility. Limited site visibility, which is secluded by mature trees – ideally the site would have main road prominence and proximity. Potential displacement of <i>some</i> existing use by Soccer, AFL and Cricket. No public transport access is available to the site. |

The Quay, Horseshoe Bend, Torquay



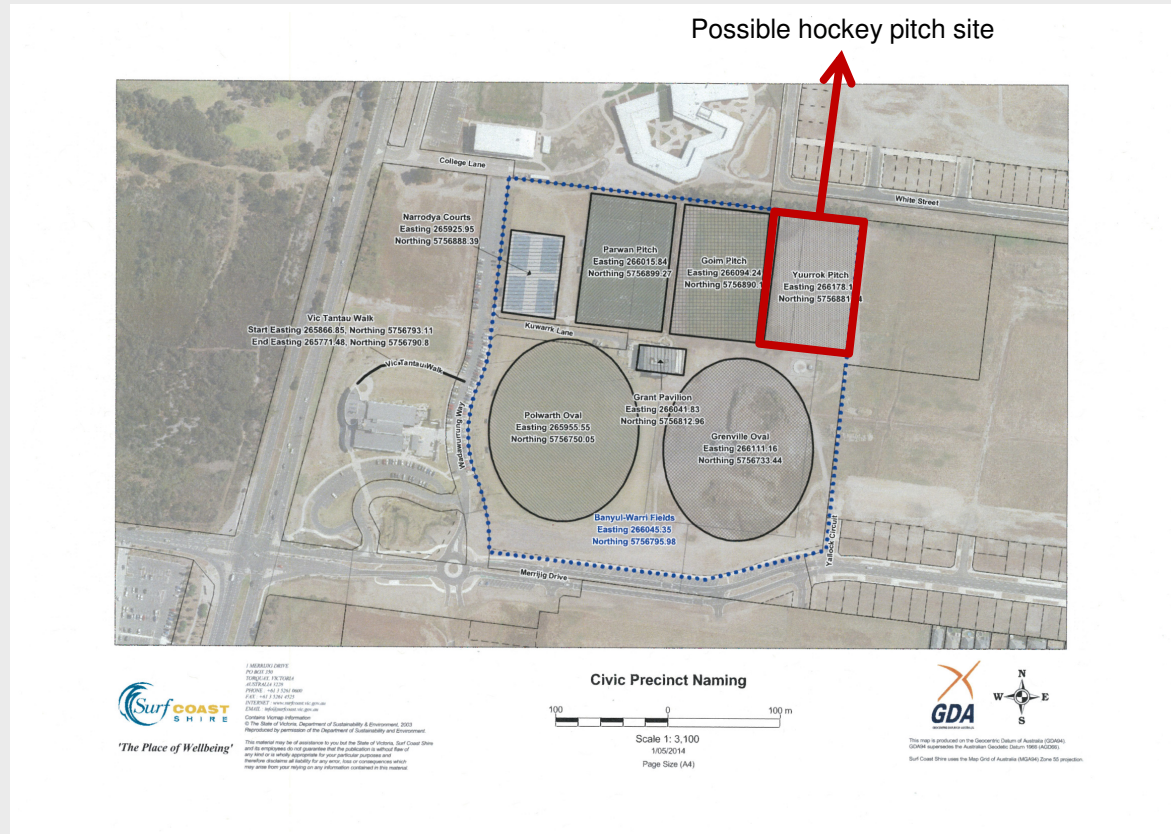
The Quay – strengths

| Strengths | Strengths |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant land and open space on which to develop, however would be at the expense of existing site use (Soccer). • Sporting fields and potential hockey pitch have the opportunity to connect to existing community sporting infrastructure - change room capacity may not be adequate for hockey use. • Existing off-field amenities create opportunity to lower site development costs, as well as provide THC with a sustainable revenue source (canteen) and spectator amenities. • Given the existing provision as a natural turf sporting field with limited visible constraints, it is likely that synthetic pitch development could be cost effective if ground conditions are favourable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to draw on existing sports field lighting provision and upgrade rather than develop new (this will reduce overall site development costs) – However, increased lighting provision to 300+ lux may create residential amenity issues. • Good sports field viewing in a natural amphitheatre setting, with existing amenities already provided. • Horseshoe Bend Road frontage offers some exposure and visibility into the site. • Local residents, while a potential issue for lighting, would provide good public surveillance and additional passive security. • Land area to the north of the site may provide expansion opportunities or create residential development to support increased localised hockey participation. |

The Quay – considerations

| Considerations | Considerations |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve specified as a Local Level Reserve - Hockey facilities require a District or Regional Level site for optimum viability, exposure and catchment. • Car parking is limited and location (and local access roads) within residential area may impact traffic flow and create residential complaint. • Public transport access is limited for students and junior players – even though in Torquay, two buses are required to access the site from town. • Existing natural turf oval space provides adequate space to develop a full-size hockey pitch, however its provision will displace all other existing uses including Soccer and Cricket. This reduction to possible single use may be problematic for attracting community funding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Reserve is also used as local public open space for neighbouring residents, conversion to a synthetic pitch is likely to alienate existing open space and may impact public open space provision levels in this location. • Evident drainage issues present on the site and potential increased costs involved through synthetic pitch development. • Location may limit use potential and limited ability to promote and drive weekday use by schools within and outside the Torquay area. |

Torquay Sports Precinct, Torquay



Torquay Sports Precinct – strengths

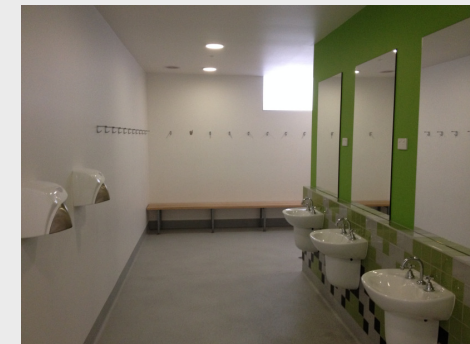
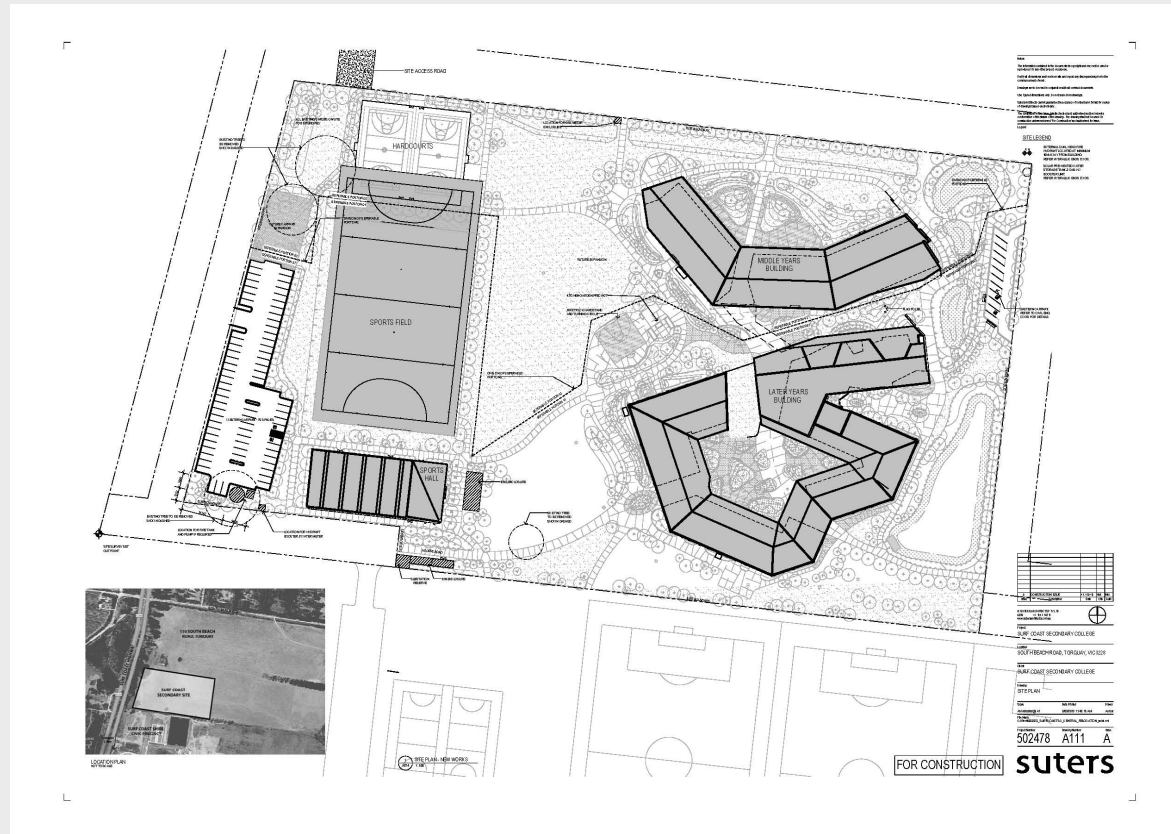
| Strengths | Strengths |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant land and open space on which to develop a synthetic pitch. • Staged Master Plan provides for an additional rectangle space for Soccer, but could be easily reconfigured to provide a full size hockey pitch. Timing on the development of this phase is dependent on community and government funding. • Sporting fields and potential hockey pitch have the opportunity to connect to existing community sporting infrastructure and adjacent indoor stadium at the Surf Coast Secondary College. • Existing off-field amenities (including car parking) create opportunity to lower site development costs, as well as provide THC with a sustainable revenue source and spectator amenities. • Ability to draw on existing sports field lighting provision and upgrade rather than develop new (this will reduce overall site development costs). • Good sports field viewing and existing spectator amenities provided. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to promote and package with Shire and Precinct marketing and development initiatives, and match in with existing site management model. • Potential opportunity to share new pitch with existing Precinct users, including Touch Rugby and training use from other sports including Soccer. • Facilities part of a full sporting Precinct considered a District or Municipal level site, which is compatible with Hockey requirements. • Limited local residents impacting potential floodlighting use. • Precinct has main road prominence and offers good promotion opportunities. • Position adjacent to the Surf Coast Secondary College promotes strong junior use and access and increases potential for additional weekday use by schools. • Site could build on existing use by THC for training, where existing players are conditioned to travelling to and attending. |

Torquay Sports Precinct – considerations

Considerations

- Competition for Precinct funding and prominence is present between sports and sporting clubs across Torquay and joint use of fields is likely to be required.
- Car parking is provided, but limited when all sporting facilities are being utilised.
- Overall site management and off-field amenity access arrangements would need to be negotiated.
- Synthetic hockey pitch is not currently identified within the existing Torquay Sports Precinct Master Plan.
- The timing on the next phase of Precinct development is dependent on community and government funding.

Surf Coast Secondary College, Torquay



Torquay Secondary College – strengths

| Strengths | Strengths |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential hockey pitch has the opportunity to connect to adjacent community sporting infrastructure, school indoor stadium and in-school catering areas. • Indoor stadium provides basic level change rooms , equipment storage and warm up areas for pre-match, in addition to possible addition of indoor hockey to the site. • Existing off-field amenities (including car parking) create opportunity to lower site development costs. Parking provided is sufficient with ability to provide bus parking and drop-off. • Ability to generate additional use during school-time to maximise pitch usage and accessibility. • Leverage off the school location and the vast numbers of pupils, families and potential players that travel to the site daily, this can create a captured market for the sport. • Leverage off the School marketing and promotion activities – promote the school and promote the facilities and THC concurrently. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential opportunity to share new pitch with existing Precinct users, including Touch Rugby and training use from other sports including Soccer. • Limited local residents impacted by potential floodlighting provision. • School site has main road prominence and offers good promotion opportunities. • Site adjacent to existing THC training site, where existing players are conditioned to travelling to and attending. • School creates opportunities for additional partner funding, in addition to sport and government contributions. • Site is available and capable of undergoing development with timeframes only limited by funding procurement. • School is currently fully supportive of site development to include hockey. |

Torquay Secondary College – considerations

| Considerations | Considerations |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall site management and off-field amenity access arrangements would need to be negotiated through joint venture or reciprocal access. • Requires a joint use management agreement between the Shire and Surf Coast Secondary College (DEECD) – these can be problematic and dependent on personnel at the time of development. • Spatial requirements are tight and would require some reconfiguration of existing school hard court area, creating possible displacement of student recreational space. • Use of identified site would reduce overall school green space, however this is offset through access to Torquay Sports Precinct grounds for recess, lunchtimes, PE and sports use, • Some additional safety fencing will be required to protect existing assets and infrastructure from errant balls. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site is damp and may require additional sub-surface drainage and some rectification of existing ground conditions, which may increase pitch development costs. |

TORQUAY HOCKEY CLUB SURVEY

Survey context

To assist in identifying the best possible location for a potential pitch, the THC conducted a short survey for players and parents to better understand the geographical implications on families with regard to travel and access to existing venues for training and competition.

The survey was distributed in May 2014 and received 60 club responses. Survey respondents varied from players under the age of 18 (15), over the age of 18 (27) and parents of a Torquay Hockey Club player (18).

The majority of respondents were local Torquay residents (58%), followed by Geelong and Belmont (both 12%).

Torquay Hockey Pitch - Feasibility Study

Your travel commitments

*** 4. During the regular hockey season, how many hours per week would you collectively spend travelling to and from weekly hockey activities?**

| | 0 mins - we don't travel | 30 minutes or less | 31 to 60 minutes | 61 to 90 minutes | 91 to 120 minutes | more than 2 hours |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Torquay Hockey Club training: | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Torquay Hockey Club matches: | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other hockey activities (if any): | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

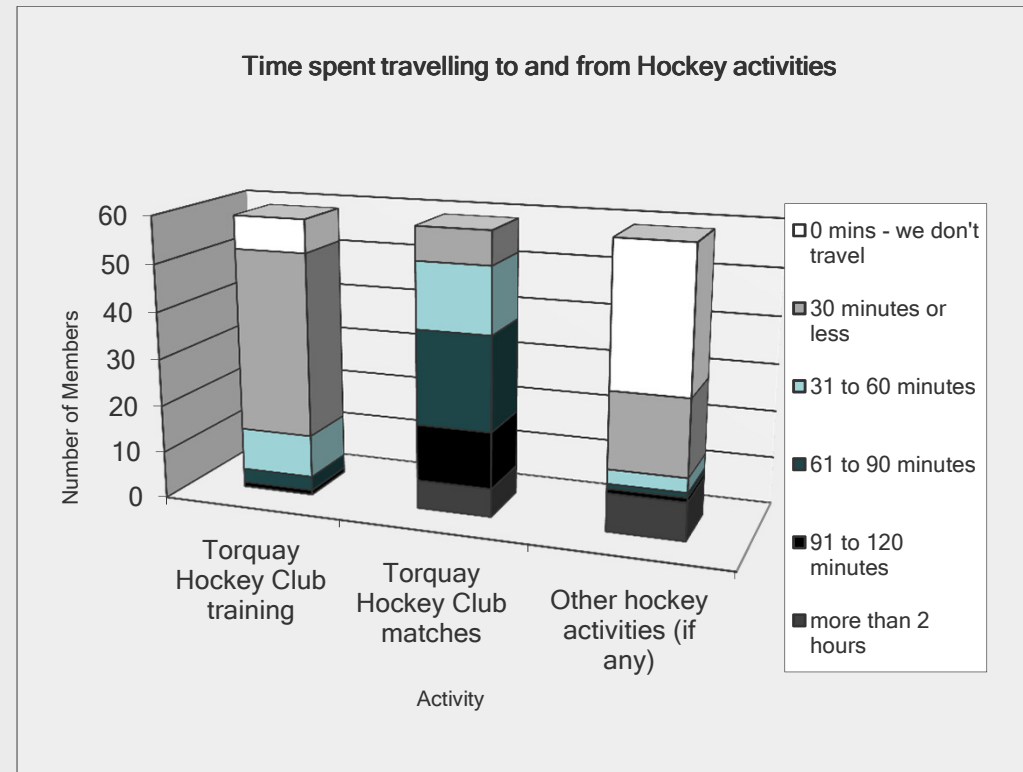
*** 5. During the regular hockey season, how many km's per week would you collectively spend travelling to and from weekly hockey activities?**

| | 0km - we don't travel | up to 50km | 51 to 100km | 101 to 150km | 150 to 200km | more than 200km |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Torquay Hockey Club training: | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Torquay Hockey Club matches: | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other hockey activities (if any): | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Travel time to and from hockey activities:

When asked the question *‘During the regular hockey season, how many hours per week would you collectively spend travelling to and from weekly hockey activities’* survey respondents provided the adjacent feedback.

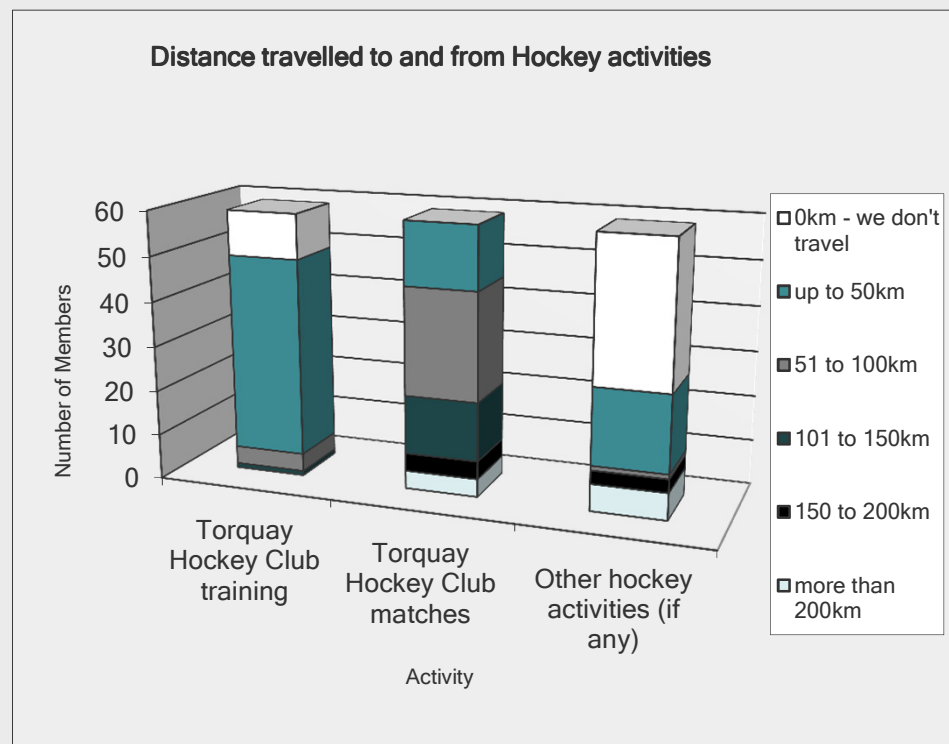
- The majority of survey respondents spend 30 minutes or less a week travelling for training related hockey activities.
- Travel time for matches is higher (travelling to Stead Park), with over 50% of members travelling between one and two hours per week for competition matches.



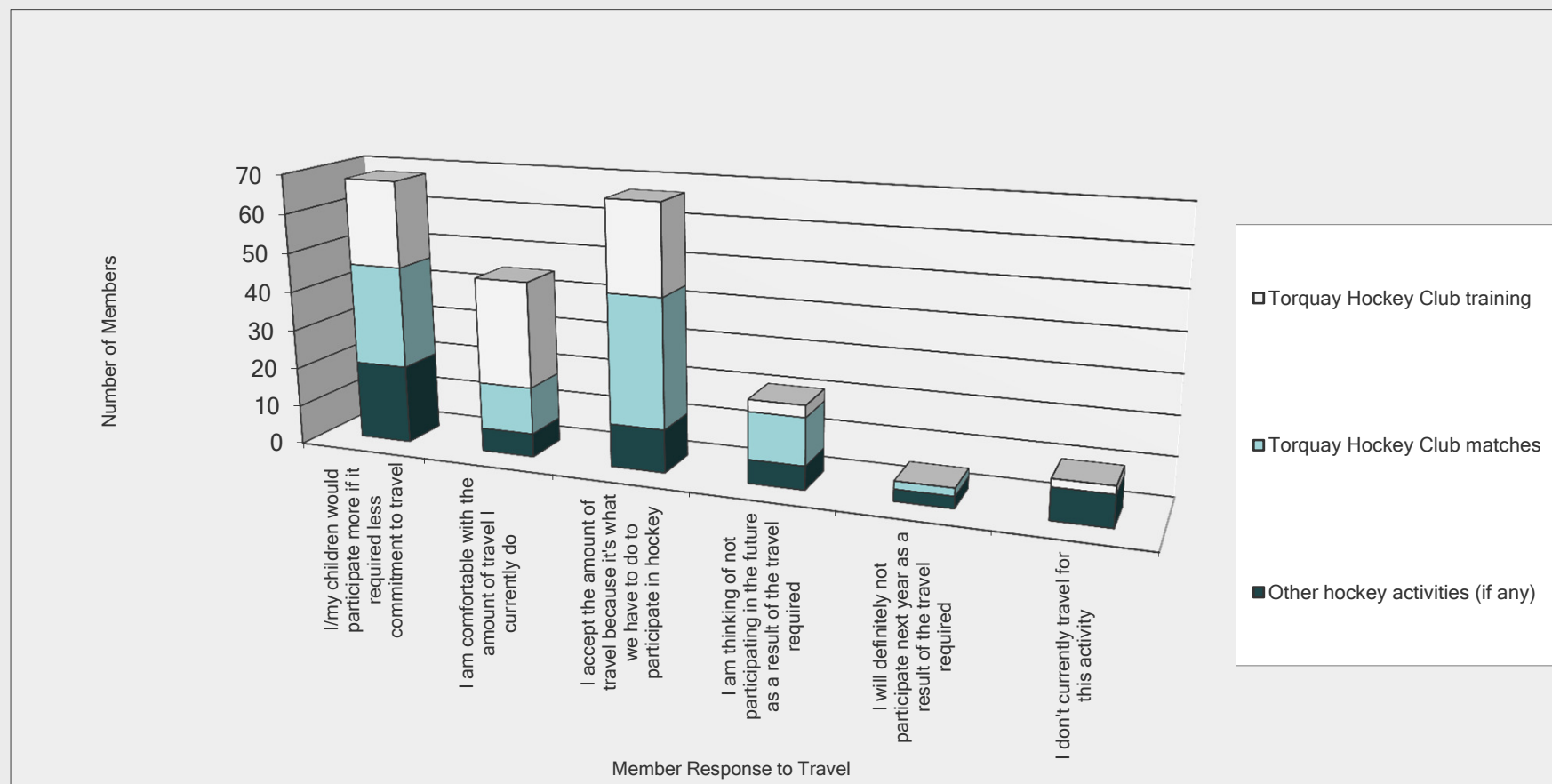
Travel distance to and from hockey activities:

Asked a similar question, but this time the distance travelled per week (km), members provided the following information.

- 75% of members travel between 1km and 50km per week for training
- Similar to time spent travelling, distance travelled for matches is higher with approximately 60% of members travelling between 51km and 150km.
- Almost one in three members who responded to the survey travel over 101km per week for hockey matches.
- 7% travel over 150km per week.



Impacts of travel on hockey participation



Impacts of travel on hockey participation

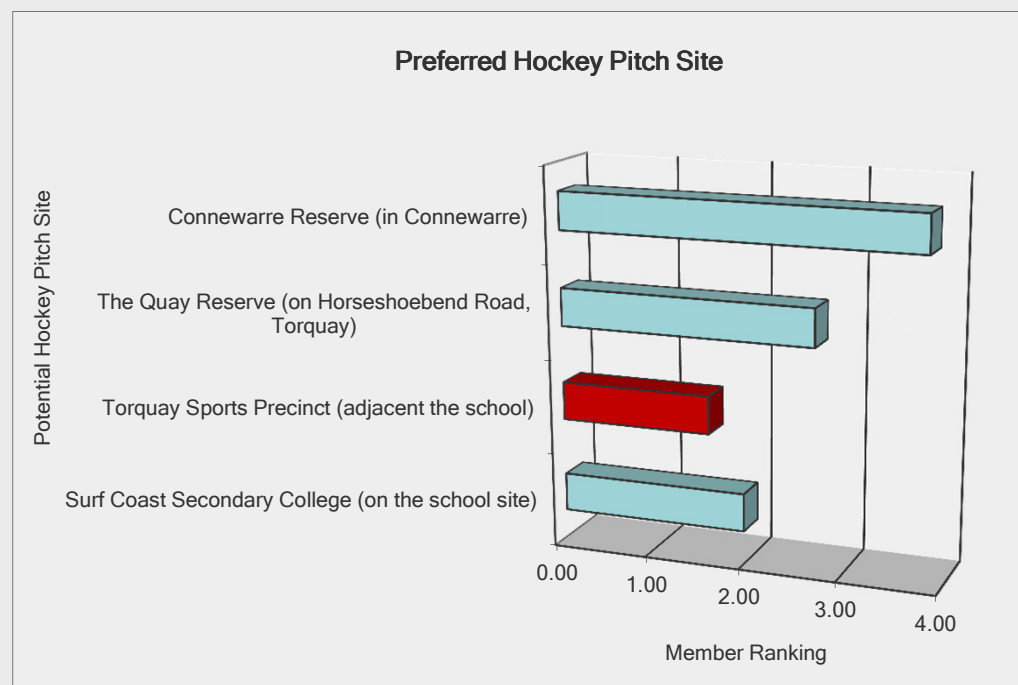
When asked how playing members / parents of playing members felt about travelling to and from training / matches, survey respondents stated:

- Members are comfortable with the travel required for hockey training purposes.
- Whilst responses indicated a hockey facility in closer proximity to Torquay would potentially increase participation levels, member satisfaction and retention, 70% of respondents accept current travel requirements for matches.
- Two members stated they would not re-sign with the club in 2015 as a result of the required travel.

Preferred Hockey Pitch Site

Club members were asked to provide their preferred site for a potential hockey pitch within the Surf Coast Shire based purely on their **ability to access and travel to the venue** for training and matches. The adjacent graph represents member's responses with '1' being most preferred and '4' the least.

- **The Torquay Sports Precinct was the most preferred location**, closely followed by the Surf Coast Secondary College.
- Connearre Reserve was considered the least appropriate site by members.

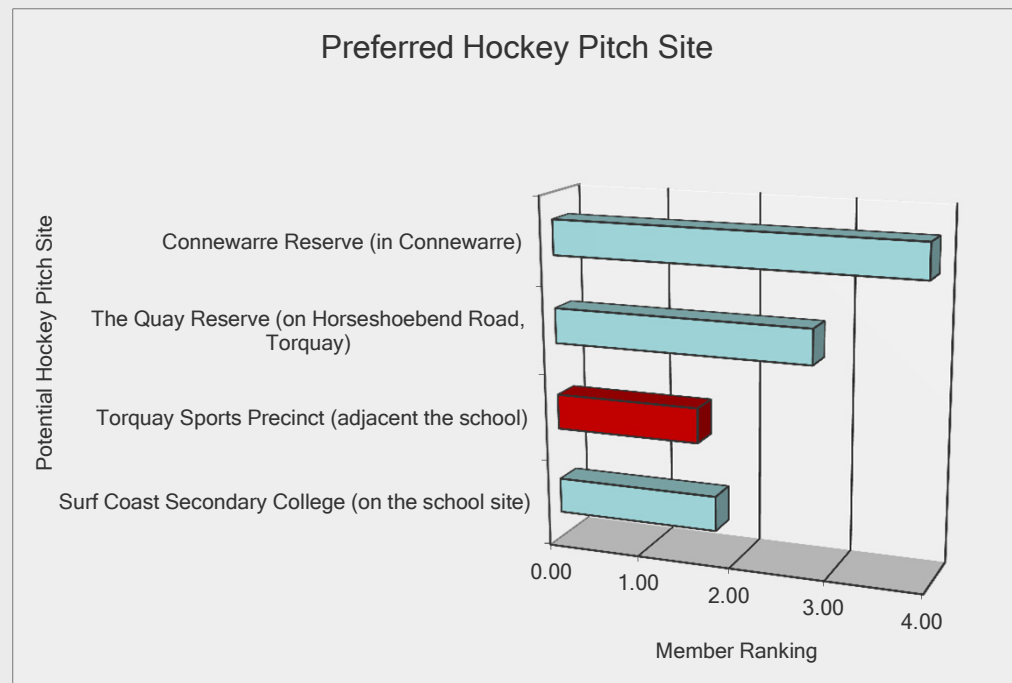


Preferred Hockey Pitch Location

When asked to provide their preferred site for a potential hockey pitch within the Surf Coast Shire based on **any other non-travel and access related benefits**, survey respondents provided the following response:

The adjacent graph represents member's responses with '1' being most preferred and '4' the least.

- **The Torquay Sports Precinct was still considered the most preferred location**, closely followed by the Surf Coast Secondary College.
- Connewarre Reserve continued to be the least preferred site by members.



SITE OPTIONS ASSESSMENT

Core facility needs

In satisfying the needs of the THC in providing a viable synthetic hockey pitch in Torquay, the following key elements would be required and are based on the FIH Rules of Hockey, Sports Field Dimensions Guide (DSR) and FIH Guide to Artificial Lighting of Hockey Pitches.

| Facility element | Requirements |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Pitch | Playing area to be 91.4m x 55m with minimum 3m goal line and 2m sideline runoffs (maximum runoffs could extend to 5m goal line and 4m sideline) + capacity to play and train across the pitch width (modified programs) |
| Surface | Sand-filled or Hybrid – 12mm pile height |
| Compatible sports | Lacrosse, Touch Rugby, Gridiron, Soccer (training) |
| Lighting | Minimum 250 lux for training, junior and low grade club competition Minimum 500 lux for high grade club, Premier League and above |
| Player and official amenities | Access to 2 x change rooms (min), toilets, showers and umpires rooms Team and coaches benches |
| Club amenities | Access to social area and storage for goals and equipment |
| Spectator amenity | Scoreboard and minimum of 60 spaces |

General facility development costs

- The following broad hockey pitch development costs have been identified and are likely to apply to any new pitch development on any of the four identified sites. *Costs are estimated from recent hockey pitch developments, and are not based on detailed site investigations including geotechnical reports, site surveys or detailed engineered designs.*
- The estimated probable development costs for a single synthetic pitch, club level hockey facility (excluding building amenities, landscaping, car parking) will be **in the area of \$1.3 to \$1.6 million** depending on site conditions, surface choice and floodlighting levels. These costs can be generally broken down into the following infrastructure categories:

| | | |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| • Site preparation, drainage and base construction | \$336,000 | will vary per site |
| • Pitch and surface works (sand filled) | \$340,000 | add \$60,000 for hybrid surface |
| • Fencing (sideline and goal line) | \$65,000 | likely to be consistent |
| • Lighting (250 lux) | \$280,000 | add \$250,000 for 500 lux lighting |
| • Accessories and equipment | \$30,000 | likely to be consistent |
| • Pitch certification | \$10,000 | maybe change over time |
| • Design, PM, contingencies and escalation | \$250,000 | will vary per site / project elements |
- In addition to capital development costs, **around \$5,000 in annual maintenance and \$35,000 in infrastructure renewal costs** will need to be budgeted in order to maintain pitch and infrastructure conditions, as well as contribute to an overall pitch replacement fund.

Site options assessment criteria

- Each site option has been assessed using a range of criteria, with an overarching focus on being able to provide a sustainable and accessible synthetic hockey pitch in Torquay. Site assessment criteria includes:
 1. Size and space availability to develop a full-size hockey pitch
 2. Ability of the pitch to complement existing site usage and participation (or limited impacts)
 3. Capacity to maximise the use of existing site facilities and support amenities
 4. Capacity to allow for both THC and alternative community use
 5. Ability of development to not (or limit) impact on local visual and residential amenity
 6. Ability of development to generate positive community acceptance
 7. Capacity to deliver on existing documented / adopted site master or strategic planning
 8. Ability to meet best practice synthetic hockey pitch management principles
 9. Capacity to enhance the social and economic impact of the THC on the SCS community

Site options assessment

Each site has been assessed and scored in its ability and capacity to meet site options assessment criteria identified on the previous slide.

The following rating system has been employed to evaluate each site's potential:

0 = does not meet criteria
 1 = partially meets criteria
 2 = mostly meets criteria
 3 = fully meets criteria

Scores represented are out of a possible 27.

| Criteria | Connewarre | The Quay | Sports Precinct | Secondary College |
|--------------|------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 6 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 8 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 9 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 13 | 9 | 21 | 20 |

PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR A HOCKEY PITCH IN TORQUAY

Project principles

- **Participation** – create opportunities to continue to provide for localised hockey competition and training and provide an alternative to existing team sports currently provided in the Shire
- **Hockey first** – hockey requirements should be met as a priority, with additional compatible community and commercial uses considered to maximise pitch usage and share costs
- **Integrated** – hockey pitch and club requirements should be integrated with available club, player, official and spectator amenities present on any site and promote shared use and outcomes
- **Flexible** – common areas (including playing, training and building footprints) must promote shared space in order to maximise flexible uses and package sport and related services together to increase regional capacity
- **Efficient** – facilities and amenities are designed to create maintenance efficiencies and management structures developed to ensure operational efficiencies are achieved
- **Accessible** – while meeting pathway objectives for hockey, any site and pitch will be developed to ensure access to community access is maintained

Potential project benefits

- **Support further growth** – creating a synthetic hockey pitch in Torquay creates opportunities to continue to support growth in a sport and a club that has shown strong local leadership.
- **Regional support** - the Torquay Hockey Club has contributed significantly to the recent growth in Hockey Geelong's participation and provides a stronger base for the Association to help support and grow other clubs across the G21 region and establish the G21 as a key region in Victoria.
- **Community facility equity** – dedicated hockey facilities within the Shire will help to diversify community activity provision locally and support targeted investment into increasing equity across the broader community for sporting facilities.
- **Hockey tourism** – adding to the suite of high quality sporting facilities, particularly within Torquay, creates potential for a greater number of tournaments, events and school carnivals, as well as provide a training base for visiting clubs and teams.
- **Reduce travel barriers** – travel to train and play home and away fixtures is a barrier for hockey participation growth and no other key participation sport within the Shire is required to undertake the levels of travel that Torquay Hockey Club members do.

Potential project benefits

- **Skill development** – training on natural grass surfaces has proven acceptable at the youngest levels of participation, but as players grow in experience and skill, playing and training on a consistent synthetic surface is essential to ensure all players improve and help sustain local quality.
- **Multi-use facilities** – multi-use facilities that cater for school, community and hockey use will maximise precinct participation outside of school hours, provide amenities for in-school use and create connections to indoor stadium for change rooms and to generate potential use for indoor hockey.
- **Precinct build-out** – the development of a synthetic pitch on the Surf Coast Secondary College site allows for the Torquay Sport Precinct to continue its implementation and build-out program, while adding complementary facilities and attracting additional external investment.
- **Partnership development** – through this project, partnerships have already formed between the Torquay Hockey Club, Surf Coast Secondary College, Geelong Hockey Association and Hockey Victoria and existing partnerships for shared infrastructure use with the Surf Coast Shire will be further enhanced.

Likely pitch usage schedule

- The following average weekly schedule would be representative of a typical synthetic hockey pitch usage schedule if the THC, Surf Coast Secondary College and other community users could affordably access it. Usage, access and operating times will vary depending on site selection.

| Time | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 7am-9am | Casual | Casual | Casual | Casual | Casual | Junior Competition | Junior Competition |
| 9am-12pm | School | School | School | School | School | | |
| 12pm-4pm | | | | | | Senior Competition | Senior Competition |
| 4pm-6pm | U9-U11 Training | U13, U15 Training | Community | U17 Training | Community | | |
| 6pm-8pm | Community | Senior Training | Local Masters Competition | Senior Training | Junior Competition | Community | Community |
| 8pm-10pm | Community | Community | | Community | | Community | Community |

Strategic pitch planning considerations and influences

- In addition to community hockey facilities provided a **Stead Park (2 x synthetic pitches)** and **King Lloyd Reserve (1 x grass pitch)**, synthetic hockey pitches are also provided within **Geelong College (no lighting)** and **Geelong Grammar**. However, these facilities are not readily accessible for community hockey club training. The ability to access these venues by local clubs in a cost effective way is a critical element to determining the viability of a hockey pitch in Torquay.
- In addition to the data presented in previous slides it is important for stakeholders to recognise that **Hockey Victoria has developed a Strategic Facilities Master Plan** with specific recommendations for each Zone. This master plan does not identify priority of synthetic pitch development / redevelopment projects across the state.
- Preliminary study findings of the Victorian Hockey Facility Strategy **indicate a shift away from natural grass pitches and into synthetic surfaces**, provided they are structured and distributed to ensure optimum usage and viability. In assisting to measure this, **a state-wide benchmark of 1 synthetic hockey pitch per 100,000 people** is a general catchment rule that will be tested.
- Using G21 ratios to guide planning, if the number of synthetic pitches stays the same (**2 – not including Geelong College and Geelong Grammar**), another synthetic hockey pitch will be required in the G21 region by 2024-2026 – this could be a conversion of grass to synthetic at Newtown or the development of a new pitch elsewhere (e.g. Torquay).

Strategic facility planning influences

- The City of Greater Geelong's *Armstrong Creek West Precinct – Precinct Structure Plan* **makes provision for a two-pitch hockey facility**, to be developed in conjunction with a proposed regional soccer facility. The timeframe for site development is post 2027 and will be dependent on demand for hockey facilities at the time and the availability of sport, government and developer funding.
- **Newtown Hockey Club are petitioning to convert their existing grass pitch to synthetic** – the existing King Lloyd Reserve Master Plan suggests it could be done, but strategic drivers based on consultation with the City of Greater Geelong and Hockey Victoria indicate that results of the state study are required first prior to investigating the site further.
- Should a new synthetic hockey pitch be provided (to service the G21 region, in addition to the THC), **geographic locations suggest that between Stead Park and Torquay is logical to capitalise on the designated growth areas of City of Greater Geelong** (Grovedale, Drysdale, Ocean Grove and Clifton Springs), **Armstrong Creek** and **Surf Coast** (predominately Torquay).
- As the timing of growth in these areas is dependent on residential demand and economic factors outside the control of THC and the Surf Coast Shire, reliance on these areas to provide players and a short to medium-term solution for the THC is speculative. However, should all elements align, the Connewarre Recreation Reserve is geographically located to best service these areas. It did not however score well against identified site suitability criteria.

Strategic facility planning influences

- The preceding pages of this report indicate that there is potential growth for the sport of hockey across the Surf Coast Shire, predominately in Torquay. This demand is likely to contribute an additional 30-40 players to 2021 (should nothing change except population numbers). **This indicates that local demand will increase the number of teams for the THC to 15**, purely based on attracting players from within the Surf Coast Shire. These projected numbers currently fall short of the '*actual participation growth*' the Torquay Hockey Club has demonstrated in recent years, indicating that the Club is growing at a significantly increased rate than state-wide participation rates.
- **The additional growth in the projected numbers of pupils of the Surf Coast Secondary College** provides good potential from which to grow junior numbers in hockey and introduce new people to the sport, who previously would not have had the opportunity locally.
- Industry benchmarks for providing a synthetic pitch for any one or collection of clubs is **20 teams or 300 active players as a minimum**, allowing for all club training and match scheduling. Times would continue to remain available during weekdays (usually school hours) for alternate use, in addition to allowing community based access outside of club times.

Strategic facility planning influences

- **Any number of teams below this will seriously test the ability of pitch managers (including clubs, Council, schools and user groups) to operate the pitch sustainably** and provide investment back into the pitch to replace the surface over a 12 to 15 year life span. To improve sustainability with lesser team numbers, additional users/hirers and/or funding partners will be required to bridge gaps.
- **The viability of Stead Park (and its second pitch) need to be considered in any new pitch for Torquay**, as the funding and basis for provision of a second pitch is likely to be premised on having THC teams playing out of the venue – it will be important to consider that should THC withdraw its teams for its home matches that it may create viability concerns for the Geelong Hockey Centre, should the venue, its club users and the GHA not continue to grow.
- On average the GHA host around 40 teams (out of the estimated 60 competing regularly in the GHA competition at available venues) weekly at Stead Park for training and home competition matches – **to ensure the 2nd pitch at Stead Park remains viable and maximised, the GHA competition would need to continue to grow and increase by around 20 new teams** should the THC play at a Torquay based venue.
- **Support to develop a GHA Strategic Plan** to identify key areas and programs for growth will be an important element of ensuring the sustainability of all pitches and venues across the G21 region.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

1st OCTOBER 2014

Workshop outcomes

- Workshop attendees included:
 - Rowena Frost, Coordinator Major Recreation Facilities, Surf Coast Shire
 - Andrew Crowley, President, Torquay Hockey Club
 - Chris Thompson, Torquay Hockey Club
 - Andrew Skillern, CEO, Hockey Victoria
 - Alan Climpson, President, Hockey Geelong
 - Scott Diamond, Principal, Surf Coast Secondary College
 - Michael Bodman, insideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning
- Workshop agenda included project background and drivers, hockey context and overview, presentation and discussion of preliminary report findings and identification of a preferred site for a future hockey pitch in Torquay.
- It was agreed by all present that there is potential for Surf Coast Shire to be the location for an additional synthetic hockey pitch in the G21 region that could meet Hockey Victoria strategic and participation objectives, Hockey Geelong event and club expansion potential and immediate and future planned Torquay Hockey Club growth needs.

Workshop outcomes

- It was agreed that Surf Coast Secondary College is an attractive site if a business case for an additional synthetic hockey pitch in the G21 region demonstrated that Surf Coast Shire was the desired location. Support of this option would be subject to the outcomes of a detailed business case and School Council resolution. Site strengths include:
 - strengthen key partnership and joint use opportunities between club, school and Shire
 - presents the best pitch usage model for the local area
 - follows an accepted co-location model for hockey pitch provision in regional areas
 - the likely availability of land within the next 3 to 5 years
 - the ability to utilise on-site amenities including canteen, change rooms and indoor courts to support club use
 - the potential avenue of education sector support funding
 - the limited impact on existing community infrastructure and existing community use activities
 - supporting increased capacity to service the expected growth in student population over the coming years
- It was agreed that any synthetic hockey pitch to be provided should be a 'hybrid' pitch surface with capacity to water for higher level activity, competition and events. Any alternative surface may detract from its potential use and reduce the likelihood of hockey tourism and visitation.

Workshop outcomes

- It was agreed that lighting to the minimum 250 lux for club training and competition would be sufficient for THC use and for alternative community sport usage (e.g. touch rugby), but any facility should consider planning, site preparation and power supply for up to 500 lux.
- It was agreed that all stakeholder organisations would approach future planning for the synthetic pitch in a collaborative way to ensure that further development of a business case would consider mutual organisation and community benefits can be derived through for the project. This will be done in conjunction with G21 Councils via the G21 Sport and Recreation Pillar.
- It was identified that none of the project partners currently have funding to contribute to a business case or capital development costs, but would collectively assist in seeking funding support from State Government, education sector and from local fundraising if a detailed business case supported a synthetic hockey pitch in Surf Coast Shire. This would be subject to Council's priority for advocacy on major projects across the Shire and Hockey Victoria's priority for advocacy on synthetic pitch facility development / redevelopment across the state.

Workshop outcomes

- The next phases of establishing a synthetic hockey pitch in Torquay would be:
 - Submission of this Feasibility Report to Council for review and recognition (2015)
 - Complete detailed business case, management plan and likely funding models – *allow \$15,000*

Pending outcome of the detailed business case

 - Undertake detailed site investigations, engineered designs and quantity surveyor costs – *allow \$25,000 budget*
 - Secure project funding
 - Start and complete construction
 - Activate for hockey and other community use