

# Olympic Park

## Volume 2 | Background and Key Findings Report

February 2017

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## About the Master Plan

The Master Plan for Olympic Park is delivered in two parts.

### Volume 1 – Olympic Park Master Plan

Provides a summary of Master Plan objectives and planning principles, site concepts, and key recommendations and actions for the delivery of proposed reserve infrastructure.

### Volume 2 – Background and Key Findings Report (this document)

Provides a detailed project and local sporting context analysis, strategic review, demographic and site assessment, stakeholder consultation outcomes, and all other background information and research collected during the development of the Master Plan.

#### Olympic Park Master Plan

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# 1 Background and Key Drivers

## 1.1 Introduction

The Olympic Park Master Plan Background and Key Findings Report provides an overview of key findings, issues and focus areas that have been identified through extensive research, analysis, facility investigation and stakeholder and community consultation.

This report outlines the background and key project drivers leading to the development of the Master Plan. A summary of current facility usage, strategic planning and local demographic information relevant to the Master Plan has also been included.

A detailed summary of consultation outcomes following stakeholder and community meetings, interviews and an online survey is provided in this report. A preliminary list of issues and opportunities has been developed based on the outcomes of user group and community consultation. Issues and opportunities are grouped into the following key design themes to help identify priorities and guide implementation.

- **Sports fields and infrastructure**
- **Community recreation and park safety**
- **Open Space and environment**
- **Movement and access**

Key consultation findings and the issues and opportunities identified for the site will be used to create a long term vision for Olympic Park.

The consultation process with existing user groups and the local community identified a range of site issues and improvement opportunities. Some of the key findings include existing infrastructure not meeting the immediate needs of sports clubs and issues with safety, security and antisocial behaviour.

Activating use, providing an inviting place to visit and developing a centralised hub for local sport, community recreation, environmental and indigenous education will be key outcomes of the Master Plan.

This report provides the evidence from which future priorities for the site will be based and presents the range of issues and opportunities identified through the consultation process. A preliminary Issues and Opportunities Plan to inform the future development of a Draft Master Plan for Olympic Park is also included.

## 1.2 Aims and objective

Council has engaged *insideEDGE* Sport and Leisure Planning to prepare a Master Plan for Olympic Park to ensure the best outcomes for the community, with improved facilities, better linkages and access from both sides of the Creek, and a long term sustainable plan for the area.

The following aims of the project have been identified by Council and key stakeholders.

- **Provide a welcoming and vibrant place that people feel safe and comfortable attending.**
- **Create an interesting location that contributes to the lifestyle opportunities and programs of the local community.**
- **Establish synergies amongst users at Olympic Park and provide multi-purpose facilities.**
- **Provide facilities and infrastructure to accommodate user needs appropriately.**
- **Enhance connections and access into and throughout Olympic Park from both sides of the Creek.**

## 1.3 History of the site

Olympic Park is located at 240 Southern Rd, Heidelberg West. Directly adjacent to the park on the western side is Darebin Creek, and to the east it is bordered by the rear fences of residential properties along Liberty Parade. The park extends along Darebin Creek to the north approximately 1.4km to Dougharty Road, Heidelberg West.

Heidelberg West is an established residential and industrial area with much of the development occurring just prior to the 1956 Olympic Games. Olympic Park was the training venue for the 1956 Olympic Games and the athletes village (Olympic Village) was situated between Dougharty Rd and Southern Rd.

The soccer pitch is surrounded by a disused athletics track. Following the Olympic Games, the track was used for both senior and little athletics. The Ivanhoe Harriers were relocated to Willinda Park in Greensborough in the year 2000, and the Heidelberg Little Athletics Centre folded in 2005 and the track has not been used since.

The northern section of the park primarily contains the Darebin Creek Shared Trail which is surrounded by bushland and gassed areas. The shared trail currently provides a link between Bundoora and Ivanhoe. A project to connect the southern end of the trail to the Main Yarra Trail at Kew is currently in progress. Once completed, this is expected to increase the amount of pedestrian and cyclist traffic on the trail exponentially.

Both Heidelberg West and East Preston, which share the creek corridor in this area, form part of the State Government's Latrobe Employment Cluster. This area has been "earmarked" for high population growth and significantly increased population density.

Northland is immediately across the creek from Olympic Park and the Northland Structure Plan is predicting an increase in population of approximately 11,000 people in areas close to the creek on its western side.

The Metropolitan Planning Authority is also projecting significant increases in residential density on the eastern side of the creek in close proximity to Olympic Park in the coming decade. These population scenarios will place a premium on public open space in the creek corridor, particularly around Olympic Park.

A significant challenge facing both Banyule and Darebin Councils in managing open space along the creek corridor, is to turn what is currently low value public open space (due to poor access and lack of natural surveillance and run down facilities) into high value public open space, which is easily accessed from both sides of the creek that people feel safe using. This will be essential in order to meet the projected high demand that will be placed upon it in the future.

The completion of a Master Plan will allow for the identification of improved facilities and associated infrastructure at Olympic Park, exploring opportunities for synergies amongst users and offer a long term plan for the area.



## 1.4 Current site features

Olympic Park is home to Heidelberg United Football Club, Olympic Colts Cricket Club and the Barrbunin Beek meeting and gathering space.

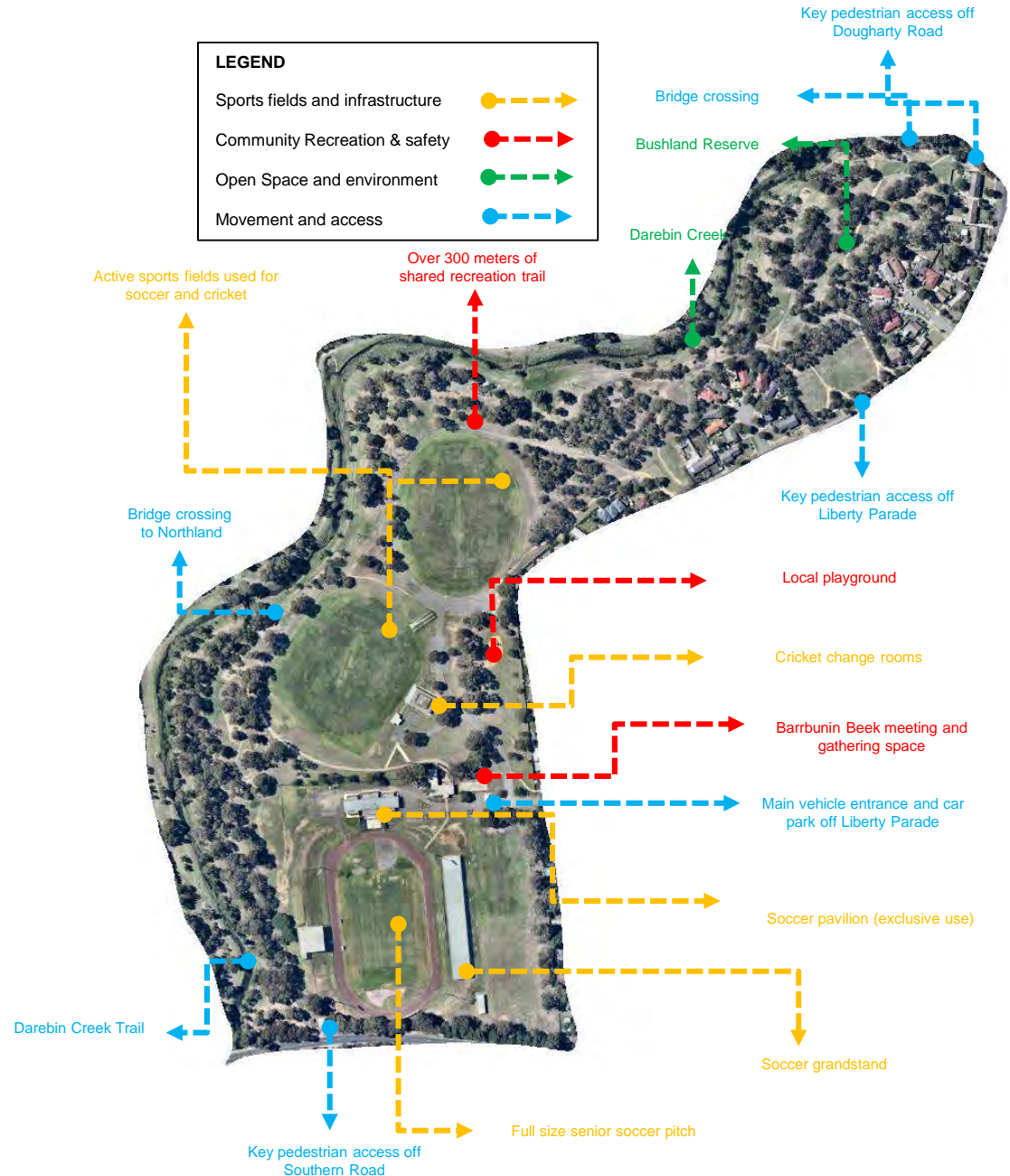
The mid-southern section of the park is a well developed sports and recreation zone, on which exists 3 sports fields, a training area, cricket nets, several buildings, a shared trail and a local level play space.

The main sporting activity is soccer and during the peak season soccer activities (playing and/or training) are conducted across all sports fields. In summer, cricket is played on the 2 most northern fields. The main field at Olympic Park has a soccer pitch with a substantial grand stand on one side, a media building with undercover viewing on the other and a pavilion behind the northern goals.

It is also well catered for in terms of sports field lighting and has been host to national level competitions with spectator numbers in excess of 10,000 people.

Plans displayed on the following pages provide an overview of existing site conditions, and the functionality and role of key site features.

The site features and functionality plan is colour coded to demonstrate the variety of uses and functions currently being provided at Olympic Park. These design themes are continued throughout this report to help categorise key issues and opportunities.



## 1.5 User groups

**The Heidelberg United Soccer Club, Olympic Colts Cricket Club and Barrbunin Beek are the primary users of Olympic Park.**

Heidelberg United is the key winter tenant and has in excess of 360 registered soccer players. The club enters both men's and women's teams in the National Premier League, which is the highest level of soccer in the state and can attract up to 5,000 spectators per match.

The club has a lease agreement over the main soccer pitch and building, and licenses the north and south oval for competition and training purposes.

Heidelberg United has invested significant capital funding to site improvements and upgrades over the years, including construction of the permanent grandstand, lighting and building fit out. More recently the club has committed to contributing funding towards the refurbishment of the player change rooms and amenities, installing accessible toilets and electrical cabling to enable use of floodlights on their training pitch.

The Olympic Colts Cricket Club has a long history at the site and is the permanent summer tenant. The club has 12 months access to the pavilion, however winter usage is minimal and is used only for the occasional social function.

The club uses both the north and south ovals. The south oval is used by the first and second eleven teams and the north oval by the third eleven.

Despite having player registrations in excess of 200, the cricket club has three senior men's teams (approx. 35-40 players), one women's team (15 players), one U/11 team 10-12 players and an In2Cricket Program (only 6 kids at this stage).

Barrbunin Beek is a gathering place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in and around Banyule. The gathering place is located in The Fred Howe Annex next to the walkway to Northland. Barrbunin Beek, means 'happy place' in the local Woivurrung language. It gives local Aboriginal and Torres Strait people a place to call home, a place to meet and a place to build community.

Barrbunin Beek is a joint project between the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, Banyule Community Health and Banyule City Council to have a dedicated space where people can come together. It allows the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to create a real connection to country by establishing a place of community ownership, where knowledge can be shared and culture celebrated.

Olympic Park is also used by local senior citizens groups and the broader community for a range of leisure and recreation activities, including jogging and bike riding, bush walks and as a thoroughfare to the Northland Shopping Centre.



### Heidelberg United Football Club

- NPL Club
- 367 registered players
- 45 senior male players
- 43 senior female players
- 213 junior players (78% boys)



### Olympic Colts Cricket Club

- North Metro Cricket Association
- 230 registered players
- 208 senior male players
- 7 senior female players
- 90% of players live in Banyule



### Barrbunin Beek

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders service
- Use building inside main entrance
- Offers a range of activities
- Plans to improve existing facilities



### Community users

- Recreation and commuter trail use
- Local level playground for families
- Access to Northland Shopping Centre
- Nature walks / bushland experience

*Summary of key user groups at Olympic Park*

# Planning context

## 2.1 Strategic drivers

The key strategic planning documents that have implications for the local area and the future enhancement and development of Olympic Park have been reviewed and summarised below.

### Recreation Plan (2013 – 2017)

Key strategic focus areas identified in this Plan that support the development of the Olympic Park Master Plan include:

- Continue to provide sport and recreation opportunities for diverse communities.
- Develop sport and recreation opportunities for women.
- Advocate for greater opportunities to engage in physical activity.
- Ensure existing sporting infrastructure is renewed and upgraded to meet the needs of the community.
- Continue to upgrade shared trails and bike paths across the municipality.

### LaTrobe Employment Cluster

Employment clusters have been identified in the metropolitan planning strategy as having designated geographic concentrations of interconnected business and institutions that make a major contribution to the national economy.

Latrobe has been identified as an emerging employment cluster due to its potential growth and geographic opportunity. Implications for Olympic Park include:

- The Northern Subregion is expected to grow from 400,000 to 470,000 people by 2031.
- Latrobe University, Northland Shopping Centre and the Austin Hospital all have plans to expand their services, therefore further increasing activity in the area.
- Growth in housing diversity and urban renewal as part of the Olympic initiative.

### Northland Urban Renewal Precinct (NURP)

The NURP is a City of Darebin initiative and is a significant component of the Latrobe Employment Cluster. NURP is being developed to support high levels of future job density and to accommodate new residents.

- The NURP covers approximately 136ha.
- Will create an additional 2,500 jobs at the Northland Shopping Centre.
- Activity modes of movement including walking, cycling and public transport will be a high priority across the precinct.

- TW Blake Reserve will be redeveloped to be the centrepiece for recreational opportunities including a village green, playspace, and natural environment.

### Darebin Creek Joint Community Infrastructure Plan 2015 (JCIP)

Banyule Council is a member of the JCIP which also includes representatives from La Trobe University, City of Darebin, the Metropolitan Planning Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. In relation to Olympic Park the JCIP has identified:

- Interface improvement and stormwater harvesting opportunities.
- Resurfacing and widening of the shared recreation trail.
- Improved pedestrian linkages through the park from Olympic Village to Banyule Community Health.
- Reconfiguring sportsfields and provide more opportunities for unstructured recreation.

## 2.2 Local demographics

This section provides a summary of current and future demographic information for the local area, highlighting what the precinct looks like now and into the future. This information will help shape the development of the Olympic Park Master Plan, and the importance of accessible, informal and targeted sport, recreation and leisure opportunities.

### Population and age

The current population in Heidelberg West – Bellfield is 7,776 (6.06% of the population in the City of Banyule). The dominant age group is 35-49 year olds which make up 20.3% of the population and is consistent with the dominant age group in Banyule. Heidelberg West – Bellfield has a far more youthful skew to its population with 33.3% of residents under the age of 25 (3% higher than Banyule) and significantly lower rates of residents over the age of 50 (27.7% as against 34.7%).

### Forecast demographics

From 2016 to 2026, Heidelberg West – Bellfield is projected to increase to 8,547 residents (+771 residents / 9.9% growth), slightly higher than population increases within Banyule overall (9.7%). Heidelberg West – Bellfield is projected to have a significantly higher rate of young workforce persons relative to the municipality (18.2% of population compared to 13.9%) and a lower rate of seniors (7.4% compared to 10.7%) 35-49 year olds are projected to make up 21.6% of the population in 2026 up from 20.3%, with an extra 274 people in this age category group living in the area.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI)

Heidelberg West – Bellfield has a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with .4% of the population (30 people) residing in the area compared to .1% municipality wide.

### Country of birth

The proportion of overseas born residents account for 27.1% of the population, which is higher than Banyule overall (19.3%). The main overseas countries of birth are Somalia, India, China, United Kingdom and Vietnam. There is a large concentration of Somalian born residents living in Heidelberg West – Bellfield with 4.4% of the population (308 people) compared to .4% in Banyule, or .1% in Greater Melbourne, living in the area.

### Employment

The unemployment rate in Heidelberg West – Bellfield is high at 11.1% compared to the municipality rate average of 4.4%. The total labour force is 50.2% in comparison to 63.1% Banyule wide. The leading industry that employs residents is the health care and social assistance industry (16%) followed by manufacturing (11.6%) and retail (10.6%).

### Housing and Tenure

Heidelberg West – Bellfield has a high rate of single parent families (18.2% compared to 11% in Banyule). There is as many as 5.5% of houses that have 6 or more residents, in comparison to 2.3% municipality wide, this may be due to the high rate of medium density housing 29.9% as against 18.7% Banyule wide.

The area has more than half the population renting (50.2% compared to 23.4%). An emerging household type is group households.

### Income levels

Household income levels in Heidelberg West – Bellfield in 2011 showed that there was a smaller proportion of high income households (those earning \$2,500 per week or more) and a higher proportion of low income households (those earning less than \$600 per week) than in the City of Banyule. Overall, 6.4% of the households earned a high income and 33.7% were low income households, compared with 21.2% and 18.6% for the City of Banyule.

### Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Heidelberg West – Bellfield returned a very low SEIFA score which means a very high level of disadvantage. The score of 848.7 sees this area in the lowest 6 percentile Australia wide. Therefore, 94% of suburbs in Australia have a higher socio economic status than Heidelberg West – Bellfield.

### Community Views

The City of Banyule undertook a household survey in 2014 around what people like and dislike about living in the West Precinct (Heidelberg Heights and Heidelberg West – Bellfield). The top three likes were: distance to shops, distance to family/friends and access to public transport. The top three dislikes were: traffic issues, safety of the areas/streets and quality of homes in the area.

## 2.3 Universal Design

**Sport and Recreation Victoria has developed a planning resource labelled 'A Guide to Sport and Recreation Settings'.**

This guide is designed to encourage stakeholders to make sport and recreation facilities and settings more accessible to everyone by using universal design principles, and where possible adapting enhanced dimensions that go beyond the minimum standards. The purpose of this guide is to provide a practical resource and specific information to assist with planning, designing and development of sport and recreation facilities.

The components most relevant to the planning and development of Olympic Park include the design of sport and recreation reserves and sports pavilions. A summary of the design principles for each is provided below. These principles should be considered for all future design related projects delivered for Olympic Park.

### **Sport and Recreation Reserves – Universal Design Principles**

- **Connections**

All elements within sport and recreation reserves should be connected via a continuous accessible path of travel.

- **Approach**

Sport and recreation reserves require approach routes for both vehicles and pedestrians .

- **Entry points**

Entry points should be easily identifiable and wide enough to cater for the access needs of all users.

- **Pathways**

Continuous, accessible paths of travel free from obstacles should be provided.

- **Spectator areas**

Spectator areas for everyone should be provided at various locations at each facility where activities are held.

- **Landscape design**

Landscape elements in sport and recreation reserves may include paths and garden beds, plants, trees and shrubs as well as statues, sculptures, water features and a variety of other landscape elements.

- **Installations**

Such as litter bins, seating, lighting, drinking fountains (incorporating a low height dog bowl), dog dropping collection points and other installations must be usable by everyone.

- **Picnic and rest areas**

Rest and picnic areas should include seating with backs and armrests and tables with extended ends or clear spaces to allow for a person using a wheelchair to move underneath or a person to clip on a child restraint.

- **Companion animal free zone**

Consideration should be given to areas where companion animals (pets) are restricted to leads.

- **Building**

Buildings should be located on a continuous, accessible path of travel from the car park and pedestrian entry points of the sport and recreation reserve. They should provide level, step-free entry with no revolving doors or turnstiles and with wide door openings to accommodate all users.

- **Toilet and change rooms**

Male and female areas should have unisex accessible toilets, showers and change rooms for use by children as well as adults and carers, including people with a range of access challenges.

- **Play space**

Access to play spaces for both children and adults is important.

- **Water**

The availability of drinking water for both people and animals is important.

- **Way finding and information**

A successful way finding system should minimise anxiety and confusion and should be easy to understand and allow for everyone to equitably access all information provided.

- **Lighting**  
Effective, glare-free lighting should be provided throughout areas that are likely to be used at night. Sports lighting should be designed and installed so that the sport being conducted can be comfortably performed by the participants and officials and viewed by spectators.
- **Fields of play**  
All fields of play should be connected by a continuous, accessible path of travel to other key elements within the sport and recreation reserve, such as car parking areas, toilets, sports pavilions and spectator areas.
- **Adjustable playing facilities**  
Basketball and netball goal posts, for example, that can be adjusted to various heights are important for children and wheelchair athletes.
- **Adequate clear space around playing areas**  
Adequate clear space around playing fields and courts is necessary in order to provide access and safety for players and spectators.
- **Emergency exit**  
Emergency exits should be provided along a continuous, accessible path of travel to a nominated assembly area from all rooms within.

### Sports pavilions - Universal Design Principles

- **Pavilions**  
Sports pavilions should be located on a continuous accessible path of travel from the car parking and pedestrian entry points of the recreation reserve or site. Consideration should also be given to shelter close to, but not obstructing the principal entries.

*Wide internal walkways and doorways must be clear of any obstructions and access into each room of the pavilion is necessary so that users can participate in all activities and utilise required facilities. In multiple level pavilions, either ramps with appropriate gradients, or lifts, should be provided to upper levels to support ease of use and movement.*

- **Meeting and activity area**  
Hearing augmentation should be provided in any meeting and activity spaces in pavilions.
- **Kitchen, canteen and or dining**  
Any pavilions that incorporate kitchen or dining areas should provide ease of access for everyone and incorporate a range of tables and seating heights and types for children and adults.
- **Scoring and administration**  
Consideration should be given to the provision of accessible scoring and administration areas. This includes offices, score benches, viewing areas for scorers, scoreboards and audio announcement points.

## 2.4 Crime Prevention

**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles takes into account the relationship between the physical environment and the users of that environment. These principles should be considered in any future planning and design work undertaken for Olympic Park.**

CPTED is the design of a physical environment which can reduce both the incidence and fear of crime. These behavioural effects can be accomplished by reducing the susceptibility of the environment to support criminal behaviour. There are three basic strategies in CPTED:

1. **Natural access control** - directed primarily at decreasing criminal accessibility and restricting criminal intrusion by limiting access and increasing natural surveillance via gates, fences, walls, footpaths, landscaping and lighting.
2. **Natural surveillance** - a design concept that aims to keep potential offenders and intruders under observation. For example, through building orientation, windows, entrances and exits, car parking areas, refuse containers, walkways, guard gates, landscape trees and shrubs, use of walls such as wrought iron or picket fences, signage and other physical obstructions.
3. **Territorial reinforcement** - a design concept that delineates private space from semi-public and public spaces and also creates a sense of ownership. This can be achieved through reinforcing existing natural surveillance and natural access control strategies. Designing a space to accommodate long-term and continued use and to fit its intended purpose.

# Stakeholder consultation

## 3.1 Consultation activities

**An extensive and targeted consultation process was undertaken with key internal and external stakeholders to gather information, identify the needs of key users and determine future improvement and development opportunities at Olympic Park.**

### External stakeholder consultation

- Community Reference Group Workshop with representation from permanent user groups, local resident and community organisations. A follow up meeting was held with this group to seek feedback on the preliminary draft plan.
- Online community survey to seek input into the development of the Draft Master Plan (37 completed).
- Community drop in session at Olympic Leisure Centre to discuss local needs, use and improvement opportunities at the park.
- Individual meetings with permanent users and peak sporting bodies – Heidelberg United Soccer Club, FFV, Olympic Colts Cricket Club and Barrbunin Beek.

- Meeting with the Darebin Creek Management Committee regarding local park issues and opportunities to align with initiatives from the Darebin Creek Joint Community Infrastructure Plan.
- Meeting with City of Darebin strategic planning and recreation staff regarding the Northland Structure Plan and development of a Master Plan at nearby T.W Blake Reserve.
- Review of relevant Council and sport related strategies, policies, site information, funding opportunities and planned future works.
- Phone interview with the Department of Human Services regarding policy changes to social housing located around the reserve.
- Project Manager consultation with the Ivanhoe Harriers Athletics Club to determine club needs and local demand for an athletics facility.

### Internal stakeholder consultation

- Meeting with the Project Manager to confirm scope and receive all background and project related information for review.

- Onsite meeting with Council officers from a range of departments including Community and Social Planning, Youth and Aged Services, Open Space, Parks Maintenance, Building, Assets and Engineering and Recreation.
- Review of relevant Council and sport related strategies, policies, site information, funding opportunities and planned future works.
- Meeting with Council staff from Open Space, Project 3081 and Community Development who have intimate knowledge of Olympic Park.
- Internal Reference Group Workshop with representation from key Council staff. A follow up meeting was held with this group to seek feedback on the preliminary draft plan.
- Consultation with Council's Youth Services department and the local Sudanese community at Heidelberg Mall. (Please note this meeting was postponed due to a lack of attendance).

## 3.2 Consultation summary - external

**This section of the Background and Key Findings Report provides a detailed summary of information collected during the consultation process.**

### Community survey

- The online community survey for Olympic Park was promoted to the Banyule community and available for completion via Council's web site for a four week period, closing on 25 March 2016.
- A total of 51 responses were received with 37 of these completed and 14 partially completed. The following analysis only considers responses that have been fully completed.
- Thirty six respondents were aged over 25, with approximately 50% aged between 45 and 64. There was one respondent aged 15-19 years.
- In regards to gender more females (22) completed the survey than males (15).
- The majority of respondents indicated that English was the main language spoken at home and the majority of respondents were born in Australia.
- Most survey responses came from local residents with 25 of the 37 completed responses from Heidelberg West. There were 5 respondents from Heidelberg Heights and two from Ivanhoe.

- Thirty six responses were received from either individuals or local residents, with only one indicating they were from an organisation (Banyule Support and Information Centre - BANSIC).

### **Perception of Olympic Park**

- 70% of survey respondents (26) believe the role of Olympic Park should be to provide community open space, recreation and sporting opportunities for the local community. Seven people feel it should provide for passive open space only.
- 54% of respondents believe Olympic Park is only 'partially' fulfilling its role, with a further 24% believing it is achieving its role and 21% believing it's not.
- Those respondents who provided a comment as to why they believe Olympic Park is not achieving its role referred to community safety issues, neglected facilities and too much focus on sport as reasons.

### **Park usage**

- Twenty seven survey respondents (73%) indicated that they use Olympic Park to access the shared recreation trail, 17 (46%) use the park as access to the Northland Shopping Centre and 9 (24%) use the playground.
- 5 respondents indicated they currently do not use Olympic Park. Reasons provided for this include – 'it's a bit scary', 'not welcoming' and 'safety issues'.

- Only four people indicated that they travelled by car to use the park, with the majority of respondents (32) either walking or riding a bike, highlighting the importance of providing safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle access.
- In regards to frequency of use, 13 respondents use the park once to twice a week, 8 use it infrequently and only two indicated they use the park everyday.

### **What the community values about the Park?**

- The Darebin Creek Trail was easily the most valued item being offered at Olympic Park (20 respondents). The bushland reserve and the playground were also valued highly, with the buildings in the park the least valued.
- Other things that people valued that weren't included in the survey were the wildlife and native vegetation, aboriginal interpretive signage and Darebin Creek.

### **Condition rating / improvement priorities**

- Most of the facilities and infrastructure were rated as being in average condition by respondents with the playground and public toilets giving the poorest condition rating.
- Survey respondents indicated that the highest priorities for improving existing facilities and infrastructure include – Darebin Creek Trail upgrade, improving community safety and park maintenance, a new playground and community sports building.

- Other priorities identified included better park lighting, public toilet upgrade, attractive picnic facilities and gym equipment beside the trail.
- In regards to new facilities; a barbeque area, dog park and community garden received the most support. A pop up café, regional playground and a family playspace were also suggested.
- Nineteen people provided additional comments indicating their passion for the park. There were a large amount of comments regarding the impact of anti-social behaviour on the use of the park and the need to upgrade and make the Darebin Creek Trail safe.

#### **Community Drop in Session** **(Olympic Village)**

*Council advertised a community drop-in session the morning of Saturday 5 March at the front entrance of the Olympic Leisure Centre. Approximately 30 to 40 interested residents provided the following feedback and suggestions regarding Olympic Park.*

- Management and control of monkey bikes and provide a safe alternative location for their use.
- Improvements to sporting facilities and the Darebin Creek Trail is a high priority. The trail should be upgraded to a standard that provides for recreational and commuter use.
- More lighting and bins are required along the trail.
- Recognise and promote the parks connection and heritage with the Olympics.

- Provision of free to use tennis court, basketball and sporting facilities for teenagers.
- Dog bins and dog poo bins needed and suggestion to introduce a dog training facility at the park to increase activity.
- Retain the bushland reserve and recognise the good work of the bushland crew on recent improvements to this valued area of the park.
- Additional park furniture and bbq facilities are required particularly seating, shade, bubblers and shelters to attract families
- Improve way finding and directional signage along the Darebin Creek Trail that provides more information to describe destinations and travel times.
- Vandalism, anti-social graffiti along back fences and rubbish dumping around the car park area has increased since the camera has been removed.
- Toilet needed
- Development of a biodiversity zone that include duck boxes, fish ladder wetland and instream vegetation.
- Other suggestions and ideas from the community for improvements to the park include an outdoor movie theatre, new public toilets, skate park and viewing platforms to take advantage of the creek.

#### **Community Reference Group Meeting**

*Council established a Community Reference Group to provide input into the development of the Master Plan. The Community Reference Group included representatives from Heidelberg United Soccer Club, Olympic Colts Cricket Club, Exodus Community and Residents Group (3081), local residents, council officers and an elected member. A summary of the meeting is provided below.*

#### **Role of Olympic Park**

- Is a public facility for the local community and the sports clubs that acts as the southern gateway to the City.
- Provide a place that supports young people and local residents to participate in sport, recreation, social and cultural activities.
- Olympic Park should be a multi-use space that is modern, imaginative and major sporting hub for 3081.

#### **Existing site issues and challenges**

- Lack of investment into park maintenance and facility improvements has created issues for sporting clubs and other users.
- The current design and layout of the park encourages anti-social behaviour. There is poor public surveillance due to adjacent housing not facing into the park.
- Motorbike and trail bike activity is impacting general community use due to safety concerns.

- There is ongoing conflict and issues with multiple users of the shared bike path. The path needs to be widened and resurfaced for user safety.
- The lack of sports field training lights and general security lighting across the park creates issues for winter sporting tenants and community use. Upgraded power to the site via a new substation is a high priority.
- There is a significant amount of wasted open space that could be better utilised with relocating fencing and introducing new pedestrian access points.
- Council will find it increasingly difficult to provide funding for major capital projects, particularly once rate capping is introduced this year. Reliance on other external funding options will increase even further in the future.

#### **What's valued most about the park?**

- The Sporting Clubs and sporting facilities
- The Darebin Creek.
- The Olympic history and heritage
- The size of the park and it's multi-use capacity.

#### **What isn't valued?**

- The location and current condition of the playground.
- Current site layout and car parking in the middle of the park.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Trees along the Southern Road entrance hides the park.

#### **Olympic Colts Cricket Club meeting**

##### **What the club values about the site?**

- Dual cricket fields and relatively new training nets (but these are not orientated correctly).
- Walking paths surrounding the grounds.

##### **Key site constraints**

- Change room facilities are inadequate and not suitable for use by female cricketers.
- The need to use three separate areas is not functional (social area, change rooms and canteen).

##### **Priorities for the Master Plan**

- A new pavilion located between the two ovals with their own social area. The building can be shared with the soccer club in the off season and used by the indigenous group.
- More shelter and shade facilities around the main ground to improve spectator amenity.
- Relocation and expansion of cricket nets so sun is not an issue during training and there is alignment with Cricket Australia guidelines.
- Realignment and resurfacing of the main oval which has been 'squared off' to suit soccer club needs to provide an improved playing surface. Ground is used regularly by the soccer club.
- Cyclone mesh fence along the creek side to minimise balls being lost and also the potential risk to passing by pedestrians.

#### **Heidelberg United Football Club meeting**

##### **Club history**

- Heidelberg United Football Club participate in the National Premier League, the second highest level of soccer in the country. The club has a long history at Olympic Park with the first official match occurring in 1982.
- The club has invested capital funding into improvements and upgrades of Olympic Park over the years including the permanent grandstand, floodlights and sewage connection.
- The club has a long term lease over the grandstand and media building around the main pitch with all remaining areas used for soccer under a seasonal license agreement.
- The club is engaged with the local community coordinated soccer matches for the Somalian community and hosting the ANZAC day match. The soccer pavilion is also used regularly by the Heidelberg Alexander Citizens Group.

##### **Participation and membership**

- The club has approximately 8 men's teams, 3 women's teams and 150 children enrolled in Mini Roos.
- The club reportedly capped enrolments in the women and masters category due to not having enough training space.
- The club hire pitches for pre season training outside of Banyule to accommodate all teams as the main pitch is not prepared.

## Issues and challenges

- There is currently not enough power to the site which is preventing use of the training lights located on the eastern side of the permanent grandstand.
- Player change rooms and amenities are not suitable, particularly for female players.
- The location of cricket pitches on the two ovals shared with the cricket clubs creates compliance issues for match day pitches.
- Lack of security lighting and cameras.

## Priority development opportunities

- Synthetic training pitch and additional full size match day pitches.
- Sub station to power the training pitch lights.
- Building redevelopment to include larger social rooms and unisex change rooms and amenities.

## Football Federation Victoria meeting

- FFV's Rules of Competition provide facility standards for NPL clubs. A Class facility requirements apply to Senior Men's NPL fixtures.
- Facility requirements for NPL in 2017 and beyond are likely to change based on FFV's proposed facilities planning work. FFV has requested a copy of the Draft Master Plan to ensure current guidelines are adhered to.
- FFV views the disused running track around the main pitch and the age of the facility as key issues at the site.

- Other issues identified by FFV include limited or no disability access, lack of unisex player amenities and lighting around the venue.
- The distance from the main grandstand to the pitch caused by the running track is not ideal, along with the dated public announce and audio system and the continual maintenance works needed on main pitch to upkeep match quality.
- FFV believes priorities for the sport at Olympic Park should be provision of equitable access / unisex player amenities for women's NPL and more formalised training amenities in the open space behind the grand stand.
- FFV identified Lakeside Stadium in Albert Park and the recently developed John Ilhan Memorial Reserve in Broadmeadows as benchmark NPL soccer venues in Victoria.

## Darebin Council meeting

*The consultant met with Strategic Planning and Recreation Officers at Darebin Council to identify any work being undertaken by Council that will have implications for the future planning and development of Olympic Park.*

- Council is involved with the Northland renewal project (part of the Latrobe Employment Cluster) where there is high residential intensification and business and office development proposed over the next 30 years.
- There is expected to be a minimum of 10,000 people in the proposed residential area, comprising 7,000 dwellings and will start in approximately five years at a cost of around \$16m.

- Access to open space and sport and recreation opportunities for new residents and business will be critical and Council is planning for the future development of TW Blake Reserve and Olympic Park to provide this service.
- TW Blake will be an urban park with a focus on activation, sustainability and environmental education. The proposed space will encourage walkability and will be multipurpose and multi focussed.
- Darebin Council will fund the redevelopment of TW Blake Reserve and will seek a financial contribution from the land developer.
- Council reported that there is some feasibility work commencing on a tram line from Bell Street along Southern Road, Oriol Road and connecting into Latrobe University, potentially increasing activity around Olympic Park.
- The Latrobe University Master Plan proposes the future development of community level synthetic pitches which will need to be considered in future discussions around provision of a synthetic pitch at Olympic Park.

## Darebin Creek Management Committee (DCMC)

### The relationship between DCMC and Olympic Park

- The DCMC is a statutory authority consisting of 11 members who represent the four city councils of Banyule, Darebin, Whittlesea, Yarra and La Trobe University.

- The role of the DCMC is to review planning applications impacting Darebin Creek, strategic planning functions, relegation programs with Melbourne Water, coordinate bushland crews, stormwater management, litter control and engaging with friends of groups and local residents.
- The section of Darebin Creek that borders Olympic Park is in reasonably good condition. Melbourne Water is responsible for management of the waterway.
- Vegetation throughout Olympic Park is in good condition. There has been recent plot planting and nest boxes have had sugar gliders which indicates the vegetation is valuable.
- There is a significant outflow in the north west corner of Olympic Park. Melbourne Water had plans to 'sink' the north oval to better manage stormwater mitigation. Any plans to change the levels of the north oval will need to be referred to Melbourne Water.

#### **Current issues**

- The surface of the Darebin Creek Trail at Southern Road is in poor condition and there is a strong desire line for the trail connection which should be formalised.
- The current car park design is not functional and is too big of an area to protect with bollards which are easy to push over.
- Northland has done some revegetation plots along their side of the creek. The retaining wall that separates the centre from the creek provides a significant barrier to Olympic Park.

- Motorbike activity is prominent through Olympic Park (especially from Northland to Bundoora). Increased police presence has deterred and reduced this activity in the past.

#### **Future development considerations**

- Over the past ten years the thick vegetation around Olympic Park has been trimmed to improve park safety and surveillance. Any future planting should be low level, and provide good sight lines and surveillance opportunities.
- Expansion to the Darebin Creek Trail including a centre line to delineate direction should be a high priority. Consideration should be given to expanding the trail to 3m.
- Signage improvements promoting existing external linkages outside Banyule boundaries should be recognised. Consistency with Darebin Council's Signage Policy should be considered.
- Consideration should be given to facility development projects in close proximity to Olympic Park i.e. Development of an Indoor Ice Rink opposite Sullivan Reserve and the proposed redevelopment of TW Blake Reserve (both Darebin Council projects).
- Provision of accessible public toilets should be considered and integrate with any building modification or expansion. The new public toilets at Darebin Park is a good example.
- Banyule's Facilities Water Management Study lists Olympic Park as a high priority for Stormwater Harvesting investigation (included for consideration in 2016/17 budget). The intent of this project is to provide an alternative water source for the active sports fields.

- Stormwater Harvesting is also listed in the LaTrobe Employment Cluster opportunities study which includes a range of design options to divert up to 100ML of water per year to the site.
- Olympic Park was not the favoured option for water management in the Northland Principal Activity Centre (PAC) as water demand was found on the Darebin side.

#### **Ivanhoe Harriers Athletics Club meeting**

*Council officers met with the Ivanhoe Harriers Athletics Club to determine their needs for a stand alone athletics facility in the south precinct.*

- Council outlined the complexities and costs associated with developing a second track in the municipality, particularly without proven evidence of need. Council manage a track at Willinda Park.
- It was indicated that an athletics track at 'Olympic Park' is not a high priority.
- Further consultation and advice has been requested from Athletics Victoria to assist in determining the needs and future demand for a second athletics track in Banyule.
- The club agreed to hold further discussions with Ivanhoe Grammar and Ivanhoe Girls Grammar on a potential joint project for development of a new track shared by these schools.
- Council requested a more formal submission from the club when the Draft Olympic Park Master Plan is developed.

## 3.3 Consultation summary - internal

### Project Control Group Meeting

The initial project control group meeting was conducted onsite to provide the project background, policy context, and key site issues and opportunities for the future improvement of Olympic Park.

### Internal Reference Group (Council staff)

#### **Role of Olympic Park**

- Promotes health and wellbeing opportunities for the local community.
- The community can congregate and use in a way which enables individual independence and a sense of safety.
- Provides for the whole community to access from structured to family orientated activities.
- Is a welcoming place for the indigenous community and caters for indigenous sport (spear/boomerang throwing).
- Has an aesthetically pleasing landscape, habitat for native fauna and enhances biodiversity.
- Encourages physical activity (soccer, cricket, walk/run/ride the trails).

#### **Existing site issues and challenges**

- Perception the site is unsafe due to regular vandalism, drug activity and monkey bikes.
- Site accessibility, lack of public transport and poor way finding and user group signage.

- Community has a perception that the site is only for the soccer club and not for casual use.
- There is a disconnect and no physical interface between Barrbunin Beek and the rest of the park.
- The park has poor natural surveillance and is poorly lit which supports anti-social behaviour.
- There is no attraction at the park that encourages community use.
- Issues with shared paths and conflict with walkers, cyclists and dogs.

#### **Gaps and needs**

- Increase environmental value and percentage of trees/vegetation in the park
- Recognise indigenous heritage and more engagement with indigenous community.
- Increased connectivity and better links to surrounding areas i.e. Northland, Darebin Creek.
- Improve car parking and access to cater for future community events.
- Suitable and safe access for Council staff, volunteers and contractors.
- Improve natural surveillance and sightlines.
- More bushland educational signage leading to Southern Road wetland.

- More active spaces that are safe and welcoming for families – BBQs, public shelters, dog off-leash areas.
- Existing building refurbishment and a purpose built Emergency Recovery Centre (ERC) inclusive of office, quiet rooms, toilet and showers, play space, commercial/professional meetings, large congregation space and kitchen.
- Safe and accessible public toilets.

#### **Top 5 Priorities for improvement**

1. Safety and security.
2. Pedestrian and bicycle access and circulation.
3. Provide better facilities including a new shared multipurpose community building.
4. Recognise and promote the cultural and aboriginal heritage and environmental significance.
5. Improve/increase public amenity throughout the park (shelter, BBQ facilities, drinking fountain, public toilets etc.).

**Individual meetings and information was also received from a range of other Council officers with an interest in Olympic Park. These include Council's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Open Space Planner and Senior Project Officer (Project 3081).**

## 3.4 Consultation outcomes

Following a review of all internal and external stakeholder consultation meetings, surveys, workshops and interviews undertaken, a range of high level findings for Olympic Park have been identified.

The following findings were considered the most prevalent from key stakeholders during the consultation process and are recognised as key barriers to the current and future use of Olympic Park.

### **Community safety**

Stakeholder and community feedback received identified a perception that the site feels unsafe due to poor natural surveillance, monkey bike activity and anti social behavior.

### **Sports infrastructure condition and functionality**

Existing sporting infrastructure especially field lighting, player change rooms, social areas and amenities are dysfunctional and not meeting the needs of clubs and local community groups.

### **Park access and trail condition**

The site can be difficult to access and is not overly well connected to surrounding areas. An upgrade to the Darebin Creek Trail has been identified as a high priority.

### **No amenity to promote longer stays**

The site lacks a key feature and is not a destination for families and broader community use. Informal family areas with picnic facilities and interactive play elements have been suggested.

### **Exclusive sports precinct**

The site is viewed primarily as a sporting precinct rather than a place that can be shared by the whole community.

## 4.1 Overview

**The existing sports facilities and infrastructure at Olympic Park are generally inadequate and not meeting the needs of the sporting clubs. The age and functionality of the Skerry Pavilion, and the shortage of floodlit training pitches to support soccer are the most significant barriers to increasing participation.**

Council has collected facility information for Olympic Park through a range of planning documents and conditions assessments. A summary of facility information for Olympic Park that has implications for the future upgrade and development of the site is provided below.

### Active Reserves Study (2010)

The purpose of this project was to assess existing conditions, capacity and infrastructure and provide recommendations to assist in increasing usage.

The study assessed the condition of the main soccer pitch as D, the south oval as D, and the north oval as C-. Drainage on the main soccer pitch was assessed as being in excellent condition, whilst the north and south oval was assessed as being 'ok'.

The study recommended the following:

- Provide floodlighting and improve maintenance to the soccer training pitch behind the main grandstand.

### Floodlighting Audit Report (2016)

An asset and condition audit of floodlights throughout the sporting reserves within the City of Banyule was carried out by Dennis Hunt & Associates in association with Karac Electrics during the period June 2015 to January 2016. Findings for Olympic Park are provided below.

- The general condition of all light poles, base, control gear and mounting arm and luminaries at Olympic Park were assessed as being in good condition.
- One pole (00509) was assessed as being high risk and requires urgent works.
- The average lighting levels for each playing area at Olympic Park are:
  - Main soccer pitch – 359 lux
  - North Oval – 36.4 lux
  - South Oval – 96.2 lux

### Bicycle Strategy Action Plan (2010 – 2020)

Council's Bicycle Strategy aims to build a strong network of bicycle routes and facilities for all types of cyclist in Banyule.

The ten year action plan includes a recommendation to upgrade and widen the Darebin Creek Trail from Dougharty Road (north of Olympic Park) to Banksia Street (south of Olympic Park) to 3 metres.

### Asset Management Plan 2014 (Playgrounds)

The Catalina Street playground at Olympic Park is categorised as local and was given a renewal rating of six in Council's Asset Management Plan. The playground was recommended for renewal in 2014/15.

### Sports Facility Audits (2016)

The provision and condition of soccer and cricket facilities at Olympic Park were assessed to identify issues and gaps, and to help prioritise actions for the Master Plan.

Soccer at Olympic Park is being played at the highest level in the state, with Heidelberg United participating in the Victorian National Premier League (VNPL). The level of play demands a high standard of facilities to support player and spectator experiences. The club has reported in excess of 5,000 spectators at recent VNPL matches.

Cricket at Olympic Park is played at the community level and is considered a 'home club' venue according to Cricket Australia Community Cricket Facility Guidelines (2015).

**The following pages contain audit information for all soccer and cricket facilities, and includes facility compliance ratings using guidelines and hierarchy levels developed by the peak bodies (FFV and Cricket Australia).**

## 4.2 Soccer compliance

Soccer - field of play									
Pitch	Venue class	Required pitch length	Actual pitch length	Required pitch width	Actual pitch width	Required fencing	Actual fencing	Required run off area	Actual run off area
Main pitch	A	>100m	100m	>60m	68m	Permanent mesh (1.1m)	1.1m	3m	3-4.5m
North Oval Pitch	C	>96m	100m	>60m	60m	Permanent or temporary (1m)	No	3m	3m
South Oval Pitch (1)	C	>96m	100m	>60m	66m	Permanent or temporary (1m)	No	3m	3m



Soccer - player and official amenity compliance							
Facility	Venue class	Required no. of change rooms	Actual no. of change rooms	Compliant officials room	Massage table	Required first aid room size	Actual first aid room size
Main building	A	4	2	Yes	Yes	Min. 10sqm.	13.5 sq.

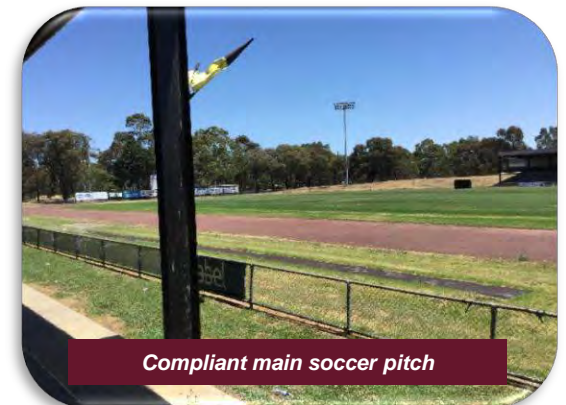
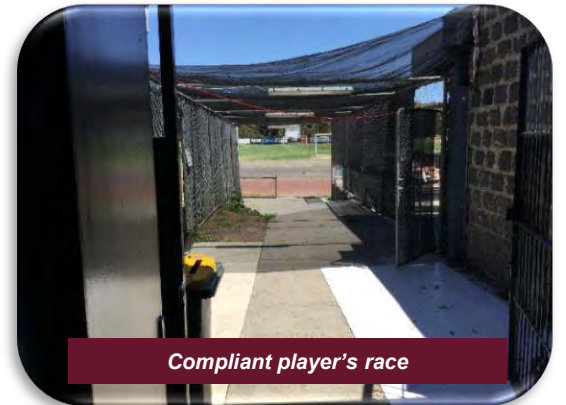


Soccer - spectator amenities compliance						
Venue class	Required no. of public toilet blocks	Actual no. of public toilets blocks	Scoreboard requirements	Existing scoreboard provision	Car parking requirements	Actual car parking
A	2	1	Fully functional	Fully functional	200 spaces within 400m	>200 including Northland
C	1	1	Nil	N/A	Nil	N/A



Soccer - operations and media compliance						
Venue class	Access requirements	Existing access provision	Site perimeter fencing requirements	Existing perimeter fencing	Ticket boxes	Existing ticket box provision
A	Accessible by emergency services vehicles	Yes	Fully enclosed (1.8m high)	Yes	2	2
C	Accessible by emergency services vehicles	Yes	Nil	N/A	Nil	N/A

Soccer - operations and media compliance continued						
Venue class	Exit requirements	Existing exits	Media and operations viewing area	Existing Media and operations viewing area	Broadcast point requirements	Existing broadcast points
A	2 separate exit points	3	Unobstructed views of playing area and scoreboard	Yes	Elevated, safe and covered on the half way line	Yes
C	Nil	N/A	Nil	N/A	Nil	N/A



## 4.3 Cricket compliance

### Cricket - pitches and playing field compliance

Oval	Venue class	Required field orientation	Actual field orientation	Minimum field dimensions	Actual field dimensions	Min. pitch dimensions	Actual pitch dimensions	Required pile height	Actual pile height
North	Club	North / South	North / South	50m radius	55m	25m x 2.4m	28m x 1.8m	9-11mm	9-11mm
South	Club	North / South	North / South	50m radius	53m	25m x 2.4m	28m x 1.8m	9-11mm	9-11mm



### Cricket - outdoor training facility compliance

Venue class	Required net orientation	Actual net orientation	Minimum no. of pitches	Actual no. of pitches	Minimum centre net length	Actual centre net length	Minimum lane width	Actual lane width
Club	North / South	North East / South West	3-6	2	21m	21m	3.6m	3.6m



### Cricket - clubrooms and change facility compliance

Venue class	Number of change rooms	Actual number of change rooms	Required change room size	Actual change room size	Required amenity size	Actual amenity size	Required umpires room size	Actual umpires room size
Club	2	4	20-30 sq. x2	27.5	20-25 sq. x2	10 sq.	15 sq.	11.5 sq.

### Cricket - clubrooms and change facility compliance continued

Venue class	Required first aid room size	Actual first aid room size	Required kitchen / kiosk size	Actual kitchen / kiosk size	Required social room size	Actual social rooms size	Required admin office size	Actual admin office size
Club	10 sq.	No provision	15-20 sq.	Nil	100-150 sq.	Separated from main clubrooms	15 sq.	No provision



# Issues and opportunities

## 5.1 Overview

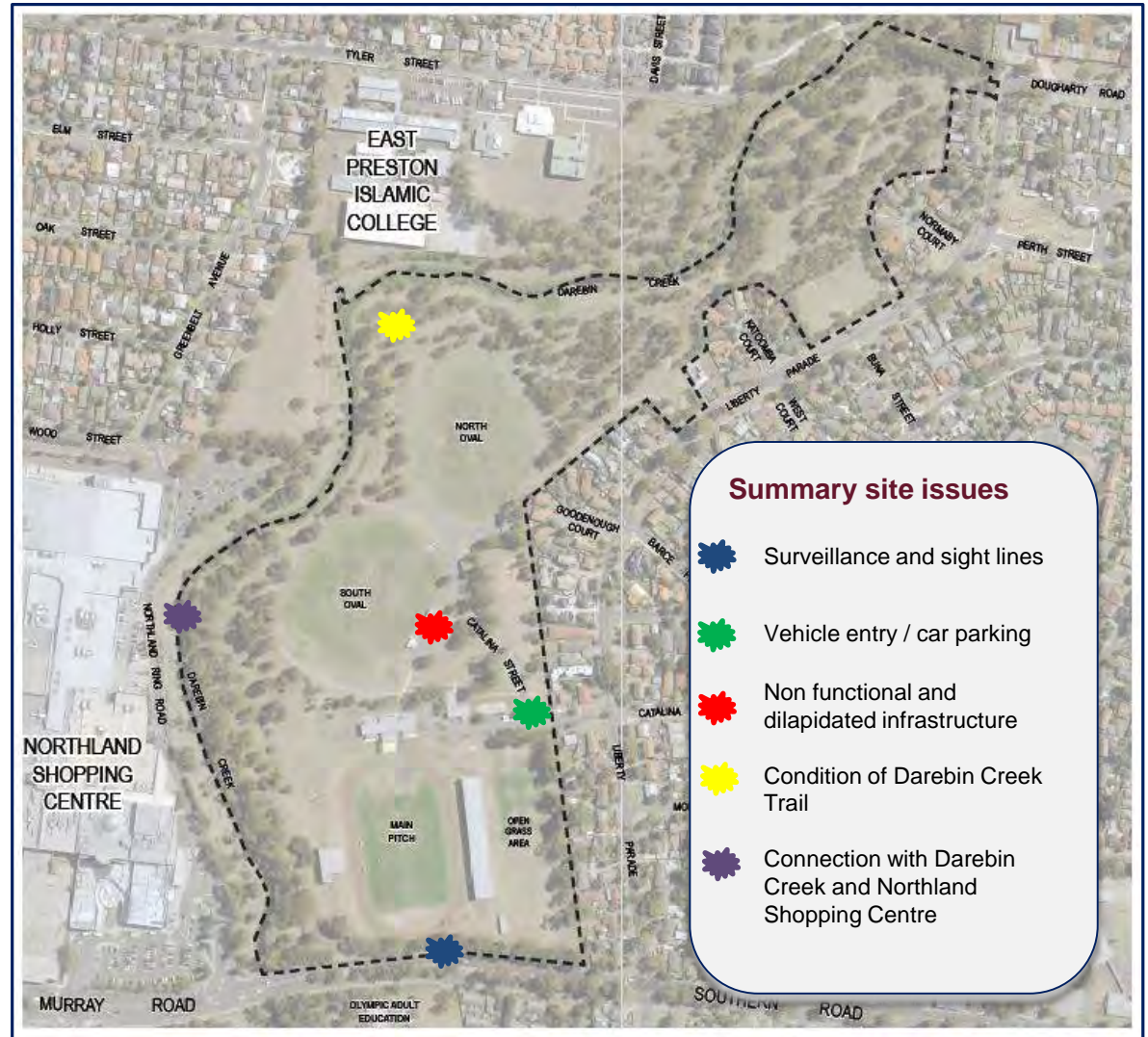
The design team have developed a number of plans and schematic design options to highlight existing park issues and condition, and to illustrate the broad range of opportunities available for the future development of Olympic Park.

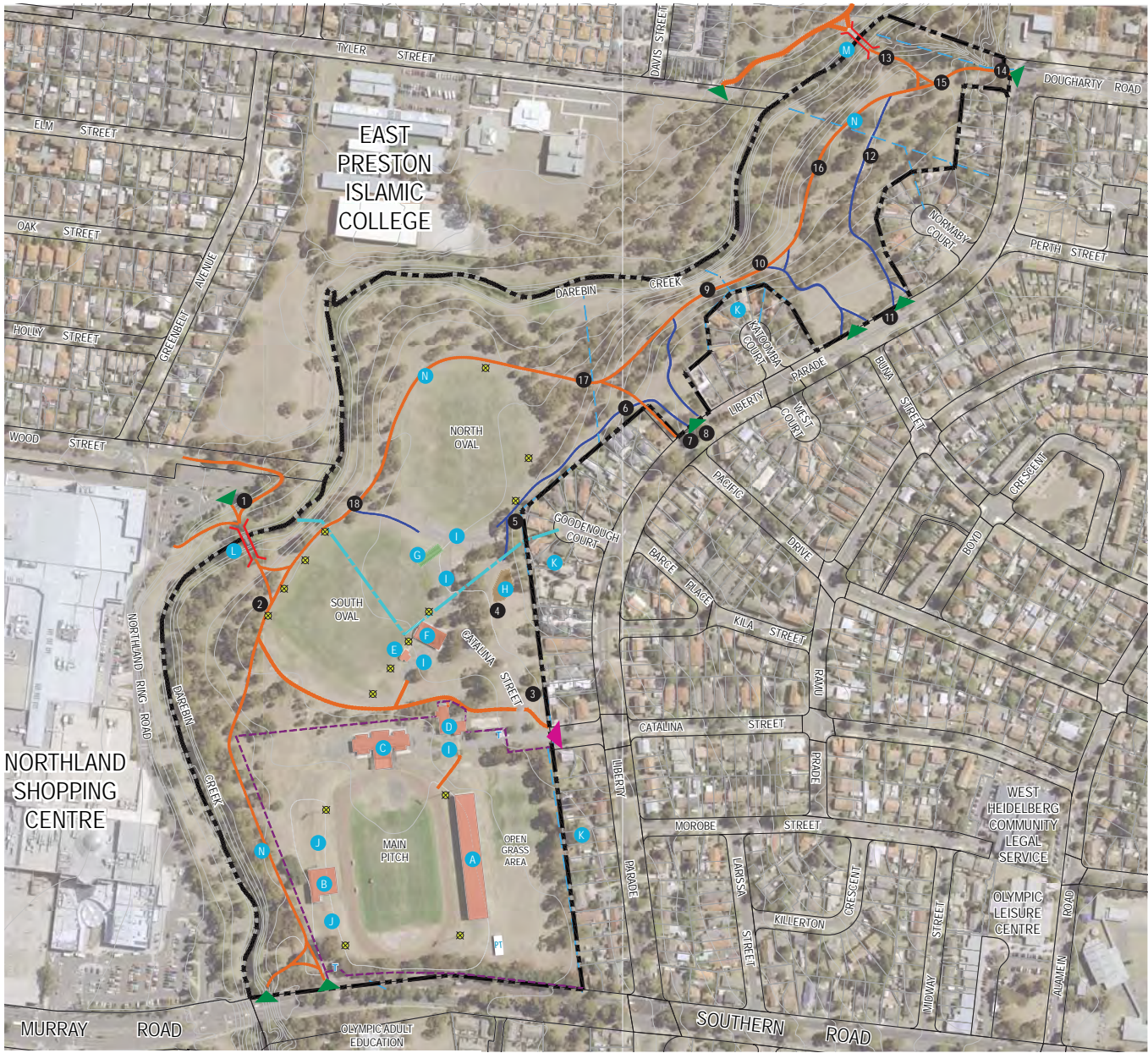
The following plans and drawings are included in this section of the report and were presented to Council and key external stakeholders for their review and feedback.

- **Existing Conditions Plan**
- **Preliminary Issues and Opportunities Plan (Option A)**
- **Preliminary Issues and Opportunities Plan (Option B)**

A detailed list of issues and opportunities has been developed to support schematic design options. The issues and opportunities tables provided in this section are categorised using the key design themes and strategic priorities identified through initial project consultation.

A comment against each issue and opportunity is provided to explain how each one has been considered, and if the proposed opportunity will be included in the Draft Master Plan.





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LEGEND		SITE FEATURES	
	STUDY AREA		A Main Spectator Stand
	GRAVEL PATHS		B Spectator Stand
	SEALED PATHS		C Heidelberg United Football Club
	STORMWATER PIPES		D Banyule Community Health (Bambunin Beek) Olympic Clots Cricket Club
	OLYMPIC PARK MAIN DRAIN		E Storage
	PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE		F Change Rooms
	SPORT FIELD LIGHTING		G Cricket Practice Nets
	FENCING		H Playground
	PEDESTRIAN ENTRY		I Car Parking
	MAIN VEHICLE/ PEDESTRIAN ENTRY POINT		J Spectator Mound
	PUBLIC TOILET TO BE DEMOLISHED		K Residential Properties Backing Onto The Park
	TICKET BOX		L Wood Street Pedestrian Bridge
			M Tyler Street Pedestrian Bridge (To Be Replaced 2017/18)
			N Darebin Creek Shared Trail

## SPORTSFIELDS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NO.	ISSUES / RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	COMMENT / ACTION
1	The cricket club share social rooms with Barrbunin Beek meeting and gathering space, and have a separate change room.	Consolidate cricket facilities and construct a new multipurpose sports pavilion to be shared between cricket and soccer and available to other community groups.	Proposed community sports building to service the needs of cricket, soccer and junior and female participants located between the north and south ovals
2	The soccer building is outdated and is below the standard expected of an NPL club.	Refurbish and expand existing soccer building with unisex change rooms, amenities and larger social space.	Funding has been secured for this project and is noted in the Master Plan.
3	Lighting infrastructure exists on the soccer club training ground but the lack of power to the site prevents the club from maximising their use.	Install a sub station at the main entrance to the park to provide sufficient electricity to power the lights on the soccer club training pitch.	Funding has been secured for this project and is noted in the Master Plan.
4	The absence of low level fencing around the soccer clubs training pitch creates issues with loose balls entering residents backyards and the main roadway entrance.	Provide low level perimeter fencing around the soccer clubs training pitch behind the grandstand to contain loose soccer balls.	A new roadway and car park is proposed for the area behind the grandstand. The proposed community synthetic soccer pitch will cater for the club's training needs.
5	The two soccer pitches on the south oval are undersized and provide one senior and one junior pitch.	Expand the playing area of the south oval to allow for development of two full size senior soccer pitches whilst maintaining access for senior cricket.	Proposed expansion of the playing field to allow development of two full size fenced soccer pitches.
6	The low fence between the south oval and the Darebin Creek Trail is not adequate and cricket balls are being lost in the creek and creating a safety hazard for trail users.	Re-align and provide more appropriate fencing that protects trail users whilst ensuring access and flexibility of the playing fields are retained.	Expanded playing field to include low level black chain mesh fencing.
7	Cricket nets are relatively new however have an incorrect orientation and fall below the minimum standard recommended for a local community club.	Relocate and expand cricket nets to a minimum of three lanes in a north-south orientation, with an option to expand to six lanes in the future.	Proposed relocation of cricket nets between the new community sports building and Darebin Creek Trail.
8	The red porous track around the perimeter of the main soccer pitch provides no club or community benefit and is impacting recommended pitch run off.	Remove the en-tout-cas track and reinstate with grass to provide the minimum recommended pitch run off area.	Included in the Master Plan. Recommended to occur simultaneously with light tower and soccer pitch relocation.

NO.	ISSUES / RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	COMMENT / ACTION
9	The main soccer pitch is too far away from the permanent grandstand impacting spectator experience.	Relocate the main soccer pitch further east closer to the grandstand.	Included in the Master Plan. Recommended to occur simultaneously with light tower relocation and removal of en-tout-cas track.
10	Sportsfield lighting on the north and south oval is not meeting the minimum lighting levels required for winter soccer training.	Upgrade the lights to meet minimum lighting levels for club training.	Recommended in the Master Plan and can be achieved following installation of sub station and funding provision.
11	There is ongoing conflict between soccer spectators and vehicles between the soccer building and the main pitch.	Provide a pedestrian only plaza between the building and the main pitch, including spectator mounding, terracing and concrete path.	Recommended in the Master Plan.
12	The current size of the north oval does not meet minimum dimensions for a senior soccer pitch.	Expand the playing area of the north oval to allow for development of one full size senior soccer pitch and access for junior cricket.	The Master Plan recommends long term that the north oval is upgraded and developed into the premier cricket oval with provision for junior soccer training and matches.

NO.	ISSUES / RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	COMMENT / ACTION
1	The playground is aged and at the end of its life. Although it is and will remain a local level play space, it lacks play diversity and experiences conducive to the development of social, emotional and cognitive development skills. Its current location is exposed and in close proximity to the rear of residential properties	Provide a replacement play space inclusive of physical challenges and nature based play activities. Potential locations include those with high visual exposure and passive surveillance potential alongside the Darebin Creek.	The Master Plan recommends the existing playground be removed and a new local level playground and picnic area constructed in close proximity to the main entrance and Barrbunin Beek building.
2	The park lacks diversity in the provision of passive recreational activities for the community.	Consider the introduction of new recreational activities such as picnic facilities, basketball and netball courts, hit up walls, running loops, fitness circuits and stations.	Short term recommendation to plan and develop a recreation zone that meets the needs of the local community and is located near the Darebin Creek Trail.
3	There are no public toilets near the south and north ovals. The public toilets within the Heidelberg United Football Club leased area have been condemned.	Consider new public toilets as part of the new sports pavilion centrally located within the park that provide for sporting club and community use.	New public toilets to be included in the community sports pavilion. The potential for a second public toilet to service the proposed recreation zone should be considered.
4	The Darebin Creek Trail is part of the metropolitan regional trail network and is used for commuter and recreational use. The section through Olympic Park is a poor quality asphalt surface and narrow by comparison to other metropolitan trails.	Upgrade Darebin Creek Trail to at least 2.5m (preferably 3.0m) wide constructed in concrete which is durable and consistent with trails in Darebin and Whittlesea City Councils. Note: Whittlesea City Council is currently upgrading its shared trail to 2.5m wide concrete.	Recommended as a high priority in the Master Plan.
5	There is several granitic sand trails which form a secondary network within Olympic Park. Apart from their appeal within the parks bushland environment, their suitability for all abilities access and ongoing maintenance (erosion, top-up and re-compaction) is an issue.	Introduce a secondary pathway network 2.5 wide (constructed in asphalt) where improved connectivity from park entrances to recreational precincts and destination points can be met.	Recommended as a high priority in the Master Plan.
6	Pathway connectivity and access within the park is problematic. For example, no pathway connection from Catalina Street to the playground and pathways disconnected by car parks.	Review pathway alignments and grades to ensure DDA compliance is achieved wherever possible.	Recommended as a high priority in the Master Plan.

NO.	ISSUES / RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	COMMENT / ACTION
7	Pathways in some areas, particularly within the bushland environment, are steep and contravene principles of Universal Access Design. Eroded pathways are common and informal vehicle tracks appear within the bushland zone along the Darebin Creek.	Review the relevance of informal vehicle tracks near the Darebin Creek with Melbourne Water and the Darebin Creek Management Committee and remove where necessary.	Recommended as a high priority in the Master Plan.
8	Barrbunin Beek share a building with the cricket club limiting their ability to expand.	<p>Increase the footprint of the Barrbunin Beek meeting and gathering space in line with the master plan for the facility to further activate the park.</p> <p>Further investigate opportunities of having an Aboriginal Cultural Learning Space within Olympic Park, preferably located near the Aboriginal sacred sites to the north of the reserve, towards Dougharty Road. The space would ideally include a classroom, dance space, art room, kitchen, garden area and elders space. Link a spiritual walk along the creek to the learning space. Car parking and access will require further consideration.</p>	The Master Plan recommends the Barrbunin Beek building is not relocated but upgraded in line with the facility master plan.
9	The general perception of Olympic Park from local residents and regular park users is that the park is unsafe. This is due to a sense of isolation, prevalent monkey bike activity and antisocial behaviour.	Improve passive surveillance by increasing lighting and installing surveillance cameras. Develop stronger relationships with Vic Police to ensure more regular and increased police presence at the site is achieved.	The Master Plan supports the installation of additional lighting to improve park security. Lighting will not be recommended within the proximity of the Darebin Creek.

## OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT

NO.	ISSUES / RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	COMMENT / ACTION
1	Residential properties and fences bordering the park on the east side are visually dominant.	Consider boundary planting to veil residential properties and fences in the short term. Long term consideration should be given to investigate incrementally acquiring properties on the west side of Liberty Parade to improve views and access from residential communities to the east.	Recommended in the Master Plan.
2	Northland Shopping Centre is visually obvious and lacks integration with the Darebin Creek.	Additional revegetation and habitat improvement works between Darebin Creek and Northland Shopping Centre. This is constrained by private landownership extending down to the creek.	Recommended in the Master Plan.
3	The Southern Road boundary is heavily treed with a number of senescent Cypress trees requiring ongoing maintenance	Removal of exotic/senescent trees and replace with native/indigenous.	The Master Plan recommends removal of fencing along Southern Road to open up the park creating better sightlines and connections via pedestrian pathways.
4	The large spectator mound on the west side of the main soccer pitch provides a disconnection with the Darebin Creek Trail but does provide good viewing opportunities for spectators.	Improve the interface between the Darebin Creek Trail and the main soccer precinct without compromising spectator amenity.	The Master Plan recommends removing a portion of the spectator mounds and developing a community synthetic soccer pitch.

NO.	ISSUES / RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	COMMENT / ACTION
5	<p>Issues with the Darebin Creek are identified within the Darebin Creek Northland: Ecological Improvement Study. In summary these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank undercutting and channelization near the East Preston Islamic College and Northland Shopping Centre</li> <li>• High stormwater inflows impacting on creek structure, flow dynamics and water quality</li> <li>• Terrestrial and Riparian Weeds along the extent of the creek.</li> <li>• Illegal dumping of rubbish</li> <li>• In-stream litter and debris</li> <li>• In-stream weeds</li> <li>• General erosion</li> <li>• Pest animals</li> </ul>	<p>Opportunities for improving the Darebin Creek Environs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of litter and debris through the installation of litter and/or pollutant traps. These will require ongoing maintenance and clearing.</li> <li>• Creek bank stabilisation and shading through riparian and terrestrial native revegetation works. This would also improve vegetation connectivity and enhance habitat values. This would need to occur in hand with weed removal and site preparation works.</li> <li>• Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) devices/systems within Olympic Park and surrounding residential streets to improve water quality flowing into Darebin Creek. Raingardens and vegetated swales associated with streets and on site car parks.</li> </ul>	Recommended in the Master Plan.
6	<p>Pedestrian entry points into Olympic Park exist at Dougharty Road, Liberty Parade opposite Buna Street and Pacific Drive, Murray Road Bridge and across the Darebin Creek south of Wood Street and north of Tyler Street. Issues associated with entrances include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overgrown vegetation, particularly opposite Buna Street and Pacific Drive where views into the park and passive surveillance is constrained.</li> <li>• Wayfinding and directional signage is non-existent.</li> <li>• Vehicle exclusion fencing: there are many styles and types and not consistently themed/branded.</li> <li>• Pathway alignments are not well considered and need to be rationalised.</li> </ul>	<p>Opportunities for improving park entrances include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporating wayfinding and directional signage to destination points i.e. Northland Shopping Centre, schools, recreational facilities within the park, other nearby parks and reserves.</li> <li>• Incorporate park identification signage</li> <li>• Prune large shrubs to provide clearer sightlines and improve passive surveillance. i.e. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.</li> <li>• Provide a single style of vehicle exclusion fencing to limit motor cycle and unauthorised car entry.</li> <li>• Introduce appropriate plantings to improve the visual appeal of entrances.</li> </ul>	Recommended in the Master Plan.

NO.	ISSUES / RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	COMMENT / ACTION
7	Lack of stormwater treatment and harvesting on site.	<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment and harvesting of stormwater from Olympic Park Main Drain catchment for irrigation of north and south ovals/pitches</li> <li>• Harvesting rainwater from the grandstand roof for irrigation of the main pitch, stored in underground tanks below the training pitch.</li> </ul>	<p>The Master Plan acknowledges potential stormwater harvesting opportunities and supports further planning and investigation into the appropriate scope and location.</p> <p>Council has \$80,000 for design in 2016/17.</p>
8	Inconsistent styles, damaged, illogically placed and limited park furniture throughout Olympic Park.	Provide a suite of consistently styled park furniture in key open space nodes: seats, litter bins, drink fountains, picnic settings etc. Locate seats along pathways and visual vantage points to provide resting opportunities and views of the creek environs.	Recommended in the Master Plan.

NO.	ISSUES / RISKS	OPPORTUNITIES	COMMENT / ACTION
1	<p>Access from the west side of the Darebin Creek is achieved by two pedestrian bridges. The bridge south of Wood Street is due to be replaced in 2017/18 (source: LaTrobe National Employment Cluster Joint Community Infrastructure Plan, ASR 2015)</p> <p>The bridge north of Tyler Street is relatively new (steel and concrete construction).</p> <p>Both bridges are arched with steep inclines at each end.</p>	<p>Review the design of the Wood Street replacement bridge and compliance with principles of Universal Access Design and the DDA. The design of the new bridge may also provide better graded lead on paths which are not as steep.</p> <p>Consider a new bridge between Wood Street and Southern Road as recommended within the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct Master Plan.</p>	<p>Recommended in the Master Plan.</p>
2	<p>Fragmented parking is concentrated between the south oval and main soccer pitch.</p>	<p>Consolidate all parking into one area minimising lengthy access roads.</p>	<p>A new roadway and car park is proposed for the area behind the grandstand in addition to the recommendation to redevelop the existing car park to the north oval.</p>
3	<p>There are no Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) devices associated with the car park areas.</p>	<p>Incorporate WSUD devices to mitigate pollutants flowing into the Darebin Creek from newly constructed car parks</p>	<p>Recommended in the Master Plan.</p>
4	<p>Access roads to car parking areas alienate and disconnect public open space.</p>	<p>Incorporate tree and understory planting to soften the visual impact of the car park.</p>	<p>Recommended in the Master Plan.</p>
5	<p>Bollards to parking and access roads are visually dominant.</p>	<p>Introduce a lesser visually dominant vehicle exclusion devices around car parks.</p>	<p>Recommended in the Master Plan.</p>
6	<p>Wayfinding signage is poor to non-existent. This is of critical importance as the Darebin Creek Trail extends from Epping capturing major destinations (i.e. universities and schools, regional parklands, employment hubs, shopping centres) to the Yarra Trail and Melbourne CBD.</p>	<p>Introduce wayfinding map based and directional bladed signage in line with Council signage policy. Locations where signage should be placed include bridge crossings, intersecting paths and park entrances where key travel decisions need to be made. This could also be accompanied with regulatory signage. Signage should also be placed at key destination points directing people back to Olympic Park.</p>	<p>Recommended in the Master Plan.</p>



LEGEND

Proposed Trees

Proposed Revegetation

Existing 2.5m Wide Concrete Path

Existing 1.5m Wide Asphalt Path

Proposed 2.5m min Wide Shared Concrete Pathway

Proposed 2.5m Wide Secondary Asphalt Pathway

Extent of The Work

Existing Low Level Fence

Proposed Fence

Existing Foot Bridge

Proposed Foot Bridge

Proposed Light Poles

Proposed Fitness Stations

Improved Entry Points

- SITE FEATURES
- A

Grandstand

B

VIP Room/Stand

C

Heidelberg United Football Club

D

Banyule Community Health (Barbarrunin Beek)

E

Spectator Mound

F

Residential Properties Backing Onto The Park

VISION:

That Olympic Park is a place of welcome, providing the community with leisure, recreational and sporting activities in a safe environment.

General

- Provide suite of consistent style park furniture
- Park lighting and CCTV in selective areas, including CPTED design principles to assist with surveillance and general park safety. Establish police presence at the park.
- Introduce wayfinding signage

Sportsfields and Infrastructure

- 1 Multipurpose sports pavilion
- 2 Refurbish and expand soccer building
- 3 New electrical substation
- 4 Low level fencing around training pitch
- 5 South oval with 2 full size soccer pitches (100x60m) and cricket (60m radius)
- 6 High fencing to protect path users
- 7 Relocated and expanded cricket nets
- 8 Athletic track removed
- 9 Main pitch located further east
- 10 Upgrade sport lights to training level for soccer
- 11 Paved pedestrian plaza and spectator area
- 12 North oval with 1 full size soccer pitch (100x60m) and cricket (50m radius)

Community recreation and park safety

- 1 Replacement playspace
- 2 (2a) Picnic facilities. (2b) basketball/netball/hit-up wall. (2c) Fitness station
- 3 New public toilets part of pavilion
- 4 Upgraded Darebin Creek Trail to at least 2.5m wide (Preferably 3.0m)
- 5 Secondary pathways (2.5m Wide)
- 6 Review pathway grades to ensure DDA compliance
- 7 Review relevance of informal tracks with Statutory Authorities
- 8 Expanded Babarrunin Beek Indigenous Gathering Space building. Potential integration of public unisex toilets

Open space and environment

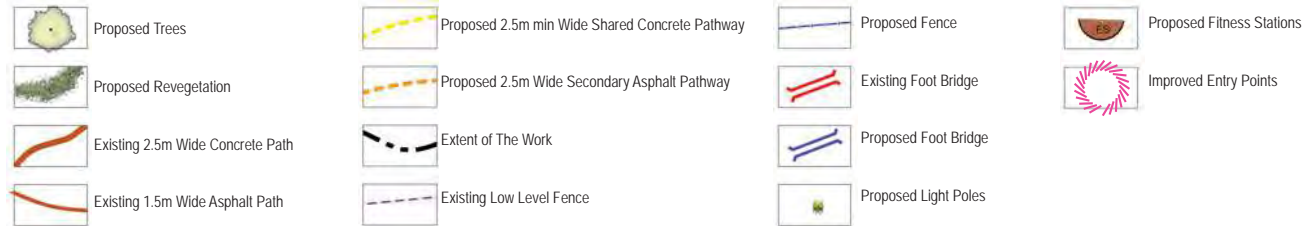
- 1 Boundary planting to screen residential properties
- 2 Additional revegetation and habitat works
- 3 Removal of senescent cypresses and replacement with indigenous trees
- 4 Improve interface between Darebin Creek Trail and soccer precinct
- 5 Improve and enhance the Darebin Creek
- 6 Improve park entrance (wayfinding, landscaping, vehicle/motor cycle exclusion fencing)
- 7 (7a) Treat and harvest stormwater from the Olympic Park Main Drain for irrigation of north and south ovals. (7b) Harvest water from grandstand roof for irrigation of main pitch with tanks under training pitch

Movement and access

- 1 Review the design of the Wood Street replacement bridge for DDA compliance
- 2 New consolidated car park with turning circle/drop off near the new sports pavilion with tree and understorey planting to car park to soften its visual impact and less dominant vehicle exclusion fencing
- 3 Associated WSUD treatment to car park
- 4 Additional pedestrian bridge/link to Northland Shopping Centre in accordance with the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct Master Plan



LEGEND



SITE FEATURES

- A Grandstand
- C Heidelberg United Football Club
- D Banyule Community Health (Barbarrunin Beek)
- E Spectator Mound
- F Residential Properties Backing Onto The Park

**VISION:**  
*That Olympic Park is a place of welcome, providing the community with leisure, recreational and sporting activities in a safe environment.*

General

- Provide suite of consistent style park furniture
- Park lighting and CCTV in selective areas, including CPTED design principles to assist with surveillance and general park safety. Establish police presence at the park.
- Introduce wayfinding signage

Sportsfields and Infrastructure

- Multipurpose sports pavilion and Babarrunin Indigenous Gathering Space
- Refurbish and expand soccer building
- New electrical substation
- Additional soccer training pitch
- South oval with 2 full size soccer pitches (100x60m) and cricket (60m radius)
- High fencing to protect path users
- Relocated and expanded cricket nets
- Athletic track removed
- Main pitch located further east
- Upgrade sport lights to training level for soccer
- Paved pedestrian plaza and spectator area
- North oval with 1 full size soccer pitch (100x60m) and cricket (50m radius)

Community recreation and park safety

- Replacement playspace
- (2a) Picnic facilities. (2b) basketball/netball/hit-up wall. (2c) Fitness station
- New public toilets part of pavilion
- Upgraded Darebin Creek Trail to at least 2.5m wide (Preferably 3.0m)
- Secondary pathways (2.5m Wide)
- Review pathway grades to ensure DDA compliance
- Review relevance of informal tracks with Statutory Authorities
- Community Pitch. Re-align existing fence

Open space and environment

- Boundary planting to screen residential properties
- Additional revegetation and habitat works
- Removal of senescent cypresses and replacement with indigenous trees
- Improve interface between Darebin Creek Trail and soccer precinct
- Improve and enhance the Darebin Creek
- Improve park entrance (wayfinding, landscaping, vehicle/motor cycle exclusion fencing)
- (7a) Treat and harvest stormwater from the Olympic Park Main Drain for irrigation of north and south ovals. (7b) Harvest water from grandstand roof for irrigation of main pitch with tanks under training pitch

Movement and access

- Review the design of the Wood Street replacement bridge for DDA compliance
- New consolidated car park with turning circle/drop off near the new sports pavilion with tree and understorey planting to car park to soften its visual impact and less dominant vehicle exclusion fencing
- Associated WSUD treatment to car park
- Additional pedestrian bridge/link to Northland Shopping Centre in accordance with the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct Master Plan

## 5.2 Feedback on Preliminary Design Options

**The above design options were presented to Council's Internal Reference Group and External Community Reference Group to seek initial feedback on key directions and recommendations for Olympic Park.**

A summary of comments and suggestions received from these groups are provided below.

- Master Plan recommendations are likely to be costly so a staged approach will be crucial to ensuring Council and other funding providers have the capacity to implement in a responsible manner.
- Overall traffic, transport and water servicing requirements will be important to accommodating an increased population in the west precinct.
- Improvements to the southern end of Olympic Park and the replacement of redundant and dilapidated facilities and infrastructure should be a high priority.
- Recommendations that 'open up' Olympic Park and provide improved sight lines and passive surveillance opportunities should be supported.
- The Master Plan should prioritise and address current traffic issues in and around Olympic Park (particularly on major event days) and provide additional onsite parking.
- Building the capacity of existing sport and recreation infrastructure through expansion and upgrades of playing fields and lighting infrastructure is important.

- Based on previous consultation for other projects, local adolescents will not be supportive of 'half or quarter court' basketball courts.
- All future planning and design of facilities and infrastructure at Olympic Park must incorporate Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- Environmental initiatives such as the installation of solar panels for buildings and stormwater harvesting to irrigate sports fields and protect water run off into the Darebin Creek should be supported.
- The services and culture associated with the Barrbunin Beek gathering and social space is not compatible with the sporting environment and will require it's own space.
- Barrbunin Beek should also be located as close as possible to the front entrance and public transport. The current location is preferred and should be retained.
- The proposed 'Spiritual Walk' will need to be included in the Draft Master Plan and should be connected to the existing Barrbunin Beek building.
- The new community playground should not be relocated away from local residents e.g. along the Darebin Creek Trail. The playground should be located close to the main entrance and within close proximity to existing and proposed sport and community buildings.
- Baffling any additional lighting proposed should be considered to protect fauna, particularly along Darebin Creek and the Sugar Glider population to the north.
- Building the capacity of Olympic Park to enable the site to host future community events and festivals will be important and help activate the site.
- Longer term planning should investigate opportunities to remove residential properties along Liberty Parade to 'open up' the park and address isolation issues.
- Work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) on the planned upgrades of social housing that border Olympic Park in an effort to influence the design process and achieve residential frontages that overlook the park.
- Local residents are opposed to vegetation along back fences for fear of fire and antisocial behaviour. The risk of fire should be considered.
- Ensure ongoing involvement with the Metropolitan Planning Authority and the City of Darebin to leverage external funding for park improvements.
- Maps and directional signage at key entry points to Olympic Park should be a high priority.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 – Summary of key themes

Key themes summarised from submissions:	Officer Comment:
<b>Sports fields and infrastructure:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ivanhoe Harriers Athletics Club is objecting to the proposed removal of the former red porous athletics track, claiming that it will remove an important historical link with the 1956 Olympic Games.</li> <li>Athletic track would be useful to local schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The removal of the athletics track is supported by Athletics Victoria. Council's existing athletic track at Willinda Park is adequately servicing the needs of athletics across the municipality for individuals and schools.</li> <li>It is suggested that the site's Olympic heritage be strengthened through the use of interpretive signage</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A local resident believed that the proposed fencing around the soccer precinct gives the perception of exclusivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fencing around the perimeter of the soccer facilities are required as part of the FFV and NPL requirements for this level of competition.</li> <li>New infrastructure proposed which will be available for community use includes the recreation zone, community playground, synthetic pitch and upgraded trails.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed relocation of the main soccer pitch closer to the main grandstand should be further investigated and expense justified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pitch relocation is designed to bring the pitch closer to the main grandstand and enhance spectator experience. A full pitch redevelopment will be required as part of the overall park redevelopment and the relocation can be achieved at this time.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heidelberg United Soccer Club recommend the proposed <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> synthetic pitch be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- relocated further north to provide better vehicle access</li> <li>- included within the club's leased area to mitigate vandalism and damage</li> <li>- requires higher fencing along the creek side</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing community access to the synthetic pitch for casual use outside of club times is recommended to ensure the pitch is fully utilised and provides social and physical activity opportunities for the broader community. The pitch will require perimeter fencing.</li> <li>The final location of the synthetic pitch and fence heights will be determined following further detailed site planning, design work and traffic management recommendations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The soccer club would like a full size senior soccer pitch on the north oval.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal to develop the north oval as the primary cricket field will require permanent perimeter fencing and limit the capacity to develop a full size soccer pitch. The detailed design will pursue the largest soccer pitch size possible whilst still meeting cricket requirements.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The soccer club require the proposed new mounding beside the main soccer pitch to be located closer to the soccer pitch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed mounding is designed to enhance spectator amenity. Location to be determined during detailed design.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The soccer club require the re-instatement of the Southern Road ticket box, and confirmed that two access points are required for all FFV NPL and FFA fixtures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two ticket box locations to be shown on the plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A member of the Heidelberg United Soccer Club provided a range of ideas including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provision of all-weather futsal pitches,</li> <li>- elevated platforms for coaches/staff to watch/video matches</li> <li>- sunken coaches boxes</li> <li>- coaches boxes/shelters for the <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> pitch and netting behind goals</li> <li>- flood lights to be on timers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor futsal pitches were not identified as a high priority by the club or FFV.</li> <li>Elevated platforms, coaches boxes and additional netting are the responsibility of the club,</li> <li>Floodlighting timers will be addressed during detailed design.</li> </ul>
<b>Community recreation and park safety:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No provision for bins and recycling. And need for dog bins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council is currently developing a 'Dumped Rubbish and Litter Strategy' which looks to address litter in parks, recycling and dog waste bins. These concerns to be referred to the actions in the Litter Strategy.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A local resident was concerned that the proposed location of the nature based play space overlooking the creek replaces the sole remnant section of the original Olympic training venue. The area consists of two concrete circles that were used by athletes training for shot put, discus throw and hammer throw and should be protected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This infrastructure has been redundant for some years. The age of the infrastructure has been researched and it was not used during the Olympic Games 1956 era. It was installed by Ivanhoe Harriers Athletics Club approximately 35 years ago, post-Olympic era.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed 'recreational zone' located between the south oval and the creek will attract graffiti and vandalism as it is away from the more heavily populated areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From a recreation and landscape planning perspective this location was selected due to its close connection to other key recreational nodes including the Darebin Creek Trail and proposed synthetic pitch.</li> </ul>

Key themes summarised from submissions:	Officer Comment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barrbunin Beek support the proposed plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial feedback from Barrbunin Beek on the draft plan varied between wanting to expand and refurbish the existing building to wanting a new building away from the sports precinct.</li> <li>Follow-up consultation between Council and Barrbunin Beek committee confirmed they agree with draft plan which is to expand and refurbish the existing building. This decision was minuted at their committee meeting dated 7 October 2016.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback received from a community member and regular trail user included a request for marker signage to key features along the trail including Darebin Park, Olympic Park, Bundoora Park, Northland, and Latrobe University.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These are supported and should refer to Council's bicycle strategy.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be a loss of 'unstructured recreation space' for the community with the proposed car park behind the grandstand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed master plan includes community spaces such as a new synthetic multipurpose pitch, children's playground, trail upgrades and free to use exercise equipment.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A member of the Heidelberg United Soccer Club provided feedback on the proposed 'recreation zone':               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 'recreation zone' should be multi-lined to cater for futsal and provide a 'European' style multipurpose court.</li> <li>Provide floodlighting to maximise use.</li> <li>Have a 'shooting wall'</li> <li>Be semi enclosed to prevent access from 'monkey bikes'.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final design of the 'recreation zone' is yet to be determined. Initial concept proposes multipurpose areas suitable for a range of uses. This includes but is not limited to a three-quarter size basketball / netball court, hit up wall, running loops, fitness circuits and exercise stations. Low level fencing should be considered.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground upgrades, path improvements and a new public toilet are high priority projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new community playground, accessible public toilet, and upgrade of the Darebin Creek Trail are listed as high priority actions in the Draft Master Plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The exercise station near Buna St is not referenced in the implementation plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The exercise station is referenced in Action 1.5 relating to the 'new recreation zone comprising of basketball/netball/hit-up wall and exercise station'. Suggest to show reference marker on the plan to more clearly demonstrate this.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public toilets are appalling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redundant public toilet block to be demolished. New public toilets to be designed with the new pavilion between the north and south ovals.</li> </ul>
<b>Diversity and sustainability:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ivanhoe Harriers Athletics Club believe the recommendations in the draft master plan are not delivering diverse sporting opportunities or adequately catering for the needs of young women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council is currently providing a range of facilities to support mainly female dominated sports including Banyule Nets Stadium and Macleod Gymnastics Centre. The spike in females playing football and soccer is also being supported through the current provision of outdoor sports fields and infrastructure. Council will continue to focus on the needs of female participants and ensure the design of all future sport related facility development projects will adequately provide for females.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melbourne Water support the proposed vision and development principles contained in the draft master plan and confirmed the site is subject to flooding. MW supports the additional planting of vegetation and habitat improvement works.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melbourne Water conducts regular landscape improvement works and litter control along the Darebin Creek and will require a landscape maintenance plan from Council for their review and comment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining the health and vibrancy of the waterways and embankments along the Darebin Creek will support the activation of Olympic Park.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The soccer club believes the proposed location of vegetation on the east side of the north oval is a hindrance to spectators and a safety issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buffer planting is recommended between the north oval and local residential properties. There will be improved spectator amenity with the proposed new sports pavilion between the two ovals.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A member of the Heidelberg United Soccer Club proposed the inclusion of an indigenous vegetation and drainage plan, energy efficient solar panels, water catchment and the use/reuse of the caught water, recycling facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be considered during detailed design phase.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently the area behind the grandstand is vegetated and provides habitat to a rich and diverse bird population which will be impacted by the proposed car park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed planting of additional vegetation and habitat improvement works within the bushland reserve will offset any vegetation loss behind the grandstand.</li> </ul>

Key themes summarised from submissions:	Officer Comment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future plans need to ensure the rural quality of the park is retained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rural quality of the park will be retained through the proposed planting of additional revegetation and habitat improvement works within the existing bushland reserve, and development of a 'spiritual walk' along the Darebin Creek.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A local resident indicated that the proposed removal of senescent cypress trees had already occurred along the Southern Road boundary fence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council has removed some of the senescent cypress trees in this area to improve sightlines into the park. The master plan supports the removal of introduced species and replanting of indigenous vegetation.</li> </ul>
<b>Movement and access:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melbourne Water supports the proposed enhancement of existing trails and provision of a new bridge to the Northland Shopping Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading the Darebin Creek Trail, surrounding connector trails and the new bridge will better connect the precinct to the surrounding community and increase the use and functionality of Olympic Park.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VicRoads provided in-principle support for the proposed new left-in / left-out access point on Southern Road but require additional information prior to formal approval being provided. This includes a scaled and dimensioned functional layout plan, swept path analysis and a Transport Impact Assessment Report.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed left-in / left-out access is designed to improve traffic flow and vehicle congestion, and to accommodate large scale events.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The soccer club requests that car parking be extended to the far north east side of the north oval, and allowance made for additional rows of parking behind the grandstand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The master plan proposes an increase in car parking numbers on-site. Extending the road way and car parking to beside the north oval is likely to impact residents and is not supported</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was an objection to the proposed car park behind the grandstand. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can porous materials be used instead of asphalt?</li> <li>- Retain trees</li> <li>- Is the carpark only available during soccer games?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary assessment has determined that additional onsite car parking is required to support sporting activities.</li> <li>Materials to be used for the carpark as well as access arrangements to be considered and determined during detailed design.</li> <li>Trees to be retained wherever possible as well as additional planting throughout.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide enhanced public lighting along trails and connector paths, and use a porous asphalt material for any future resurfacing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Draft Master Plan recommends increased passive lighting but to ensure a balance between community safety and protecting the ecological values of Darebin Creek habitats.</li> <li>Due to the volume of people utilising the Darebin Creek Trail, the Draft Master Plan recommends the use of concrete for any future upgrade works. Asphalt is proposed for all secondary pathways running off the main trail.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure any future upgrade or enhancement of the trail network considers use for roller blading.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Darebin Creek Trail is promoted as a shared use trail which is suitable for casual roller blading. The use of concrete also supports this type of use.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed car park located to the east of the main soccer pitch may create privacy issues for residents on Liberty Parade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Draft Master Plan shows a buffer of approximately 15 to 20 metres from the proposed car park to residential boundaries. Buffer and screen planting is also identified in this area.</li> </ul>
<b>Other:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A local resident raised concern that there was lack of notification regarding the consultation process and hence lack of opportunity to provide feedback.</li> <li>A member of Heidelberg United Soccer raised concern that the club members, coaches and players had not been consulted with on the draft plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation with the community included project flyer sent direct to neighbouring residents, community survey (51 respondents) and community drop-in session (30-40 attendees). Community Reference Group was established and expressions of interests advertised in Leader Newspaper and Council website. Draft plan distributed to surrounding neighbours inviting feedback. Onsite signage, Leader Newspaper article and Council's website also invited community feedback on plan.</li> <li>Feedback from community was low. A second stage of consultation was undertaken between September and December 2016. This included a community drop-in session on site (15-20 attendees) and a specific session with members of Heidelberg United Soccer Club (30 attendees) as well as seeking feedback on the plan through a direct mail drop to surrounding neighbours and through Council's designated webpage.</li> </ul>

Key themes summarised from submissions:	Officer Comment:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was an expectation of Council that the Heidelberg United Soccer Club would consult with their members on the draft plan and provide a whole of club response. Follow-up consultation with Club members occurred 23rd November.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal for Council to investigate acquiring properties along Liberty Parade is not feasible due to the likely significant increase in value of these properties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This recommendation is for Council to consider as a potential option to improve access and sightlines into Olympic Park and is not mandatory.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A local resident questioned the value of the proposed works and the benefits to Banyule residents. The significant investment in soccer club related works was also raised as an issue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All proposed recommendations are based on evidence and designed to meet the future sport, recreation and leisure needs of key user groups and the broader community.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The accuracy of the 'local area' demographic and population data provided in the Draft Master Plan report was challenged. Specifically, the subsequent reference to Bellfield following the introduction to Heidelberg West.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forecast.id combines the areas of West Heidelberg and Bellfield as the one area. The current population of 7,776 is derived from census data and developed in December 2015. The additional 771 residents that projects the population to 8,547 and other statistical information provided is also from Forecast.id.</li> <li>The Melbourne Planning Authority (MPA) Plan Melbourne Strategy Latrobe Employment Cluster (2014) is relevant due to the location of Northland in relation to Olympic Park, and the impact the cluster will have on the demographics of the area. The projected 10,000 – 15,000 population figure is an estimate only and covers an area beyond the local catchment for Olympic Park.</li> <li>The SEIFA score is formulated from the 2011 census data and was derived from Banyule's West Precinct Demographic Profile, which includes Heidelberg Heights and Heidelberg West – Bellfield. The SEIFA score does not have a bias and is worth mentioning as the West Precinct score (903) is significantly lower than the rest of Banyule (1047) and lower than Greater Melbourne (1020). The SEIFA score may have changed since 2011.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise and acknowledge the first Australians at the site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Barrbunin Beek building on site provides programs and social spaces for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. This facility allows the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to create a real connection to country by establishing a place of community ownership, where knowledge can be shared and culture celebrated. Council will continue to work with the Barbunnin Beek committee and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee on how best to acknowledge first Australians throughout the municipality.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flag poles, events boards and a site map provided at key location to promote and acknowledge events at Olympic Park.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These items should be considered during the detailed design phase but were not identified during the development of the Draft Master Plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free water fountains, dog water bowl and water bottle 'top up station'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drink fountains/dog water bowls and other park furniture is recommended in key open space nodes to support casual park users. Sporting clubs requiring specific designs should contribute to 'top up stations' within leased and licensed areas.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the frequency of litter and graffiti removal at the park and remove broken glass.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These items referred to internal departments as they are operational issues. The plan does recommend CCTV cameras which is hoped to reduce the incidence of litter and graffiti in the first instance.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep established trees where possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Draft Master Plan does not recommend the removal of any native trees.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve general maintenance including repairing pot holes along roadways and maintaining grass nature strips.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General maintenance is undertaken by Council. These items referred to internal departments as they are not considered master plan issues.</li> </ul>