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DESIGN • ECONOMICS • ENGAGEMENT

Roper Gulf Sport and Recreation Masterplan

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Title Photo Credit : Ben Coonan (Boorooloola)

Ngukkur Big Rivers AFL
Workshop



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Ngukkur Bulldogs, Keith Rogers



PART 1

CONTEXT

PART 1 CONTEXT

Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
IAP2	International Association of Public Participation
IRS	Indigenous Sport & Recreation program
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Authority
TO	Traditional Owner

1.0 Executive Summary

To be completed in next stage.

Context

To be completed in next stage.

Methodology

To be completed in next stage.

Vision

To be completed in next stage.

Themes

To be completed in next stage.

People

To be completed in next stage.

Places

To be completed in next stage.

Participation

To be completed in next stage.

Masterplan

To be completed in next stage.

2.0 Introduction

To be completed in next stage.

The Roper Gulf Sport & Recreation Master Plan (the masterplan) has been developed to provide clear strategic and operational guidance for the provision of services and investment in sport and recreation facilities for the short (1-3 years), medium (4-7 years), and long (8-10 years) term. Its development has considered the following:

- The remaining useful life of legacy infrastructure (see page x);
- Sustainable facility management costs (see page x);
- The suitability of current facilities to meet population growth projections (see page x);
- Opportunities for new investment in facilities to meet population growth projections, including the identification of current and future grant funding opportunities for refurbishment and/or development of facilities (see page x);
- Opportunities for new sport and recreation programmes based on demonstrated community needs (see page x);
- Reducing facility and programme duplication across different community provider sectors (see page x);
- Realistic project targets for infrastructure refurbishments, upgrades, and builds (see page x); and
- Potential income stream opportunities to support the running costs associated with the sport and recreation infrastructure and facilities (see page x).

2.1 Visions and Themes

To be completed in next stage.



2.2 Context

Roper Gulf is one of the Northern Territory's largest local governments. Recent community consultation confirms the importance that the community puts on the value of sport and recreation facilities and services. It also confirms the expectation that the community has on Council to provide these facilities and deliver services.

Sport and recreation have immense value to individuals, communities, and societies. On an individual level, participation in sport and recreation activities can provide physical and mental health benefits, improve self-esteem, reduce stress, and foster a sense of belonging. At the community level, sport and recreation can help to build social cohesion and promote inclusion.

At a community level, sport and recreation can contribute to economic development through job creation, tourism promotion, infrastructure development, and increased consumer spending.

The concept of sport and recreation is evolving with a growing focus on the importance of health outcomes and informal activities to complement traditionally formalised sport and recreation. This is an aligned view at all levels of government and is now entrenched in policy settings in both sports and health institutions.

Sport and recreation includes a range of activities from the community level through to those involving elite sports people at national and international levels. Sport and recreation are key to the physical and mental health of individuals and communities. Planning to ensure everyone in the community can easily access affordable places and programs to participate is essential to stop the declining health and well being of our communities.



2.3 Council's Role

Council provides facilities and programs to support sport and recreation within the Shire. Facilities include sport and recreation halls, sports fields and courts. Council also operates the community pool in both Ngukurr and Borroloola.

Council's Sport and Recreation programs allow for increased opportunities for residents of regional and remote communities to participate in regular, structured sport and active recreation activities.

With a focus on youth participation outside of school hours, the programs aim to build strong and cohesive communities. The programs facilitate employment and development opportunities for local residents which enhance the skill base and capacity of their community.

Council is supported by both the National Indigenous Australians Authority (NIAA) and the Northern Territory Government to deliver Sport and Recreation programs in Barunga, Beswick, Borroloola, Bulman, Jilkminggan, Manyallaluk, Mataranka, Ngukurr, Numbulwar and Urapunga.

The objective of the Sport and Recreation programs is to ensure that residents of the Roper Gulf region enjoy similar levels of physical, emotional, and social wellbeing as those enjoyed by other Australians. This is achieved through the delivery of sport and recreation activities which provide diversions from antisocial or harmful behaviours to improve community cohesion.

Regular and popular activities undertaken during the programs in the various communities include sport and active recreation such as basketball, football (all codes), gymnastics, cricket, swimming, fishing and movie nights in addition to cultural bush cooking, arts & crafts, singing, dancing and discos.



Skate Workshop, Numbulwar

2.4 Methodology

The masterplan has been developed in four key stages – research, facility audits, community consultation and masterplan development. This is described further below:



Figure 1. Methodology

Research

Review of relevant documentation including the *Northern Territory Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan 2021-25* and the *Northern Territory Sports Academy Service Delivery Framework 2022-2025*. This has been supported by a benchmarking exercise of comparable local government areas.

Broad community trend analysis was also conducted throughout Roper Gulf, Northern Territory and Australia with respect to sport and active recreation participation and facility provision, i.e. emerging sports and activities; changes in participation levels for existing sports and relevant activities; and changes in the way sports and recreational activities are being played.

Facility Audits

Physical inspection and review of all of RGRC's existing sport and active recreation sites and facilities, including Council owned and managed facilities (Community, Operational and Crown Land sites) as well as consideration of other relevant sites and facilities including club managed Crown Land sites occurred in the following communities and towns:

- Barunga;
- Beswick (Wugularr);
- Borroloola;
- Bulman;
- Eva Valley (Manyallaluk);
- Jilkminggan;
- Mataranka;
- Minyerri (Hodgson Downs);
- Ngukurr;
- Numbulwar;
- Weemol; and
- Robinson River

Community Consultation

A community consultation plan was developed which detailed key stakeholders and modes of engagement against IAP2 guidelines. Stakeholders included clubs, associations, community organisations, relevant regional and state sporting bodies or governing bodies, broader Roper Gulf community, relevant Roper Gulf Regional Council units and staff and any relevant committees or advisory groups.

Engagement occurred through workshops, presentations, community visits, radio announcements and community board plans.



Masterplan Development

Demand assessment of sports and recreation was reviewed with particular attention given to:

- National and State Trends in sports participation;
- Age specific participation levels;
- Factors influencing sports participation;
- Population and age factors within catchment areas;
- Available data on travel distance and times;
- Costs;
- Time budgeting;
- Degree and capacity of national association support;
- Socio economic factors (for example the ABS socio economic index for areas);
- Age based growth opportunities for market expansion; and
- Additional non resident population demand.

Based on the outcomes of the previous stages this masterplan was then developed.

3.0 Context

3.1 Policy

Federal Government

The Australian Government's vision for sport in Australia is to ensure we are the world's most active and healthy nation, and known for our integrity and sporting success¹. The *Sport 2030* policy document has four key priority areas which are:

- Build a more active Australia – More Australians, more active, more often;
- Achieving sporting excellence – National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success;
- Safeguarding the integrity of sport – A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption; and
- Strengthening Australia's sport industry – A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) was developed to enable the self-determination and aspirations of First Nations communities. They lead and influence change across government to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a say in the decisions that affect them.

NIAA funds the Indigenous Sport & Recreation (IRS) program. The IRS seeks to improve levels of provide culturally appropriate physical health and youth diversion activities that benefit the community whilst allowing residents to enjoy greater active and social lifestyle opportunities in remote communities.

Northern Territory Government

The *NT Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan 2021-25*² provides a road map for decision making across the next four years to create Celebrated Communities, Vibrant Places and Active Territorians through sport and active recreation.

To achieve this mission, the Strategic Plan sets out four goals:

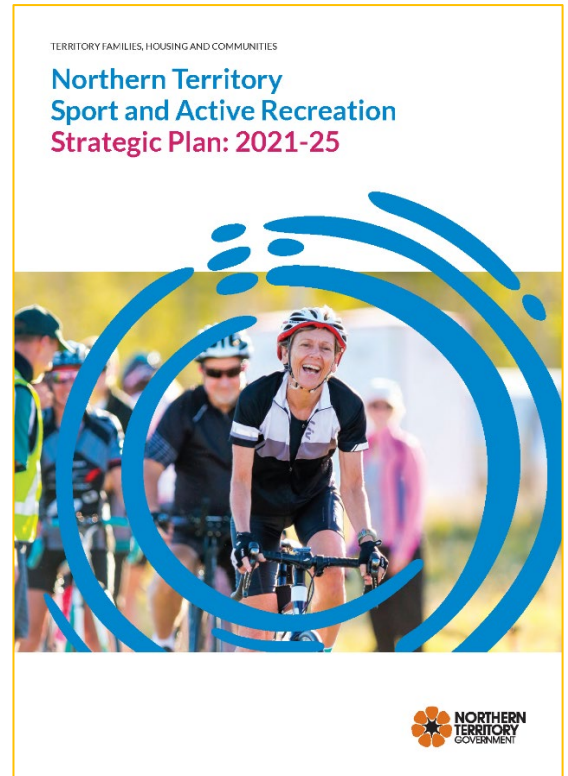
¹ Sport 2030, Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Health, 2018

² Northern Territory Sport and Active Recreation Strategic Plan: 2021-25, NTG, 2021



- Territorians participate regularly in sport and active recreation to improve their health and wellbeing
- Places and spaces inspire sport and active recreation participation, improve liveability and are vibrant places where everyone belongs
- Achievements across sport and active recreation are celebrated and inspire the community
- Partnerships are agile, responsible and focussed on optimising the collective impact of Territorians participating regularly in sport and active recreation.

The Northern Territory Government is currently drafting the *NT Sport Volunteer Action Plan 2023-25* which seeks to increase volunteer participation including volunteer participation in sport.



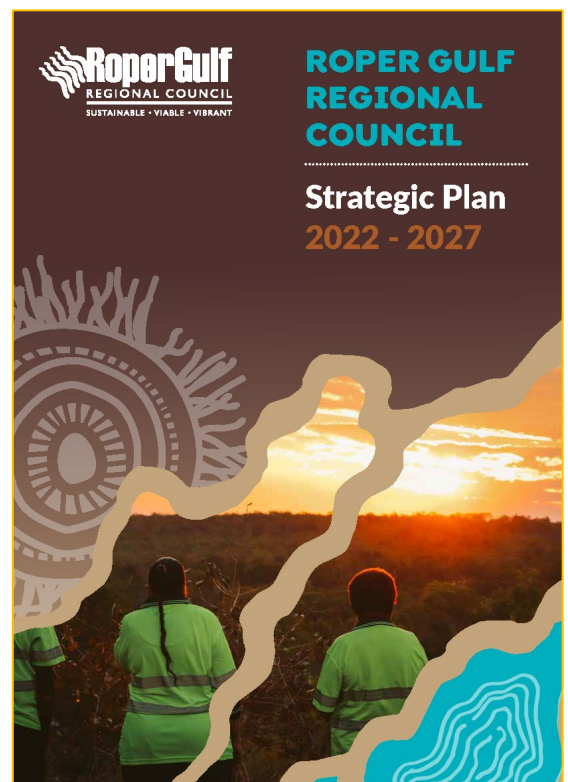
Roper Gulf Regional Council

The recently released Roper Gulf Regional Council Strategic Plan 2022-2027 is built around five key outcome areas: wellbeing, environment, infrastructure, economic development and governance. Two key tasks contributing to wellbeing include:

- Audit sport and recreation facilities and identify gaps; and
- Develop a sport & recreation strategy in consultation with communities.

This masterplan responds to these tasks in order to achieve the following:

- Improve resident health;
- Increase life expectancy;
- Improve individual and community feeling of wellbeing;
- Provide opportunities for youth physical and social development;
- Divert young people from unhealthy, anti-social behaviour;
- Reduce pressure on health services facilitating better service level; and
- Address community aspirations for more sport and recreational facilities.



3.2 Demographics

The 2021 Census report that Roper Gulf Regional Council has a population of 6,486 persons of which 4,879 (~75%) identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander³ (see figure 2 and 3). This is three times the Northern Territory figure of 25.5% and 28 times greater than the national figure of 2.8%⁴. The population is expected to grow⁵.

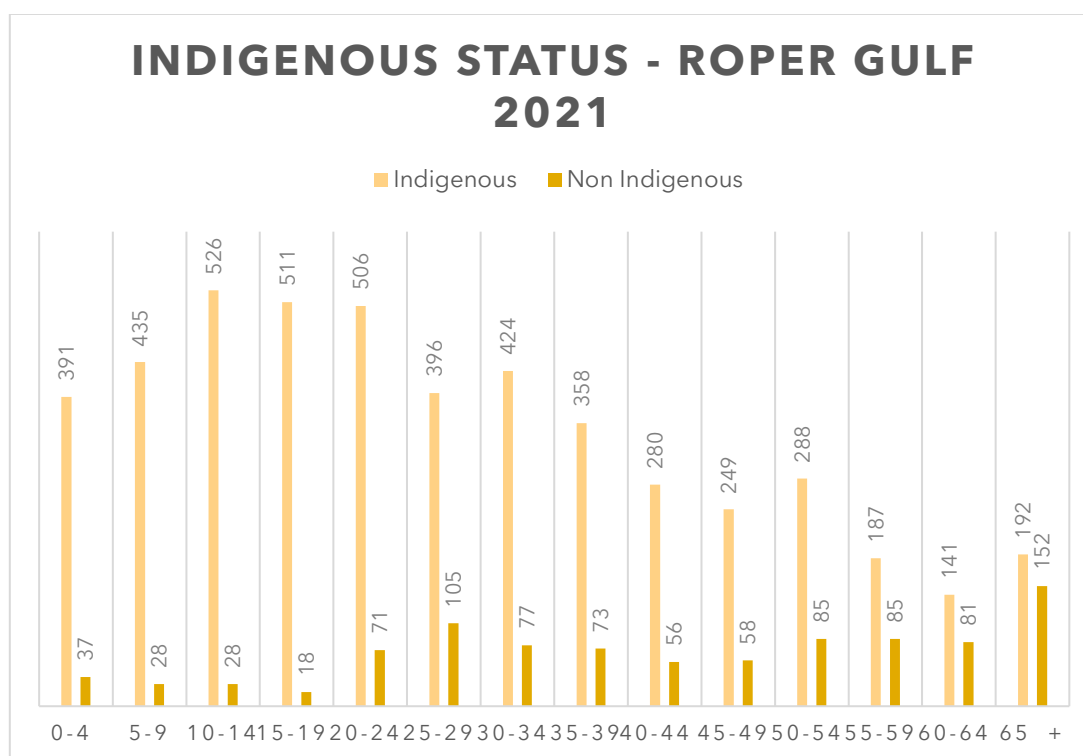


Figure 2. Indigenous Status - Roper Gulf 2021

The population has a high proportion of young people, with the median age being 26. 37% of the population are estimated to be in the labour force, compared to the Northern Territory figure of 62%⁶.

³ ABS Community Profile from 2021 Census for Roper Gulf LGA

⁴ ABS Indigenous Community Profile from 2021 Census for Roper Gulf LGA

⁵ Economy id.

⁶ Roper Gulf Regional Council Strategic Plan 2022-2027

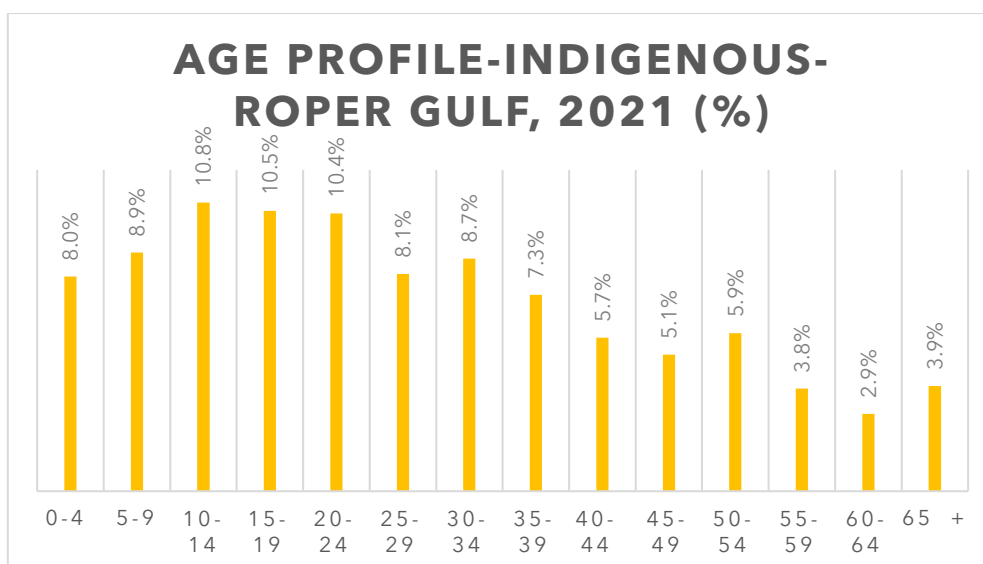


Figure 4. Age Profile (%) - Indigenous - Roper Gulf 2021

The age structure comparison of indigenous people for Roper Gulf is similar to Northern Territory although it is higher in the 10-24 cohort – an area of focus for this masterplan.

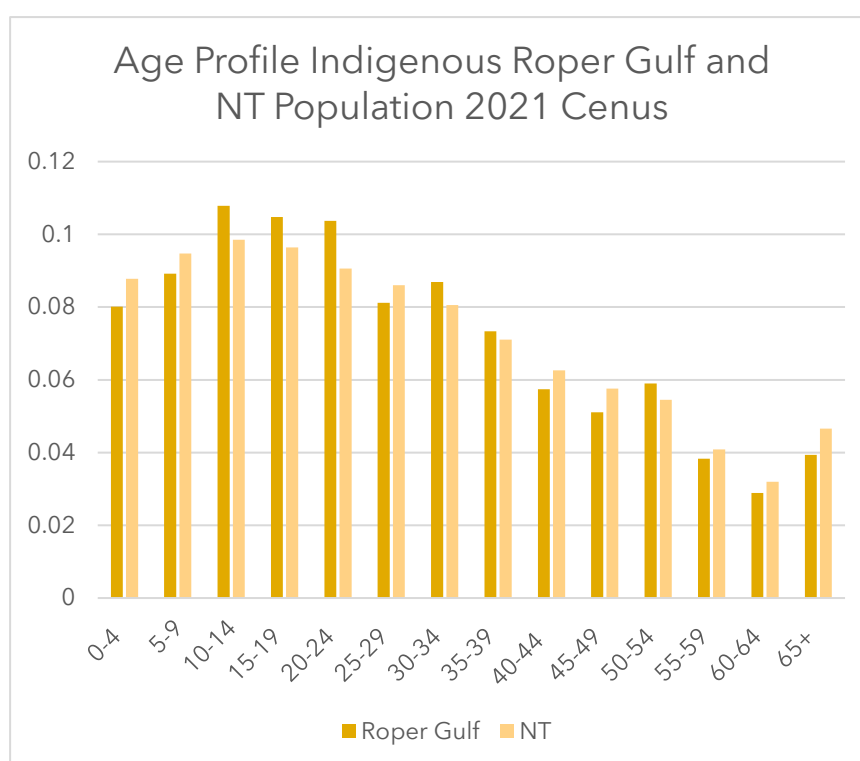


Figure 5. Age Profile Indigenous Roper Gulf and NT Population (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

Volunteering

Volunteering is quite low within Roper Gulf when compared to the Northern Territory. There are relatively few volunteers in Roper Gulf compared with Northern Territory in total and in all age groups. This is an issue for sport and recreation delivery.

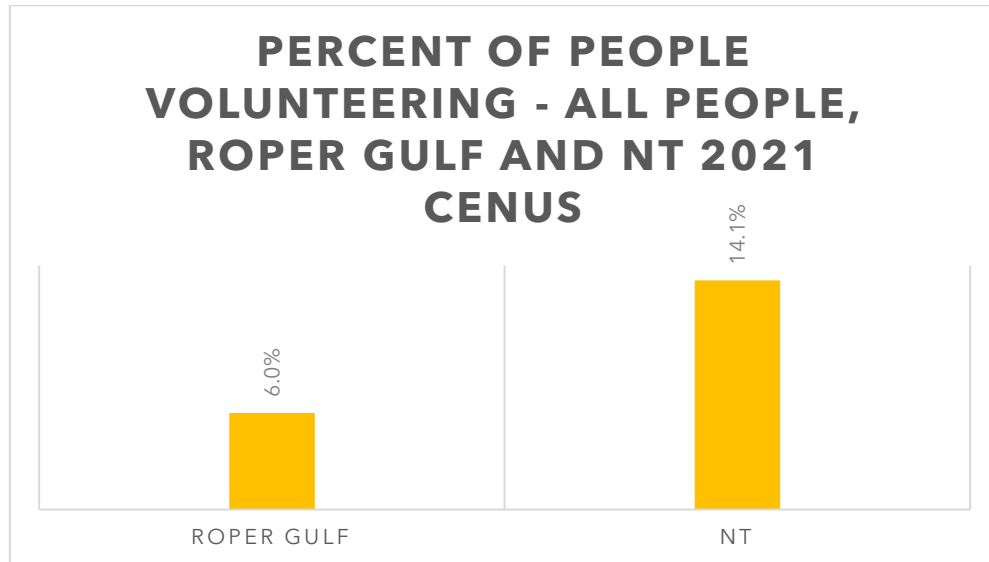


Figure 6. Percent of People Volunteering - all People Roper Gulf and NT (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

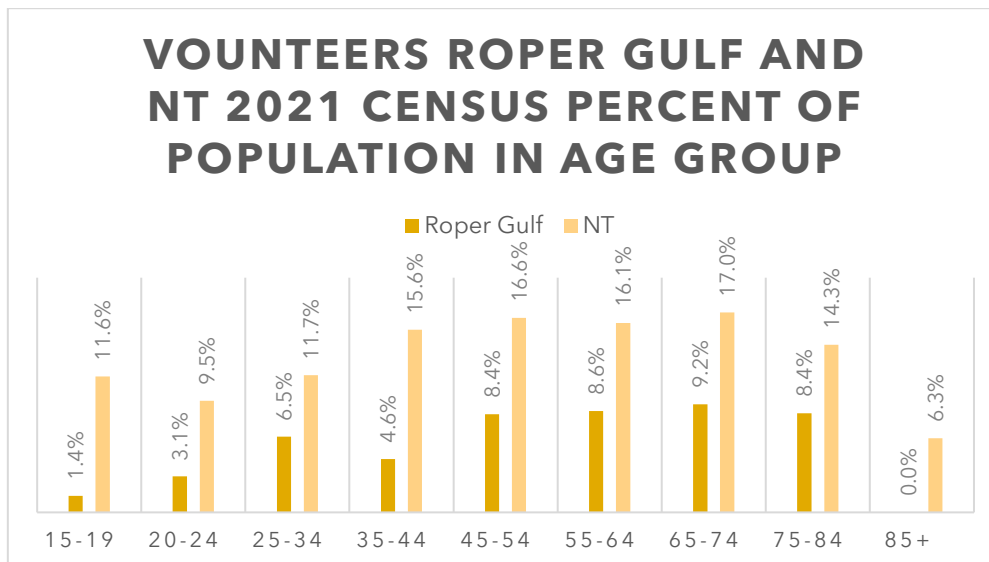


Figure 7. Volunteers Roper Gulf and NT Percent of Population in Age Group (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

Long Term Health Conditions

Roper Gulf has a higher proportion of Heart Disease and Diabetes against Northern Territory. In Roper Gulf Regional Council LGA, the most common long-term health condition was diabetes, while 21.7% of the population reported one or more health conditions, a lower rate than in RDA Northern Territory (23.4%)⁷.

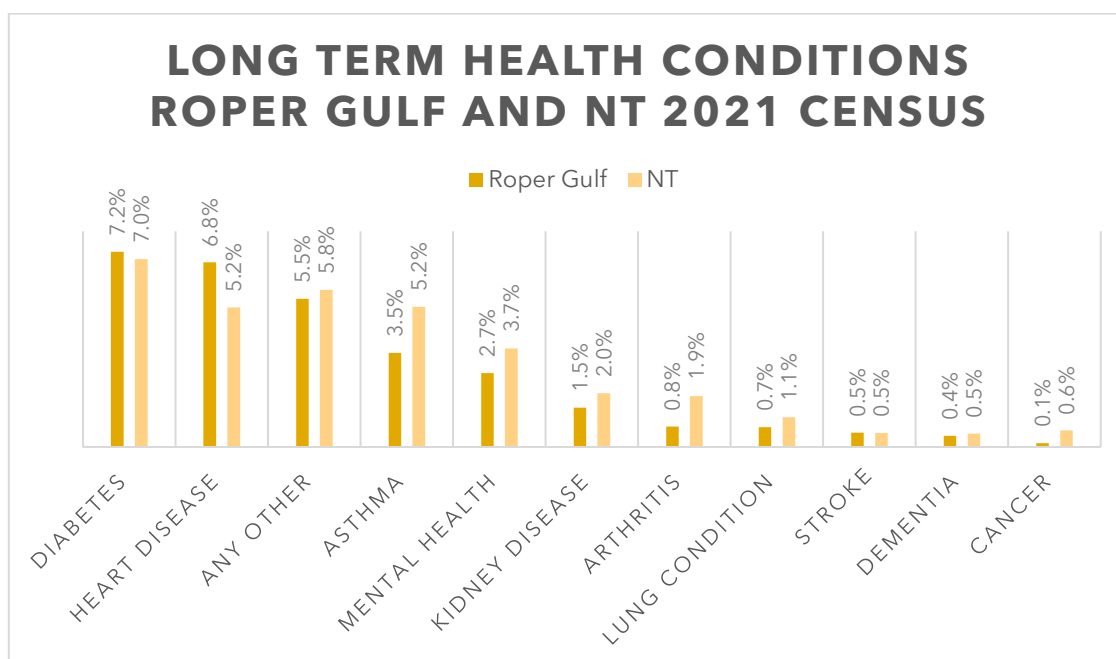


Figure 8. Long term health conditions Roper Gulf and NT (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

Note.

(a) Measures the number of people who reported that they have been told by a doctor or nurse that they have any of these long-term health conditions. Includes health conditions that have lasted or are expected to last six months or more, may occur from time to time, are controlled by medication or are in remission.

(b) 'COPD' refers to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

(c) Includes any long-term health condition other than the ones listed.

(d) Respondents had the option to record multiple long-term health conditions therefore the sum of total responses count will not equal the total person count.

In 2021, 195 people (or 3.0% of the population) in Roper Gulf Regional Council LGA reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This was a percentage increase from 2016⁸.

⁷ Economy Id.

⁸ Economy Id.

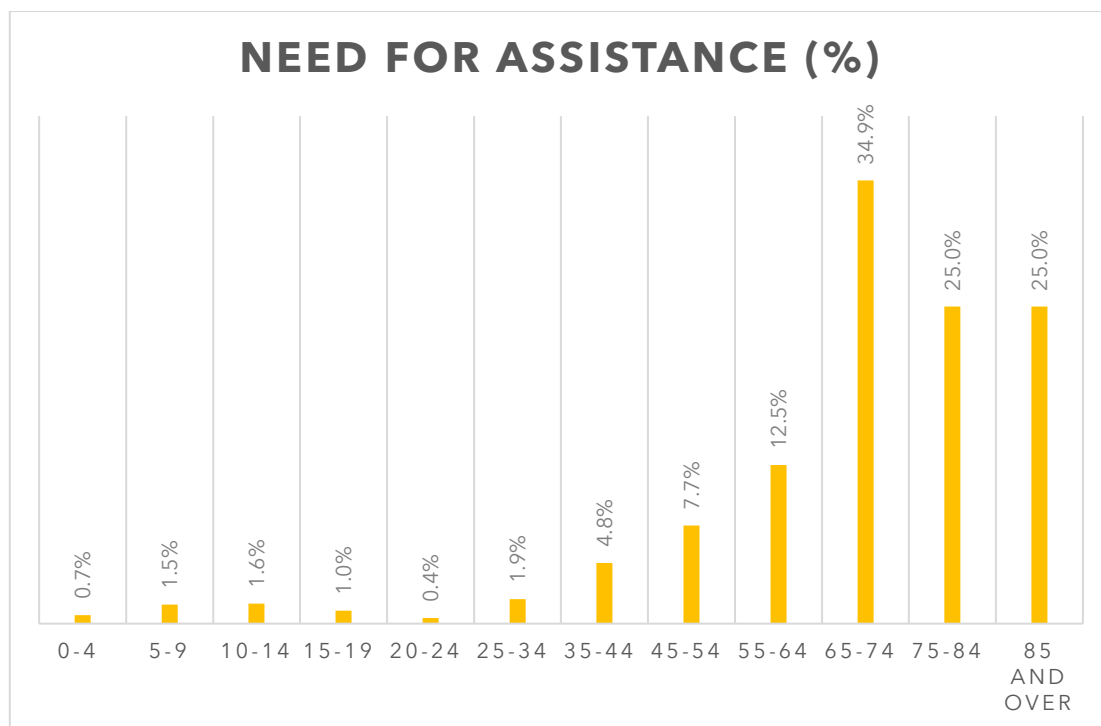


Figure 9. Need for Assistance (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

Note.

(a) Measures the number of people with a profound or severe core activity limitation. People with a profound or severe core activity limitation are those needing assistance in their day to day lives in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age.

3.3 Trends

Sport is a significant part of Australian culture. It is a way for people to come together, to celebrate their shared identity, and to achieve personal and collective success. Sport also plays an important role in the health and wellbeing of Australians. However, the nature of sport is changing, and we need to ensure that our programs for sport participation and physical activity are fit for purpose.

Here are some of the key macro-trends⁹ that are shaping the future of sport in Australia with commentary regarding their relevance to Roper Gulf.

- **The rise of new sports:** There is a growing trend towards the development of new sports that may not have been even considered sports in the past, such as esports, drone racing, and air sports. These new sports are appealing to a younger audience, and they are helping to broaden the appeal of sport in Australia. The opportunity to adopt activities that are new, fun and exciting with the required support may encourage greater participation by young people in remote areas.
- **The growth of tech-driven sports:** Technology is also having a major impact on sport. For example, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) are being used to create new and immersive sporting experiences. These technologies are also being used to improve the training and preparation of athletes. In the future there may be opportunities to connect and share activity experiences between remote areas and the city in real time.
- **The focus on wellness and mindfulness:** There is a growing focus on the wellness and mindfulness benefits of sport. For example, there is a growing trend towards yoga, meditation, and other mindfulness-based activities. These activities are helping to improve the mental and physical health of Australians. This is an important development in sport that may be integrated into existing sport programs to improve mental health outcomes in the Roper Gulf region.
- **The growth of lifestyle sports:** Lifestyle sports are activities that are enjoyed for their health and wellbeing benefits, rather than for competition. These activities include walking, hiking, swimming, and yoga. Lifestyle sports are becoming increasingly popular, as people are looking for ways to improve their health and wellbeing. Many first nations physical activities met this criterion before it became a modern trend. Perhaps there is the opportunity to learn more from traditional indigenous activities.
- **The growth of women's sport:** Women's sport is growing rapidly in Australia. This is due to a number of factors, including the increased visibility of women's sport, the success of Australian women's teams, and the growing opportunities for women in sport. With the profile of women's sport increasing, particularly in popular sports in the area there may be more opportunities to use role models to inspire young girls to take up sport.

⁹ Australian Government, Australian Sports Commission (2022). The Future of Australian Sport - Megatrends shaping the sport sector over the coming decade.



- The greening of sport: There is a growing focus on the environmental impact of sport. For example, many sporting organisations are now working to reduce their carbon footprint. This is being done through a variety of initiatives, such as using sustainable materials and reducing energy consumption.

These key trends are having a major impact on the way that sport is played, watched, and enjoyed in Australia.

There are a number of participation trends that are also shaping the way people in the Northern Territory participate in sport and physical activity. These include:

- Declining Participation - According to 2022 AusPlay data¹⁰, since 2017, participation in the Northern Territory has been declining and is lower than the national average. In 2017, only 37% of people aged 15 and over in the Northern Territory participated in sport at least once a week.

The data shows some differences between cities and the regions in the Northern Territory. In general, people in cities are more likely to participate in sport than people in the regions. For example, in 2017, 48% of people aged 15 and over in

¹⁰ Clearing House for Sport (2022). AusPlay Results. Retrieved from <https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/research/ausplay/results>

Darwin participated in sport at least once a week, compared to 33% of people in Alice Springs and 27% of people in Katherine.

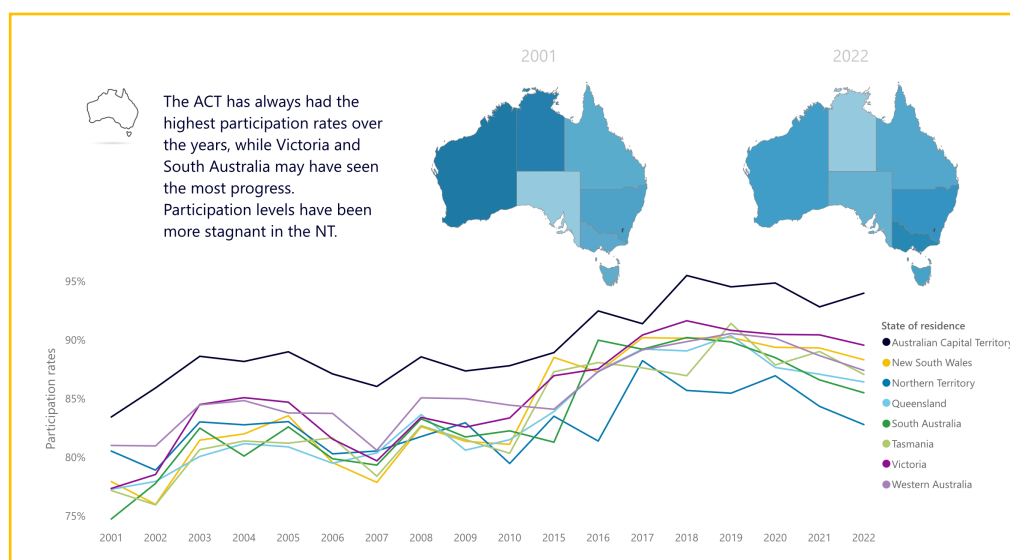


Figure 15. State and Territory Participation Rates

- Changing demographics. The Australian population is becoming more diverse, and this is reflected in the changing demographics of sport participation. The data also shows that there are some differences in the rates of participation in sport between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the Northern Territory. In 2017, only 26% of Indigenous people aged 15 and over in the Northern Territory participated in sport at least once a week, compared to 42% of non-Indigenous people.
- Changing preferences. Australians are also changing their preferences for the types of sport they participate in. For example, there has been a decline in participation in traditional team sports such as Australian rules football and cricket, and an increase in participation in individual sports such as running and swimming.

However, in the Northern Territory the data also shows that there are some differences in the types of sport that are popular in the Northern Territory compared to the rest of Australia. For example, football (AFL) is more popular in the Northern Territory than in other parts of Australia, while cricket is less popular.

3.4 Participation

Data sourced from Roper Gulf Regional Council reporting period 01/07/2022 to 31/12/22 for the Indigenous Sport & Recreation (IRS) program identifies participation patterns in the following communities: Barunga, Beswick, Boorooloola, Bulman, Jilminggan, Manyallaluk, Ngukkur and Numbulwar.

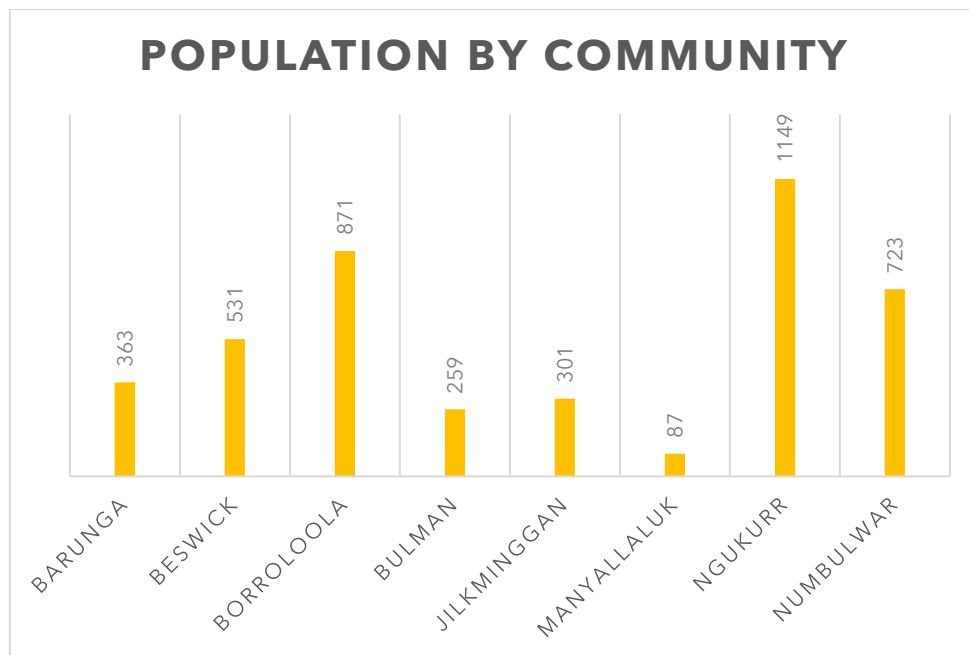


Figure 10. Population by community

There is significant disparity in participation numbers in different communities with Ngukurr having strong participation. Whilst Numbulwar and Borrooloola have comparable sized populations Borrooloola has twice the participation.

Similarly whilst Bulman and Jilkmिंगgan have similar sized populations, Bulman had nearly six times the level of participation in the same period.

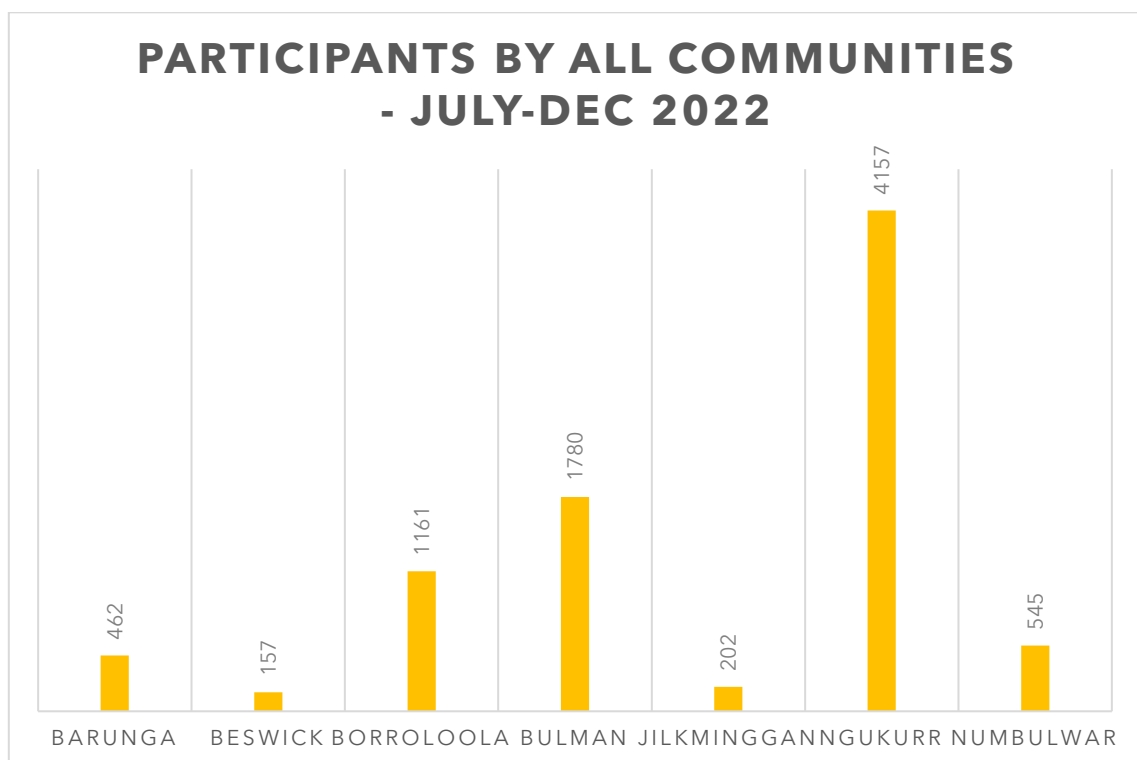


Figure 11. Participants by all Communities - July - Dec 2022

The Roper Gulf Council "Performance Report Indigenous Sport and Recreation July 22- Dec 22"¹¹ reported "the largest age demographic that attends the ISR Program is 8 – 11-year-olds, this decreases in the 12 – 14-year-old age bracket. There is a significant drop in attendance amongst youth aged 15 years and up as shown in figures 12 and 13.

Over the course of the reporting period, Sport & Recreation Officers have been conducting activities that appeal to the older youth – when comparing this data to the previous reporting period – it is notable that there has been an increase in participation by 8% for the 12-14yr olds; and an increase of 1% for both the 15-17 year age bracket and 18 years plus.

This increase for older youth to attend ISR activities could be attributed to the Women's and Men's basketball competition in Ngukurr – which has seen the most significant increase in participation."



These local statistics represent participation in the ISR programs and not physical activity levels recommended for good health. However, due to the low sample numbers in the AusPlay data the participation increases are important to consider.

¹¹ Roper Gulf Regional Council. (2022). Performance Report Indigenous Sport and Recreation 2022.

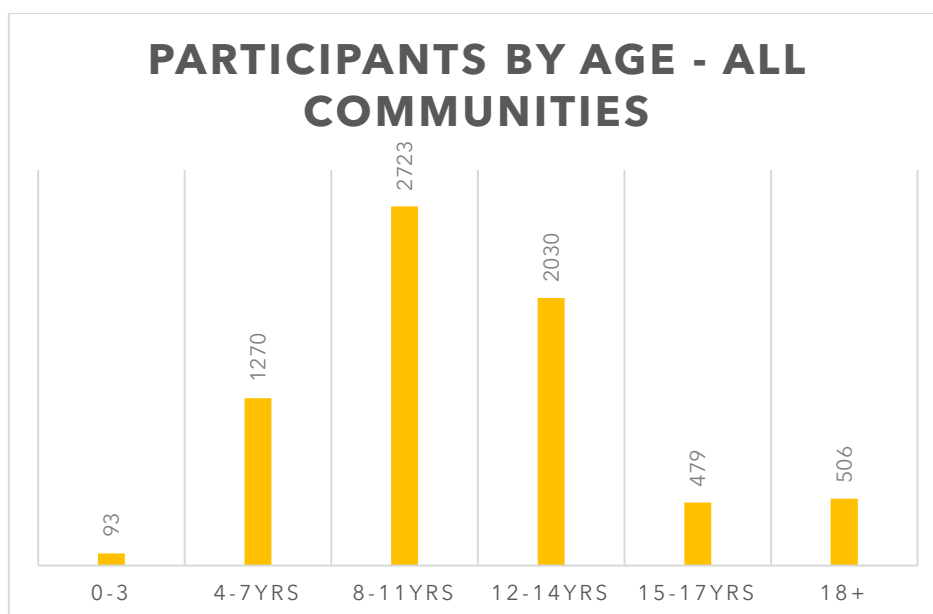


Figure 13. Participants by age - all communities

Discussions with stakeholders in community and government indicate that AFL and basketball are the most popular sports for males and that basketball and softball are the most popular sports for females. Interestingly fishing comes in a close third.

This is largely supported by the IRS data as shown below. It also highlights the popularity of swimming for those communities with swimming pools (Boorooloola and Ngukkur) which is confirmed anecdotally by communities that have accessible swimming holes such as Mataranka.

Interestingly, the popularity of soccer can be largely apportioned to the strong promotion through the John Moriarty Football program in Boorooloola and Robinsons River and local representation in the national women's team.

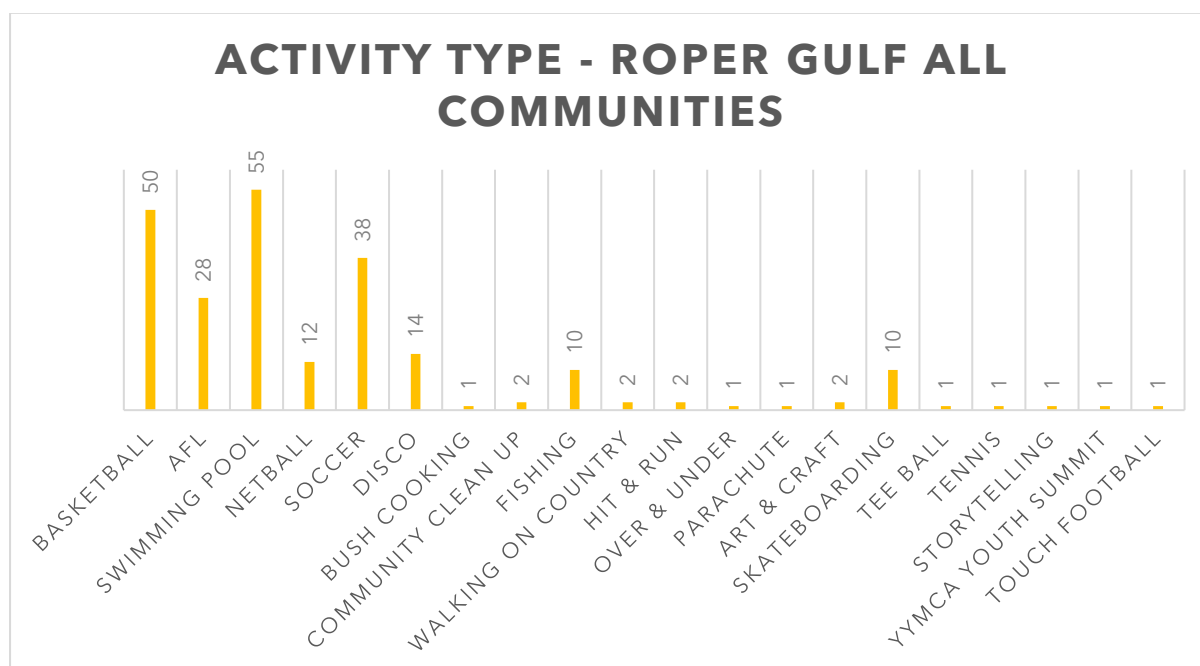


Figure 14. Activity Type - Roper Gulf All Communities

3.5 Benchmarking

There are a number of Indigenous-specific sport and activity programs that are being delivered in remote regions of Australia and overseas. These programs are helping to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous children¹² and young people, and they are providing them with opportunities to develop their leadership and teamwork skills.

They are based in research describing the common features of successful first nations remote sport and physical activity programs to address the barriers in participation. Many of the programs run by Roper Gulf Council as described in the “Performance Report Indigenous Sport and Recreation” are designed along similar key features. An analysis of the frequency in delivery was not available for this report, however, it is an important consideration in determining optimal outcomes.

Three successful programs are featured here as benchmarks.

a) The Outback Sports Program (Queensland)

The Outback Sports Program is a successful example of an Indigenous sport and activity program that is making a real difference in the lives of Indigenous children and young people. The program is helping to improve their health and wellbeing, and is providing them with opportunities to develop their leadership and teamwork skills.

Key details about the program include:

- Funded by the Queensland Government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council of Queensland.
- Delivered in over 50 remote communities in Queensland.
- The program has been running for over 10 years.
- The program has been evaluated and found to be effective in increasing physical activity levels, improving fitness, and reducing obesity among Indigenous children.
- The program is a valuable resource for Indigenous children and young people living in remote communities. It provides them with opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity, and to develop their leadership and teamwork skills.
- The program is helping to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous children and young people, and is providing them with opportunities to succeed in life.

Some key points of the Outback Sports Program include:

- Delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, who are culturally appropriate and sensitive to the needs of Indigenous children and young people.
- Tailored to the interests and needs of Indigenous children and young people, and includes a variety of activities such as football, netball, basketball, cricket, and swimming.
- Provides opportunities for Indigenous children and young people to develop their leadership and teamwork skills.

¹² Dalton, T., Wilson, R., & Cochrane, M. (2015). The Role of Sport in Promoting Indigenous Health and Wellbeing.

- Provides a safe and supportive environment for Indigenous children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity.

Some of the results of the Outback Sports Program include:

- A 20% increase in physical activity levels among Indigenous children and young people.
- A 10% improvement in fitness among Indigenous children and young people.
- A 5% reduction in obesity among Indigenous children and young people.
- Increased participation in sport and physical activity among Indigenous children and young people.
- Increased confidence and self-esteem among Indigenous children and young people.
- Increased sense of belonging and community among Indigenous children and young people.

b) Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program (Canada)

This is a multi-faceted program that provides life skills training, physical activity, and recreation opportunities to Indigenous youth in two remote communities in northern Ontario¹³. The program has been successful in increasing youth participation in sport, improving academic performance, and reducing substance abuse.

The key features of the PLAY program include:

- A focus on life skills development. The program provides Indigenous youth with the opportunity to learn life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and conflict resolution. These skills are essential for success in school, work, and life.
- A focus on physical activity. The program provides Indigenous youth with the opportunity to participate in regular physical activity. This helps to improve their physical health and well-being.



¹³ Right to Play. (2023). Our work is Play. Retrieved from <https://righttoplay.com/en/countries/canada/>

- A focus on culture. The program is designed to be culturally appropriate and inclusive. It provides Indigenous youth with the opportunity to learn about their culture and heritage.
- A focus on community. The program is designed to be a positive force in the community. It provides Indigenous youth with a safe and supportive environment where they can learn and grow.

Some of the benefits of Indigenous play and activities:

- They can help to promote physical activity and healthy living.
- They can help to build strong relationships between Indigenous youth and their communities.
- They can help to preserve Indigenous culture and heritage.
- They can help to promote leadership and self-esteem.
- They can help to reduce stress and anxiety.
- They can help to improve academic performance.

The PLAY program has been successful in increasing youth participation in sport, improving academic performance, and reducing substance abuse. Here are some of the outcomes:

- Participation in sport: The PLAY program has increased youth participation in sport by 60%.
- Academic performance: The PLAY program has improved academic performance by 15%.
- Substance abuse: The PLAY program has reduced substance abuse by 30%.
- The PLAY program has helped to build positive relationships between Indigenous youth and their communities.
- The PLAY program has helped to create a sense of pride and identity among Indigenous youth.

Indigenous play and activities are an important part of Indigenous culture and heritage. They can provide a number of benefits for Indigenous youth, and they can help to build healthier and stronger communities. An example in adapting indigenous activities achieving physical activity outcomes from the PLAY program¹⁴ is given in Figure 17.

¹⁴ Sport for Life Society. (2019). Indigenous Communities - Active for Life. Retrieved from https://www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca/wcm-docs/docs/indigenous-communities-active-for-life_web_mar2019.pdf

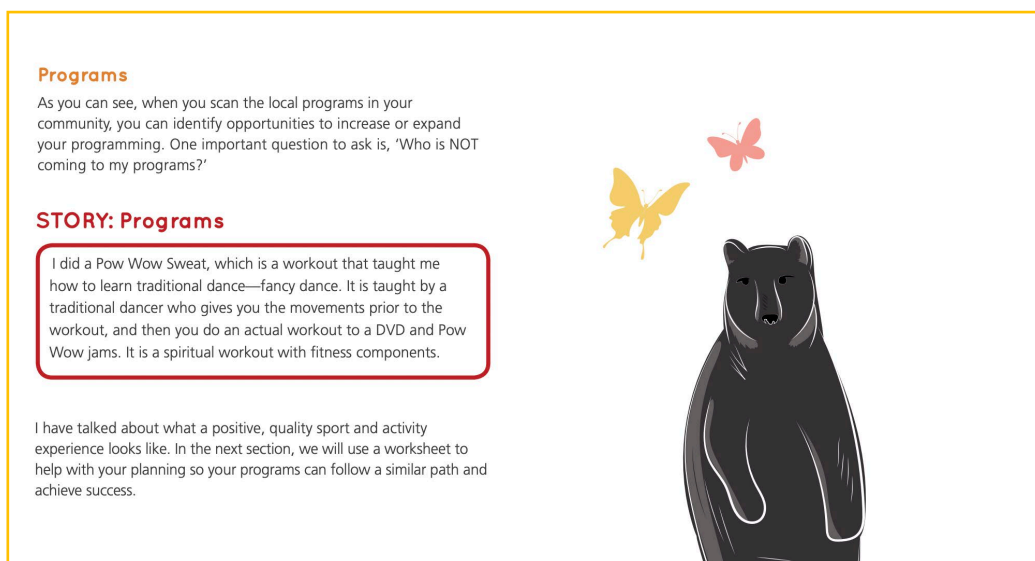


Figure 17. Play Program Example

c) Nunavik Youth Hockey Development Program (NYHDP)

The Nunavik Youth Hockey Development Program (NYHDP) is a long-standing program in 14 remote villages in northern Quebec designed to enhance Inuit youth development by teaching life skills, increasing physical activity and by fostering the pursuit of education¹⁵. The program has been successful in increasing youth participation in sport, improving academic performance, and reducing substance abuse.

The key features of the NYHDP include:

- A focus on life skills development. The program provides Inuit youth with the opportunity to learn life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and conflict resolution. These skills are essential for success in school, work, and life.
- A focus on physical activity. The program provides Inuit youth with the opportunity to participate in regular physical activity. This helps to improve their physical health and well-being.
- A focus on education. The program provides Inuit youth with the opportunity to receive academic support. This helps them to succeed in school and pursue their dreams.
- A focus on community. The program is designed to be a positive force in the community. It provides Inuit youth with a safe and supportive environment where they can learn and grow.

Outcomes include:

- Participation in sport: The NYHDP has increased youth participation in sport by 50%.

¹⁵ Halsall, T., & Forneris, T. (2016). Challenges and strategies for success of a sport-for-development programme for First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth. *Journal of Sport for Development*, 4(7), 39.

- Academic performance: The NYHDP has improved academic performance by 10%.
- Substance abuse: The NYHDP has reduced substance abuse by 20%.
- Positive relationships: The NYHDP has helped to build positive relationships between Inuit youth and their communities.
- Sense of identity: The NYHDP has helped to create a sense of pride and identity among Inuit youth.

4.0 Stakeholder Engagement

4.1 How we engaged

The stakeholder engagement plan for this project was completed using IAP2 principles. The approach was further influenced by the following key principles to influence how people see the Strategy, their views on the subject, and their willingness to make a submission or provide comment:

- Easy-to-Access – engaging at times and locations to suit participants, using a variety of fit-for-purpose engagement methods and existing channels, including online engagement;
- Open – being accessible and easy to engage with, being available for discussion, and capturing all feedback around the Strategy;
- Insightful – Providing knowledge on what is complex technical information in ways that allow people to have useful input via formal submissions;
- Forward-focused – engaging to help shape the future of sport and active recreation;
- Responsive – listening to and incorporating the ideas and responding to the community on their ideas; and
- Appealing – use different engagement methods not used in previous RGRC engagement to capture attention, ignite interest and encourage a broad and diverse range of participants including young people.

The following activities took place throughout the 3 month engagement process:

- X Workshops
- X Pop Ups
- X Community barbecues
- X Radio announcements
- X Media releases
- X Project presentations

Workshops

A series of workshops were held to accelerate a shared understanding of the project and consider future opportunity collaboratively, Tools like mentimeter were used to gather real time anonymised feedback.

Workshop participants included Council staff, Councilors, Police, State Sporting Organisations (eg AFL), neighboring Councils (eg Vic Daley Regional Council), Northern Territory Government and Community Service Providers.



Community Visits

Visits were made to the following communities and towns – Barunga, Beswick, Boorooloola, Bulman, Eva Valley, Jilkminggan, Mataranka, Minyerri, Ngukkur, Numbulwar, and Robinson River. A sausage sizzle was held at each community and general discussions held about sports played, available facilities, sports programs and other recreational activities such as fishing and hunting.

Effort was made to engage broadly with Traditional Owners, elders, parents, children and teachers.



Barunga



Bulman



Beswick



Mataranka

Radio Announcements

Radio announcements through Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association were conducted to encourage community members to attend community barbecues and provide their input.



4.2 Who we engaged

To be completed in next stage.

4.3 What we heard

To be completed in next stage.

5.0 Sport and Recreation Facilities

5.1 Overview

To be completed in next stage.



5.2 Barunga

Overview

Barunga is located 80 km south east of Katherine by road and takes an hour to drive. Barunga is an Aboriginal community located 80 kilometres southeast of Katherine and is home to approximately 400 people. It is well known for the Barunga Statement, which requested a treaty between the Commonwealth Government and Indigenous Australians in 1988. It is also the home of the Barunga Festival, an annual celebration of music, sport, arts and culture.

The Bagala Traditional Owners (TO's) are the recognised land owners of the Barunga community, located on the Beswick Aboriginal Land Trust¹⁶. The Barunga community has a median age of 26 and 96% indigenous representation¹⁷.

The Arnhem Crows, are based in Barunga and have proven to be a successful club playing in the Big Rivers League. The ambitions of the club are detailed in their current Strategic Plan¹⁸.

Facilities

- School (old outdoor court, small oval and kick around area);
- Barunga Festival grounds/Culture Park;
- Covered multi-purpose court with lights, seating and score board;
- Old outdoor court in poor condition;
- AFL oval with adjacent shelter - irrigated, well lit;
- Softball pitch with toilets and shelter (about 400 m from the AFL field); and
- Sport and Recreation hall with kitchen and toilets.

Tenure

To be completed in next stage.

Sports Program

In the second half of 2022 AFL, cooking, soccer, basketball, fishing, disco and bush tucker program activities were run in Barunga with all being evenly attended.

The dominant trend of participation reducing in the 12-14 year bracket with further reduction in 15-17 years is demonstrated in Barunga.

¹⁶ Bagala Traditional Owners Decision Making Agreement - Implementation Plan 2022-2025

¹⁷ ABS, 2021

¹⁸ Arnhem Crows Sporting Association Incorporated Strategic Plan 2023-2028

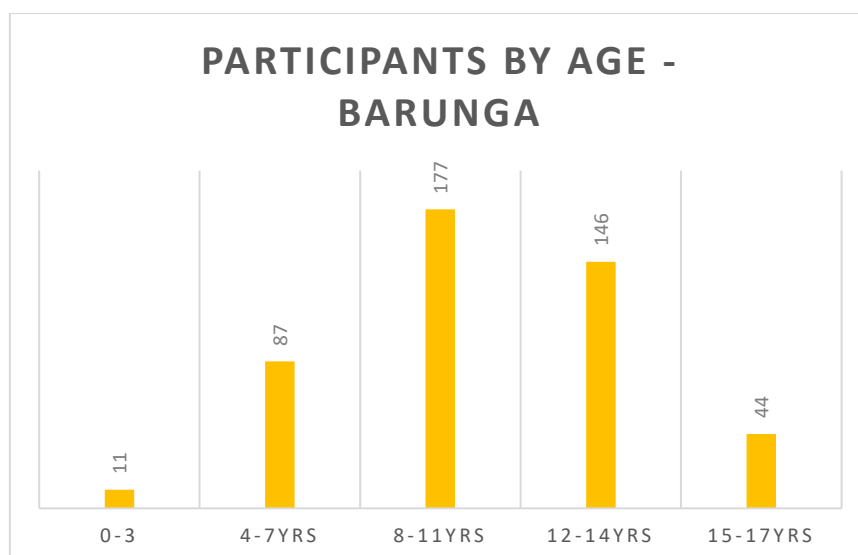


Figure 18. Participants by Age - Barunga

Sports and Recreation Assets



① BARUNGA COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023



① NTS



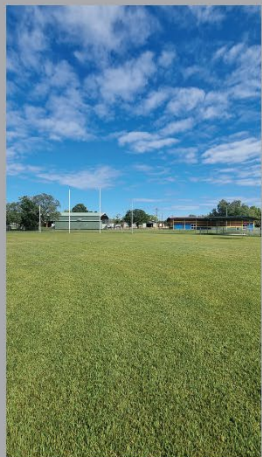
① Barunga Sports Recreation Hall

- 35m x 25m multi-use indoor hall : indicative age over 30 years.
- steel frame, concrete block & concrete indoor surface, minor louvered ventilation.
- small kitchenette & storage room with raised small internal stage.
- external attached covered raised stage facing the playing field.
- poor lighting & climate control.
- tenure: Section 19 RGRC area



② Covered Basketball Court

- full-size covered hard court basketball court.
- functional backboards.
- surface quality good.
- lighting.
- some drainage issues in wet season due to open sides.
- tenure: Local Land Council area.



③ Barunga Playing Field

- AFL goal posts arranged on appropriate sized playing oval.
- 4 x large tower flood lights.
- low fence.
- surface quality generally good though an area has been impacted by removal of cricket pitch.
- drainage impacted by poor shaping for run-off.
- tenure: Local Land Council area.



4

Softball Playing Area.

- Softball playing diamond.
- Mesh ball nets.
- Small covered shed.
- Small covered seating.
- Playing surface fit for purpose, no line-marking.
- tenure: Local Land Council area.

Other Local Facilities

5

- Small playground (adjacent to basketball court).

6

- Fitness equipment area (adjacent to soft-ball field).

7

- Public toilet blocks.

1

BARUNGA COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023

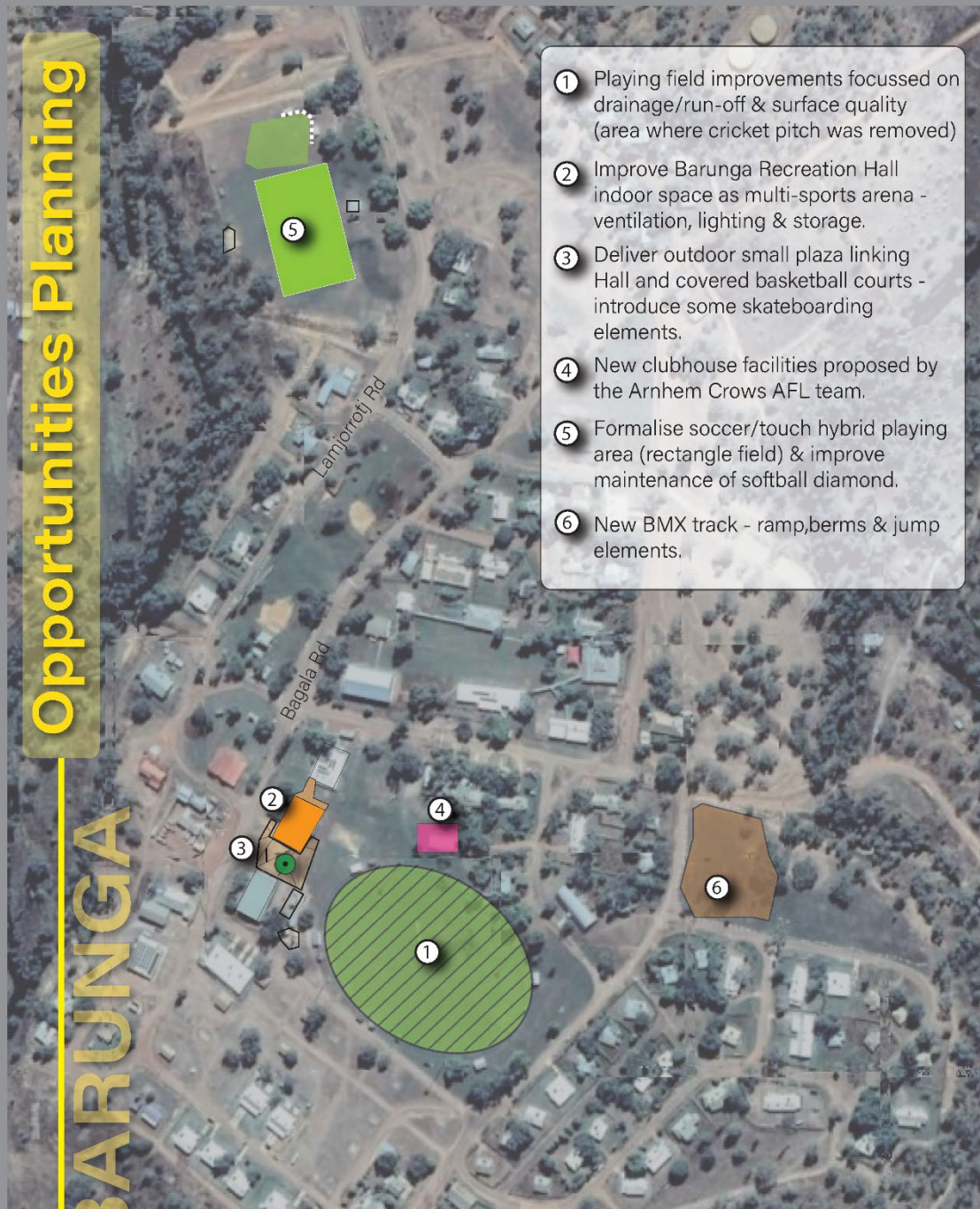


Future Opportunities

To be completed in next stage.

Opportunities Planning

BARUNGA



- ① Playing field improvements focussed on drainage/run-off & surface quality (area where cricket pitch was removed)
- ② Improve Barunga Recreation Hall indoor space as multi-sports arena - ventilation, lighting & storage.
- ③ Deliver outdoor small plaza linking Hall and covered basketball courts - introduce some skateboarding elements.
- ④ New clubhouse facilities proposed by the Arnhem Crows AFL team.
- ⑤ Formalise soccer/touch hybrid playing area (rectangle field) & improve maintenance of softball diamond.
- ⑥ New BMX track - ramp,berms & jump elements.

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5.3 Beswick

Overview

Beswick is located approximately 118 km south east of Katherine and 31 km east of Barunga and takes around 1.5 hours to drive from Katherine.

The Bagala Traditional Owners (TO's) are the recognised land owners of the Beswick community, located on the Beswick Aboriginal Land Trust¹⁹. Beswick has a population of over 600 with a median age of 27 and 96% indigenous representation²⁰.

Facilities

- Sports oval (spectator stands, width insufficient for Senior AFL, no toilets);
- Recreation Area (playground, outdoor sports court);
- Recreation room (old school classroom);
- Central parkland and community space adjacent to Social Club - will be upgraded to include BBQs, Playground and Toilet;
- Social Club;
- Men's Shed;
- Arts Centre;
- Covered multi-use sports court (at new subdivision and includes lights, stands, + adjacent play area, will also include toilet and shower block and will be near new shops);
- School - small AFL oval; and
- School - covered multi-purpose sports court (no lights).

Tenure

To be completed in next stage.

Sports Program

In the second half of 2022 AFL, basketball and handball program activities were run in Barunga with basketball and AFL best attended.

The dominant trend of participation reducing in the 12-14 year bracket with further reduction in 15-17 years is demonstrated in Beswick.

¹⁹ Bagala Traditional Owners Decision Making Agreement - Implementation Plan 2022-2025

²⁰ ABS, 2021

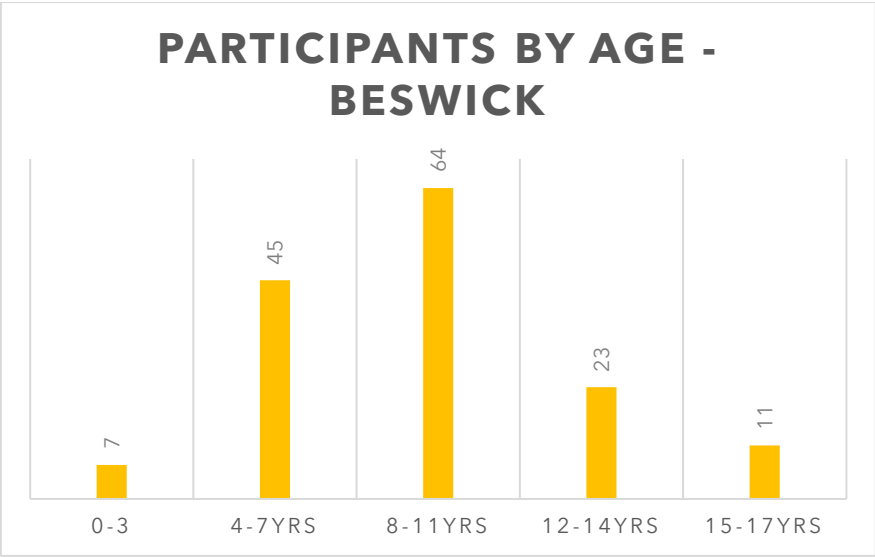


Figure 19. Participants by Age - Beswick

Sports and Recreation Assets



2 BESWICK COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023





① AFL playing field

- Undersized AFL playing area (width issue due to local drain) .
- 2 sets of goal posts.
- No auxillary facilities, no lighting.
- Surface condition fit for purpose but impacted by flooding.
- tenure: Local Land Council area.



② Outdoor Basketball Hard Court & Play Ground

- Un-covered open basketball court
- Functional backboards.
- Surface quality fair condition.
- No lighting,fencing or shade.
- Playground equipment functional.
- tenure: Section 19 RGRC area.



③ Covered Basketball Court, Tiolet Block & Playground

- Full-size covered hard court basketball court.
- Punctional backboards.
- Surface quality good.
- LED lighting.
- Alum. low tiered seating.
- Tiolet block adjacent functional.
- Covered large playground in good condition.
- tenure: Section 19 RGRC area (courts & toilet block only).

② BESWICK COMMUNITY Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023

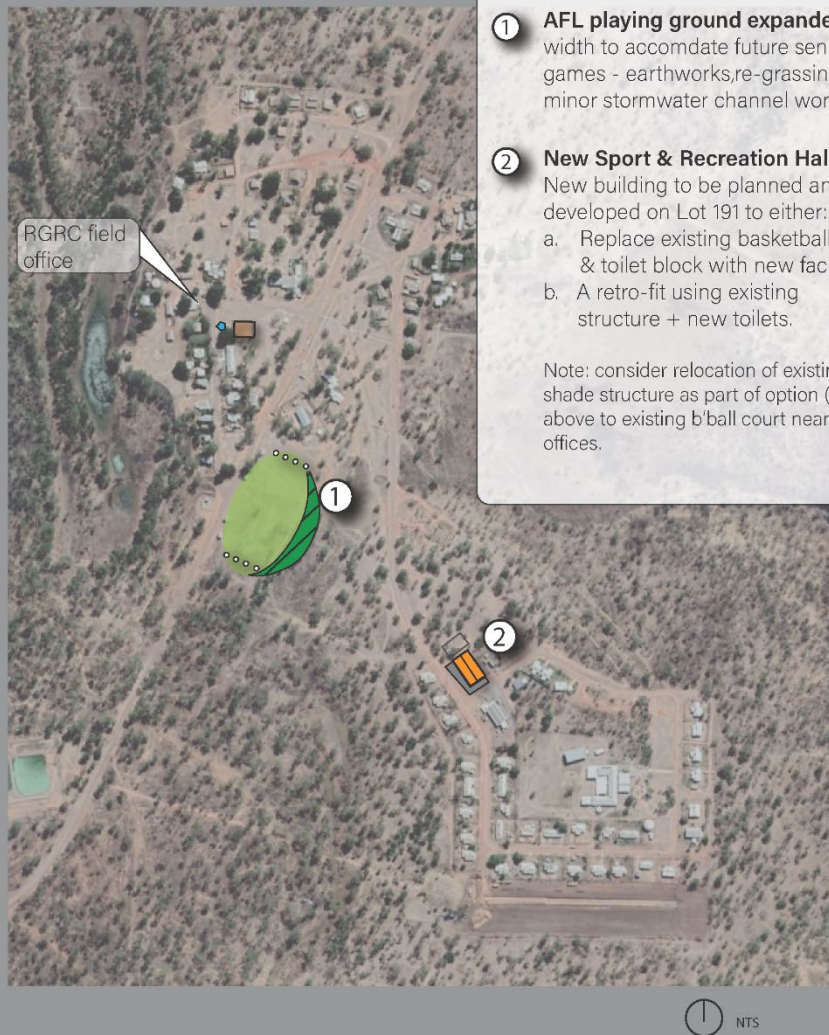


Future Opportunities

To be completed in next stage.

Opportunities Planning

BESWICK



① **AFL playing ground expanded** in width to accomdate future senior games - earthworks, re-grassing & minor stormwater channel works.

② **New Sport & Recreation Hall**
New building to be planned and developed on Lot 191 to either:
a. Replace existing basketball court & toilet block with new facility or;
b. A retro-fit using existing structure + new toilets.

Note: consider relocation of existing shade structure as part of option (a.) above to existing b'ball court near RGRC offices.

5.4 Boorooloola

To be completed in next stage.

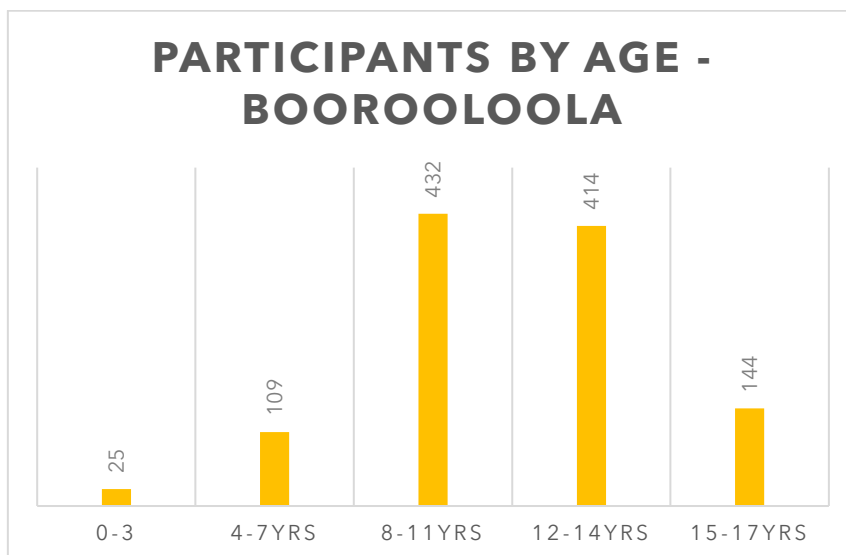


Figure 20. Participants by Age - Boorooloola

5.5 Bulman

Overview

Bulman is located north west of Katherine and takes approximately four hours to drive.

Bulman has a population of nearly 200 with a median age of 29 and 97% indigenous representation²¹.

Facilities

- Sport and Rec Hall (multi-purpose court concrete surface, small stage, kitchen, toilets, showers)
- Old outdoor court not functional.
- Sports oval – adjacent to the sports hall (playing surface poor- some lighting) set up for AFL
- Centre Rd park with playground and tables
- BBQ park with large playground
- School – covered full size sports court
- School – small oval/ kick about area

Tenure

To be completed in next stage.

Sports Program

In the second half of 2022, basketball, hit & run, cooking, rippa tag, frisbee, disco, craft, soccer and cricket program activities were run in Barunga and were evenly attended.

The dominant trend of participation reducing in the 12-14 year bracket with further reduction in 15-17 years is demonstrated in Bulman.

²¹ ABS, 2021

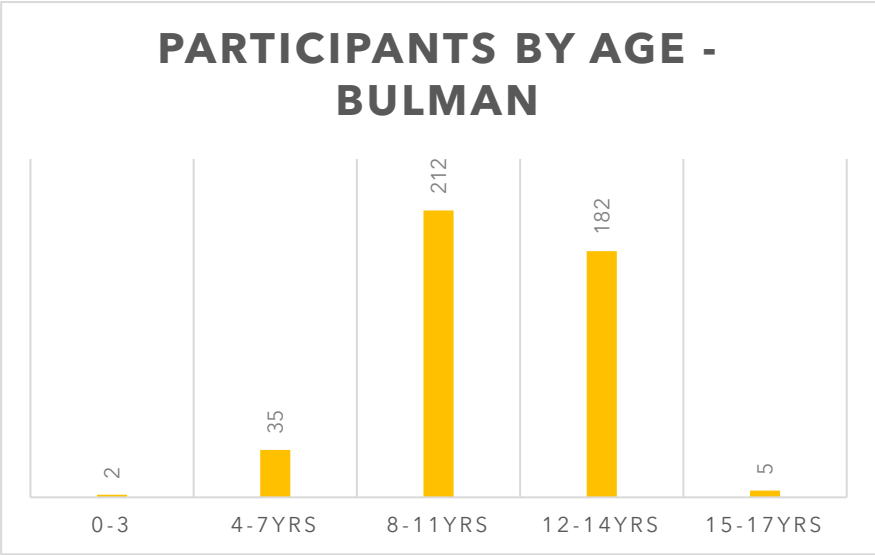


Figure 20. Participants by Age - Bulman

Sports and Recreation Assets



4

BULMA & WEEMOL COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023

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① AFL Playing Field

- Full size playing field.
- 2 sets of goal posts.
- Surface good.
- No lighting.
- tenure:TBC ??



② Bulman Sport & Recreation Hall

- Large concrete slab & steel shed structure.
- Indoor full sized basketball backboards.
- Kitchen facility at one end.
- Indoor ceiling lighting
- Exposed insulation ceiling.
- No dedicated ventilation or climate control.
- tenure: TBC ??

Other Local Facilities



③ Fitness equipment area



④ Covered playground

④ BULMAN COMMUNITY Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023



Future Opportunities

To be completed in next stage.

Opportunities Planning

BULMAN

- ① New outdoor half court basketball hardcourt & skateboard elements
- ② Improve ventilation & climate control inside Rec Hall.



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5.6 Eva Valley

To be completed in next stage.

5.7 Jilkminggan

Overview

Jilkminngan is 146 kilometres south-east of Katherine and 38 kilometres from Mataranka and takes about 1.5 hours to drive from Katherine.

Jilkminggan has a population of over 300 with a median age of 25 and 100% indigenous representation²².

Facilities

- Recreation Hall (repurposed agricultural shed with insufficient roof height for sport);
- Outdoor multi-purpose sports court;
- Toilet block;
- Sports oval;
- Old softball backing net on unused land over the road from oval;
- Community park (new playground being installed); and
- Covered sports court at school (not open to community use).

Tenure

To be completed in next stage.

Sports Program

In the second half of 2022, hit & run, cooking, rippa tag, musical chairs, dodgeball, disco, craft, and skateboarding program activities were run in Jilkminggan and were evenly attended.

The dominant trend of participation reducing in the 12-14 year bracket with further reduction in 15-17 years is demonstrated in Jilminggan.

²² ABS, 2021

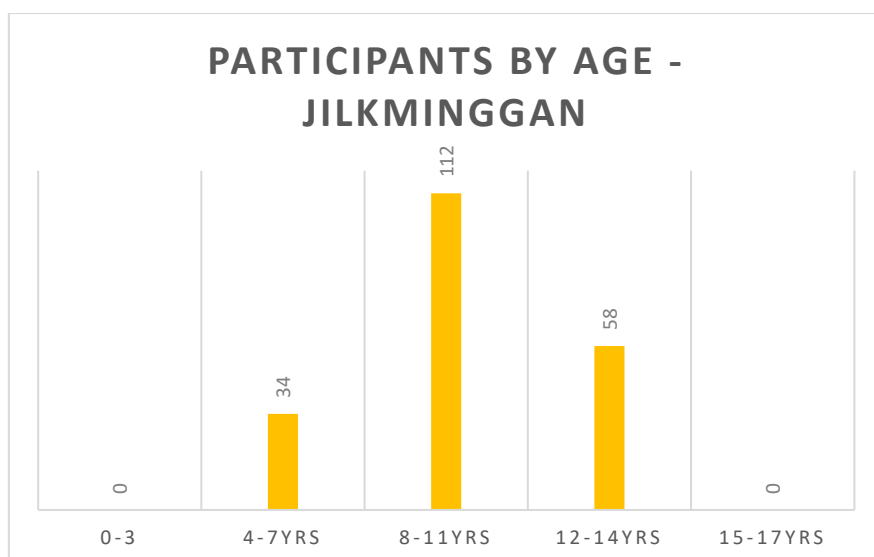


Figure 21. Participants by Age - Jilkmिंगgan

Sports and Recreation Assets



5 JILKMINGGAN COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023





① AFL playing field

- Full size senior AFL playing area.
- 2 sets of goal posts.
- No auxillary facilities, no lighting.
- Surface condition good.
- Fenced.
- tenure: TBC ??



② Outdoor Basketball Court

- Full-size hard court basketball court.
- Functional backboards, hoops broken.
- Surface quality good.
- tenure: TBC ??



③ Sport & Recreation Hall

- Small recreation hall
- Gal. sheet and concrete slab flooring
- Generally poor quality.
- Poor ventilation.
- Low lying and flood prone.
- tenure: TBC ??,



④ Softball diamond

- Cage net intact.
- Maintenance poor.
- tenure: TBC ??,

Future Opportunities

To be completed in next stage.

Opportunities Planning

JILKMINGGAN

- ① **New indoor sport & recreation hall** - consider integrated change rooms for AFL games.
 - ensure new building is located out of low lying ground (Lot 82 as an example)
- ② **New lighting to AFL ground.**



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5.8 Mataranka

Overview

By road, the trip to Mataranka takes approximately one (1) hour from Katherine on an all-weather road.

Mataranka has a population of around 380 with a median age of 42 and 38% indigenous representation²³.

Facilities

- Large community hall with air-conditioning and kitchen;
- Playground with shade sail;
- Small youth space (skate and BMX);
- Large park and linear open space along main road;
- Thermal pools and swimming area (National Park);
- School has full sized covered court with lights; and
- School has sports oval in good condition.

Tenure

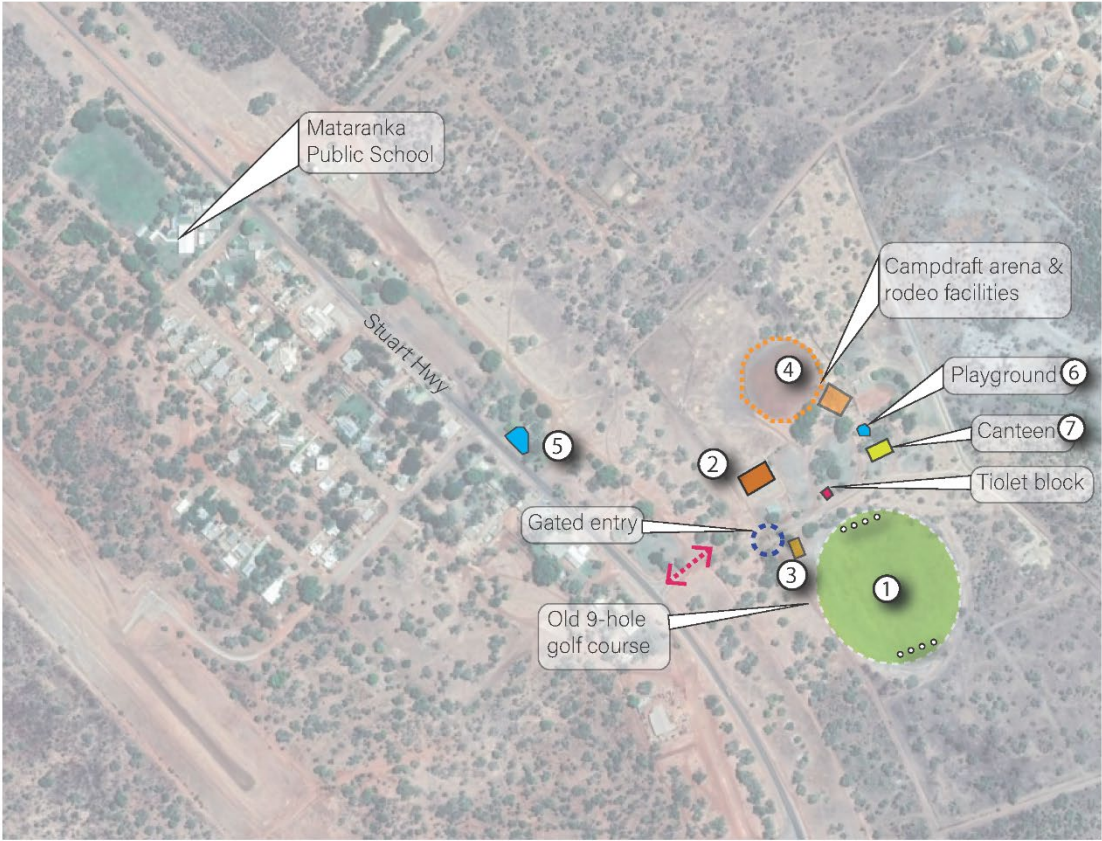
To be completed in next stage.

Sports Program

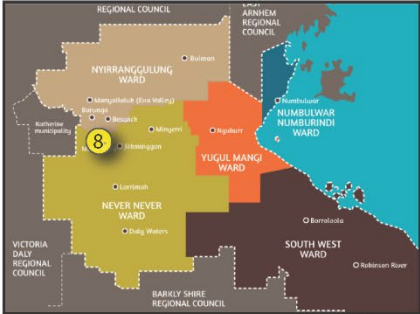
In the second half of 2022, hit & run, cooking, rippa tag, musical chairs, dodgeball, disco, craft, and skateboarding program activities were run in Mataranka and were evenly attended.

²³ ABS, 2021

Sports and Recreation Assets



NTS



8 MATARANKA COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023





① AFL playing field

- Full size senior AFL playing area.
- 2 sets of goal posts.
- No auxillary facilities, no lighting.
- Surface condition poor.
- Fenced with small spectator seating shelters.
- tenure: TBC ??



② Covered Basketball Court

- Full-size covered hard court basketball court.
- Functional backboards, linemarking good.
- Surface quality good.
- LED lighting
- Alum. low tiered seating.
- tenure: TBC ??



③ Cricket training nets

- 2 x cricket training nets.
- Grassed with small concrete crease.
- Very poor quality.
- No lighting.
- tenure: Section 19 RGRC area.



Other local facilities

- ④ Campdraft & rodeo facilities
 - New covered shelter built.
- ⑤ Skatepark
 - Good quality skatepark.
 - Surface good, fenced.
- ⑥ Playground
 - good quality.
 - no cover.
 - fenced.
- ⑦ Canteen building
 - fit for purpose.

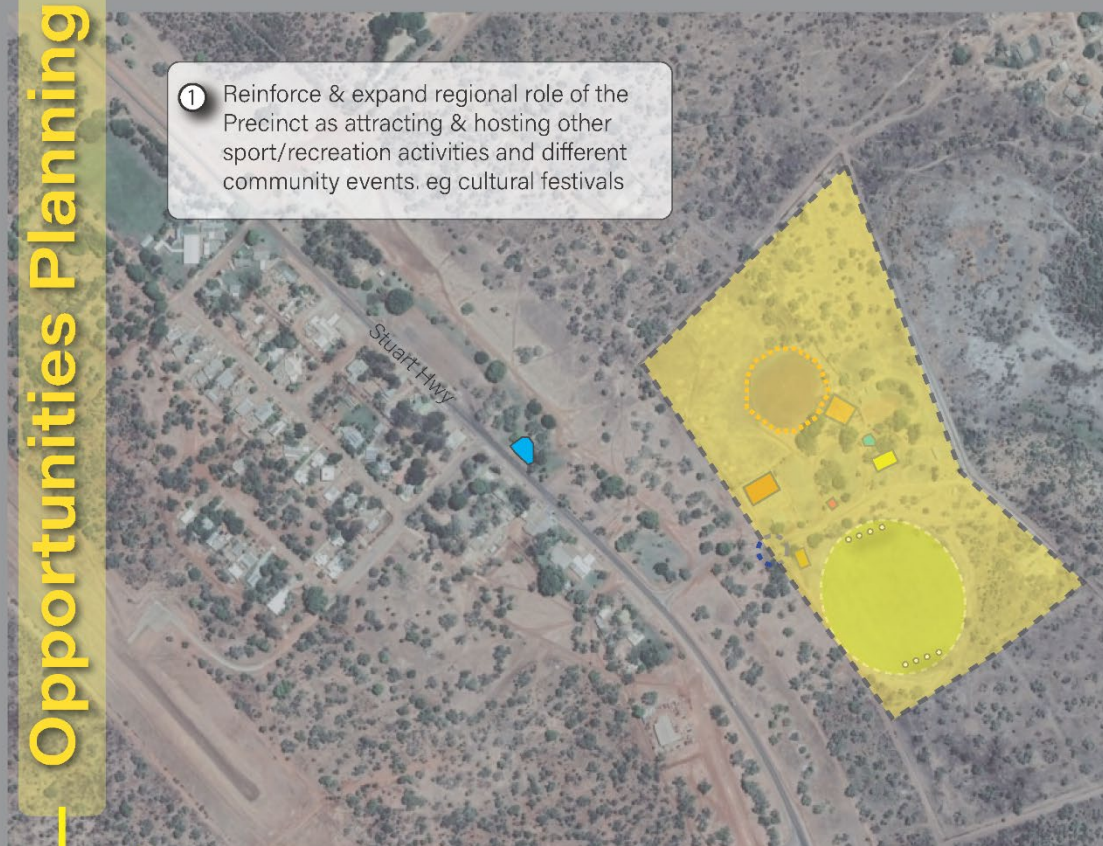
Future Opportunities

To be completed in next stage.

Opportunities Planning

MATARANKA

- ① Reinforce & expand regional role of the Precinct as attracting & hosting other sport/recreation activities and different community events. eg cultural festivals



5.9 Ngukkur

To be completed in next stage.

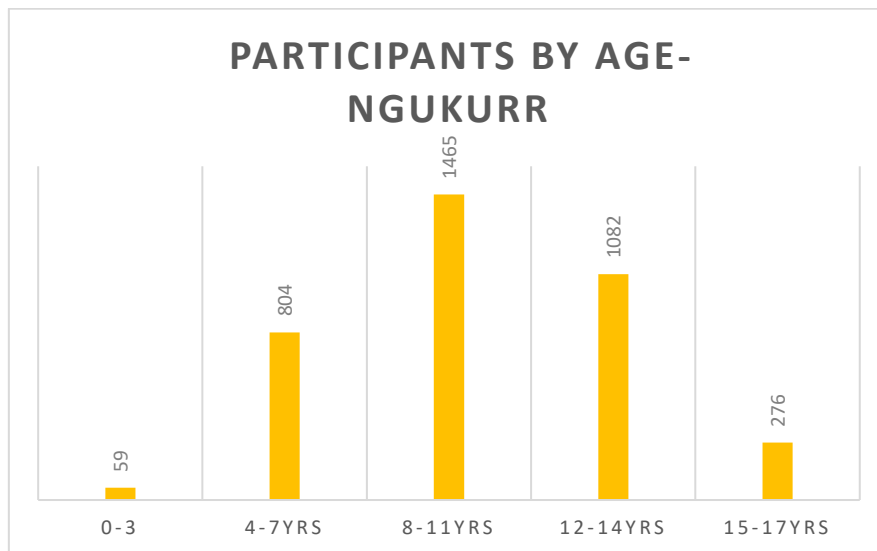


Figure 22. Participants by Age - Ngukkur

5.10 Numbulwar

To be completed in next stage.

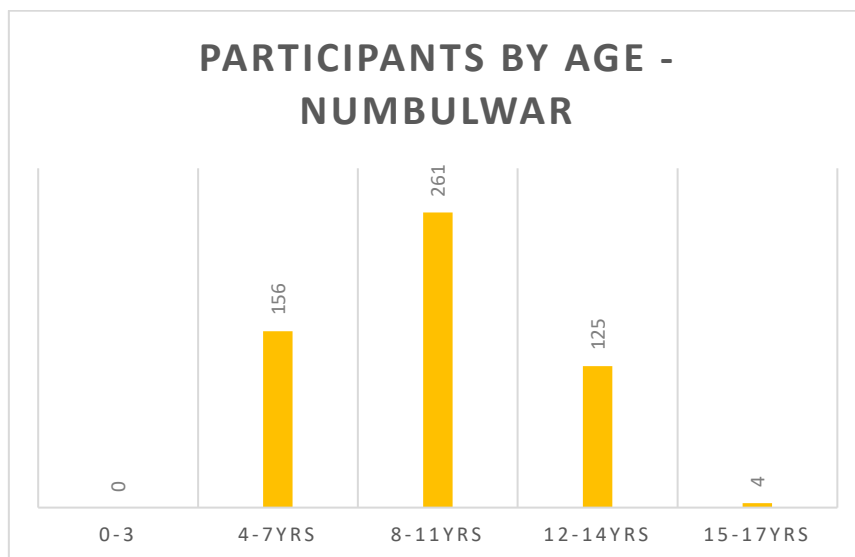


Figure 23. Participants by Age - Numbulwar

5.11 Robinson River

To be completed in next stage.

5.12 Weemol

To be completed in next stage.

6.0 Sport and Recreation Services

To be completed in next stage.

PART 2

MASTERPLAN

PART 2 MASTERPLAN

7.0 Themes

7.1 People

7.2 Places

7.3 Participation

To be completed in next stage.

8.0 Recommendations

To be completed in next stage.

9.0 10 Year Masterplan

To be completed in next stage.

10.0 Summary

To be completed in next stage.

Appendices

