



ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN

SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION PLAN

2018 - 2023







MINISTER’S MESSAGE

The Illawarra Shoalhaven region with its spectacular escarpment, coastline, waterways and lakes providing the backdrop to its coastal towns and vibrant regional centres, is a great place to play sport and be active.

This is the first comprehensive Sport and Active Recreation Plan for the Illawarra Shoalhaven. It builds upon a strong base of existing sporting events, sport and recreation facilities, a natural environment perfect for adventure sports, and community infrastructure of surf clubs, parks, cycle paths and public transport.

During the development of the plan, we heard from a wide cross section of community participants in the sport and active recreation sector who contributed their thoughts on enhancing active participation opportunities, attracting sporting events, designing sporting facilities including regional sporting hubs and creating integrated performance pathways for talented athletes. The core purpose of the plan is to provide a platform for collaboration and coordination between the organisations who contribute to the planning, investment and delivery of sport and active recreation in the Illawarra Region.

This Sport and Active Recreation Plan is complementary to the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2036 developed by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The broader Regional Plan makes reference to neighbourhood design that encompasses landscaping and walking and cycling paths which promote social inclusion, community wellbeing and environmental sustainability. Action 3.3.3 of the broader plan calls out the need to modernise existing, ageing infrastructure and redevelop under-utilised single sport facilities into multipurpose facilities with extended hours of use.

This plan takes into account the opportunities provided by Metro Wollongong and its network of regional and urban centres as key places for sporting and active recreation activities to occur.

This plan also draws on the concepts being considered in the development of the National Sports Plan by the Australian Sports Commission. The National Sports Plan is built around the four pillars of participation, performance, preventive health and integrity, all of which are reflected in this plan. The plan has also benefited from input from peak bodies Sport NSW and Outdoors NSW.

This document sets out the vision, outcomes and strategies which will ensure the Illawarra Shoalhaven region provides increased sport and active recreation opportunities to enhance the lives of its people as members of healthier, more active communities.

I encourage everyone in the Illawarra Shoalhaven to get behind this plan and benefit from the opportunities it promises.



Stuart Ayres MP
Minister for Sport

CONTENTS

<u>5</u>	A NEW WAY OF DELIVERING SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION IN REGIONAL NSW	<u>22</u>	OUTCOME 4 FIT FOR PURPOSE FACILITIES
<u>6</u>	ROLES OF THE SIX PARTNER GROUPS	<u>26</u>	OUTCOME 5 VALUED REGIONAL EVENTS
<u>8</u>	VISION FOR THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN REGION	<u>28</u>	OUTCOME 6 EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION
<u>9</u>	INPUTS INTO THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION PLAN	<u>30</u>	SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIES
<u>10</u>	OUTCOMES	<u>32</u>	DELIVERING THE PLAN
<u>13</u>	FEATURES OF THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN REGION	<u>33</u>	REVIEWING THE PLAN
<u>14</u>	OUTCOME 1 INCREASED PARTICIPATION	<u>34</u>	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
<u>17</u>	OUTCOME 2 IMPROVED ACCESS		
<u>20</u>	OUTCOME 3 INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS	<u>36</u>	CONTACT US



Dee Kramer Photography

A NEW WAY OF DELIVERING SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION IN REGIONAL NSW

In April 2017, the Office of Sport embarked on a project to review and renew the way that sport and active recreation is planned and delivered in regional NSW.

The project was established to directly contribute to the vision of the Office of Sport:

“A vibrant and valued sport and active recreation sector that enhances the lives of the people of NSW.”

The project started from the view that a new regional sport and active recreation model would take a more “place-based” rather than a “one size fits all” approach. The ten service delivery regions of NSW were used as a starting point to develop a specific plan for each region of NSW.

Initial concept testing was conducted with key partner groups in April, May and June 2017. One of the central concepts tested was a planning and delivery model which consisted of six partner groups collaborating together. The six partner groups are outlined in Figure 1.

In October 2017, representatives from the six partner groups gathered in each region to commence the process of creating a customised regionally specific plan for their region.

This document represents the beginning of a collaborative approach across the region to the planning and delivery of sport and active recreation. The Office of Sport will provide the necessary coordination to enable the collaboration demonstrated during the workshop to continue into the future.

The language of many of the strategies attempts to accurately reflect the discussions of the planning workshop. This plan has retained the actual wording presented by workshop participants, so does not use formal planning terminology.

Finally, the six partner groups agreed that this Sport and Active Recreation Plan is not “set and forget”. As the region continues to evolve over the next few years, so will this plan.

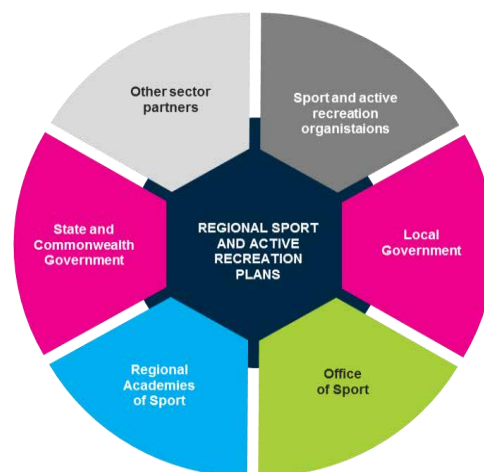
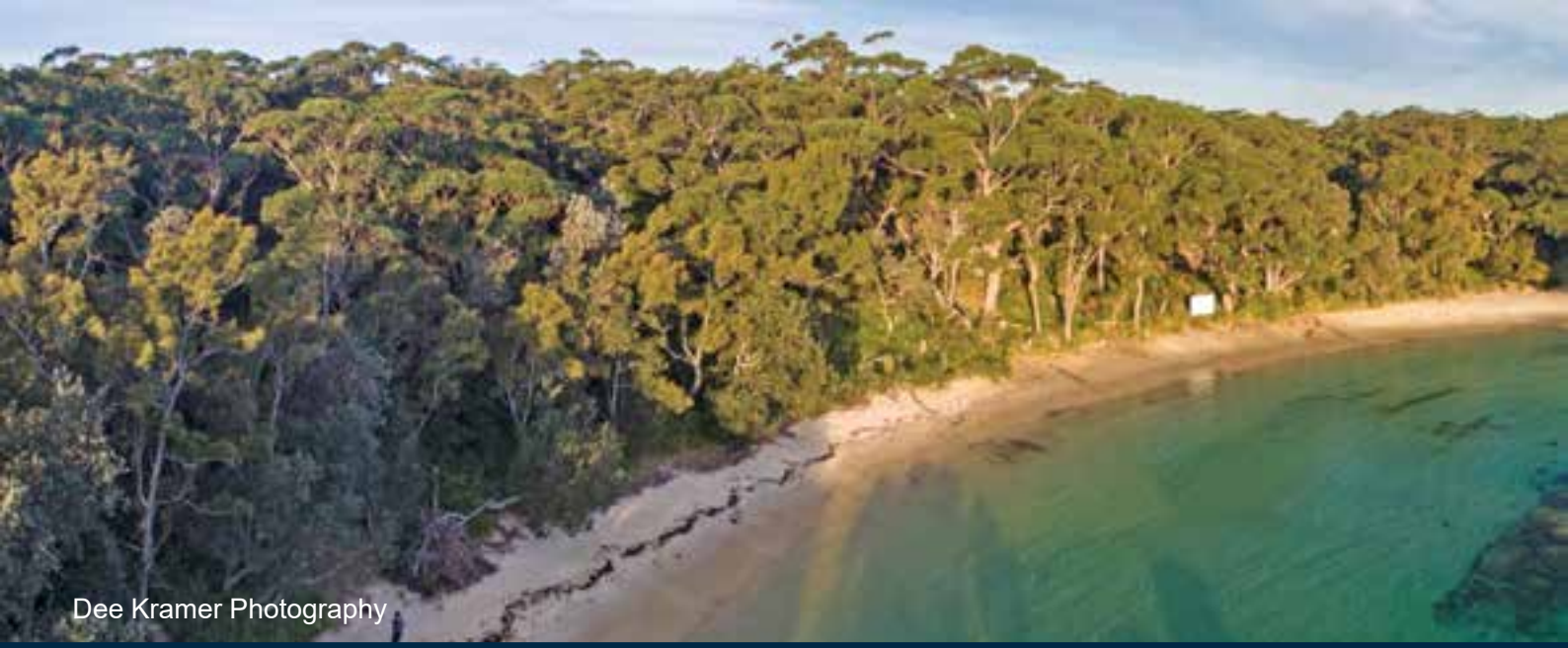


Figure 1. Six Partner Group Model



Dee Kramer Photography

ROLES OF THE SIX PARTNER GROUPS

1. SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION ORGANISATIONS

- Providing the sport's "best case" position on an optimised delivery environment for each region
- Contributing to the evidence base for sport and active recreation
- Collaborating with Government (Local, State and Commonwealth) to identify sporting infrastructure and program needs
- Contributing to the development of Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans
- Aligning service delivery with the Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans
- **Partners include:** State Sporting Organisations (SSO's), Regional Sporting Associations, Local Clubs, Sport NSW, Outdoors NSW.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Constructing, maintaining and managing sport and active recreation infrastructure and programs in local communities
- Collaborating with the community to identify sporting infrastructure and program needs
- Incorporating sport and active recreation into Community Strategic Plans
- Contributing to the development of Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans
- Aligning service delivery with the Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans

3. REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT

- Delivering pre-elite sport programs across their region
- Collaborating with sports, other key community organisations and high performance system partners to optimise performance pathways

4. STATE AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

- Providing the Office of Sport with relevant specialist advice and expertise
- Integrating sport and active recreation outcomes in agency planning
- **NSW Government partners include:** Departments of Industry, Premier and Cabinet, Health, Education, Family and Community Services, Planning and Environment, Destination NSW, Infrastructure NSW, Treasury, Office of Local Government.
- **Commonwealth Government partners include:** Australian Sports Commission, Department of Health.



5. NGOs AND OTHER PARTNERS

- Constructing, maintaining and managing sport and active recreation infrastructure and programs in local communities
- Contributing to the evidence base for sport and active recreation
- Providing the Office of Sport with relevant specialist advice and expertise
- Integrating sport and active recreation outcomes in their planning
- **Partners include:** Universities, TAFEs, Charity organisations, ClubsNSW, Volunteering NSW, PCYC, YMCA, parkrun Australia, Parks and Leisure Australia, Fitness Australia, and Event organisers.



6. OFFICE OF SPORT

Sport and Recreation Services Group

- Lead implementation and activation of Sport and Active Recreation Plan
- Facilitating contemporary and relevant services
- Providing opportunities for life long sport and active recreation experiences (from first experience to high performance)
- Leading local coordination
- Fostering new local partnerships
- Optimising Sport and Recreation Centres for sport and active recreation outcomes
- Managing funding programs to support Regional Sport and Active Recreation Plans and their implementation.

Sport Infrastructure Group

- Identifying current and future requirements for infrastructure
- Planning of community sport infrastructure
- Master planning processes
- Project feasibility support and advice to government, state and local partners
- Developing standards for facilities planning and development
- Best practice research in land and community development, environmental sustainability and urban design.

Sport Development Group

- Capacity building for sport and active recreation organisations, including participation and inclusion strategies for under-represented groups
- Advice and strategies to support integrity in sport, including safeguarding children
- Support for and leveraging major sporting events
- Policy and strategy development, including building the evidence base for the value of sport and active recreation.

VISION FOR THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN REGION*



*This vision was conceived and designed at the Regional Planning Day held on 23 October 2017.



INPUTS INTO THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION PLAN

This plan reflects and builds on the outcomes of the regional planning day by incorporating other inputs as represented in Figure 2 below:



Figure 2. Inputs into plan



OUTCOMES

After a series of consultation sessions in the region, six outcomes have been identified for the Illawarra Shoalhaven region:



INCREASED PARTICIPATION

of adults and children in regular sport and active recreation.



IMPROVED ACCESS

to sport and active recreation for everyone in the region, regardless of background or ability.



INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

for participants in sport.



FIT FOR PURPOSE FACILITIES

in the region.



VALUED REGIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

which are valued by the region.

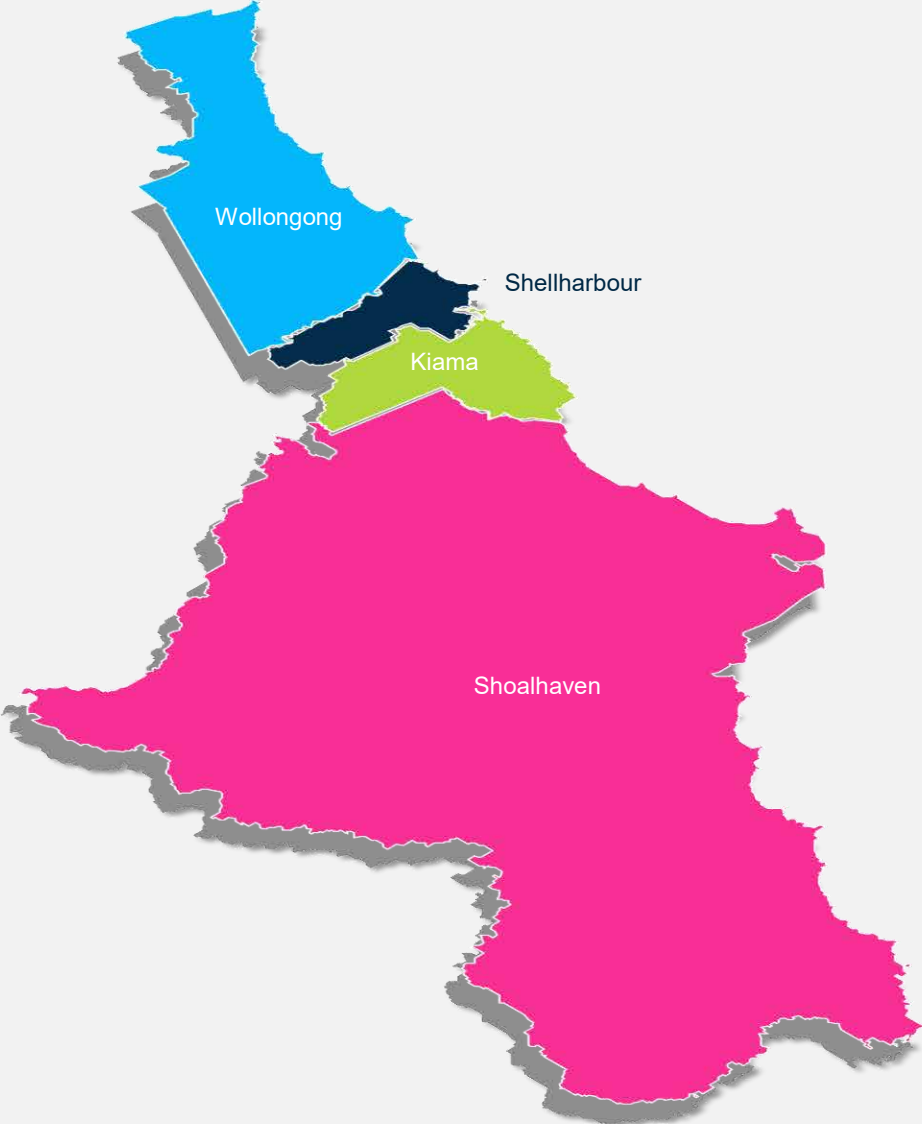


EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

within the sport and active recreation sector.



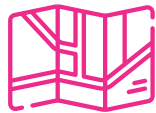
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS



FEATURES OF THE ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN REGION



4 Local Government Areas, **1** Metropolitan Centre, **2** Major Regional Centres and a concentrated settlement into a narrow strip of suburban communities and coastal towns



The port of Port Kembla – **1** of the State's **5** deepwater freight ports



The University of Wollongong with its unique Innovation Campus



Diverse industrial capabilities with a specific focus on steel-making



National Parks and the Escarpment offering adventure based activities of mountain biking, hiking, kayaking and sky diving.



OUTCOME 1 INCREASED PARTICIPATION

In order to achieve an increase in participation rates for adults and children in sport and active recreation, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 1.1 – Utilise school facilities after hours

Concepts to consider

- Use school facilities outside of school hours and open to the community. Link clubs to schools and build a schedule that permits use for different sports.

Strategy 1.2 – Explore Park and Play (“come and try days”)

Concepts to consider

- Set-up multiple sports in one outdoor area/green space to encourage participants to try different sport and active recreation activities with no commitment required.
- Sporting and active recreation organisations could be invited to deliver a sample of their activity and provide communications to the community.
- Identify and increase public awareness of festivals or Come and Try opportunities where significant occasions such as: International Women’s Day, Harmony Day, National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week, International Day of People with Disability can be supported.

NOTE: The concept of an integrated insurance scheme to cover children participating in multiple sports was discussed and it was agreed that the Office of Sport would advocate for this at the national level.

Strategy 1.3 – Support adapted (modified) sport and active recreation formats

Concepts to consider

- To encourage participation in sport, encourage sports to develop an adaptation to their sport – regardless of age and/or ability. This could address accessibility issues and increase participation across bigger age groups, driving diversity in memberships.

Strategies suggested from other inputs

Strategy 1.4 – Promote the Active Kids Voucher program

- The Active Kids program provides a voucher of up to \$100 for parents / guardians / carers to contribute to the cost of their children’s membership fees in approved sport and active recreation activities.

The program:

- A. Supports increased participation of school-enrolled children in sport and active recreation
- B. Contributes to the delivery of the Premier’s Priority to reduce childhood overweight and obesity by increasing physical activity levels in children
- C. Aims to help change the physical activity behaviours of children and young people in NSW.

Strategy 1.5 – Plan for and promote child safe and child friendly environments

Concepts to Consider

- Provide child safe training for coaches, officials and leaders of sport clubs and active recreation organisations and promote ways to actively seek feedback from children.
- Provide education and awareness to parents, carers and children on what to expect from activity leaders.

Strategy 1.6 – Support Councils to include and strengthen reference to sport and active recreation in their Community Strategic Plans (CSPs)

Concepts to consider

- Convene a forum for Councils to share and compare their sport and active recreation strategies in CSPs.
- Consider initiatives which cross Local Government Area (LGA) borders to gain economies of scale.

Strategy 1.7 – Support State Sporting Organisations to develop a regional participation strategy

Concepts to Consider

- Convene a forum for the five sports with highest participation to develop specific regional strategies.
- Engage with other State Sporting Organisations with regional strategies to learn from the experiences of those sports.



Strategy 1.8 – Attract and retain new Volunteers

Concepts to Consider

- Provide more meaningful recognition towards volunteering to increase retention rate of volunteers through providing an improved experience (rather than a certificate). For instance, have sport Hall of Fame members become ambassadors to sport volunteers and run joint events for volunteers.
- Establish a partnership with the regional branch of Volunteering NSW.
- Create a new style of volunteer incentive program based on loyalty points.
- Establish a partnership with Duke of Edinburgh's International Award units in the region to access award candidates as volunteers in sport and active recreation.

OUTCOME 2 IMPROVED ACCESS

In order to improve people's access to sport and active recreation in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region, regardless of their background or ability, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 2.1 – Facilitate better use of natural assets

Concepts to consider

- Partner with organisations to use spaces and/or hire equipment for outdoor facilities (e.g. kayaks and paddle boards).
- Explore opportunities to increase access to currently unavailable government assets.
- use social media, apps and information.

Strategy 2.2 – Explore options for shared transport to sport and active recreation opportunities

Concepts to consider

- Address lack of available transport (mainly around Shoalhaven) and cost of transport by offering better/ more affordable access solutions through a coordinated approach to the use of all the available transport systems in local communities.
- Seek engagement with local transport providers to consider alternative services.
- Formalise car pooling arrangements through clubs and organisations.





Strategy 2.3 – Establish cycling and walking networks

Concepts to consider

- Increase use of dedicated paths for cycles (ideally separate to footpaths) – especially in new roads. The paths could be integrated into public transport, connect to main hubs and supported by bike storage areas.
- This initiative could align with existing State/local plans to increase community connectivity and drive health benefits through green spaces and pathways. It may drive environmental benefits and also assist with the de-congestion of cities.

ACCESS CASE STUDY

Title: Illawarra Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Water Safety

Description: Established in 2012, a water safety committee was established to focus on meeting the needs of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in relation to water safety in the region.

The initiative aims to: Increase CALD people’s awareness by exploring, developing, and delivering water safety initiatives in all aquatic environments.

Provide volunteering and employment opportunities via an aquatics industry mentoring program.

Partners: Aquatic service providers, Multicultural service providers, Wollongong City Council, Education, NSW Police and Office of Sport. 14 active members on the committee.

Outcomes: Various community sectors collaborating to deliver initiatives.

1,500+ newly arrived refugees exposed to water safety messages through committee programs.

Community ownership – meetings facilitated by Office of Sport and initiatives driven by the local community.

Successful Illawarra committee model replicated in South East Sydney.

Awards: Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) received 2014 NSW Water Safety Award – local community initiative of the year for Beach Orientation/CPR sessions.

The committee was nominated for the National Multicultural Marketing Awards 2013.



Strategy 2.4 – Provide support to under-represented groups to access sport and active recreation opportunities

Concepts to consider

- Determine which groups are significantly under represented within the region and identify organisations who can adequately represent the needs of Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups.
- Modify facilities and programs to enable access for people with disabilities, seniors and other under-represented groups.
- Consider the priorities referred to in the Office of Sport's 2018-2022 Women in Sport Strategy as a guide for supporting under-represented groups.

Strategy 2.5 – Raise awareness of Berry Sport and Recreation Centre as a place for children to experience sport and active recreation activities for the first time

Concepts to consider

- Ensure all local schools are aware of opportunities for organised school activities at the centres.
- Engage with local sporting clubs to offer training camps and outdoor activities for their junior members.
- Promote the range of active recreation opportunities to regional community groups.

Strategy 2.6 – Develop a central information hub / clearinghouse / database / portal for all sporting organisations and participants

Concepts to consider

- Seek expressions of interest from regional Information Technology providers to develop the hub.

Strategy 2.7 – Support sport and active recreation clubs to attract new participants

Concepts to consider

- Provide training and skill development in marketing and promotion.
- Conduct cross-sport member attraction programs for sports with complementary winter and summer seasons.

Strategy 2.8 – Focus on people not currently participating in any form of sport and active recreation

Concepts to consider

- Develop a regional communication strategy on the benefits of physical activity.
- Engage local sporting heroes as ambassadors of sport and active recreation activities.
- Develop a “first-timers” incentive award scheme for individuals and sporting organisations.

OUTCOME 3

INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS

In order to support sport performance pathways for participants in the region the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 3.1 – Develop junior to senior pathways

Concepts to consider

- Develop junior to senior pathways to keep participants engaged within sport to address poor retention rates of high school students in sport.

Strategy 3.2 – Minimise talented females leaving high performance pathways

Concepts to consider

- Improve the social standing of sport for females in high school/teenage years to address participant deviation from the performance pathway.
- Consider incentives to retain females in high performance pathways.

Strategy 3.3 – Boost the number of coaches and officials

Concepts to consider

- Transition players or parents who enter the game to volunteer as coaches or officials.
- This could provide accreditation and education to coaches and other officials.
- This initiative could help to address the lack of volunteers and volunteer burnout, and to help attract and retain volunteers in coaching and officiating.
- An example of this in practice is the Vikings Rugby Union Club, which offers an incentivised program (reduced fees) for senior players to volunteers for activities.

Strategies suggested from other inputs

Strategy 3.4 – Embed the Foundation, Talent, Elite and Mastery (FTEM) pathway model established by the Australian Sports Commission in the region

Concepts to consider

- Promote the Australian Sport Commission's FTEM model of athlete development to athletes, parents, coaches and the wider community to assist athletes in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region to achieve their sporting goals.

Strategy 3.5 – Strengthen links between the Illawarra Academy of Sport and other sector partners

Concepts to consider

- Facilitate athlete pathway planning sessions to maximise the collaboration between sports, system partners and providers of services in the region.

Strategy 3.6 – Improve coaching and officiating standards in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region

Concepts to consider

- Improving the quality of coaching and officiating will positively impact participation and high performance in the region. While each sport owns its own accreditation program an action plan to develop coaches and officials in the region should be developed. It will involve consultation between the Office of Sport, the Illawarra Academy of Sport and State Sporting Organisations to ensure the plan best suits the region, has maximum impact and avoids duplication and date conflicts.





OUTCOME 4 FIT FOR PURPOSE FACILITIES

In order to provide contemporary, fit for purpose facilities in the region, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 4.1 – Establish a Regional Sporting Hub and explore locations for sub-hubs

Concepts to consider

- Create multi-purpose facilities for sport and community purposes that will be accessible for the whole region. The location of the hubs should be determined by a collaborative approach and considered in the context of other community facilities and growth corridors.

Strategy 4.2 – Enhance and maintain WIN Stadium as a regionally significant sport facility and explore locations for the establishment of other regionally significant sport facilities such as the Shoalhaven Sporting Complex

Strategy 4.3 – Focus on quality facility design and equipment

Concepts to consider

- Develop technical specifications to meet existing users and future groups' needs, including design for indoor/outdoor activities and universal designs. It could solve the current challenges of sub-standard buildings and fittings, problematic operations and cater for multipurpose activities.

Strategy 4.4 – Determine optimal uses for the Berry Sport and Recreation Centre

Concepts to consider

- Establish Berry as a niche centre for cycling with a focus on a criterion track and junior development.
- Review and plan for accommodation and facility upgrades to ensure the centre remains relevant to the Illawarra Shoalhaven region.
- Consider Berry as a development centre for rowing.

Strategy 4.5 – Plan for female friendly sporting facilities

Concepts to consider

- Seek input from female members of clubs and organisations about their needs and wishes.
- Include female friendly toilets and change rooms in every new sporting facility.





HUBS – OVERVIEW

At a regional strategic level, the Office of Sport is proposing a sustainable network of regional level sport and active recreation facilities that meet the needs of stakeholders and communities. This includes a model for regional sport hubs and/or regionally significant sport facilities (see Figure 3).

The planning for sport hubs supports local Councils and the sport sector aligning their objectives and priorities for a common purpose and vision. The planning also encourages stakeholders to identify priorities that focus on increasing participation, make a contribution to regional and economic growth, deliver sustainable assets that are well used and the design of 'facilities for all'.



HUBS – FEATURES OF HUBS. A REGIONAL SPORT HUB MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- a multi-sport facility, which may include a sport administration centre (e.g. Sports House) that supports participation at the community and pre-elite level.
- the capacity to host national, state and regional championships. The location of regional sport hubs may complement already established regionally significant sport facilities; that is, venues that are listed as Tier 3 facilities under the NSW Stadia Strategy (2012). There are 27 such facilities in NSW, with 11 in regional NSW.
- could include broader community facilities such as aquatic and fitness facilities and other types of development such as a school or tertiary institution.
- a main site incorporating core sporting facilities and services, as well as supporting facilities and services.



HUBS – SUPPORT FACILITIES

Support facilities that could be connected to the core facilities (on-site or nearby) include:

- Health and fitness facilities/services
- General health and fitness
- Sports science
- Other allied health services
- Education and training facilities/services
- Aquatic facilities
- Additional administration for all sport and other partners.



SNAPSHOT OF THE 2017 ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN FUTURE NEEDS OF SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY

1 of 4 Councils participated in the Future Needs of Sport Infrastructure Study 2017

8 facility projects were submitted by the 1 Council

- 5 sport facility projects
- 3 active recreation facility projects

Of the 8 facility projects:

- 1 were for national/state level facilities
- 4 were for regional level facilities
- 3 were for local level facilities

In addition, 19 State Sporting Organisations submitted 25 sport facility projects.



REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT SPORTS FACILITIES

A project is considered “regionally significant” if it meets the following broad facility criteria:

- is a sport or recreation facility of regional level significance to a State Sporting Organisation
- meets the standards required to host major regional, state or national level competitions, events and/or training
- provides a range of participation outcomes (community, competitions, events and talent development)
- caters for a broad catchment across multiple local government boundaries, and
- delivers flexibility of use, high quality amenity, management and service levels.



Figure 3 – Regional Sports HUB Model

OUTCOME 5

VALUED REGIONAL EVENTS

Hosting sports events can provide a broad range of economic, promotional and community benefits to a region. Events have the ability to provide participation opportunities for local residents, showcase regional communities, increase or develop civic pride, enhance high performance pathways, maximise utilisation of local sporting and cultural infrastructure and drive overnight visitation, delivering an economic boost to local businesses and community organisations.

Local, state and national sporting organisations, councils, sponsors, the NSW Government and event management companies are all involved in the attraction and delivery of events to a region.

To ensure the benefits and legacy of hosting sports events are maximised, a collaborative approach should be employed, ensuring roles and responsibilities are clearly articulated and measures for success identified.

In order to attract and host valued events to the region, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders

from the region

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 5.1 – Maintain and enhance existing successful sporting and active recreation events

Concepts to consider

- Events to consider include:
 - Dragons (NRL)
 - Hawks (basketball)
 - CrossFit games
 - Kiama Sevens (rugby)
 - Annual MS Sydney to Wollongong bike ride
 - Triathlon
 - Husky multisport (triathlon)
 - Recent key events with regional/state/national importance - lawn bowls events, university games, national hockey indoor championships, World Junior Surfing, Sheffield Shield Cricket, touch football/Oztag, sailing, surf lifesaving, athletics and netball.

Strategy 5.2 – Develop partnerships to facilitate events

Concepts to consider

- Develop partnerships with proactive sporting bodies for a contracted period of multiple events to increase number of events.
- A good example is Surfing NSW/World Surfing League collaborating with Kiama Council.
- This initiative could deliver economic benefits for the region, improve the region's reputation in a specific sport field and potentially create world-scale exposure.

Strategy 5.3 – Support and develop legacy events

Concepts to consider

- Utilising major events to create a legacy for grassroots sport. The delivery of such major events can drive economic benefits and improve facilities/equipment for local members.
- For example, Wollongong City Council and Destination Wollongong partnering with Cricket NSW for events at North Dalton Park that have resulted in capital works in some facilities (e.g. changing rooms improvements for females).

Strategy 5.4 – Develop a shared regional calendar of events

Concepts to consider

- Improve coordination of large sporting events and prevent duplicative effort and potential clashes by collaborating to create a shared regional event calendar that can also provide a regional view of destination management.

Strategies suggested from other inputs

Strategy 5.5 – Work with key stakeholders on events activation and legacy planning

Concepts to consider

- Identify additional mass participation events which may be hosted by the region.
- Identify and bid for additional high profile (national or world championship) events that may be hosted by the region.
- Establish a regional partnership with the Sydney Surrounds South Destination Network.

EVENT CASE STUDY

Title: Big Husky Triathlon Festival

Event Location: Huskisson

Time of Year: February

Background Information:

The Big Husky Triathlon Festival is an iconic event for the Shoalhaven area, having been run in the region for 13 years. The event attracts a broad range of participants across multiple disciplines, incorporating an Ultimate Distance race, Sprint & Super Sprint distance triathlons, Ocean Swim, Fun Runs, a MINIMAN kids' triathlon and a Health & Lifestyle Expo

Approx no. Participants: 1,800 individual athletes and 130 teams

Approx no. officials/volunteers: 300

Approx no. spectators: 10,000+

OUTCOME 6

EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

In order to facilitate collaboration within the sport and active recreation sector, the following strategies will be explored.

Actions to support each strategy will be developed by working groups comprised of relevant stakeholders from the region.

Strategies suggested at regional planning day workshop

Strategy 6.1 – Establish Illawarra Shoalhaven sport and active recreation planners group

Concepts to consider

- Establish a planning group that brings together the Councils and State agencies to coordinate sport, and active recreation planning for the region (e.g. assets/people skills).
- The group may undertake a 'stocktake' of regional studies, gap analysis, issue reports (to Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) regional leadership team, local MPs, etc.) and set-up a volunteer strategy (e.g. sharing resources, work with volunteers, and related training).

Strategy 6.2 – Develop an annual sport and active recreation forum

Concepts to consider

- Plenary sessions for the different sport and active recreation stakeholders to share best practice and realign priorities across the sector. The forum could create sport and active recreation professional networking opportunities.

Strategy 6.3 – Communicate State Sporting Organisation (SSO) strategic planning at local level

Concepts to consider

- Communicate State Sporting Organisation planning at the local level.
- Develop a framework to establish decision making at a local level and to improve club relationships with State Sporting Organisations.

REGIONAL PLANNING DAY SNAPSHOT

On 23 October 2017, 58 leaders from the community, sport and recreation organisations, NSW Government, and local Councils from the Illawarra Shoalhaven region came together at the Pavilion Kiama with the purpose of developing a first draft of sport and active recreation priorities for the region.

The day began with participants thinking about the unique character of the Illawarra Shoalhaven region, and its community, and to then work together to identify the opportunities and challenges for sport and active recreation from a number of perspectives.

The discussions and ideas presented at the concluding event form the basis for this Sport and Active Recreation Plan. NSW Office of Sport will work closely with community leaders to continue and refine the plan and deliver on the suggested outcomes.

COLLABORATION CASE STUDY

Title: Illawarra South Coast Sport Consultations and Forum

Description: Office of Sport regional staff consulted with 17 identified sporting organisations within Illawarra and South Coast with the aim of increasing sector capacity and identifying opportunities for the community to engage in sports and active recreation.

Partners: State Sporting Organisation development staff, association sporting staff and local sporting club volunteers.

Outcomes:

- Stronger partnerships between sporting organisations, Office of Sport and local government providing positive outcomes for regional sport.
- Individual action plans developed in line with identified areas of need from within each sport.
- Development of a communication strategy that incorporates use of e-newsletter updates, local sports forums and sport club surveys.
- Local sport identifying Office of Sport as a knowledge hub for enhancing capacity of sport.

Innovations: Utilisation of online participation surveys at the local sport forums to gather immediate feedback regarding current issues within sport and identification of future forum themes.



SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES AND STRATEGIES

It is not possible to address all of these strategies in five years. They provide a list of possibilities which can be prioritised by the Sport and Active Recreation Steering Group over the life of the plan.

<p>OUTCOME 1 Increased Participation</p>	<p>OUTCOME 2 Improved Access</p>	<p>OUTCOME 3 Integrated Performance Pathways</p>
<p>Strategy 1.1 - Utilise school facilities after hours</p>	<p>Strategy 2.1 - Facilitate better use of natural assets</p>	<p>Strategy 3.1 – Develop junior to senior pathways</p>
<p>Strategy 1.2 - Explore Park and Play (“come and try days”)</p>	<p>Strategy 2.2 - Explore options for shared transport to sport and active recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Strategy 3.2 - Minimise talented females leaving high performance pathways</p>
<p>Strategy 1.3 - Support adapted (modified) sport and active recreation formats</p>	<p>Strategy 2.3 - Establish cycling and walking networks</p>	<p>Strategy 3.3 - Boost the number of coaches and officials</p>
<p>Strategy 1.4 - Promote the Active Kids Voucher program</p>	<p>Strategy 2.4 - Provide support to under-represented groups to access sport and active recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Strategy 3.4 - Embed the Foundation, Talent, Elite and Mastery (FTEM) pathway model established by the Australian Sports Commission in the region</p>
<p>Strategy 1.5 - Plan for and promote child safe and child friendly environments</p>	<p>Strategy 2.5 - Raise awareness of Berry Sport and Recreation Centre as a place for children to experience sport and active recreation activities for the first time</p>	<p>Strategy 3.5 - Strengthen links between the Illawarra Academy of Sport and other sector partners</p>
<p>Strategy 1.6 - Support Councils to include and strengthen reference to sport and active recreation in their Community Strategic Plans (CSPs)</p>	<p>Strategy 2.6 - Develop a central information hub / clearinghouse /database / portal for all sporting organisations and participants</p>	<p>Strategy 3.6 - Improve coaching and officiating standards in the Illawarra Shoalhaven region</p>
<p>Strategy 1.7 - Support State Sporting Organisations to develop a regional participation strategy</p>	<p>Strategy 2.7 - Support sport and active recreation clubs to attract new participants</p>	
<p>Strategy 1.8 - Attract and retain new volunteers</p>	<p>Strategy 2.8 - Focus on people not currently participating in any form of sport and active recreation</p>	

OUTCOME 4
**Fit for
Purpose
Facilities**

[Strategy 4.1](#) - Establish a Regional Sporting Hub and explore locations for sub-hubs

[Strategy 4.2](#) - Enhance and maintain WIN Stadium as a regionally significant sport facility and explore locations for the establishment of other regionally significant sport facilities such as the Shoalhaven Sporting Complex

[Strategy 4.3](#) - Focus on quality facility design and equipment

[Strategy 4.4](#) - Determine optimal uses for the Berry Sport and Recreation Centre

[Strategy 4.5](#) - Plan for female friendly sporting facilities

OUTCOME 5
**Valued
Regional
Events**

[Strategy 5.1](#) - Maintain and enhance existing successful sporting and active recreation events

[Strategy 5.2](#) – Develop partnerships to facilitate events

[Strategy 5.3](#) - Support and develop legacy events

[Strategy 5.4](#) – Develop a shared regional calendar of events

[Strategy 5.5](#) - Work with key stakeholders on events activation and legacy planning

OUTCOME 6
**Effective
Collaboration**

[Strategy 6.1](#) - Establish Illawarra Shoalhaven sport and active recreation planners group

[Strategy 6.2](#) - Develop an annual sport and active recreation forum

[Strategy 6.3](#) – Communicate State Sporting Organisation (SSO) strategic planning at the local level



Dee Kramer Photography

DELIVERING THE PLAN

As this is the first Sport and Active Recreation Plan, it is anticipated that responsibilities for driving and delivering the plan will evolve over time.

As a starting point, a **Sport and Active Recreation Steering Group** will be convened by the Office of Sport. It is envisaged that the Group will consist of the following members:

- Chair:** Regional Director, Southern Regions (Office of Sport)
- Members:** Director Illawarra Shoalhaven, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Executive Officer, Illawarra Academy of Sport
Local Council representative
CEO Sport NSW (or nominated sport representative)
Destination NSW representative
Regional Manager, Illawarra Shoalhaven (Office of Sport)
- Secretariat:** Office of Sport

Working groups will be established to pursue outcomes for specific strategies outlined in this plan.

An Evaluation Process and **Reporting Framework** will be considered during the first year of this plan.



REVIEWING THE PLAN

The plan will be reviewed annually by the Sport and Active Recreation Steering Group through an Annual Report.

A revised plan for 2019 will be developed following the review of the 2018 plan.

The 2018 Report and 2019 Plan will be provided to the NSW Minister for Sport, CE of the Office of Sport and Chair of the Regional Executive Leadership Group convened by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Resources

- NSW Office of Sport's 2017-2022 Disability Inclusion Plan
- NSW Office of Sport's 2018-2022 Women in Sport Strategy
- NSW Office of Sport's 2018-2022 Multicultural Inclusion Plan
- Multicultural NSW's Community Profiles
- Transport Roads and Maritime Walking Regularly Programs
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan





Office of Sport

🏠 6B Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

✉ Locked Bag 1422, Silverwater NSW 2128

☎ 13 13 02 (Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm)

✉ info@sport.nsw.gov.au

💻 sport.nsw.gov.au

Wollongong Regional Office

🏠 84 Crown Street
Wollongong East NSW 2500

☎ (02) 4228 5355

Berry Sport and Recreation Centre

🏠 660 Coolangatta Road
Berry NSW 2535

☎ (02) 4464 1406
(Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm)

The Office of Sport would like to acknowledge and thank all sector partners and members of the community that provided input into the development of this sport and active recreation plan.