

Roper Gulf Active & Connected

Roper Gulf Sport and Recreation Masterplan
October 2023



Beach Soccer, Numbulwar



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Title Photo Credit: Ben Coonan (Boorooloola)

Big Rivers AFL Workshop, Ngukkur



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Barunga Festival

PART 1

CONTEXT

PART 1 CONTEXT

Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
IAP2	International Association of Public Participation
ISR	Indigenous Sport & Recreation program
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Authority
NT	Northern Territory
NTG	Northern Territory Government
TO	Traditional Owner

1.0 Executive Summary

Context

Roper Gulf *Active & Connected* (this Sport and Recreation Masterplan) has been developed to assist Roper Gulf Regional Council and its partners in the delivery of sport and recreation services and infrastructure for the next ten years. It has been developed within the context that there are many organisations that will play a role in ensuring the successful delivery of Roper Gulf *Active & Connected*.

Sport and recreation generates personal and community health, social interaction and mental health benefits. In Roper Gulf communities there is a strong connection between sport and recreation, cultural festivals and intergenerational connection.

Sport and recreation manifests in different ways including traditional activities (hunting, fishing, bush tucker & bush medicine etc), sports (AFL, basketball etc) and music and dance. Roper Gulf *Active & Connected* supports any activity which keeps people physically active and socially connected.

Methodology

To determine future needs of the Roper Gulf Regional Council area, development of Roper Gulf *Active & Connected* included the following activities:

- Review of Local, Territory and Federal Government policies;
- Review of current trends;
- Audit of all Council owned facilities and sporting fields in the LGA;
- Review of current supply of facilities in the LGA;
- Review of forecasted demand over the next ten years; and
- Comprehensive stakeholder engagement process over 3 months.

Vision

The vision was informed by the stakeholder engagement process. It aligns with the Roper Gulf Regional Council Strategic Plan 2022-2027 and contributes to the Key Outcome Area of "Wellbeing". The vision is as follows:

Roper Gulf *Active and Connected*

Themes

Roper Gulf *Active and Connected* has three themes: people, place and participation. People refers to the people who make sport and recreation possible in Roper Gulf. Place refers to places and spaces where sport and recreation can occur and participation refers to people remaining active, engaged and connected.

Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes

Stakeholder engagement occurred over three months and involved visits to all communities, workshops with key stakeholders, structured interviews with sporting organisations, internal Council workshops and a number of presentations to seek feedback. A summary of stakeholder engagement outcomes is provided below against the three themes:

People

Staff and volunteers that deliver and support sport and recreation are critical to the success of programs and participation. Consistent staff availability drives participation however, it is difficult to find staff. Staff representation by community members can be complicated and can be impacted by various community requirements.

A feature of Roper Gulf *Active & Connected* is the objective to build community leadership in the delivery of sport and recreation. It is noted that strong Traditional Owner/Councillor/Elder leadership is a strong link to government and sport delivery.

Clubs provide an important framework for both services and infrastructure. Strong clubs generate increased participation, keep teenagers engaged, attract grant funding and build community capacity.

A number of communities are experiencing considerable population growth that does not appear to be accurately captured in formal sources such as ABS data and the recent census. More specific efforts to confirm current population and expected population growth confirms communities like Ngukkur may have a population of around 1800 which is considerably more than census data shows. This needs to be taken into consideration when planning for sport and recreation infrastructure and program requirements

Places

Some communities are well serviced, and some are not. This Masterplan seeks to ensure a basic service level - which includes playing fields, outdoor basketball court (preferably shaded), recreation hall and a central informal park.

Investment to achieve this basic level of service should consider elements such as population size, access (wet season impact) and remoteness when prioritising funding allocation. There is also opportunity to support well located sporting hubs which attract communities for competition. For example, the Mataranka sports fields can play host to more Big River Football League games (male and female) with minor improvements to the ground.

Physical features, settlement patterns and layout means no one size fits all (eg Borroloola sporting assets are 2km from town and Numbulwar is located on sand dunes). There are significant infrastructure investments required to be delivered strategically over the next ten years to provide a level of service parity. This masterplan has prioritised these projects within the context of likely funding sources and Council's finite maintenance budget.

Prioritisation will be aided by town planning/masterplanning processes being considered for each community. This is ideal for considering all elements of community holistically - housing, services, infrastructure, and sport and recreation. It is noted that this process will

be best delivered by ensuring integration between different levels of government and community.

Consideration should be given to sporting infrastructure that is not dependant on staff. Whilst recreation halls are a required asset, their use is sometimes constrained due to not having the staff to open them.

Transport is a constraint for all communities, but some are more affected than others and this should also be taken into further consideration. Those communities that are more remote or impacted by poor roads or flood affected roads should have access to at least the basic level of service identified.

All communities have schools which have sporting infrastructure such as basketball courts and sports fields. The relationship between schools and community access outside of school hours is site dependant and should remain flexible depending on circumstance and different community circumstances rather than implementing a blanket approach.

It was also noted that there is a proposed program of significant infrastructure works in the pipeline. The cyclone shelter under construction in Boorooloola is representative of this with a number of other communities being considered.

If these infrastructure programs are ultimately handed over to Council as an asset, Council assumes the maintenance and depreciation costs. This is an important consideration as Council has a finite budget and depreciation costs are presented in the formal budgeting process.

Finally, it is noted that tenure and limited Council land ownership can constrain delivery of Council infrastructure and this needs to be taken into account in terms of timeframes, costs and deliverability.

Participation

The Indigenous Sport & Recreation Project delivers a range of sports and active recreation programs across the region. Participation data highlights that children up to age 12 are strongly engaged, start to reduce participation till 14 and then there is a marked reduction in participation from age 15 onwards. The continued engagement of teenage youth is identified as a priority for engagement going forward.

Consistency of delivery is critical in keeping participants engaged. The ability to consistently have staff to run programs is a challenge and where funding parameters act as a constraint to consistent staffing, advocacy to funding bodies should be made.

There are great examples of formal sports clubs engaging all ages and binding the community together. Strong clubs attract funding and foster intergenerational involvement. It was widely noted that formal competition within and between community engages teenagers and maintains their involvement in sport. Availability of umpiring officials can be a constraint to competitive sport.

In addition to cultural activities, sport plays a critical role in community festivals. As such, in seeking to maintain and grow participation in sport it is appropriate to continue to support festival delivery.

Where possible, Council should seek to collaborate with other service providers. This presents opportunity to reduce pressure on Council whilst retaining service delivery and improves service delivery. Leveraging the efforts of an organisation like the John Moriarty Foundation is a good example. This could enable service delivery in more communities and drive increased participation.

Summary

The following plan on a page provides a summary of the outcomes for Roper Gulf *Active & Connected*. It includes one vision, eleven outcomes and a suite of projects to bring the vision to realisation.

Roper Gulf Active & Connected | 10 Year Sport and Recreation Masterplan

Vision Roper Gulf Active & Connected				
Themes	Outcomes	2024 2025 2026	2027 2028 2029	2030 2031 2032 2033
<p>People</p> <p>We build the capacity of people who make sport and recreation possible and empower individuals to make healthy choices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That local authority and community have greater involvement in service delivery, asset management and capital delivery That more indigenous community members gain training and education associated with sport and recreation due to the transferrable skills and benefits That clubs continue to grow in maturity, improve governance and build independence That appropriate incentives are in place to attract high quality sport and recreation staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport & Recreation Certificate Program Support project delivery by aboriginal corporations and sporting clubs Consider the impacts of the delivery of the Beetaloo Basin project in terms of population growth, economic development, housing and sport and recreation infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Delivery ISR Project Pilot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club Governance Development Project
<p>Place</p> <p>We provide places that foster sport & recreation, for maximum social benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That all community members have access to at least the minimum level of sport and recreation infrastructure (based on population, remoteness and access) That appropriate investment be made in strategic projects where significant infrastructure gaps exist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Works Plan integration Borroloola cyclone shelter (multipurpose) Numbulwar cyclone shelter (multipurpose) Weemol shaded basketball court Barunga clubhouse Ngukurr clubhouse & precinct Mataranka Sportsfield improvements - Big Rivers Football League Hosting Review Urapunga masterplan for sport and recreation infrastructure delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbulwar sportsfield upgrade Beswick sport & recreation hall Robinson River shaded basketball court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulman shaded basketball court Minyerri sport & recreation hall
<p>Participation</p> <p>We promote involvement in all activities that keeps people moving and engaged</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That growth continues to occur in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -popular activities like basketball and AFL -traditional activities such as bush medicine, hunting and fishing -dance and music That growth in community volunteering be actively supported That collaboration be reinforced with other service providers. That we continue to support young kids (1-10) in sports programs but that a renewed focus occur on early teens and young adults (11-16). That community festival delivery be supported due to the resultant sports participation, cultural exchange and social benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roper Gulf Active & Connected Volunteering Plan Support more communities to join competition leagues like the Big Rivers Football League 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Engagement Strategy Festival Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Moriarty Foundation program expansion

2.0 Introduction

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.



Roper Gulf *Active & Connected* 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;
- Sustainable facility management cost;
- The suitability of current facilities to meet population growth projections;
- 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;
- Opportunities for new sport and recreation programmes based on demonstrated community needs;
- Reducing facility and programme duplication across different community provider sectors;
- Realistic project targets for infrastructure refurbishments, upgrades, and builds; and
- Potential income stream opportunities to support the running costs associated with the sport and recreation infrastructure and facilities.



2.1 Vision, Themes and Outcomes

The development of the vision, themes and outcomes is the consolidation of engagement with key stakeholders (workshops, community visits etc) and the research conducted in the development of this strategy.

Vision	
Roper Gulf Active & Connected	
Theme	Outcomes
Places We provide places that foster sport & recreation, for maximum social benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That all community members have access to at least the minimum level of sport and recreation infrastructure (based on population, remoteness and access) • That appropriate investment be made in strategic projects where significant infrastructure gaps exist.
People We build the capacity of people who make sport and recreation possible and empower individuals to make healthy choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That local authority and community have greater involvement in service delivery, asset management and capital delivery • That more indigenous community members gain training and education associated with sport and recreation due to the transferrable skills and benefits • That clubs continue to grow in maturity, improve governance and build independence • That appropriate incentives are in place to attract high quality sport and recreation staff
Participation We promote involvement in all activities that keeps people moving and engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That growth continues to occur in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -popular activities like basketball and AFL -traditional activities such as bush medicine, hunting and fishing -dance and music • That growth in community volunteering be actively supported • That collaboration be reinforced with other service providers. • That we continue to support young kids (1-10) in sports programs but that a renewed focus occur on early teens and young adults (11-16). • That community festival delivery be supported due to the resultant sports participation, cultural exchange and social benefits

Table 1. Vision, Themes and Outcomes

2.2 Council's Role

Council provides facilities and programs to support sport and recreation within the Local Government Area. 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.



2.3 Methodology

Roper Gulf *Active & Connected* 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* 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 Council'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.

Review of the context and future opportunities of the following towns and communities was conducted via online engagement with key stakeholders in those communities:

- Daly Waters;
- Larrimah; and
- Urapunga.

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 Territory 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 and radio announcements.

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 nonresident population demand.

Based on the outcomes of the previous stages Roper Gulf *Active & Connected* 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 and 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:

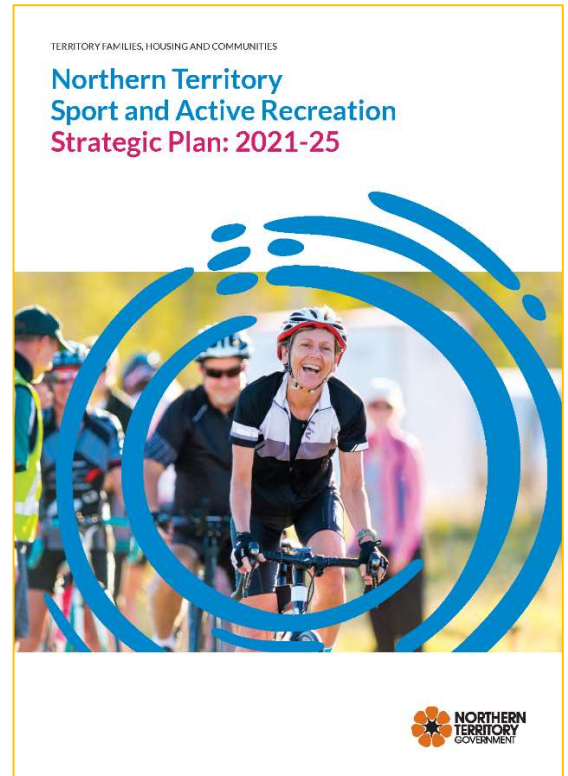


¹ Sport 2030, Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Health, 2018

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.



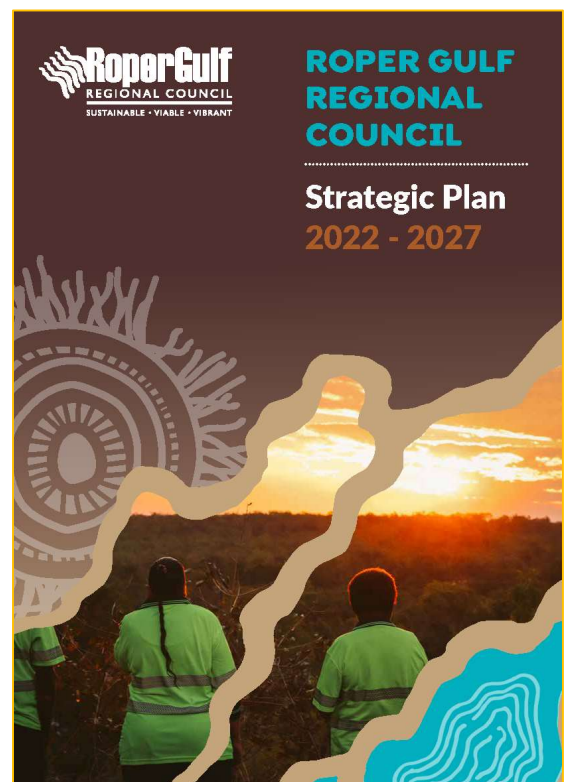
Roper Gulf Regional Council

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.

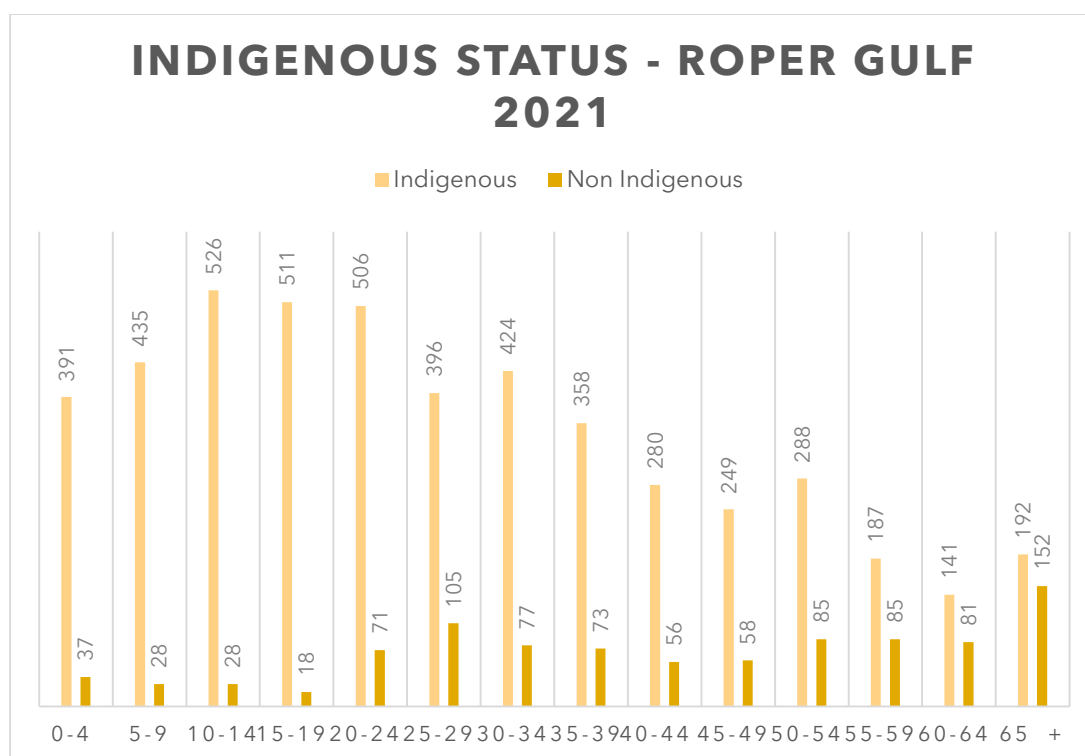


Figure 2. Indigenous Status - Roper Gulf 2021

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

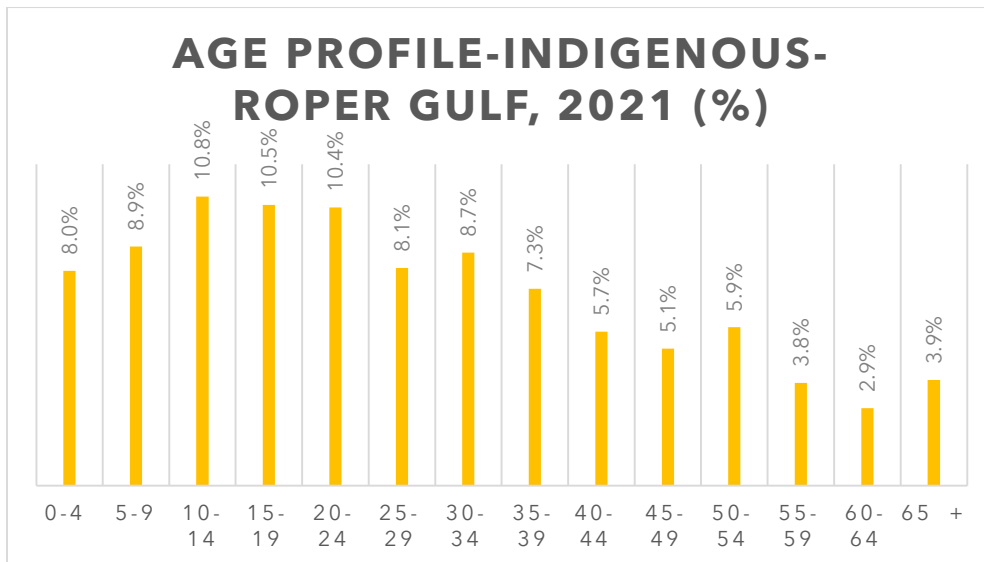


Figure 4. Age Profile (%) - Indigenous - Roper Gulf 2021

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 Roper Gulf *Active & Connected*.

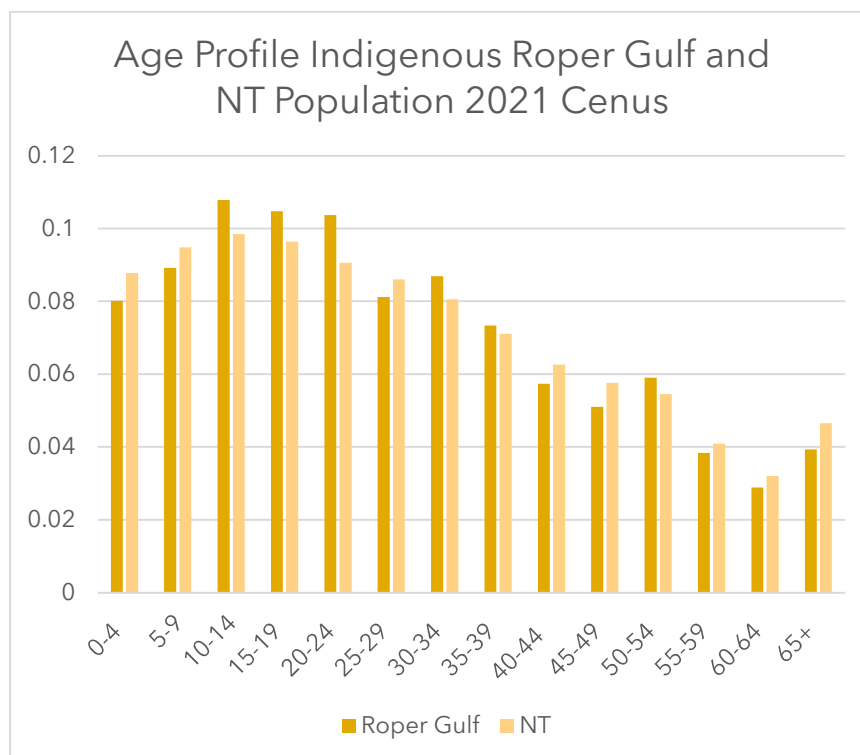


Figure 5. Age Profile Indigenous Roper Gulf and NT Population (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

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.

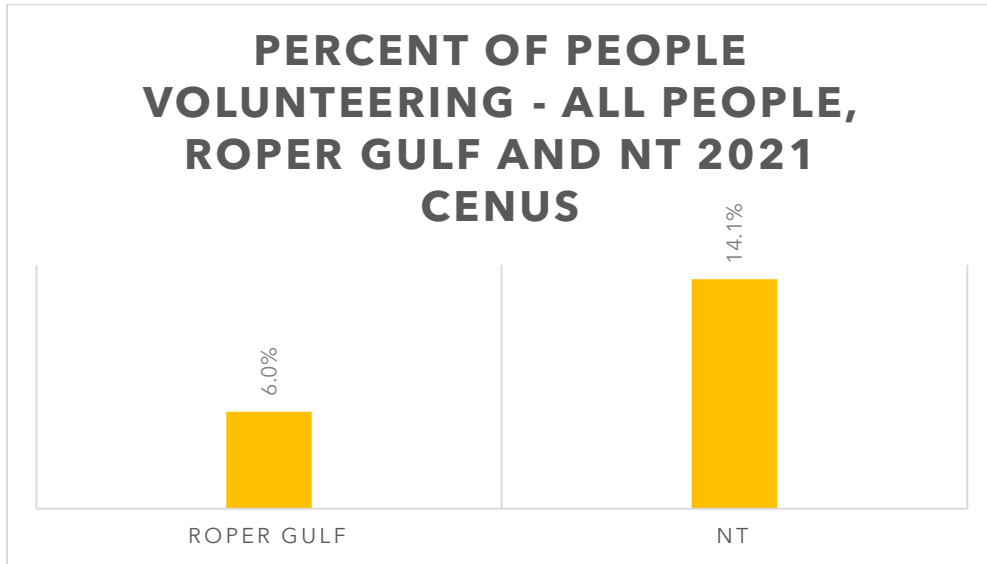


Figure 6. Percent of People Volunteering - all People Roper Gulf and NT (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

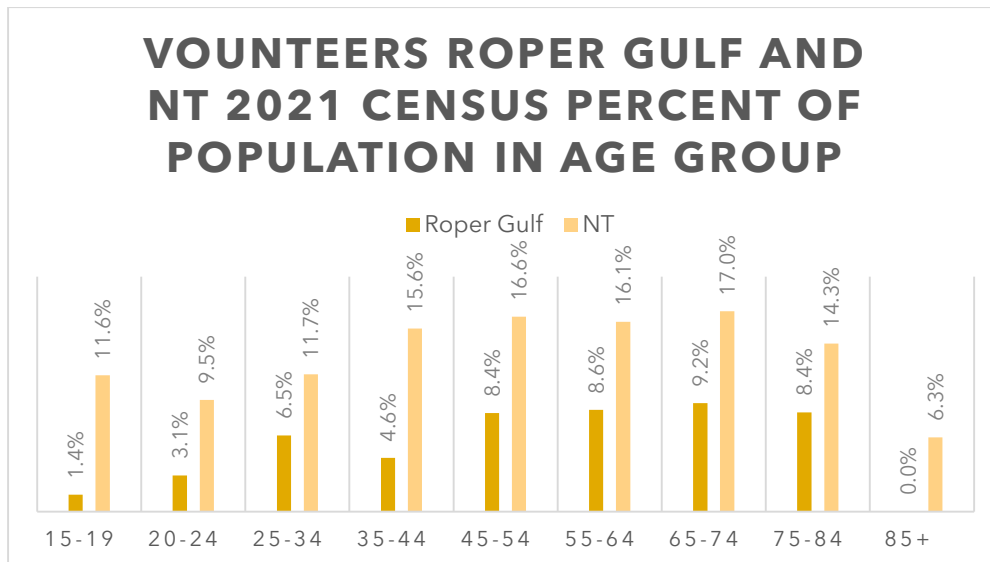


Figure 7. Volunteers Roper Gulf and NT Percent of Population in Age Group (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

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.

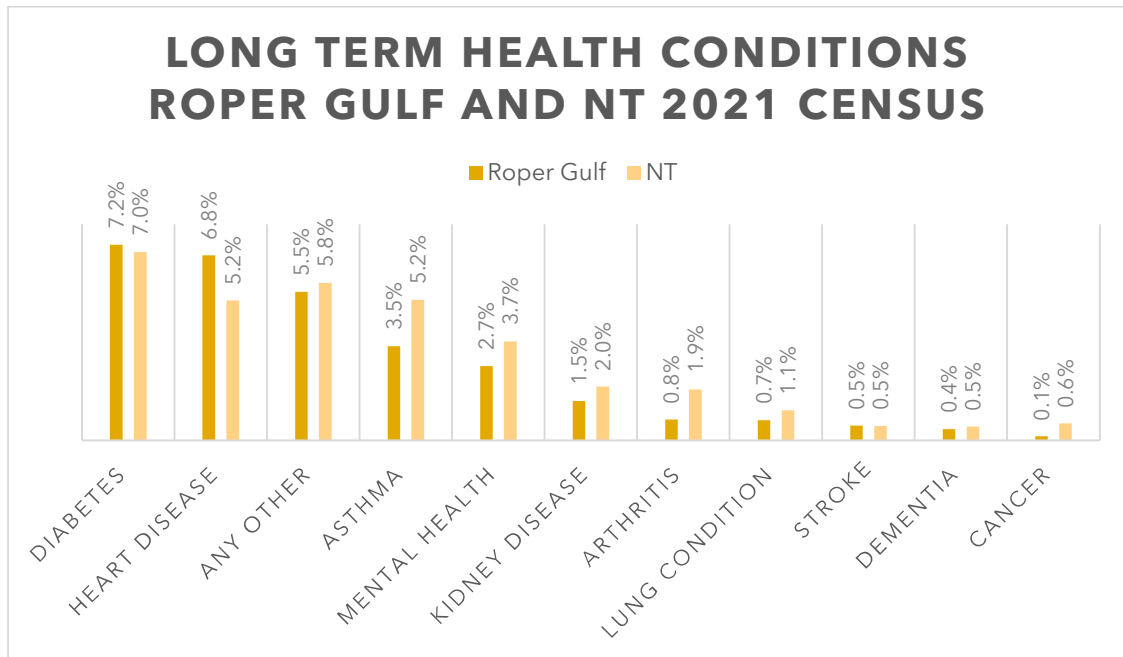


Figure 8. Long term health conditions Roper Gulf and NT (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

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.

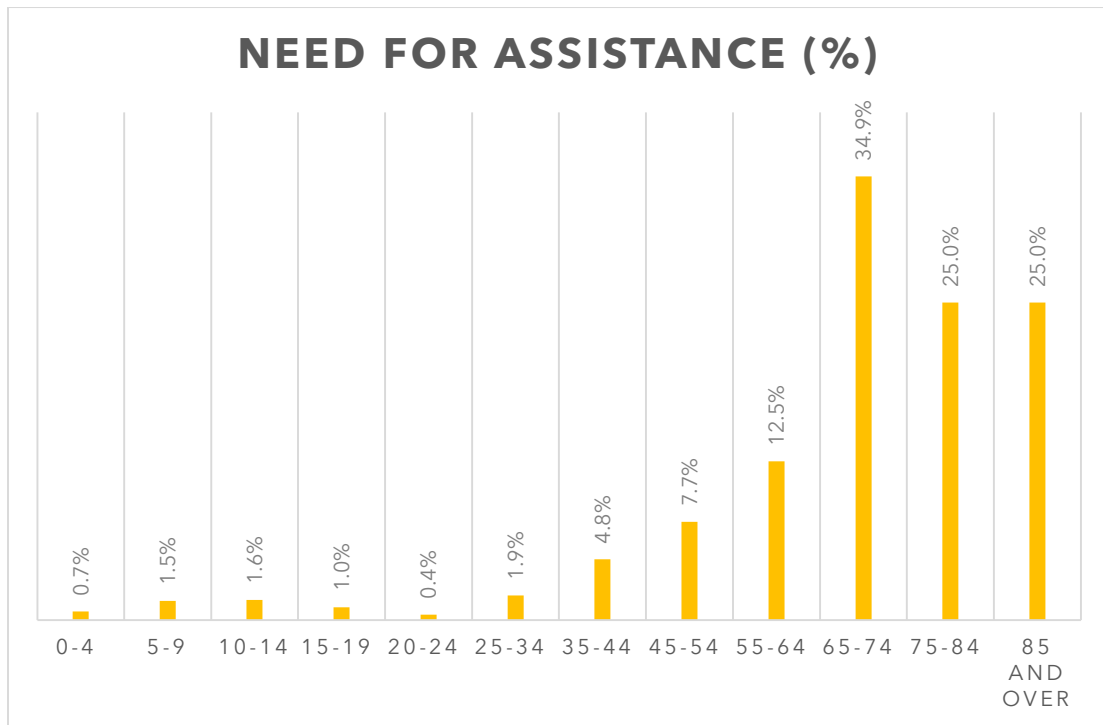


Figure 9. Need for Assistance (%) - Roper Gulf 2021

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.



Arnhem Crows

- 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, Borrooloola, Bulman, Jilkminggan, Manyallaluk, Ngukkur and Numbulwar.

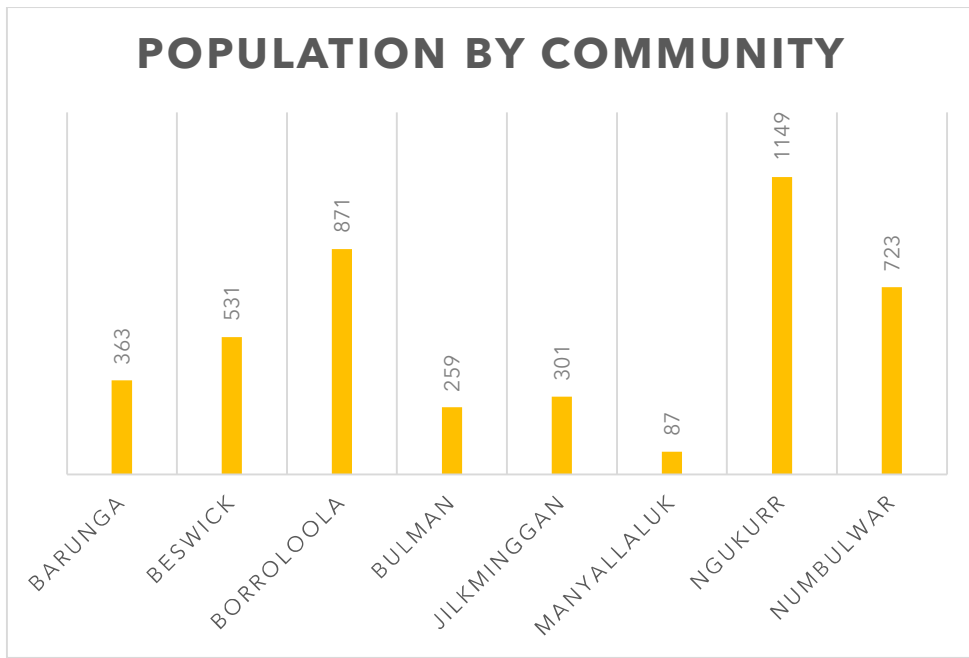


Figure 10. Population by community

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

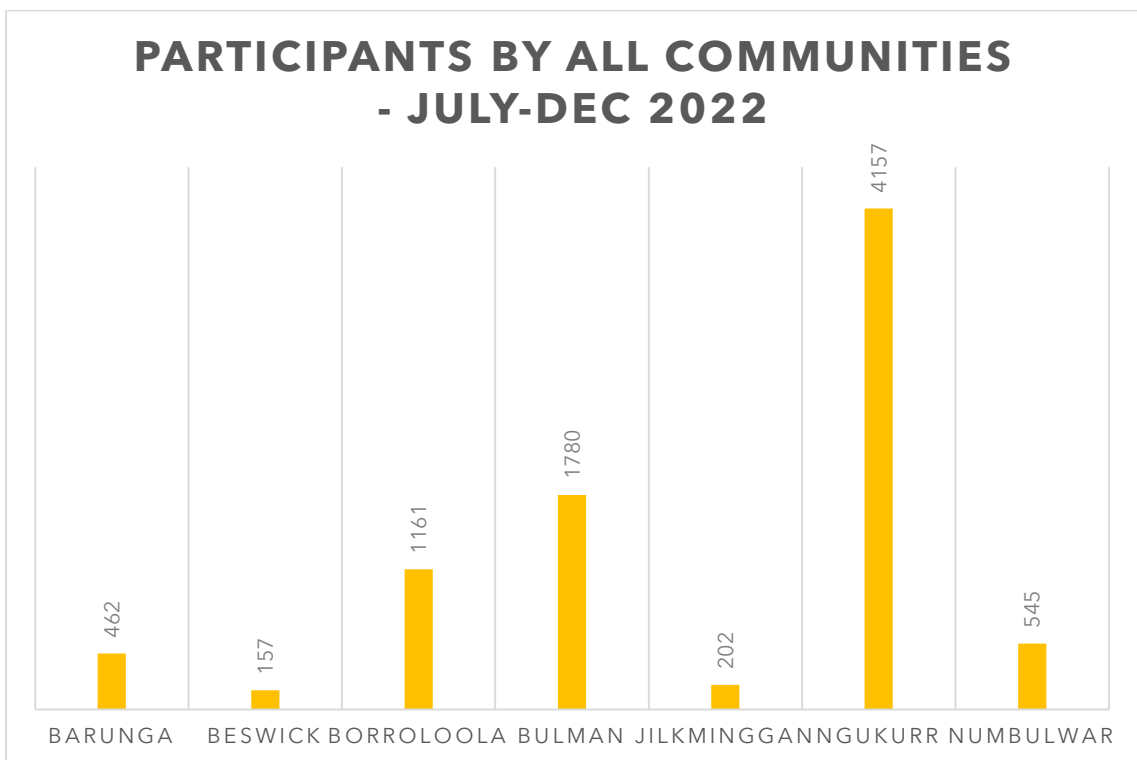


Figure 11. Participants by all Communities - July - Dec 2022

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 12-14-year-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.

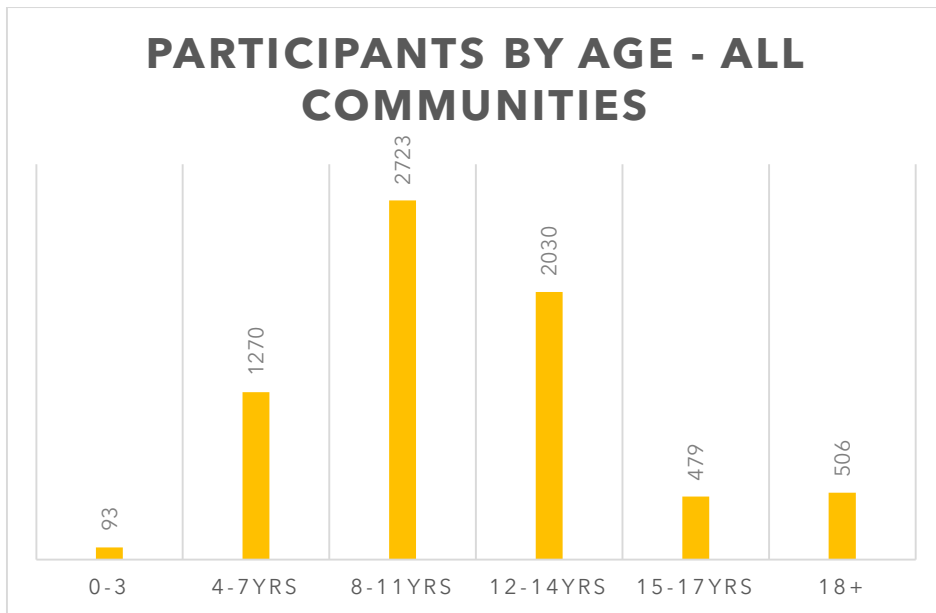


Figure 13. Participants by age - all communities

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 ISR data as shown below. It also highlights the popularity of swimming for those communities with swimming pools (Borrooloola 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 Borrooloola and Robinsons River and local representation in the national women’s team.

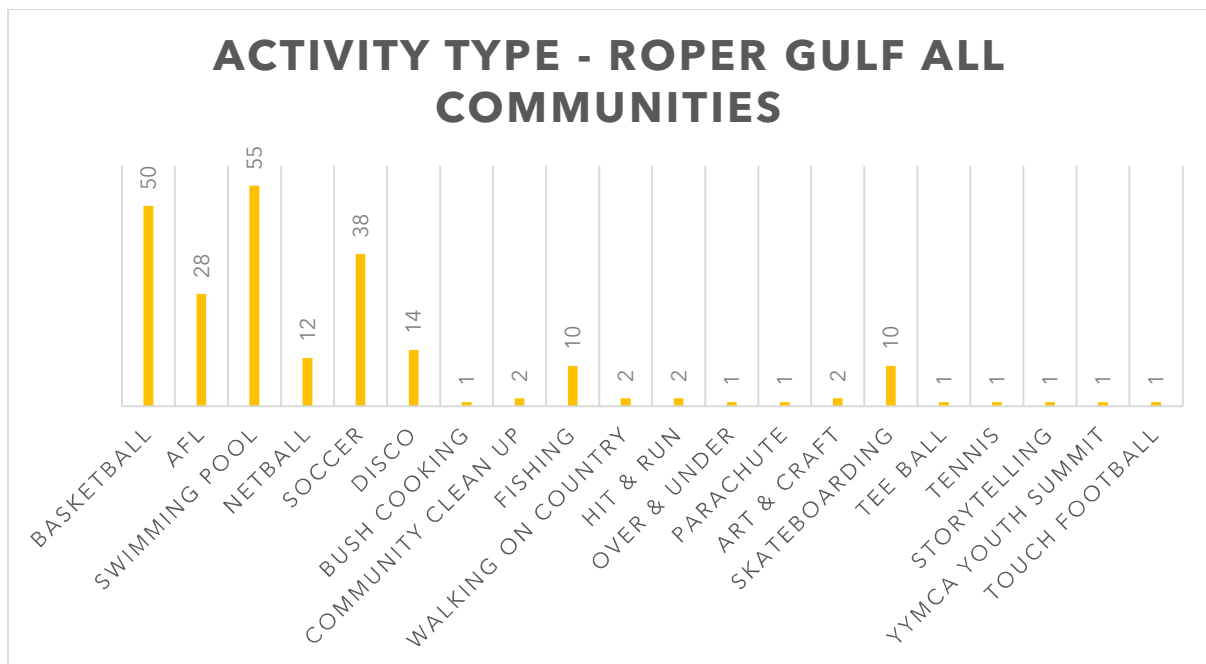


Figure 14. Activity Type - Roper Gulf All Communities

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 on 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 provides 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

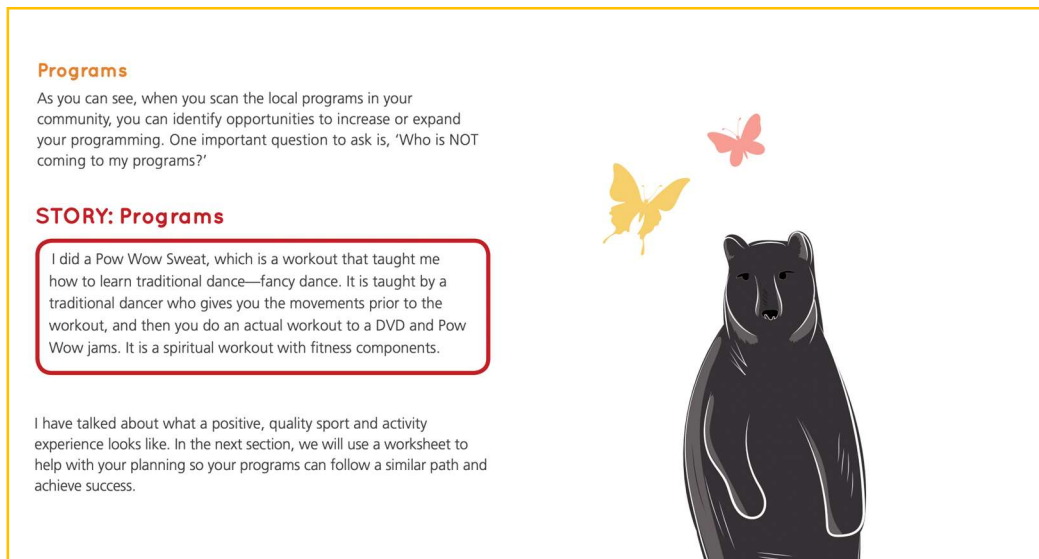


Figure 17. Play Program Example

c) Nunavik Youth Hockey Development Program (NYHDP) (Canada)

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 Masterplan;
- 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 Council 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:

- 2 Workshops
- 12 Community barbecues
- 10 Community organisation meetings & structured interviews
- 1 Radio announcement
- 3 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, Councillors, Police, State Sporting Organisations (e.g., AFL), neighboring Councils (eg Victoria Daly 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



Numbulwar



Minyerri

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

Communities

- Barunga;
- Beswick (Wugularr);
- Boorooloola;
- Bulman;
- Daly Waters;
- Eva Valley (Manyallaluk);
- Jilkmिंगgan;
- Larrimah;
- Mataranka;
- Minyerri;
- Ngukurr;
- Numbulwar;
- Robinson River;
- Urapunga; and
- Weemol.

Aboriginal Corporations

- Alawa Aboriginal Corporation
- Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation
- Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation
- Urapunga Aboriginal Corporation
- Yugul Mangi Aboriginal Corporation

Government

- NTG Sport, Recreation & Strategic Infrastructure
- Katherine Town Council
- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Victoria Daly Regional Council
- NT Police, Fire & Emergency Services

Territory Sporting Organisations

- AFL NT
- Big Rivers Football League

Not for Profit Organisations

- EON Foundation
- Wanta Aboriginal Corporation
- Daly Waters Progress Association
- Moriarty Foundation

A number of other organisations were invited to attend community meetings or the workshop but were unable to attend. In this instance they were able to provide a submission.

4.3 What we heard

The outcomes of the engagement process are summarised below against the three themes:

People

- It is difficult to find staff which impacts service delivery;
- Community representation in service delivery roles can be complicated;
- Staff availability drives participation - when staffing is consistent, participation grows and stays consistent;
- There is ambition to drive community leadership in service delivery and whilst there are challenges to doing this there are good models currently being delivered;
- Strong Traditional Owner/Councillor/Elder leadership is a strong link to government and sport delivery; and
- Strong clubs lead to social benefit, funding attraction, strong participation, intergenerational engagement and teen participation.

Places

- Basic service levels in sporting infrastructure should be achieved - at a minimum this should include playing fields, outdoor basketball court (preferably shaded), recreation hall and a central park;
- Population size, access (wet season impact) and remoteness should be key considerations in future investment;
- Physical features, settlement pattern and layout mean no one size fits all (eg Borroloola 2km from town, Numbulwar on sand base);
- Some communities are well serviced, some are not;
- There are a few big ticket items that could be strategically delivered in ten years - this requires prioritisation;
- Consideration should be given to sporting infrastructure whose access is not dependant on staff;
- Transport is a constraint for all communities, but some are more affected than others and this should also be taken into further consideration; and
- The relationship between schools is site dependant and could remain flexible depending on circumstance.

Participation

- Kids 0-12 are strongly engaged, whilst teens fall off (the missing middle);
- Teenage kids should be a priority for engagement going forward;
- Clubs engage all ages and bind community - attract funding - there are great examples of clubs with intergenerational involvement and Mum's and Dad's training with the kids watching on;
- Teens are engaged by intra community competition;
- Sport is a critical part of festivals;
- Consistency of service is critical - consider funding constraints; and
- Collaborations reduce Council pressure and improves service delivery - eg leveraging JMF efforts would be beneficial to community and Council.

5.0 Community Review

5.1 Overview

An audit of the sport and recreation facilities in Barunga, Beswick, Boorooloola, Bulman, Eva Valley, Jilkminggan, Mataranka, Minyerri, Ngukkur, Numbulwar, and Robinson River was undertaken. The intention was to define the current context and identify future opportunities for investment and infrastructure delivery. The assessment was made on the basis of condition and availability.

This Masterplan seeks to ensure a basic service level which includes the following:

- Grassed playing fields;
- Outdoor basketball court (preferably shaded);
- Recreation hall; and a
- Central informal park.

Review of services highlights a dominant trend in nearly every community where there is strong participation in programs until age 12, with a drop off to 14 years and a significant reduction from 15 onwards.



5.2 Barunga

Overview

Barunga is located 80 km southeast of Katherine by road and takes an hour to drive. Barunga is an Aboriginal community that 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 (Section 19)

Lot 199 Sport & Recreation Hall

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

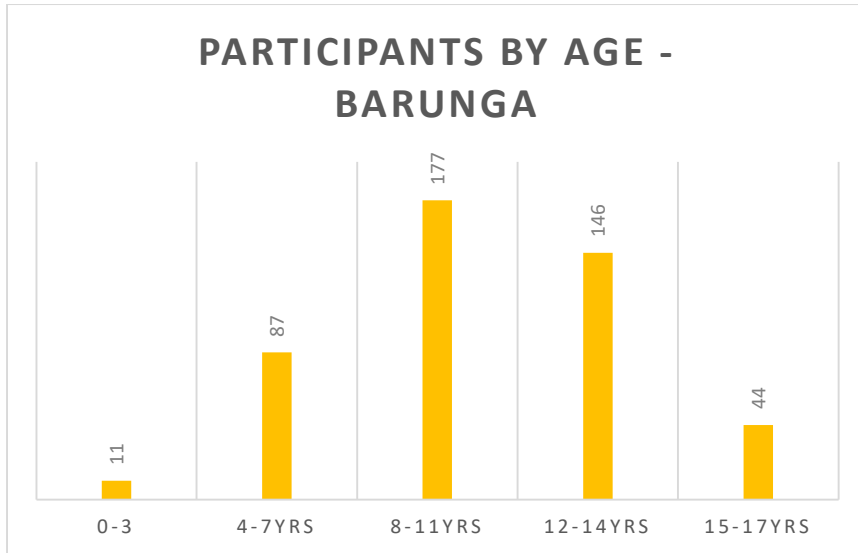


Figure 18. Participants by Age - Barunga



Sports and Recreation Assets



① BARUNGA COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023



⌚ 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).

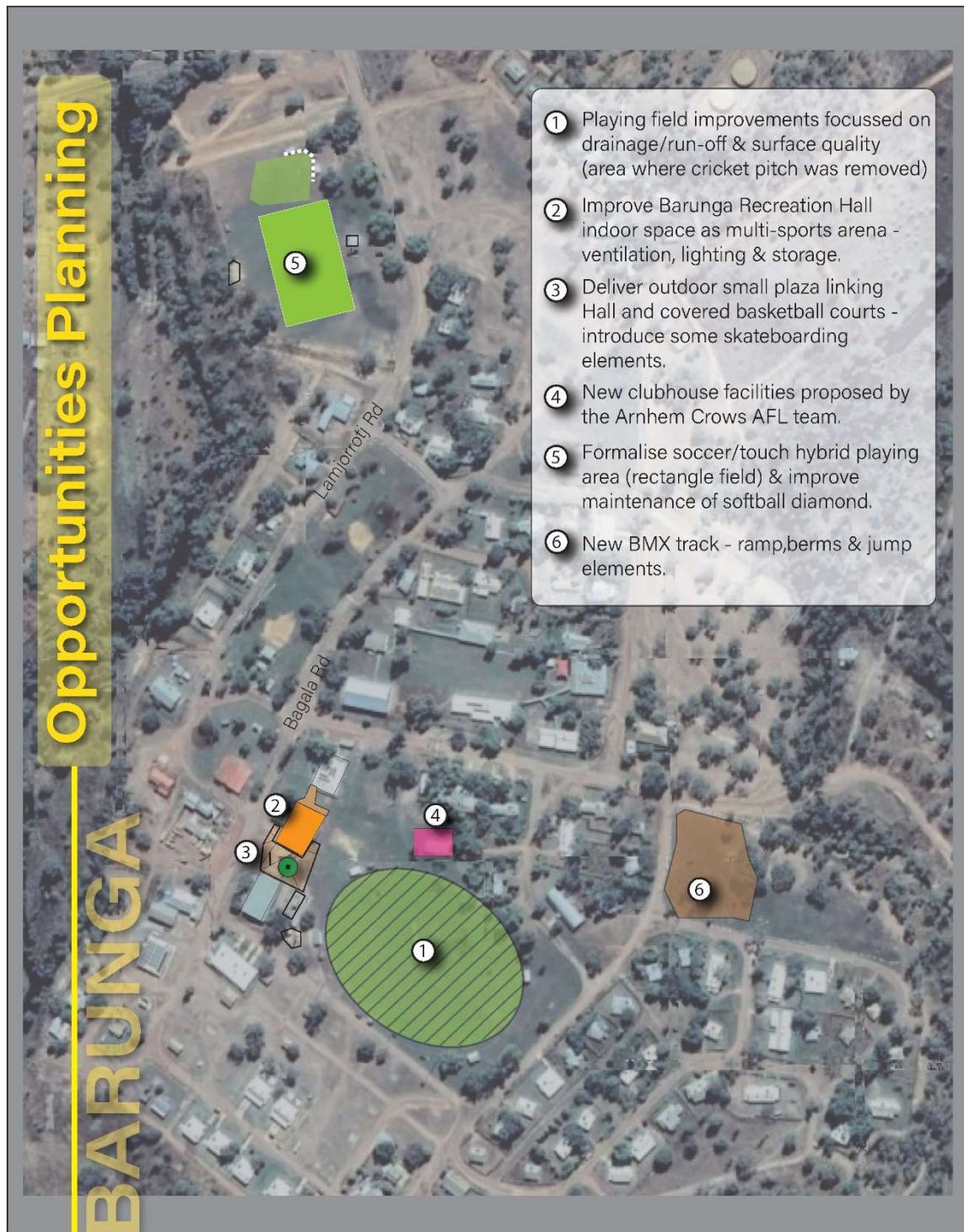
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- Fitness equipment area (adjacent to softball field).

7

- Public toilet blocks.

Future Opportunities



5.3 Beswick (Wugularr)

Overview

Beswick is located approximately 118 km southeast 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.

To accommodate population growth there is a new land release and associated housing. This is being delivered on elevated land to mitigate flood impact and consideration should be given to other infrastructure (e.g. sports oval) currently sitting on land that drains poorly and can be flood affected.

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 (Section 19)

Lot 191 Basketball Courts

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

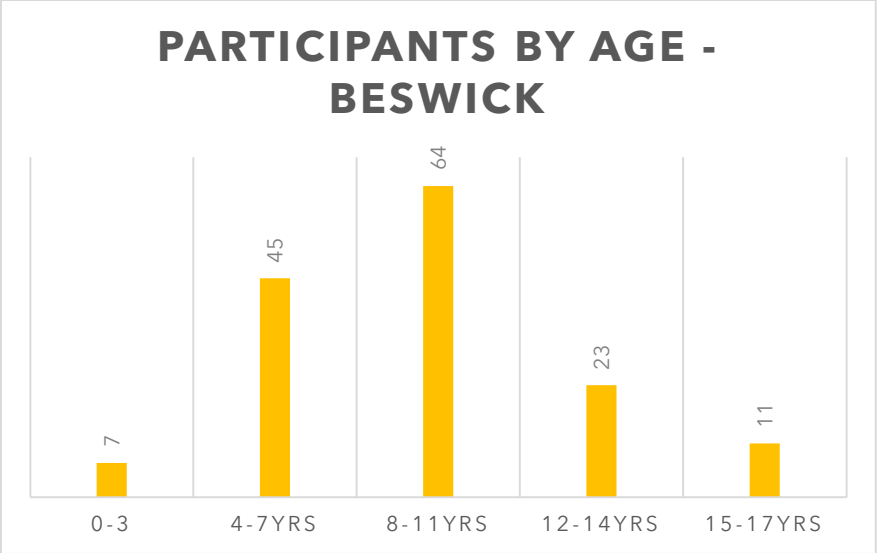


Figure 19. Participants by Age - Beswick



Sports and Recreation Assets



🕒 NTS



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



5.4 Borroloola

Overview

Borroloola is located 380km east of Daly Waters via the Carpentaria Highway which is sealed and then Wollogorang Road. It is approximately seven hours drive from Katherine. Borroloola is located on the eastern coast of the Northern Territory on the Gulf of Carpentaria. It is situated on the banks of the McArthur River.

Borroloola has a population of over 800 with a median age of 32 and 81% indigenous representation²¹.

Facilities

- Showgrounds including oval sports field, covered club meeting/hospitality area; demountable toilets; sheds and storage; (softball diamond being developed) (recent investment of \$500,000 on power and water)
- Community pool (25m x 6 lane, splash play pool) Change sheds, office, kiosk space, and A/C gym area. Located between high and primary school campuses.
- School sports field (in-ground irrigation- adjacent to the pool)
- Rodeo Grounds (managed by club)
- Riverside picnic area
- Tamarind Park near Air strip
- Each of the towncamp estates has a central park with playground.
- Cyclone shelter under construction

Tenure (Section 19)

Lot 784 Showground

Lot 645 Pool Complex

Lot 644 Youth/Sport and Recreation

Sports Program

In the second half of 2022, soccer, basketball and pool program activities were run in Borroloola with all well attended. Soccer programs are delivered through the John Moriarty Foundation.

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

²¹ ABS, 2021

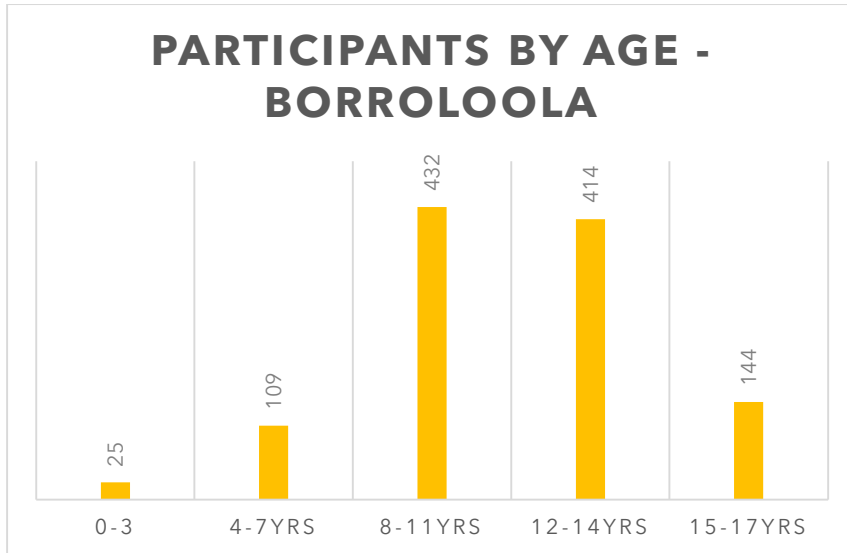


Figure 20. Participants by Age - Borroloola



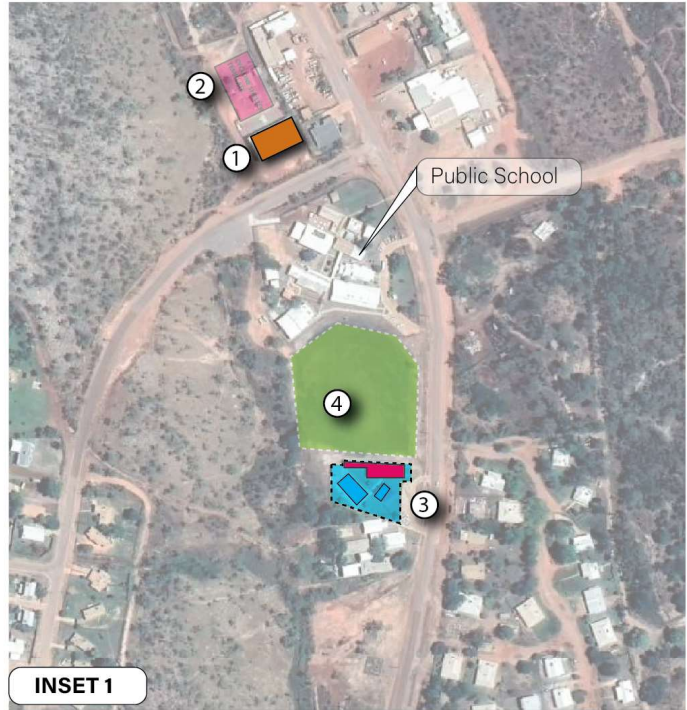
Sports and Recreation Assets



3 BORROLOOLA COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023







① Covered Basketball Court

- Full-sized covered basketball court.
- Currently located within works zone for the under construction new cyclone shelter.
- Steel Frame and roof in good condition.
- Bitumen surface poor - impacted by new works.
- Lighting.
- Backboards & hoops in good condition.
- No toilets.
- No scoreboard.
- tenure: unknown



② Under construction cyclone shelter

- NTG designed and under construction cyclone shelter including a full-sized indoor basketball court, male/female toilets & changerooms.
- RGRC youth centre has been removed (demountables relocated to showground area).
- Tenure: unknown



③ Aquatic Centre, Gym & Storage.

- 25 M main pool - good condition, aging finishes.
- Splash/toddler pool with shade cover
- Entry in building with Gym room, toilets & change rooms provided.
- Small covered picnic tables within aquatic centre area.
- Pump shed & pumps.
- Pool area enclosed with 1800 -2000 H pool fence in good condition
- tenure: unknown.

③ BORROLOOLA COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023



		<p>4 Playing Field - School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large grassed playing field. - No line marking. - No lighting - Surface good - some patch impacts irrigation. - Set of permanent football goals. - No toilets. - No scoreboard. - tenure: School (NTG Education)
		<p>5 AFL Playing Oval & Softball Diamond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full sized AFL oval with goal posts. - Surface good - not currently irrigated due to limited use. - Fenced (poor quality). - No lighting. - Temporary toilets only. - Full sized grassed softball diamond & steel shelters adjacent
	<p>6 Event & Camping Area in Showground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large grassed area with event & camping infrastructure. - tenure: unknown. 	

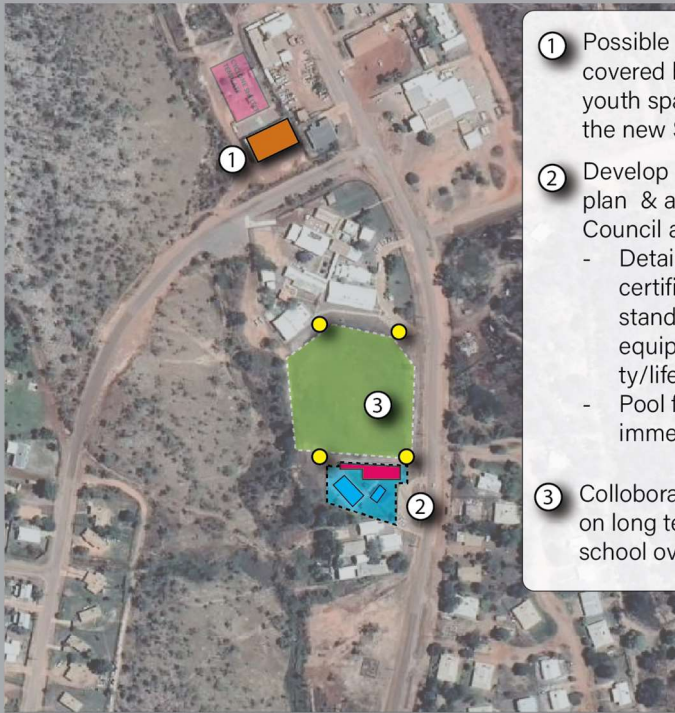
3 BORROLOOLA COMMUNITY Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023



Future Opportunities

Opportunities Planning



- ① Possible conversion of existing covered basketball shelter into a youth space with stage, adjacent to the new Sport & Rec Hall
- ② Develop and implement a management plan & agreement for operations of Council aquatic facilities/gym including:
 - Detailed inspection by building certifier for reporting on both safety standards (pool fence etc.) and pool equipment/pool infrastructure quality/lifespan.
 - Pool fence needs safe temporary fix immediately.
- ③ Collaborate with Dept. of Education on long term agreement for use of the school oval - includes future lighting.



BORROLOOLA



- ④ RGRC to work with local organisations to develop and coordinate on more local transport between community centre & the oval area promoting greater use/access.

5.5 Bulman

Overview

Bulman is located northwest 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 representation²².

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 (Section 19)

Lot 69 Sport and Recreation Hall

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.

²² ABS, 2021

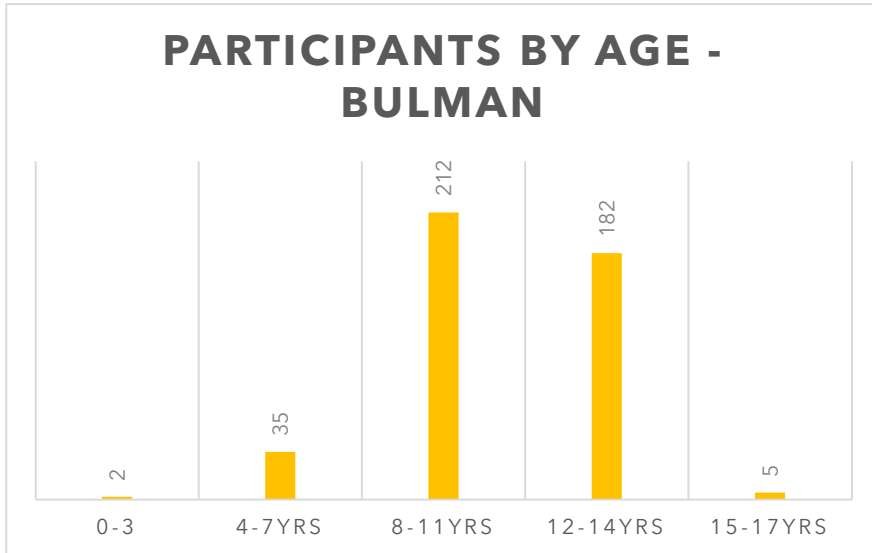
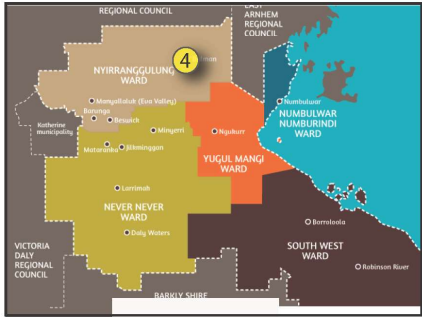


Figure 20. Participants by Age - Bulman



Sports and Recreation Assets



4 BULMA & WEEMOL COMMUNITY Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023





1 AFL Playing Field

- Full size playing field.
- 2 sets of goal posts.
- Surface good.



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.

Other Local Facilities



3 Fitness equipment area



4 Covered playground

Future Opportunities

Opportunities Planning

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



NTS

BULMAN

BETTER CITIES GROUP
DESIGN · ECONOMICS · ENGAGEMENT

Roper Gulf
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Roper Gulf Regional Council
Roper Gulf Regional Council

5.6 Eva Valley / Manyallaluk

Overview

Manyallaluk is located northeast of Katherine on the Manyallaluk Aboriginal Land Trust, just east of the Nitmiluk National Park boundary. It is a one-hour drive from Katherine.

Manyallaluk has a population of just over 120 with a median age of 23 and 97% indigenous representation²³.

Facilities

- Covered multi-purpose sports court with lights and stage adjacent (site is fenced and adjacent to the school)
- Parkland with playground and tables
- Recreation area with swimming hole (constructed), tables and BBQs
- Sport and Rec building near council office with covered deck and a/c demountable
- Informal open space along the creek
- School has small kick about area

Tenure (Section 19)

Lot 34 Covered basketball court

Eva Valley grassed area adjacent to office, Lot 3

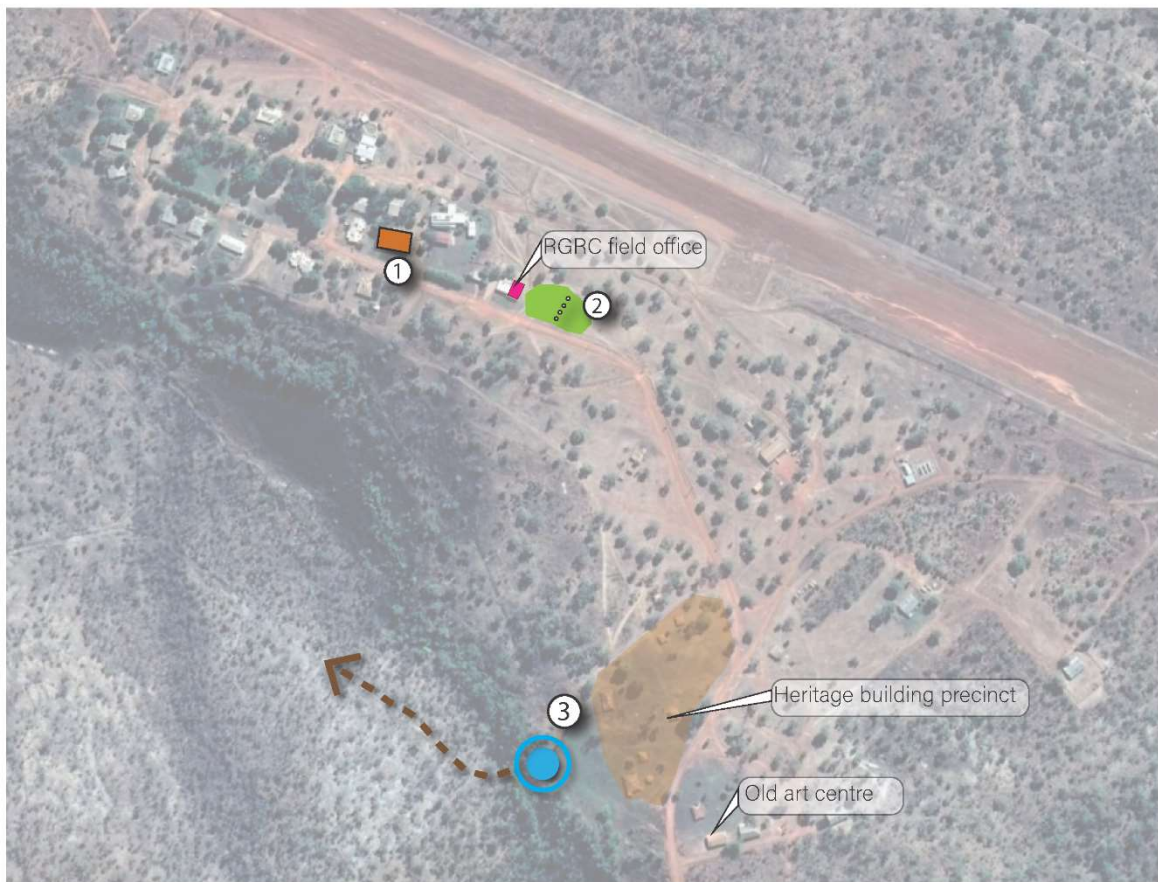
Sports Program

No sports program was recorded in the second half of 2022.



²³ ABS, 2021

Sports and Recreation Assets



Ⓢ NTS



7 MANYALLALUK COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023



		<p>1 Covered Basketball Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full-size covered hard court basketball court. - Small 3 tiered open seating along one side - aluminium. - Functional backboards. - Surface quality good - some linemarking. - LED lighting - Some drainage issues in wet season due to open sides.
		<p>2 AFL kick area & Council field office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small grassed open space area with single set of AFL goals in middle. - Council field office in modified container shed.
		<p>3 Spring Baths & Heritage Precinct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural spring billabong with good access and of high natural beauty. - Noted start of a scenic multi-day walk to Katherine Gorge (currently not active to tourists) - also a "Frog Dreaming" cultural link to place. - Pastoral heritage buildings scattered throughout open area.

Future Opportunities

Opportunities Planning

① Modification and expansion of existing of RGRC council building to provide some sport & rec hall and community meetings spaces.

OTHER RELATED IDEAS

② Develop as part of a wider tourism development project the Gorge to Eva Valley Springs walk.

NTS

MANYALLALUK



5.7 Jilkminggan

Overview

Jilkminggan 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 representation²⁴.

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 (Section 19)

Jilkminggan Community Aboriginal Corporation - Council has one year leases on Council assets

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 Jilkminggan.

²⁴ ABS, 2021

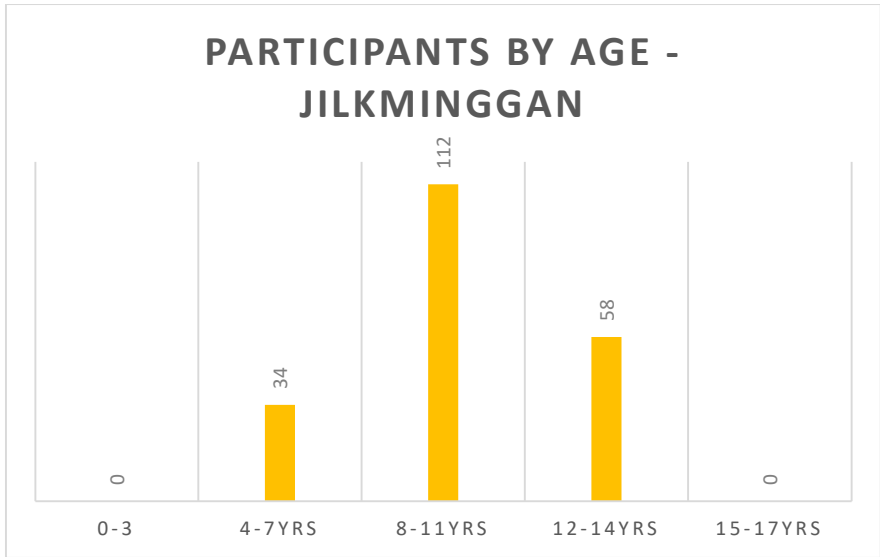
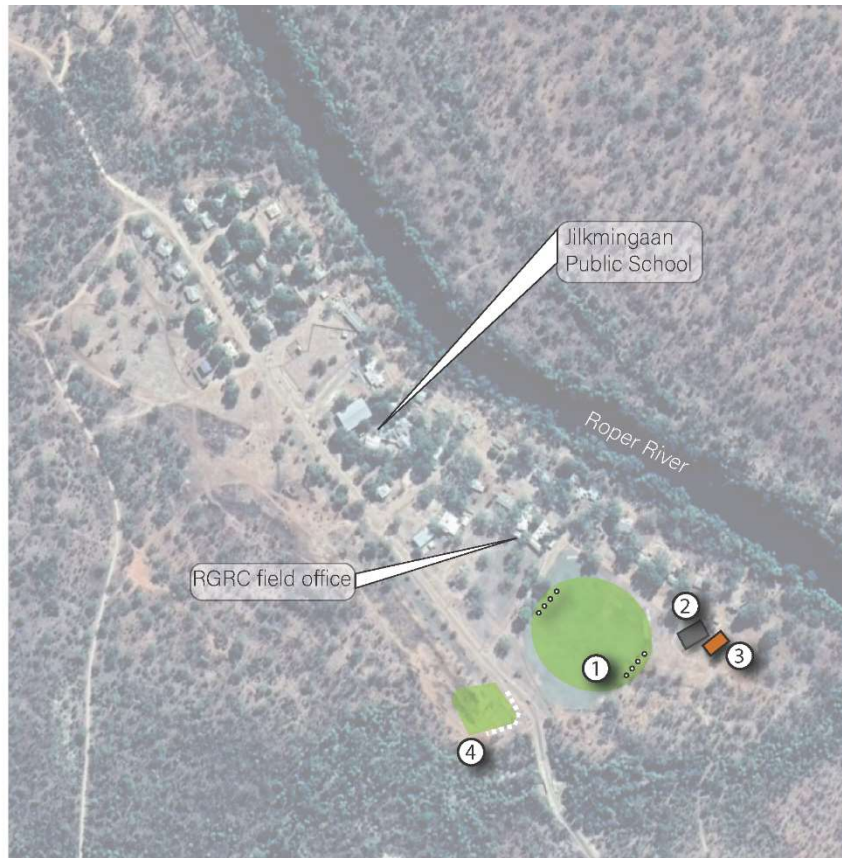


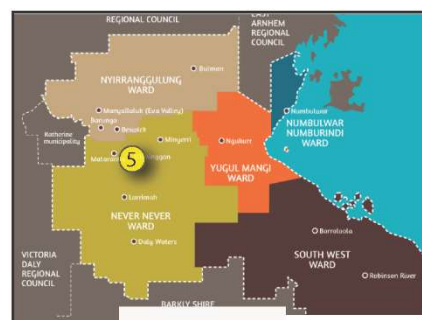
Figure 21. Participants by Age - Jilkminggan



Sports and Recreation Assets



NTS



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.



2 Outdoor Basketball Court

- Full-size hard court basketball court.
- Functional backboards, hoops broken.
- Surface quality good.



3 Sport & Recreation Hall

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



4 Softball diamond

- Cage net intact.
- Maintenance poor.

Future Opportunities

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.**



⌚ NTS



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 representation²⁵.

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 (Section 19)

Council own sporting precinct

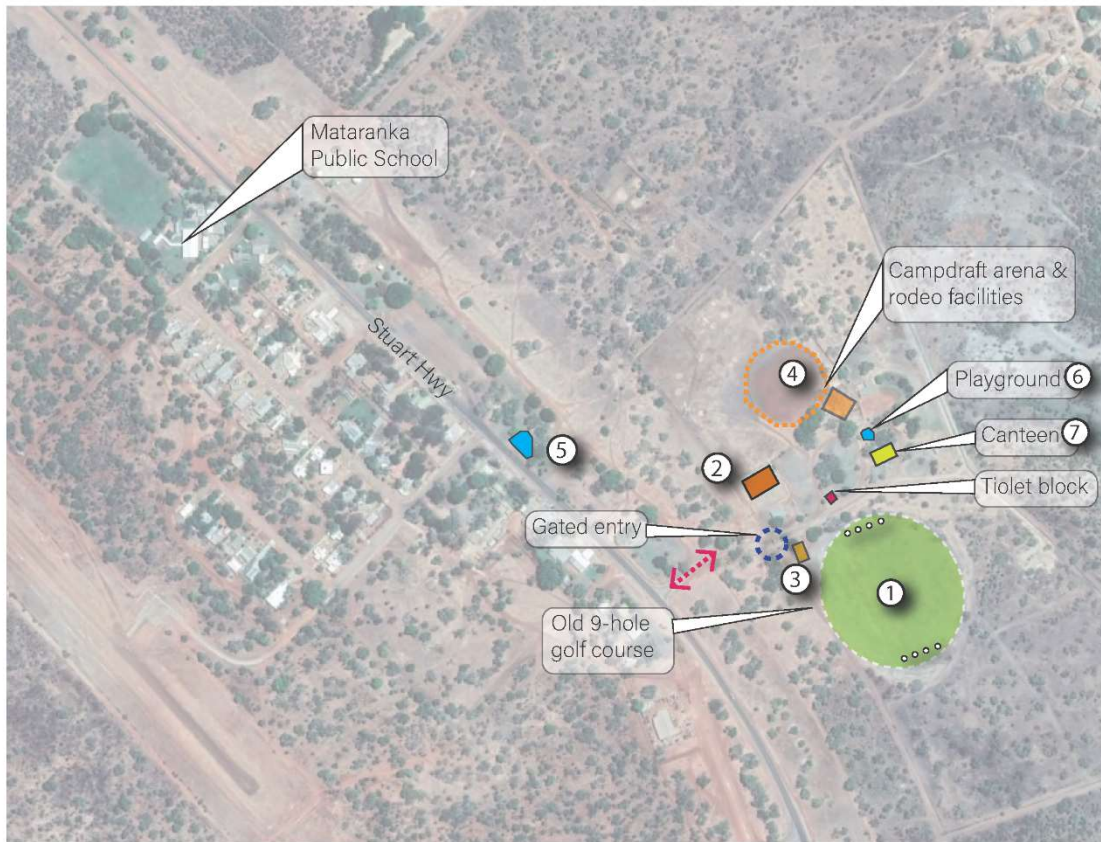
Sports Program

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.

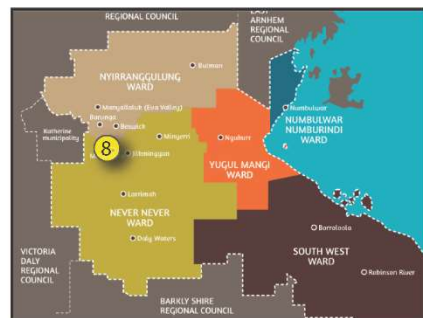


²⁵ ABS, 2021

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.



② Covered Basketball Court

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



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

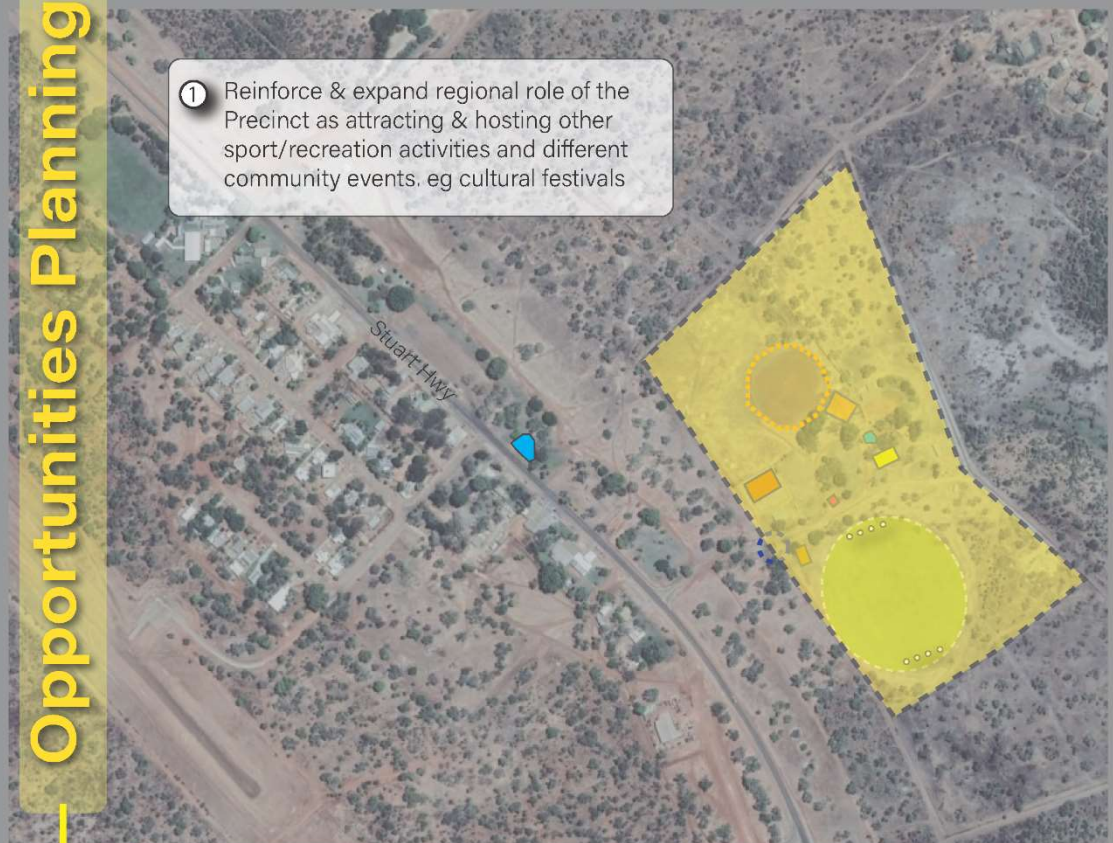
- ④ Campdraft & rodeo facilities
 - New covered shelter built.
- ⑤ Skatepark
 - Good quality skatepark.
 - Surface good, fenced.
- ⑥ Playground
 - good quality.
 - no cover.
 - fenced.
- ⑦ Canteen building
 - fit for purpose.

Future Opportunities

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



NTS



5.9 Minyerri (Hodgson Downs)

Overview

Minyerri (Hodgson Downs) is located south-east of Katherine on the Alawa 1 Aboriginal Land Trust just west of the Hodgson River.

Minyerri (Hodgson Downs) has a population of over 750 with a median age of 22 and 96% indigenous representation²⁶.

Fac

- Covered sports court with lights and sport and rec shed. (toilets close in council building);
- Water park (currently closed) - operated by Alawa in the afternoons and weekends (free entry and supervised);
- AFL oval (irrigated) but lacking toilets and change facilities;
- Community park and playground;
- Billabong recreation area;
- School has ¾ covered court with stage; and
- School has small kick about area.

Tenure

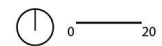
All S19 land allocations are held by Alawa Aboriginal Corporation.

Sports Program

No Council sports program is delivered in Robinson River.

²⁶ ABS, 2021

Sports and Recreation Assets



9 MINYERRI COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023





1 Sport Playing Oval

- Full sized ALF oval .
- 2 ends, AFL goal posts - one set broken .
- No boundary marking - edge fencing to park.
- Surface quality good - irrigation possible from local sources.
- No lighting
- No toilets or changerooms.
- No scoreboard.
- tenure: A.A.C Section 19



2 Covered basketball court

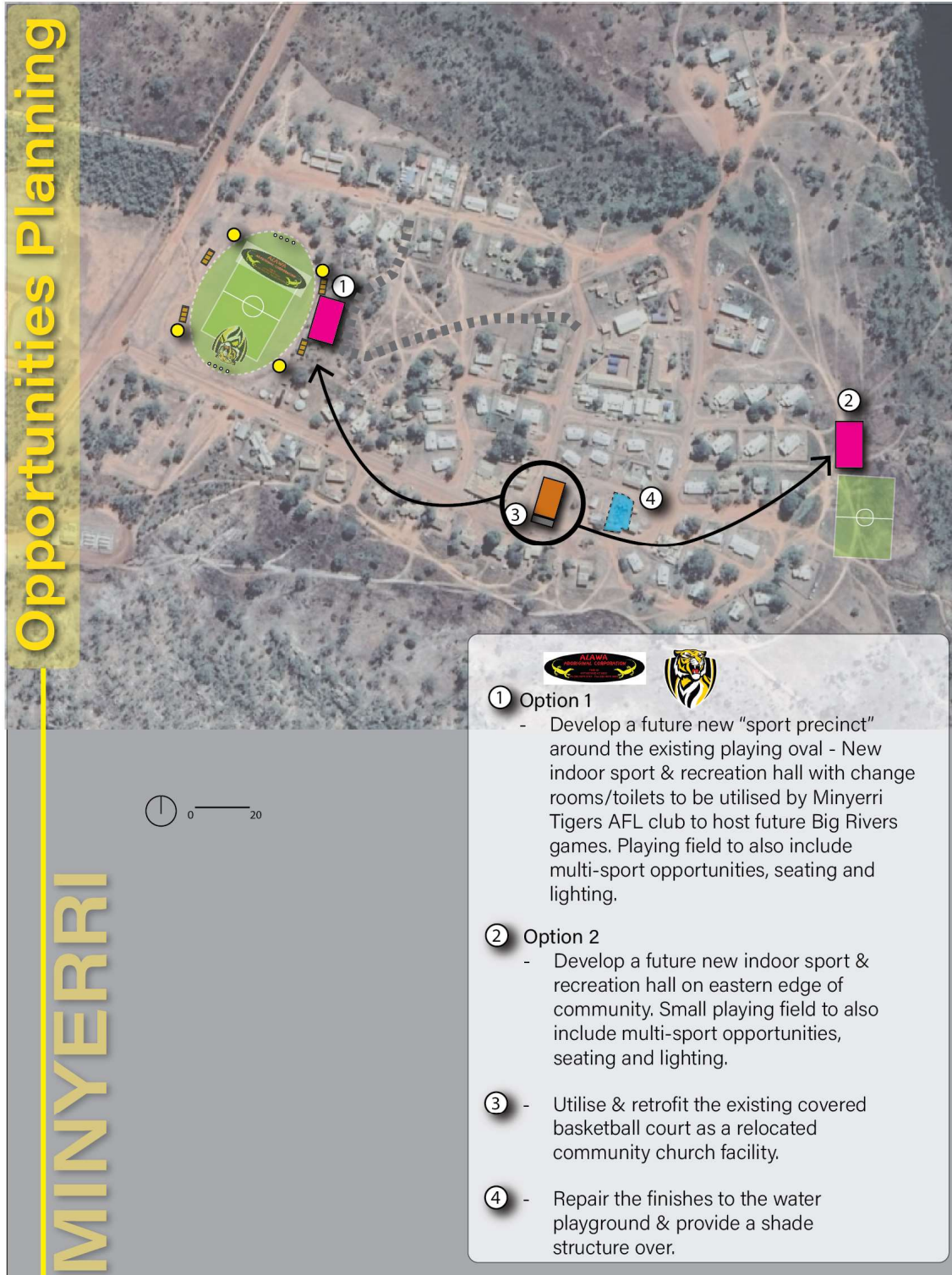
- Full sized covered hardcourt basketball court.
- Steel framed and gabled shelter over.
- Surface good - erosion impacting slab edge due to poor drainage.
- Backboards & hoops fit for purpose.
- LED lighting.
- lockable with enclosed fencing.
- very close to adjacent roadway - no room for seating and poor user/vehicle interface.
- very close also to the church with interface issues
- Small demountable storage containers at one end - after school care utilise also.
- tenure: A.A.C Section 19



3 Water Playground

- Water based play equipment with water reticulation in equipment.
- Circa 9yrs old - conditon generally good.
- Not operational due to some eroding finishes.
- Highly valued by community.
- No shade or lighting.
- Pool area enclosed with 1800 H powdercoated pool fencing.
- tenure: A.A.C Section 19.

Future Opportunities



9 MINYERRI COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023

BETTER CITIES GROUP
DESIGN · ECONOMICS · ENGAGEMENT

Roper Gulf
REGIONAL COUNCIL
LIFE · PLACE · PEOPLE

Note. Consideration should also be given to using treated water for field irrigation purposes.

5.10 Ngukurr

Overview

Ngukurr is located on the banks of the Roper River southeast of Katherine and is part of the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust. It is about a 3.5-hour drive from Katherine.

Ngukurr has a population of over 1200 with a median age of 25 and 95% indigenous representation²⁷. Population growth and popularity of AFL may warrant additional sports field space in the long term.

Facilities

- AFL oval (8 teams), toilet block and basic spectator facilities.
- Sports Hall with indoor court, lights and stage and storage (adjacent to community centre/kitchen; Meals on Wheels).
- Outdoor court adjacent to indoor also with some lights.
- Aquatic centre with 10 lane 25m pool and 3 smaller splash and program pools.
- Pool, sports hall and fields all in one precinct which includes playground and parkland.
- Family Centre
- School has covered sports court with lights
- School is refurbishing a small playing field
- Police Lookout Park
- Boat ramp to river

Yugul Mangi have just secured funding to deliver significant infrastructure within the sporting precinct. This will include a club house and basketball court as a minimum. It would be appropriate for Council to support this process.

Tenure

Lot 381 Swimming pool (license to maintain)

Lot 340 Oval (Yugul Mangi have the license to maintain)

Sports Program

In the second half of 2022, pool, basketball, rugby and football program activities were run in Ngukurr with basketball and pool sessions most popular. The dominant trend of participation reducing in the 12-14-year bracket with further reduction in 15-17 years is demonstrated in Ngukurr.

²⁷ ABS, 2021

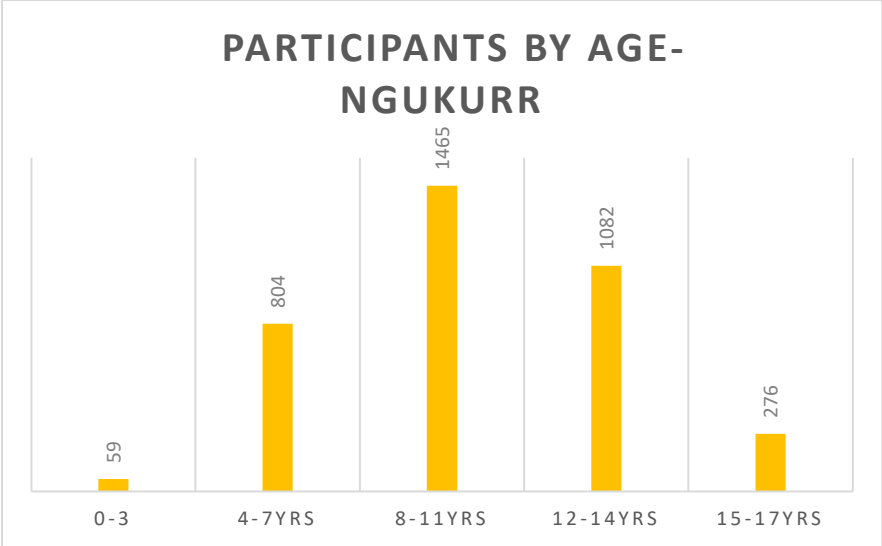


Figure 22. Participants by Age - Ngukurr



Sports and Recreation Assets



Ⓜ NTS





1 Recreation Hall

- Large indoor basketball court with small raised stage & storage room at one end.
- Steel frame, concrete slab and steel sheeting single skin walls.
- Large roller door style doors as openings - no natural ventilation.
- Surface quality good - some linemarking.
- Aging facility - vandalism evident to external sheeting
- LED lighting and new large fans.
- No toilets.
- No scoreboard.
- Some drainage issues due to small sized guttering/poor connections to ground.
- tenure: RGRC Section 19



2 Outdoor open basketball court

- Full sized open hardcourt basketball court.
- Surface poor - movement in expansion joints impact playing surface.
- Backboards & hoops poor quality.
- has some lighting.
- tenure:RGRC Section 19



3 Aquatic Centre

- 3 Pools with grassed areas & seating:
- 25 M x 10 lane main pool - average condition, aging finishes, advice from community that pool floor has cracks/bubbles.
 - Splash and toddler pools in similar condition - both covered.
 - Entry shared with local store - toilets & change rooms provided.
 - Pump shed & pumps - housing very poor condition.
 - Pool area enclosed with 1800 H chain mesh and b'wire top fence - unlikely to meet Australian Standards for safe pool fencing.
 - tenure: RGRC Section 19.



④ **Playing Oval**

- Full size AFL oval - full set of goal posts each end.
- Playing surface OK - no linemarking.
- Lighting towers (Halogen) well positioned
- Oval fenced.
- Toilet facility adjacent - no change rooms.
- No clubhouse.
- Scoreboard.
- Good local vehicle access.
- tenure: Lot 340 : Section 19 YMDAC



⑤ **Other Recreation Facilities**

- Small covered playground & external swing set.

Opportunities Planning

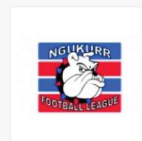


NTS

NGUKKUR

① Proposed Ngukkur Oval Sports Precinct Redevelopment:

- developed by YMDAC on Lot 340.
- Funded by NIAA and delivered by YMDAC in 2 stages after consultation.
- Stage 1 Playing Field Improvements
- Stage 2 Multi-purpose clubhouse, change-rooms, car-parks, bus areas & grandstand.
- Includes proposed new external but adjacent covered basketball court funded by RGRC.



② Develop and implement a management plan & agreement for operations of Council aquatic facilities including:

- Detailed inspection by building certifier for reporting on both safety standards (pool fence etc.) and pool equipment/pool infrastructure quality/lifespan.
- Pool fence needs safe temporary fix immediately.

5.11 Numbulwar

Overview

Numbulwar is located at the mouth of Rose River on the western coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria, and adjacent to the extreme SW coast of Groote Eylandt. Numbulwar is part of the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust. It is 438 kilometers east of Katherine and can be difficult to access due to poor roads and flooding.

Ngukkur has a population of nearly 800 with a median age of 30 and 95% indigenous representation²⁸.

Facilities

- Outdoor sports court with lights and spectator stands (no toilets).
- Sandy sports field adjacent to sports court. Poor location, no turf and unusable in the wet season.
- Very old recreation hall. Height and size not compliant for sport. Structurally poor and of limited functionality (was an old housing shed).
- Old sports court on foreshore not useable.
- Informal grass field on foreshore which is used regularly but is undersized and constrained by sewerage manholes.
- Boat ramp and picnic area
- School has covered sports court with lights.

Tenure

Lot 976 Sport and Recreation Hall

Lot 130 Basketball Court

Sports Program

In the second half of 2022, soccer, basketball, disco and golden child program activities were run in Numbulwar with basketball and golden child sessions most popular. The dominant trend of participation reducing in the 12-14-year bracket with further reduction in 15-17 years is demonstrated in Numbulwar.

²⁸ ABS, 2021

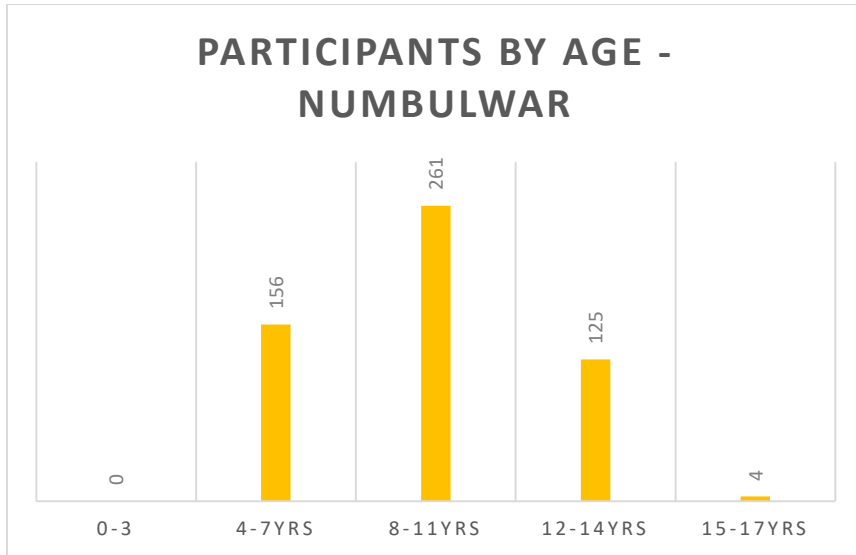
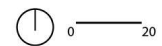


Figure 23. Participants by Age - Numbulwar



Sports and Recreation Assets



11 NUMBULWAR COMMUNITY Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023



		<p>① Covered Basketball Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full-size covered hard court basketball court. - Small 3 tiered open seating along sides - aluminium. - Functional backboards. - Surface quality good - some linemarking. - LED lighting. - no scoreboard. - Some drainage issues in wet season due to open sides.
		<p>② Playing Oval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undersized AFL playing area - width only 80m wide - length OK. - Very poor sand surface - no grass, heavily weeded. - Periodic inundation during wet season impacts surface - AFL goal posts at each end - condition poor.
		<p>③ Recreation Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small 20m x 10m community recreation/sports hall. - Concrete slab & steel frame structure with colorbond sheeting walls. - 20 + yrs old in poor condition- too small for indoor sports. - Attached male/female toilet block - Small storage area internal. - Airconditioned, lighting & fans. - Sand volleyball court with net adjacent. - tenure: Section 19.



4 Foreshore Parkland

- Informal parkland area between main entry road to town and the sand dune foreshore.
- Grassed with some old picnic seating
- Impacted in areas by above ground sewer manholes, wild animal impacts and beach erosion.
- OK space for informal sports and events



5 Foreshore Open Basketball Court

- Delapidated open concrete basketball court.
- No working backboards.
- Evidence of previous lighting.



Other facilities

Outdoor volleyball court with net adjacent to the Old Rec Hall.

Future Opportunities

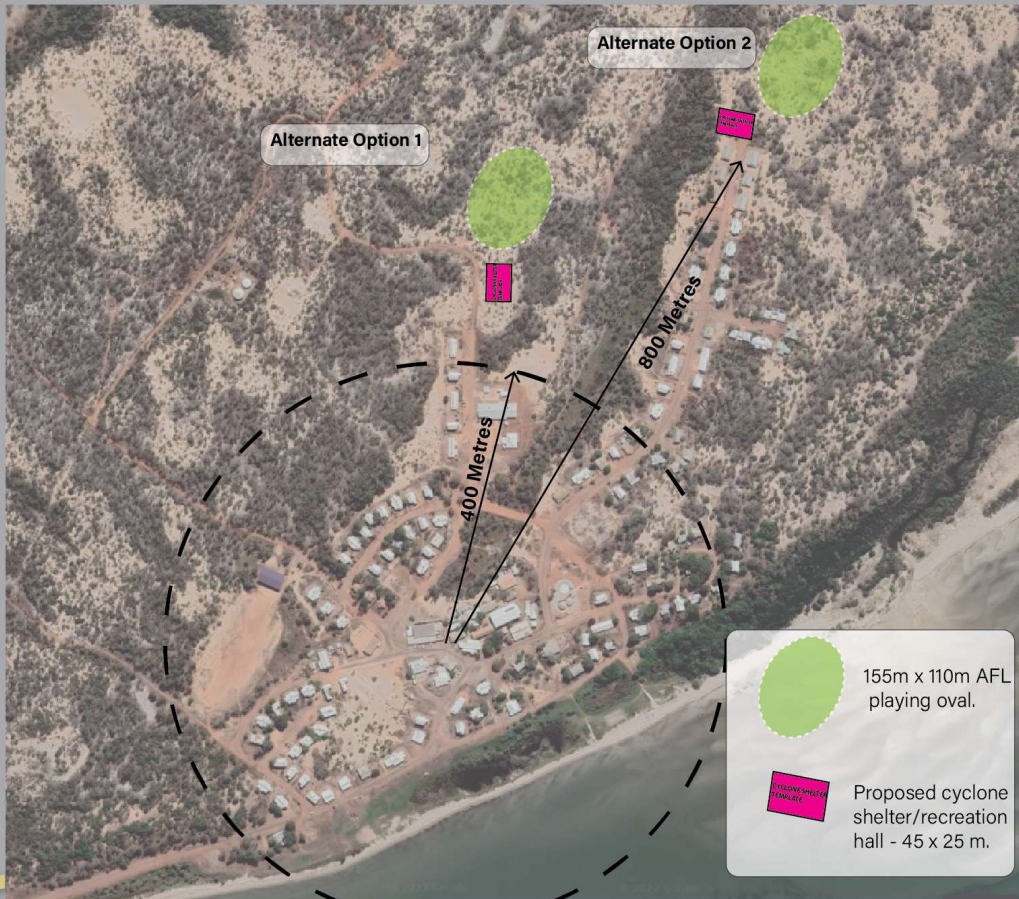
Opportunities Planning

NUMBULWAR

NTS

- ① Playing field improvements - location impacted by periodic inundation. Council to investigate local drainage solution to help mitigate this - if this is feasible then a playing field re-build is warranted in this location - NOTE: Alternate flood free location options are proposed refer to plan 2.
 - New playing field;
 - New lighting at 1 end (adjacent basketball court);
 - Move south-west end goal posts away from culturally sensitive areas (shown as hatch).
- ② New cyclone shelter/recreation hall to replace existign covered basketball court adjacent to playing field - Note: If playing field is unviable, Alternate location options for the cyclone shelter have also been provided on Plan 2.
- ③ Refurbish existing recreation hall into youth/- cultural event space.

Note. Consideration should also be given to using treated water for field irrigation purposes.



Alternate Option 1

- New playing field/oval located along the broad ridgeline north of "top camp" along the existing roadway.
- collocate with **new cyclone shelter/recreation hall**.
 - located on flood free land within 500M of town centre.
 - located close to existing services (from roadway)

Alternate Option 2

- New playing field/oval located along the broad ridgeline north east past existing housing along the existing roadway.
- collocate with **new cyclone shelter/recreation hall**.
 - located on flood free land within 800M of town centre.
 - located close to existing services (from roadway)

5.12 Robinson River

Overview

Robinson River is located southeast of Borroloola on the banks of the Robinson River and Garawa Aboriginal Land Trust formally the old Robinson River Station. It is approximately 10 hours drive from Katherine.

Robinson River has a population of over 200 with a median age of 25 and 96% indigenous representation²⁹.

Facilities

- Rectangular playing field
- Full size outdoor basketball court
- Small, dilapidated youth space

Sports Program

No sports program is delivered in Robinson River.



²⁹ ABS, 2021

Sports and Recreation Assets



🕒 NTS



⑫ ROBINSON RIVER COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023





① Sport Playing Field

- Large rectangular playing field.
- No goal posts .
- Fencing.
- Surface quality poor/good.
- No lighting
- No toilets or changerooms.
- No scoreboard.
- tenure: M.A.C Section 19



② Open basketball court

- Full sized open hardcourt basketball court.
- Surface good - Some impact from opening expansion joints.
- Backboards & hoops fit for purpose.
- 2 x pole LED lighting.
- No shade.
- tenure: M.A.C Section 19



③ Small Recreation/Youth Space

- Steel framed & sheeted.
- Concrete slab floor..
- Fans & A/C inside.
- Impacted by mis-use as not easily lockable.
- tenure: M.A.C Section 19.

Future Opportunities

Opportunities Planning

ROBINSON RIVER

NTS

MUNGOORBADA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMPLOYMENT

- ① M.A.C developing in collaboration with RGRC a new cricket pitch along with portable goals for the playing area
- ② Opportunity to provide a shade structure over the existing basketball court - include lighting & seating.
- ③ Opportunity to refurbish the existing recreation/youth space including upgrading the security, outdoor fire area and outdoor kitchen/small events space.

⑫ ROBINSON RIVER COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023



5.13 Weemol

Overview

Weemol is northeast of Katherine and next to Bulman on the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust and takes about four hours from Katherine to drive.

Weemol has a population of just over 100 with a median age of 30 and 95% indigenous representation³⁰.

Facilities

- Unusable half-court basketball court
- AFL kick around in poor condition
- Playground

Tenure

Section 19 Half-court and goal kick area

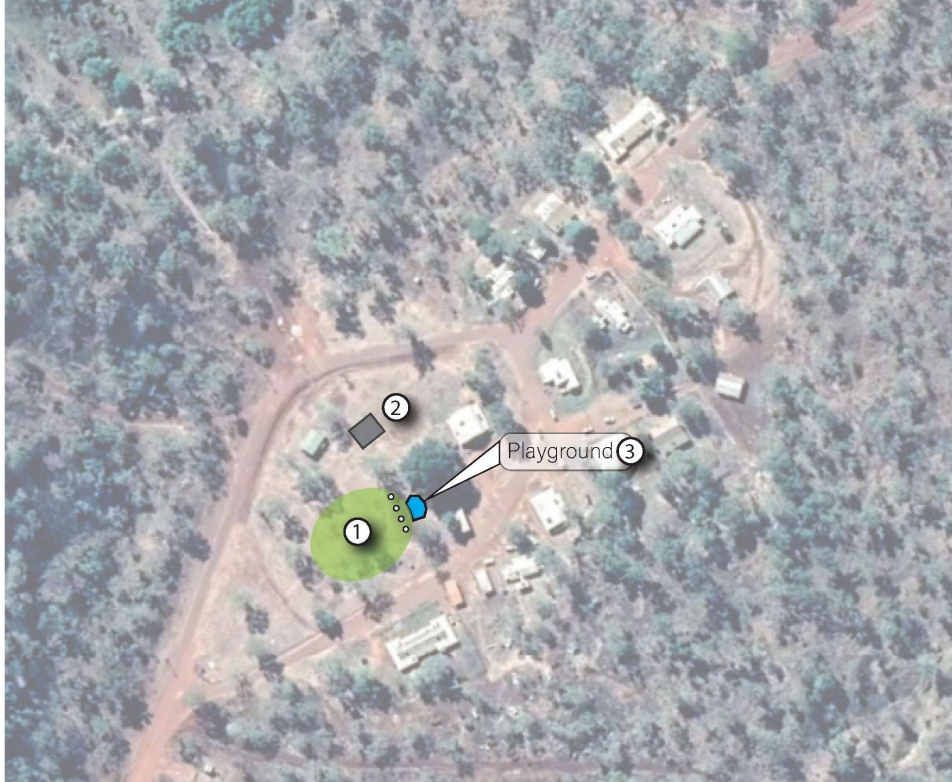
Sports Program

Sports program for Weemol is delivered in nearby Bulman.

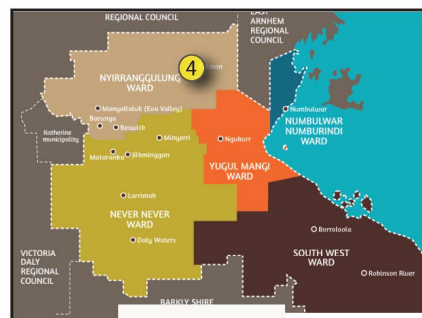


³⁰ ABS, 2021

Sports and Recreation Assets



⌚ NTS



4 WEEMOL COMMUNITY
Sport & Recreation Assets

Sport & Recreation Masterplan
March 2023

BETTER CITIES GROUP
DESIGN · ECONOMICS · ENGAGEMENT

RoperGulf
REGIONAL COUNCIL
LIFE · WORK · LEARN · PLAY



① AFL kick area

- Small grassed open space area with single set of AFL goals at en end.
- Very poor surface.



② Outdoor Basketball Court

- Half-court hard court basketball court.
- Non- functional backboard/hoop.
- Very poor surface, no linemarking



③ Other local facilities

- Playground
- Good condition.
 - No shade structure.

Future Opportunities

Opportunities Planning



⌚ NTS

WEEMOL



5.14 Daly Waters

Overview

In the 2021 census, the locality of Daly Waters had a population of 55 people. The town of Daly Waters is 307 kilometres south of Katherine and 170 kilometres south of Mataranka. It has a population of just over 50 people.

Delivery of the Beetaloo Basin project could have impacts on the town.

Community Organisations

Daly Waters Progress Association

DWPA has recently been reinvigorated by membership from township, surrounding pastoral leases and other businesses and is planning to develop a strategic plan at the end of the year.

The Hall and associated Bicentennial Park has been the centre of district activities for over 50 years however these have recently fallen into disrepair. The major event of the year is the district Christmas Party, and the Hall provides for community and private functions and meetings.

Daly Waters Rodeo & Campdraft Association

DWRCA has been active for many years and runs at least one event per year.

Facilities

DWPA

- Progress Hall
- Bicentennial Park
- Dilapidated Tennis Court
- Historic Police Station/Court House

DWRCA

- Rodeo Campdraft Arena and Grounds

Tenure

Crown leases for community purposes

Sports Program

NA

Future Opportunities

- Refurbishment of tennis court with basketball hoop
- Maintenance of bicentennial park
- Hall and Old Police Station refurbishment

- Consider potential impacts of Beetaloo Basin project



5.15 Larrimah

Overview

Larrimah is 158 kilometres southeast of Katherine. It was established during World War II as the railhead of the North Australia Railway and a significant site for troop movements and military supplies. It has a declining population of just under 30.

Delivery of the Beetaloo Basin project could have impacts on the town.

Facilities

Cricket pitch (irrigated and maintained by Council)

Sports Program

NA

Future Opportunities

- Local cricket competition
- Consider potential impacts of Beetaloo Basin project



5.16 Urapunga

Overview

Urapunga is a town located on the Roper Highway on the Wilton River, 30 kilometres West of Ngukurr. It has a population of around 150. A masterplan was completed for the town in 2019 which is comprehensive but should be reviewed.

Facilities

For the population size and remoteness, the town has an undersupply of sport and recreation infrastructure. It has a central park but does not have an available basketball court (one in school grounds but inaccessible outside of school hours), sports field or recreation hall.

Tenure

Delivering sport and recreation facilities will require review of sites and tenure.

Sports Program

NA

Future Opportunities

- Review existing 2019 Masterplan
- Identify potential sites for new facilities
- Explore opportunity for refurbishment of existing homestead shed for sport and recreation purposes



5.17 Summary

The following summary of facility provision is provided for the 12 communities:

Community	Facilities
Barunga	Overall, Barunga has high quality facilities. There are no gaps in facility provision however in time it will be appropriate to deliver a new sport and recreation hall and the Arnhem Crows are looking to deliver a new clubhouse.
Beswick	Beswick has been developed in two parts with the old section lower which is where the sports fields and basketball court is placed. On the higher ground in the newer area is the multi-purpose covered court. For the size of the population there is a need for a sport and recreation hall.
Borrooloola	Borrooloola's sport infrastructure is very spread out although the main precinct hosting the school sports fields, multipurpose court and new cyclone shelter are quite integrated. There may be opportunity to formalise community access to the school sports field.
Bulman	Bulman is relatively well serviced in terms of sports infrastructure although there is need for provision of an outdoor multipurpose court which could service basketball, futsal, dance and other social activities. Whilst there is a covered court this is constrained by having to be opened by a staff member.
Daly Waters	The town has some existing infrastructure which is now in disrepair. There is an opportunity to refurbish existing assets which may also align with investment associated with the Beetaloo Basin project.
Eva Valley	Whilst there is no sport and recreation hall the population of Eva Valley is quite small, and the covered multi-purpose court appears to meet current demand.
Jilkminggan	Jilkminggan has the basic service level of sport facilities however the sport and recreation hall are dilapidated and not fit for purpose. The basketball court and softball diamond are not useable and require refurbishment.
Larrimah	The town has a cricket oval which Council maintains. There is an opportunity to support local competition which may also align with investment associated with the Beetaloo Basin project.
Ngukkur	Ngukkur has the facilities it needs and is in the process of delivering a significant masterplan within their sports precinct. The pool is an ageing asset and requires immediate attention to the safety issues associated with the fencing and ageing pool pump and chemical storage sheds.
Numbulwar	Numbulwar requires the development of a sport and recreation hall (which could be developed as a cyclone shelter similar to Borrooloola) and a solution to the sports field surface. This should be a priority of this Masterplan.
Mataranka	Mataranka has the facilities it needs, much of which appears to be underutilised. There is opportunity to regenerate the sports field playing surface so that Mataranka can play a central role in community competition in leagues such as the Big Rivers Football League.
Minyerri	There is a requirement for a sport and recreation hall in Minyerri based on population and the expected level of service.
Robinson River	Robinson River has a dilapidated youth centre which could be refurbished, and the central basketball court would generate increased use with an open air shed covering.

Urapunga	This community is underserved in terms of available sport and recreation infrastructure and programs. Review of the 2019 masterplan should be conducted to identify opportunity for project delivery.
Weemol	The sports infrastructure in Weemol is of very poor quality. At a minimum it is appropriate to replace the current half court with a new one which could also incorporate other elements such as integrated seating.

Sport and Recreation Halls

- Large over 20 years - Barunga, Bulman, Ngukkur
- Small over 20 years - Numbulwar, Robinson River, Jilkminggan
- Under construction - Boorooloola
- 6 out of 12 and 7 out of 12 by 2024

Standalone Basketball Courts

- Beswick, Barunga, Mataranka, Eva Valley, Numbulwar, Boorooloola (currently closed), Minyerri
- 7 out of 12

Pool facilities

- Ngukurr (closed), Borrooloola (closed)

Water Playground

- Minyerri (closed)

Communities (pop)	Rec Hall	Basketball shaded	Basketball unshaded	Sports field	Pool	Water Park
Jilkminggan						
Bulman						
Weemol						
Barunga						
Beswick						
Eva Valley						
Mataranka						
Numbulwar						
Ngukkur						
Boorooloola						
Robinson River						
Minyerri						

Red - not fit for purpose; Orange - fit for purpose; Green - good quality

PART 2

MASTERPLAN

PART 2 MASTERPLAN

6.0 Themes

6.1 People

We build the capacity of people who make sport and recreation possible and empower individuals to make healthy choices.	Outcome That local authority and community have greater involvement in service delivery, asset management and capital delivery				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Measure</th> <th>Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>-Number of sports programs being delivered -Value of capital works delivered by partners</td> <td> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community ISR Project Pilot - Support clubs and other organisations who seek to deliver sports programs within community. Deliver this as a pilot project and evaluate outcomes. 2. Support project delivery by aboriginal corporations and sporting clubs. Examples include club redevelopments by Arnhem Crows and Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation 3. Consider the impacts of the delivery of the Beetaloo Basin project in terms of population growth, economic development, housing and sport and recreation infrastructure </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Measure	Actions	-Number of sports programs being delivered -Value of capital works delivered by partners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community ISR Project Pilot - Support clubs and other organisations who seek to deliver sports programs within community. Deliver this as a pilot project and evaluate outcomes. 2. Support project delivery by aboriginal corporations and sporting clubs. Examples include club redevelopments by Arnhem Crows and Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation 3. Consider the impacts of the delivery of the Beetaloo Basin project in terms of population growth, economic development, housing and sport and recreation infrastructure
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	Outcome That more indigenous community members gain training and education associated with sport and recreation due to the transferrable skills and benefits				
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6.2 Places

We provide places that foster sport & recreation, for maximum social benefit	Outcome That all community members have access to at least the minimum level of sport and recreation infrastructure (based on population, remoteness and access)				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Measure</th> <th>Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>-Number of projects delivered</td> <td> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Deliver the 10 year sports infrastructure program detailed in this masterplan 7. Include the infrastructure program into Council's capital works program </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Measure	Actions	-Number of projects delivered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Deliver the 10 year sports infrastructure program detailed in this masterplan 7. Include the infrastructure program into Council's capital works program
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Outcome That appropriate investment be made in strategic projects where significant infrastructure gaps exist.					
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-Number of Sport and Recreation infrastructure projects noted in Capital Works Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Review of Capital Works Plan to include forecasting and future planning for delivery of identified Sport and Recreation infrastructure projects. 				

6.3 Participation

We promote involvement in all activities that keeps people moving and engaged	Outcome That growth continues to occur in the following: -popular activities like basketball and AFL -traditional activities such as bush medicine, hunting and fishing -dance and music	
	Measure	Actions
	-Increased participation from critical age groups (youth and adult) -Stabilise or improve participation from child age group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek funding from the NT Government Remote Sport Voucher program 2. Continue to broaden the scope of ISR program to include traditional activities
	Outcome That growth in community volunteering be actively supported	
	Measure	Actions
	-Increase in volunteering from 6% base	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Volunteering Plan - Deliver Roper Gulf specific initiatives from the NT Sport Volunteer Action Plan 2023-25 and actively grow volunteering in the Shire
	Outcome That collaboration be reinforced with other service providers.	
	Measure	Actions
	-JMF delivery in new communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Support the increased delivery of the John Moriarty Foundation to include more services in more communities
	Outcome That we continue to support young kids (1-10) in sports programs but that a renewed focus occurs on early teens and young adults (11-16).	
	Measure	Actions
	-Number of targeted youth-specific activities available	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Youth Engagement Strategy - define a program to ensure teens stay engaged in sport and recreation
	Outcome That community festival delivery be supported due to the resultant sports participation, cultural exchange and social benefits	
	Measure	Actions
-Festival program and numbers of festivals delivered and supported	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Festival Program - allocate and/or source funding and other resourcing to support community festivals such as Barunga Festival and NAIDOC week 	

7.0 10 Year Masterplan

Major Infrastructure

Whilst many potential infrastructure projects have been identified the following have been prioritised for delivery within the timeframe of Roper Gulf *Active & Connected* based on the following criteria:

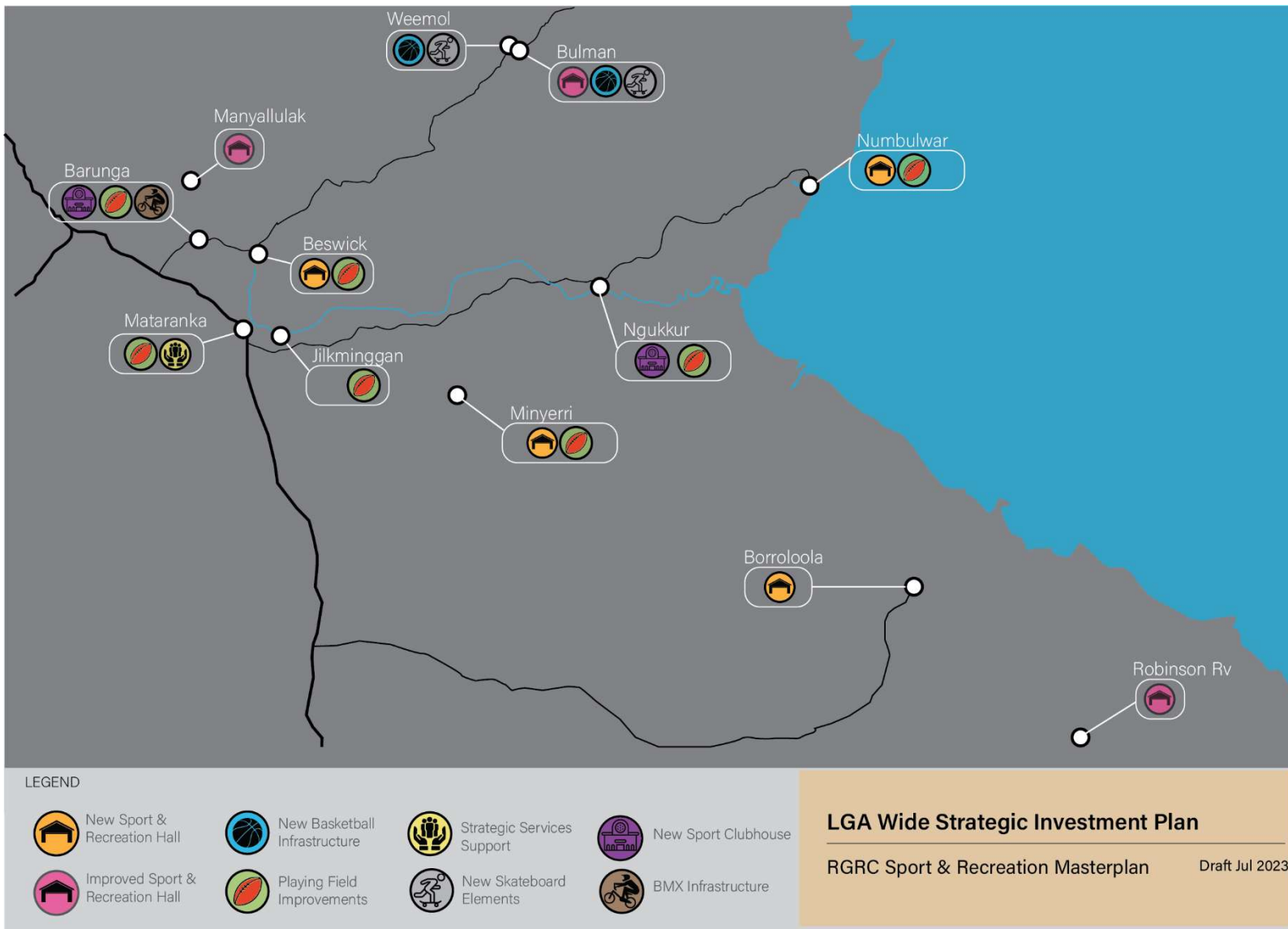
- Need to meet basic level of service;
- Remoteness of community; and
- Size and forecasted growth of community.

Community		2024-2026 0-3 years	2027-2029 4-7 years	2030-2034 8-10 years
Borroloola	Cyclone shelter (multipurpose)			
Numbulwar	Cyclone shelter (multipurpose)			
	Sportsfield upgrade			
Beswick*	Sport & Recreation Hall			
Minyerri	Sport & Recreation Hall			
Weemol	Shaded basketball court			
Robinson River^	Shaded basketball court			
Bulman	Shaded basketball court			
Barunga	Clubhouse			
Ngukkur	Clubhouse & precinct			

- The projects shown are considered necessary to be delivered over the next ten years to meet basis service levels
- Different organisations will have different responsibilities for each project - in most instances this is not yet defined
- Council's role could be a combination of roles including - funding, advocating, facilitation, design, delivery, asset maintenance

*Quoted cost August 2023 circa \$140,000

^Quoted cost August 2023 circa \$170,000



Roper Gulf Regional Council 10 Year Sport and Recreation Masterplan

Vision Roper Gulf Active & Connected				
Themes	Outcomes	2024 2025 2026	2027 2028 2029	2030 2031 2032 2033
People We build the capacity of people who make sport and recreation possible and empower individuals to make healthy choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That local authority and community have greater involvement in service delivery, asset management and capital delivery That more indigenous community members gain training and education associated with sport and recreation due to the transferrable skills and benefits That clubs continue to grow in maturity, improve governance and build independence That appropriate incentives are in place to attract high quality sport and recreation staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport & Recreation Certificate Program Support project delivery by aboriginal corporations and sporting clubs Consider the impacts of the delivery of the Beetaloo Basin project in terms of population growth, economic development, housing and sport and recreation infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Delivery ISR Project Pilot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club Governance Development Project
Place We provide places that foster sport & recreation, for maximum social benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That all community members have access to at least the minimum level of sport and recreation infrastructure (based on population, remoteness and access) That appropriate investment be made in strategic projects where significant infrastructure gaps exist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Works Plan integration Borroloola cyclone shelter (multipurpose) Numbulwar cyclone shelter (multipurpose) Weemol shaded basketball court Barunga clubhouse Ngukurr clubhouse & precinct Mataranka Sportsfield improvements - Big Rivers Football League Hosting Review Urapunga masterplan for sport and recreation infrastructure delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbulwar sportsfield upgrade Beswick sport & recreation hall Robinson River shaded basketball court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulman shaded basketball court Minyerri sport & recreation hall
Participation We promote involvement in all activities that keeps people moving and engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That growth continues to occur in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -popular activities like basketball and AFL -traditional activities such as bush medicine, hunting and fishing -dance and music That growth in community volunteering be actively supported That collaboration be reinforced with other service providers. That we continue to support young kids (1-10) in sports programs but that a renewed focus occur on early teens and young adults (11-16). That community festival delivery be supported due to the resultant sports participation, cultural exchange and social benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roper Gulf Active & Connected Volunteering Plan Support more communities to join competition leagues like the Big Rivers Football League 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Engagement Strategy Festival Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Moriarty Foundation program expansion

Appendix A – Engagement Photos



Barunga



Beswick



Borroloola



Bulman & Weemol



Mataranka



Minyerri



Ngukkur



Numbulwar



Numbulwar



Numbulwar



Robinson River



Numbulwar



Stakeholder workshop

Appendix B – Funding Opportunities

[Sport Australia](#)

[Australian Sports Foundation](#)

[Jetstar Flying Start](#)

[Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal](#)

[Australia Post Our Neighbourhood Community grants](#)

[Grants and programs finder](#)

[Northern Territory Government grants directory](#)

[Our Community](#)

[Volunteer grants](#)

[Youth NT](#)

[Grassroots grant program](#)

[Quick Response grants](#)

[Territory Sports Academy Officiating Development grant](#)

[Territory Sports Academy Coaching Scholarships](#)

