



Regional Master Plan

for the hosting of
CFA/VFBV Firefighter
State Championships

SOUTHWEST REGION

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay respects to the peoples who hold custodianship for the land on which we have gathered and worked to produce this report, who continue to hold strong connections to the land, river and sea country. It is with deep appreciation that we acknowledge these connections and pay respects to their Elders past and present, whose enduring bonds have protected the land, waters and sky for thousands of generations.



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Disclaimer: This Master Plan was published in November 2024 in conjunction with the CFA, the VFBV and councils of the Great South Coast Region. LGSC recommends to those using this guide to validate the details via the references provided.

The contents of this report have been sourced from the CFA, VFBV and councils of the Great South Coast Region, however, may require revision over time to reflect current policies.

Thank you to the following Councils for their contribution in the development of this Master Plan:





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Executive Summary

The South West Regional Master Plan for the Hosting of the CFA/VFBV Firefighter State Championships (The Championships) provides the strategic framework to guide the future development of CFA Competition & Training Facilities within the South West Region. The Master Plan aims to inform local CFA Brigades and Councils of the requirements to establish and host Championship competitions within the region as well as to inform future development of sporting facilities.

Current capacity and future needs related to the Championships have been based on extensive research and consultation with representatives of local councils, the CFA's State Volunteer Sustainability Team, VFBV, and local brigades.

There is a general push across recreation facilities to undertake Master Plan processes both to assist funding applications and to ensure consultation with site users is incorporated into ultimate planning of the site. Specialised facilities such as CFA Competition & Training Tracks risk being excluded from these processes without wider strategic direction.

As the competition under its current format transitions from a single host location to varied locations, the South West Region has the opportunity to establish suitable sites for state competitions that attract up to 4,000 participants to the region.

The Master Plan provides regional context, event requirements and guidance for nomination to enable South West Region Fire Brigades, and others, to establish local sites that are suitable for the hosting of district and state competitions.

The Championships are a valuable tool in volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention, especially in young people. As Victoria continues to see an aging population and an increase in bushfire events, the recruitment and engagement of young people in the service will be key to saving lives and property.

This strategy takes the form of a long term plan to empower local advocates to pursue district and state competitions as well as to establish local training facilities supporting brigade capability and competition training. The plan targets eight key sites across the South West Region, reviewing their current facilities against those of the sample site, Mooroopna Racecourse Recreation Reserve, to determine actions to be undertaken to accommodate the championships.

Competition & Training Facilities

CFA Competition & Training Facilities are the key infrastructure in providing a suitable host location. These are made up of three asphalt surfaced tracks and an observation tower. These tracks not only serve as competition facilities but also provide for local brigade capability training as a drained, often lit facility with direct access to hydrant plugs. They also don't need to be dedicated spaces with many also taking the form of accessways, clearways or carparking when not in use.

Local Councils

While LGA's have little direct involvement in The Championships themselves, they are in most cases the facility owners requiring early and continual involvement in the development of any infrastructure as the responsible authority for event approval.

Master Plan Implementation

The plan provides recommendations for improvements for all eight study sites regardless of the current level of infrastructure. It is the aim of the report to provide as much relevant information and context as possible for each site so that any interested group can pursue improvement to their chosen location. It is acknowledged that these works rely on determined advocacy by groups and individuals and as such, the report has considered these sites regardless of level of current development.



Background

Leadership Great South Coast Inc (LGSC) provides a Community Leadership Program (the program) opportunity for aspiring and emerging leaders from all sectors of the Great South Coast Region to broaden their skills and knowledge. The program builds relationships and networks between sectors allowing participants to benefit from a variety of perspectives when considering the nature of leadership and the future of our community and its economic prosperity.

LGSC Project team members - William Kerr (Project Lead), Aylish Tobin-Salzman, Rebecca Campbell and Brit Watts, have worked in collaboration with community members to develop this Master Plan for consideration by the Country Fire Authority (CFA)/Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) as part of the Leadership Great South Coast 2024 Community Leadership Program.

This Master Plan has been developed to address very important areas of opportunity for the CFA and our communities. The CFA is currently experiencing an increase in the average age of its volunteers combined with declining volunteer numbers. In addition to this, our communities are more at risk to extreme climatic events due to climate change. The combination of increasing climatic events and reduced CFA volunteers will put our communities in danger. Assisting local CFA brigades to attract volunteers is vital to keep communities safe now and into the future.

The development of the CFA/VFBV Firefighter State Championships South West Regional Master Plan (the Master Plan) will support local brigades in their pursuit to host the Championships event in the region.

The Master Plan assesses:

- existing facilities and supporting infrastructure and provides recommendations for improvements.
- required economic input and economic benefit from hosting the championships.
- current and potential capacity of the region.

This information provides CFA Brigade volunteers with the background and regional focus information that they require to lobby to both local government and the CFA, saving them valuable volunteer time.

The project team acknowledge and thank the CFA and Leadership Great South Coast for their support of the project. Additionally, the project team would like to acknowledge the six Great South Coast Council's (Moyne Shire, Corangamite Shire, Glenelg Shire, Southern Grampians Shire, Colac-Otway Shire and Warrnambool City) for their endorsement of the project and facilities' information provided for inclusion in the Master Plan.

Introduction

The CFA/VFBV Firefighter State Championships are an annual sporting event where volunteer firefighters aged 11 and above compete in a series of scenarios in a safe and congenial atmosphere.

A unique opportunity exists for the South West region to identify suitable locations capable of facilitating the Championships that attracts approximately 4,000 participants, spectators, and officials to the region over two consecutive weekends each year.

The Championships are made up of two categories, urban and rural. Historically, the Championships have been hosted at separate sites with the host location alternating each year. Since 2020, the decision was made to combine and host the Championships at a single location. The decision to combine events has increased the scale and complexity of the event thereby reducing the ability to easily alternate host districts each year.

The Master Plan Purpose

This Master Plan provides support for CFA Brigades and their volunteers in their attempt to attract the Championships to the Great South Coast region by supporting their bid with research, providing them with an understanding of regional capacity for the larger scale event, and generally inform decision making to reduce demand on the volunteers tasked with investigating potential host locations. The Master Plan also aims to support future decision making for entities involved in improving and developing any of the sporting facilities included in the review to ensure any development supports use by the CFA and its brigades.

The lack of information on regional capacity to host such a specialised event also necessitates that a Master Plan process be undertaken. Having local information available will support the Championships

Planning Committees when reviewing and determining future locations suitable to host an event of its scale.

The Master Plan also touches on the benefits of supporting the Championships within the region.

The objectives of the Master Plan for the hosting of the CFA/VFBV State Firefighter Championships (South West Region) are:

- To provide an assessment of the regional centre's capacity to accommodate the Championships.
- To serve as a reference to determine the suitability and priority of any proposed projects at the regional sites.
- To support the application process for grant funding for facility improvements.
- To support the application process by community to the CFA and VFBV for the hosting of the Championships; and
- To examine how the Championships can contribute to the health and wellbeing aims of the Great South Coast community.

The Master Plan Process

The Master Plan process comprises the following three stages.

- **Community Engagement** – including consultation with representatives of the CFA, VFBV, Great South Coast Councils and specific local brigade leaders.
- **Existing Conditions Report** – a review of existing recreation sites across the south-west, local and regional strategies, and identification of key areas to be addressed at priority sites.
- **Regional Master Plan (this report)** – providing recommendations for improvement to identified priority sites, guidance on host location nomination process and supporting data for the purpose of future funding applications.

The Master Plan Process (cont.)

At each stage, review and feedback has been sought on the draft reports from the identified stakeholders and key parties to ensure information is relevant and accurate. **These stakeholders include:**

- CFA's State Volunteer Sustainability Team (VST)
- VFBV Representatives
- Recreation Officers from the six Great South Coast Councils as well as seeking endorsement from those councils themselves
- Identified key local brigades to ensure uptake at a local level. These include:
 - Warrnambool Urban Fire Brigade
 - Colac Urban Fire Brigade
 - Hamilton Urban Fire Brigade
 - Dunrobin & Nangeela Rural Fire Brigade

Scope of Master Plan

The scope of the Master Plan is limited to the CFA/VFBV Firefighter State Championships in the geographic region of the CFA South West Region. The Master Plan includes a strategic assessment of the regions capacity to support an event of its size which will likely assist in review of accommodation and support needs for similar events.

Further, the Master Plan aims to identify and highlight improvements to be made to specified facilities, issues to be considered by district planning committees and provide background for the development of proposals. Planning and scheduling of any event is outside the scope of this Master Plan.

The assessment of the needs for this event may be used by other regions or locations to compare their facilities and develop their own plans.

The Championships

The Championships are separated into two distinct competitions, Urban and Rural. Both competitions are divided into junior (11-13 and 11-15) and senior (16 plus) age brackets.

The Urban Championships occur over four days, and across two consecutive weekends on a specialised sealed running track. Individual and team events range from one to eight participants competing in a number of timed scenarios using current and historic firefighting equipment.

The Rural Championships occur over two days in one weekend on a grassed field. Teams of four to five participants compete in six timed scenarios in events mostly draughting water using replica tanker stands to set off timing targets in sequence.

The Championships also include a traditional torchlight parade where participants march through the host town on the evening of the second Saturday of competition. The torchlight march is a showcase of the firefighters, and a competition in itself as brigades are judged on their form and dress with awards on offer.

Throughout the Championships, the CFA also takes the opportunity to engage with the local community in the week between competitions while staff and resources are in the district. This includes fire safety talks and demonstrations in the local schools and other community workshops.

After the first two Championships were held in Melbourne in 1873 and 1874, it was agreed that other venues should have the opportunity to host future Championships due to the vast distance many country and regional Brigades travelled to attend the Melbourne events. The decision to rotate the host location was also seen as an opportunity to fairly distribute the economic benefits from increased tourism and patronage across townships from the Championships, and honour volunteer firefighters' dedication to putting their communities first.

The Championships (cont.)

Traditionally, the Urban and Rural Championships were held in separate locations as events for each Championship were conducted on their own competition tracks (specialised sealed running track with hydrants for urban and showgrounds/football oval for rural). Due to increasing costs and to reduce the double up of resources required to plan and implement both Championships, the decision was made to combine the events and host them in the same location from 2020. As a result of combining both Championship events, the facilities and infrastructure required in one location increased in complexity, such as an Urban Competition & Training Track located next to a set of ovals with ample space for parking and equipment. This has limited the potential host locations, hence the need to locate suitable sites and identify improvements required to facilities and infrastructure to suit the overall needs of the event.

The VFBV is the representative body for CFA volunteers and advocates on their behalf to CFA and other key stakeholders. VFBV coordinates and arranges district competitions in Victoria, and under the CFA Act, the VFBV must seek the approval of CFA for each year's events held within the country area of Victoria. CFA and VFBV work together in a partnership to jointly deliver the annual State Championships.

VFBV relies on local CFA volunteers for the nomination and organisation of the Championships. Due to the size of the Great South Coast region, there are many unknowns around venue capacity and the requirements of the current event format. As a result, it was determined that a Master Plan should be developed for the region to highlight the capacity and benefits of hosting the Championships; opportunities for infrastructure improvements across the Great South Coast; and to provide a tool for local VFBV members to advocate with to the CFA, Local Government, and other funding authorities for support.

In addition to the State Championships, there are over 20 annual local Rural and Urban competitions conducted, generally between November and April. Some Brigades, Districts and Associations also run winter competitions.



CFA Requirements & Championships

There are four major parties that need to be involved to run a successful championships event:

1. Local Council/Shire.
2. CFA District office and Headquarters.
3. VFBV State and District; and
4. Local volunteer brigades or groups.

The following sections provide details on how the VFBV/CFA State Championships are organised and run.

Championships Statistics (2022-2023 Annual Report)

- 38 teams from 28 urban junior brigades.
- 40 teams from 35 urban senior brigades + 3 teams which are from a collection of brigades.
- 38 teams from 18 rural junior brigades.
- 47 teams from 26 rural senior brigades + 1 team from a collection of brigades.
- Estimated 4000+ visits to the event over 2 consecutive weekends.
- Over 900 participants.
- Over 200 judges/officials and coaches.
- 163 teams across two championships over 2 weekends.
- 1,100 recognition awards.
- 95 media mentions with potential reach over 954,210 people.

Host Committee Considerations

The event requires support from the District CFA Office and local CFA staff who have the capability & capacity to steer the Local Host

Committee. The District can identify volunteers to undertake planning roles on the Host Committee and in the Event Management Team.

In planning for the event, the Host Committee will need to consider the following items:

- The need to try to avoid coinciding with various sporting seasons, school holidays, long weekends, and significant local community events.
- Acceptance of the proposed event by neighbouring properties and tenants, and the potential impact on them (buffer zones between noise sources).
- Proximity to suitable public transport.
- Off-road parking for patrons.
- Off-road parking for set up and take down personnel.
- Provision for policing, first aid and command facilities.
- Facility and amenities (including toilet facilities) able to meet the needs of the proposed numbers.
- Absence of toxic industries in close proximity to the event.
- Pleasant environment for patrons including sun and rain protection.
- Provision of personnel that are qualified in first aid for the entire Championships. The requirement is for the person in charge to have Level 2 First Aid as a minimum and any subsequent person assisting to have Level 1 First Aid as a minimum. VFBV will provide green first aid shirts to personnel for easy identification. If possible, a golf buggy should be easily accessible for the first aid team to travel across the venue quickly if need be.
- Identification, coordination and/or promotion of nearby places of interest to non-competing brigade visitors, parents, grandparents etc.

Considerations for Local Council

Councils may require an Event Management Plan (terminology and requirements may differ based on location/council). This plan may need to be submitted early on in the process. Councils may also require an application be submitted through an event booking application or a separate application depending on the respective Council or Shire requirements.

Local councils may also have their own documents which collect this information and may differ depending on location. The plan may include a Risk assessment, management and mitigation plans, Pandemic or National health emergency management/response plan, Permits, Security, first aid, waste, sanitation provisions, site maps etc.

It is not expected that the local council will be directly involved in the planning or running of the event, rather the approval authority as most likely the Championships will be on land for which they are the Committee of Management.

There is also no expectation of an economic contribution from the local council. In-kind contributions may be sought for use of council facilities. The CEO and Councillors will be invited with the Mayor whom is usually requested to deliver an address at the opening ceremony of the second weekend.

With regards to implementation of Master Plan projects, early and continual engagement with local councils must be undertaken to ensure projects fit with the current vision for the site and that funding can be sourced. Given the cost of construction of infrastructure and councils' limited financial capacity, it is expected that any upgrade funding would need to be sourced from external/grant funding.

Site Setout

A map for the Mooroopna Site can be found in appendix B.

The breakdown of the required facilities and activity areas are as follow:

- Urban Main event track
- Entrapment drills
- Urban Marshall track
- VFBV Administration
- Urban Pumper Event track
- Grandstand
- Parking
- Judges box
- Corporate dining area
- Marshall's tent
- Fleet service field workshop
- Toilets
- CFA Corporate Display
- Water stations
- VIP seating
- Food vans
- Children's play area
- First aid
- Rural site with adequate space for sponsors tents, grandstands, District Mechanical Officer's (DMO's) loading/unloading area, combined dining area.

Working With Children

CFA and VFBV require that all staff and volunteers involved in organising or working at this event must have a valid Working with Children's Check (WWCC).

Mandatory

- CFA staff members.
- VFBV staff members.
- Market stall holders with direct contact with a child (fairy floss, face painting, craft activities etc).
- Coaches, junior leaders, and secretaries of brigades participating.
- Judges.

Non-Mandatory

- General food vans onsite.
- Craft stalls with no children activities.

Accommodation

Accommodation is an integral component of the Championships with staff and competitors travelling from across the state and interstate.

The number of participants that the Championships expect to accommodate is approximately 3-4,000 people with an estimated peak of 2,000 for any weekend. A mix of accommodation types is required such as camping, caravan, cabins, and motels.

Responsibility for booking accommodation includes:

- CFA to organise and book accommodation for all staff.
- Brigades are responsible for booking and paying for their own accommodation.
- VFBV is responsible for booking VFBV staff requirements.

Provision of Miscellaneous Items

The following is a breakdown of responsibility between CFA and VFBV for Championships particulars.

CFA	VFBV
Marquees for corporate displays	First aid marquee for rural track
Shade areas for competitors	VFBV sponsors tents
Tables, chairs, displays etc	Rural trophy tent
Air conditioners and fans	Urban trophy tent
Audio equipment	VFBV administration marquee
First aid central area	

Security Requirements

Security is required in the week leading up to the event and for up to two days immediately following the event, while equipment is on site.

The number of guards is dependent on the scale of the event and time of day/night.

The date range will depend on when the DMOs are bumping in and bumping out valuable equipment.

Process for Nomination of Host Site

Although there is no formal process for nomination of a site under the new format, at the time of writing this Master Plan, the VST are in the process of establishing one.

The expected process is as follows:

Local Planning Committee

The Planning Committee that supports the planning and delivery of the event is comprised of the following parties.

- Local Brigades
 - Likely to be made up of the local urban brigade whose training facilities will be used and other brigades from the region from which, the volunteers for running the event will be sourced.
- District Assistant Chief Fire Officers (ACFOs)
 - To support the planning and running of the event, either directly or via delegation.
- Rural and Urban Competition and Rules Committee Chairs
 - To ensure event plans meet the needs of the competition.
- Local VFBV representatives

Once this endorsement is received, nomination through to VST (Volunteer Sustainability Team) may occur.

It is key to note that, under the previous format, nominations and planning occurred through a 'host brigade'. Due to the combining of the Championships, this now occurs at a 'host District' level so early engagement and endorsement from district ACFO's are necessary for the nomination to be established.

Further, it is advisable that prior to hosting the State Championships, a District Planning Committee should engage in hosting local competitions. This is to both build experience in event management and develop practical contacts locally to scale up to the larger event.



Strategic Literature Review

A review of existing literature has been undertaken to enable a clear and accurate assessment to be made of the likelihood that identified sites within the Great South Coast region are capable of hosting the Championships. This information will inform the development of the Master Plan.

A summary of documents that have been reviewed and referenced is listed below. Several trends were noted in reviewing the strategic documents related to the sites selected as well as others nearby.

Some of these trends are detailed as follows:

- Of greatest concern is the proposed loss of urban CFA competition & training tracks (running tracks) across the region - even when these are still actively in use. Running Tracks are used by both urban and rural brigades as a safe space away from roadways with access to water for training drills. Additionally, for brigades to prepare for the Championships, it is necessary that they train on running tracks as most of the events held on the Running Track cannot be replicated on a different surface. Of note are Melville Oval, Hamilton and Flinders Park, Portland where the respective Master Plans for both these locations are proposing to remove or reduce the footprint of the running tracks.

- The Hamilton CBD Activation Master Plan proposes to remove the running track at Melville Oval with no indication that a replacement running track will be installed elsewhere in the area. Hamilton Urban Fire Brigade regularly competes in the Championships, and Brigades in the area make use of the Melville Oval Running Track for capability training.
- The Flinders Park Master Plan reported that the feedback received from Portland Fire Brigade members indicated that the running track was being actively used for capability

training. As such, the Master Plan proposed to modify the running track infrastructure to a smaller 'training pad' which would remove the ability for any competition training or hosting.

It is unclear if the removal of these important Running Tracks from Master Plans is indicative of shifting use, a misunderstanding of the importance of the infrastructure, or poor communication between parties.

Given the high capital cost of establishing new tracks, and the importance of having highly skilled and trained Firefighters in our communities, the importance of retaining these structures for capability and competition training must be advocated for so that they are not removed from Reserve Master Plans.

- The development of strategic documents, generally in the form of Master Plans for recreation facilities, can be impactful for projects such as those listed in this report.

On one hand it ensures that reserves with multi use facilities can be planned out in a logical way with the needs of different users considered in the overall layout. On the other hand, during the development of a Master Plan, generally only current user groups are considered, and the resultant Master Plan may not allow for potential projects such as running track facilities that have a large footprint to integrate into the adopted layout.

- Multi use facilities are a key consideration for asset owners and funding bodies. As much as possible, facilities should be made to suit the needs and requirements of multiple user groups to ensure that it is fully utilised and to enhance the wider benefit of investment.

Strategic Literature Review (cont.)

- CFA competition & training tracks have the ability to be integrated into multi-use facilities. Practical examples of a running track used for multi-purpose are; Flinders Park where artificial turf is placed on the Running Track allowing hockey to be played upon the surface; Pedrina Park on which netball is played; and the Friendlies Societies Park where the marshall track forms the paved area in front of the football social club rooms.

Reference Documents

- *Great South Coast Regional Growth Plan*
- *The Great South Coast Regional AFL, Cricket and Netball strategy*
- *2022-2023 VFBV Annual Report*
- *Regional Master Plan for the Hosting of the CFA/VFBV Firefighter State Championships Great South Coast Region - Existing Conditions report*
- *SGSC Recreation and Leisure Strategic Plan 2019-2029 – Lake Hamilton and Pedrina Park*
- *Hamilton CBD Activation Master Plan*
- *Hamilton Showgrounds Masterplan 2024*
- *Flinders Park Master Plan 2021*
- *Corangamite Recreation Reserves Master Plan Project 2021-2031*
- *Colac City Reserves Planning Project 2022*



Regional Sites Summary

A desktop assessment was completed identifying sites within the Great South Coast region with Urban Competition & Training Tracks, major recreation reserves, or alternatively single ovals where a location lacked significant infrastructure. Thirty-eight (38) sites were identified across the eight (8) Councils located in the South West Region.

From the desktop assessment, eight (8) sites were then selected by the project team for detailed assessment based on the following parameters:

- Priority assessment for sites with an Urban Competition & Training Track present.
- Major sporting facilities or showgrounds.
- Multi oval sporting facilities.

The sites selected for detailed assessment were (no particular order):

	Park Name	Location	Council
1	Island Park	Casterton	Glenelg Shire
2	Yarraman Park	Portland	Glenelg Shire
3	Victoria Park	Koroit	Moyne Shire
4	Pedrina Park	Hamilton	Southern Grampians Shire
5	Hamilton Showgrounds	Hamilton	Southern Grampians Shire
6	Albert Park	Warrnambool	Warrnambool City
7	Friendlyes Sociates Park	Warrnambool	Warrnambool City
8	Central Reserve	Colac	Colac Otway Shire

It is noted that several sites that feature CFA running tracks were not selected for detailed assessment. These include Melville Oval Hamilton, Flinders Park Portland, and Colac Botanic Gardens. In all cases, the existing infrastructure falls short of the needs of the Championships and the existing level of development around the sites restricts any expansion. **Further, for each of these cases:**

- The *Hamilton CBD Activation Master Plan* proposes the removal of the urban running track from the Melville Oval precinct.
- The *Flinders Park Master Plan 2021* proposes reconstruction of the existing urban running track as a combined sports training facility and is unclear if this will be suitable for Championship events.
- The Colac urban running track is nestled in the Colac Botanic Gardens restricting its use. The Colac Central Reserve Master Plan proposes construction of a new urban running track at Central Reserve.



Island Park, Casterton

Site Description

Island Park is a Crown Land parcel under the 'ownership' of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Management of the land is vested in Council as Committee of Management (COM) under the framework of Section 14 within the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. This allows Council to manage the land in accordance with its purpose, being for "public park and public recreation". Island Park is situated on the north side of Casterton wrapped on two sides by the Glenelg River.

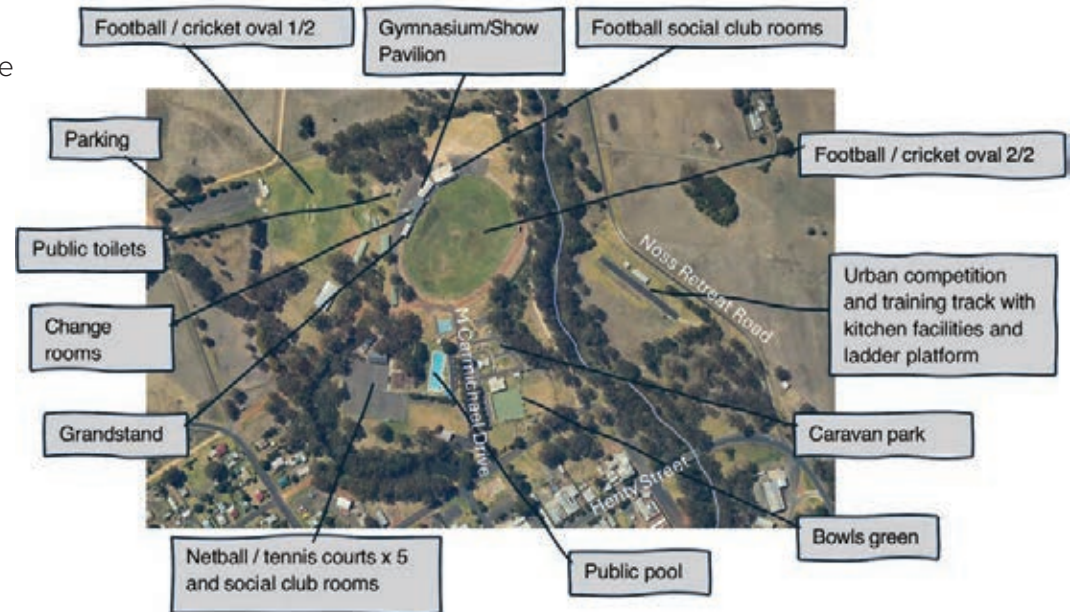
Adjacent to Island Park is the site of the Casterton Urban Training Track. This track is situated on Crown Land under the 'ownership' of Parks Victoria. Management of the land is vested in Council as Committee of Management (COM) under the framework of Section 14 within the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. The Lot, as well as the reserve to the south is zoned "public conservation and resource zone".



Aerial view of Island Park - Casterton

Site Features

Island Park and the Noss Retreat Road reserve are located on the north side of Casterton. The site is surrounded on three sides by farmland and residential to the south across Murray Street.



Island Park, Casterton (cont.)

The park includes the following:

- Two (2) large football/cricket ovals
- Football social club rooms
- Grandstand and football change rooms
- Urban competition and training track with kitchen facilities and ladder platform
- Public Toilets
- Bowls Greens
- Five (5) tennis/netball courts and social club rooms
- Caravan Park
- Public Pool
- Band Rotunda
- Various other agricultural show buildings
- Formal and informal parking areas

Site Users

- Casterton-Sandford Football Netball Club
 - Preseason November-March
 - Season March-September
- Casterton District Cricket Club
 - October-March
- Casterton Little Athletics Club
 - October -March
- Casterton P&A Society
 - Year round
- Casterton Bowls Club
 - Year round
- Casterton Tennis Association
 - November-March
- Casterton Vice Regal Band
 - Year round
- Casterton Urban Fire Brigade
 - Year round
- Casterton Motor Enthusiasts Club
 - Year round
- Casterton Primary School, Casterton Secondary College and Sacred Heart Primary School
 - Programs throughout the year

Yarraman Park, Portland

Site Description

Yarraman Park is a Crown Land parcel under the 'ownership' of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Management of the land is vested in Council as Committee of Management (COM) under the framework of Section 14 within the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. This allows Council to manage the land in accordance with its purpose, being for "public park and public recreation". Yarraman Park is situated on the southwest side of Portland with direct access to the Henty Highway via Maderia Packet Road.



Aerial View of Yarraman Park – Portland

Site Features

Yarraman Park is located on the southwest side of Portland in Madeira Packet Road and is surrounded by farmland.



The park includes the following features:

- Trotting track
- Gymnastics Pavilion
- Indoor riding arena
- Go-kart track and engine measuring shed
- Public toilets
- Grassed area for three (3) polocrosse fields
- Informal parking throughout the park

Yarraman Park, Portland (cont.)

Site Users

- Portland & District Karting Club
- Cashmore Adult Riding Club
- Portland & District Adult Riding Club
- Portland Pony Club
- Heywood & District Pony Club
- Portland Light Harness Club
- Portland Racing Pigeon Club
- Portland and Far South West Poultry Club
- Portland Gymnastics Club
- Portland Rotary Club
- Western District Polocrosse Club



Victoria Park, Koroit

Site Description

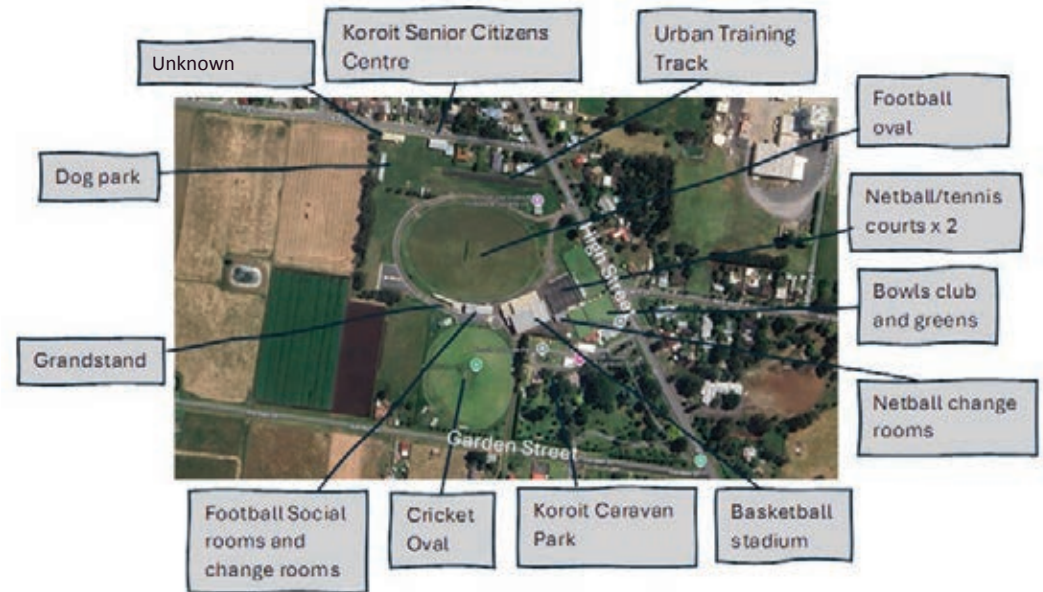
Victoria Park is a Crown Land parcel under the 'ownership' of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Management of the land is vested in Council as Committee of Management (COM) under the framework of Section 14 within the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. This allows Council to manage the land in accordance with its purpose, being for "public park and public recreation". Victoria Park is situated on the southeast side of Koroit.



Aerial View of Victoria Park

Site Features

Victoria Park is located in the south side of Koroit off High Street. The park is surrounded by farmland on its west and mixed residential on the other three sides.



Victoria Park, Koroit (cont.)

The park includes the following features:

- Two (2) football/cricket ovals
- Football social rooms and change rooms
- Grandstand
- Two (2) netball/tennis courts
- Netball change rooms
- Bowls club and greens
- Basketball Stadium
- Dog park
- Caravan Park
- Historical Society
- Koroit Senior Citizens

Site Users

- Koroit Saints Football Netball Club
 - Pre season November-March
 - Season March-September
- Koroit Rotary Club / Senior Citizens Centre
 - Year round
- Koroit Saints Cricket Club
 - October-March
- Koroit and District Basketball Association
 - October-March
- Koroit Bowls Club Inc
 - Year Round



Pedrina Park, Hamilton

Site Description

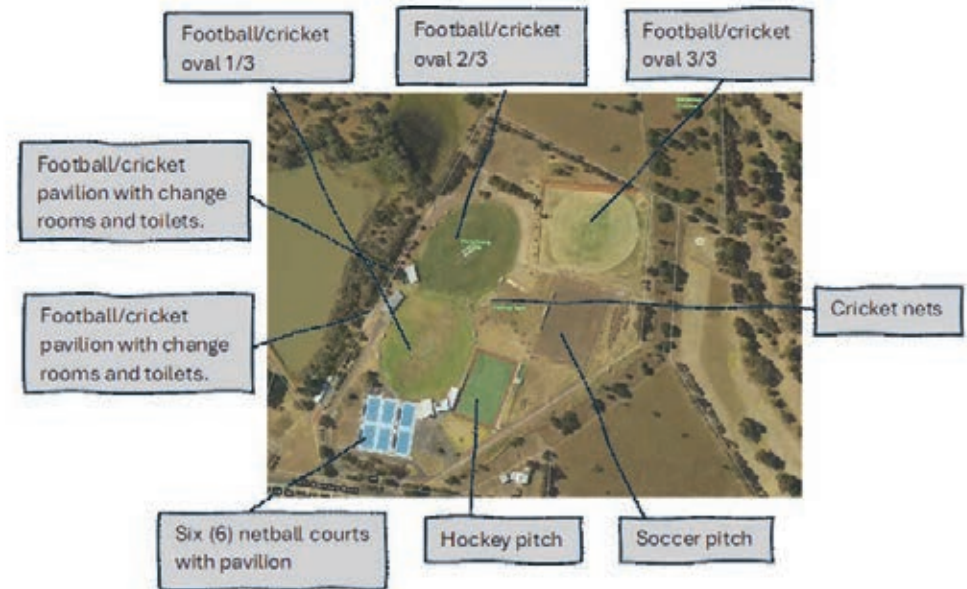
Pedrina Park is a Crown Land parcel under the 'ownership' of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Management of the land is vested in Council as Committee of Management (COM) under the framework of Section 14 within the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. This allows Council to manage the land in accordance with its purpose, being for "public park and public recreation". Pedrina Park is situated on the north side of Hamilton.



Aerial View of Victoria Park

Site Features

The park is located on the north side of Hamilton on North Boundary Road. It is surrounded on three sides with golf links and park lands with residential housing to the south.



The park includes the following features:

- Three (3) large football/cricket ovals
- Two (2) accompanying pavilions with change rooms and toilets
- Six (6) netball courts with pavillion including toilets
- One (1) hockey pitch
- One (1) soccer pitch
- Cricket nets
- Formal and informal parking throughout the park

Pedrina Park, Hamilton (cont.)

Site Users

- Hamilton Netball Association
- Hamilton Soccer Club
- Glenelg Regional Hockey Association
- St Andrews Cricket Club
- Local schools



Hamilton Showgrounds, Hamilton

Site Description

The Hamilton Showgrounds are a Crown Land parcel under the 'ownership' of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Management of the land is vested in Council as Committee of Management (COM) under the framework of Section 14 within the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. This allows Council to manage the land in accordance with its purpose, being for "public park and public recreation". The Hamilton Showgrounds are situated in north central Hamilton.



Aerial View of Hamilton Showgrounds – Hamilton

Site Features

The Hamilton Showgrounds is located in the north of Hamilton and is surrounded by mixed residential, a school and other sports facility.



The showgrounds include the following features:

- Site is largely open space with unsealed access roads throughout
- Large sheep sheds
- Hamilton Exhibition & Conference Centre
- Public toilets
- Ram shed

Hamilton Showgrounds, Hamilton (cont.)

Site Users

- Hamilton Pastoral and Agricultural Society Inc.
- Hamilton Kennel Club
- Greater Hamilton Archers
- Hamilton Lions Club
- Western District Umpires Association
- Hamilton SES
- Hamilton Brass Band



Albert Park, Warrnambool

Site Description

Albert Park is considered Crown Land, owned by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Warrnambool City Council manages the land as a Committee of Management delegated under the framework of Section 14 under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. Albert Park is classified as PPRZ (Public Park & Recreation Zone). Albert Park is situated in central Warrnambool.



Aerial View of Albert Park

Site Features

Albert Park is located in central Warrnambool and is surrounded on three sides by mixed residential housing and on its east by the Warrnambool Racing Club.



Albert Park, Warrnambool (cont.)

The park include the following features:

- Three (3) football/cricket ovals
- Football social club rooms
- Grandstand
- Football change rooms
- Four (4) netball courts
- Bowls club and greens
- Hockey court and clubrooms
- Cricket club social rooms
- Public toilets
- Unsealed access tracks
- Formal and informal parking

Site Users

- Warrnambool Pony Club
- Warrnambool City Croquet Club
- City Memorial Bowls Club
- Warrnambool and District Table Tennis Association
- Warrnambool and District Football Umpires Association
- South West Hockey
- East Warrnambool Football Netball Club
- Warrnambool Football Club
- South Rovers Football Netball Club
- Russell's Creek Football Netball Club
- Russell's Creek Cricket Club
- Warrnambool Cricket Club
- Nestles Cricket Club
- South West Sport
- Warrnambool College
- Wannon Water
- Warrnambool Community Garden

Friendlies Reserve, Warrnambool

Site Description

Friendlies Societies Park is a free hold parcel under ownership and management of Warrnambool City Council and is classified as PPRZ (Public Park & Recreation Zone). Friendlies Reserve is situated in western Warrnambool.

The Warrnambool Show Grounds reserve is considered Crown Land, owned by Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Warrnambool City Council manages the land as a Committee of Management delegated under the framework of Section 14 under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978. Friendlies Societies Park is classified as PPRZ (Public Park & Recreation Zone).



Aerial View of Friendlies Reserve and Warrnambool Showgrounds

Site Features

Friendlies Reserve and Warrnambool Showgrounds are located in western Warrnambool. They are surrounded on three sides by parkland reserves and to the east by mixed residential housing.



Friendlies Reserve, Warrnambool (cont.)

The Park includes the following features:

- Two ovals
- Bike track
- 2 netball courts
- Formal and informal parking
- Club social rooms
- Netball changerooms and bathrooms
- Football change rooms and bathrooms
- Wannon Function Centre
- Warrnambool Gymnastics Stadium

Site Users

- South Warrnambool Football Netball Club
 - Preseason November-March
 - Season March-September
- Warrnambool Fire Brigade
 - Year round
- Warrnambool Theatre Company
 - Year round
- Warrnambool Ladybay Kennel Club
 - Year round
- A.L Lane Community Centre (Rotary, Warrnambool Pipes & Drums and, Lions, Warrnambool Lodge and West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House)
 - Year round
- Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club
 - Year round
- Warrnambool Agricultural Society
 - October
- Wannon Function Centre
 - Year round

Central Reserve, Colac

Site Description

Central Reserve is a free hold parcel under ownership and management of Colac-Otway Shire Council and is zoned as “public park and public recreation”. Central Reserve is situated in central Colac.



Aerial View of Central Reserve, Colac

Site Features

Colac Central Reserve is located in central Colac and is surrounded on three sides by mixed residential housing and to the south by Colac Cemetery and a recreation centre.



Central Reserve, Colac (cont.)

The Park includes the following features:

- Two (2) football/cricket ovals
- Football social club rooms
- Grandstand & changerooms
- Oval pavilion
- Netball pavilion & changerooms
- Community Hall
- Two (2) netball courts
- Two (2) tennis courts
- Public toilets
- Little athletics facilities
- Dog obedience training grounds and off-leash dog park
- Proposed CFA urban competition & training track
- Formal car parking.

Site Users

- Colac Football Netball Club
 - Pre-season November-March
 - Season March-September
- Colac Little Athletics Club
 - October-March/April
- AFL Victoria/AFL Barwon
 - Junior programs throughout the year
- Colac Auskick
 - April-July
- Colac and District Football Netball League
 - August-September
- Colac Primary & Secondary Schools
 - Programs throughout year
- Colac and District Dog Obedience Club
 - Year round
- Otway Rovers AFC (soccer)
 - Year round
- Tomahawk Creek Cricket Club
 - October-March
- Irrewarra Cricket Club and Colac and District Cricket Association
 - October-March
- Mobile Blood Bank and Breast Screen
 - Year round
- Colac Youth and Recreation Club
 - Year round
- City Bowls Club
 - Year round

Community Engagement

CFA Consultation

The Master Plan team has met with staff from CFA's State Volunteer Sustainability Team (VST) who are responsible for assisting and advising the CFA Annual Championships Planning Committee (ACPC).

The aim of this meeting was to communicate the work being undertaken as a part of this project and seek information on requirements, processes and future strategic vision related to the Championships. It is noted that the advice given is the opinion of the VST and is subject to changes by the Executive. It represents the current circumstances of the Championships and a general indication of the future planning to ensure sustainability of the event.

The following is a summary of key items discussed.

- Concerns have been raised regarding the continual hosting of the Championships in Mooroopna noting member and District fatigue. The CFA Executive have requested that VST prepare a transition plan to be presented to the Executive no later than October 2024 on the transition of the Championships from Mooroopna to an alternative location.
- VST had already commenced investigating sites when this project was brought to their attention. Sites that the VST have already investigated include Stawell, in the states north-west, and Portarlinton, near Geelong, with the key sites reviewed as a part of this Master Plan complementing these options.
- It is estimated that the Championships attract 3-4,000 people to the region over the course of the events with an estimate peak of 2,000 people in any one weekend. For the purposes of accommodation, it is expected that a mix of accommodation options are available within 30-40 minutes of the competition site and is suitable for the peak of 2,000 participants and supporters.
- The 'within 200km of Melbourne' rule that had been raised by competitors was acknowledged as a soft guideline to attempt to provide equal access for brigades across the state and is flexible depending on the reality of available host locations and the distribution of competition brigades.
- The CFA team are working on developing multiyear programs of Championships with a key feature being the ability for future hosting planning committees to shadow current committees to gain the knowledge and understanding of the planning process before undertaking it themselves.
- VST are also in the process of developing an updated process for nomination of host locations as the current policy is outdated and no longer relevant due to the change in the event format. A high-level nomination process was discussed.
- Other activities that were highlighted that are associated with the Championships and undertaken by the CFA host District during the week between competitions were the torchlight procession and community engagement sessions.
- It was also acknowledged that hosting of the combined Championships at the same site is not strictly policy, however it is not recommended to split the Championships across more than one site in the same town due to the increased resources that would be required increasing both organisational burden and cost that would likely threaten the sustainability of the event.
- Typically, the event requires the event precinct for three weeks with preparation occurring the weekend prior to weekend one and bump out / site make good concluding the Thursday post weekend two.

CFA Consultation (cont.)

- The Championships are held in March between the long weekend and Easter, with local sporting clubs who share the event site typically determining the exact weekends based on cricket grand finals and football pre-season activity. These local relationships are typically managed by the host committee.
- The events have moved away from being held over the long weekend and school holidays.
- The opportunity to use site resources between the two events is extended to the host district for activities including community education programs, volunteer forums, DMO workshops etc.
- An economic assessment from City of Greater Shepparton's Event Impact Calculator demonstrated the total economic benefit for the community from an event such as the Championships is likely to range from \$837,000 to \$1.67 million and create between 4.2 and 8.4 (annual) local jobs. This is based on:
 - 1,000 visitors per day over 4 days (4,000)
 - Average spend per person during the event between \$100 and \$200 plus accommodation.

This is an estimate only, and specific to Shepparton region.

During consultation with the VST, it was identified that a site visit to one of the sites, Warrnambool's Friendlies Societies Park would be beneficial to discuss the project with the ACPC. This meeting included the VST, members of the Competition and Rules Committee, District 6 ACFO, District 6 DMO, representatives from both Warrnambool Fire Brigade and VFBV.

The project team provided background on the draft existing conditions report and the Master Plan including process and alternate deliverables for the project. A general discussion was then had regarding the potential layout of the site and issues that would need to be addressed. This gave further insight around requirements for the urban event facilities, wider context for design to establish alternate host locations and the degree of flexibility in layout and scheduling of the Championships. This information has been incorporated into the report when assessing Friendlies and other sites.

General Community Engagement

Consultation with key stakeholders began in July 2024 to gauge interest in hosting the Championships in South West Victoria.

During this initial consultation parties engaged included a VFBV Executive, the Captain of the Dunrobin & Nangeela Fire Brigade, CFA staff advising the Championship Planning Committee, local CFA Brigades and six local councils: Glenelg Shire, Moyne Shire, Warrnambool City, Southern Grampians Shire, Corangamite Shire, and Colac-Otway Shire. Through this consultation it was identified that there was adequate interest and support for the Master Plan both locally and within the CFA.

Details of this engagement can be found in the Existing Conditions Report that accompanies this report.

Analysis of Needs

An analysis of the land and infrastructure requirements for the Championships has been undertaken and is based on the Championships that have been held in Mooroopna in recent years.

The Mooroopna site is a large space capable of hosting the combined Urban and Rural Championships and is understood as an ideal situation which is unlikely to be fully transferable to other brownfield sites. As such, in the analysis, sites have not been discounted that do not have the exact same facilities and infrastructure as the Mooroopna site. For those particular sites, areas have been highlighted that a planning committee may have to address through use of off-site infrastructure or scheduling adjustments.

The Analysis of Needs highlights the gaps between the land and infrastructure requirements required to host a successful Championships, and the existing conditions of prospective sites:

- so that decisions are fully informed to support the CFA Championships Planning Committees when reviewing future host locations; and
- to serve as a reference to determine the suitability and priority of any proposed projects at the regional sites.

The information below details the area required for each component for a Championships event based on the Mooroopna Site. **The total area based on the Mooroopna site is approximately 54,450sqm with the following specialist requirements.**

- Carparking for competitor and spectator parking (informal or formal).
- Dedicated open space available for echelon march and opening ceremony for the second weekend of the Championships.
- Specialist urban competition & training track (approximately 150m long) with inground mains fire plugs including timing tower.
- Secondary urban competition & training track (approximately 115m long) with inground mains fire plugs available for the pumper events.
- Tertiary urban marshall event track (approximately 30m long) with inground mains fire plug available for marshall events.
- Grassed open space for rural event facilities, stalls etc. with access to mains water.

NB: Given the cost of construction of infrastructure and Councils' limited financial capacity, it is expected that any upgrade funding would need to be sourced from external/grant funding.

A further consideration is the running of the torchlight procession. This traditionally occurs on the evening of the second Saturday along the main street of the host location. This includes provision of LED torches and judging of the competing brigades which is open to both urban and rural brigades.

The areas in the table on the next page are approximate only and are derived from the 2022 Mooroopna Championships Site Map provided by VFBV representatives.

Analysis of Needs (cont.)

Use Type	Area
Parking Facilities	5,800sqm
Possible Overflow Parking	3,000sqm
Echelon/Opening Ceremony	9,000sqm
Rural Event Facilities	4,500sqm
CFA Corporate presence	900sqm
Food, Eating, Stalls, Firefighter Sprint*	4,500sqm
Urban Event Facilities	5,700sqm
Pumper Event Facilities	2,070sqm
Marshall Event Facilities	180sqm
Urban Brigade Roll-On Area and Trailer Parking	18,800sqm
Total	54,450sqm

*The Mooroopna Site Plan includes dedicated open space for the rural ‘firefighter sprint’. This event, anecdotally, has been carried out within the rural event tracks, using the ladder bar as a finish line. It should be noted that where the event has been provided outside the tracks, crowd control and finish line definition has been an issue.



Economic Assessment

There is a lack of data on which to develop reliable indicators of the economic and other benefits of hosting the CFA/VFBV State Firefighter Championships although estimates can be derived from economic trends.

An economic assessment from City of Greater Shepparton's event has been shared by the CFA Volunteer Program Co-Ordinator and calculates the estimated economic benefit to the community from hosting an event such as the Championships.

The estimated economic benefit takes into account economic benefits derived from hosting the Championships including engagement of local contractors - traffic management for the torchlight parade, party hire, catering, security, temp fencing, electrical contractors, waste/additional toilets, increased accommodation bookings and engagement of local sporting clubs to assist in event logistics and some catering.

The economic assessment estimates that the total economic benefit from hosting the Championships will be in the range of \$837k to \$1.67 million and create between 4.2 and 8.4 (annual) local jobs.

This estimate is based on 1,000 visitors per day over 4 days (4,000 people) and has been adjusted to take into account that approximately 10% of these participants would be locals (reduced to 3,600 people - 900 people x 4 days).

The average economic benefit from hosting the event is just over \$1.4M and is based on an average daily spend of \$395, which is the current TRA daily spend figure for an overnight sports tourist – Q1 2024. (900 people x 4 days x \$395).

This is an estimate only, and specific to the Shepparton region.

Note that as the event is likely to be held in the same host location for 2 years in a row, this economic benefit will double to approximately \$2.8 million.

Accordingly, it is expected that the investment required to host the Championships at any of the identified locations in the Great South Coast will be advantageous and bring economic benefits to the region.



Social Impact Assessment

Alignment of events and projects to regional priorities is key to ensure investment is beneficial to the wider community. In this case, the Championships align to the following three strategic goals as identified in the Great South Coast Regional Strategic Plan being promotion of sport, attraction of participants and supporters, and social networking and skill development.

More specifically, for each of these goals are the following targets:

Promotion of Sport

Health and Wellbeing – living longer, healthier and more active lives.

The State Championships and local ‘demonstrations’ are an annual sporting event that features firefighters, 11 years plus, competing in timed scenarios based on current and historic firefighting practices. Through competition in the championships brigades soon find that competing with other brigades improved their training and efficiency.¹ Further, the events, many as team events, incorporate a mix of athletic and skill-based components that allow for participation by competitors of varying sporting abilities providing opportunity for healthier and more active lives.

Healthy liveable communities – a fairer Great South Coast

Inclusive sporting environments give individuals positive social and health outcomes. They provide a space where diverse groups can build trust in one another, helping to break down social and cultural stigmas or barriers, and strengthen overall community connections.² By increasing accessibility to a variety of sports, a wider range of the community will benefit from this.

Attraction of participants and supporters

Position the Great South Coast for economic growth – tourism – a broader and greater yield from nature-based and cultural tourism

Anecdotal evidence noted through discussions with the CFA indicated that, of the 4,000 participants, over 90 percent are likely to attend from outside the region, bringing the full economic benefit of overnight stay sports tourism. Further, as the majority of participants are from outside the host region, it is more likely that they will explore nature-based and cultural sites while in the region, especially if staying in the area between competition weekends.

Social networking and skill development

Improve connections – social networks and infrastructure – critical and challenged

The Championships are not only a sporting event but also an opportunity for both networking within the CFA and engagement with the wider community. These include:

- While staff and resources are in the region, CFA use the opportunity to engage with brigades, conduct plant and facility maintenance, and deliver programs in the districts.
- The confluence of firefighters and CFA staff from across the state and inter-state provides an opportunity for networking including sharing of knowledge and experience.
- The Championships also provide an opportunity for the CFA to engage with the local community through delivery of community programs, increasing community awareness and driving recruitment.

Social Impact Assessment (cont.)

Strengthen the communities of the Great South Coast – skill, jobs and education – a smarter, more skilled community and workforce

Through the active participation in the Championships, CFA brigades have the opportunity to develop skills through training and increase retention of members. As many of the events are based on firefighting equipment and scenarios, member participation has a direct benefit on firefighter capability. Additionally, brigades see a benefit to junior recruitment through competition, with many juniors continuing on to active membership. An example of this is the Dunrobin & Nangeela Rural Fire Brigade, the area with a population of 87 boasts fire brigade membership of 81, of which 23 are under 30 and 4 are juniors (under 16). This is a third of members under 30 in an area where the median age is 52.



-
1. State Championships - celebrating CFA (no date) CFA (Country Fire Authority). Available at: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/cfa-events/state-championships-celebrating-cfa> (Accessed: 18 October 2024).
 2. Benefits of inclusion in sport (no date) Australian Sports Commission. Available at: https://www.sportaus.gov.au/integrity_in_sport/inclusive-sport/benefits-of-inclusion-in-sport#:~:text=contribute%20to%20positive%20physical%20and,learn%20new%20skills%20and%20knowledge (Accessed: 18 October 2024)

Site Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

A site assessment for each of the eight (8) selected sites was completed through the Existing Conditions Report, the summary of which is tabled below.

Site	Location	Parking Facilities (m ²)	Possible Overflow Parking (m ²)	Echelon/ Opening Ceremony (m ²)	Rural Event Facilities (m ²)	CFA Corporate Presence (m ²)	Food, Eating, Stalls, F/fighter Sprint (m ²)	Urban Event Facilities (m ²)	Secondary Urban Event Facilities (m ²)	Urban Brigade Roll-on Area & Trailer Parking (m ²)	*Total Combined Open Space (m ²)	Total Area (m ²)	Accommodation
Mooroopna Recreation Reserve (Sample Site)	Mooroopna	5,800	3,000	9,000	4,500	900	4,500	5,700	2,250	18,000	*46,500	54,450	Excellent
Island Park	Casterton	24,000	-	10,000	4,500	900	4,500	3,000	0	9,600	-	57,125	Poor
Yarraman Park	Portland	*	*	*	*	*	*	0	0	*	*78,288	78,228	Good
Victoria Park	Koroit	4,800	0	8,400	4,500	900	4,500	1,000	0	5,250	-	29,350	Good
Pedrina Park	Hamilton	*	*	*	*	*	*	0	0	*	*61,860	61,860	Moderate
Hamilton Showgrounds	Hamilton	*	*	*	*	*	*	0	0	*	*47,100	47,100	Moderate
Albert Park	Warrnambool	*	*	*	*	*	*	0	0	*	*150,540	150,540	Excellent
Friendlies Reserve Only	Warrnambool	6,600	1,440	0	4,500	900	4,500	5,400	180	4,000	-	27,520	Excellent
Friendlies Reserve Incl. Showgrounds	Warrnambool	*	*	*	*	*	*	5,400	180	*	*43,480	49,060	Excellent
Central Reserve	Colac	1,675	0	8,400	6,450	900	7,800	3,000	0	3,230	-	31,455	Excellent

Legend:

- Green – area within 10% or more of sample site
- Orange – area within 20% or 10% of sample site
- Red – area less than within 20% of sample site (Mooroopna as sample site)

**Where a site is flexible in its open space provisions, the total area is combined.*

Island Park, Casterton

Assessment of Capacity

While Island Park has substantial open space and supporting facilities, Casterton's position in the state and its lack of accommodation significantly hampers its capacity to host the Championships. The parks facilities do offer great flexibility and opportunity to develop the site to accommodate the urban events either at Noss Retreat Road or M Carmichael Drive.

At the time of writing this report, there is a Master Plan being developed for Island Park so proposed changes may have the opportunity to be incorporated into that project.

Key Target Actions from Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

Depending on the adopted layout of a Championships, there are the following possible options to develop the site. These are the development of urban event facilities which require a main event track, secondary 'dry'/pumper event track and judge's tower. Therefore, depending on the site (Noss Retreat Road or M Carmichael Drive) the following upgrades need to be considered.

Noss Retreat Road –

- Construction of judges tower adjacent to the existing event track.
- Construction of secondary event track adjacent to existing event track or;
- Reestablishment of M Carmichael Drive with hydrant plugs for use as secondary event track.

M Carmichael Drive –

- Construction of judges tower adjacent to M Carmichael Drive.
- Reestablishment of M Carmichael Drive with hydrant plugs for use as primary event track.

Other –

- Accommodation is the significant consideration when assessing Casterton as an option. Hamilton is the closest major town (approx. 45mins) which itself does not have substantial accommodation options. The target action in this case would be to develop accommodation options in Casterton and the surrounding towns to its east mainly in the form of cabins or other accommodation capable of housing up to 1,000 visitors.
- Connection between the urban events track at Noss Retreat Road and Island Park will also need to be considered. It is expected that the use of a shuttle system between the sites via the Henty Street bridge and provision of food stalls at both locations would suitably negate their separation. Ultimately, the construction of a pedestrian footbridge over the Glenelg River would provide the greatest outcome. This bridge would need to be sized suitably to allow for crossing of small vehicles such as buggies and mowers and whose soffit, its understood, would need to be at or above the 1% AEP flood level to prevent impact on the free flow of water. Any proposal will need to be considered under advice from GHCA as the responsible authority.

Yarraman Park, Portland

Assessment of Capacity

Yarraman Park has significant challenges in establishing Portland as a viable host location. This is both through lack of infrastructure and Portland's location in the state. That said, Yarraman Park does provide large open space and would be able to incorporate urban event facilities. Portland also, has a good provision of mixed accommodation to support an event of the Championships' size.

Key Target Actions from Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

The main target actions for this site are the construction of urban event facilities which require a main event track, secondary 'dry'/pumper event track and judge's tower. There are locations around the perimeter of the park that would be suitable for this, or consideration could be given to incorporating the track(s) into the existing go-cart track although the inclusion of hydrant plugs and line marking may be an issue for go-cart use. For the purposes of implementation, estimate of full new construction has been allowed for.

Victoria Park, Koroit

Assessment of Capacity

Koroit is positioned well to support the Championships with its proximity to Warrnambool for accommodation and Victoria Park providing good facilities. It has good open space to allow for flexibility of layout with a large main oval suitable for echelon and/or rural event facilities and a secondary oval for participant parking.

Key Target Actions from Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

The target actions for this site are the redevelopment of the existing event track surface and construction of secondary 'dry'/pumper event track and judge's tower. Although in poor condition, it is expected that the existing pavement and water supply would be suitable to renew the track surface, reducing overall cost.

Pedrina Park, Hamilton

Assessment of Capacity

Hamilton is centrally located in the region making it a desirable location. The town has a moderate mix and amount of accommodation options suitable for participant and support staff. Pedrina Park, as a large sporting precinct, provides great flexibility for event facilities and has undeveloped open space that may be suitable for development of urban event facilities.

Key Target Actions from Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

The main target actions for this site are the construction of urban event facilities which require a main event track, secondary 'dry'/pumper event track and judge's tower. The park has existing mains water supply for irrigation of the ovals and building supply.

Hamilton Showgrounds, Hamilton

Assessment of Capacity

Hamilton is centrally located in the region making it a desirable location. The town has a moderate mix and amount of accommodation options suitable for participant and support staff. The Hamilton Showgrounds, as a large event space, provides great flexibility for event facilities and has undeveloped open space that may be suitable for development of urban event facilities. The development of the location would mainly need to consider the layout and requirements of Sheepvention when selecting track locations. Otherwise, the site is supplied with mains water at least around the periphery and provided great flexibility for the rural events and parking.

Key Target Actions from Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

The main target actions for this site are the construction of urban event facilities which require a main event track, secondary 'dry'/pumper event track and judge's tower.

Albert Park, Warrnambool

Assessment of Capacity

Warrnambool is highly suited to host an event of this size with both accommodation and support services as the region's major centre. Albert Park, as a large sporting precinct, provides great flexibility for event facilities and has undeveloped open space that may be suitable for development of urban event facilities.

Key Target Actions from Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

The target actions for this site are the construction of urban event facilities which require a main event track, secondary 'dry'/pumper event track and judge's tower. The park has existing mains water supply for irrigation of the ovals and building supply.

Friendlies Societies Reserve, Warrnambool

Assessment of Capacity

Warrnambool is highly suited to host an event of this size with both accommodation and support services as the region's major centre. Friendlies Reserve includes a main event competition track, judges tower and 'dry' track. The site also may include the Warrnambool Showgrounds across Koroit Street and Victoria Park adjacent to Friendlies. Previously the site has hosted rural and urban championships at the showgrounds and friendlies reserve respectively.

Key Target Actions from Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

The main target action for the site is the construction of a secondary pumper event track, most likely in the northeast of the corner of the site. Additionally, establishment of parking options will be required most likely in the adjacent sites (showgrounds and/or Victoria Park).

Central Reserve, Colac

Assessment of Capacity

Colac is well placed, being the closest site to Melbourne. The city and its surrounding towns provide good mixed accommodation suitable for an event of the Championships' size. Although Central Reserve does not currently have an Urban Competition & Training Track, the inclusion of one in the Colac Reserves Planning Report does show a desire to construct one in a more practical location than the current site in the Colac Botanical Gardens. However, the Colac City Reserves Planning Project does not consider the 'pumper event' and 'marshall event' tracks. Space for parking and the echelon movement may be challenging although likely addressed through use of the oval and parking facilities to the south across Hearn Street.

Key Target Actions from Analysis, Opportunities and Issues

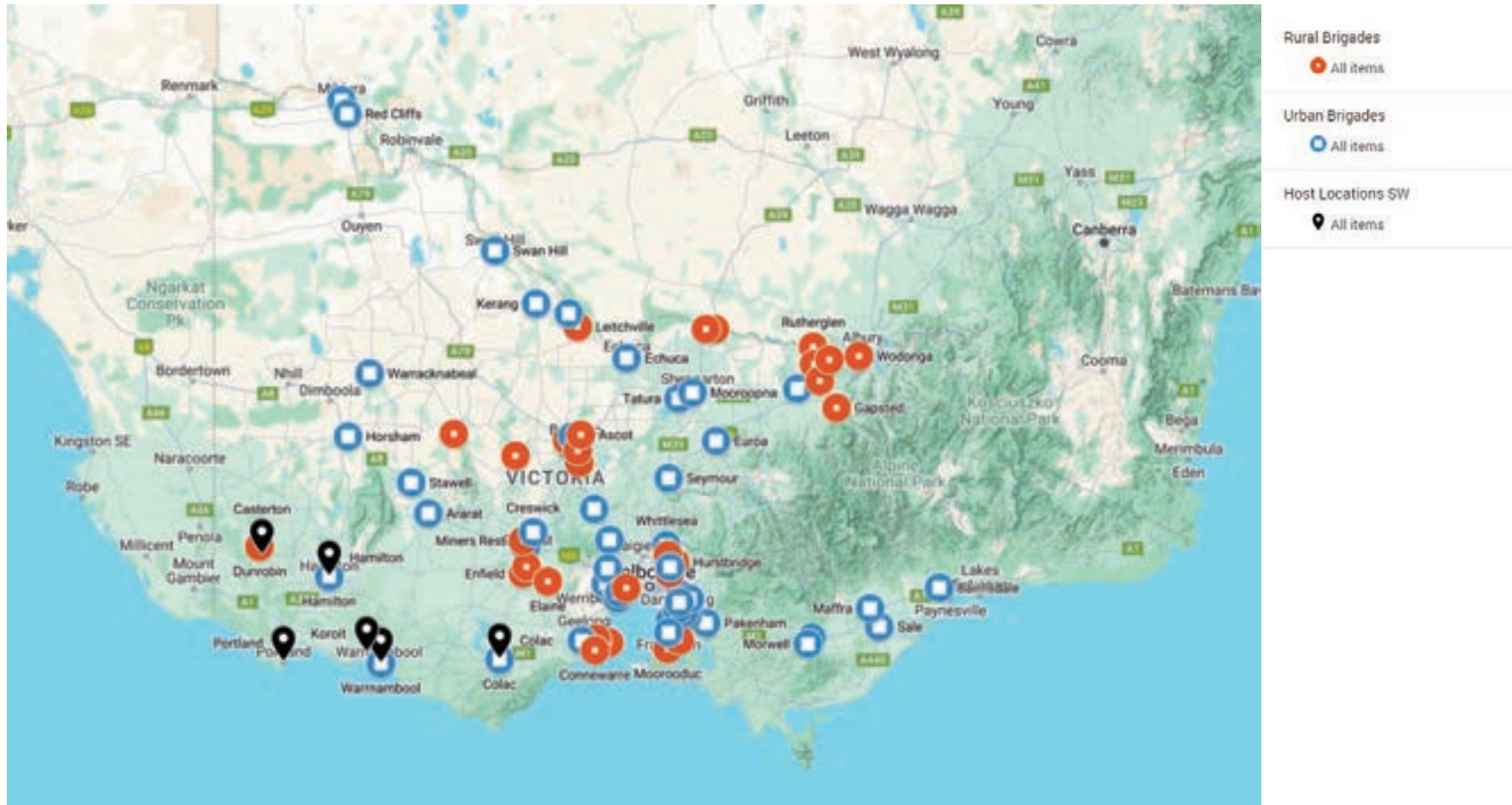
The initial target action for this site is to consider the findings of this report in the Central Reserve Master Plan and determine changes to and the suitability of the site for competition & training facilities. Subject to this, for this site the target actions are the construction of urban event facilities as detailed in the Colac Reserves Planning Report although with some additions such as a secondary 'dry'/pumper event track. The development of a second track may impact on the off-leash dog park unless it can be incorporated into one of the paved parking areas elsewhere in the reserve. The park has existing mains water supply for irrigation of the ovals and building supply although, the pressure for the reserve requires the use of water tanks to store water, therefore the current water supply pressure would not meet event requirements without an upgrade.

Master Plan Implementation

No.	Town	Address	Project Priority Rating	Estimated Cost
1.2	Island Park, Casterton	Noss Retreat Road - Construction of judges tower adjacent to the existing event track.	High	\$250,000
1.2a		Noss Retreat Road - Construction of secondary event track adjacent to existing event track or;	Low	\$1,200,000
1.2b		Reestablishment of M Carmichael Drive with hydrant plugs for use as secondary event track or;	High	\$5,000
1.2c		Construction of judges tower adjacent to M Carmichael Drive and reestablishment of M Carmichael Drive with hydrant plugs for use as primary event track.	Low	\$255,000
1.3		Establishment accommodation to support 1,000 visitors within 40mins of Island Park.	High	Unknown
2.1	Yarraman Park, Portland	Construction of urban competition & training tracks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150m main track and tower • 115m secondary “pumper event” track • 30m long Tertiary “marshall event” track 	High	\$2,000,000 \$1,200,000 \$100,000
3.1	Victoria Park, Koroit	Construction of urban competition & training tracks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redevelopment of 150m main track and tower construction • 115m secondary “pumper event” track • 30m long Tertiary “marshall event” track 	High	\$1,400,000 \$1,200,000 \$100,000
4.1	Pedrina Park, Hamilton	Construction of urban competition & training tracks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150m main track and tower • 115m secondary “pumper event” track • 30m long Tertiary “marshall event” track 	High	\$2,000,000 \$1,200,000 \$100,000
5.1	Hamilton Showgrounds	Construction of urban competition & training tracks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150m main track and tower • 115m secondary “pumper event” track • 30m long Tertiary “marshall event” track 	High	\$2,000,000 \$1,200,000 \$100,000
6.1	Albert Park, Warrnambool	Construction of urban competition & training tracks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150m main track and tower • 115m secondary “pumper event” track • 30m long Tertiary “marshall event” track 	High	\$2,000,000 \$1,200,000 \$100,000
7.1	Friendlies Societies Reserve, Warrnambool	Construction of urban competition & training track including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115m secondary “pumper event” track 	High	\$1,200,00
8.1	Central Reserve, Colac	Review Central Reserve Master Plan in line with the considerations of this report and investigate inclusion of additional infrastructure or suitability of other sites.	High	Unknown
8.2	Central Reserve, Colac	Construction of urban competition & training tracks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150m main track and tower • 115m secondary “pumper event” track • 30m long Tertiary “marshall event” track 	High	\$2,000,000 \$1,200,000 \$100,000

Appendix A

CFA/VFBV Firefighter State Championships Competing Brigades 2023 & 2024 - Interactive Map



Appendix B

Mooroopna Site Map





The CFA/VFBV Firefighter State Championships are an annual sporting event where volunteer firefighters aged 11 and above compete in a series of scenarios in a safe and congenial atmosphere.



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A special thanks to Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria for the valuable time and input they contributed to this report.

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