



# Sportsgrounds

## Community Assets – At the Core of Your Neighbourhood

### What are the community assets?

The City of Willoughby boasts a large range of services which contribute to our quality of life. Most of these services rely on a pool of assets with a combined replacement value of more than \$760M.

Assets in Willoughby include all buildings, footpaths, roads, stormwater infrastructure, parks, bushland, sportsgrounds and playgrounds. Without these assets Council could not provide its present array of services. These assets are located on Council-owned land as well as land under Council's care and control.

Asset Management has been identified as a federal priority for local government across Australia, as all councils begin to face the issue of aging infrastructure.

Strategic management of these assets, guided by an asset management policy and plans, will ensure the needs of communities are being determined and met, and funding sources for asset renewal are secured for the future.

### Managing our assets

Much of the city's infrastructure was built in the first half of the 20th century and an intense period of construction of community buildings took place in the 1970s and again in the 1990s. Many of these assets are already due for replacement, and Council has been undertaking a continual replacement and upgrade program to meet the needs of a growing city. Planning has now begun for the large number of these assets that will be due for replacement around the same time, particularly over the next two decades.

Willoughby City Council has collected the vast majority of data required to produce its Asset Management Plans. They can be accessed from Council's website. These 20 year strategic plans provide scenario-based expenditure projections for nine classes of assets.

The next step for Willoughby is to ascertain the community's priorities and determine the acceptable condition, capacity, functionality, location and quantity of our assets.

## Have Your Say

Willoughby Council is seeking feedback from the community to determine the acceptable level of service provision.

We need to know how you use community assets, whether they meet your expectations and how we should prioritise future works so we can develop strategies for their management.

Consultation will seek your opinions about community assets in terms of physical condition and appearance, capacity, fitness for purpose and whether there are enough of them in the right places.

Visit [www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au](http://www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au) to be involved in the online forum and to receive project updates. Council will also hold community workshops, public meetings and information stalls through 2013.



# Sportsgrounds

Replacement value: \$16.5M

- Mixed use courts at 11 sites
- Tennis facilities at 10 sites
- 21 sports fields at 18 sites
- 4 sets of exercise equipment
- 2 bocce courts
- 1 croquet green

Sportsgrounds provide the community with facilities to ensure they can participate in a range of organised sporting activities including soccer, cricket, rugby league, rugby union, AFL, track and field, netball, basketball, croquet, bocce, futsal, tennis, baseball and softball. The types of assets required to provide all of these sports facilities include:

- Playing surfaces of natural and artificial turf, concrete and bitumen
- Sub-surfacing, often including drainage and irrigation
- Cricket pitches
- Sports lighting
- Sports fencing
- Goal posts
- Exercise equipment

Three of the ovals maintained by Council, and the other sporting facilities associated with them, are located within public school grounds.

## Physical condition

The majority of assets within sportsgrounds have been given a condition rating of three or better, indicating they are in relatively good condition. The main exception is the sub-surfaces of ovals, which are in fairly poor condition.

### Average condition of assets within sportsgrounds:



Sportsground assets are rated on a scale of zero to five, where zero means the asset is in brand new or excellent condition and five means the asset is at the end of its life and no longer able to provide service.



City of Willoughby

## Operations and maintenance

Maintenance activities regularly conducted by Council on sportsgrounds include general repairs and replacements as required, as well as:

- Mowing
- Fertilising
- Weed and insect control
- Sprinkler replacements
- Coring and aerating soil and turf repairs
- Light replacement
- Wicket preparation

During the 2011/12 financial year, approximately \$1.47M was spent on maintenance of sportsgrounds.

## Planning for the future

Most sportsgrounds are currently at or over capacity and predicted increases in population will only exacerbate this trend. Demand is highest over the winter period, especially for evening training and weekend games. During this period grass fields are over utilised resulting in wear patches, possible unsafe playing surfaces, higher maintenance costs through returfing and fields being unavailable for use.

Existing lighting does not meet the new Australian Standards (except at Northbridge Oval) and will need to be upgraded in the future. Some ovals are not lit at all which means access to these facilities is restricted to daylight hours.

Council has several strategies for addressing the demand on sports fields, including installing lighting where none is currently present, upgrading existing lighting to meet standards, converting a small number of existing playing surfaces to synthetic turf and carrying out hard-court conversions to multi-use facilities.

