



**ACT**  
Government

# PLANNING FOR INDOOR FACILITIES AND OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

## ACT Government Response

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic  
Development Directorate

May 2019

# INTRODUCTION

The ACT is Australia's most active state or territory and the ACT Government recognises the current and future demand for indoor sport and recreation facilities in Canberra. Formal investigation to better understand these needs began in 2015 when the ACT Indoor Sports Facilities Study was commissioned. This study, released in January 2016, gave a comprehensive overview of the current indoor sports facility landscape and a strong evidence base for future planning.

The ACT Indoor Sports Facilities Study reflected on the historical provision of dedicated indoor sport court facilities in the ACT. These facilities have established themselves either as private sector multisport facilities, community club facilities or not-for-profit facilities run by indoor sporting groups, often with government support.

As a result of this initial piece of work, the ACT Government commissioned Otium Planning Group to examine planning for indoor facilities and other sport and recreation infrastructure in line with its commitment under the Parliamentary Agreement for the 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

As recommended in the ACT Indoor Sports Facilities Study, the Planning for Indoor Facilities and Other Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Report (the Report) specifically focuses on future facility planning for futsal, basketball and gymnastics in the ACT, and identifies Belconnen, Gungahlin and Woden as possible regions for expanded or new indoor sport facility provision.

While the Report identifies opportunities for additional facility provision for futsal, basketball and gymnastics which will be progressed by the ACT Government in partnership with the peak bodies for each of these sports, it does not preclude the Territory from working with other sports on a case-by-case basis to deliver prioritised indoor sporting facilities to meet their respective needs.

Further to this, with the new/expanded facilities proposed to support futsal, gymnastics and basketball located in Belconnen and Gungahlin, the ACT Government will continue to examine opportunities in Woden to provide additional indoor sporting facilities.

Noting again the historical provision of dedicated indoor court facilities in Canberra, the strategic directions and priorities detailed in the Report seek to ensure the private sector is not discouraged from providing indoor sporting infrastructure where commercially viable.

# RESPONSE TO STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

The ACT Government has considered the strategic directions and priorities recommended in the Report and has identified a range of opportunities which are intended to assist in meeting current and future demand for indoor sporting facilities in Canberra.

A key component of future indoor sport facility provision in the ACT will be the development of new ACT Government schools in growth regions including Gungahlin. Early planning and design for any new ACT Government schools in Gungahlin (and in other regions) will consider the current and future demand for indoor sporting facilities in that region. The ACT Government recognises that a range of complementary facilities, in particular dedicated community storage areas, are required to support community access and use of school facilities outside of core school hours.

Further to this, upgrades to improve community access to indoor sporting facilities at existing ACT Government schools across the Territory will continue. In doing so, the ACT Government will consider opportunities to enhance or provide additional indoor sporting infrastructure at ACT Government schools in Woden and the surrounding area as part of any future capital upgrade program or with the delivery of any new school facilities.

In recent years, funding has been provided for the following projects:

- The extension of the Amaroo School gymnasium to include an additional indoor court;
- Upgrading the gymnasium at the Headley Bear Training Centre in Stirling (repairing and resealing the court surface, improved lighting and hot water supply to the change rooms) to allow community access;
- Upgraded change room facilities at Campbell High School (utilising the ACT Government's Female Friendly Change Rooms at Sporting Facilities guidelines); and
- Security system upgrades at Lake Tuggeranong College, Lyneham High School, Wanniasa High School and Alfred Deakin High School.

In addition, there has been recent investment by the ACT Government in Woden and surrounding area to provide new and upgraded indoor sporting facilities in the region. This includes the construction of an indoor cricket training facility at Phillip Oval (in partnership with Cricket ACT). The provision of this facility, which services Woden and all of the ACT, was identified as a critical piece of infrastructure by Cricket ACT to support the ongoing development of the sport.

Through consultation with Capital Football as part of the Report, the sport identified Gungahlin as its preferred location for a dedicated football facility which included a number of indoor futsal courts. To realise this aspiration, the ACT Government has committed \$20 million towards the 'Home of Football' in Throsby inclusive of indoor futsal facilities alongside outdoor football fields. In addition to the ACT Government commitment, Capital Football will contribute \$4.545 million bringing the total investment to \$24.545 million. Preliminary planning and design work for this facility will commence in late 2019. This project will provide significant benefits for the sport, both in Gungahlin and Canberra as a whole.

To support the continued growth of gymnastics in the region, the ACT Government, in partnership with Gymnastics ACT will develop preliminary design documentation for the provision of a dedicated State Training Centre (co-located with a gymnastic club facility) in Belconnen. Funding has been allocated by the ACT Government to commence this project immediately with the scope of works to include site investigation.

In addition, the ACT Government acknowledges that since undertaking stakeholder consultation for the Report, a new Basketball ACT board has been appointed. The new board has been considering the future facility requirements for the sport and is looking at a range of different options. As a result, Basketball ACT has agreed to work with the ACT Government to develop preliminary design documentation for further provision of basketball facilities in the Belconnen region. Funding has been made available so that this project can commence immediately.

In relation to the distinct needs of smaller scale indoor sports and also district level priorities, the ACT Government will continue to work with sports and community representatives on a case by case basis, noting the priorities which have been articulated in the Report. For example, the Government will consider the provision of an indoor activity space (i.e. similar to what is provided at the Belconnen Community Centre) when undertaking early planning and design for a new community centre in Woden and will continue to investigate possible partnership opportunities with sporting organisations and the private sector to deliver future indoor sporting facilities in Canberra.



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