



WAFootball

Strategic Facilities Plan Half Time Report

June 2025





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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we gather across Western Australia, and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

We recognise and value the enduring connection First Nations people have to land, waters, culture, and community, and we honour their contributions to our shared future.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that the following report may contain images of deceased persons. Where known, family permission has been given for photos to be used.



Foreword

Over the past decade football in Western Australia has continued to grow exponentially in interest and participation.

Whilst the significant growth has many welcome benefits to our sport and the broader community, there is now an increasing supply and demand imbalance for facilities, resulting in an inability to service the needs of our increasingly diverse participants.

Football provides a fabric that connects players, families and communities across Western Australia. This connection highlights the importance of growing and developing football in Western Australia.

The Half Time Report reflects on the 2020-2030 Strategic Facilities Plan and what has been achieved to date and allows us to update and reshape the plan through to 2030, continuing to engage with key stakeholders to deliver necessary outcomes.

Shifting the dial with an increase of lit facilities and gender-neutral changerooms are among the highlights of the first half of our 2020-2030 Strategic Facilities Plan.

There's been a significant improvement in numbers of floodlit facilities around the State, a product of our positive collaboration with clubs and local and State governments. Over 87 per cent more grounds having 100+ lux lighting – growing from 109 at the start of the decade to 204.

The increase in gender-neutral amenities has been another excellent outcome, reflecting the growth of the women's game in WA.

The amount of female-friendly player changerooms is up nearly 153 per cent since 2020, while unisex umpire changerooms have spiked more than 89 per cent.

While we have seen significant improvement in football facilities across the State, there's still plenty of work to do.

We look forward to continuing our work with key stakeholders to reach our shared goals in the back half of the decade and further cement football's place as the game for all Western Australians.

Michael Roberts | Chief Executive Officer | WA Football

WA Football

WA Football is a not for profit sports association that acts as the caretaker of Australian Rules Football throughout the State.

Executive Summary

The WA Football Strategic Facilities Plan provides an integrated and strategic approach to the future planning and provision of football infrastructure across all metropolitan and country football regions.

The Plan provides a 10-year road map for prioritising stakeholder investment into facility development projects to address the immediate and long-term needs of football, government and community stakeholders.

As we come into 2025, the siren has blown for 'Half Time', allowing for us to reflect on what has been achieved over the first five years of the plan, reflect on the lessons learnt, and update targets, planning and goals for the next five years.

Whilst significant steps have been made over the last five years, there is still a significant amount of work required to ensure football facilities can cater for the current and future needs of the sport.

Further investment required to upgrade existing and deliver new football facilities is now estimated in excess of over \$500 million.

There is still a **significant amount of work required** to ensure football facilities can cater for the current and future needs of the sport.



Our Philosophy and Approach

We are the Game for All Western Australians

- We must deliver welcoming, accessible and fit-for-purpose football facilities and provide for the evolving needs of Western Australian communities.
- WA Football prides itself on being at the forefront of creative and innovative solutions to optimising open space, ensure environmentally sustainable development and exceeding community expectations.

The Key Elements of this Long-Term Sustainable Approach are:

- Prioritising development of facilities based on supply and demand imbalances to ensure there is a network that can adequately service all communities.
- Developing partnerships with land-owners such as Local Government Areas, schools, universities and private sector to expand on the existing network.
- Creating new and different participation formats that are less reliant on significant open space requirements (especially focused on new participants to the sport).
- Re-imagine the way the sport schedules training and games to optimise utilisation and access.

WA Football prides itself on being at the **forefront of creative and innovative solutions** to optimising open space.

The Role of WA Football

- Our game connects us, energises us, grows with us. We welcome everyone.
- WA Football is a leader and connector in the Facilities space.
- With football not owning majority of facilities, it is vital that we continue to partner and work with all levels of government to deliver welcoming, accessible and fit-for-purpose football facilities.

It is vital that we **continue to partner with government** to deliver welcoming, accessible and fit-for-purpose football facilities.



Strategic Framework and Pillars

Strategic Framework 2020-2030



Vision

Connecting and enhancing WA communities through high quality and inclusive facilities.



Pillars

Three pillars that will be our foundation of our success: Sustainability, Partnerships and Investment.



Goals

Three goals that set the direction for what we are aiming to achieve and connect our infrastructure framework with broader WA Football and AFL objectives.



State-Wide Strategies

39 strategies our state-wide strategic priorities will be delivered with our government partners under a collaborative funding model.



Priorities by Region

Outlines the key focus areas and infrastructure targets we will be working on with our leagues and clubs.

Facility Pillars

Sustainability

Delivers inclusive and sustainable facilities that respond to demand and are operationally viable.

Partnerships

Partner with all levels of government, clubs and other sports to improve our network of industry stakeholders.

Investment

Continue to highlight the needs and benefits of investment in football infrastructure, in particular the social economic and wellbeing benefits football provides to the community.

State-Wide Infrastructure Targets

Lighting

Provide a minimum of 50 lux lighting at all primary club ovals

Female Amenities

All female football venues to provide suitable amenities

New Facilities

Partner with government to deliver new ovals and amenities in growth areas and a home for WA Football.

Economic and Social Benefits



Community Connection

Football clubs are often the hub of a community. They connect communities and people and establish a strong sense of belonging like no other. There are 46,000+ football volunteers in Western Australia.

Engagement in football clubs create a greater self-reported mental and physical health benefit, there are increased employment opportunities and an individual's social connectedness, belonging and support is significantly enhanced.

Football clubs provide individuals, particularly those aged 15 to 24, with significantly increased chances of securing employment via the social networks and connections provided through the club.



46,000+

volunteers



483

venues

Economic Activity

The estimated gross benefit of organised Australian Rules Football in Western Australia is \$867.2m per annum*.

Every dollar invested into Australian Rules Football in Western Australia generates \$3.89 of economic and social value and benefit to the WA Community.



934

full-time jobs are created in the
football industry in Western Australia



\$867.2m

gross benefit per annum

*2023 Sport in WA: Social Return of Investment by ACIL Allen.

Social Impact

The game generates social and community impacts across Western Australia, delivering positive benefits to individuals, families, community groups and the Western Australian economy.

At every level, the game is committed to giving back to the Western Australian community.



\$600m+

social benefit per annum



\$68.2m

of enhanced personal wellbeing
through being involved in football

\$70.4m

social benefit in improved health
related quality of life through football

\$97.9m

in improved Mental Health Benefits

\$120m

in improvement in labour market
outcomes through football

\$262.6m

in enhanced Youth Life Skill
development through engaging
in football



Engagement With First Nation's People

We use the reach, influence and history of Australian Rules Football in Western Australia to create significant social outcomes and celebrate First Nation's People in our game.

WA Football, and broader football community, undertake several programs that use football as a vehicle to generate meaningful outcomes for communities. These programs include the Nicky Winmar and Kirby Bentley Cups, Kimberley Investment Program, NAIDOC week activations and rounds, and Yarning circles.

Football has significantly over representation of First Nations people with 13% of participants in WA identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander compared with the general populations 3.8%.



3.5x

over-representation of
First Nation's people

Cultural Diversity

Currently a quarter of our participants have at least one parent born overseas, and that number is only expected to grow.

WA Football has established a strong working relationship and partnership with the Bachar Houli Foundation to deliver significant community, social and participation outcomes across Muslim and Multicultural communities in Western Australia.



24%

multicultural
participants

Inclusive For All Abilities

As the 'Game for all Western Australians', every should have the opportunity to play Australian Rules football no matter their circumstance.

Through WA Football and the WA All Abilities Football Association (WAAFA), football in Western Australian delivers exceptional opportunities through Starkick, All Abilities programs (i.e. Kickability), Integrated competitions, Wheelchair Competitions and Programs for blind and deaf or hard of hearing participants.

These help to forge lifelong connections, that sense of belonging, create memories and drive friendships for life. The broader social outcomes generated through Australian Rules Football are significant.



Current State of Play

Our Network of Venues

As of 2024, our 50 leagues, 408 clubs and 87,126 participants are accessing 483 venues across WA.

These venues continued to be shared with a number of other local sporting and community organisations, and we continue to partner and work with local governments who play a very important role in providing these facilities.

Whilst we have seen significant improvement in football facilities across the state, with continued growth (particularly in juniors and females), there continues to be further demand on football facilities, and the need for further upgrades.

WA Football continues to have three main goals for facility improvements:

- Getting more out of our existing facilities.
- Enhancing relationships with our stakeholders.
- Develop facilities that meet demand and to establish a home for football for WA Football.



50
leagues



408
clubs



87,126
participants



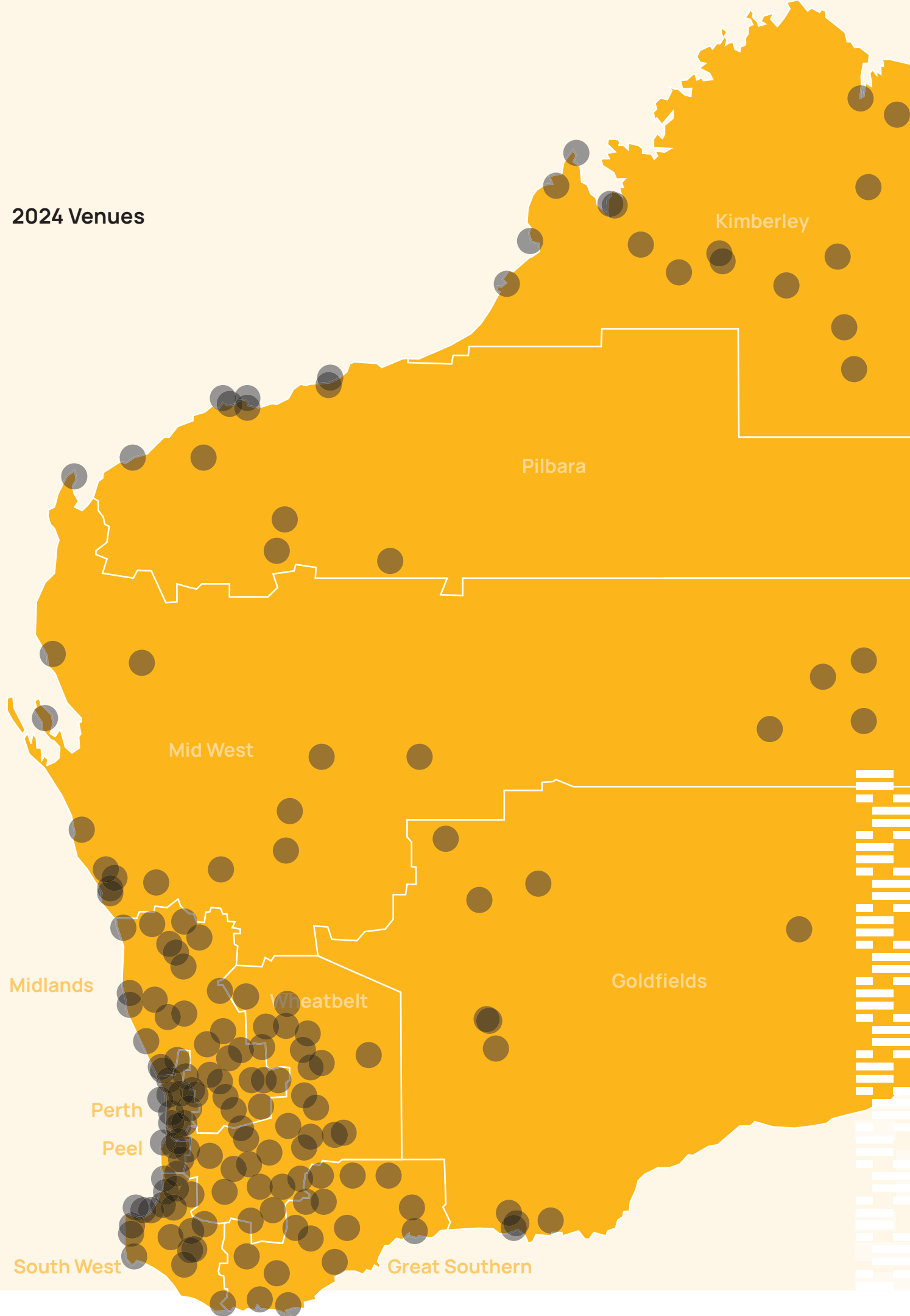
483
venues



569
playing fields

	2020	2024	% Diff
Venues	343	483	40.8%
Playing Fields	395	569	44.1%
Female football played at site	175	282	61.1%
Playing fields 100+ lux lighting	109	204	87.2%
Playing fields 100+ lux lighting %	27.6%	35.8%	8.2%
Sites with Player Changerooms	291	367	26.1%
Total Player Changerooms	674	886	31.5%
Female Friendly Player Changerooms	184	465	152.7%
Female Friendly Player Changerooms %	27.3%	52.5%	25.2%
Sites with Umpire Changerooms	202	258	27.7%
Total Umpire Changerooms	216	288	33.3%
Female Friendly Umpire Changerooms	92	174	89.1%
Female Friendly Umpire Changerooms %	42.6%	60.4%	17.8%

2024 Venues



WAFL Venues

WA Football continues to work closely with our WAFL clubs to ensure all state level facilities are meeting the required standards. The below table highlights some of the progress made towards the gaps in the basic amenities at existing WAFL facilities. Further progress and steps have also been made towards establishing suitable alternate grounds to ensure all WAFL and Talent programs are catered for and establishing a min. of 2 AFL Category 4 – Tier 2 venues.

WAFL Venues - Post current works	Condition of Changerooms		Number of Unisex Changerooms	
AFL Preferred Standard (State)	Good or Excellent		2	
Year	2020	2025	2020	2025
Arena Joondalup	Excellent	Excellent	3	4
Bassendean Oval	Moderate	Moderate	1	4
Claremont Oval	Excellent	Excellent	2	2
East Fremantle Oval	Poor	Excellent	2	2
Fremantle Oval	Good	Good	2	2
Lathlain Park	Poor	Moderate	1	1 (2)
Leederville Oval	Good	Good	2	2
Rushton Park	Good	Excellent	2	3



Whilst we have seen **significant improvement** in WAFL facilities, there continues to be **further demand** and the need for further upgrades.

Number of Unisex Umpire Rooms		Condition of Pavilion		Lighting	
1		Good or Excellent		200 lux	
2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
1	1	Excellent	Excellent	X	500 lux
0	1	Moderate	Moderate	X	200 lux
1	1	Excellent	Excellent	Y	200 lux
1	2	Poor	Excellent	X	200 lux
1	1	Moderate	Moderate	Y	500 lux
0	0	Poor	Poor	Y	800 lux
0	1	Poor	Moderate	X	1000 lux
1	1	Excellent	Excellent	Y	200 lux

All WAFL venue projects should still address the relevant elements of the following three criteria:



Commercial Sustainability

Ability to generate revenue away from a match day.

Operating costs that are within the scope of the club.

A clear ongoing maintenance plan, including cost estimates.



Community Connection

Integration of District Clubs into facility use.

Improved access and use of the facility by the local community.

Improved gameday experience of fans.



Core Football Facilities

Football facilities should be in line with State Level facilities in the AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines (consideration for AFL Category 4 – Tier 2 standards).

Support the successful delivery of AFL content.

Support the achievement of outcomes from within the WA Football Strategic Facilities Plan.

Facilities Funding

WA Football Facilities Fund

WA Football and the AFL have committed a total of \$4 million over the past three years to the WA Football Facilities Fund (WAFFF), which has been committed to more than 120 projects, and will deliver close to \$200 million worth of infrastructure. Projects that have received commitment from the WAFFF include the Lighting and Turf Redevelopment at Leederville Oval, changeroom upgrade at Ray Owen Reserve, Kalamunda, the Major Redevelopment of Hands Oval, Bunbury and Lighting Upgrade to Ports Oval in Esperance.

Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

Ongoing investment is essential to support clubs and local councils in delivering the necessary upgrades to facilities for the sport – now and into the future. State Government, through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), continues to invest annually in the development of high-quality physical environments in which people can enjoy sport and recreation. WA Football is thankful for their commitment continues to work closely with the State Government to deliver these important investments to priority projects and areas.

Community Sporting Venues Retrofitting Project

In 2024, WA Football secured \$1 million in State Government funding towards a retrofitting project which will assist in the upgrade of up to 50 player and umpire changerooms across metropolitan Perth. This project, with further funding from the WA Football Facilities Fund and West Coast Eagles, will create safer and more inclusive environments at community sporting venues where football is played.

The project, in collaboration with 22 local governments, will enhance facilities for individuals of any gender, age and ability, spanning local grassroots to elite football levels, will begin in 2025.

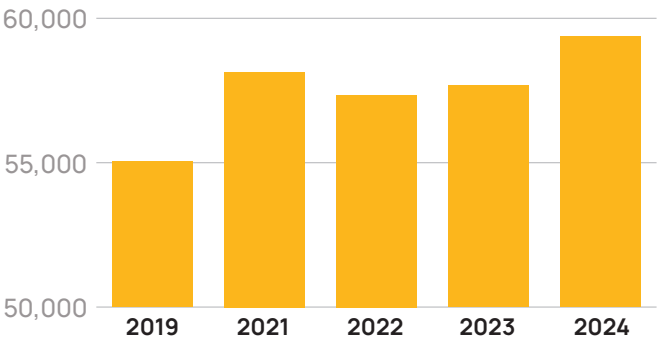
Participation and Audit Findings

Metro Participation

Of the 87,126 football participants in WA there are approximately:

- 44,232 registered community football participants are based in metro regions.
- 12,125 metro-based Auskick participants (Pre-primary – Year 2).
- 9,243 metro-based female footballers (Year 3 – Masters).
- Wanneroo, Cockburn and Armadale have been identified as high growth areas.
- Top three participation trends include youth, senior and female football growth.

Overall Participation Metro 2019 to 2024



*no data for 2020 - COVID

Metro Facilities

	2019	2024	% Diff
Venues	184	307	↑ 50.1%
Female Football Suitable	13%	55%	↑ 42%
Female Friendly Umpire Changerooms	38%	63%	↑ 25%
Home Changerooms under 45m²	38%	37%	↓ 1%
Less than 50 lux lighting	35%	31%	↓ 4%

Participation Trends

	2019	2024	% Diff
Metro	55,038	59,367	↑ 7.5%
Female	7,017	11,188	↑ 45.8%

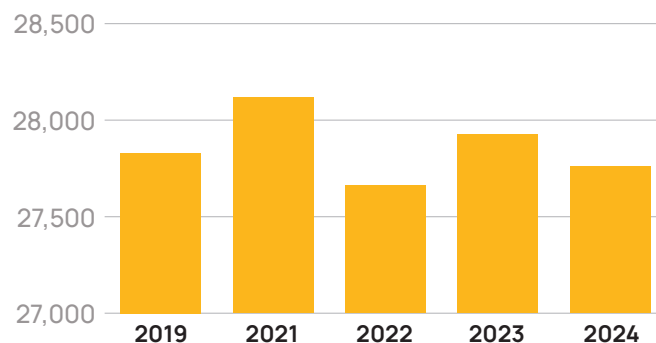


Country Participation

Of the 87,126 football participants in WA there are approximately:

- 23,040 registered community football participants based in country regions.
- 4,566 country-based Auskick participants.
- 3,835 country-based female footballers.
- Busselton, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Broome have been identified as high growth areas.
- Top three participation trends include female, junior and youth football growth.

Overall Participation Country 2019 to 2024



*no data for 2020 - COVID

Country Facilities

	2019	2024	% Diff
Venues	160	190	↑ 17%
Female Football Suitable	26%	50%	↑ 24%
Female Friendly Umpire Changerooms	51%	60%	↑ 9%
Home Changerooms under 45m ²	12%	18%	↑ 6%
Less than 50 lux lighting	31%	39%	↑ 8%

Participation Trends

	2019	2024	% Diff
Country	27,829	27,759	↓ 0.2%
Female	3,345	4,841	↑ 36.5%



Growth in Registered Participation



16,430

Auskick
participants



23%

growth over past
10 years



67,815

community
participants



28%

growth over past
10 years



15,495

female
participants



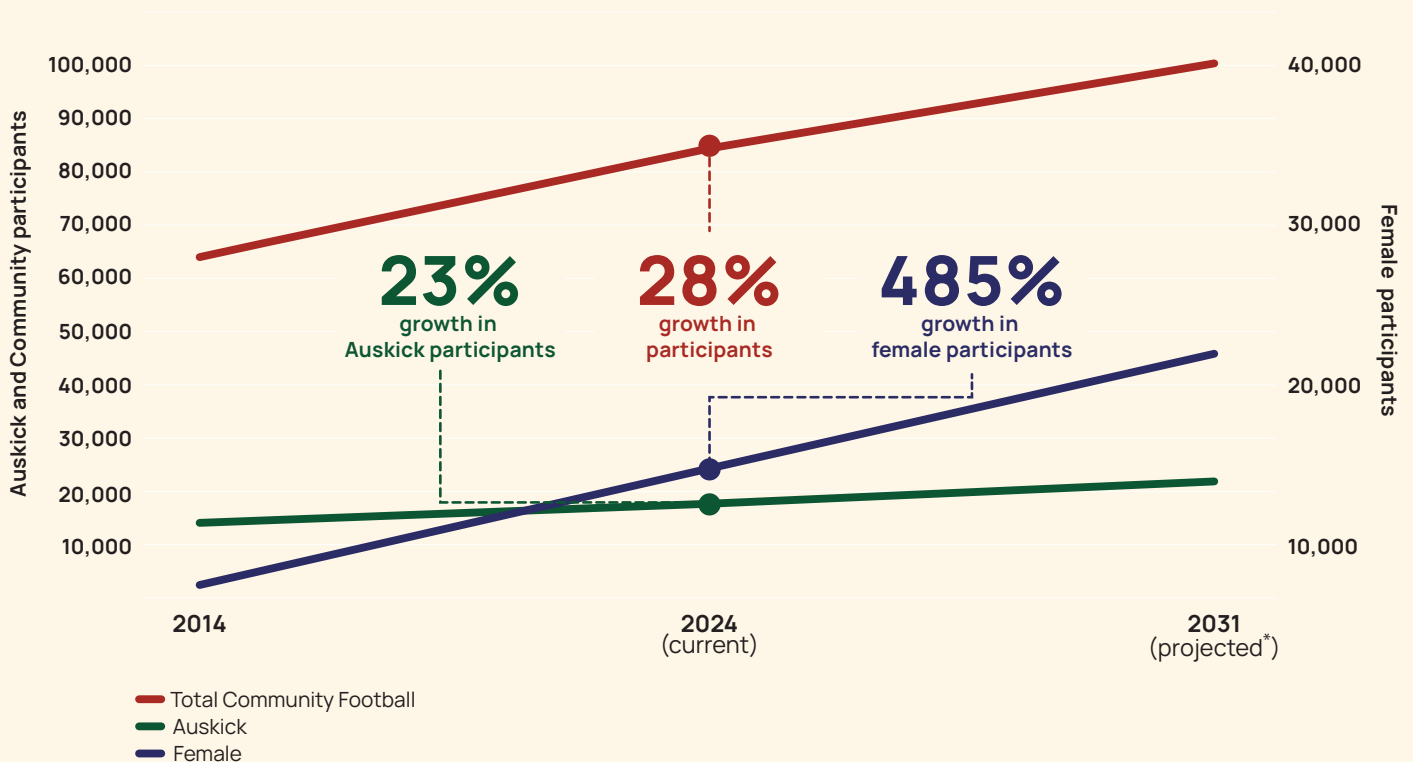
485%

growth over past
10 years



1,452

games of
community
football
delivered each
weekend in WA



* projected participants based on maintaining current % share of participants as a proportion of population

Infrastructure Required

To achieve the participation goals of Australian Rules Football in WA, continuing at our current growth rate, the sport will need the equivalent of:

25

hours typical oval
usage per week (1 oval)

825

hours (availability) of
access per week by 2026

2,750

hours (availability) of
access per week by 2031

110

equivalent ovals to
meet this



Growth in Interest (2024)



137,602
WAFL/WAFLW Attendance

↑
38%
growth since 2021



1,225,290
highest attendance across
opening three rounds in AFL
history (2024)



62,064
Members

425,000
Fans



103,275
Members

697,000
Fans

Based on the growth in interest, and with population and participation growth, **Ongoing investment is essential** to support clubs and local councils in delivering the **necessary upgrades** to facilities for the sport – now and into the future.

Strategic Priorities

The following is an update on the planning, implementation and sustaining of the strategic priorities from 2020-2025.

Sustainability / Partnerships / Investment

Goal	Getting more out of our existing facilities		
	1. Lighting	2. Amenities	3. Playing Surfaces
Strategies (2020-2022)	1.1 Working collaboratively with local government partners to ensure all clubs have access to training standard lights (50 lux).	2.1 Prioritise the upgrade and conversion of player change rooms and umpire amenities to cater for all gender use.	3.1 Identify projects where ground capacity and participation can be increased by upgrading playing surfaces through improved drainage, irrigation and grass types.
	1.2 Work collaboratively with local government to increase the number of venues with match capable lighting.	2.2 Support the delivery of AFL preferred modular change rooms in key regions to meet amenity provisions gaps and provide stakeholders with a high- quality, cost-efficient option.	3.2 Investigate the potential use of synthetic or hybrid surfaces by developing a business case with a local government partner. Conduct pilots in high traffic areas such as goal squares.
Strategies (2023-2025)	1.3 Maximise the number of ovals providing match quality lighting to deliver greater participation opportunities and flexible match fixturing.	2.3 Explore opportunities for football to secure access to school facilities where LGAs have limited capacity to meet facility provision gaps.	3.3 Project partners collaborate on options for access of under-utilised venues that could support increased oval demands.

Planning



Implementation



Sustaining





Achievements

- ✓ **Lighting projects** have seen a significant jump in the first five years of the plan, with more than 35% of playing fields having 100+ lux (training and competition standard).
- ✓ This has been aided by the **State Governments commitment** to the development of sustainable floodlighting infrastructure for sport across the state.
- ✓ **Player and umpire change room amenity upgrades** have seen exponential improvement in the first five years of the plan, with more than 50% of all changerooms now being classified as female friendly (gender neutral).
- ✓ The **Community Sporting Venues Retrofit Project**, delivering player and umpire amenity upgrades across the Metro area will see a further increase in this area, with the project to be delivered throughout 2025.

Lessons Learnt

1. **State Governments funding commitments** have allowed more projects gain funding for lighting up to 100 lux, seeing more competition and training standard lighting at a community level. Moving forward the targets in this plan will reflect 100 lux lighting.
2. The language used around player and umpire change rooms has changed from female friendly to **gender neutral**, recognising these upgrades benefits the wider community as a whole.
3. While popular on the east coast, **modular changerooms** have taken much longer to be adopted in WA, with local governments still preferring the traditional bricks and mortar building option. WA Football is continuing to work with Local Governments and Ausco (AFL preferred supplier) to deliver a modular changeroom option for football clubs.
4. **Access to school facilities** continues to happen ad hoc based on existing relationships. State Government has recently provided funding to schools to make ovals, courts, etc more accessible for community sport. WA Football will continue to monitor and work with State Government on this and aim to target facility provision gaps.
5. **Synthetic and hybrid surfaces** continue to be popular among other field sports such as soccer and hockey. Trials have been undertaken on the east coast for football which has seen promising outcomes. More work is to be done on this for a potential pilot in WA. Conversations are ongoing with identified local governments.

Ongoing **investment is essential** to support clubs and local councils in delivering the necessary upgrades to facilities for the sport.

Goal			
Enhancing relationships with our stakeholders			
	4. Government	5. Leagues / Clubs	6. WAFL
Strategies (2020-2022)	4.1 Establish a Local Government Reference Group to be the key consultative forum.	5.1 On behalf of leagues and clubs, and WA Football to have a greater involvement in the planning, funding and delivery of projects involving local government.	6.1 Using the preliminary findings in the WAFL Facilities Review, undertake a business case that further identifies the commercial needs and opportunities at WAFL facilities.
	4.2 Establish a Communication and Engagement Plan for Local Government.	5.2 Provide ongoing training, education and facility planning tools to leagues and clubs that assist them to understand the process and requirements for securing funding for an infrastructure project.	6.2 Establish suitable alternate grounds to ensure all WAFL and Talent programs are catered for.
	4.3 Work with Local and State Government to establish a State-wide Project Framework and Regional Plans for priority regions.		
Strategies (2023-2025)	4.4 Host LGA forums and workshops to guide best practice and innovation.	5.3 Collectively lobby for investment into identified regional level venues that support wider catchment areas, host events and league finals, provide player pathways and commercial opportunities.	6.3 Based on the outcome of the WAFL business case, establish a rolling capital works plan with identified stakeholders that delivers community and commercial outcomes at WAFL facilities.
	4.5 Undertake regular engagement with WALGA, Metropolitan Area Recreation Area Advisory Group (MARAG) and other relevant groups.	5.4 Complete annual audit updates to support the assessment of priorities including tracking core facilities elements of school grounds.	6.4 Establish a minimum of 2 x AFL tier 2 venues as home venues for AFLW clubs and AFL Pre Season matches.
	4.6 Maintain a State-wide Project Framework.		
	4.7 Establish up to date Regional Plans in all regions.		

Planning 

Implementation 

Sustaining 

Achievements

- ✓ WA Football has established a **great working relationship** with local governments. Through regular communication and face to face meetings, WA Football has positioned itself as an industry leader in this space.
- ✓ We continue to be across **more than 200 projects** that are at various planning and implementation stages. WA Football is also regularly consulted and involved in the planning, funding and delivery of projects.
- ✓ **Training and education** tools for leagues and clubs have been developed with the AFL to assist in the understanding and requirements of not just securing funding, but also project planning for infrastructure projects.
- ✓ In 2024 WA Football hosted the inaugural **Parliamentary Friends of WA Footy** event at Parliament House. The event was a great opportunity for Club Presidents, Board members, CEOs and Coaches to share their experiences and our vision to make football The game for all Western Australians, with members of Parliament.

Lessons Learnt

1. The **Local Government Reference Group** was established in 2020 and met twice. Further discussions are now taking place with SportWest and WALGA to explore reinstating this group.
2. Further work is to be done with WAFL clubs to identify **commercial needs and opportunities** at WAFL facilities.
3. Significant works and investment from Local and State Government has been taking place at **WAFL venues** over the past few years. More work is to be done with all stakeholders to establish rolling capital works plans to ensure there are no gaps in provision for the future.



Goal

Develop facilities that meet demand and to establish a home of football for WA Football

	7. Metropolitan	8. Country	9. WA Football Home
Strategies (2020-2022)	<p>7.1 Partner with LGAs on the future planning and development of football facilities to accommodate future population growth.</p> <p>7.2 Partner with metropolitan LGAs and the education sector for shared access to new or existing facilities.</p>	<p>8.1 Undertake a detailed review of country football facilities and identify suitable locations for the establishment of regional hubs.</p>	<p>9.1 Commence planning and seek support from relevant stakeholders on the preferred site for the future home of WA Football.</p>
Strategies (2023-2025)	<p>7.3 Seek future opportunities to develop additional football facilities within growth area LGAs and at school sites.</p>	<p>8.2 Improve the overall quality and sustainability of country football venues by rationalising underutilised facilities and exploring opportunities to develop shared community facilities.</p>	<p>9.2 Secure funding partners and undertake a detailed planning and design process for the development of a new facility for the WA Football.</p>

Planning

Implementation

Sustaining

Achievements

- ✓ WA Football continues to be heavily involved in the **planning and development** of football facilities across the state, working closely with local governments to ensure the provision of football facilities meeting current and future needs.
- ✓ Recent developments, such as Lakelands Park Community Sports Facility (City of Mandurah) Baldivis Sports Complex (City of Rockingham) have been awarded the **AFL Ken Gannon Award**, recognising best practice in community football facility development across Australia, along with the people, clubs and other stakeholders driving these best projects.
- ✓ The **Future Home of WA Football** is progressing and now at a point where a preferred location has been identified. Further work is being done with State Government around detailed planning, design and costings to determine next steps.

Lessons Learnt

1. Whilst the sport is **accessing a high number of facilities and venues**, more work needs to be done to cater for increased participation in the future.
2. This isn't solely on local and state governments but, with further work to be done with stakeholders to **understand the shortfalls** and potential different ways the sport can tackle these.
3. Still more work to be done with the **Education sector** to provide further shared access to facilities.

WA Football continues to work closely with our WAFL clubs to ensure all state level facilities are **meeting the required standards**.

Metro Region Priorities

The metropolitan area is broken down into WAFL districts/zones to allow us to take a closer look at the facility gaps and needs for these areas. These zones range in size and demographic. Increases/decreases can be attributed to varying factors, including accurate data and audit information, inclusion of school and training venues, addition of venues in local government areas and changes to the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines.

East Fremantle

2020	2024
19 venues	29 Venues
1 State Level venue	1 State level venue
4 partner LGAs	4 partner LGAs
93% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	43% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
47% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	31% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting
68% of ovals rated as moderate condition	47% of ovals rated as moderate condition
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues	2. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
3. Increase the size of player changerooms and amenities to meet preferred guidelines	3. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
4. Work with local government and co- tenants to improve the condition of existing facilities	4. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.

Peel

2020	2024
18 venues	30 venues
1 State Level venue	1 State Level venue
4 partner LGAs	4 partner LGAs
92% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	51% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
53% of local club venues without a pavilion	46% of local club venues without a pavilion
23% of local club venues without changerooms	40% of local club venues without changerooms - Additional sites mostly school sites
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Ensure basic club and player amenities such as pavilions and change rooms are provided.	2. Ensure basic amenities are accessible at all venues.
3. Improve umpire amenities.	3. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
4. Increase the size of player change rooms and amenities to meet preferred guidelines.	4. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.

South Fremantle

2020	2024
21 venues	43 venues
1 State Level venue	2 State Level venue – Fremantle FC HQ
6 partner LGAs	6 partner LGAs
89% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	53% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
80% of player amenities below preferred guidelines	55% of player amenities below preferred guidelines
80% of showers in change rooms are open	52% of showers in change rooms are open
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Increase the size of player change rooms and amenities to meet minimum standards.	2. Improve condition of umpire amenities.
3. Improve umpire amenities.	3. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
4. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club levels.	4. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.

East Perth

2020	2024
14 venues	28 venues
1 State Level venue	1 State Level venue
4 partner LGAs	5 partner LGAs
80% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	31% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
82% of change rooms are not female friendly	28% of change rooms are not female friendly
58% of local club venues have no umpire rooms	54% of local club venues have no umpire rooms
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	2. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
3. Construct new and enhance existing umpire amenities.	3. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
4. Increase the size of player change rooms and amenities to meet preferred guidelines.	4. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.

Perth

2020	2024
21 venues	33 venues
1 State Level venue	1 State Level venue
5 partner LGAs	7 partner LGAs
79% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	59% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
61% of local club venues have no umpire rooms	39% of local club venues have no umpire rooms
31% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	42% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting – Additional sites mostly school sites
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
2. Construct new and enhance existing umpire amenities.	2. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
3. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues.	3. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
4. Increase the size of player change rooms and amenities to meet preferred guidelines.	4. Ensure basic amenities are accessible at all venues.

Swan Districts

2020	2024
23 venues	36 venues
1 State Level venue	1 State Level venue
5 partner LGAs	5 partner LGAs
92% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	61% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
35% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	43% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting – Additional sites mostly school sites
81% of player amenities below preferred guidelines	62% of player amenities below preferred guidelines
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	2. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
3. Increase the size of player change rooms and amenities to meet preferred guidelines.	3. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
4. Construct new and enhance existing umpire amenities.	4. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.

Claremont

2020	2024
21 venues	35 venues
1 State Level venue	1 State Level venue
7 partner LGAs	8 partner LGAs
62% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	37% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
46% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	42% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting
45% of local club venues have no umpire changerooms	35% of local club venues have no umpire changerooms
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Construct new and enhance existing umpire amenities.	2. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
3. Ensure basic player amenities such as toilets and change rooms are provided at junior grounds.	3. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
4. Investigate opportunities to increase the size of playing fields at local club level venues.	4. Ensure basic amenities are accessible at all venues.

Subiaco

2020	2024
21 venues	33 venues
1 State Level venue	1 State Level venue
4 partner LGAs	5 partner LGAs
90% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	39% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
31% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	30% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting
45% of local club venues have no umpire changerooms	24% of local club venues have no umpire changerooms
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
2. Construct new and enhance existing umpire amenities.	2. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
3. Increase the size if player change rooms and amenities to meet preferred guidelines.	3. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
4. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at club level venues.	

West Perth

2020	2024
25 venues	40 venues
1 State Level venue	1 State Level venue
2 partner LGAs	2 partner LGAs
90% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	30% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
18% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	55% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting - Additional sites mostly school sites
55% of local club venues have no umpire changerooms	21% of local club venues have no umpire changerooms
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Construct new and enhance existing umpire facilities.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Increase the size of player change rooms and amenities to meet preferred guidelines.	2. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
3. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	3. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.
4. Investigate opportunities to increase the size of player fields at local club venues.	4. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.

Country Region Priorities

Similar to the metropolitan area, our Country areas are broken into regions, again allowing us to take a closer look at their facility gaps and needs. These zones also range in size and demographic. Increases/decreases can be attributed to varying factors, including accurate data and audit information, inclusion of school and training venues, addition of venues in local government areas and changes to the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines.

Goldfields

2020	2024
18 venues	18 venues
1 remote venue	5 remote venue
6 partner LGAs	7 partner LGAs
90% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	38% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
15% of ovals rated in very poor condition	29% of ovals rated in very poor condition
57% of showers in change rooms are open	38% of showers in change rooms are open
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.
2. Increase the size of player change rooms and amenities to meet preferred guidelines.	2. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
3. Work with local government and co- tenants to improve the condition of existing playing surfaces.	3. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
4. Improve umpire amenities.	4. Work with local government to ensure oval dimensions can cater for all levels of football.

Great Southern

2020	2024
14 venues	17 venues
1 regional venue	1 regional venue
7 partner LGAs	10 partner LGAs
60% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	42% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
73% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	57% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting
60% of player amenities below preferred guidelines	47% of player amenities below preferred guidelines
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues.	1. Improve condition of inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Increase the size of player change rooms and provide compliant amenities for all gender use.	2. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
3. Improve umpire amenities.	3. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.
4. Improve drainage to existing playing surfaces at local club level venues where required.	

South West

2020	2024
33 venues	40 venues
1 regional venue	1 regional venue
13 partner LGAs	13 partner LGAs
73% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	45% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
23% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	41% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting
69% of umpire rooms not female friendly	36% of umpire rooms not female friendly
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
2. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues.	2. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
3. Improve umpire amenities.	3. Improve condition of inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
4. Ensure the appropriate level of amenities provided at the regional level venue In Bunbury (Hands Oval).	

Wheatbelt

2020	2024
26 venues	28 venues
1 regional venue	0 regional venue
21 partner LGAs	23 partner LGAs
15% of local club venues have no umpire rooms	11% of local club venues have no umpire rooms
28% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	40% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting
73% of change rooms are not female friendly	57% of change rooms are not female friendly
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues.	1. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
2. Provide compliant change room amenities for all gender use.	2. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
3. Construct new and enhance existing umpire amenities.	3. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.
4. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	

Mid West

2020	2024
14 venues	20 venues
4 regional venues	1 regional venue
9 partner LGAs	12 partner LGAs
44% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	47% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
16% of local club venues have no umpire rooms	11% of local club venues have no umpire rooms
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Increase the size of player change rooms and provide compliant amenities for all gender use.	2. Improve condition of umpire amenities.
3. Improve umpire amenities.	3. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
4. Ensure the appropriate level of amenities at provided at the four regional venues.	4. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.

Midlands

2020	2024
27 venues	29 venues
22 partner LGAs	24 partner LGAs
67% of umpire rooms are not suitable for females	58% of umpire rooms are not suitable for females
27% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting	54% of local club venues with less than 50 lux lighting
56% of showers in change rooms are open	53% of showers in change rooms are open
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide minimum standard floodlighting for training at all club level venues.	1. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.
2. Improve umpire amenities.	2. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
3. Increase the size of player change rooms and provide compliant amenities for all gender use.	3. Improve condition of player and umpire amenities.

Pilbara

2020	2024
16 venues	19 venues
4 partner LGAs	4 partner LGAs
69% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	35% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
31% of ovals rated in only moderate condition	31% of ovals rated in only moderate condition
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide compliant change room amenities for all gender use.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Work with local government and co- tenants to improve the condition of existing playing surfaces.	2. Improve condition of player and umpire amenities.
3. Ensure basic club and player amenities such as pavilions and change rooms are provided.	3. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.

Kimberley

2020	2024
10 venues	19 venues
4 partner LGAs	4 partner LGAs
90% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly	73% of venues where female football is played are not female friendly
60% of player amenities below preferred guidelines	50% of player amenities below preferred guidelines
45% of ovals rated in only moderate condition	10% of ovals rated in only moderate condition - 65% moderate or below
Infrastructure Priorities	
1. Provide inclusive change rooms and amenities where all female football is played.	1. Provide inclusive player and umpire change rooms at all venues.
2. Increase the size of player change rooms and provide compliant amenities for all gender use.	2. Work with local government to improve oval conditions.
3. Ensure basic club and player amenities such as pavilions and change rooms are provided.	3. Improve condition of player and umpire amenities.
	4. Provide minimum 100 lux lighting at all venues.

Updated 2025-2030 Strategic Facility Priorities

The strategic priorities from 2020-2025 will remain as we continue to plan, implement and sustain these. From 2025-2030 we have reviewed and updated the State-Wide Infrastructure Targets below (changes in bold). We believe the Facility Pillars are still relevant and important for the sport to continue to work with our clubs, government and stakeholders to achieve these goals.

Sustainability / Partnerships / Investment

Facility Pillars

Sustainability

Delivers inclusive and sustainable facilities that respond to demand and are operationally viable.

Partnerships

Partner with all levels of government, clubs and other sports to improve our network of industry stakeholders.

Investment

Continue to highlight the needs and benefits of investment in football infrastructure, in particular the social economic and wellbeing benefits football provides to the community.

State-Wide Infrastructure Targets

Lighting

Provide a minimum of **100 lux** lighting at all primary club ovals.

Gender Neutral Amenities

All venues to provide suitable amenities for all genders.

New Facilities

Partner with government to deliver new ovals and amenities in growth areas and a home for WA Football.



Strategy	No.	Recommendation	2025	2027	2030
Getting more out of our existing facilities	1.3	Maximise the number of ovals providing match quality lighting to deliver greater participation opportunities and flexible match fixturing.	✓	✓	✓
	2.2	Continue to support the delivery of AFL preferred modular changerooms, providing stakeholders with a high quality, time and cost-effective option.	✓	✓	✓
	3.2	Further investigate the potential use of hybrid or synthetic surfaces by developing a business case with a local government partner. Conduct pilots in high traffic areas such as goal squares.	✓	✓	
	3.3	Collaborative approach for access of under-utilised venues that could support increased oval demands.	✓	✓	✓
	3.4	Work closely with State Government and the Education sector to identify further opportunities for shared access and investment into existing school facilities.	✓	✓	✓
Enhancing relationships with our stakeholders	4.4	Host LGA forums and workshops to guide best practice and innovation.	✓	✓	✓
	4.7	Establish up to date Regional Plans in all regions.		✓	
	4.8	Work with all levels of government to understand priorities leading into the future planning period of 2030 and beyond.	✓	✓	✓
	5.5	Establish a sustainable funding model to maximise club and league investment into facilities.	✓	✓	✓
	6.5	Ensure every WAFL facility has a balance of community and commercial offerings that meet local and regional demand and supports the long-term sustainability of WAFL clubs.			✓
	6.6	All regular WAFL Venues upgraded to be in line with State requirements as per the AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines.	✓	✓	

WA Football's Strategic Plan 2026–2028 is built around three core principles: **growth, equity & access**, and **future-proofing**.

Two key success measures relate specifically to facilities and infrastructure, and these are closely aligned with the Strategic Facility Priorities outlined in this plan.

Our state-wide infrastructure targets and strategies provide a clear roadmap to achieving these outcomes:

- Facility enhancements meeting universal access standards
- Infrastructure and facility model meets the future needs of the industry.

Strategy	No.	Recommendation	2025	2027	2030
Develop facilities that meet demand and to establish a home for football for the WA Football	7.4	By 2030 secure access to up to 10 new football venues in high metropolitan growth areas to accommodate the future needs of football.			✓
	8.2	Improve the overall quality and sustainability of country football venues by rationalising underutilised facilities and exploring opportunities to develop shared community facilities.	✓	✓	
	8.3	Deliver a minimum of three country region football hubs that provide a talent pathway for country players, coaches and umpires.			✓
	9.2	Secure funding partners and undertake a detailed planning and design process for the development of a new facility for the WA Football.	✓	✓	✓
	9.3	Deliver the new home for WA Football that will include access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office accommodation • State Level football facilities • Community football access 			✓

Still Another Half to Go

While advances in facilities have been made in the first half of the strategy, there is still plenty more work to go to ensure sporting facilities can cater for the current and future needs of the sporting and broader communities.

Of the more than 200 pipeline projects we are across in WA, it is estimated more than \$500 million is still required to see these projects come to fruition.

Acknowledging football has a limited capacity to contribute to the overall project costs, WA Football is committed to building strong partnerships with all stakeholders involved, including other sports, to maximise investment and outcomes.



Image courtesy of City of Vincent

Investment Principles

The following table includes a number of principles that will be used to assess the capacity of football to invest in facilities. These principles will help to ensure that projects being considered are supported by sufficient evidence and will provide healthy and sustainable sport and community outcomes.

WA Football is committed to **building strong partnerships** with stakeholders to maximise investment and outcomes.

<p>1.</p> <p>Facility condition rating from the WA Football Facility Audit provides evidence to support the need for the project.</p>	<p>2.</p> <p>Football stakeholders have demonstrated their capacity to co-contribute (financial and/ or in kind) to the proposed project.</p>	<p>3.</p> <p>Football stakeholders demonstrate sound planning and reports to an annual budget.</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>The tenant club has implemented the required policies and procedures as set by WA Football, associated leagues and LGAs.</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>The tenant club supports diversity (for example junior, youth and/or senior female football teams, all abilities or a high number of Aboriginal players).</p>	<p>6.</p> <p>The tenant club has an MOU in place to ensure a clear Junior to Senior pathway is provided to its players.</p>	<p>7.</p> <p>Football stakeholders actively participate in industry training, club development and accreditation initiatives.</p>	<p>8.</p> <p>Football stakeholders have the ability to pay their debts as and when they fall due.</p>



WAFootball

Phone | +61 8 9381 5599

Email | reception@wafootball.com.au

105 Banksia Street, Tuart Hill WA 6060

