

DRAFT VISIONS – MONASH SPORT CAPITAL PLANS

Introduction and Background

Monash Sport has prepared a draft vision document for sporting, health, fitness, wellness and physical activity infrastructure and service provision at each campus. This has been developed by a dedicated Capital Planning Group consisting of senior employees within Monash Sport and Bradley Williamson, Director Strategic Planning and Development.

The draft *Monash Sport Visions* has been established to be congruent with the *Monash Vision* document created in late 2009, which outlines the key themes derived from Master planning Vision Workshops conducted with various stakeholders across the University community. This document focuses on the Caulfield and Clayton Campuses.

The draft *Monash Sport Visions* document is accompanied by draft essential and desirable facility elements/infrastructure at each campus and should be read in conjunction with these documents.

Key Issues from Monash Visions document which are relevant to Monash Sport Visions

General

- The Vice Chancellor has communicated '*support for campus differentiation, working with Government and external parties to meet regional needs*'.
- The Vice Chancellor has communicated '*continued commitment to embracing equity and diversity through student recruitment*'.

Clayton Campus

- The campus is isolated by a circulating ring road which limits articulation. Pedestrian amenity is poor and safety is threatened by the ring road.
- The native landscapes and views to the Dandenongs are not well connected to the rest of campus.
- The open spaces are poorly integrated with buildings and lack a sense of place and celebration to the University campus.
- There are insufficient informal learning areas.
- There is a lack of identity to the student heart and campus centre and cross campus pedestrian connections have not been developed as the campus has grown.
- Connectivity and effective use of student spaces (including Sport) is poor.
- Supportive infrastructure for staff and students such as bicycle storage and social and passive learning spaces is inadequate.
- Student housing is remote from the campus and consequently does not contribute to campus activation.
- Many buildings are resource inefficient.

Caulfield Campus

- Campus segmentation, poor subdivision and street patterns.
- The open spaces on campus are poorly integrated with the buildings.
- There are insufficient informal learning areas.
- The limited ability of the campus to accommodate emerging demand for additional staff and student areas on campus (demand for growth).
- New pedestrian connections have not been developed as the campus has grown. There are barriers and vehicular conflicts with pedestrian mobility.
- The areas south of Sir John Monash drive (including East Caulfield Reserve) are detached from the campus.
- The quality of student services is poor, notably the gymnasium.
- Supportive infrastructure for staff and students such as bicycle storage and social and passive learning spaces is inadequate.
- There is a lack of affordable housing for students.

Establishment of Monash Sport Visions

General

Monash Sport envisages that it will continue to focus on the provision of sporting, recreation, health, wellness and fitness services for students, staff and members and constituents of approximately 65 Monash University sporting clubs. Monash Sport plays a key role in the student experience and in University life by connecting students to services which enhance physical, social and mental wellbeing. Students who join and participate in one of the 60 Monash University affiliated sports clubs or the Australian University Games team see this as a key peer-support mechanism during their University experience. Sport and recreation are regarded as underpinning elements in the creation of healthy communities, integrating recreational, social and residential life on campuses.

As a result it is highly desirable that sports facilities are integrated with campus activities in key activity hubs which optimise the level of usage from these **prioritised user groups**. Consequently opportunities for collocation with other activities such as short course centres, social hubs, linkages to campus centres, student residences, pedestrian/walking/running/cycling boulevards and medical/dental/physiotherapy clinics are worthy of further investigation.

Monash Sport usage levels have grown significantly over the last three years and current facilities are highly utilised with excellent occupancy rates at all campuses. Sport and recreation activities specifically engage with the community, bringing external users on to campuses to participate in sport and fitness activities at Clayton, Caulfield, Peninsula and Berwick campuses. Monash Sport activities and services should be seen as a key tool for community engagement which is a University priority, particularly at Clayton campus.

There is a strong desire to continue to enhance the current level and standard of facility provision at the Clayton, Caulfield, Peninsula and Berwick campuses and Parkville, to meet growing usage levels and customer expectations. Each campus has a distinct personality with Clayton campus forming one of Melbourne's largest and best utilised sporting and recreation precincts which caters for 45 Monash University affiliated sports clubs and over 700,000 visits per annum. Caulfield is a growing campus with growing sport, wellness and recreation needs and Peninsula, Berwick and Parkville are emerging campuses where sport, wellness and recreation service provision will grow in the future.

Monash Sport has a role in supporting academic outcomes. Although key objectives for Monash Sport relate to service provision in health and wellbeing of the Monash community, rather than providing research outcomes, it is envisaged that the proposed Monash Activity and Wellness Centre at Peninsula campus will play a key role in supporting faculty research relating to sport, wellness and physical activity.

Caulfield Campus

Monash Sport has received specific feedback from staff, students and community users and members that the current size of the fitness centre is not congruent with the size of the current campus population, notwithstanding significant levels of additional community usage. This is causing overcrowding of the gymnasium in daytime and evening periods and expansion of the gymnasium and fitness program rooms requires investigation as a priority consideration.

There has been significant growth of indoor sport facility usage at Chisolm Hall, particularly in lunch time, evening and weekend periods when social sport competitions service faculties, students, staff and the broader Glen Eira community. Current usage and occupancy rates for this facility are high and warrant the future expansion and development of a larger indoor sport and recreation venue. There is also a dearth of spaces available for informal outdoor sport which is very popular with students. This presents an opportunity for investigation.

There are potential opportunities to better integrate the sport and recreation service provision with future student residences provision and/or a central location on campus. There are current linkages with the adjacent East Caulfield Reserve (ECR) and the Caulfield Racecourse which also merit investigation with respect the development of a sports precinct to service staff, students and Monash University sports clubs as well as the broader Glen Eira community. Developing the relationship and partnering opportunities with Glen Eira City Council in respect to the sports ovals and tennis courts located at ECR warrants investigation, as Monash sport already manages, programs, markets and provides basic maintenance for the 4 tennis courts.

Similarly, integrating sports and recreation service provision with potential active open space, walking/running/cycle paths and other infrastructure at Caulfield Race Course merits investigation.

Clayton Campus

Monash University sport and recreation facilities and spaces at Clayton campus comprise one of the best multi-faceted sports precincts in Melbourne and it is recommended that a general principle of maintaining and enhancing these assets be implemented. The facilities offer services across a wide range of indoor sport, outdoor sport, aquatics programs, health, wellbeing and fitness services.

Sport and recreation facility and service provision is somewhat isolated from campus at Clayton due to the physical divide of the ring road. This is a major issue requiring review and ideally the sports precinct would be better connected with the campus centre. The facilities at Clayton are significant and have been developed in stages, over time which has led to challenges and disconnects with respect to service integration. It is recommended that assets such as the gym and indoor sport stadia be moved centrally towards the Doug Ellis Swimming Pool to allow the development of a single service hub which integrates all facilities and services.

Some of the indoor activity spaces are ageing and purpose specific and should be reviewed with a view to better space utilisation and enhancing the provision of multi-purpose sport and recreation spaces which can be used for diverse activities. Sports grounds are heavily utilised by Monash University clubs and external users and a review of these assets needs to be undertaken to investigate new technologies such as synthetic grass sport pitches, improved lighting and water harvesting and storage, in order to optimise the sustainability of outdoor sport participation and accommodation of current and growing usage levels. There is an opportunity for Monash Sport to play a leading role in the enhancement of University sustainability outcomes.

There is a significant opportunity to develop a multi-functional social hub incorporating a permanent café/restaurant, bar and function facility which would cater to students, Monash Sport members and users and Monash University sports club members. This could be located to benefit from the vista at the eastern aspect of the campus which encompasses the sports grounds and the Dandenongs in the background. It could also be collocated with proposed student accommodation developments on campus and connected by boulevard to the campus centre. Other opportunities for service and facility collocation should be investigated particularly possible integrations with the short course centre and medical/dental/physiotherapy clinics.

There is a strong opportunity to create a walking/running/cycling track that interacts with sports facilities and services as well as the eastern perimeter of the campus. Moreover, it is recommended that outdoor informal sports and recreation facilities could be developed in specific locations across campus to meet the growing needs of the student population for informal daytime activity spaces.