

ACTIVE



Wider Auckland Rugby Facility Plan



2018-
2028



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rugby is a popular high participant sport across the Auckland region and a significant user of sports fields.

Having access to quality playing and training facilities is a core driver of the community rugby experience. This Facility Plan outlines the needs of community rugby, highlights areas of current undersupply across the network and projects a significant shortfall of sports fields by 2028 as rugby takes an innovative approach to increasing and improving its participation offerings to everyone.

The recommendations and outcomes of this Plan can assist the rugby network, asset owners and funders with understanding the current landscape and support future decision making to ensure appropriate community outcomes are achieved.

Auckland Rugby Union, Counties Manukau Rugby Union, North Harbour Rugby Union, New Zealand Rugby Union and Aktive (as part of the New Zealand Rugby Wider Auckland Strategy investment) have collaborated on an update of the Greater Auckland Rugby Facility Plan 2012. This identifies future rugby facility requirements for the region to help inform Auckland Council, Waikato District Council and the wider funding network with current and future investment priorities.

Rugby is a high participation sport in Auckland, and it is critical that enough quality facilities are provided in a network across the Auckland region and accessible to the region’s population of current and potential future rugby players to help ensure a quality participant experience. In developing this plan, historical participation data has been based on the information contained within the National Rugby Database and as provided from Provincial Unions up until the 2018 season.

A large part of this facility plan is focused on identifying the current and future demand for rugby within the Auckland region. The report considers the potential impact the **NZ Rugby Participation Plan 2019-2023** may have on demand for community sport fields over the next 10 years, through expansion of participation opportunities, to better meet the interests of Aucklanders.

Current Facilities

- Rugby currently has access to **232** sports fields across the three Provincial Unions during the regular winter sports season, providing a capacity of **2,900** full field equivalent hours use each week.
- The durability of these fields varies and approximately 42% of all available hours are on standard soil fields which are more vulnerable to weather related closures. This is a risk to the sport and impacts the ability of rugby to continue to provide good quality participant experiences.
- The availability of field lights is an increasingly important factor in the delivery of the sport to cater for both weekday training and the growing interest for evening match scheduling. Despite more than 50%

of fields (including designated training areas) having access to lights there is limited capacity to schedule evening matches due to the safety implications associated with low quality lux levels.

- The recent growth in women's rugby has highlighted a shortage of fit-for-purpose changing rooms suitable to meet the needs of an increasingly more gender and ethnically diverse player base.

Current Participation & Field Requirements

- Based on current demand for facilities there is enough field capacity within most Local Boards to meet the current requirements for community rugby.
- This Facility Plan has however identified areas across the region where there are shortfalls of appropriate playing and training facilities to meet local community rugby requirements. Most shortfalls are associated with access to lit fields and can be satisfied with upgrades to facilities currently being used by rugby. The overall shortfall is quantified at approximately **160 full field hours per week** or the equivalent of **eight full size sand carpeted fields**.
- Geographically these areas are mostly located across Central / South and West Auckland Local Boards.
- Growth in sevens and women's rugby is increasing demand for access to playing fields outside of the traditional winter season when availability is limited.

Future Playing Field Requirements

- This Plan has adopted a new Community Rugby Framework concept as a base for projecting future participation levels and the impact this will have on sports field requirements out to 2028. This has been modelled alongside population growth and demographic changes which influence the spatial distribution of future field demand.
- These projections show a forecast significant undersupply in almost all Local Boards based on current winter season field allocations and playing field capacities. The extent of this shortfall has been measured at approximately **900 full field hours per week** or the equivalent of **45 full size sand carpeted playing fields**.
- Satisfying this demand will require a combination of innovative thinking around the delivery of community rugby, significant investment in the upgrading of the current playing field network and development of new sports parks.
- Regular updating of the demand and supply models will help to accurately understand future needs and assist with making appropriate allocation and investment decisions.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The challenges outlined will impact the long-term sustainability of community rugby across the region and need to be addressed if there is going to continue to be equal opportunity for all Aucklanders to play the sport.

Through development and implementation of the **NZ Rugby Participation Plan 2019-2023**, the national sporting organisation intends to make the sport more accessible to a wider range of people. Well maintained and durable playing and training fields and clean and well-maintained ancillary facilities are significant factors in providing a good quality participant experience

In considering the challenges and opportunities highlighted within the various sections of this plan, the following recommendations have been identified:

- Use this plan as the basis for a unified regional voice from rugby with respect to facility requirements. Initiate a Regional Facilities Working Group for rugby and include representatives from the three Provincial Unions, New Zealand Rugby and Auckland Council (as a significant stakeholder).
- Have this Group develop, agree on and share a list of key facility priorities for rugby across the region, reviewed annually. This Group can also ensure facility projects are aligned with appropriate council and sport sector strategies.
- Work closely with relevant council officers and Local Boards, keeping them informed on the trends within community rugby and providing consistent messages on facility use and requirements at a local level.
- As rugby is increasingly becoming a year-round sport, it is recommended to work closely with council officers to ensure appropriate field renovation timelines are agreed. Play an active part in maintaining the quality and durability of playing fields and discuss the future of traditional seasons with councils and other sporting codes.
- Circulate and socialise this Facility Plan across the rugby network (Club, Provincial Union, National Body) to increase the level of understanding of the regional challenges, priorities and processes.
- Take a proactive approach to helping councils and other assets owners understand more about the quality of playing field lights. Access to appropriate lit fields is expected to be a growing challenge for rugby and good quality lights help enable a safe playing environment.
- Consider reviewing the facilities analysis and demand modelling annually to ensure all stakeholders are aware of accurate requirements. This will be particularly useful if actual participation trends are significantly different than those estimated in this plan.
- Use the evidence behind this Plan to proactively discuss seasonal allocations of council sports fields. This will help councils ensure their assets are being used appropriately.
- Closely monitor the growth in women's rugby and the impact this is going to have on on-field amenities such as access to appropriate changing rooms. Use the Facilities Working Group to develop a strategy on how to best meet these requirements.

- Monitor trends in secondary school rugby and any increasing demand on community facilities as a result of participation growth and/or decline in available school fields.
- Consider aligning provincial high-performance needs with community rugby requirements. There may be venues across the region where improved community facilities could also help meet high-performance requirements.
- Rugby has an extensive club network across the region with almost all having their own clubroom facility. Encourage clubs to look for opportunities where they can utilise their facilities to help achieve community outcomes outside of delivering rugby.



2. INTRODUCTION

Rugby is a large participant sport in Auckland, and it is critical that sufficient good quality fit-for-purpose facilities are provided across the region to enable the sport to continue to prosper and meet the requirements of local communities.

This plan follows the completion of the **Auckland Sport Sector: Facilities Priorities Plan 2017** which was in response to the need for a more structured approach to regional planning and investment in sports facilities due to growing and changing demand for capital funding.

There is a need to prioritise. Resources (both funding and land) are constrained and demand is already outstripping supply for access to quality, affordable and sustainable sports facilities. The demand for investment is also far greater than the funding available.

This Facility Plan has been developed as a collaborative approach between Auckland Rugby Union (ARU), Counties Manukau Rugby Football Union (CMRFU), North Harbour Rugby Union (NHRU) and New Zealand Rugby (NZ Rugby) to provide a unified code specific view of future needs of their sport which can then be communicated to relevant stakeholders.

2.1. Objectives & Process

The aim of this Facility Plan is to help identify current and future gaps in provision in playing facilities and prioritise community rugby facility requirements across the Auckland region over the next ten years.

This process involves understanding, in some detail, the capacity of current sports fields used by rugby and then identifying the current demand for sports fields based on analysing participation data and trends across the various Provincial Union (PU) organised competitions and offerings.

The plan also introduces a proposed new high-level framework for the future of community rugby designed to meet the needs of a rapidly changing Auckland and projects future participation levels based on a range of new participation opportunities. These projections also utilise past trends and future population growth across the region as key drivers.

The importance of the club network to the delivery of the sport is highlighted along with some of the challenges and opportunities that community clubs are currently experiencing.

2.2. Sports Field Capacity Study

In 2011 Auckland Council commissioned a study looking into the supply and demand for winter sports fields across the Auckland Region. The purpose of the study was to provide a region wide perspective to the demand and supply of fields and highlight the geographic areas of greatest need for increased playing capacity. The focus was on community use of winter sports fields by rugby, league and football. School fields were excluded.

The Sports Field Capacity Development Programme (SFCD) was then formed which outlined the capital works projects (capacity increase and asset renewal) to be undertaken over the next decade with the goal of improving the rate of weather-related closures.

Subsequently the Auckland Unitary Plan was introduced which allowed for significant population intensification within the urban limits along with further growth in rural areas. This has impacted both the level and location of future demand for sports fields in the region and led to updated Winter Sports Field

Supply and Demand Studies in 2014 and 2017 to inform the Auckland Council Long-term Plan processes. Growth became the primary driver for sports field development, as opposed to weather related closures.

Much of the base data collected as part of this study is the same as used in the SFCD, however this Facility Plan focuses on the demand for rugby only and projects future participation levels based on a new community rugby framework which increases and improves the range of opportunities to play the game.

2.3. The 2012 Greater Auckland Rugby Facility Plan

This report seeks to update the 2012 document. Several of the 2012 report recommendations remain relevant however this report will provide a more evidence-based approach to prioritising facility requirements across the region.



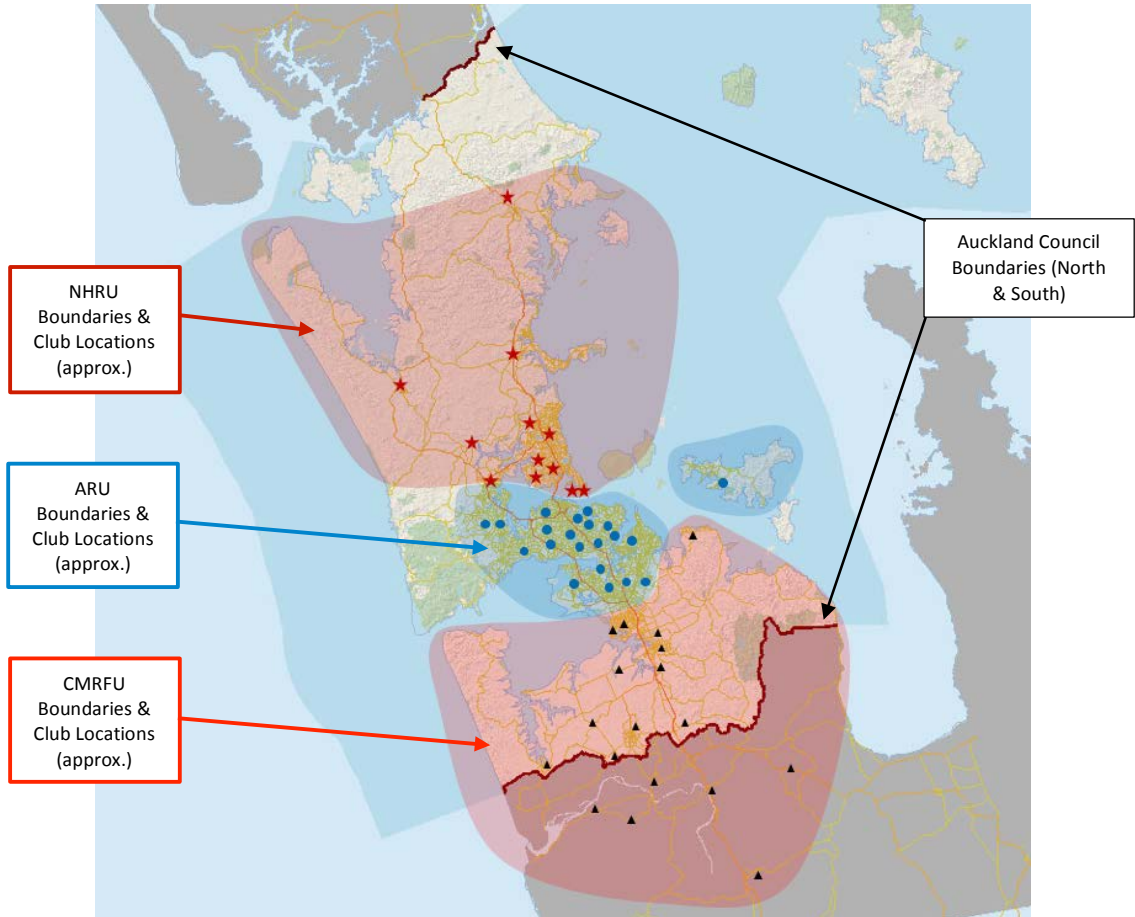
3. THE CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Rugby Structure Across the Region

This plan covers the geographical area contained within the three PU boundaries.

The PU boundaries are not linear with Auckland Council regional boundaries, with approximately one-third of the CMRFU geographical area situated south of Auckland City and part of Waikato District Council. It is noted however that approximately 90% of CMRFU club participation is within the higher density Auckland City region.

Figure 1 - Approximate Provincial Union boundaries and club locations



ARU is the largest participation PU in the country with more than 21,000 registered players in 2018 and approximately 45% more than the next largest province. NHRU and CMRFU are ranked 6 and 8 nationwide respectively out of the 26 provincial rugby unions and, when combined, the three PUs have more than 40,000 registered players or 25% of the national total.

Rugby has a significant history in the Auckland region, first established in the 1880s and several current clubs have been operating since that era. Originally both CMRFU and NHRU were part of a larger ARU and were established as separate PUs as the city expanded, firstly CMRFU in 1955 and then NHRU in 1986.

The PUs are responsible for the management, administration, marketing, growth and development of rugby within their boundaries and on behalf of their affiliated clubs. There are 50 community clubs spread across

the wider Auckland region that deliver both traditional junior (pre-secondary school) and senior (post-secondary school) rugby competitions across a range of weight, grade and gender offerings.

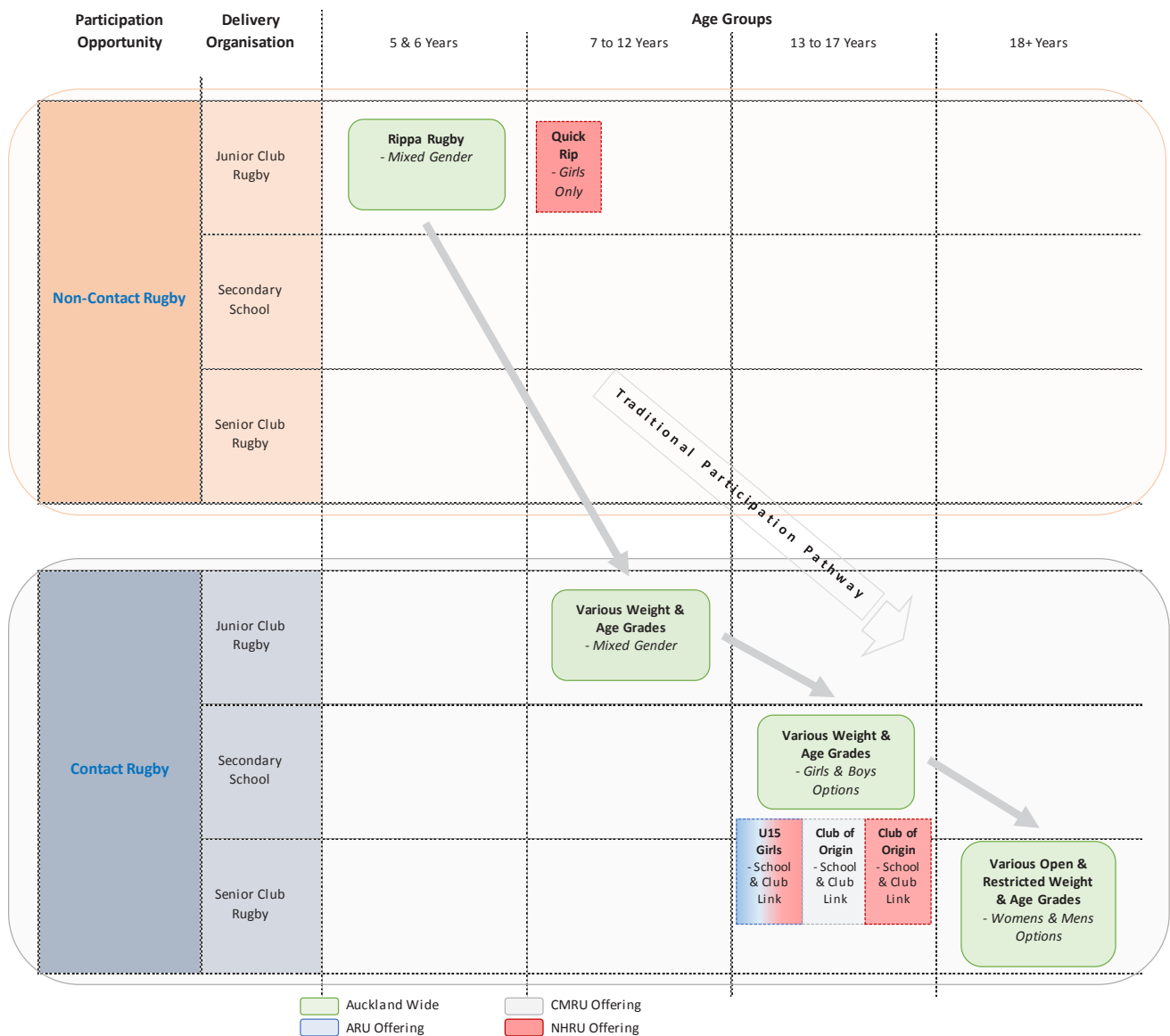
Secondary schools rugby is managed through separate entities that are affiliated to the PUs and College Sport. The PUs may provide competition management support for secondary school rugby; however, it is largely governed and operated external to their operations.

More than 18,000 games of rugby were organised across the Auckland region in 2018, with the majority delivered through local clubs and taking place on community owned sports parks.

3.2 Current Community Rugby Framework

To help understand how rugby is structured at community level, Figure 2 outlines the traditional rugby pathway which has to a large extent remained relatively unchanged for many years. There have been some innovations introduced in recent years within PUs to retain players in the game through the junior and youth years.

Figure 2 - Traditional Community Rugby Participation Model



A high-level SWOT assessment of this traditional model is summarised below and provides a useful observation alongside the changing trends within community sport and recreation.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enduring delivery model. • Recent growth in girls and women’s rugby participation. • Strong interest in the sport at the junior entry ages. • Appropriate player development pathways for the traditional game (15-a-side tackle). • Easy non-technical entry points at a young age. • Long standing model suits the current structure and capability of clubs as delivery partners. • Consistent model matches the provision and availability of facilities i.e. training and playing fields. • The same delivery structure across the region i.e. junior club, secondary school, senior club • Established development pathways for match officials. • Appropriate and established support systems from within the PUs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declining male participation trends particularly at senior level. • Lack of flexibility in participation options. • Lack of flexibility with timing i.e. traditional 20-25-week season (Mar-Aug), weekend commitment. • It is difficult to enter the sport as age groups progress i.e. tackle only options and technical and tactical knowledge takes time to develop. • Community engagement is limited due to a narrow range of offerings and increasingly diverse populations. • Limited potential volunteer pool from a declining membership base. • Long club seasons require significant volunteer commitment.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility can be introduced to organised competition offerings e.g. shorter season, mid-week and evening matches. • Ad hoc programmes can be introduced to meet immediate demand. • Additional collaboration between schools and clubs can provide further participation opportunities (i.e. the U15 girls example) • Flexibility is available through alternative versions (i.e. Sevens/Tens) without significant structural change. • Use the club network to engage with other sport or community groups and improve community connections outside of the traditional ‘rugby’ purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without change, the sustainability and viability of the club network is under threat • The re-allocation of playing facilities by asset owners. • Shrinking of the participation base and flow-on impact this may have on high-performance. • A lack of investment in fit-for-purpose ancillary facilities to support growth in women’s rugby • Financial pressure within local government and demand for investment in priority city infrastructure reducing/limiting future investment in sport fields. • An aging population coinciding with a falling average age of senior club players. • Rapidly changing demographic trends across the region including large (and increasing) populations who currently have minimal engagement with the traditional form of rugby.

3.3 Regional Participation

When considering the current facility demand from rugby, this plan has focused on identifying the requirement for sports field use during the peak time (the winter rugby season) which is consistent with the Sport Field Capacity Study methodology.

As outlined in [Section 3.8](#), most demand for community sports fields is derived from traditional club rugby competitions and therefore the following information refers only to club rugby participation.



Junior Club Players

Figure 3 - Junior Club Participation Trends



Key Trends:

- Overall junior club participation has remained relatively stable over the past five years.
- Junior boys’ participation has however fallen at an average of around **-2%** each year while junior girls has grown at an average of **27%** each year during the same period.
- Girls now comprise more than **13%** of all junior club participants, up from 4% in 2013.
- Participation trends vary club-by-club and the median junior club size across the wider Auckland region is approximately 280 players.

Senior Club Players

Figure 4 - Senior Club Participation Trends



Key Trends:

- Despite growth in club players in 2016 and 2018, overall participation has fallen an average of **-2%** a year over the past five years.

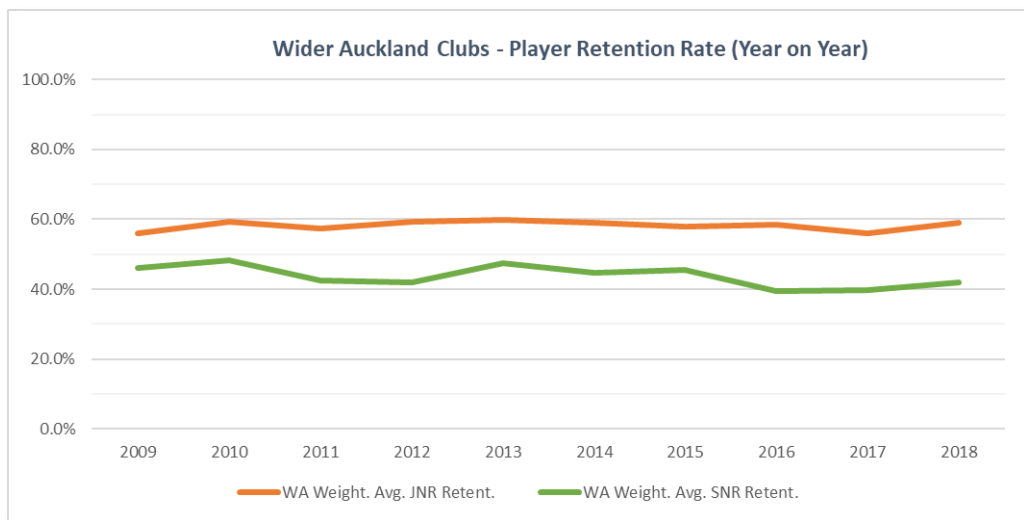
- This is a combination of men’s senior rugby falling an average of **-3%** each year and women’s rugby growing an average of **9%** each year.
- Women now comprise **9%** of all senior player registrations, up from 5% in 2013.
- The median senior club size across the wider Auckland region was **168** (45 active clubs) in 2018 and has fluctuated in recent years.

Club Player Retention Trends

Retention trends are a useful indicator of participant experience and in this instance, the annual club retention rate is based on players who register to play at the same club two years in a row. Players who continue playing but change club or leave club for secondary school (and vice-versa) are not recorded as ‘retained’ at a club, however they may continue to play for another organisation.

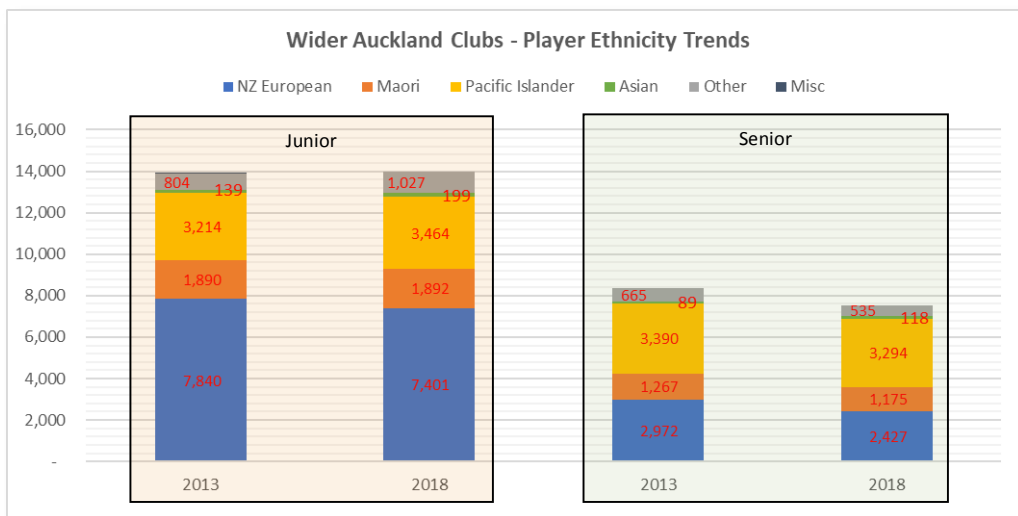
- The average retention rate across all wider Auckland junior clubs has remained relatively steady at between **55%** and **59%** over each of the past five years.
- Retention rates within senior clubs is often more variable due to less grade choices, typically smaller player base and team rosters are often required to be considerably larger. If a team or grade is disestablished, this can often impact the retention of many participants.
- Prior to 2018, the average retention rate across all wider Auckland senior clubs had fallen year-on-year since 2013, trending down alongside falling participation at this level.
- Notably both junior and senior club retention rates improved in 2018 as an additional 500 players remained at the same club they played at in 2017.

Figure 5 - Junior & Senior Club Retention Trends



Player Ethnicity Trends

Figure 6 - Junior & Senior Club Ethnicity



Key Trends:

- Between 2013 and 2018 the most notable movement in ethnic mix of junior club players has been a fall in New Zealand European players being balanced by a similar increase in Pacific Island players.
- Other ethnicities also show growth, however at less significant numbers.
- 53% of junior club players are New Zealand European, 25% Pacific Islander, 14% Maori. Just 1% are Asian.
- Trends within the senior club player ethnicities over the same five year period are similar. Pacific Island players are dominant and, although they have dropped in quantity, they have increased as a portion of all registered players. This has primarily been at the expense of New Zealand European players who have fallen almost 20% during this time.
- 44% of senior club players are Pacific Islander, 32% New Zealand European, 16% Maori. Just 1% are Asian.

3.4 Field Supply & Capacity

Allocation of Fields

A total of **232** fields were identified across the three PUs as being allocated and used for community rugby in 2018. This includes a mix of full and part size fields available for competition and/or training.

The supply and availability of fields has been analysed on a **Full Field Equivalent** (FFE) basis which is calculated using a standard size playing field. That is, two full size playing fields and a half size training field = 2.5 FFE. The distribution of fields used for community rugby across the Auckland region and is outlined in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7 - Sports Fields Allocated to Rugby in 2018 By Local Board

Local Board	No. of Clubs	Total Fields (FFE)	% of Total
Rodney	3	10.2	5.0%
Hibiscus & Bays	1	8.2	4.0%
Upper Harbour	2	6.5	3.2%
Kaipatiki	3	9.9	4.9%
Devonport-Takapuna	2	8.2	4.0%
Henderson-Massey	3	13.9	6.8%
Whau	1	10.7	5.3%
Waiheke	1	1.0	0.5%
Waitemata	1	9.7	4.8%
Albert-Eden	2	5.0	2.5%
Puketapapa	1	5.0	2.5%
Orakei	4	14.1	6.9%
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	3	8.9	4.4%
Howick	2	10.9	5.4%
Mangere-Otahuhu	2	8.5	4.2%
Otara-Papatoetoe	2	9.9	4.9%
Manurewa	2	7.5	3.7%
Papakura	3	18.2	8.9%
Franklin	7	25.2	12.4%
Waikato DC	5	12.0	5.9%
TOTAL	50	203.5	

Figure 8 - Sports Fields Allocated to Rugby in 2018 By Provincial Union

Provincial Union	No. of Clubs	Total Fields (FFE)	% of Total
North Harbour RU	12	48.7	23.9%
Auckland RU	21	91.9	45.2%
Counties Manukau RU	17	62.9	30.9%
TOTAL	50	203.5	

Most of these facilities are council owned and/or managed assets and were allocated to rugby in 2018 as the primary winter sport code user.

Figure 9 - Ownership/Management of Sports Fields Allocated to Rugby in 2018 By Local Board

Local Board	Auckland Council	Crown	Private (incl. Trusts)	Regional Facilities Auckland	Waikato DC	Total
Rodney	8.2	-	2.0	-	-	10.2
Hibiscus & Bays	8.2	-	-	-	-	8.2
Upper Harbour	1.0	-	3.5	2.0	-	6.5
Kaipatiki	9.9	-	-	-	-	9.9
Devonport-Takapuna	4.7	3.5	-	-	-	8.2
Henderson-Massey	6.7	-	7.2	-	-	13.9
Whau	10.7	-	-	-	-	10.7
Waiheke	1.0	-	-	-	-	1.0
Waitemata	6.0	-	-	3.7	-	9.7
Albert-Eden	2.0	-	3.0	-	-	5.0
Puketapapa	5.0	-	-	-	-	5.0
Orakei	12.1	-	2.0	-	-	14.1
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	8.9	-	-	-	-	8.9
Howick	10.9	-	-	-	-	10.9
Mangere-Otahuhu	8.5	-	-	-	-	8.5
Otara-Papatoetoe	9.9	-	-	-	-	9.9
Manurewa	7.5	-	-	-	-	7.5
Papakura	18.2	-	-	-	-	18.2
Franklin	22.2	-	3.0	-	-	25.2
Waikato DC	-	2.0	-	-	10.0	12.0
TOTAL	161.6	5.5	20.7	5.7	10.0	203.5
	79%	3%	10%	3%	5%	

Figure 10 - Ownership/Management of Sports Fields Allocated to Rugby in 2018 By Provincial Union

Provincial Union	Auckland Council	Crown	Private (incl. Trusts)	Regional Facilities Auckland	Waikato DC	Total
North Harbour RU	37.7	3.5	5.5	2.0	-	48.7
Auckland RU	76.0	-	12.2	3.7	-	91.9
Counties Manukau RU	47.9	2.0	3.0	-	10.0	62.9
TOTAL	161.6	5.5	20.7	5.7	10.0	203.5
	79%	3%	10%	3%	5%	

Field Capacity

The playing and training capacity of each field varies depending on the quality and durability of the field surface. For example, a standard soil field is not going to be able to withstand the same amount of winter use as a field which has been upgraded to a sand surface with appropriate drainage.

To help understand the capacity of individual fields, this plan has adopted generally accepted benchmarks for weekly use based on the durability of field surface outlined below.

<u>Surface</u>	<u>Benchmark Hours Per Week Use</u>
Soil (Standard)	10
Sand Carpet	20
Hybrid (Grass / Synthetic)	30
Artificial – WR Certified	40

Using this methodology, the allocated fields have an assessed capacity of **2,902 Full Field Equivalent Hours** per week.

Figure 11 - Use Capacity of Sports Fields Allocated to Rugby in 2018 By Local Board

Local Board	Artificial	Hybrid	Sand Carpeted	Soil	Total	% of Total
Rodney	-	-	80	62	142	4.9%
Hibiscus & Bays	-	-	104	30	134	4.6%
Upper Harbour	-	-	120	5	125	4.3%
Kaipatiki	-	-	168	15	183	6.3%
Devonport-Takapuna	-	-	44	60	104	3.6%
Henderson-Massey	-	-	80	99	179	6.2%
Whau	-	-	60	77	137	4.7%
Waiheke	-	-	20	-	20	0.7%
Waitemata	-	-	80	57	137	4.7%
Albert-Eden	-	60	-	30	90	3.1%
Puketapapa	-	-	60	20	80	2.8%
Orakei	80	-	144	49	273	9.4%
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	-	-	110	34	144	5.0%
Howick	-	-	140	39	179	6.2%
Mangere-Otahuhu	-	-	40	65	105	3.6%
Otara-Papatoetoe	-	-	-	99	99	3.4%
Manurewa	-	-	40	55	95	3.3%
Papakura	-	-	190	87	277	9.5%
Franklin	-	-	54	225	279	9.6%
Waikato DC	-	-	-	120	120	4.1%
TOTAL	80	60	1,534	1,228	2,902	

Figure 12 - Use Capacity of Sports Fields Allocated to Rugby in 2018 By Provincial Union

Provincial Union	Artificial	Hybrid	Sand Carpeted	Soil	Total	% of Total
North Harbour RU	-	-	556	209	765	26.4%
Auckland RU	80	60	694	532	1,366	47.1%
Counties Manukau RU	-	-	284	487	771	26.6%
TOTAL	80	60	1,534	1,228	2,902	

Note: This is theoretical weekly capacity and not necessarily the capacity available during times when fields are in demand, such as afternoons and evenings (for training) and Saturdays (competitions).

The capacity varies across the Local Boards due to field allocations and the impact of field upgrades, particularly over the past 10 years through Auckland Council development programmes. The former North Shore City Council was proactive in field upgrades prior to the super city formation in 2010 and since then much of the upgrade work has been focused within central Auckland Local Boards. Figure 13 outlines the average weekly capacity based on surface type and clearly shows a higher portion of less durable surfaces in southern Local Boards.

Figure 13 - Sports Fields Allocated to Rugby in 2018 – Surface Type By Local Board

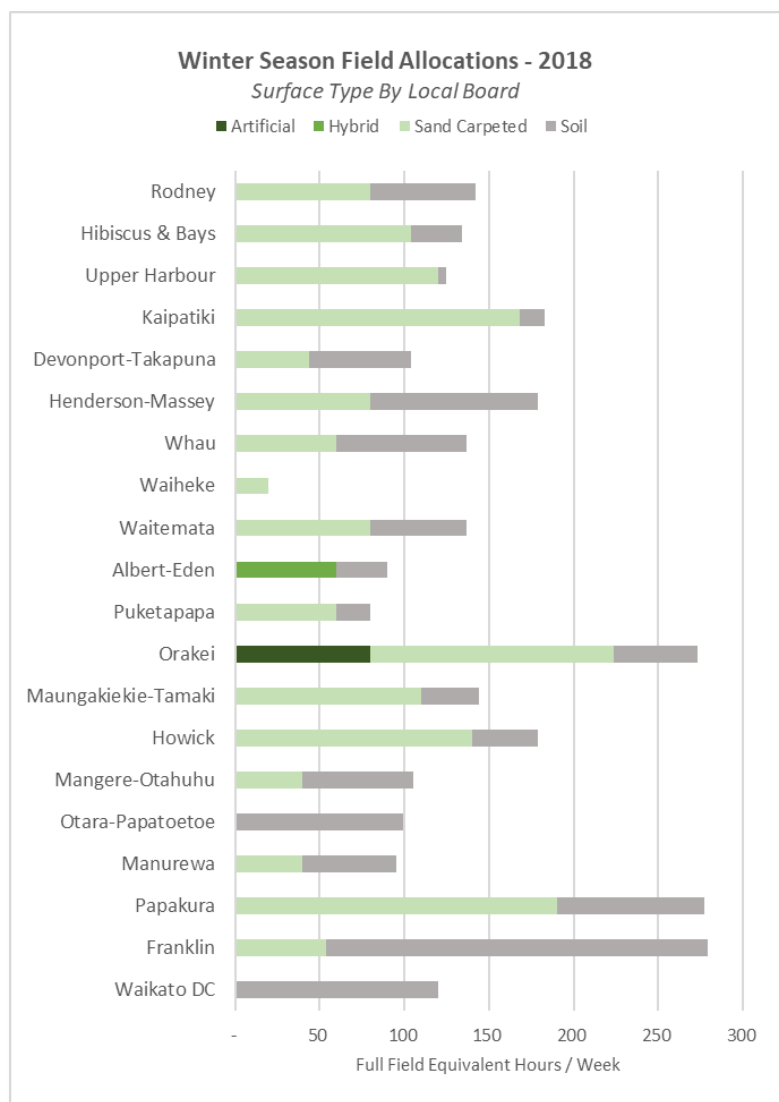
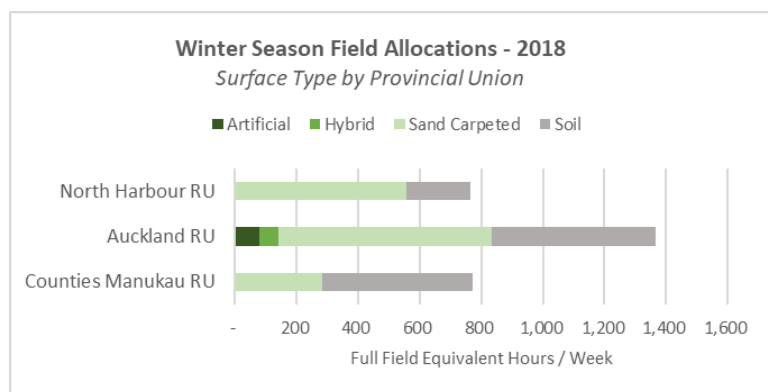


Figure 14 - Sports Fields Allocated to Rugby in 2018 – Surface Type by Provincial Union



Field Capacity with Flood Lights

The availability of field lights is also an important factor as most senior club training currently takes place on week day evenings, and an increasing amount of junior club rugby training also requires field lighting. The

challenges of Auckland living include rising traffic congestion which is forcing trainings to start later in the day and the availability of parent coaches is also a factor.

There is a wide variety of field light quality across the region which is progressively being upgraded, often alongside field surfaces, as part of the Auckland Council field upgrade programme.

A survey of field lights across the region alongside the weekly use capacity based on surface type is outlined in [Figure 15](#). Again, this is theoretical weekly capacity and not necessarily the capacity when the field lights are typically in demand.

Figure 15 - Use Capacity of Field Lights on Rugby Allocated Sports Fields 2018 By Local Board

Local Board	Full Field - Match Quality Lights	Training Lights	Total Available Hours	% of Total
Rodney	50	52	102	6.0%
Hibiscus & Bays	-	94	94	5.5%
Upper Harbour	20	65	85	5.0%
Kaipatiki	20	123	143	8.4%
Devonport-Takapuna	-	54	54	3.2%
Henderson-Massey	30	79	109	6.4%
Whau	-	17	17	1.0%
Waiheke	20	-	20	1.2%
Waitemata	20	47	67	3.9%
Albert-Eden	30	50	80	4.7%
Puketapapa	-	10	10	0.6%
Orakei	160	66	226	13.2%
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	-	104	104	6.1%
Howick	60	45	105	6.1%
Mangere-Otahuhu	-	45	45	2.6%
Otara-Papatoetoe	10	32	42	2.5%
Manurewa	-	35	35	2.0%
Papakura	20	62	82	4.8%
Franklin	30	189	219	12.8%
Waikato DC	-	70	70	4.1%
TOTAL	470	1,239	1,709	

Figure 16 - Use Capacity of Field Lights on Rugby Allocated Sports Fields 2018 By Provincial Union

Local Board	Full Field - Match Quality Lights	Training Lights	Total Available Hours	% of Total
North Harbour RU	90	425	515	30.1%
Auckland RU	330	458	788	46.1%
Counties Manukau RU	50	356	406	23.8%
TOTAL	470	1,239	1,709	

The availability of lit fields varies across Local Boards and is outlined in [Figure 17](#) alongside total field capacity.

Figure 17 - Field Light Capacity by Local Board

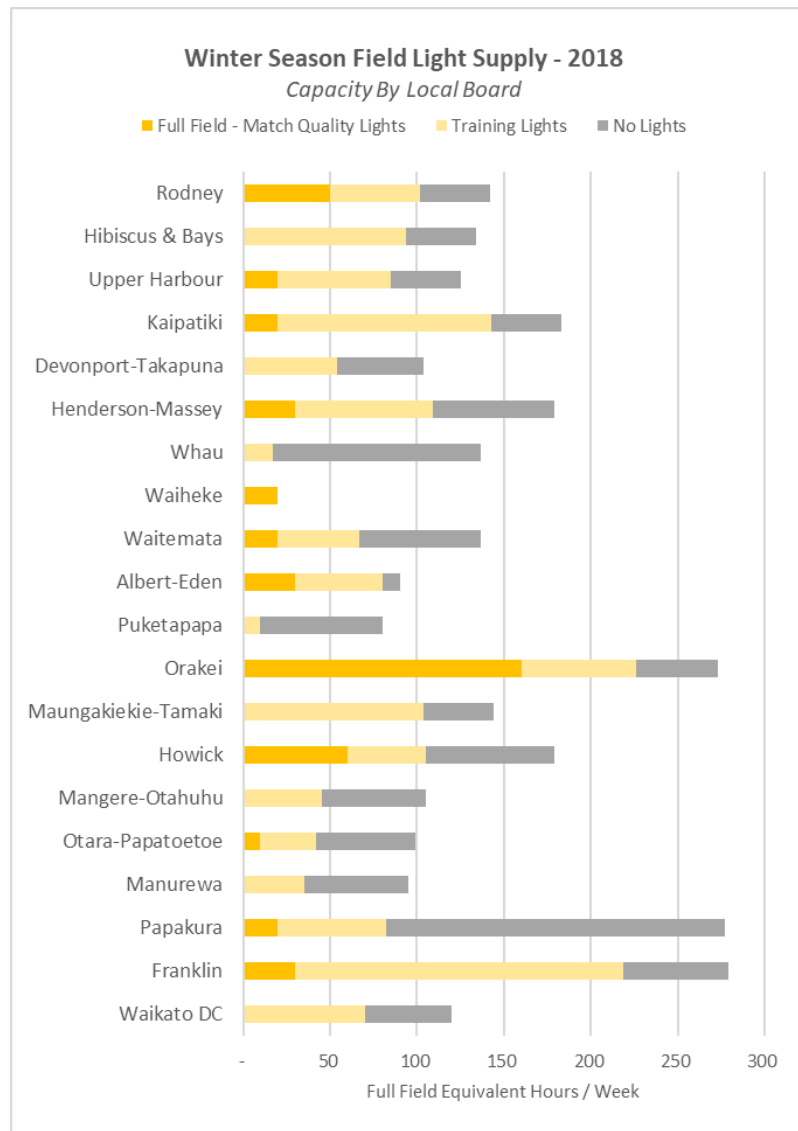
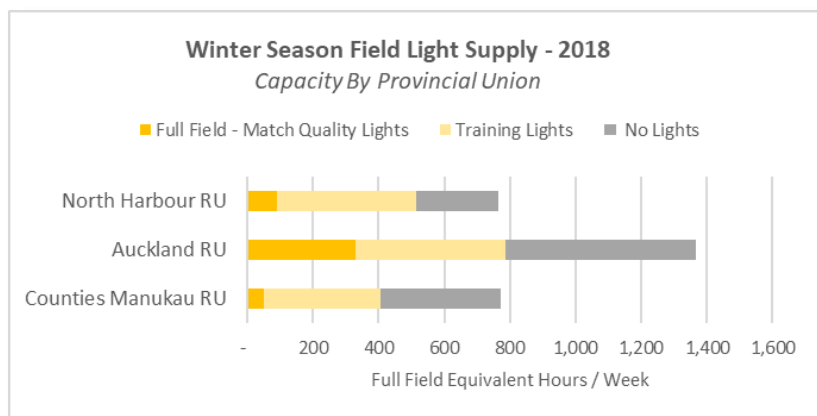


Figure 18 - Field Light Capacity by Provincial Union



3.5 Field Closures

Weather conditions often require council (or the property owner) to close fields when use could result in long term damage to the field surface.

When fields are closed at weekends, the PUs try to transfer games to other available fields. When few other fields are available, games often need to be cancelled.

Field closures during the week result in clubs cancelling training sessions as few have other fields available to use.

Auckland Council keeps records of closures, which have reduced as sports fields have progressively been upgraded with more durable surfaces and the allocation and use is more closely monitored. When the *Sport Field Capacity Study* was introduced the Council had a goal of reducing field closures to an average of **10%** across the winter season, the average field closure rate was **18%** in 2014. More recent information has not been released.

Using available data, we have determined that a soil-based field is approximately **7.5 times more likely to be closed** than a sand-based equivalent. This is indicative of the poorer quality drainage and durability of soil-based playing surfaces.

The quality and durability of field surfaces can also lead to safety concerns for community rugby during times of adverse weather. This is an issue particularly for senior grades where is there significant force and weight involved with scrums and a poor-quality field may result in match officials introducing safety rules leading to compromised competitions and ultimately impacting on the participants enjoyment of the game.

Based on the fields allocated to rugby outlined in [Section 3.5](#), we have demonstrated the impact that field closures have across the region. This is particularly useful to help understand the challenges this causes with scheduling matches and accessing fields for trainings in Local Boards where there is a high portion of soil-based fields. Our modelling has adopted an average closure rate of **14%**, consistent with the closure rate used in [Scenario B](#) in [Section 3.11](#).

[Figure 19](#) outlines the impact of these field closures across the various Local Boards. The most significant impact is across the southern Auckland City Local Boards and in Waikato District Council where the impact on both quantum of hours and the share of total capacity greatest.



Figure 19 - Impact of Field Closures on Weekly Field Availability By Local Board

Local Board	A. FFE Hours Available -No Field Closures	B. FFE Hours Available -14% Field Closures	% Difference (Scen. B v A)	FFE Hours Difference (Scen. B v A)
Rodney	142	124	-13%	-18
Hibiscus & Bays	134	123	-8%	-11
Upper Harbour	125	120	-4%	-5
Kaipatiki	183	174	-5%	-9
Devonport-Takapuna	104	87	-16%	-17
Henderson-Massey	179	151	-15%	-28
Whau	137	116	-16%	-21
Waiheke	20	19	-3%	-1
Waitemata	137	120	-12%	-17
Albert-Eden	90	82	-8%	-8
Puketapapa	80	73	-9%	-7
Orakei	273	256	-6%	-17
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	144	132	-8%	-12
Howick	179	165	-8%	-14
Mangere-Otahuhu	105	87	-17%	-18
Otara-Papatoetoe	99	74	-25%	-25
Manurewa	95	80	-16%	-15
Papakura	277	249	-10%	-28
Franklin	279	220	-21%	-59
Waikato DC	120	90	-25%	-30
TOTAL	2,902	2,543		

Figure 20 - Impact of Field Closures on Weekly Field Availability By Provincial Union

Local Board	A. FFE Hours Available -No Field Closures	B. FFE Hours Available -14% Field Closures	% Difference (Scen. B v A)	FFE Hours Difference (Scen. B v A)
North Harbour RU	765	694	-9%	-71
Auckland RU	1,366	1,209	-11%	-157
Counties Manukau RU	771	639	-17%	-132
TOTAL	2,902	2,543		

3.6 Club Rugby – Playing Field Demand

The analysis is based on a typical week during the main winter season between April and August 2018. Demand is also analysed on a **FFE Hour** basis and is calculated based on a combination of

- the number of teams,
- the amount of field space they require,
- how often they require it, and
- for what length of time.

These factors apply to both trainings and organised competition (matches) with an allowance also included to reflect match preparation.

To accurately reflect the current delivery model of club rugby some basic assumptions have been made regarding when and where trainings and competitions take place.

	Competitions	Training
Junior Club Rugby	Saturday a.m. (4 hrs)	Week Days – U6 – U8 (No Lights) - U9 – U13 (Lights Required)
Senior Club Rugby	Saturday p.m. (4 hrs)	Week Days (Lights Required)

Demand hours are based on 50% of matches being played on home fields, i.e. a home and away league.

This model is reflective of a large majority of club rugby across the region. There are however examples of the model being adjusted to meet participant and club initiatives such as the U6 and U7 Rippa module at College Rifles where the club has more than 20 of its own teams across the two grades and organises internal matches under lights on a Friday evening. In this case, the artificial turfs have the capacity to meet the demand, allowing the club to capture 100% of matches at home throughout the season and wrap additional member benefits around these events.

There is growing interest to play more senior matches under lights on week days and free up weekends. In the more social grades where teams agree and appropriate facilities are available, matches are often rescheduled to meet this demand.

The challenges of living in Auckland are also reflected in training light requirements for junior teams. Lengthening travel time and the availability of parent coaches during work hours are forcing junior trainings to start later in the day which is adding to the demand for field lights. In many cases this is also forcing senior trainings to start and finish later in the evenings.

Community Rugby Team Numbers

Using player registration numbers, competition information from the PUs and average squad sizes across the various grades, a total of **1,191 teams** across junior and senior club rugby were used for the 2018 demand modelling.

Figure 21 - Club Team Numbers Used for the Demand Modelling

Provincial Union	Junior Club Teams	Senior Club Teams
North Harbour RU	271	50
Auckland RU	478	116
Counties Manukau RU	220	57
TOTAL	968	223

Team numbers fluctuate annually and the spread across the region is often dependent on a variety of factors including sport related factors such as competition structures, size of team rosters, quality of participant experiences, affordability, etc.

Weekly Use Requirements

The overall demand from junior and senior club rugby is **1,803 FFE** hours per week of which approximately **45%** are for competitions and the remainder for training.

Given the importance of field light provision for training, the analysis has split the training demand hours to reflect the requirement for field lights.

Figure 22 - Club Rugby Field Demand – Typical Week Winter Season By Local Board

Local Board	Competition	Training - Lights Required	Training - No Lights Required	Total FFE Hours Per Week	% of Total
Rodney	45	43	9	98	5.4%
Hibiscus & Bays	30	30	5	65	3.6%
Upper Harbour	40	44	6	90	5.0%
Kaipatiki	52	58	8	118	6.6%
Devonport-Takapuna	25	23	5	53	2.9%
Henderson-Massey	60	66	9	134	7.4%
Whau	34	29	8	70	3.9%
Waiheke	5	4	1	11	0.6%
Waitemata	34	38	5	76	4.2%
Albert-Eden	36	33	7	76	4.2%
Puketapapa	6	3	2	11	0.6%
Orakei	92	110	12	213	11.8%
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	63	64	11	139	7.7%
Howick	42	42	8	91	5.1%
Mangere-Otahuhu	26	31	3	60	3.3%
Otara-Papatoetoe	34	38	5	77	4.3%
Manurewa	26	29	4	58	3.2%
Papakura	49	51	8	108	6.0%
Franklin	92	94	16	201	11.2%
Waikato DC	25	24	5	53	3.0%
TOTAL	813	855	135	1,803	

Figure 23 - Club Rugby Field Demand – Typical Week Winter Season By Provincial Union

Provincial Union	Competition	Training Lights Required	Training - No Lights Required	Total FFE Hours Per Week	% of Total
North Harbour RU	212	219	36	468	26%
Auckland RU	410	438	67	914	51%
Counties Manukau RU	191	198	32	421	23%
TOTAL	813	855	135	1,803	



Figure 24 - Club Rugby Field Demand – Weekly Competition v Training By Local Board

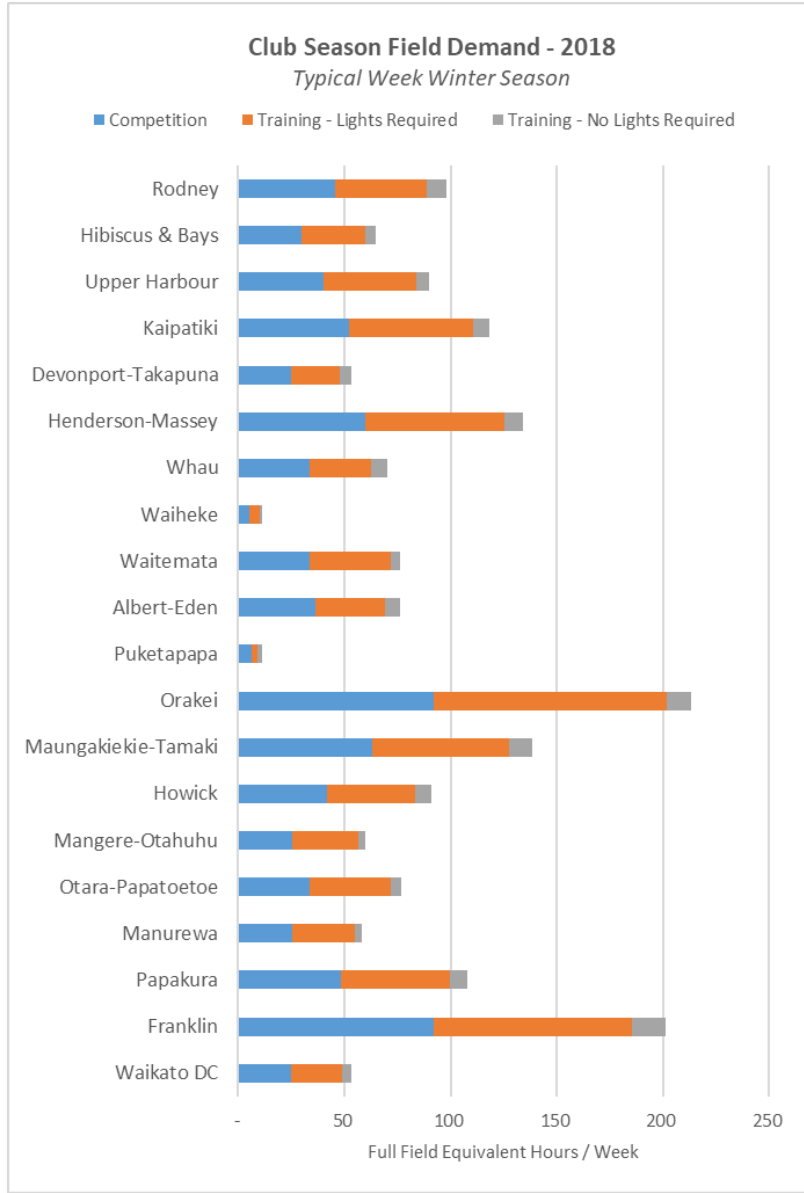
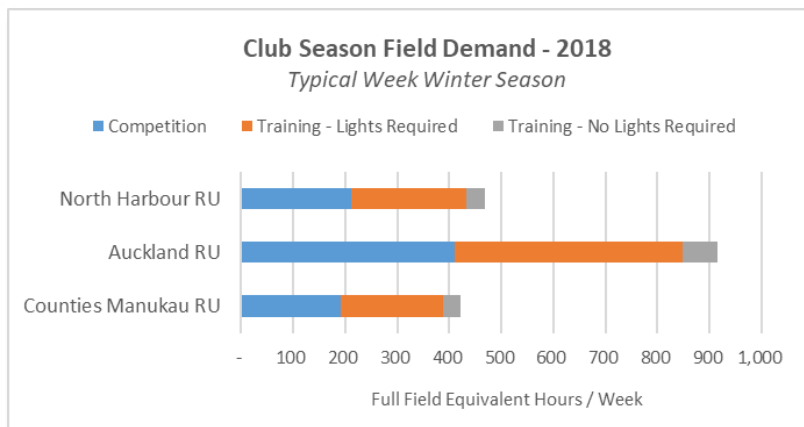


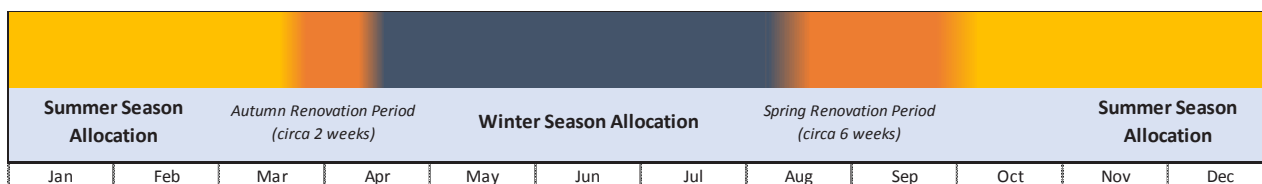
Figure 25 - Club Rugby Field Demand – Competition v Training By Provincial Union



3.7 Non-Club Rugby and Out-Of-Season Demand

The bulk of sport field demand during the winter season is based on the traditional club participation model with mid-week training and Saturday scheduled matches. There are however various other participation opportunities throughout the year which require sports fields and add to the demand model.

One of the major challenges highlighted by the PUs was availability of council owned sports fields outside of the traditional winter season. Councils have traditionally allocated sports fields across the calendar year roughly on the following basis.



Across the Auckland Council parks network, rugby currently shares winter field allocation primarily with football and rugby league. The winter season extends from 1-April to 30-August with the major field renovation period scheduled post winter season and a further shorter renovation period following summer season use.

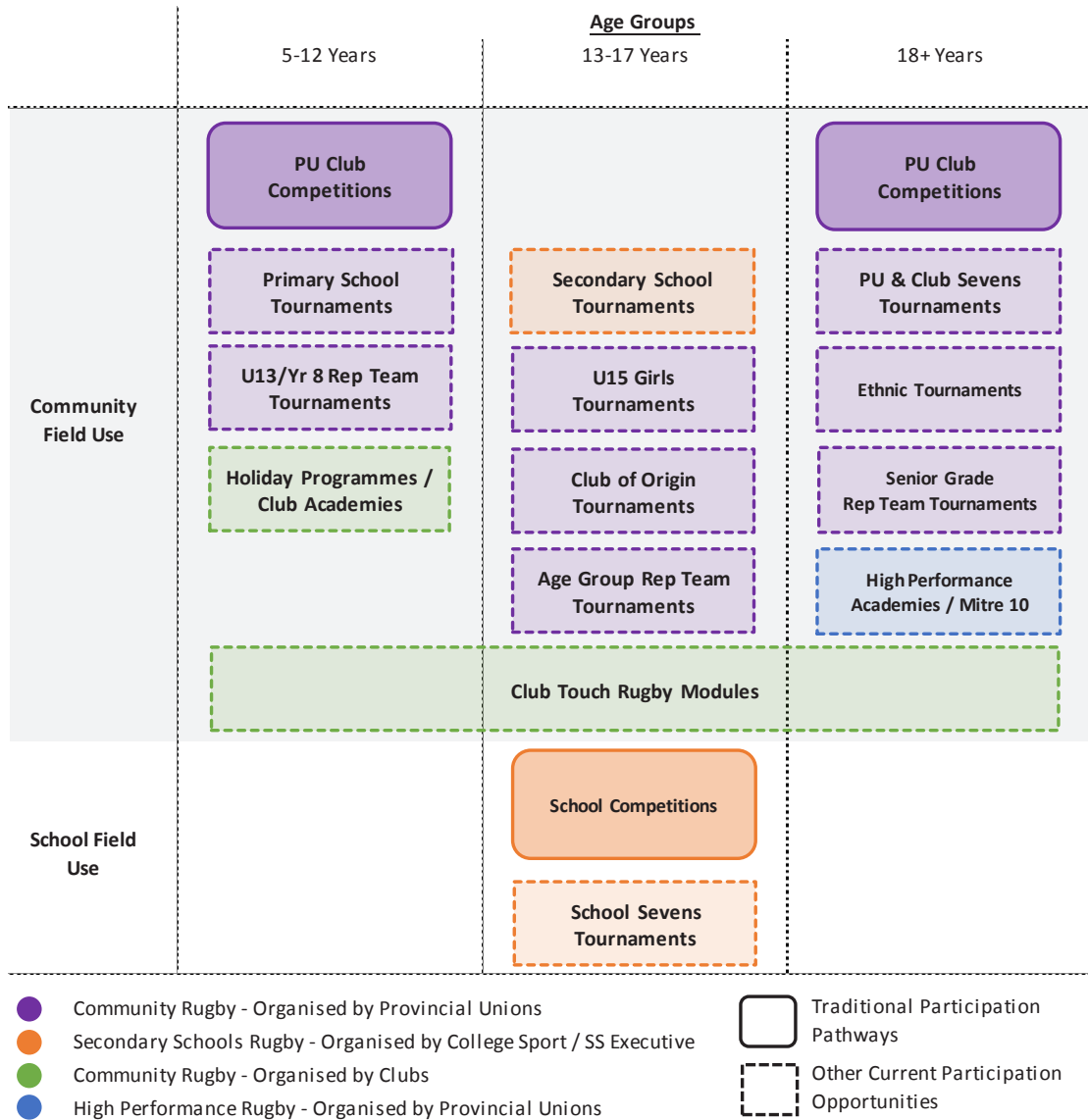
To maintain the durability and quality of playing field surfaces, Auckland Council requests a **6 Week Non-Use** period post winter season, however this is becoming harder to manage due to increased demand from traditional sports codes, as well as other smaller and growth codes such as AFL, Ultimate, Touch, TAG. Traditional sport seasons are also expanding through an increased variety of participation and pathway opportunities being offered and other influences. For rugby this includes

- Pressure on the club season to start earlier to meet the Mitre 10 Cup (provincial) calendar window which itself is influenced by broadcasting arrangements necessary to fund the top down national rugby model.
- **Pre-Season club requirements** which are starting earlier in the calendar year.
- Growth in **sevens rugby** participation and the introduction of a series of national and provincial pathway events which has pushed community sevens tournaments earlier in the calendar (September to early November).
- A growing number of **amateur representative** opportunities mostly following the winter season which has increased demand for field access during the August to October months. These typically also require field lighting for training.
- The growing popularity of organised **ethnic competitions** which follow the club season. In 2018 this included various Pacifica offerings for the Niuean, Cook Island, Tongan and Samoan communities of Auckland which included sevens, tens and 15-a-side rugby from youth ages up. The Samoan competition is the largest of these and in 2018 involved more than 50 senior rugby matches over an eight week period plus trainings for 15 teams. This was followed by various age group sevens events for both men and women.
- **Secondary school use of community fields.** Rising school rolls continues to place additional pressure on the availability of school sport fields which is forcing some school participation onto community facilities. St Peters College and Auckland Grammar in central Auckland are examples where they regularly use fields at Auckland Domain for both training and matches. College Sport organised events are also often delivered using community facilities.

- **Primary and secondary school tournaments.** These are a significant part of the delivery of a rugby experience across the region with all three PUs organising regular school cluster tournaments during school hours. Tournaments are generally held on larger community sports parks with multiple fields as the event duration is constrained by school hours.

Figure 26 outlines the various participation opportunities currently offered. Most opportunities include both training and match demand on sport fields.

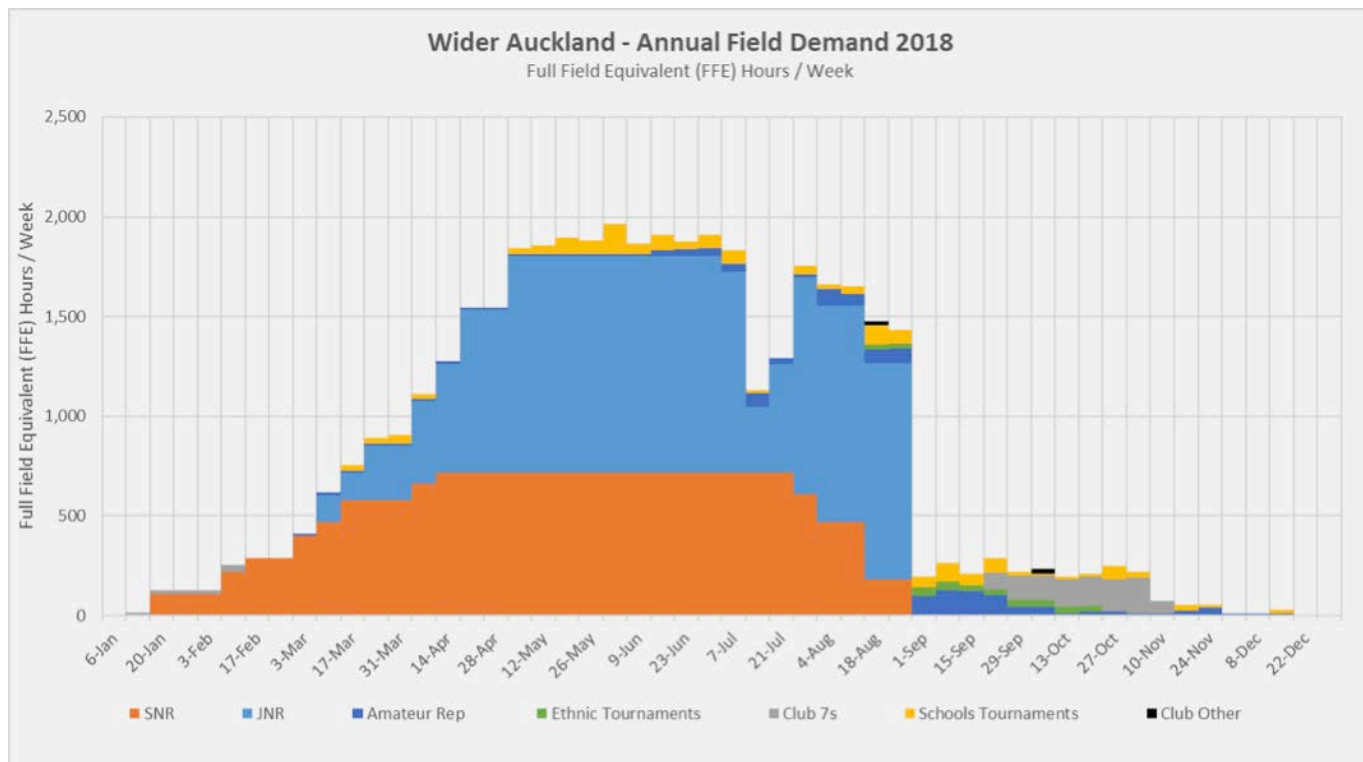
Figure 26 - Wider Organised Rugby Use of Sports Fields



In recent years, this demand has resulted in field maintenance periods being compromised which will ultimately impact the quality and lifespan of field surfaces. If this continues, the outcome will be more closures which will place additional pressure on sport codes and increase the capital investment required to repair.

Figure 27 quantifies the field demand from organised rugby through the calendar year. Club rugby is clearly the most significant user and the reason why the focus of the demand modelling is based on a typical week during the winter club season.

Figure 27 - Annual Field Demand from Organised Rugby



There is a clear demand from community rugby for access to sports fields through approximately 11 months of the year. Although demand on fields falls significantly post club season, September and October is a time which causes much concern with the PUs as the majority of fields are closed for an appropriate maintenance period and the number of available fields is very low.

3.8 Current Surplus/Shortfall – Winter Season

Two scenarios have been modelled to illustrate the current field supply and demand situation for community rugby. For each scenario, the supply and demand for competition and training are considered separately.

Scenario	Explanation
A. Current Rugby allocation of fields with <u>no</u> weather-related closures	This is what clubs and PUs would experience if there were no weather-related field closures
B. Current Rugby allocation of fields with the impact of weather-related closures included.	This is more reflective of what clubs and PUs experience on a day to day basis. An appropriate weather related field closure sum is deducted from field capacity.

3.9 Scenario A – No Field Closures

Under this scenario it is assumed that fields are available for their full weekly capacity i.e. no weather-related closures.

Average weekly demand from non-club based rugby as outlined in [Figure 27](#) has been incorporated within the modelling.

[Figure 28](#) outlines the **FFE hour surpluses and shortfalls** across the region listed by Local Board during a typical winter season week. Where there are shortfalls, the model does not consider potential surplus capacity across neighbouring Local Board boundaries.

On this basis, rugby appears reasonably well catered for across the region however the following trends are notable:

- **A shortfall of fields available to meet the demand for Saturday junior matches** in the following Local Boards:
 - Upper Harbour
 - Waiheke
 - Albert-Eden
 - Maungakiekie-Tamaki
- **A shortage of field lights to meet current training demand** in
 - Henderson-Massey
 - Whau
 - Waitemata
 - Maungakiekie- Tāmaki
 - Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
 - Manurewa
 - Otara-Papatoetoe
 - Manurewa
 - Papakura

There is also a notably tight supply of field lights in Puketapapa Local Board.

With the exception of Upper Harbour, Albert-Eden, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Otara-Papatoetoe and Waiheke Local Boards, there is typically a surplus of more than 20 available (unused) hours each from allocated fields.

Figure 28 - Scenario A – Current Surplus / Shortfall with no weather-related closures



Figure 29 - Scenario A – Current Surplus / Shortfall with no weather-related closures (FFE Hours)

Local Board	Club Match Scheduling		Access to Training Lights		Residual Field Access
	SNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall	SNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall
Rodney	30	5	33	1	39
Hibiscus & Bays	27	8	23	-0	33
Upper Harbour	7	-7	12	-2	16
Kaipatiki	24	12	30	9	39
Devonport-Takapuna	20	11	15	4	36
Henderson-Massey	25	11	9	-11	35
Whau	33	13	-1	-14	42
Waiheke	4	-1	8	2	4
Waitemata	24	14	-1	-10	38
Albert-Eden	10	-7	13	-1	3
Puketapapa	20	14	4	-0	22
Orakei	9	3	14	7	57
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	14	-5	6	-7	-1
Howick	27	4	26	1	37
Mangere-Otahuhu	21	17	3	-1	39
Otaru-Papatoetoe	21	17	7	-6	15
Manurewa	17	13	-1	-2	31
Papakura	46	34	6	-7	66
Franklin	68	40	74	12	67
Waikato DC	38	33	32	8	55

3.10 Scenario B – Incorporating Weather Related Field Closures

Consistent with Section 3.6 we have adopted a field closure rate of 14% to reflect the improving trend across the region. Field closures reflect the day to day reality for rugby clubs and PUs and the impact that closed fields have on the delivery of the sport.

Figure 30 again outlines the FFE hour surpluses and shortfalls across the region listed by Local Board. Where there are shortfalls, the model does not consider potential surplus capacity across neighbouring Local Board boundaries.

On this basis, there are more significant shortfalls experienced across the rugby network and is particularly notable around access to appropriate lit fields for training.

The following trends are notable:

- A **shortfall of fields available to meet the demand for Saturday Junior matches** in the following Local Boards:
 - Rodney
 - Upper Harbour
 - Waiheke
 - Albert-Eden
 - Orakei
 - Maungakiekie- Tāmaki

Availability is also notably tight in Rodney, Orakei and Howick.
- A **shortage of field lights to meet current training demand** in
 - Henderson-Massey

- Whau
- Waitemata
- Maungakiekie- Tāmaki
- Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
- Otara-Papatoetoe
- Manurewa
- Papakura

The most significant change to the demand and supply equation under this scenario is that several Local Boards show an overall shortfall in available hours to meet the weekly demand from rugby.

To clarify, this is not just field availability during the hours of match and training scheduling, but **the total capacity of fields (after allowance for closures) is not enough to meet the requirements from rugby during a typical week.**

This scenario impacts soil fields the most due to the higher chance of being closed. There is an overall shortage of available hours to meet club and community requirements in:

- Albert-Eden
- Maungakiekie- Tāmaki
- Otara-Papatoetoe

Total capacity is also notably tight in Upper Harbour, Henderson-Massey, Waiheke, Puketapapa, Manurewa and Franklin.

Figure 30 - Scenario B – Current Surplus / Shortfall Inc. weather-related closures (FFE Hours)

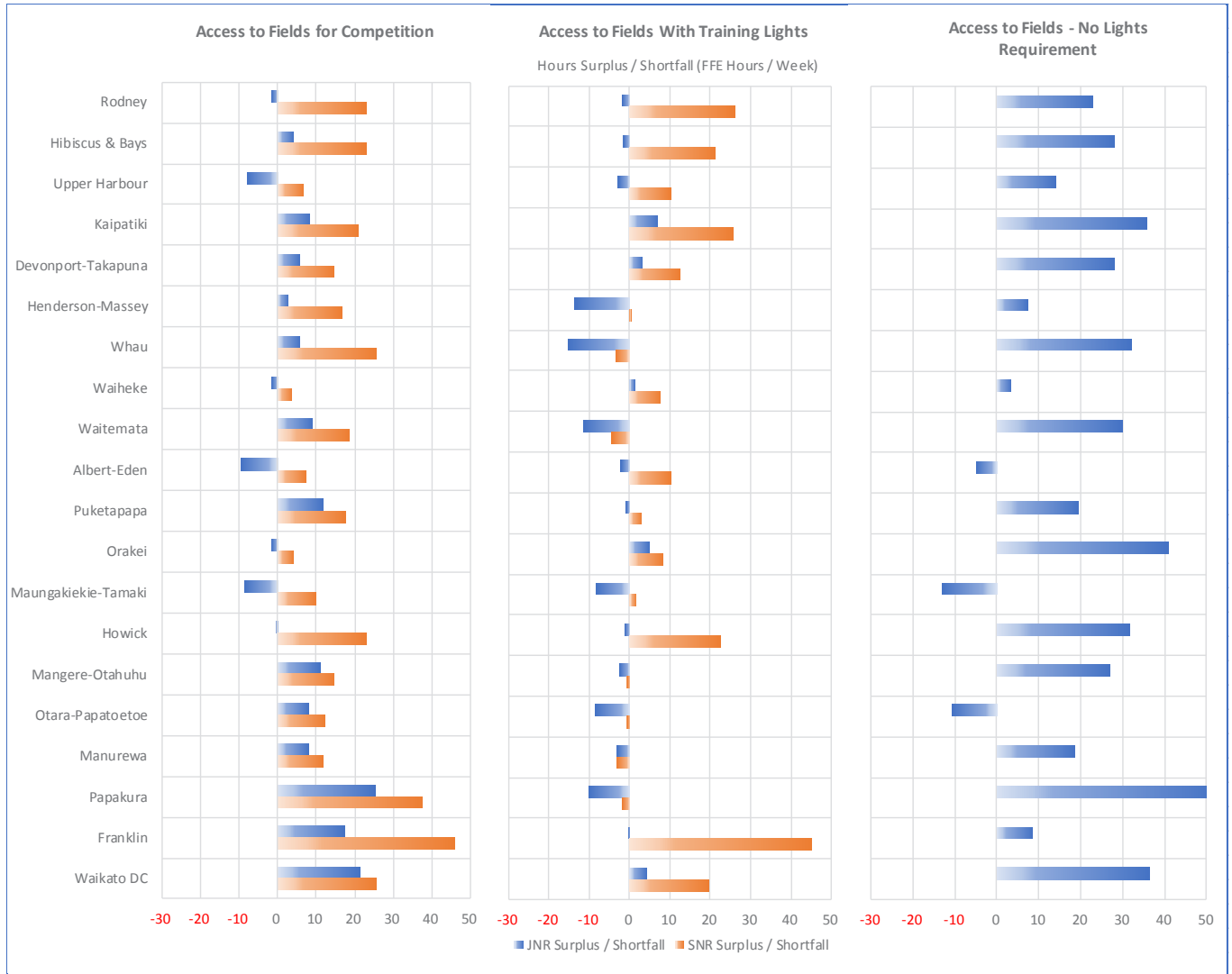


Figure 31 - Scenario B – Current Surplus / Shortfall Inc. weather-related closures (FFE Hours)

Local Board	Club Match Scheduling		Access to Training Lights		Residual Field Access
	SNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall	SNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall
Rodney	23	-2	26	-2	23
Hibiscus & Bays	23	4	21	-2	28
Upper Harbour	7	-8	10	-3	14
Kaipatiki	21	8	26	7	36
Devonport-Takapuna	15	6	12	3	28
Henderson-Massey	17	3	0	-14	7
Whau	26	6	-3	-15	32
Waiheke	4	-2	8	1	4
Waitemata	18	9	-4	-11	30
Albert-Eden	7	-10	10	-2	-5
Puketapapa	18	12	3	-1	19
Orakei	4	-2	8	5	41
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	10	-9	2	-8	-13
Howick	23	-0	23	-1	32
Mangere-Otahuhu	15	11	-1	-3	27
Otara-Papatoetoe	12	8	-1	-9	-10
Manurewa	12	8	-3	-3	19
Papakura	38	25	-2	-10	53
Franklin	46	17	45	-0	9
Waikato DC	26	21	20	4	36



4. REGIONAL FACILITY CHALLENGES

Several current challenges have been identified through a review of the current network of fields used for rugby and through feedback from the consultation with each of the PUs. The main field challenges that impact on the ability of the PUs to meet current and future demand can be summarised as:

4.1. Field Quality

Many fields currently being used for rugby are soil based and have limited weekly use capacity (hours available each week). These fields are more easily damaged and are far more likely to be closed during adverse weather conditions. Field closures have a trickle-down impact on scheduling and competition formats, put more pressure on other facilities, impact the participant experience and are detrimental to club operations. More detail on the durability of playing fields and weather-related closures is outlined in [Sections 3.5 and 3.6](#).

4.2. Access to Field Lights and Quality of Lights

Across various parts of the city there is an undersupply of flood lit fields to meet current demand for training and a growing demand for evening scheduled matches. This has been highlighted in past Auckland Council Winter Sport Fields Supply and Demand Reports and remains an issue. Often lit training fields are soil based and closed for weather reasons to ensure they are available for matches which has additional impact. More detail on the supply of field lights is outlined in [Section 3.5](#).

The quality of lights is also important. If lights do not provide the required lux levels over training areas, field use tends to be in localised areas on the fields causing damage and increasing repair costs. Reduced lux levels are also a safety concern for players.

4.3. Availability of Fields Outside of Traditional Winter Season

The growth of sevens Rugby and other participation opportunities such as ethnic tournaments, representative competitions, schools tournaments, pre-season access to training fields and other club-based community sport offerings, such as touch rugby modules, is placing increased demand for access to sports fields outside of the traditional April to August winter season. The scale of this demand is quantified in [Section 3.8](#).

4.4. Fit for Purpose Ancillary Facilities – Toilets, Changing Rooms, Showers

The recent and projected growth of women's and girls' rugby has highlighted the need for improvements to the design and quality of changing rooms for both players and officials. Changing rooms across the community rugby network are typically owned by either Clubs or the Council, many are now dated, were originally designed for male sports teams only and lack appropriate modern shower and toilet facilities. Some guidance to fit-for-purpose facilities is outlined in [Section 9.1](#).

4.5. Pressure on School Facilities

Rising population density within urban areas is placing school sports fields under pressure through increased use and reduced capacity as new buildings are encroaching on outdoor areas. Over time this is likely to increase demand on community fields in locations where the ability to convert more land into new sports fields is already limited. The possible impact of this trend has not been factored into our future supply and demand modelling but is considered relevant.

4.6. Growing Demand from other Sports Codes and An Increased Range of Recreational Opportunities

Community football is currently experiencing growth and increasing demand on sports fields. There are also a number of growth sports requiring access to traditional sports fields such as Lacrosse, Ultimate (frisbee), Australian/Gaelic Football, American Football, Tag Football, Kilikiti, Kabaddi and Kia O Rahi.

There is also rising interest in club partnership opportunities and multi-sport clubrooms and over time this may lead to more and varied use of sport fields associated with these facilities.

4.7. Limited Availability of Investment Funding

Auckland Council, as the major provider of sports fields, faces increasing challenges with balancing various issues impacting Auckland, such as transport, housing affordability and water quality. The capital available for investment in sport and recreation facilities is limited and not keeping up with population growth and the demands of a rapidly changing population.

There is a strong move toward prioritising investment to ensure the best outcomes are achieved. As part of this process sports codes are encouraged to develop regional facility plans outlining and prioritising their needs which can then be communicated to Councils and other potential partners and investors.

4.8. Inability to Meet Future Demand

Rugby is developing a **National Participation Plan** to respond to changing participant interests and the rapid population growth and diverse demographic mix across the city. This is likely to increase and improve participation offerings, and if successful will lead to more demand on sports fields and possibly through an extended portion of the year.

There is a risk that without appropriate growth in the capacity of the sport field network, restricted field access may limit participation growth.

4.9. Impact of these Challenges

Many of these challenges are already impacting the delivery of rugby across the region. It is essential to understand the implications of not addressing these challenges which could include:

- An inability to grow sporting opportunities for Aucklanders to meet identified demand.
- Poor quality sport and recreation experiences for Aucklanders.
- Competition offerings and age groups may need to be capped within rugby. People wanting to play will not be able to access meaningful competition structures.
- Informal / unofficial field use could increase causing fields to be overused potentially leading to further damage.
- Increased maintenance and cost may be required on existing fields because of overuse.
- The cost associated with participating is likely to rise.

5. REGIONAL FACILITY HEIRARCHY

While this facility report is primarily focused on the local community needs, it is important to identify appropriate facilities to meet all levels of participation across the region and the growth of the game.

5.1. Facility Hierarchy

This hierarchy incorporates the following key components and key facilities:

Facility Type	Current Facilities	Meet Required Standard	Potential Options
International Competition	<p>Several stadiums are utilised throughout the country.</p> <p>Suitable Auckland stadiums include Eden Park (50,000 capacity) and QBE Stadium (25,000) depending on the status of the game and spectator interest.</p>	Yes.	<p>Various other stadiums may be available for international events or competitions of differing level i.e. Women’s and Age Grade events.</p> <p>Navigation Homes Stadium, Mt Smart Stadium, Trusts Stadium and Western Springs Stadium are other potential options.</p>
Provincial Union Stadiums	<p>NHRU - QBE Stadium</p> <p>ARU - Eden Park</p> <p>CMRFU - Navigation Homes Stadium</p>	Yes – all meet the standards set by New Zealand Rugby identifying the minimum facility requirements to host Mitre 10 Cup events (2004).	In future, development of smaller boutique stadiums (5-10,000 capacity) may be more appropriate for current spectator attendance levels
Provincial Union High Performance Centres	<p>Nil.</p> <p>HP facilities are currently spread across several locations.</p>	<p>No PU currently has access to a single facility providing all (required) HP services which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Durable, high quality full size playing field. - Gym and indoor training area - Changing rooms / showers / recovery facilities - Admin space (meeting rooms, offices, kitchen, storage, etc.) - Appropriate medical and sport science facilities. 	All three PUs are currently exploring venue and feasibility options. This includes potential partnerships and sharing with other organisations.

In addition to this hierarchy is a modern high-quality training facility developed and used by local Super Rugby professional franchise The Blues. This is located at Alexandra Park.

Attracting international events to the Auckland region requires appropriate stadia but also involves appropriate access to good quality training facilities and venues as an important consideration. For large events involving multiple teams this often requires access to community sports parks. The 2021 Women’s Rugby World Cup is an example where 12 international teams will play 30 matches in Auckland and Whangarei, and all teams will require access to training facilities over a four-week period.

Any high-performance training and facility should incorporate a design which would be suitable for wider community use. An ideal facility would contribute to the available capacity within the community field network whilst also catering for high-performance needs.

5.2. Community Facility Hierarchy

Most rugby participation is at the community club level. While the Facility Hierarchy is required to meet the needs of the elite performance and regional development of the game, the priority within the Auckland region is the community network to support the overall development of the sport.

Two levels of the facility hierarchy covering community rugby are identified:

Facility Type	Current Facilities	Meet Required Standard	Potential Options
Community Sport Hubs	Various located on sports parks across the three PUs where there is a resident club with clubrooms and associated facilities.	<p>A wide variety of quality of fields and ancillary facilities.</p> <p>Better quality fields are capable of more use which aids the social benefits associated with clubrooms and club revenues.</p> <p>Appropriate ancillary facilities such as team changing rooms, toilet blocks and storage spaces for training and event management (field set-up) equipment are also required.</p>	A focus on increasing the capacity and flexibility of these facilities as opposed to satellite sport parks. This will assist connecting the social and participation aspirations of clubs and develop community ‘hubs.
Non-Club or Satellite Parks	Sports parks used for rugby but do not have a club based at the site.	As identified above, a wide variety of quality of fields and ancillary facilities.	Multi sporting use and more flexible booking arrangements.

6. A CHANGING AUCKLAND

6.1. Population Change

The 2013 Census identified that the population of Auckland increased by 6% from **1.24m** in 2006 to 1.33m in 2013. At the time it was projected to increase a further **14%** to 1.70m by 2018.

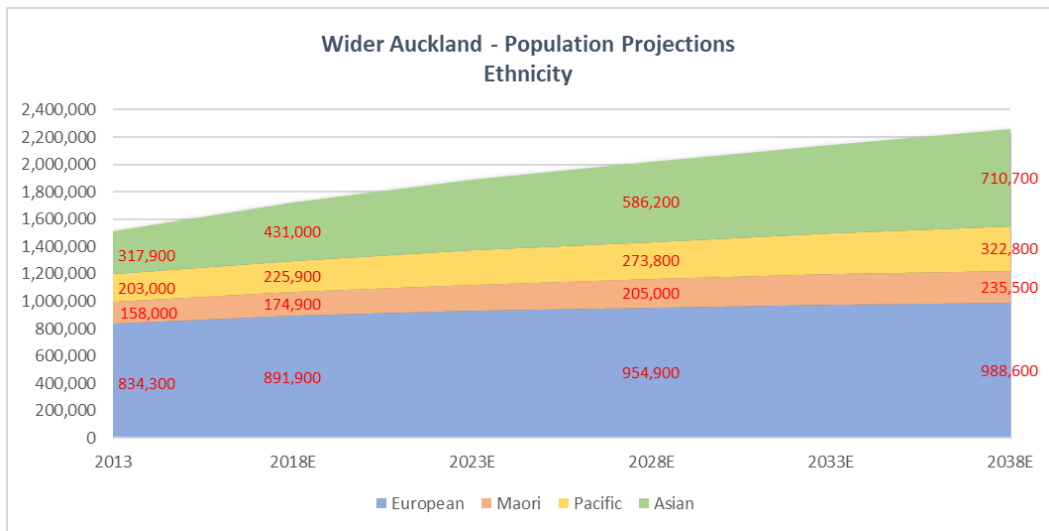
The demographic mix of the population is also changing rapidly.

Ethnicity

Statistics NZ has forecast the following population projections to 2028 within the wider Auckland boundaries: -

- A **17%** increase in total population over a 10-year period
- A **36%** increase in the Asian population from 434k to **590k** during the 10-year period.
- A comparatively minor **7%** increase in the New Zealand European population during the same period, however in terms of numbers this growth remains significant.
- Approximately **30%** of the Auckland population is expected to be Asian by 2028.

Figure 32 - Population Projections of the Auckland Region to 2038 By Ethnicity

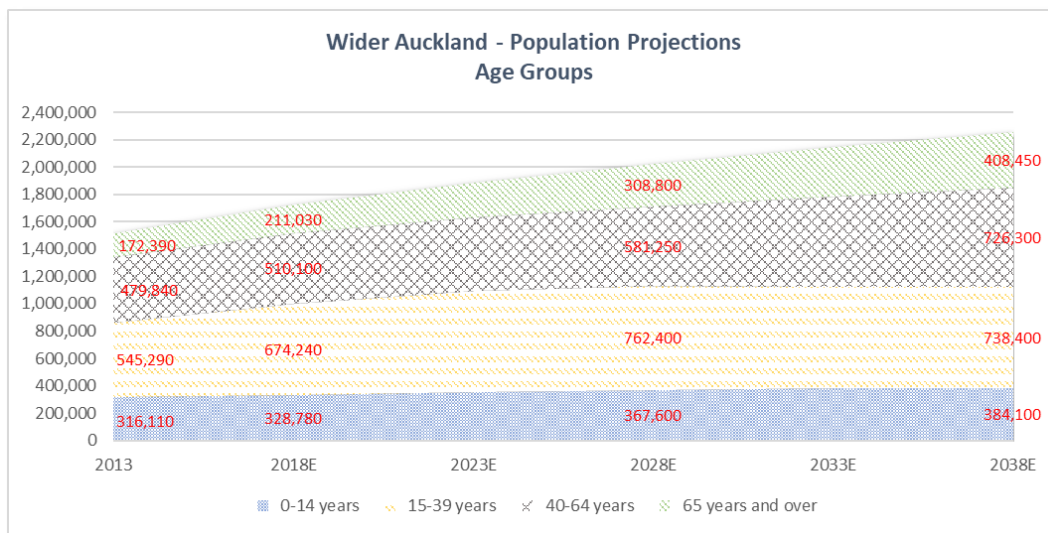


Life Stage

The following life-stage trends are also notable: -

- **Retirees** are the fastest growing age group and are expected to increase **46%** in number over the next 10 years.
- **Young people (0-14 years)** are expected to be the slowest growing demographic over this time, rising just **12%** during the same period.
- The population is generally aging, with strongest growth in the older population demographic and an expected levelling off in the 15-39-year age bracket from 2028.

Figure 33 - Population Projections of the Auckland Region to 2038 By Life Stage



6.2. Growth Areas

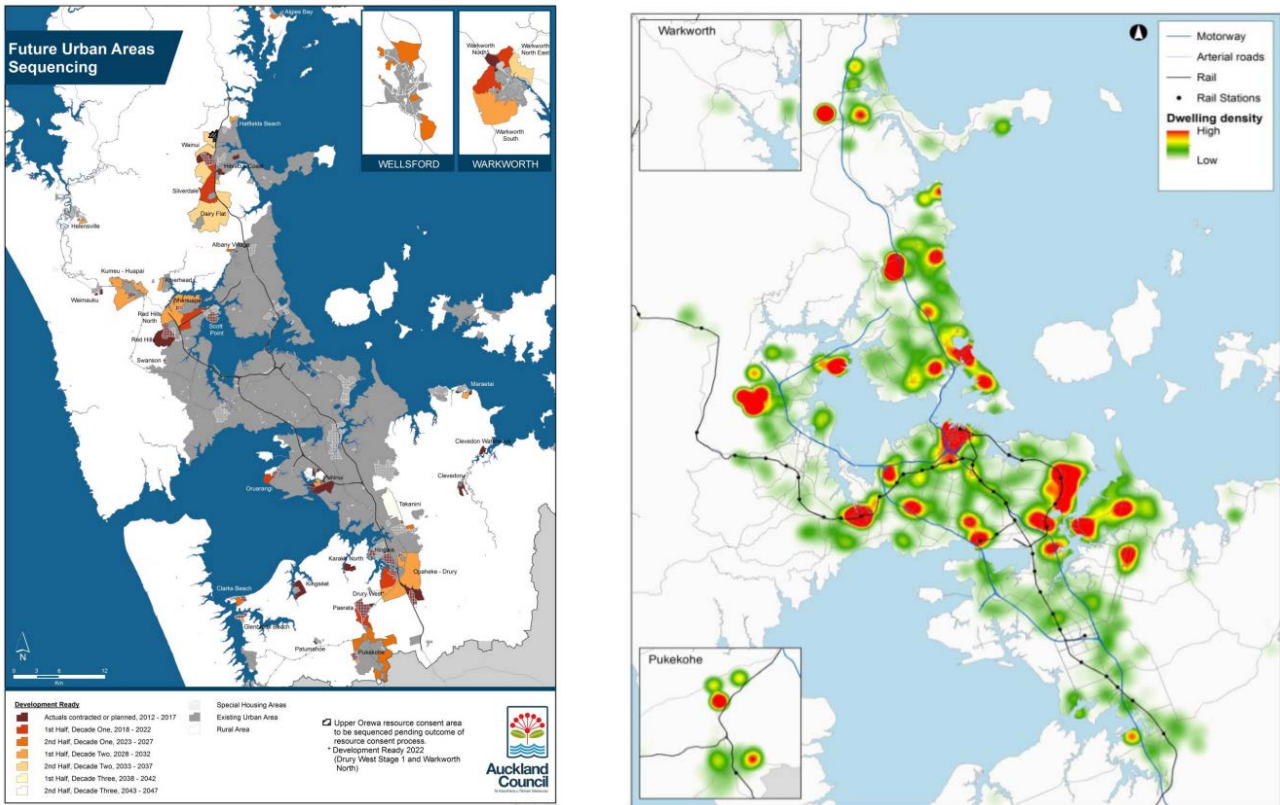
The current Unitary Plan identifies several significant growth areas across the region - new Greenfield sites with the capacity to meet the future growth requirements of Auckland through to 2041. These currently include:

- South: Hingaia, Opaheke, Drury, Paerata, Pukekohe
- North West: Kumeu, Huapai, Riverhead, Brigham Creek, Red Hills
- North: Dairy Flat, Silverdale, Warkworth.

However, up to 70% of future growth is also expected to occur within existing urban areas. Figure 34 outlines feasible development enabled by the Unitary Plan.

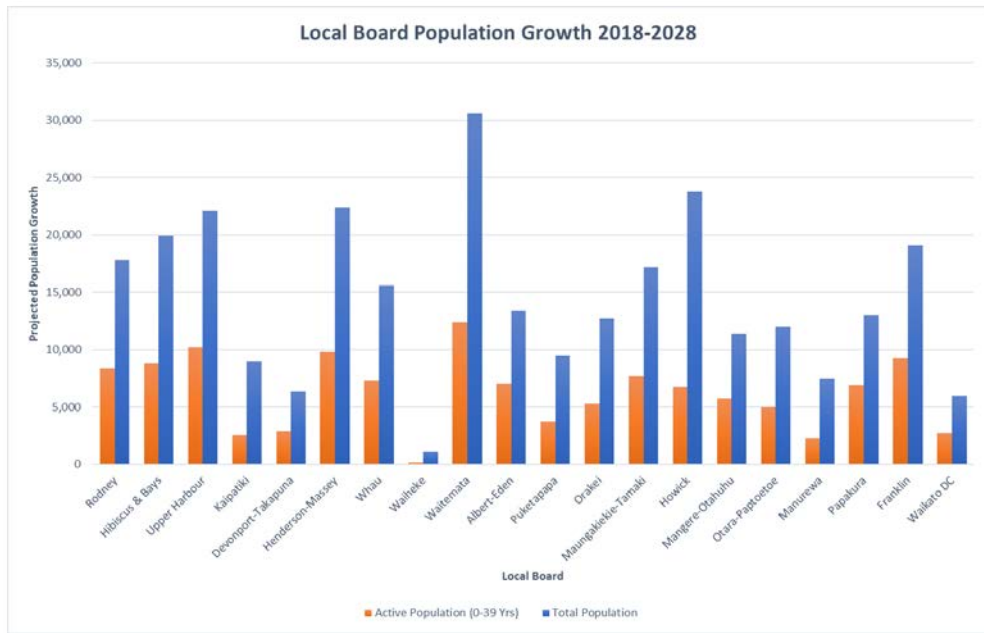


Figure 34 - Future Urban Areas & Feasible Development Heatmap – Auckland



This highlights that growth will not be uniform across the region which is further outlined in Figure 35. When considering population trends, most relevant age group is the *Active Population* of **0-39-years**. Growth projections in this age group are shown alongside total population increase.

Figure 35 - Local Board Population Growth to 2028



The fastest growing Local Boards by *Active Population* over the next 10 years are expected to be:

- Waitemata

- Upper Harbour
- Henderson-Massey
- Franklin
- Hibiscus & Bays
- Rodney.

The active population across the Auckland region is estimated to increase approximately **13%** over the next ten years - a significant increase in the potential player pool for community rugby.

7. THE FUTURE DIRECTION FOR COMMUNITY RUGBY

7.1. Background

Auckland’s growing and changing population will shape the sports that are played and the way they are played in the future.

The traditional model Auckland Council has used to forecast playing field demand has been based on -

- current (or traditional) delivery models and playing opportunities
- recent participation trends and teams per 1,000 population
- feedback from clubs / PUs on future growth prospects without co-ordinated input from the sport across the region.

There is however an increasing recognition within the rugby network that community interest in the traditional club rugby model is being challenged through societal change. It was clear that forecasting future demand for facilities (fields, lights, ancillary facilities etc) based firmly on the current participation offerings and delivery model was short-sighted.

Rugby is currently looking at ways it can adapt and change the way the sport is offered and has a comprehensive **NZ Rugby Participation Plan 2019-2023** currently underway. This Facility Plan has incorporated some of the initial high-level concepts of this Plan into the forecasted participation levels.

7.2. Inputs/Processes

A range of information is available to help develop concepts for a 10-year community rugby plan for the region.

The Auckland region is currently undergoing an immense transformation. This is characterised by rapid population growth, a changing age profile and a shifting ethnic profile which already has Auckland ranked as one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world.

Various insights have recently been produced outlining recent participation trends across the community club network and detailing changes occurring geographically and within different age groups and ethnicities.

A range of other resources are also available to help understand macro trends across organised sport and within rugby, these include:

- i. Research from across the community sport sector indicating the impacts strong societal change is having on the way people wish to participate:
 - Urbanisation, an aging population and increasing ethnic diversity are changing the way kiwis participate at community level
 - People are fitting sport into increasingly busy and time-fragmented lifestyles, with demand for individualised and less organised sport
 - There is a greater demand for a diverse range of sporting opportunities to meet individual preferences and health and lifestyle needs
 - New organisations, partnerships and capabilities are required to create innovative approaches to delivering sport.

- ii. Sport New Zealand strategies, such as the **Three Approaches, Women & Girls in Sport** and **Active Recreation**, outline the importance of using evidence, community input, being inclusive and taking a holistic approach to supporting future physical activity.
- iii. Participant based insights including the **Community Sport Voice of the Participant** research and the key drivers of a positive club member experience.
- iv. **NZ Rugby Respect & Responsibility Review** focus areas and recommended goals.
- v. An initial framework drafted as part of the **New Zealand Rugby Participation Plan 2019-2023**.
- vi. Public awareness and increasing knowledge around concussion issues.
- vii. Club and sport partnership trends and support from within local government for more efficient use of sport facilities and capital investment.

Two rounds of consultation were also undertaken with PU staff who contributed a range of ideas on growing club-based participation through their own knowledge and experiences. This provided additional common themes but also recognised sub-regional geographic and demographic influences.

7.3. National and Regional Alignment

Relevant national and regional strategies have also been considered to cross-check objectives.

NZ Rugby	• Strategic Focus Areas to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More players and more communities participating - Fans are engaged and numbers growing - Rugby is the Sport of Choice for Wider Auckland
	• Community Rugby Strategy 2013-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small Blacks providing positive experiences - Keeping teenagers playing rugby - The Sport of Choice in the Wider Auckland area - Clubs Fulfilling the Needs of Communities - Developing the Capabilities of Those Involved
	• Wider Auckland Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grow Every Aspect of Our Game - Adapt to Changing Needs - Connect and Positively Engage
	• Women’s Rugby Strategy 2015-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Women Playing More - Women Having A Lifelong Love of The Game
Auckland Rugby Union	• Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attract, Retain, Promote Participation - Shape Strong & Sustainable Community Rugby
Counties Manukau Rugby	• Strategic Plan Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased community engagement and participation - Improve the quality of facilities within the community rugby network
North Harbour Rugby	• Strategic Plan Focus Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximise Engagement and Grow Participation with Quality Community Experience
	• Tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultivate a Climate of Development and Fun around Junior Rugby Programs - Build a Participation Pathway that places participants at the centre of the experience and provides playing opportunities at every level - Be a leader with Clubs, Schools, Community & Council stakeholders to develop a future focused approach around grounds and facilities; and safe environments for everyone - Ensure the North Harbour Marist Rugby Club remains

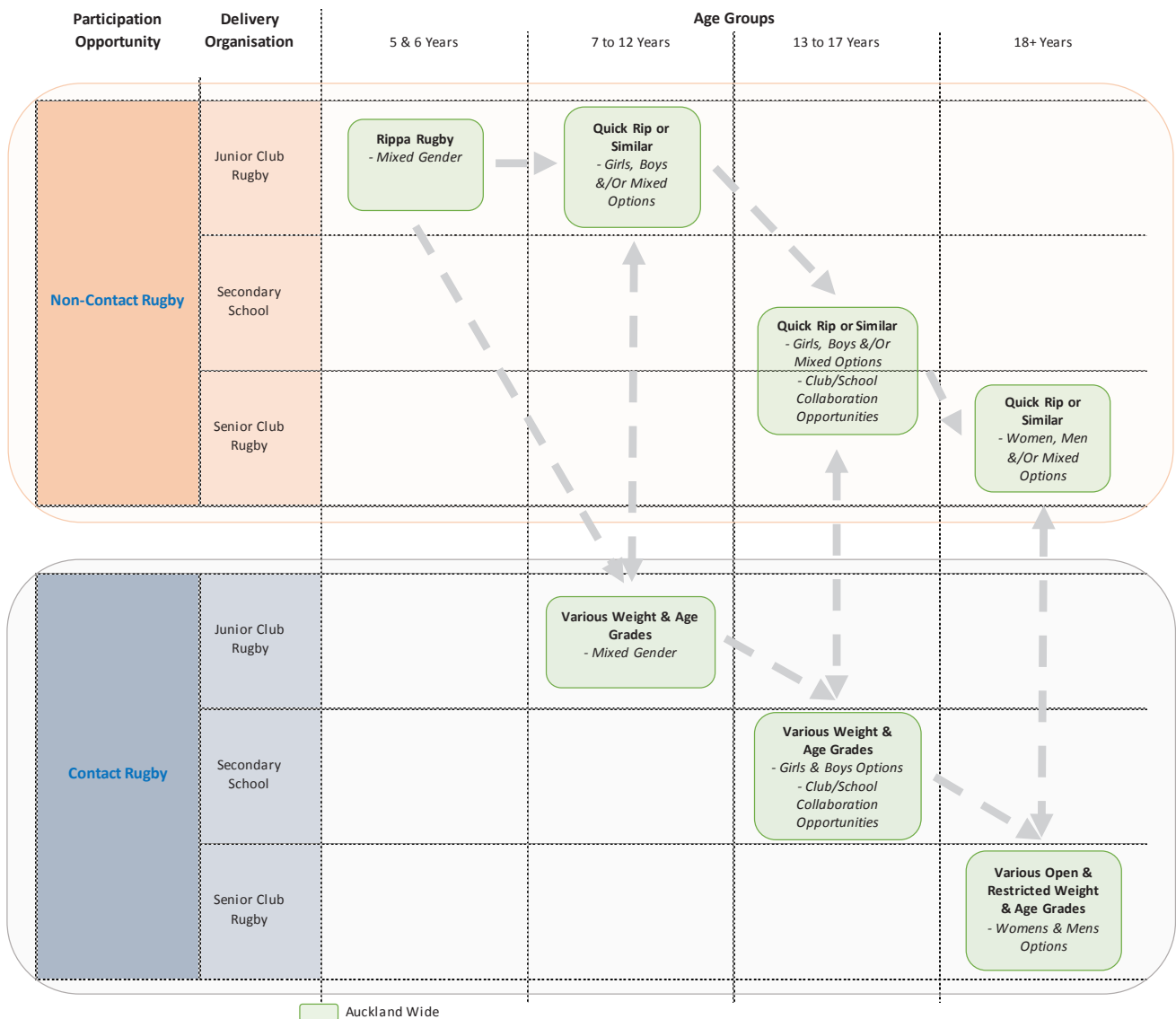
		vibrant and in the Albany Basin area.
Sport NZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Sport Strategy 2015 Focus Areas Women & Girls Strategy 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Aged Children 5-18yrs – developing a love of sport early Local delivery – increase uptake by improving the connectivity of all involved. Prioritise population groupings where there is low or declining participation and where barriers to greater participation exist. Competitive Sport – preservation of sporting heritage and high participation rates will depend on our ability to sustain numbers of people participating in traditional competition structures and pathways. Vision: Enable Women & Girls to realise their potential in and through sport and active recreation. More Women & Girls are leading, working, coaching and volunteering in sport and active recreation, at all levels. More Women & Girls are physically active through play, active recreation and sport. Women & Girls in sport and active recreation are valued and visible
Aktive – Auckland Sport & Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Plan 2015-2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More Aucklanders More Active – young people and adults Stakeholder Alignment & Sector Development – improved regional capability and organisational excellence Spaces & Places – improved access to facilities and spaces for all <p><i>Also aligns with the Auckland Approach to Community Sport by engaging and increasing participation through quality opportunities at community level.</i></p>
Auckland Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auckland Plan 2050 Auckland Sport & Recreation Strategic Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome – Belonging & Participation Direction – • Foster an inclusive Auckland where everyone belongs; • Improve Health & Wellbeing by reducing harm and disparities in opportunities. Focus Areas - • Provide accessible services and social and cultural infrastructure that are responsive in meetings people’s evolving needs. Participation – more Aucklanders living physically active lives Infrastructure - Access to a fit-for-purpose network of facilities that enable physical activity, recreation and sport at all levels. Excellence - Pride is built in Auckland’s recreation and sport achievements and strong sporting culture Sector Development – having sector that is strong and capable to deliver quality sport and recreation experiences in a sustainable way.

7.4. The Concept

Figure 36 outlines a draft framework for community rugby over the next ten years. It is intentionally light on detail but is based on a variety of objectives including:

- providing more and varied participation opportunities,
- providing easier entry points into the sport across a wider range of age groups,
- improving player retention through ease of movement between ‘grades’, and
- flexibility in competitions and scheduling.

Figure 36 -Proposed Future Community Rugby Framework (High-Level Concept)



7.5. Challenges and Opportunities

A summary assessment of this proposed model is outlined below to help enable future decision making and uncover additional opportunities.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retains an appropriate player development pathway for the traditional game. Not starting from scratch – retains the traditional delivery model framework. Provides more entry points into the game. Ease of movement between contact and non-contact versions enhancing player retention. Skill development within non-contact opportunities will help the transition between non-contact and contact rugby. Compatible with the current structure and capability of clubs as delivery partners. Retains the existing delivery structure across the region i.e. junior club, secondary school, senior club. Alignment with established match official development and pathways, More flexibility in delivery i.e. season length, mid-week/night matches. A flexible range of offerings can allow for more localised opportunities. Ability to introduce new grades progressively as participants age. Increased opportunities to engage new populations and re-engage past players with a less demanding participation opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capability of existing playing facility network to cater for non-traditional competition scheduling (appropriate field lights etc). Potential additional requirement on (PU and Club) administration resource to facilitate a larger variety of competitions. May require significant change management within the club network - longer season, wider volunteer network, more volunteer hours. Will potentially require recruitment and development of a new pool of match officials.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further flexibility introduced across a wider range of competition offerings e.g. shorter season, mid-week evening matches, ‘module’ type opportunities 9-10 months of the year. Non-contact opportunities could be quickly and easily introduced with less formality to meet demand. More collaboration between schools and clubs on a wider range of participation opportunities. Embrace the growing movement toward club and sport partnerships to help improve club sustainability outside of traditional purpose. Increased community engagement provides clubs with new opportunities to grow and thrive. A wider participant base can potentially reach a larger volunteer base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-allocation of playing facilities by asset owners. A lack of investment in fit for purpose ancillary facilities to support growth in women’s rugby. Potential non-availability of existing match officials away from the traditional Saturday match scheduling. No guarantee that all new offerings or formats will be a success. Capability within the club network to adapt and embrace the operational change. Financial pressure within local government reducing/limiting investment in sport fields.

7.6. Additional Comments

Although it is difficult to accurately predict how participation in rugby will change to meet future challenges, developing growth projections based on the above concept plan will be more meaningful than the traditional method of facility demand modelling.

Increased and improved opportunities to play is expected to retain more participants in the game, aid the sustainability of the clubs, encourage sports hub partnership opportunities and improve club connections with their communities.

This is however also expected to require additional resourcing of the club network to support and deliver the plan and therefore new participation opportunities will be introduced on an appropriately staged basis over several years.



8. PROJECTED DEMAND 2028

8.1. Future Participation

When projecting future participation levels, we have considered a range of factors including:

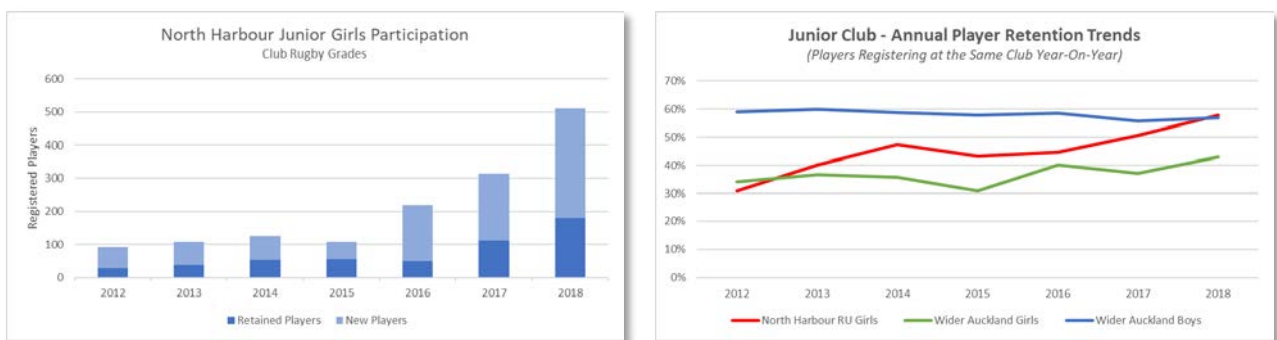
- Historic participation trends at community level across the region
- Historic club retention rates and recruitment of new players each year.
- Recent strong growth in girls and women’s rugby. The **2015 New Zealand Rugby Women’s Rugby Strategy** had a goal of reaching **21,000** participants by 2021. There were more than **29,000** registered female players in 2018.
- Localised participation rate trends. That is, the portion of a local community (active population) who play rugby – by age group and gender.
- Auckland growth model population projections for Local Boards / Unit Areas.
- The impact of aging population and changing demographics
- A gradual roll-out of the NZ Rugby Participation Plan 2019-2023 (once complete) which is based on the high-level framework outlined in [Figure 36](#).

8.2. North Harbour Junior Girls Initiative

Some recent initiatives provide useful learnings on how the roll-out of new participation opportunities may impact. An example is the introduction of junior girls non-contact competitions in the North Harbour Rugby Union in recent years for ages 7-12 years. Prior to being introduced the only option for girls to continue to participate at club level following Rippla Rugby (5-6 years) was in mixed gender tackle rugby as part of the traditional development pathway outlined in [Section 3.3](#).

The impact of this initiative on participation growth and player retention over the past three years is outlined in [Figure 37](#).

Figure 37 -North Harbour Junior Girls Initiative – Participation & Retention Trends



Notably:

- Junior girls participation growth of **370%** over the past three years after falling in 2015.
- Annual participation growth of between **40-100%** between 2016 and 2018.
- Growth is a combination of stronger player retention and recruitment of new players.

- The year-on-year retention of girls within junior club rugby has increased from 43% in 2015 to 58% in 2018.

8.3. Demand Parameters and Delivery of Rugby [The Community Rugby Plan]

While rugby is already considered a high participation sport across the Auckland region, the opportunities to grow the sport further are highlighted through Section 7.

Figure 38 and Figure 39 outline club rugby participation projections through until 2028 which are based on the following key parameters:

- Participation growth is underpinned by improved retention rates across the various age groups. This assumption is based on a wider range of options to participate at club level and improving the participant experience through strengthening the club network.
- The annual quantum of new participants is not dissimilar to historic levels with adjustments reflecting population and demographic changes.
- The region wide junior club participation rate increases from **42 per 1,000** active population (0-14 years) in 2018 to **58 per 1,000** in 2028.
- The region wide senior club participation rate increases from **12 per 1,000** of active population (15-39 years) in 2018 to **15 per 1,000** in 2028.

It is recognised that the growth projections are in contrast to recent trends, however the NZ Rugby Participation Plan 2018-2028 places the participant firmly at the centre of the experience and this is expected to increase interest in the sport.

Figure 38 - Projected Future Participation - Junior Club Rugby

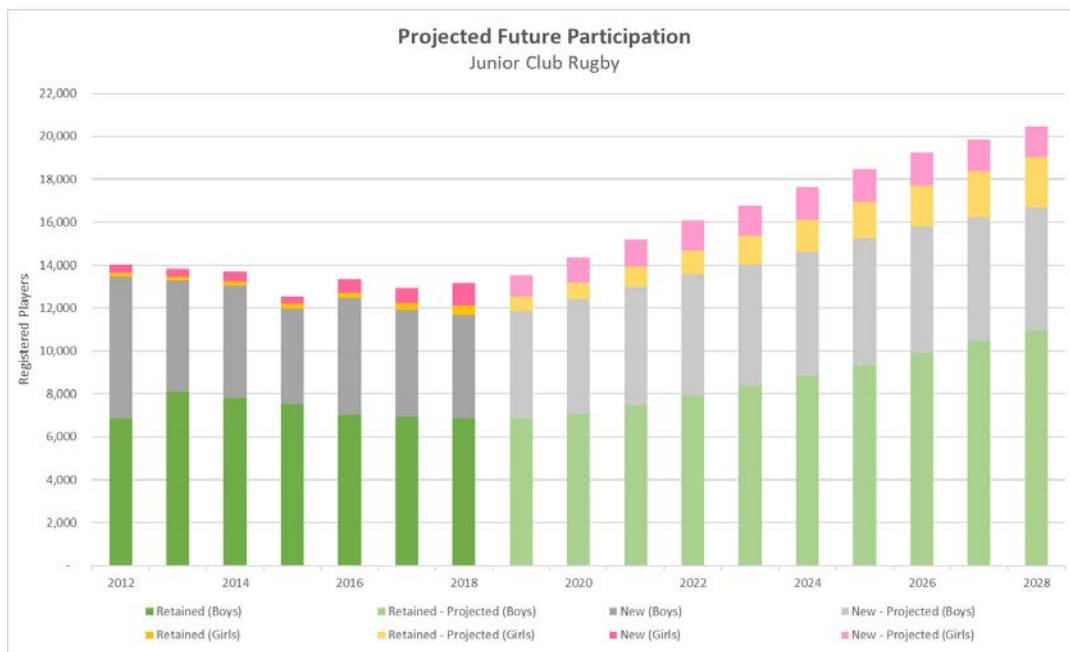
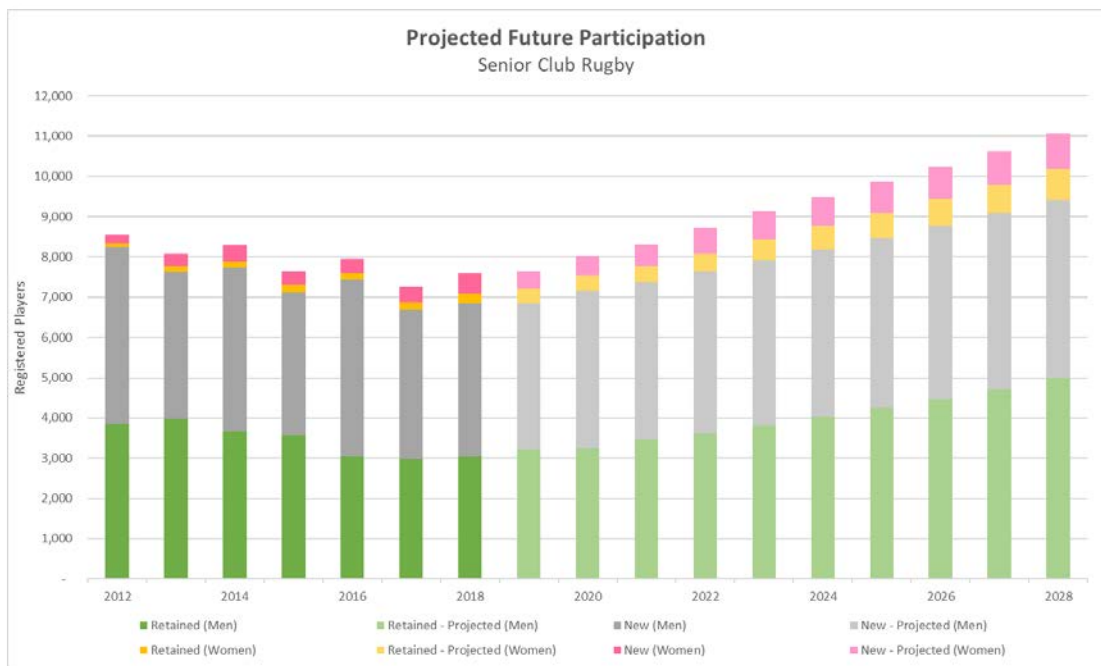


Figure 39 - Projected Future Participation - Senior Club Rugby



8.4. Projected Demand and Surplus/Shortfall - 2028

Consistent with earlier methodology, Figure 40 outlines the FFE hour surpluses and shortfalls across the region by Local Board. Where there are shortfalls, the model does not consider potential surplus capacity across neighbouring Local Board boundaries.

The modelling retains a field closure rate of 14% and the impact of rising participation levels is clear through increased demand for playing facilities. There are several key assumptions which allow comparison with the 2018 surplus / shortfall situation:

- All club rugby continues to be offered through the current winter season
- New participation offerings will run parallel with existing grades, i.e. the same season timing
- The analysis is based on a typical week during the winter season
- Current winter field allocations and the capacity of these fields remains unchanged, that is, no annual upgrades are factored in.
- Field use requirements for any new participation offerings remain the same as current age grade requirements.
- Priority use remains
 1. Delivering organised competition matches
 2. Training requirements under field lights
 3. Training requirements with no field light requirement
 4. Other participation offerings such as primary school cluster tournaments.

The outcomes of the **New Zealand Rugby Participation Plan 2019-2023** may recommend various changes to these key assumptions and PUs may decide to re-structure competitions to meet local needs. It may be sensible to re-analyse the demand model at a time when there is more clarity on the detail within the Participation Plan and some evidence of the impact it is having on participation levels.

The impact of the increase in demand for sport fields indicates there could be a localised weekly shortfall of circa **900 full field equivalent hours** in 2028 based on no change to the current field capacity. This is the equivalent of **45 durable sand carpet playing fields**.

The distribution and quantum of the projected surplus and shortfalls are outlined in [Figure 40](#) and [Figure 41](#). Although there is expected to be shortfalls in available hours across most Local Boards, the impact is likely to be more critical in:

- Upper Harbour
- Henderson-Massey
- Albert-Eden
- Maungakiekie- Tāmaki
- Otara-Papatoetoe
- Franklin

Figure 40 -Projected 2028 Surplus / Shortfall Inc. Weather Related Field Closures

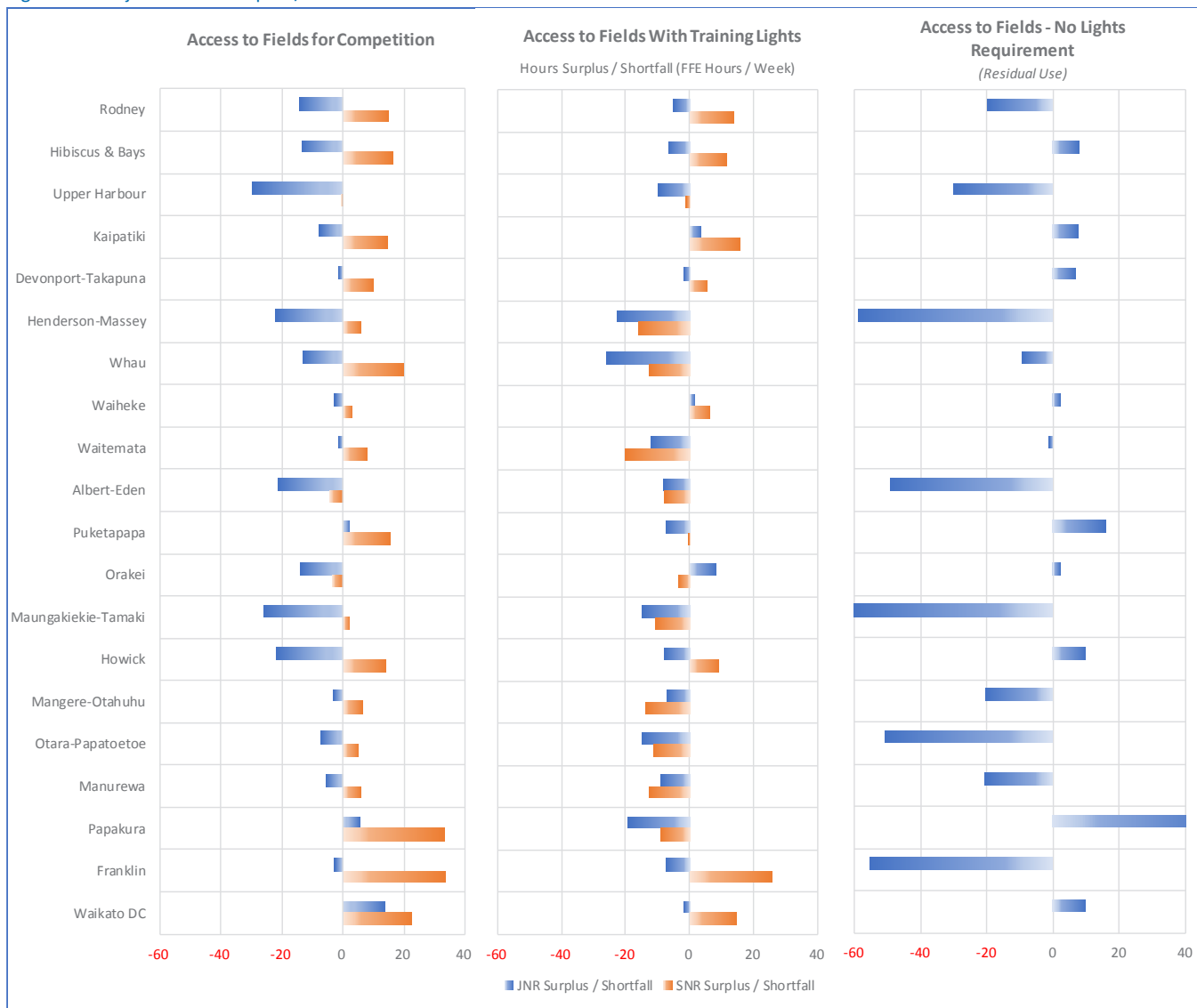


Figure 41 - Projected 2028 Surplus / Shortfall Inc. Weather Related Field Closures (FFE Hours)

Local Board	Club Match Scheduling		Access to Training Lights		Residual Field Access
	SNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall	SNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall	JNR Surplus / Shortfall
Rodney	15	-14	14	-5	-20
Hibiscus & Bays	16	-13	11	-7	8
Upper Harbour	-1	-30	-1	-10	-30
Kaipatiki	14	-8	16	3	8
Devonport-Takapuna	10	-1	6	-2	7
Henderson-Massey	6	-22	-16	-23	-59
Whau	20	-13	-12	-26	-9
Waiheke	3	-3	6	2	2
Waitemata	8	-1	-20	-12	-1
Albert-Eden	-4	-21	-8	-8	-49
Puketapapa	16	2	-0	-8	16
Orakei	-4	-14	-4	8	2
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	2	-26	-10	-15	-62
Howick	14	-22	9	-8	10
Mangere-Otahuhu	6	-3	-14	-7	-20
Otara-Papatoetoe	5	-7	-11	-15	-51
Manurewa	6	-6	-12	-9	-21
Papakura	33	5	-9	-19	54
Franklin	33	-3	26	-7	-55
Waikato DC	22	14	14	-2	10



9. ON-FIELD AMENITIES

Girls and women's rugby is currently the fastest growing segment of the community game across the Auckland region. This trend is expected to continue in the medium term as participation reaches threshold levels which will allow for more meaningful competitions and participation opportunities to be introduced.

Most of the facilities that are used for community rugby were built to cater for male use. If rugby is going to continue to attract more girls and women to the sport, being able to provide appropriate facilities will be an important factor in ensuring a positive playing experience.

It is also important that clubrooms provide a welcoming, secure environment for all participants, officials and spectators. While change rooms and amenities are a large part of the comfort for participants, broader facility considerations should include:

- adequate pathways and lighting between playing surfaces, amenities, social spaces and car parks including access ramps rather than stairs where there are changes in level;
- baby change facilities, which are also accessible to the public;
- accessible toilets for the public, players and officials;
- the provision of safe shade areas; and
- ensuring change rooms and amenities are maintained, clean and tidy.

9.1. Good Practice – Changing Rooms

The provision of clean and hygienic changing is important to all participants from community rugby to high performance, and a safe and welcoming environment is a critical component of any change room design.

Rugby needs to ensure current and future facilities are designed, to encourage participation in the game, whether it be as a player, umpire, coach or club volunteer. These facilities should also be flexible in their use to cater for other community members. They should be designed to accommodate everyone including all ages, genders, abilities and cultural background.

The following is some nice indicative guidelines of what is considered recent good practice in the design of change rooms and amenities available for use by everyone. The development of new amenities are typically designed as gender neutral, the current challenge is more with the existing facilities and how they can be transformed.

As a basic outline of requirements, the following should be considered:

- Direct access between changing space and wet areas
- Avoid open shower pillars, open stalls and glazed shower screens. Each changing room should ideally have its own shower area
- Provide compact shower cubicles ideally with change seats in each cubicle
- Provide vandal resistant fittings and fixtures such as recessed soap dishes
- Individual toilet cubicles rather than urinals for unisex use
- Avoid wall hung basins with no shelf space
- Provide vanity/shelving for personal items and mirror behind
- Provide electrical outlets in close proximity for hair drying.

Some examples of appropriate facilities for players and officials are shown in [Figure 42](#) and [Figure 43](#):

Figure 42 - Good Practice Changing Room Design Examples

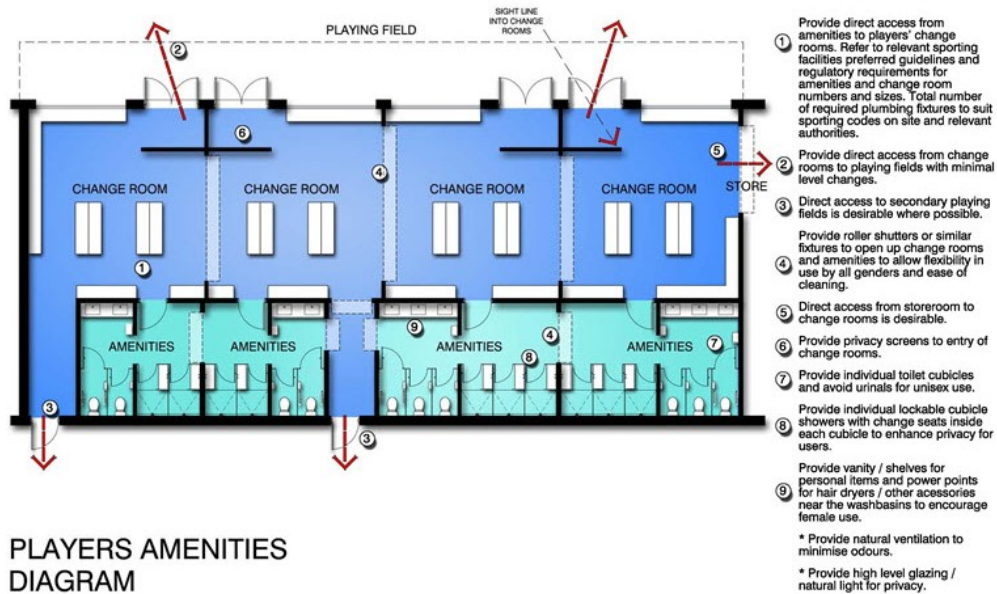
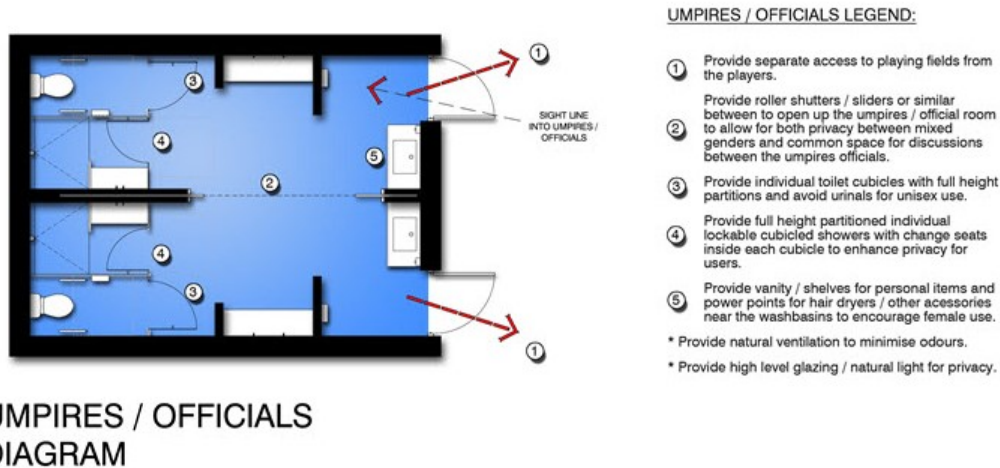


Figure 43 - Good Practice Official Room Design Example



Well-designed changing facilities often include interconnecting change spaces with lockable door in between to provide additional flexibility for users.

Ideally changing rooms should have direct access to playing fields and have easy pedestrian access from other amenities such as car parking and clubrooms.

9.2. Changing Room Audit

On individual community sports parks, the number of changing rooms, showers and toilets should be commensurate to the number of fields being served. It has been difficult to quantify the provision of change rooms utilised by the rugby network as part of this Plan and there appears to be no common database of these facilities. Ownership and maintenance of these amenities is varied with many being part of clubroom facilities owned by clubs and others forming part of wider sport park infrastructure and developed and owned by councils.

Given the importance of providing fit-for-purpose changing rooms to the participant experience, it would be an important first step to accurately quantify current changing room, shower and toilet facilities utilised by community rugby across the region. An understanding of ownership would also be useful to understanding the process for upgrading and potential funding sources.

10. FACILITY PRIORITIES

10.1. Prioritisation Criteria

Throughout the process of developing the plan, several criteria by which future facility developments should be considered have been established. In most cases, these align with the prioritisation criteria outlined within the **Auckland Sport Sector: Facilities Priorities Plan**.

Meeting the area of identified need.

Future facility developments should consider the areas of identified need, with priority given to the areas with the highest identified shortfall in field provision.

Priority for junior participation and training.

Priority should be given to meeting junior participation and club-based training given growth prospects at this level of the game.

Upgrading of current sport field network

Given constraints on access to land to develop new sports parks particularly in urban areas, priority should be given to increasing the capacity within the current sport field network.

Close to current participation base and facility infrastructure

Projects should consider the current participation infrastructure, club network and participation base.

Meeting needs of future population growth.

All facility developments should be based on meeting current and future demand. A higher priority should be given to projects that increase participation where there is a high level of utilisation and/or high projected population growth.

Site access and transport connections.

Preference should be given to sites with good access, parking and public transport links.

The achievability of the project

Consideration should be given to projects that can deliver increased capacity in a timely manner.

10.2. Partnerships / Collaboration

Future facility developments should consider the needs of other sporting and community users where possible to maximise the use of facilities currently used for rugby as multisport venues.

Community rugby has a well-established network of clubrooms spread across the region which are in most cases situated on (or close to) community sports parks. There is an opportunity for these clubs to strengthen community connections by offering their facilities to a wider range of users and provide greater local benefit.

10.3. Priorities – Considerations

When considering the future priorities, it is important to recognise that the most significant weekly shortfall in field capacity (demand for fields exceeding supply) is in securing access for midweek training under field

lights. There is little benefit however in advocating solely for more lights without also considering a field surface upgrade to increase the weekly capacity of the playing surface.

If it were possible to solve the problem of access for training during the week, the additional field capacity provided by a surface upgrade would also solve any projected shortfall in field capacity for weekend competition, and open opportunities for more organised competition matches to be scheduled mid-week under lights.

Therefore, the future priorities for rugby across the Auckland region are expected to be based around securing access to high quality, durable playing surfaces, ideally with appropriate field lights to enable community rugby to grow. Societal changes and the impact of this on organised sport should also be considered. People are looking for more flexibility around when they participate and interest in scheduling more mid-week fixtures is growing.

The spin off benefits of this include more activity around the clubs, which would be strengthened if the main club fields were capable of hosting evening fixtures. Council has been more inclined to invest in training fields in recent years as clubs have tended to protect main fields from too much use. For this to change, clubs will need to show that investment in main field infrastructure will result in additional use and community benefit.



APPENDICES

- A. Prioritisation Criteria
- B. Facilities Priorities – April-2019





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Appendix B.

2019 Regional Facility Priorities

Recommended: Rugby Facility Working Group 9-Apr-2019

Confirmed: Wider Auckland Steering Group 3-May-2019

Priority Project Reference #	Provincial Union	Club	Local Board	Club Match Scheduling		Access to Training Lights		Overall Weekly Provision	
				TOTAL Surplus / Shortfall ¹	TOTAL Demand / Supply % ²	TOTAL Surplus / Shortfall ¹	TOTAL Demand / Supply % ²	TOTAL Surplus / Shortfall ¹	TOTAL Demand / Supply % ²

RFWG Priority Investment Projects

1	Auckland RU	Papatoetoe	Otara-Papatoetoe	6	81%	-12	177%	-23	159%
2	North Harbour RU	Marist North Harbour	Upper Harbour	3	78%	19	43%	7	83%
3	North Harbour RU	East Coast Bays	Upper Harbour	1	96%	-12	168%	3	96%
4	Counties Manukau RU	Manurewa	Manurewa	16	51%	-2	112%	16	73%
5	Counties Manukau RU	Bombay	Franklin	-2	115%	-0	100%	-17	217%
6	Counties Manukau RU	Drury	Papakura	-3	147%	6	55%	-6	130%
7	Auckland RU	Otahuhu	Mangere-Otahuhu	16	37%	12	47%	16	57%
8	Auckland RU	Waitemata	Henderson-Massey	-5	130%	-9	162%	-25	182%
9	Counties Manukau RU	Beachlands-Maraetai	Franklin	8	46%	-1	115%	6	69%
10	Auckland RU	Ponsonby	Waitemata	9	78%	-16	170%	19	81%
11	Auckland RU	East Tamaki	Otara-Papatoetoe	14	40%	2	83%	12	65%
12	Counties Manukau RU	Weymouth	Manurewa	4	70%	-4	217%	1	97%

Wider Auckland Rugby Facility Plan 2018-2028

Footnotes

1. TOTAL Surplus / Shortfall – listed as Full Field Equivalent Hours (FFEH) during a typical winter season week.
2. TOTAL Demand / Supply % - FFEH Demand as a percentage of FFEH Supply.

The table above is a summary of the Priority Projects. More data and information is available for each of the clubs listed and for all clubs across the three Provincial Unions.

If you have any queries or comments, please contact your Provincial Union Facilities Working Group member -

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