



Tom Kelly Athletics Track Usage Plan



Interpreter service

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MANNINGHAM

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1 Introduction

This review will consider the purpose, management and usage of the Tom Kelly Athletics Track at Rieschiecks Reserve. It will guide Council's decision making and planning for the facilities to meet both community and athletic club needs.

2 Background

In 2012 a Management Plan was developed for Rieschiecks Reserve. The Plan covered proposed infrastructure upgrades for the reserve as well as considerations around the management of the facility. The Tom Kelly Athletics Track sits within Rieschiecks Reserve and was included within the scope of the Management Plan.

Many of the key actions within the 2012 report relating to the Tom Kelly Athletic Track have been implemented in recent years with the track being resurfaced in 2022, new track floodlights installed in 2022 and hammer throw floodlights in 2023, and the carpark sealed in 2021.

Usage of the facilities has increased (both club use, casual use and general community use), and the overall expectations from the general community and tenant clubs has increased. The outcomes of this Plan will shape how the track is managed and used in future.

3 Project Purpose and Methodology

3.1 Purpose

The project purpose is to ensure that the Tom Kelly Athletics Track is managed, maintained and developed at an appropriate level to meet community and sporting club needs, and provide recommendations to guide the management, use and development of the track in the future. Please note, this project is not a masterplan or a feasibility study into future facility needs at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track.

3.2 Methodology

The following methodology was used to undertake the project.

This project involved collating information regarding the use and management of the facility and the issues and opportunities relating to the facility.

The key tasks undertaken to prepare this plan include:

- Consultation with Council officers from a range of teams who are involved in the management and maintenance of the Tom Kelly Athletics Track.
- Familiarity with existing planning documents for the Tom Kelly Athletics Track such as the Rieschiecks Reserve Management plan but with no need to formally review.
- Stakeholder interviews with each of the four tenant clubs based at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track.

- Stakeholder interviews with peak sporting bodies
- Consultation with a range of schools who use the facilities.
- Community consultation via a Drop In event held at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track.
- Further informal onsite consultation.
- Online community survey via the Your say Marningham platform.

4 Strategic Context

To inform the outcomes of this project, it is important to understand the strategic context by analysing key Council policies and strategies, as well as key strategies and policies from other agencies including the State Government.

A key theme from these documents is gender equality and community level facilities and participation. These themes are considered within the recommendations of this report.

4.1 Fair Access Policy Roadmap

The Office for Women in Sport and Recreation has developed the Fair Access Policy, which aims to achieve equal access to sporting facilities for women and girls. The Policy provides six Fair Access Principles to help achieve the desired aims, with the following principles relating to this project and active recreation:

1. *Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe and inclusive.*
2. *Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation, including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.*

Female participation in physical activity is primarily through active recreation rather than organised sport. Vic Health's '*Females and Physical Activity*' research document highlights that activities such as 'walking for exercise' have higher female participation than males. Given this, a key focus of this project is to provide additional opportunities for general community members to access the track for active recreation purposes.

It is however known that barriers such as perceptions of safety can prevent females from participating in active recreation. Therefore, this Plan also focuses on reducing this barrier through facility provision and shared use.

4.2 Council Plan 2021-25

A key goal of the Council Plan 2021-25 focuses on creating a healthy, safe and resilient community. In addition to this, the Council Plan also aims to achieve well utilised and maintained community infrastructure. This can be achieved through ensuring our recreation facilities are accessible for a broad range of community uses and demonstrating leadership to promote equality.

This project considers how access opportunities to the athletics track can influence outcomes around equality, whilst ensuring the asset is well utilised.

4.3 Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25 guides Manningham's work in addressing existing and emerging health issues, and improving the overall health and wellbeing of the community. The Strategy aims to achieve this through a number of priority areas, including:

- Priority 3 – Increased active lifestyles.
- Priority 7 – Increase connection to and engagement in community life.

This project responds to the priority areas (mentioned above) through considering how the Tom Kelly Athletics track can be used to enhance community connection, health, and wellbeing. Recommended actions focusing on accessibility, promotion and enhancements of the facility will directly respond to the evaluation measures from the Strategy, including increasing participation in organised sport and active recreation.

4.4 Active for Life Recreation Strategy 2010-2025 (2019 Review)

Council's Active for Life Recreation Strategy 2010-25 (2019 Review) outlines key priority areas to address physical activity in Manningham. The priority areas respond to the Strategy's objectives to provide a diverse range of recreational choices throughout Manningham, whilst providing places to facilitate this. These objectives help achieve the Strategy's overall vision to provide accessible infrastructure to improve health and wellbeing of the Manningham community.

This project considers the Strategy's vision and objectives through enhanced access opportunities for the general community, and consideration of the athletics track being a community facility.

4.5 Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Policy (2020)

The Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Policy lists the Tom Kelly Athletics Track as a regional level facility. The Policy outlines a set standard of infrastructure that is to be provided at the facility, including the required size of this infrastructure. This project does not dictate the type and size of facilities that will be provided; however it does consider ancillary infrastructure to enhance user experience.

5 Facility Benchmarking

Most neighbouring Councils offer athletics facilities for their community. There are six facilities within neighbouring Councils, each offering different levels of infrastructure and use, and each having varied management models.

5.1 Bill Stewart Athletics Track

Burwood East (Whitehorse Council)

The Bill Stewart Athletics Track is leased to the tenant clubs, who are therefore responsible for managing all bookings, including school bookings. As a result of the lease, there is no public access to the track. Whitehorse is reviewing this model with the view to create more community access, however for now the lease remains in place.

5.2 Croydon Athletics Track

Croydon (Maroondah Council)

Bookings for the Croydon Athletics Track are managed by Council, with clubs allocated use on a seasonal basis and public access permitted outside of club use. Athletics equipment is not provided to casual users and as such they are required to supply their own equipment. Use of this track is seen as a cheaper alternative for casual users compared to Proclamation Park.

5.3 Hagenauer Reserve

Box Hill (Whitehorse Council)

The way in which the Hagenauer Reserve Athletics Track is allocated is the same as the Bill Stewart Athletics Track. That is, the tenant clubs are provided with a lease of the facility. Whitehorse is currently focusing on capital works upgrades at the track with the vision to enable the facility to be open to the public outside of club use (e.g. facilities to safeguard equipment. This includes reviewing the current lease arrangement.

5.4 Proclamation Park

Ringwood (Maroondah Council)

Proclamation Park is managed in the same way as the Croydon Athletics Track, where Council manages all bookings. The track was previously managed by the Ringwood Athletic Committee of Council until 2021, at which time bookings were moved under Council. When the management model changed, clubs were placed onto seasonal allocations which allows community access when not in use by the clubs. Maroondah's Sports Field Maintenance Team also assists with the provision and return of Council owned athletic equipment for casual hirers such as schools.

5.5 Stradbroke Park

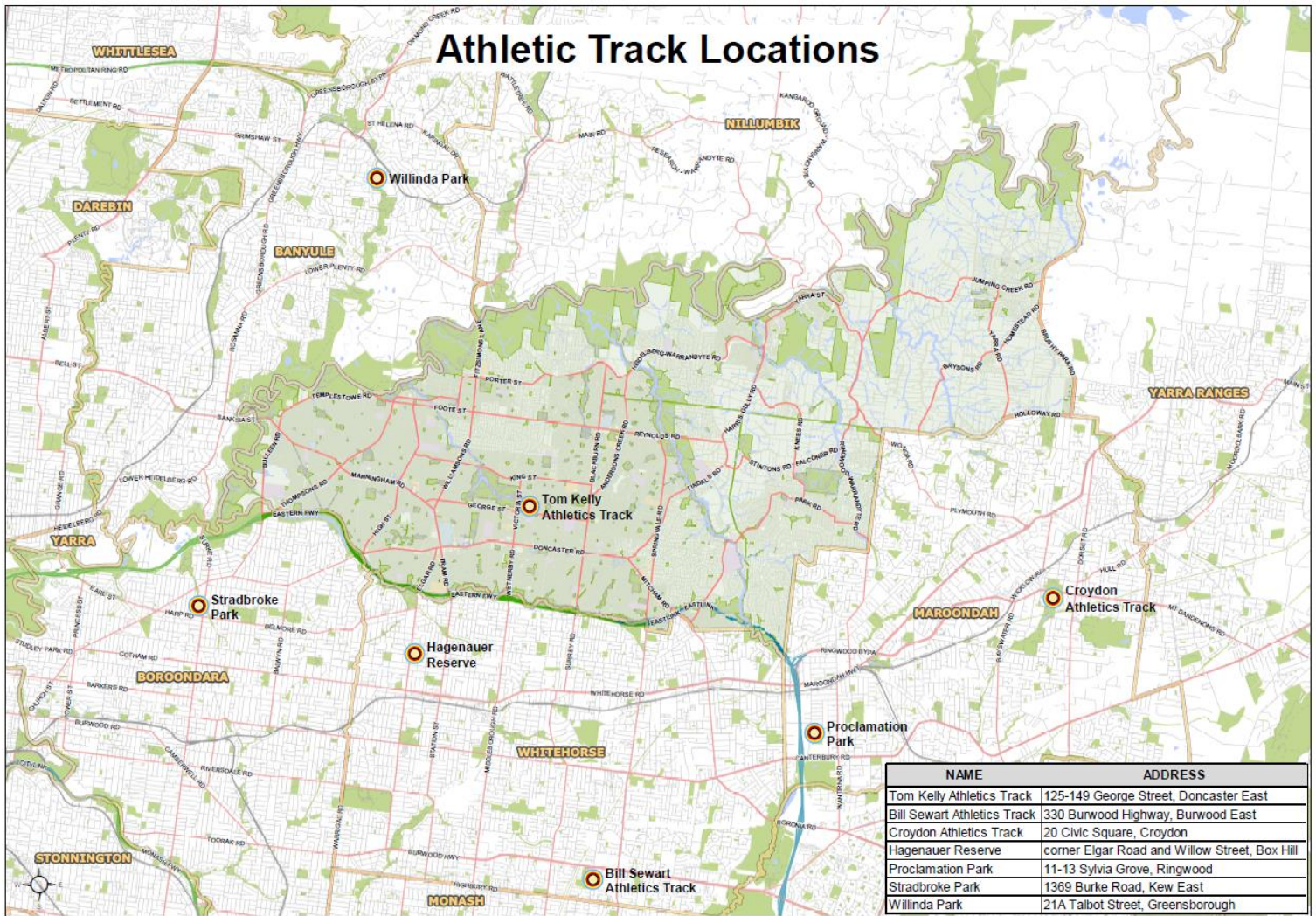
Kew East (Boroondara Council)

Stradbroke Park is a grass athletics facility with permanent synthetic long/triple jump lanes. The track is allocated seasonally to athletics and cricket in the summer, and soccer in winter, with public use permitted outside of club use.

5.6 Willinda Park

Greensborough (Banyule Council)

Willinda Park has a different management model to any other facility benchmarked. Council lease the facility to the Willinda Park Management Group who then manage all track bookings. The general public are however permitted to use the track when it is not in use by clubs or casual users. The tenant club hirers out their equipment to casual users. Fees for the use of the track are invoiced to the user by the Management Group, who then report these bookings quarterly to Council. Council then charges the Management Group based on the number of bookings taken.



Other councils outside of the catchment area were contacted to understand how they manage access to their athletics facilities. It is noted that the number of members participating in each of the resident senior and little athletic clubs at the below facilities, were similar or higher than the Doncaster clubs.

5.7 Duncan MacKinnon Reserve

Murrumbeena (Glen Eira Council)

Clubs are allocated on a seasonal basis. Winter allocations are significantly reduced which is reflective of the seasonality of athletics. Council has worked with the tenant clubs to enable increased public use of the track and there are currently no reported issues with public access.

5.8 Knox Park Athletics Centre

Knoxfield (Knox Council)

Council has a license agreement in place with a Committee of Management, who manage all bookings on behalf of Council. The track remains open for the community outside of club and casual user activities. Athletics equipment for casual users is supplied by the tenant

clubs. Similarly to Glen Eira Council, Knox Council currently have no reported issues with public access.

5.9 Moonee Valley Athletics Centre

Aberfeldie (Moonee Valley Council)

Moonee Valley Council reported that there are some issues with community use, given the limited availability outside of club use. Most of the peak track use times is used by the two resident clubs and two private schools. Moonee Valley manages track bookings and are considering reviewing how bookings are managed to reflect seasonality and usage.

5.10 Benchmarking Summary

Based on this benchmarking and feedback received from the respective Councils, the current management model at the Athletics Track is sufficient. The management model allows a balance between structured and unstructured use, however further refinement of the hours of use for each tenant club should be explored further.

The framework around canteen use and hire of equipment provides benefits to Council through not needing to manage these aspects. It also provides the tenant clubs with income generating opportunities. Overall, this benefits all stakeholders including casual users. This framework should however be reviewed by way of an expression of interest, to ensure equality amongst the tenant clubs.

6 Facility Development

Many of the key actions within the Council's Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan (2012) report relating to the Tom Kelly Athletic Track have been implemented in recent years. The track was resurfaced in 2022 at a cost of \$1.38 million to Council, new floodlights installed in 2022 funded by State Government (\$250,000), Federal Government (\$125,000) and Council (\$218,000) all contributing, and the carpark sealed in 2021. New lighting was also installed for the hammer throw area in 2023 at a cost of \$131,000 (Council \$126,000 and Clubs \$5,000).

Council endorsed a report outlining updates and amendments to the Management Plan in 2020, which included:

- Upgrade of the track floodlights in 2020/21 to competition standard. This upgrade increased the track's ability to host night competition and has also enabled Council the opportunity to remotely access and time the floodlights which may enable the community to utilise the track after daylight for unstructured recreation, particularly during the winter months;
- Installation of floodlights to the hammer throw area in 2023; and
- Construction of a new pavilion to service the sports field (completed), resulting in the current pavilion being dedicated for athletics track users.

Other upgrades including a new photo finish booth, electronic turnstile and other minor upgrades have recently been undertaken by the clubs.

Outstanding recommendations from the updates and amendments to the Management Plan in 2020 are listed below:

1. Include a full upgrade to the existing pavilion to make it more accessible and welcoming for users. (Council’s Annual budget currently has \$100,000 for design in 2023-2024 and \$1m 2024-2025 delivery);
2. Improve community access to track availability information;
3. Increase availability of the track for informal/unstructured use through remote access technology with the floodlight upgrade; and
4. Identify mechanisms to obtain casual use data to determine a baseline for the facilities actual usage.

6.1 Athletics Participation

6.1.1 Participation Analysis

The athletics participation data outlined on the next page has been obtained from membership data supplied to Council in 2023 by the tenant clubs using Tom Kelly Athletics Track.

Overall the data shows a total of 729 participants across the four tenant clubs with 399 (54.7%) being juniors, 381 being female (52.2%) and 348 being male (47.8%).

There are a total of 262 members of Doncaster Athletics Club of which 95 are juniors representing approximately 36% of the membership. Note approximately 6 of these juniors are also members of Doncaster Little Athletics Club.

Doncaster Athletics Club Membership

Club membership information				
	Male		Female	
	No. players	No. teams	No. players	No. teams
Sub-junior (U6 - U11)	0		0	
Juniors (U12 - U18)	41	3	54	3
Seniors (19+ years)	34	1	42	1
Masters (35+ years)	46	2	45	2
Totals	121	6	141	6

There are a total of 300 members of Doncaster Little Athletics Club of which all are juniors with 53.3% being female and 46.7% being male.

Doncaster Little Athletics Club Membership

Club membership information				
	Male		Female	
	No. players	No. teams	No. players	No. teams
Sub-junior (U6 - U11)	80	6	90	6
Juniors (U12 - U18)	60	6	70	6
Seniors (19+ years)	0	0	0	0
Masters (35+ years)	0	0	0	0
Totals	140	12	160	12

There are a total of 23 members of Victorian Masters Athletics Club with almost twice as many male as females.

Victoria Masters Athletics Club Membership

Club membership information				
	Male		Female	
	No. players	No. teams	No. players	No. teams
Sub-junior (U6 - U11)				
Juniors (U12 - U18)				
Seniors (19+ years)				
Masters (35+ years)	15	1	8	1
Totals	15	1	8	1

There are a total of 144 members of the Westerfoldians Inclusive Running Group with the same number of males as females.

Westerfoldians Inclusive Running Group Membership

Club membership information				
	Male		Female	
	No. players	No. teams	No. players	No. teams
Sub-junior (U6 - U11)	2			
Juniors (U12 - U18)			2	
Seniors (19+ years)	10		10	
Masters (35+ years)	60		60	
Totals	72	0	72	0

It is important to note that whilst there are 729 current members of the athletics clubs, unstructured participation such as running and walking within athletics facilities is generally high. Furthermore, use of the athletics track by school groups is significant and represents the largest number of casual bookings for any of Council's outdoor sports infrastructure.

Actual participation data is currently unavailable on the unstructured/casual usage rates at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track, however walking and jogging are known to be the most participated in forms of physical activity across the municipality.

6.1.2 Key Considerations

Casual Use

The track also sees a significant number of community members use the facilities in an unstructured manner. At times, this usage conflicts with structured club usage, resulting in issues between users.

Council's Recreation Strategy identified several actions aimed at increasing unstructured active recreation within the community. This includes walking, which is already the highest participated activity in Manningham. To encourage greater participation in active recreation

and to further enhance facility usage, opportunities exist to activate the track’s floodlights for community members to use when not in use by the tenant clubs.

7 Tom Kelly Athletics Track Usage

7.1 Athletic Clubs

There are four clubs who are based at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track as outlined below.

- Doncaster Athletics Club (DAC)
- Doncaster Little Athletics Club (DLAC)
- Doncaster Master’s Athletics Club (Victorian Masters)
- Westerfoldians Running Group (Westerfoldians)

The table below documents the annual allocations made to each of the athletic clubs.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday					
8:00 AM	Off Peak Hours					DLAC	DAC					
8:30 AM												
9:00 AM												
9:30 AM												
10:00 AM												
10:30 AM												
11:00 AM												
11:30 AM												
12:00 PM						Off Peak Hours					DAC	
12:30 PM												
1:00 PM												
1:30 PM												
2:00 PM												
2:30 PM												
3:00 PM												
3:30 PM												
4:00 PM												
4:30 PM	DAC	DLAC										
5:00 PM			DLAC									
5:30 PM	DAC											
6:00 PM		DAC		DAC								
6:30 PM												
7:00 PM	Victorian Masters				DLAC							
7:30 PM			Westerfoldians									
8:00 PM												
8:30 PM												
9:00 PM												

The following conditions of use for the Athletic Track are specified within Manningham Council’s *Seasonal Allocation of Sporting Facilities Conditions of Use* document. P.7. Please note: These conditions were superseded in 2020 to ensure that times of use of the athletics track were in line with the use of other sports fields which allows for use up to 9.30pm.

“The athletics track may only be used between the hours specified below:

- Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 7.30pm Max. of 4 Tuesday nights events per season. Must finish by 9.30pm.

- *Friday 6.00pm - 9.30pm Max. of 6 bookings per season.*
- *Saturday 9.00am - N.A.*
- *Sunday 10.00am - N.A. Max. of 2 DLAC events per season.*
- *PA system can only be used during designated hours*
- *Starting pistols to be used only between designated hours and at authorised events*
- *If a public address system is to be used at the track for the purpose of conducting a meeting the public address system must have a noise limiting device installed and calibrated by Council's Local Laws Department.*

The Tenant may apply for authority to conduct special events on the athletics track outside the hours stipulated above.

*The Recreation Team may require the Tenant to supply a fully detailed printed statement showing the Tenant's seasonal program of events and if necessary, a schedule of the day's program of events.*¹

Overall, the athletic clubs booked the track for 1,927 hours in 2022 or 160 hours per month.

In addition to club use, the track is very popular with schools who use the facilities for their athletics school carnivals as well as athletics units. In the six months from July- December 2022, schools booked the track 46 times which is an average of 2 or 3 bookings per week (when you take out school holidays). This use continues to grow.

The peak sporting bodies also use the track for various events across the summer season.

The broader community are also heavy users of the track. Tom Kelly is one of the few tracks across Melbourne which are accessible to the general public and there is usually someone using the track regardless of the time of day.

Hours of use and availability of the track are divided into peak and off-peak hours of use.

Peak time is from 4.00pm-9.00pm each weekday and 8.00am-6.00pm on the weekends days. Off peak is 7.00am-4.00pm each weekday with 4 off peak hours on the weekends.

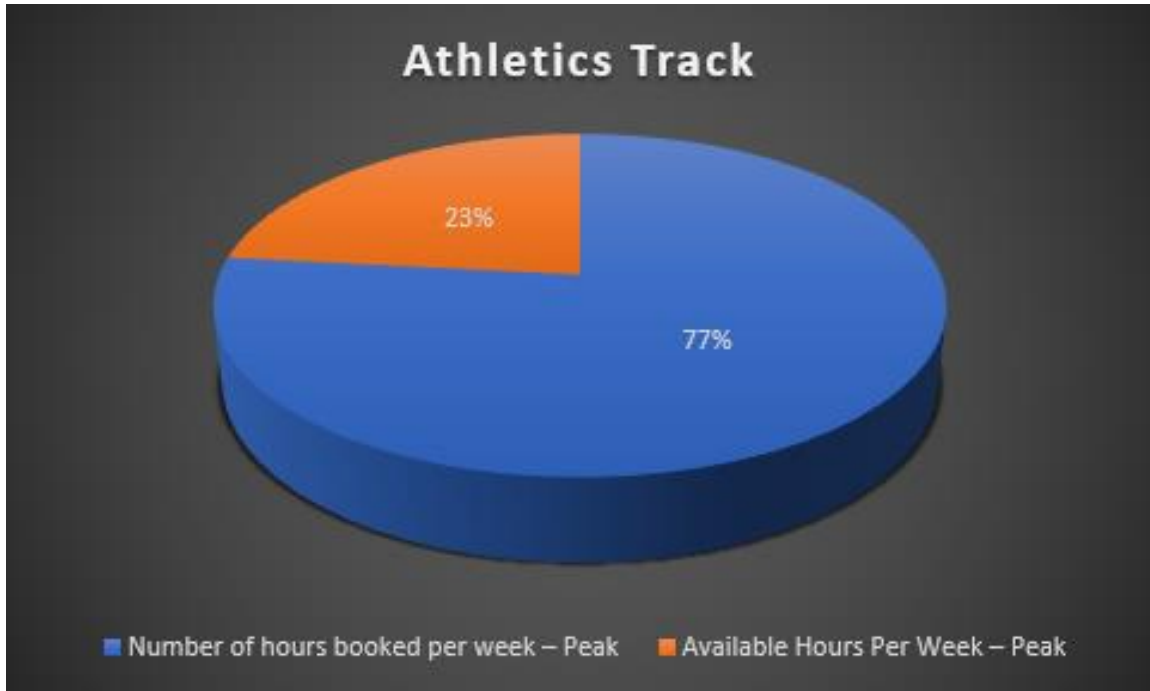
7.1.1 Summer Season 2022-2023

The following pie chart shows the actual percentage of use, and available use for peak and off-peak periods in the summer season 2022/2023.

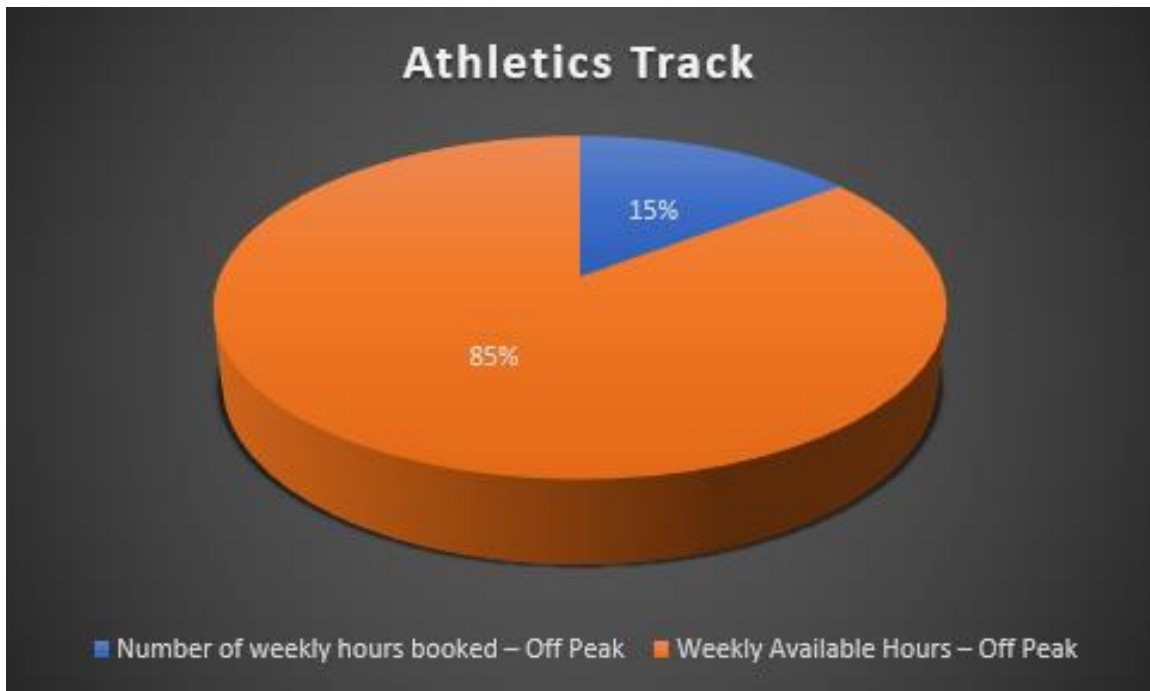
The detailed data summarised in the pie charts on the following page can be found at Appendix 1.

¹ Seasonal Allocation of Sporting Facilities Conditions of Use document. P.7

Summer Season Peak Times



Summer Season Off Peak Times

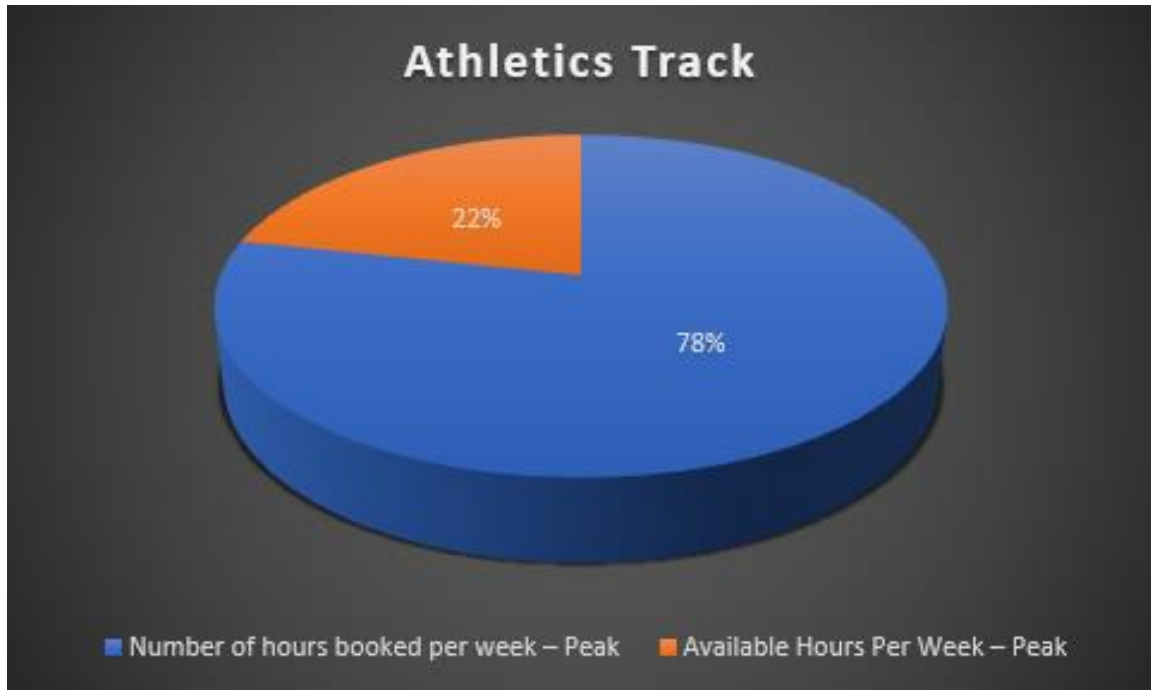


Of the available hours of use of the track in the summer season, 35.2% was allocated for use by the athletics clubs under their annual allocation and 7.59% was booked by casual hirers, leaving 57.21 % available overall for community use. Of this, 23% of hours are available during peak times and 85% of available hours are during off peak hours.

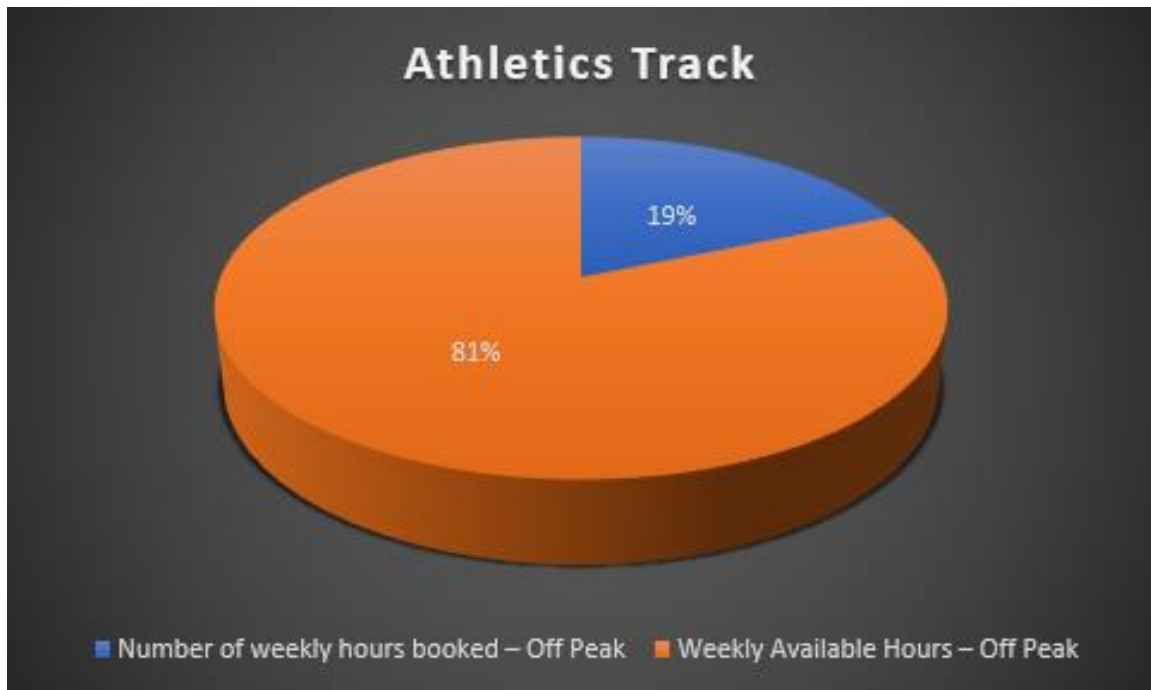
7.1.2 Winter Season 2022

The pie chart below shows the actual percentage of use and available use for peak and off-peak periods in the winter season 2022.

Winter Season Peak Times



Winter Season Off Peak Times



Of the available hours of use of the track in the winter season, 35.2% was allocated for use by the athletics clubs under their annual allocation and 10.85% was booked by casual hirers, leaving 57.21% available overall for community use. Of this, 22% of hours are available during peak times and 81% of available hours are during off peak hours.

7.2 Casual Hire

Bookings for the casual use of the track is done through Council's Recreation Unit where a hire fee is charged for use of the track.

Hirers who require the use of equipment and/or canteen facilities are then directed to contact the Doncaster Little Athletics Club. The arrangements between Council and the Doncaster Little Athletics Club for casual hirers is documented in a letter dated 30 December 2020 and a summary of each parties responsibilities appears below.

DLAC Responsibilities

- Opening the sports pavilion for access by the casual hirer.
- Equipment Hire - DLAC is permitted to charge users a fee for the hire of this equipment, with a copy of the hire fees to be submitted to Council.
- Opportunity to provide canteen services and all that entails.
- Inspecting the pavilion/ at the conclusion of the booking to ensure it is left in a clean and tidy condition.

Council Responsibilities

- Cleaning of the public toilets.

8 Consultation

A range of consultation was undertaken for this project. This included the following:

- Council officer workshop
- Stakeholder interviews with each of the tenant athletics clubs
- Interviews with each of the State Sporting Associations
- Schools who use the Tom Kelly Track regularly
- Community consultation – Survey, drop in and onsite consultation sessions. (Council undertook a mailbox drop to residents within a 500m radius to inform them of consultation opportunities.)

8.1 Council Officer Workshop

A workshop for relevant Council officers was held on 13 February 2023 to discuss the management, use and ongoing works to the Tom Kelly Athletics Track. The section below outlines the input from each of the different Council teams involved with the athletics track.

8.1.1 Recreation Team

The Tom Kelly Athletics Track is classified as a regional facility with use by athletics peak bodies as well as schools within and outside Manningham.

The track has Class 2 Certification and complies with requirements up to National level in every event with the exception of the Hammer Throw. A full certificate could not be issued as the curve radius does not meet the international standards for World Athletics certification.

The clubs have an application in to extend the running track by two, to three metres on the back of the north side of the track however this requires Melbourne Water approval.

There is a question over the purpose of the facility and whether it is for elite use or with a focus on community use?

Currently the athletics clubs have year-round allocations however they may not need this which may increase access opportunities for community use. Consideration is being given to the possibility of turning on the track lighting on a Friday evening during the winter for example so that the community can use the track.

There is a small building located in the south-east corner of the Reserve which was built in 1991 and funded jointly by Council and Doncaster Little Athletics Centre on a 2:1 basis. There is no formal tenancy agreement for this building. The only tenant for this pavilion is Doncaster Little Athletics Centre.

The Doncaster Little Athletics Club contributed \$10,000 to rebuild the small clubrooms located in the southeast corner and had an agreement providing use for the club for 10 years. This agreement has expired.

The provision of a QR code at the entrance to the facility with availability information would be helpful. It would be beneficial if this information was also available in other languages.

Council regularly receives complaints about noise and the use of the Public Address (PA) system from the track.

When the clubs are using the track, the facility is locked to the public which is an issue for those wishing to access the public toilets which are located inside the fenced facility. This is also an issue for the public when schools use the facility.

There is currently approximately \$1 million allocated in the 2025 capital works budget to redevelop the athletics pavilion, with design work to commence in the 2023/2024 year. Any redevelopment of the pavilion will incorporate public toilet facilities which can be accessed by the public when the track is in use.

There are a number of smaller buildings and storage sheds within the facility. It may be possible to consolidate some of these within the pavilion redevelopment.

Use of athletic equipment by the schools who hire the facility, is provided through the Doncaster Little Athletics Club who also provide canteen facilities if requested.

8.1.2 Waste Management

Rubbish bins are collected by Council's internal waste collection service and are collected from within the cage. Bins situated around the grounds are to be placed into the cage if they are required to be emptied.

Currently the recycling bins are scheduled to be emptied weekly by Council's external contractor, however it is the club's responsibility to put the bins out for collection and this does not always happen which then creates issues for the clubs and users of the track.

There is no option to increase the frequency of collection of the recycle bins often causing issues with overfull bins when large events are run.

The management of use, placement, and collection of rubbish bins continues to be an issue for the athletics clubs and hirers of the athletics track resulting in regular complaints from the clubs and the track manager.

The Council cleaning contractor should place all bins out for collection (including recycle bins), however there are ongoing issues with the cleaning contract which have been raised numerous times with the contractor. Option for consideration: That clubs engage a Private Waste Contractor which would provide a more flexible and regular service, however, would become a club expense.

8.1.3 Engineering and Traffic Management

The main carpark with 170 car parks was sealed in 2022 however the southeast corner remains unsealed. This will be sealed when the overflow carpark works are undertaken for the new pavilion on the southwest corner of the reserve bordered by George Street and Victoria Street, Doncaster in the 2023 - 2024 financial year.

The management of buses in the area for school carnivals continues to be an issue. There is dedicated long term bus parking in the formalised carpark, however, pick up and drop off times remain challenging.

8.1.4 Car Park Lighting

An assessment was conducted of the car park lighting by High Access Cabling (Electrical Contractor) on 15th December 2022.

While High Access Group advised that it was possible to do a "like for like" replacement (i.e., replacing the existing high pressure sodium flood lights with LED flood lights), there are concerns that this will result in light spillage into the surrounding residential properties from where there have been previous complaint).

As the main car park was a hockey pitch in the 1990s, the existing flood lights were likely designed for hockey training / competition so may be unsuitable for the car park.

The Traffic team is looking to engage a design consultant to explore lighting options and will report back to the Recreation team.

8.1.5 Parks Maintenance

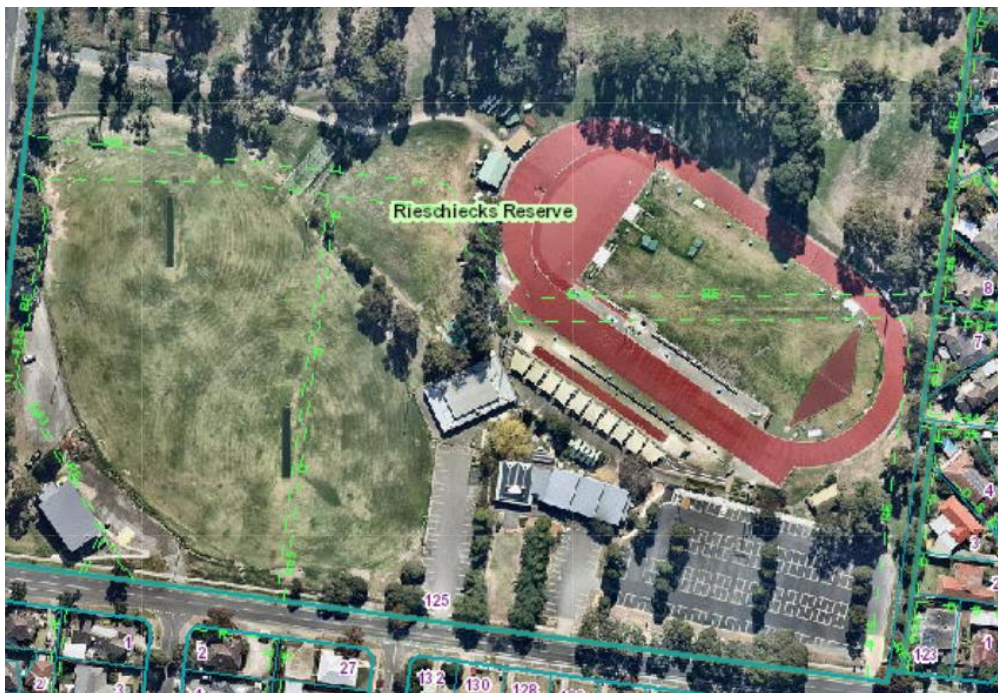
The track surface was redeveloped in 2022 with the contractor required to maintain the track surface for the next 4-5 years.

Track protection is required when heavy vehicles are crossing the track to mitigate possible damage, and there may be issues relating to this when events are held at the track such as Relay for Life. There are two access points onto the track, the western end, which is a wider entrance and the eastern end, which is used by Council's teams when accessing and maintaining the infield.

Consideration may need to be given to how access to the infield is better managed for large events requiring truck access for example. Possibly a different key is required for events, so that appropriate track protection is used. Council does not have track protection of large vehicles. Hirers would need to provide this themselves.

Whilst the infield is irrigated, there is no drainage in the infield which is an ongoing issue which is unable to be resolved as Melbourne Water drainage easement runs through this area.

The image below shows the Melbourne Water drainage easement outlined in green. It runs right through the hammer throw area, over the middle of the track and through the infield.



During the school holidays there are often issues with sand from the long jump pit being spread in surrounding areas as the pit is used as a sand pit.

8.1.6 Open Space Planning

The Open Space Planning team are implementing the remainder of the Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan 2012 including the path on the eastern and northern side of the facility. This is challenging as the eastern side is heavily treed with a steep slope.

The fence line on the northeast corner doesn't make a lot of sense. A gate is required.

8.1.7 Heimat Centre

The Heimat Centre Manager reports that waste management is an issue. The public dump rubbish on occasion. The placement of bins out for collection is the responsibility of the Council officer who attends the Heimat Centre daily.

Staff in the Heimat Centre have no complaints about noise from the athletics track, however when the track is booked for school use, this has a flow on effect on parking and rubbish bins. The athletics clubs make use of Heimat Centre bins if needed which negatively impacts the Heimat Centre as the Centre then has reduced waste management capacity.

There are currently no plans in Council's Infrastructure Plan to redevelop the Heimat Centre.

8.2 Tenant Sporting Clubs

Consultation was undertaken with each of the four sporting clubs based at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track. A shared meeting was held with Doncaster Athletics Club, Doncaster Little Athletics Club and Doncaster Masters Athletics Club. These clubs work very closely and co-operatively with each other. A separate meeting was held with the Westerfoldians Running Group.

8.2.1 Doncaster Athletics Club

Membership of the Doncaster Athletics Club (DAC) has been steady at approximately 250 members for many years and remained steady through Covid. In 2023 there are 280-290 members. Many of the members are juniors up to early 20's and then 40+. There is a pretty even gender split.

New track and lighting and the general ambience of the track is attracting new users. The track has Class 2 Certification and is considered one of the premier tracks in Victoria.

They host track competitions approximately 5-6 times a year on a Saturday afternoon. There is demand for use of the track by Athletics Victoria who use it for special meets which tend to be twilight meets. The details of these events are outlined in Section 6.3.1.

8.2.2 Doncaster Little Athletics Club

In 2022 there were 170 members of the Doncaster Little Athletics Club (DLAC), though the track was closed for a significant part of the year. In 2023 there are 230 members. They are hoping to increase membership up to 300. Four to five years ago, membership was 400-500 children however, there has been an overall downward trend in Little Athletics. Approximately 55% of the members are female and 45% male.

The Little Athletics group would prefer to have access to the track from 8.00am on the weekends in Summer.

Little Athletics Victoria hosts a regional event every second year at Doncaster with Knox hosting the alternate year.

8.2.3 Doncaster Masters Athletics Club

This group do athletics through the summer season and cross country through the winter and have an allocation on Monday evenings.

The group have 170 people on their mailing list. In 2022 approximately 20 people regularly attended training, however this has risen to 40 in 2023. There has been a good influx of parents from the Little Athletics Club. Approximately 70% of the membership is male.

8.2.4 Shared Comments/Issues of the Athletic Clubs

The new bin system doesn't work. Often there are no bins put out for schools by the cleaner. Previously the Council officer would put the bins in and out, but not anymore. They previously shared bins.

There are often work requests made to Council, but they are not actioned. The work requests are not followed up. For non-urgent works they use Council's online maintenance request form.

When senior schools book the football oval there is an issue with primary schools who may be using the track at the same time as students from the senior schools need to access the public toilets.

The clubs are interested in a new pavilion development (not on the same site as the existing) which would include grandstand seating, club rooms and storage. They do **not** want funds spent on redeveloping the existing pavilion. They would prefer to wait for a new pavilion development in a different location alongside the straight than have the planned retrofit of the existing pavilion.

There are often complaints about noise from the public particularly in regard to use of the P.A system. There are also complaints about the use of the lights in the evening. On occasion special meets have gone as late as 10.00pm.

With regard to track bookings, the Council takes the bookings and informs the clubs and the cleaner, however the cleaning is not done properly.

The turnstile that was installed to manage track access through Covid continues to work well for the clubs and this is something they wish to retain. The turnstile minimises the abuse by general community members who wish to access the track when it is allocated for club use.

There are three different peak bodies who support the three clubs however they are not interested in a joint management group as this just adds a layer. The clubs communicate with each other as required.

Routine maintenance by Council is good. Reactive maintenance is not so good.

8.2.5 Westerfoldians Running Group

This group started informally in 2018 with 30 regular members. They are a recreational running group who run member events.

Prior to the Covid pandemic there were 150-160 members. Currently there are approximately 120 members and the group use the track on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm-8.00pm. (Previously they were allocated Thursday evening). The focus of the group is social, mental and physical. Their allocation is for the track only. They do not need or use the pavilion. This group is happy for community members to access the outer two lanes of the track whilst their group train.

They are currently having discussions with members to increase member buy in to the ensure the sustainability of the club. Having a regular allocation for use of the track costs money and membership fees need to at least cover the costs. When the club had Thursday nights for their use, they offered to share the Thursday night with the Doncaster Athletic Club as they only require access to the track with lights – they don't need exclusive use.

The group are very happy with the level of maintenance and find the Council easy to work with.

8.3 State Sporting Bodies

Consultation was undertaken with each of the peak sporting bodies being:

- Athletics Victoria
- Little Athletics Victoria
- Masters Athletics Victoria

8.3.1 Athletics Victoria

Tom Kelly is one of the key tracks used by Athletics Victoria. They run state club championships there 3 or 4 times per year and possibly the relay championships. The track is in an easily accessible position and the committee is very helpful.

The club is proactive and wanting to assist so it makes it helpful from a state perspective.

Over the last 12 months they have run 5 or 6 specialist meets known as High Velocity Meetings which are usually held mid-week on Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 6.00pm-9.30pm. These events usually attract 400-600 people.

The track has received Class 2 certification for international events with the exception of the throwing area. Hammer Throw should be 90m however the Tom Kelly facility is 75-80 metres which makes it suitable for 95% of events. It is however noted that the certification relates to the track length, however due to the curve radius not meeting the international standards for World Athletics certification, a full certificate cannot be issued.

The track at Knox is being redeveloped shortly and the Aberfeldie Essendon and Box Hill tracks have new lighting planned. Ideally there would be 5 or 6 venues across the state that they would like to see developed as much as possible.

Overall, the facility meets all of their needs however the comment was that that in future it would be good to have the storage and club rooms consolidated with improved toilet facilities and parking.

8.3.2 Little Athletics Victoria

Little Athletics Victoria (LAV) is the largest of the peak athletic bodies in Victoria.

The Tom Kelly Athletics track is considered one of the premier tracks in the Eastern suburbs and is one the few tracks that is accessible 24/7 as most are kept locked. The user groups of the track grow because the community sees them in action.

Tom Kelly is a wonderful venue except for parking. LAV use it for smaller state events with one event maximum held per season. Parking on site is inadequate for larger events and public transport is not great.

It is a regular venue for regional events where well over 1,500 children and their parents attend the events.

The facility is suitable for state level events with nice wide straights and good throwing areas.

The DLAC committee is very good with good people and equipment which makes using the Tom Kelly Track low risk for them.

Upgrading the lights to broadcast standard would make it even more attractive.

The track is often under water in a deluge but appears to cause no lasting damage.

The track is heavily used by the general public which has implications for track repair and maintenance.

8.3.3 Masters Athletics Victoria

Master's Athletics Victoria have approximately 800 members at state level. They currently run two annual events at the Tom Kelly track. In August they run the Venue Challenge which is a competition between the 15 venues across Melbourne who have a masters club operating from them. This event attracts approximately 100 competitors. The second event is the Victorian State Championships which is a two-day event in February /March each year which attracts approximately 300 competitors.

There are plans for a new special meet to be held after Easter in 2024 which will be the Master's Gift. At this stage, the event is planned to be held at the Doncaster track and likely to attract approximately 150 competitors.

At the state level they are very happy with the new track and upgraded lights and the Doncaster track is getting preference over other venues. It is preferable to Lakeside because the hire fees are cheaper.

8.4 School Consultation

A number of schools who regularly use the track were invited to provide feedback.

8.4.1 Whitefriars College

Whitefriars are a consistent user of the Tom Kelly Athletics track and in 2022/2023 were the highest school user. They use the track for their athletics carnival as well as for their athletics unit.

The school indicated that they are always happy with the track and find the club representative is very helpful with the hire of equipment and opening of the track.

The sealed carparking is an improvement on previous years. There are always plenty of bins which are easily locatable.

They make use of the canteen, pavilion and the small room on Carnival days.

Additional toilet facilities would be beneficial as well as a gathering space/spectator area on the northern side of the track. Ideally this area would have some shelter.

8.4.2 East Doncaster Secondary College

East Doncaster Secondary College have used the Tom Kelly Athletics Track for many years for the Athletics Carnival as well as for the Vision Carnival.

They are very happy with the facilities and appreciate the online booking system where they are able to see at a glance which dates are available. They generally book 12 months in advance. As the school is walking distance from the facility, their students walk down to the facility for their athletics carnival.

They had no issues or suggestions for improvements.

8.4.3 Our Lady of Sion College

It's a great facility and the booking process is okay.

They would like to be able to hold a fundraising barbecue however were told this couldn't happen. They must use the canteen.

A fire evacuation plan is required for the whole site. There is one available for the pavilion, however not one for the whole site. This is required for their risk management and safety practices.

The communication with the club was good.

8.4.4 Public Schools Sport Association

Contact was made with the Operations Manager for the Eastern Metro area.

He reported that there was nothing but good feedback in relation to their use of Tom Kelly Athletics Track for interschool competition.

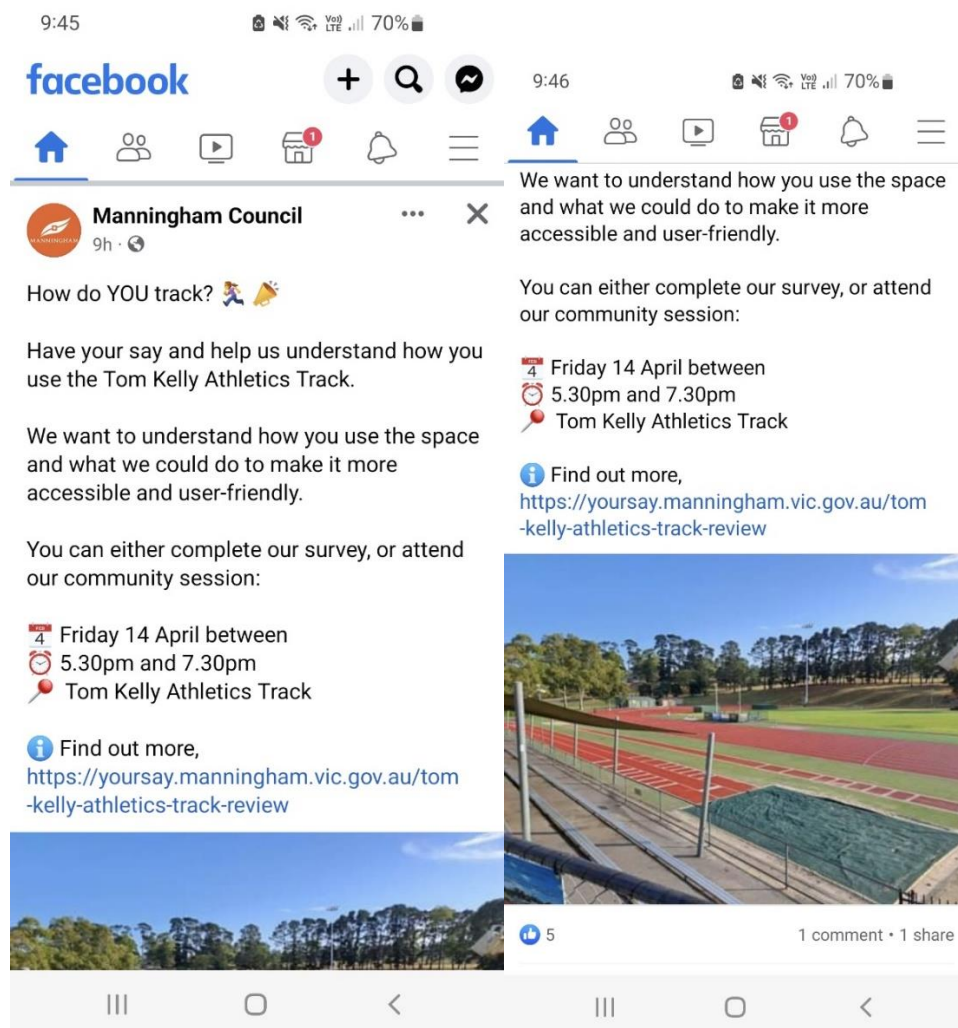
It's helpful to have access to the clubrooms for recording of events and records. They are also keen to have access to the photo finish equipment.

DLAC are super to deal with.

The fact that the throwing area is located outside the track poses a small risk from a child protection standpoint.

8.5 Community Consultation Drop in Event

A drop in community consultation event was held on Friday evening 14th April 2023 from 5.30pm - 7.30pm at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track. The drop in event was promoted via a letter box drop to local residents as well as signage at the entrances to the track. In addition, the opportunity for residents to have their say was promoted on Councils social media channels. See the Facebook posts on the next page.



There were 15 people who provided their feedback during the drop in event. Their comments are recorded below.

- Club member and local resident would like CCTV on site.
- There are school groups using the P.A system inappropriately and constantly.
- Club member feedback: Happy to have the community still using the track. They do have issues with some residents playing ball games as this is dangerous when a ball goes on to the track. Issues with the netting for the hammer throw and discus area, currently in fair condition but may need to be considered for upgrade. The lane barriers need to be replaced; none are now working.
- School groups require traffic management plans especially when schools are not providing bus services. Consider a kiss and drop zone for car drop off as well as bus parking.
- A request was made to move the public toilets to the cricket club pavilion so that they are accessible when the track is booked.
- The public toilets are not accessible to the public when a school has booked the facility. There needs to be signage directing the public to the nearest public toilets at Ruffey Lake.
- Turnstiles have been good, the lights, seats, the club loves the facility, ramps and accessible use has been great.
- Better signage is needed at the track to inform community users that there are not be no bikes, scooters or roller blades used on the track. This needs to be in a range of languages and located in multiple points around the track as well as at the entrance.
- There is no monitoring/policing of track use by Council; the club feels they are forced to be the 'bad people' having to enforce the rules about what is appropriate use of the track.
- The adjudicating platform is not safe. Safety barriers are required especially at the top platform. This equipment is owned and provided by the club.
- Upgrade the car park lighting, currently not working.
- Resident: Really lovely, well kept, clean bathrooms, safe and welcoming. Very convenient for running, good in all conditions. Would love to have the lights on weeknights for use of the track, would make them feel more comfortable.
- Occasionally there are people who walk their dogs on the track, but this is not common.
- The club feels their social running groups provide a good opportunity for people to run under lights, however they have the gates locked during these sessions causing a barrier to informal participation. This opportunity needs more promotion.
- The lane gate at the start finish line is a hazard.
- Holes in the track near the javelin area.
- Clubs would like Council to educate the community via a message on the website about how to use the track properly e.g., don't use Lane 1.
- The club believe the track is heavily used compared to other tracks and may wear out more often meaning upgrades are required more often.
- A resident is concerned about flood lights going into their home – they weren't told about the flood light height. They are concerned about what time the lights are on. 9.30pm was confirmed as the latest allowable time for club use.
- A resident is concerned about the safety of the pine trees on the northern side of the track and those on the east fence line.

- Resident: Parking and P.A system, concerns about buses particularly during school use. Buses regularly park in the bike lanes. At times people park on the nature strips. Parking is an ongoing issue especially on the weekends when there are hundreds of cars competing with cricket use as well. The resident suggests the P.A system requires review. The sound bounces off the opposite bank and is directed back to George Street. Possible parking available up at Schramm's Cottage. Believes the reserve is being used too much. He plans to sell and move as he can't stand it anymore. You can hear the P.A in Jackson Court.
- Public toilets lighting at night should be working from a light sensor rather than a timer.
- Resident: Love the new lights (less spread), on the north side of the reserve. Not worried by the use at all. P.A system is too loud; they need to be fixed. Mainly school groups are the problem. Played a recording from their house of the P.A system - you can clearly hear the P.A system from the front and back of their house.
- Resident would be supportive of having the lights turned on during Friday nights to facilitate casual community use.
- The facility is great for wheelchair athletes. Accessibility on to the track has improved.
- Public toilets need upgrade, they feel dark and cold. Need a formalised agreement for use of the canteen and the hire of equipment. – Ideally one agreement.

8.6 Onsite Consultation

Four onsite consultation sessions were conducted at the athletics track on Monday 22nd May from 10:00am and 12:00pm, Wednesday 24th of May from 3:00pm to 4:45pm, Thursday 25th of May from 7:45am to 10:00am and from 10:45am to 12:15pm. Across the four sessions 43 people were consulted with.

Outlined below is the feedback received from these consultations.

- Love the track, keep it the way it is.
- They like running at the track, it feels safe. Only like to run during the day as it is light, would like to use the track at night if it was lit.
- Would like to know when they can use the track during the day – need signage in Chinese.
- Install a hill run with the same surface as the track.
- The facility is fantastic – his son trains here with his coach.
- Very diverse group of people, the track is used a lot by the public.
- Is always well kept.
- Personal training is being conducted at the track.
- Would like to bring their dog into the track, not to run around but just have at the track while their kid's train.
- Very happy with the track, sometimes bikes are on the track. Need better signage in different languages.
- One of the better athletics tracks in the state.
- Annoyed that they can't use it when the club is training.
- Want the track open for community use. Do not want it locked.
- Unsure where to find information on when the track is available to be used. Want a sign onsite that tells them this information.
- Want gym equipment to be installed similar to what is at Ruffey Lake Park. Possible stretching stations.
- Want to be able to use the track when clubs are using it. One lady noted she walks around the outside lane when the clubs use the track.
- Public toilets need an upgrade, they feel dark and cold.

- Outdoor covered changing area was suggested, simply for changing footwear and hanging up jackets/clothing.

8.7 Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee

The Tom Kelly Athletics Track Usage Plan was discussed at the May 2023 meeting of the Manningham Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee. Below is the feedback and ideas received from this group.

- Lack of awareness about availability creates tensions within the club and community.
- Insurance complications if general community members enter when club using.
- Fitness stations would be a great addition.
- Can a new area be developed for community members whilst the track is being used (e.g., lit path network around Rieschiecks Reserve with synthetic and not concrete).
- More competitive users don't want walkers on the track.
- Sign noting track availability.
- Issue with clubs booking and not using the track.
- Reserve feels secure – They like this about the facility. Feels safer when there are less people around as the number of entry points is limited (so you can see who comes in).
- The track is in good condition.
- Track suitable for body joints compared to Warrandyte etc. Easier on the body.
- Great for carnivals with the hill.
- Ample parking even during peak times.
- Good venue that's been upgraded – Toilets need to be upgraded. Have a creepy feeling. Poor condition which is a barrier.
- Only one water bubbler and it's on the one side.
- The fact is it's open 24/7 and rarely vandalised which shows it is well respected.
- Council could consider running events and BBQs to bring more people in.
- Additional track seating is needed.
- People want to know when it's available – E.g. That it will be available every Tuesday night etc.
- The problem is if someone has booked it and they don't use it.
- Some people like going down when other groups are there as it provides a perception of safety - Do we consider an extra public lane when other bookings are using the track?
- Do we book out each section of the track individually? Can this be done? E.g., can two lanes be booked by the clubs, with the remaining lanes free for public use?
- Barriers across the lanes? Do the ones at the track work and can they be put out?

In addition to the above, Manningham Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee members also considered how to increase the profile of the track and enhance user's experience.

1. Appoint **Sport Ambassadors** for Tom Kelly Athletics Track. Ideal candidate is a high-performance athlete who has had their training and development experience in Tom Kelly and willing to raise awareness of positive lifestyle to communities in Manningham and encourage success in sport and life.
2. Build an open space **gallery, museum, or walls** in Tom Kelly Athletics Track. Display inspiring words and pictures with stories and history about some current or retired athletes, coaches, clubs, or volunteers who use Tom Kelly Athletics Track.
3. **Victorian Institute of Sport** community programs can send a high-performance athlete speaker to school to provide 1 hour session to inspire students about physical activities and wellbeing. This is a **free** program for **Government Schools**. How can we help to promoting this terrific program to more public schools in our Manningham? The more students get inspired, the more chances they will go out to exercises.

<https://www.vis.org.au/vis-community-programs-victorian-government-schools>

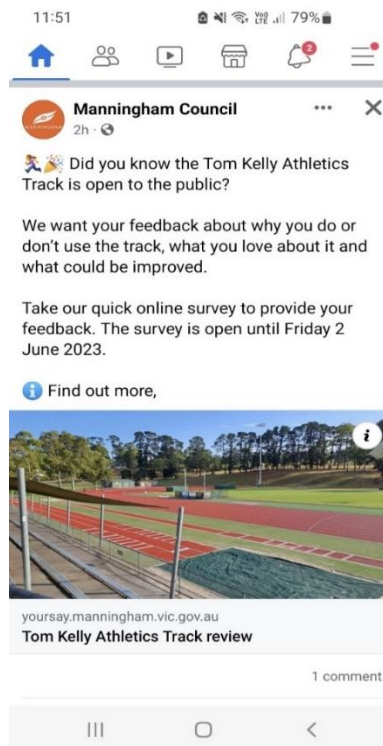
8.8 Community Survey

A community survey was conducted from 1 April – 2 June 2023. The purpose of the survey was to understand how residents use the track and what could be done to make it more accessible and user friendly, as well as to identify any issues with track.

Residents were informed of the survey in a range of ways.

1. Social Media

On 16 May 2023 the Facebook post below was posted to inform residents about the survey and encouraging them to share their views and feedback.



2. A letterbox drop to local residents informing them of the survey.
3. An article in the May Sport and Recreation email newsletter to all Manningham based sports and recreation clubs inviting them to complete a survey.
4. A flyer was prepared and distributed by Councillor Chen and Council officers to those who were using the track casually.
5. The below invitation was sent to the Youth Advisory Committee/Group inviting them to complete the survey.



6. Emails informing of the community survey were sent to:
- Schools who have booked the track since the 1st of January 2022 to the 23rd of May 2023.
 - Residents who have expressed concerns about the track PA system and people seeking information about how to access the track casually since 2020.
 - A range of local community groups.

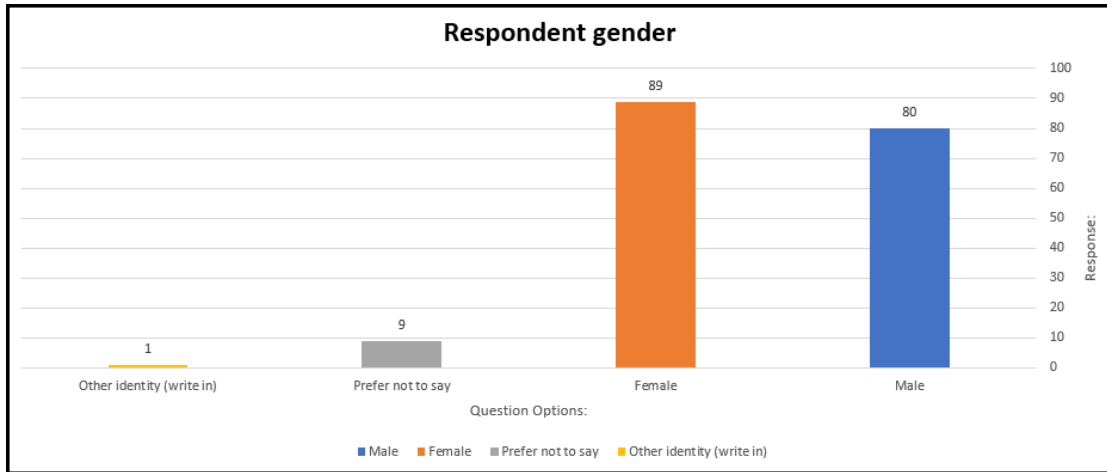
9 Community Survey Analysis

A community survey was conducted from 1 April – 2 June 2023. The purpose of the survey was to understand how residents use the track and what could be done to make it more accessible and user friendly, as well as to identify any issues with the track. 179 people responded to the survey.

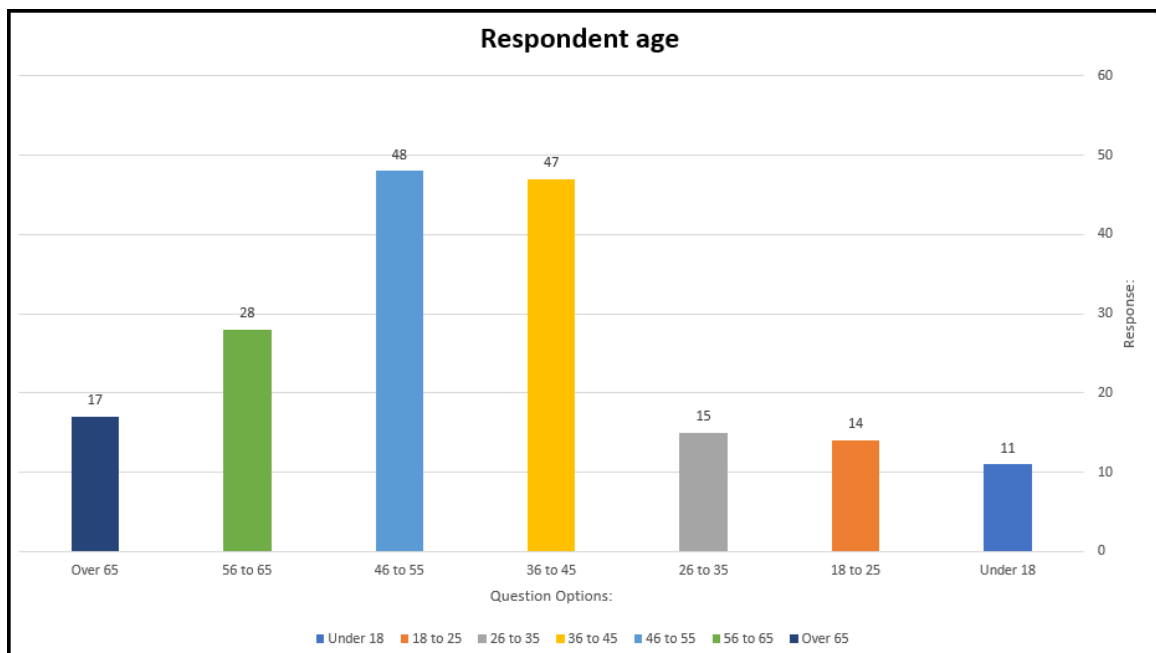
9.1 Respondent Profile

The tables on the following page summarise the gender, age and suburbs of the online survey respondents for the Tom Kelly Athletic Track Survey.

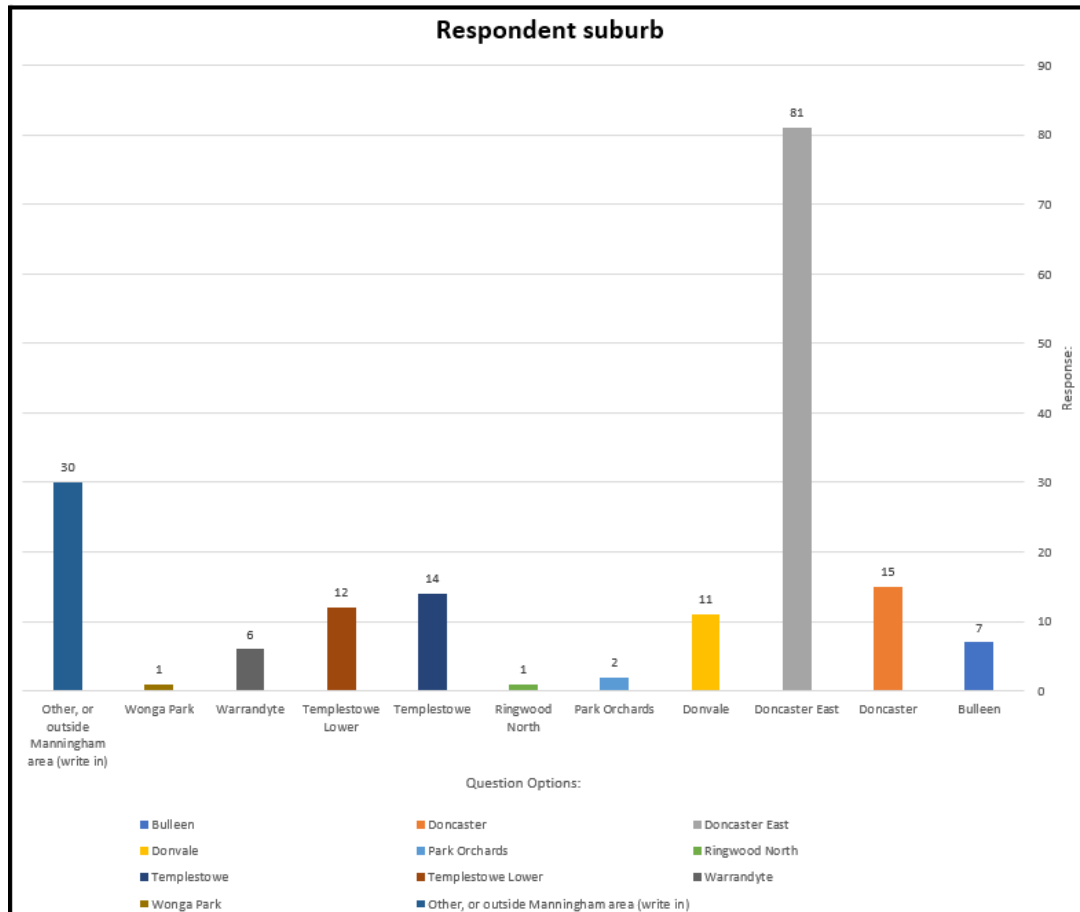
As can be seen in the table, a higher number of respondents were female with 89 (49.7%) responses, 80 responses from males (44.7%) and 9 respondents (0.5%) indicating that they would prefer not to say in regard to their gender and 1 respondent choosing other.



The highest number of respondents 48 (26.7%) were from those aged 46-55 with the next highest response rate coming from those aged 36-45 (26.1%), followed by 28 (15.6%) from those aged 56-65. There were 17 (9.4%) of responses from those aged over 65, 15 (8.3%) from those aged 26-35, 14 (7.8%) responses from those aged 18-25, with the lowest response from those aged 18 or under where 11 (6.1%) responses were received.



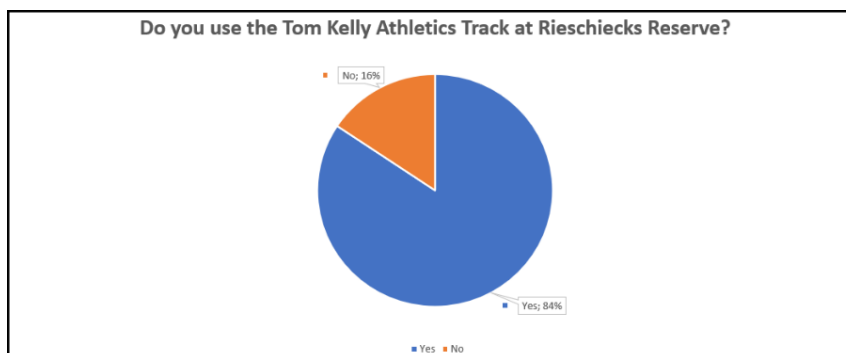
The table below shows that the majority of responses 81 (45%) came from those living in Doncaster, East with 'other or outside the municipality' making up the next highest response of 30 (16.7%), this was followed by 15 (8.3%) living in Doncaster, 14(7.8%) respondents living in Templestowe, 12 (6.7%) in Templestowe Lower, 11 (6.1%) in Donvale, 7 (3.9%) in Bulleen, 6 (3.3%) in Warrandyte, 2 (1.1%) in Park Orchard and 1 (0.6%) from both Wonga Park and Ringwood North.



9.2 Survey Response Analysis

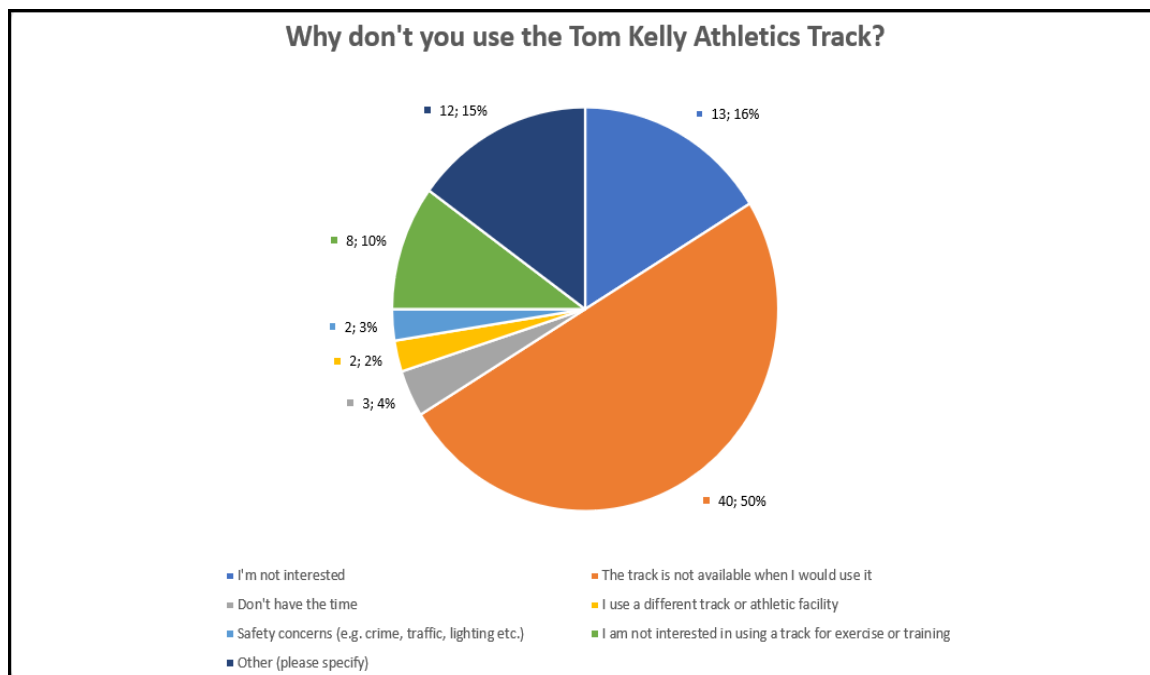
1. Do you use the Tom Kelly Athletics Track at Rieschiecks Reserve?

As can be seen in the table below, of those who responded 84.4% use the Tom Kelly Athletic Track with 15.6% not using the track.



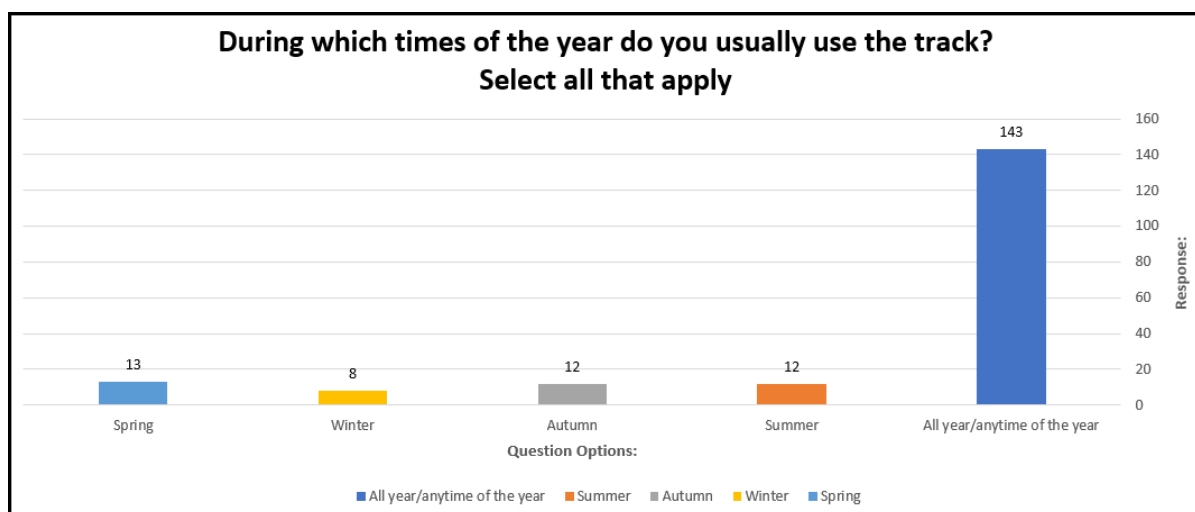
2. Why Don't You Use the Tom Kelly Athletics Track?

Of the 80 respondents who answered why they don't use the track, 40 (50%) indicated that they don't use the track because it is not available when they would use it, this was followed by 13 (16.3%) who indicated they weren't interested, 12 (15.0%) who answered 'other', 8 (10%) who had safety concerns, 3 (3.8%) who indicated they don't have time, and 2 (2.5%) who said they were not interested in using a track for exercise or training, or they use a different track or athletic facility.



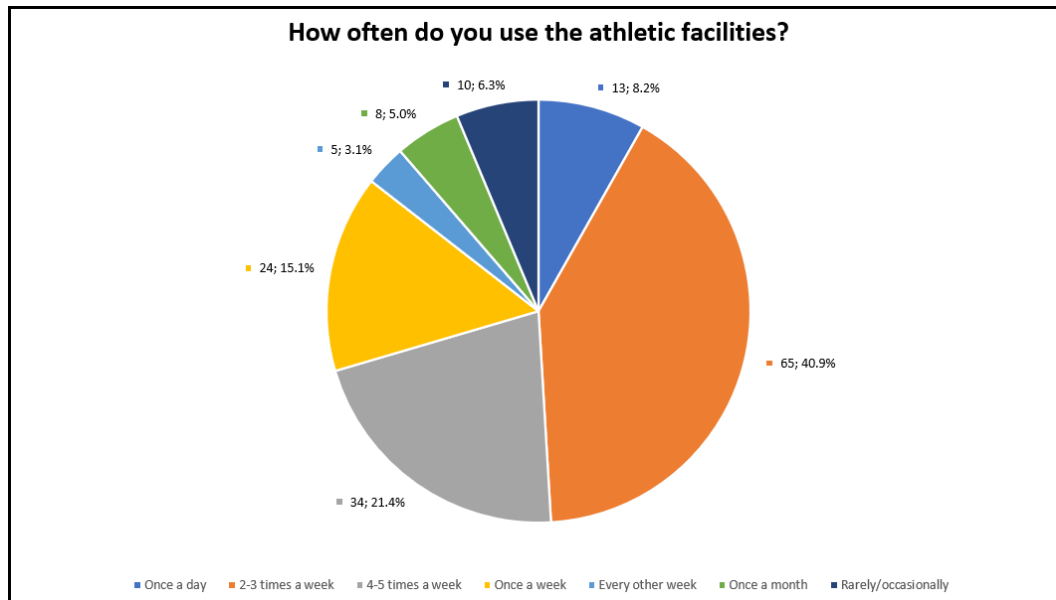
3. Which Times of the Year Do You Usually Use the Track?

Of the 157 responses, respondents were able to choose multiple responses for this answer with the vast majority 143 of responses indicating that they use the track all year. Summer, Autumn and Spring were used almost equally with 13 and 12 responses, and Winter was the least used with 8 responses.



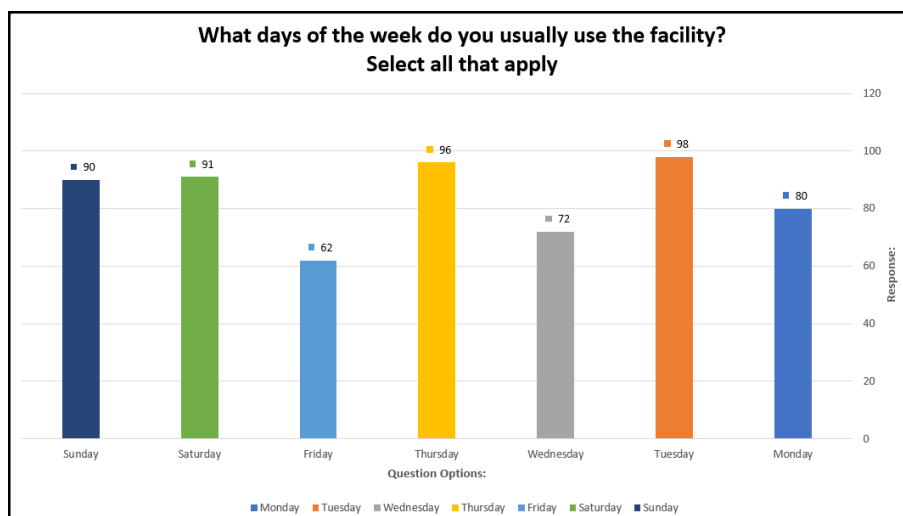
4. How Often Do You Use the Athletic Facilities?

From the 159 responses to the question, how often do you use the athletic facilities, the most popular response from 65 (40.9%) respondents indicated that they use the facility 2-3 times a week, followed by 34 (21.4%) who use it 4-5 times a week, 24 (15.1%) who use it once a week and 13 (8.2%) who use it once a day. 10 (6.3%) indicated they use the facility rarely/occasionally, 8 (5.0%) use it once a month and 5 (3.1%) use it every other week.



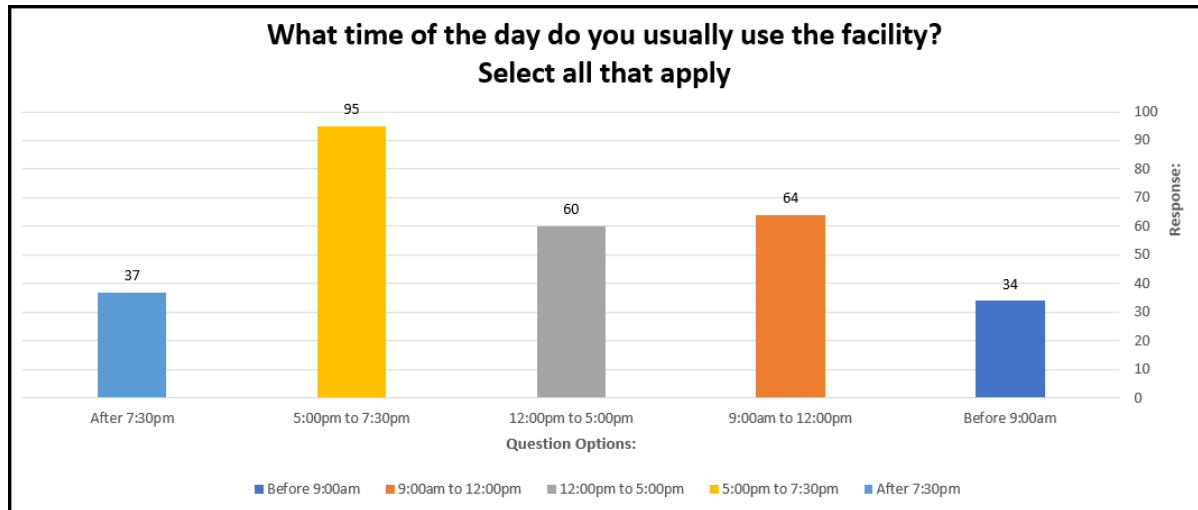
5. What Days of the Week Do You Usually Use the Facility

The 158 respondents were able to choose multiple days in response to this question which shows all days of the week experience good use. The day of the week used by most respondents was Tuesday with 98 responses, followed by Thursday with 96 responses, Saturday with 91 responses, Sunday with 90 responses, Monday with 80 responses, Wednesday with 72 responses, with Friday being the least popular day with 62 responses.



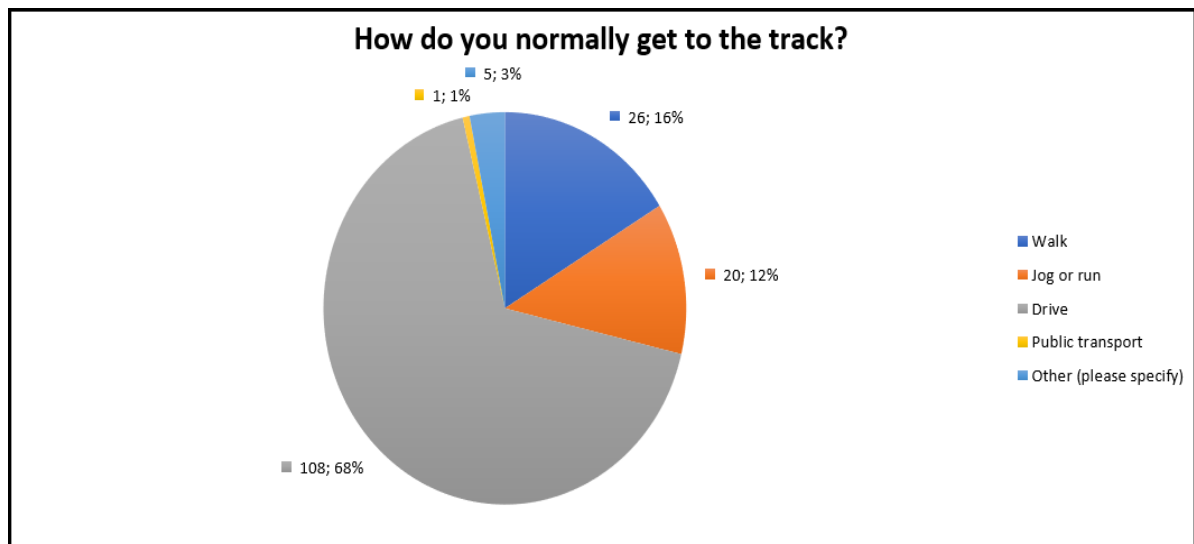
6. What Time of Day Do You Usually Use the Facility?

The 157 respondents were also able to choose multiple responses to this question with 95 indicating 5.00pm-7.30pm was the most popular time of use, followed by 64 who use it from 9.00am -12pm, then 60 who use it from 12.00pm-5.00pm, followed by 34 before 9.00am and lastly 37 who use the facility after 7.30pm.



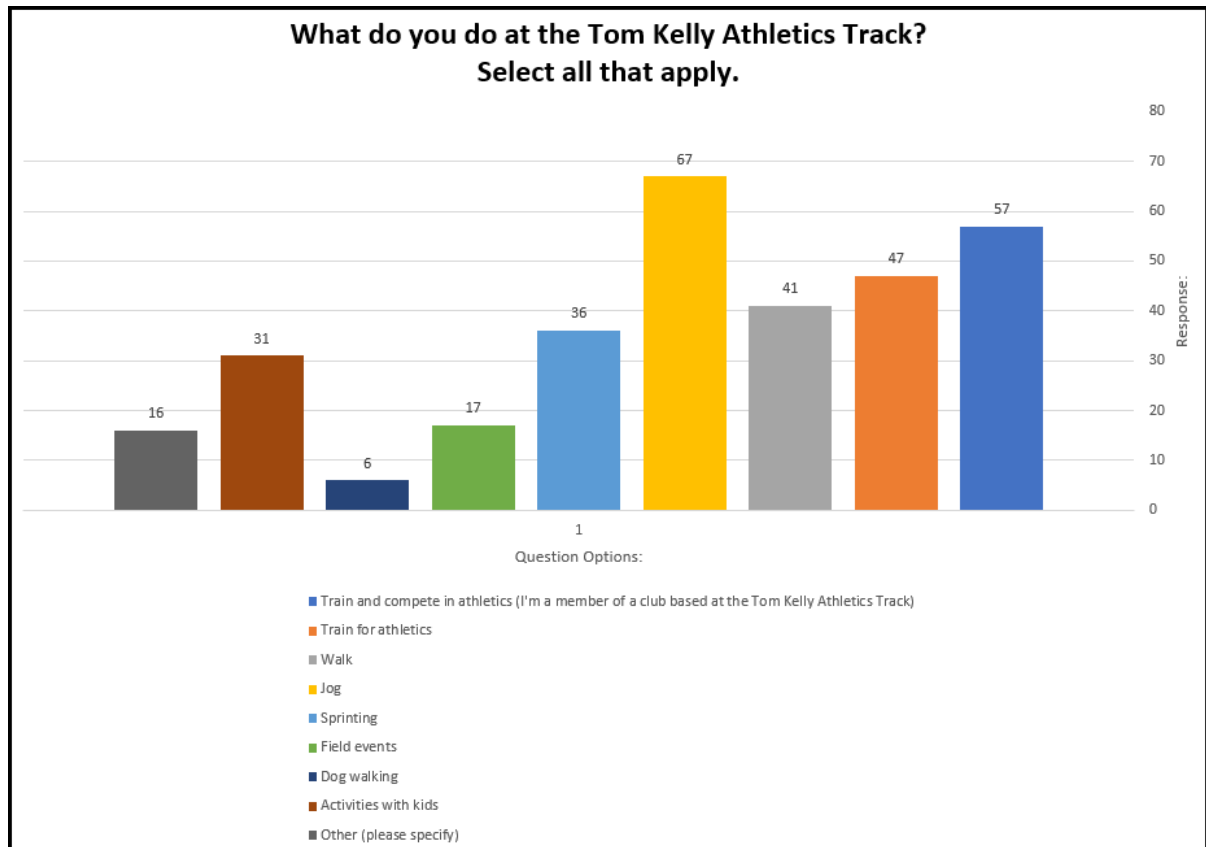
7. How do you Normally Get to the Track?

Of the 160 responses, the vast majority 108 (67.5%) drive to the track, followed by 26 (16.3%) who walk, 20 (12.5%) who jog or run, 5 (3.1%) who chose 'other', 1 (0.6%) who catch public transport. No one chose cycling as their method of transport to the track.



8. What Do You Do at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track?

The 161 respondents were able to choose multiple responses to this question with 67 people indicating jogging was the most selected option, followed by 57 who train to compete (or are a member of a club based at the track), 47 who train for athletics, 41 who walk, 38 for sprinting, 31 who do activities with kids, 17 for field events, 16 'other' and 6 who use the track for dog walking.



9. What Do You Like or Enjoy About the Tom Kelly Athletics Track

This was an open-ended question with 138 responses, providing respondents with the opportunity to indicate what they like or enjoyed about the track. Within respondents' answers many indicated multiple things that they liked or enjoyed about the track. The responses have been collated below with the most popular reasons at the top moving down to responses only mentioned by one respondent.

1. Great running track x 38
2. Good facilities x 26
3. Close by/location x 17
4. Nothing x 17
5. Beautiful surrounds x 5
6. Parking x 5
7. Clean x 5
8. Walking or running with family and friends x 4
9. Restricted public access during club training times x 4
10. Toilets available x 3
11. Running/Jogging x 3

12. Flat surface x 3
13. Great to have somewhere with lights to train in the winter x 2
14. Family friendly x 2
15. Open x 2
16. Large open area x 2
17. Good division of booked and open access x 2
18. IAAF approved x 2
19. Good amenities
20. Shelter
21. Good long jump pit
22. No bikes
23. No dogs
24. Paul from DLAC
25. Clear communication with DLAC
26. Good for school carnivals
27. Club equipment easy to access
28. It is big
29. Somewhere to train
30. That the booking schedule is online
31. Only like it when it's not used for any sporting events.
32. Quiet environment

As can be seen above, the top ten responses are a combination of the facilities themselves such as the top answer (38) great running track and the second top answer (26) good facilities as well as the location of the facility (17) indicating that it is well used by local residents. 17 respondents also indicated that they like 'nothing' about the facility indicating that there are a significant number of respondents who have concerns about the facility. The fact that the facility is well maintained and safe was identified by 13, good lighting by 10 people, the Doncaster Athletic Club by 9 people, facility is accessible by 7 and that the track is soft and good for joints by 5 people.

In addition to what they liked; some respondents also indicated what they don't like with those responses outlined below.

Don't like

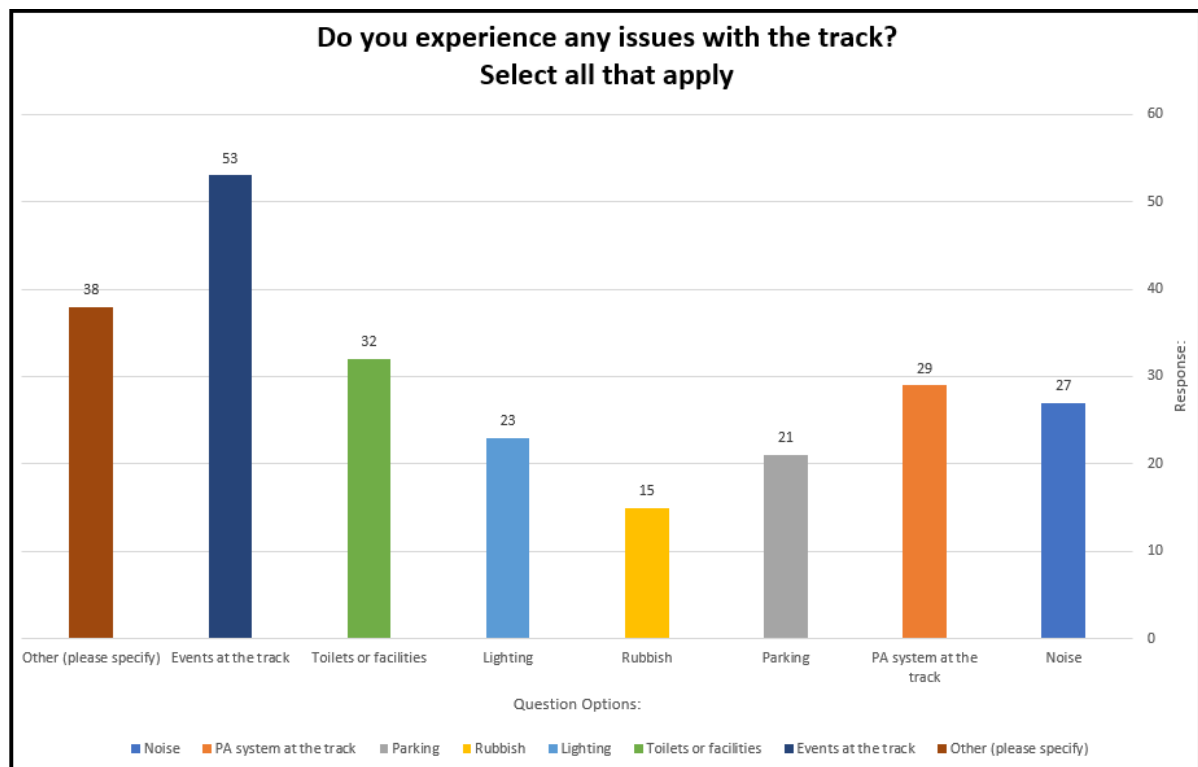
1. Club restrict access to the public x 2
2. Too much going on
3. The DAC are rude and make it unwelcoming. They book it out for hours.

Suggestion

One respondent made a suggestion that an all ages running group is established to keep fit.

10. Do You Experience Any Issues With the Track?

The 132 respondents were able to choose multiple responses to this question with 53 respondents indicating they had issues with events at the track, followed by 38 who selected 'other', 32 who identified issues with toilets and facilities, 29 with the PA system, 27 with noise, 23 with lighting, 21 with parking and 15 with rubbish.



Question 11. More Information about Issues Identified in Question 10.

There were a range of detailed responses providing respondents the opportunity to expand on the issues identified in the previous question. From the detailed responses, the key points have been extracted and summarised below within the categories of Facilities, Usage/Access and Suggestions. Where respondents have raised the same concern, this is indicated by the number next to the issue.

Facilities

The key points within the category of facilities were that the toilets need updating (13) and are not adequately cleaned (5) as well as a range of issues with lighting, and protection from wet weather.

- Toilets need updating x 13
- Toilets not clean x 5
- Broken toilet door in female toilets x 2
- No lighting in the car park – safety issues.
- Pavilion facilities are below par
- Car parking gates can malfunction making access and entry impossible
- Lighting towers cause glare in residents windows – too high
- Lights are too bright
- No accessible changerooms
- Shade sails in the stand area are starting to have tears
- Lack of shelter/weather protection
- Trees hanging over track in north east corner – these have birds nest in the spring and runners get swooped
- Sound system is not loud enough during athletics meets

Usage/Access

The key points within the category of usage/access relate to noise from the PA and other (26), traffic and parking congestion (15), limited availability for casual users (12), accuracy and availability of who is using the track and when (12), and rubbish removal (7).

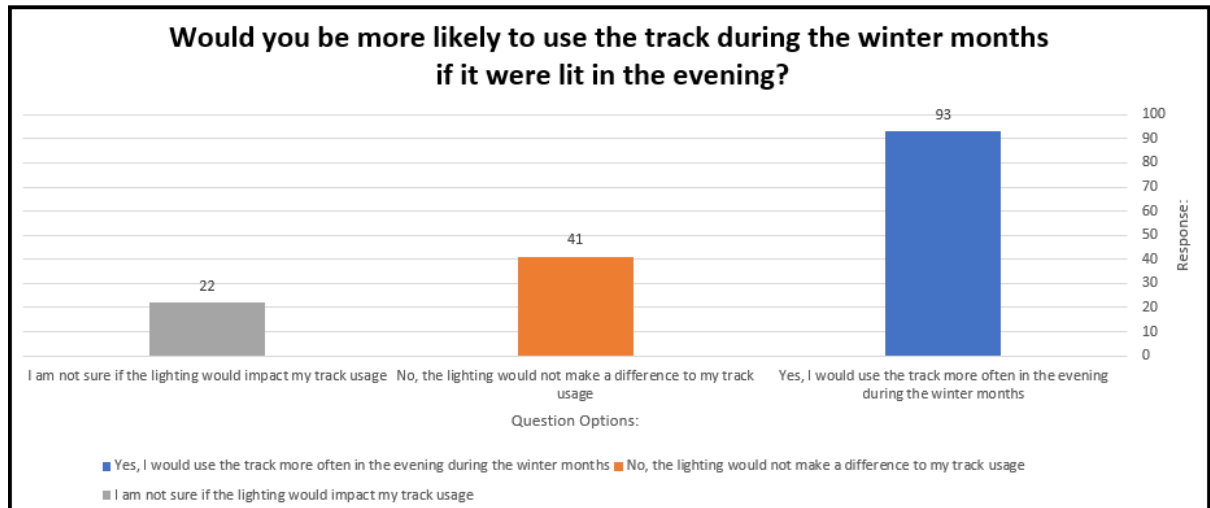
- Noise from PA and other x 26
- Traffic and parking congestion x 15
- Limited availability for casual access x 12
- Accurate information at the track and online of who is using the track and when x 9
- Rubbish removal is too ad hoc and often rubbish around track and surrounds x 7
- Track shouldn't be used to walk the dog, ride bikes etc –x 5
- More access to lights at night x 4
- Toilet access at all times x 3
- General public dump rubbish x 2
- Lack of lighting before sunrise in winter x 2
- No lighting available unless you are a club member x 2
- Club regularly breach the permitted hours of use of the PA and lighting. Despite complaints to Council no action is taken.
- Difficult to run informal training sessions during the day because general public are often using the inside lanes and often with children and toddlers.
- Being yelled at because we walk slowly
- Sometimes training is cancelled due to other events at the track
- Bikes damage the track surface
- Safety concerns by those who use the track for non athletic purposes
- Overuse of the track impacting residents
- Personal trainers are blocking lanes for their own use
- Need the track closed for club and private training

Further to the above dot points, respondents provided the following ideas for consideration:

- Develop the existing car park at the top of Muriel Green to relieve congestion in surrounding streets
- Residents to have priority parking outside their property
- Water fountain for drinking and filling up water bottles
- Signs warning of fines if rubbish is dumped in the carpark
- Install stretching stations/outdoor gym equipment
- No events on Sundays to give residents a break and provide time for casual use
- Keep people out of Lane 1

12. Would You Be More Likely to Use The Track During The Winter Months If It Were Lit In The Evening?

The majority of respondents 93 (59.36%) indicated that they would use the track more often in the evening in the winter months if it were lit. There were 41 (26.3%) respondents who indicated that lighting would not make a difference to their usage of the track and 22 (14.1%) who were not sure if lighting would impact their track usage. See table on next page.



13. What Changes or Improvements Would Make You More Likely To Use The Track?

There were 112 responses to this opened ended question.

Facilities

- Upgrade the toilet block x 7
- Provide shelter from wet weather x 7
- Ensure the track is well maintained x 3
- Drinking fountain x 3
- New pavilion, incorporating toilets, grandstand with shelter, storage, gym and social space x 3
- New changerooms x 2
- Improved spectator area x 2
- Fix water fountains on back straight
- Undercover seating
- Better clean toilets
- Lighting
- Facelift to turnstile entrance – athletic themed murals or signs on the brick wall, softening of bin cases with artwork or plantings. Electrical boxes would be painted to blend in with the background or depict athletes in abstract form.
- Plaque for board which details the history of the track and club and why the track is named the Tom Kelly Athletic Track
- Update lighting in the Throws area
- Better maintenance of trees and surrounds
- Timing clock
- Stretching stations
- More places to lock bicycles
- Trim trees in north east corner of track

Usage

- Stop scooters, bikes riding, ball games etc signage needed in multiple languages x 14
- Reduce noise from the PA x 11
- Better signage about when the track is booked by groups and real time availability of the track for public use online x 10
- Do something about the parking (provide residents only parking) x 8

- Limit the number of events at the track x 7
- Open to the public at all times x 7
- Increase access for casual users x 6
- Turn lights on at night x 5
- Free or low fee community running group x 3
- Ensure training athletes are given priority over occasional users x 3
- Stricter management of access while training and competitions are on x 2
- Daily access for casual users at specified times x 2
- Toilets open longer x 2
- Ensure gates to protect lanes 1 and 2 are fit for purpose x 2
- Multi lingual sign to explain that the long jump area is not a sand pit
- Make it more obvious who is allowed to use it and when. How do you get in?
- Make the people who train, train in a different lane or time
- Sunday morning is supposed to be for athletics training however the public come in
- Sunday afternoons to be set aside for casual users.
- Move the regular bookings to less popular times so the public has better access
- Casual users to have use of track and lights from 7.30pm -9.30pm
- More structured training for casual users. Gold coin donations which may see those people then become members of the clubs.
- Limit use to those who are members
- Keep training times just for club members
- Close the track to club use
- Separate area for special use
- Regularly clean up rubbish
- Stop personal trainers from blocking lanes
- Close it down and move it somewhere else
- Light the track in the early morning
- Events for kids
- Better athletic programs for kids which are professionally run, on time and worth making the time to attend.

10 Summary and Key Findings

The Tom Kelly Athletics Track is a high-quality facility that is heavily used and valued by the four tenant clubs and the community. The quality of the track also makes it attractive for use for regional and state events by the peak athletic bodies. As a regional level facility as defined by Council's Policy, the track is fulfilling its role. However, this impacts accessibility for the community as well as negatively impacting nearby residents' peaceful enjoyment of their homes.

The challenge is ensuring that the track continues to fulfil its primary purpose as an athletic track designed for competition whilst maximising its availability for use by the broader community. This is to be done in a way that minimises the impact that use of the track has on local residents.

Issues:

- Regular (at least a couple of times weekly) significant noise from spectators and the Public Address system negatively impacts surrounding residents.
- Use of the facility for additional events.
- Use of the facility beyond 9.30pm when booked for events impacting local residents.
- Traffic congestion and parking issues are a regular issue for residents which is exacerbated on weekends during the summer season when cricket is also played on the adjoining oval.
- Lack of access to public toilets when the facility is closed to the public. The toilets are inaccessible when the facility is allocated for use by tenant clubs, or the facility is used for school sports carnivals or athletic events.
- Outdated toilet facilities which are inadequate for the number of users during school carnivals and events.
- Cleanliness of the toilet facilities is lacking at times.
- Rubbish removal arrangements are lacking at times.
- Use of the inside lanes by community members
- Lack of shelter from wet weather.
- Inappropriate use of the track and long jump pit by the general public with regard to bicycles, scooters, rollerblades, ball games and dog walkers.
- Lack of accurate/real time information about when the track is available for use by the community, both online and at the track.
- Year-round allocation of the facilities to tenant clubs whose use may vary between summer and winter seasons, which could free up some time for community use.
- Lack of documentation covering the use of the Doncaster Little Athletics small clubrooms.

Opportunities

- Consider the use of the match day toilets as public toilets in the new pavilion on the corner of George Street and Victoria Street until new toilet facilities are developed within the planned athletic pavilion redevelopment.
- Improve the aesthetic appeal of the track entrance and honor the history of the facility through art works, planting and signage.
- Limit the use of the track by state bodies to minimise impacts on local residents.

Key Findings

- Strong interest and demand for additional use for community members.
- Tension between community use and club use.
- Whilst the track and lighting has been upgraded, support infrastructure such as the toilets and pavilion/clubroom facilities require upgrading. (Council has existing plans to address this.)
- Disparity between Council's development plans for the pavilion and what the tenant clubs want. It should be noted the three peak state sporting bodies consulted advised the existing facilities at Tom Kelly Athletics Track were sufficient for their needs.
- Use of the track for larger events negatively impacts local residents.

- Tenancy documentation required for the use of the small clubrooms by the Doncaster Little Athletics Club.
- Need to review and tighten allocations to tenant clubs.
- Need to address noise issues relating to the existing public address system.
- Need to address parking issues as they impact local residents.
- Infrastructure support for community users with outdoor change area and weather protection and additional water fountains.
- Need to ensure accurate/real time information about when the track is available for use by the community, both online and at the track.
- Need to ensure rubbish removal processes are responsive and adequate given use of the track changes week to week.
- Need to ensure toilet cleaning processes are responsive and adequate given use of the track changes week to week.
- Need to ensure the track is not damaged by ensuring appropriate use by the community and by requiring any heavy vehicles crossing the track to use track protection panels.

11 Recommendations

The recommendations for the future use, management and maintenance of the Tom Kelly Athletics Track will be based around the following areas:

Usage: Recommendations will be made in regard to any changes required in the usage of the facility by existing users, schools and other hirers and the community.

Management: Recommendations will be made in regard to any changes required to existing documentation such as the licence arrangements and facility hire agreements.

Facilities: Recommendations will be made in regard to any changes required in facility provision based on issues raised through this Plan only. *Please note, no feasibility or master planning has been undertaken to determine all future facility needs.*

Maintenance: Recommendations will be made in regard to any changes required to maintenance practices.

The recommendations are prioritised as follows:

- High – within 3 years
- Medium 3-6 years
- Low 6+ years

Usage/ Management Recommendations		
No.	Recommendation	Priority
1.	Install new lane barriers to minimise use of Lane 1. (already ordered).	High
2.	Work with the athletics clubs on implementing shared use arrangements through an agreed framework which considers safety and other impacts, with the aim of increasing	High

Usage/ Management Recommendations		
No.	Recommendation	Priority
	community access when the track is used by clubs for low impact training or informal activity.	
3.	Ensure real time usage and booking information is available on the website and that accurate user information is available at the track including the availability of the track for community use.	High
4.	Review the hours of allocation for athletics clubs and further scrutinise allocated hours to reflect actual use for both the summer and winter seasons. Implement seasonal allocations and ensure only regular used hours are reflected in the allocation.	High
5.	Clubs to inform Council when they will not be using the track even though it is allocated to them. E.g Saturday afternoons or Friday evenings in summer when competition is held at another venue. This availability to be reflected on the website and at the track.	High
6.	Consider the impact on surrounding residents of special event usage of the track and, only if necessary, limit the number of evening events outside of each tenant club's seasonal calendar, to reduce the number of peak body events.	High
7.	To minimise impact to local residents, actively manage user groups and hirers so that the lights and the PA system cease at 9.30pm. Usage beyond the restricted hours for events and other purposes will be considered on a case by case basis with criteria for this included in Council's Sporting Infrastructure Allocations Policy	High
8.	When schools book the Rieschiecks Reserve sports field, ensure they are provided with access to the sports field pavilion toilets so that students do not need to access the public toilets at the track.	High
9.	Ensure effective management of the cleaning contract.	High
10.	Undertake a traffic management study to understand how use of the athletics track impacts local residents. Traffic study to review parking during peak and non-peak usage times, school carnivals and the use of buses by schools.	Medium
11.	Increase access for casual use by activating the track floodlights until 9.00pm when facilities are not in use by clubs.	Medium
12.	Replace the timer with a sensor light on the lighting of the public toilet facilities to ensure they come on when needed at night.	Medium
13.	Install signage at the entry to the facility directing the public to the nearest public toilets at the pavilion on the corner of	Medium

Usage/ Management Recommendations		
No.	Recommendation	Priority
	George Street and Victoria Street, or Ruffey Lake when the facility is closed to the public.	
14.	Consider ways to increase general usage and opportunities provided by the track for the broader community, such as running Council funded Personal Training sessions with Aligned Leisure for example.	Medium
15.	Place the Little Athletics clubrooms located on the southeast side of the facility into the IMS system, to be booked as part of the club's seasonal allocation application.	Medium
16.	Install multilingual signage identifying conditions of use of the track including use of bikes, scooters and roller blades are prohibited.	Low
17.	Review and where possible reduce the amount of signage around the track	Low
18.	Promote the use of the existing clubs social running groups to the community.	Low
19.	Undertake an EOI process with the tenant clubs for the management of the canteen and hire of equipment. Develop a formalised agreement for the use of the canteen and hire of equipment with the preferred club.	Low
20.	Consider the installation of signs warning of fines if rubbish is dumped in the car park.	Low

Facilities/Maintenance Recommendations		
No.	Recommendation	Priority
21.	The Doncaster Athletics Club to ensure the adjudicating stand is safe by ensuring appropriate height fall prevention barriers.	High
22.	Investigate smaller and more localised Public Address system which includes a noise limiter. The system to have the capacity to be zoned to the seating area, the track and the hammer throw areas separately. Review the impact of the newly installed PA on residents after athletics season.	High
23.	Further design consideration regarding the provision of lighting at the car park is required. (Already programmed for 2023/2024.)	High
24.	Create a development plan for the Tom Kelly Athletic track to address the facility needs as a whole which considers the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant club needs and requirements with the redevelopment of the pavilion/clubroom. 	High

Facilities/Maintenance Recommendations		
No.	Recommendation	Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of storage and time keepers shed. • Upgrade or consolidate into the new pavilion, a toilet block to modernise and increase capacity during events and carnivals. • Development of a wet weather shelter as well as sun protection. • Installation of stretching stations/outdoor gym equipment to enhance opportunities by community users. • Outdoor change area for casual users. • Additional water fountains. • Improve the aesthetic appeal of the track entrance and honor the history of the facility through art works, planting and signage. • Installation of stretching stations to support fitness associated with athletics to be available for club and community users 	
25.	If access to the Tom Kelly Athletic Track is to be maintained during the redevelopment of the pavilion/clubrooms, access to toilets will need to be considered. Note <i>Manningham Public Toilet Plan 2021</i> identifies a public toilet is located at Rieschiecks Reserve.	High
26.	Remove or repair the lane gate at the start finish line.	Medium
27.	Repair the holes near the javelin area.	Medium
28.	Consider when available the use of technology to differentiate lanes in use by clubs and which are available for the community	Low
29.	Repair the hammer throw nets.	Low
30.	Ensure all contractors that are moving vehicles over the track use track protection.	Low

APPENDIX 1 – USE OF TOM KELLY ATHLETICS TRACK

The tables below provide data about the actual use of the athletic track by tenant clubs and casual users through the 2022/2023 Summer season and the 2022 Winter season.

2022/23 Summer figures

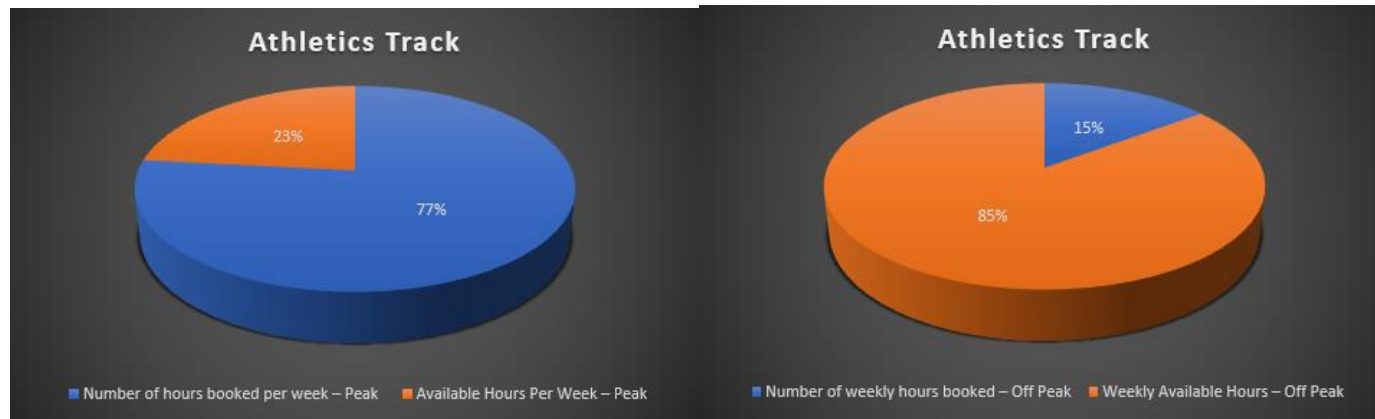
Item	Bookable Hours each week	Number of weeks available	Weekly Club allocations hours Summer 2022/23	Total Summer 2022/23 Allocated Hours	Total Casual Hours Summer 2022/23	Total Booked hours Summer 2022/23	Total bookable hours summer 2022/23	Total Remaining available hours	Average Weekly available hours	Percentage of use
Athletics Track	98.00	25.00	34.50	862.50	195.00	1057.50	2450.00	1392.50	55.70	43%

Peak and Off Peak:

Item	Hours available to book per week – Peak 4:00pm to 9:00pm	Number of hours booked per week – Peak 4:00pm to 9:00pm	Available Hours Per Week – Peak 4:00pm to 9:00pm	Percentage of weekly use – Peak 4:00pm to 9:00pm	Hours available to book per Week – Off Peak 7:00am to 4:00pm	Number of weekly hours booked – Off Peak 7:00am to 4:00pm	Weekly Available Hours – Off Peak 7:00am to 4:00pm	Weekly Percentage of use – Off Peak 7:00am to 4:00pm	Combined Weekly available hours
Monday	5	4	1	80%	9	0.82	8.18	9.11%	9.18
Tuesday	5	4.5	0.5	90%	9	1.8	7.2	20%	7.7
Wednesday	5	2	3	40%	9	2.22	6.78	24.66%	9.78
Thursday	5	4.5	0.5	90%	9	2.3	6.7	25.55%	7.2
Friday	5	3.5	1.5	70%	9	0.32	8.68	3.55%	10.18
Saturday	10	9.5	0.5	95%	4	0	4	0%	4.5
Sunday	10	6.5	3.5	65%	4	0.34	3.66	8.5%	7.16

Total Summer Peak and Off Peak:

Item	Hours available to book per week – Peak	Number of hours booked per week – Peak	Available Hours Per Week – Peak	Percentage of weekly use – Peak	Hours available to book per Week – Off Peak	Number of weekly hours booked – Off Peak	Weekly Available Hours – Off Peak	Weekly Percentage of use – Off Peak	Combined Weekly available hours
Athletics Track	45	34.5	10.5	77%	53	7.8	45.2	15%	55.7



2022 Winter Figures

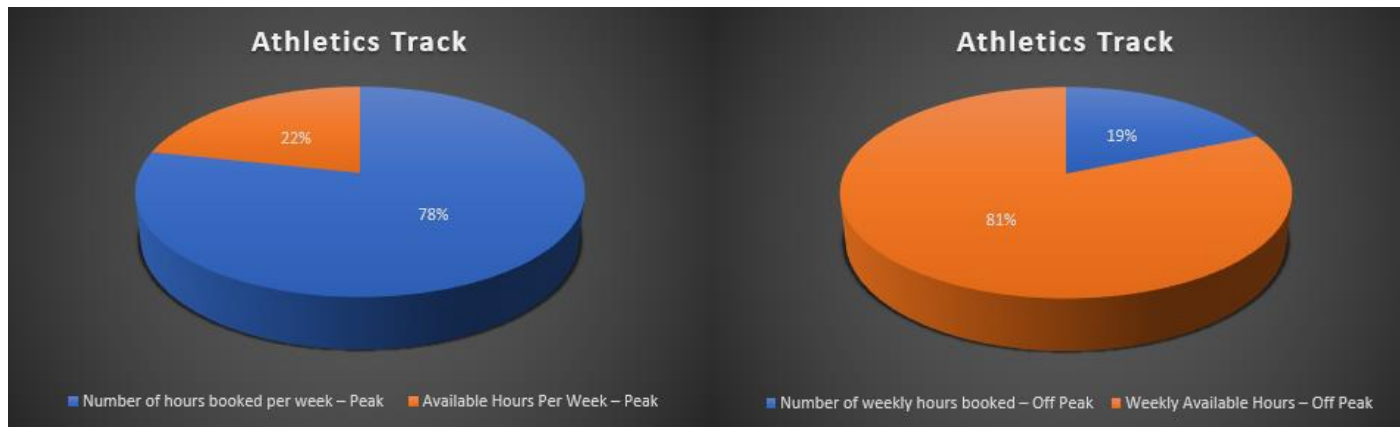
Item	Bookable Hours each week	Number of weeks available	Weekly Club allocations hours Winter 2022	Total Winter 2022 Allocated Hours	Total Casual Hours Winter 2022	Total Booked hours Winter 2022	Total bookable hours Winter 2022	Total Remaining available hours	Average Weekly available hours	Percentage of use
Athletics Track	98	25	34.5	862.50	266	1128.50	2450.00	1321.50	52.86	46%

Monday Peak and Off Peak:

Item	Hours available to book per week – Peak 4:00pm to 9:00pm	Number of hours booked per week – Peak 4:00pm to 9:00pm	Available Hours Per Week – Peak 4:00pm to 9:00pm	Percentage of weekly use – Peak 4:00pm to 9:00pm	Hours available to book per Week – Off Peak 7:00am to 4:00pm	Number of weekly hours booked – Off Peak 7:00am to 4:00pm	Weekly Available Hours – Off Peak 7:00am to 4:00pm	Weekly Percentage of use – Off Peak 7:00am to 4:00pm	Combined Weekly available hours
Monday	5	4	1	80%	9	1.6	7.4	18%	8.4
Tuesday	5	4.5	0.5	90%	9	2.62	6.38	29%	6.88
Wednesday	5	4.5	0.5	90%	9	2.42	6.58	27%	7.08
Thursday	5	4.7	0.3	94%	9	2.52	6.48	28%	6.78
Friday	5	3.28	1.72	66%	9	0.22	8.78	2%	10.5
Saturday	10	9.86	0.14	99%	4	0.48	3.52	12%	3.66
Sunday	10	4.44	5.56	44%	4	0	4	0%	9.56

Total Winter Peak and Off Peak:

Item	Hours available to book per week – Peak	Number of hours booked per week – Peak	Available Hours Per Week – Peak	Percentage of weekly use – Peak	Hours available to book per Week – Off Peak	Number of weekly hours booked – Off Peak	Weekly Available Hours – Off Peak	Weekly Percentage of use – Off Peak	Combined Weekly available hours
Athletics Track	45	35.28	9.72	78%	53	9.86	43.14	19%	52.86



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