

# Stage Two Consultation Report

## Draft Soccer Strategy

### August 2022

## MOONEE VALLEY SOCCER STRATEGY DRAFT REPORT



1	Summary .....	3
2	Introduction .....	4
2.1	Consultation objectives.....	4
2.2	Methodology.....	4
3	Findings .....	6
3.1	Facility-users direct engagement meetings.....	6
3.1.1	10-year strategic plan .....	6
3.1.2	Strategic directions .....	6
3.1.3	Governance framework .....	6
3.1.4	Other direct feedback .....	6
3.1.5	Direct engagement feedback – Non -Soccer Clubs.....	7
3.2	Online survey results.....	9
3.2.1	Demographics .....	9
3.2.2	Strategy vision, accuracy and clarity.....	10
3.2.3	Strategy principles.....	11
3.2.4	Strategy partnership opportunity .....	12
3.2.5	Feedback on Draft Soccer Strategy.....	13
3.3	Written responses.....	15
3.3.1	10-year strategic plan for soccer .....	15
3.3.2	Local residents .....	15
3.3.3	Soccer facility improvement .....	16
3.3.4	Dog Obedience Clubs facility needs.....	16
3.3.5	Open passive space and environmental concerns.....	16
3.4	Social media responses.....	17
4	Appendices.....	18
4.1	Current facility users direct engagement meetings summary.....	18
4.2	Draft Soccer Strategy Your say page.....	19
4.3	Survey tool .....	20
4.4	Social media comments: Feedback on the Draft Soccer Strategy .....	22
4.5	Full survey comments: Feedback on the Draft Soccer Strategy .....	24

# 1 Summary

This report shares findings from the Stage 2 consultation of the Draft Soccer Strategy.

The first phase of the consultation was conducted in October 2021 and focused on gathering data to inform the draft strategy.

The second phase of consultation was designed to ensure that facility-user groups and the broader community had opportunity to understand the draft strategy and to share feedback.

Council met with both soccer clubs as well as other sport and recreation clubs likely to be impacted by the options outlined in the draft strategy.

More than 600 community members were informed by the engagement through the Your Say Moonee Valley engagement platform with 296 participants providing feedback. Social media reach was more than 12,000 views.

The results of the engagement highlight a range of views in response to the Draft Soccer Strategy.

In general, direct engagement and survey respondents identifying as members and representatives of soccer clubs were supportive of the vision, challenges and key objectives of the Draft Soccer Strategy.

Other sport and recreation clubs raised concerns with Council about the draft strategy. Direct conversations with dog obedience clubs provided opportunity for clubs to document their concerns including the potential impact on operations if key requirements in terms of clubhouse and ground size, adequate storage space, parking spaces are not met in current or alternate locations.

Other community views focused on balancing the provision of soccer facilities with other sports and passive forms of recreation, ensuring that environmental impact is considered and concerns for the negative impacts of installing synthetic turf.

## **2 Introduction**

The Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy (the Strategy) is a ten-year strategic plan to support the growth of soccer in Moonee Valley including partnership opportunities and options to meet the shortfall and quality in facilities for soccer in the short, medium and long term.

At the Ordinary Meeting on 8 June, 2021 Council endorsed the development of a soccer (football) strategy. The development of the Strategy has been a staged process, including:

- Stage 1 Consultation Soccer Strategy (including direct engagement with clubs and peak bodies by interviews) October 2021
- Stage 2 Report Site Analysis – State of Play Report December 2021
- Stage 3 Draft Strategy Engagement – the focus of this report.

This report shares the findings of the engagement to assess the level of support for the Strategy and to ensure that Council has fully understood the voices of community informing the strategy.

### **2.1 Consultation objectives**

Key decisions and questions for engagement:

1. To what degree is there community support for the Draft Soccer Strategy?
  - Support of principles
  - Agreement with strategic approach and proposed objectives
2. To what extent does the Draft Soccer Strategy present a clear and accurate assessment of community needs, challenges and opportunities?
  - To what degree challenges clearly and accurately described in strategy
3. What else is important for Moonee Valley City Council to understand for the long-term future of soccer in our community?

### **2.2 Methodology**

This report shares findings from the Stage 2 consultation of the Draft Soccer Strategy development. The first phase of the consultation was conducted in October 2021 and focused on gathering data to inform the Strategy.

The second phase of consultation was designed to ensure that facility-user groups and the broader community had opportunity to understand the draft strategy and to share their feedback.

The table below provides information about consultation participation.

Consultation	Details	Promotion	Participation
Facility-users engagement	Direct engagement meetings were held with nine current facility users between 6 June and the 24 July.	Direct meetings were arranged by Moonee Valley Sport and Recreation Team.	Meetings are presented with dates and participants at Appendix 1.
Your Say website	The Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy Your Say page was republished Monday 6 June and closed on Sunday 17 July.  A copy of the page is provided at Appendix 2.	Email promotion of consultation to facility users/soccer clubs:  14 June – Email from Sport and Recreation advising clubs that the consultation is open for Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy  15 July – Email from Sport and Recreation advising clubs that the consultation is soon to close for Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy	655 Aware participants visited the page.  452 Informed participants visited several pages (150), downloaded documents (151) and contributed (296).  296 Engaged participants contributed to the survey
	Online feedback survey (Appendix 3)		296 Engaged participants contributed to the survey
	Email		Twelve emailed feedback submissions were received (some with confidentiality requested).

The engagement was promoted widely and the table below details the reach of communications.

Platform	Impressions (Views)	Engagements (Likes, Comments, Replies)	Link Clicks	Shares/Retweets
Twitter	1906	69	17	10
Linkedin	821	24	16	n/a
Meta (Facebook + Instagram)	9639	45	47	7
<b>TOTAL REACH</b>	12366	138	80	17

## **3 Findings**

### **3.1 Facility-users direct engagement meetings**

Direct engagement meetings were held with eight current facility users between 6 June and the 24 July.

Clubs were provided a project overview of the Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy is a ten-year strategic plan to support the growth of soccer in Moonee Valley, including partnership opportunities and options to meet the shortfall and quality in facilities for soccer in the short, medium and long term.

Clubs were informed that further consultation with the community will be made available via Your Say- to capture community views.

The six key challenges explored in the draft strategy were explained and there was discussion around facilities and soccer hub opportunities.

The key engagement questions were presented to clubs and are reported below.

#### **3.1.1 10-year strategic plan**

Clubs were asked to what extent did they agree or not agree that the Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy clearly presents a 10-year strategic plan to support the growth of soccer in our community, and, that the six key challenges accurately reflect factors to manage soccer participation growth.

The six soccer clubs based in Moonee Valley responded that they were supportive.

#### **3.1.2 Strategic directions**

The three strategic directions of the Draft Soccer Strategy were shared with clubs:

- Objective 1 Provide high quality and compliant soccer facilities
- Objective 2 Improve access to soccer facilities based on participation numbers
- Objective 3 Deliver well planned, maintained and managed soccer facilities

All six soccer clubs responded that they were supportive.

#### **3.1.3 Governance framework**

Clubs were asked to what extent did they agree or not agree that the Governance Framework presents a clear model for working together to support the growth of soccer in Moonee Valley. All six soccer clubs responded that they were supportive.

#### **3.1.4 Other direct feedback**

Clubs were invited to provide open feedback about the Draft Soccer Strategy.

Key themes of the open feedback included:



#### **3.1.4.1 Pavilions and year-round facilities**

Clubs expressed that they would like increased access to facilities on a year-round basis to meet operational requirements and create a sense of home in pavilions by displaying memorabilia.

#### **3.1.4.2 Proposed Facility Investment and Partnership Opportunity Options**

Clubs were generally supportive of the proposed options for facility use in the draft strategy, providing that proposed options did not displace soccer clubs and all options would be subject to further consultation during feasibility planning.

#### **3.1.4.3 Soccer field ground condition and configuration**

Clubs noted and provided feedback on the challenges faced with ground condition and the alignment of cricket wickets within soccer field of play.

#### **3.1.4.4 Validating participation data**

All clubs supported Councils approach to validate numbers to inform future decisions.

#### **3.1.4.5 Operational requirements**

A number of operational considerations were discussed at the club meetings including:

- There is a need for some safety lighting improvements at some reserves
- Clubs need fencing on fields for State League 3 however can get dispensation from Football Victoria for the lack of fencing

### **3.1.5 Direct engagement feedback – Non -Soccer Clubs**

Council met directly with other facility users that may be impacted by the options outlined in the Strategy including the North West Wolves Rugby League Club, the Northern Dog Obedience Club and the Keilor Dog Obedience Club.

A summary of discussions with the clubs is listed below.

#### **3.1.5.1 North West Wolves Rugby League Club**

Feedback from the North West Wolves Rugby League Club was generally supportive of the strategy:

- Club are happy to support the Strategy in principle, but would like more information if the option of a soccer hub at AJ Davis/Essendon Keilor College Niddrie Campus was to come to fruition in future and how allocation would work.
- Club understand this is not a short-term project, but willing to work with Council on the longer-term plans for the site.

### **3.1.5.2 Keilor Dog Obedience Club**

Council met with the Keilor Dog Obedience Club representatives who expressed concern that not being identified in the strategy as users of AJ Davis had caused members to question if they would be relocated from their current facilities.

Other feedback included:

- Club support 400 members a year- there is a big presence at AJ Davis of over 40 years and a sense of home at this reserve.
- Club have previously looked at alternate sites with Council and there were no facilities that suited them at the time.
- If the club were to relocate, facilities would need to be suitable and consider ground, pavilion and carparking requirements.

### **3.1.5.3 Northern Obedience Dog Club**

Council met with the Northern Obedience Dog Club representatives on three occasions and exchanged email communications.

The Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC) have expressed:

- Concern that the consultation has not adequately considered the needs of the NODC
- Alternate locations need to meet their requirements in terms of clubhouse size, adequate storage space, parking spaces and the size of the park.
- Council has not really made sufficient effort to understand how the club can be supported
- Sharing with sport – they see themselves as different to sport and their needs are different.
- Expressed frustration with the consultation process
- Loss of place - Open to move to another site if their list of facility requirements are met which so far they do not believe Council have been able to do
- Management of the issue of dogs off leash at their site

Further email and telephone discussions included:

- Discussion that the draft soccer strategy provides multiple options for further consideration
- Clarified the consultation process and that previous meetings with the club form part of it
- No decision has been made on relocation and will not be made without full engagement with the impacted clubs
- Feedback received from their members would form part of the engagement report and would be used to inform decision making

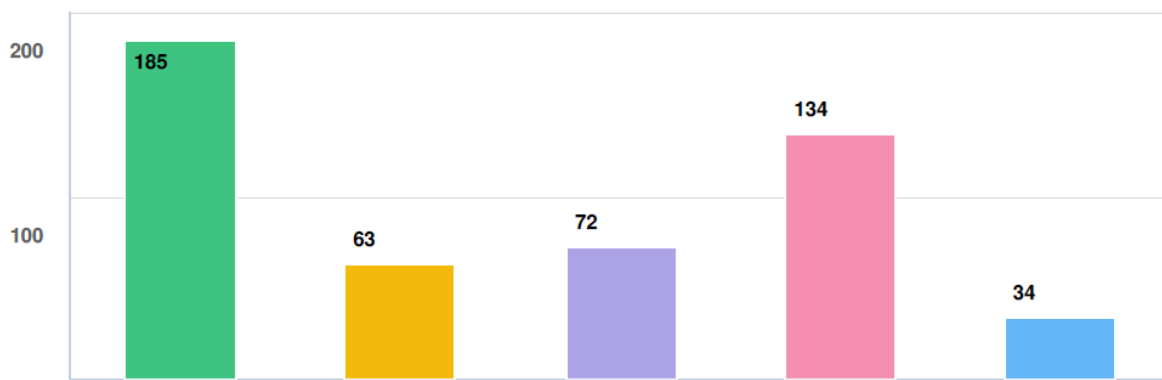


## 3.2 Online survey results

### 3.2.1 Demographics

Survey respondents were asked their connections with Moonee Valley. Of the 296 respondents, 185 indicated that they were local residents. 134 indicated that they belonged to local groups (not soccer) and 72 noted that they belonged to a soccer club. Note that participants could select multiple connections.

Figure 1 Connection with Moonee Valley

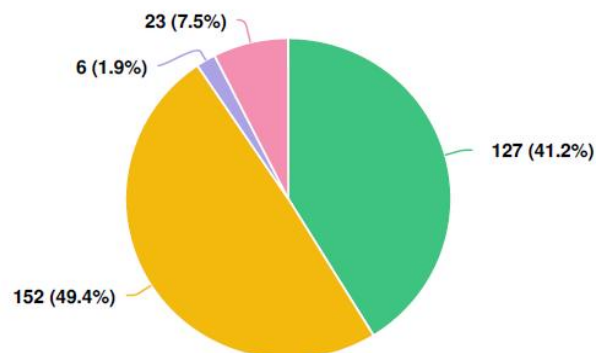


#### Question options

- Other (please specify)
- Sport or recreation club (not soccer) member or representative
- Soccer club member or representative
- Study and/or work in Moonee Valley
- Resident of Moonee Valley Study

Responses were gathered from slightly more females (49.4%) than males (41.2%).

Figure 2 Respondent gender



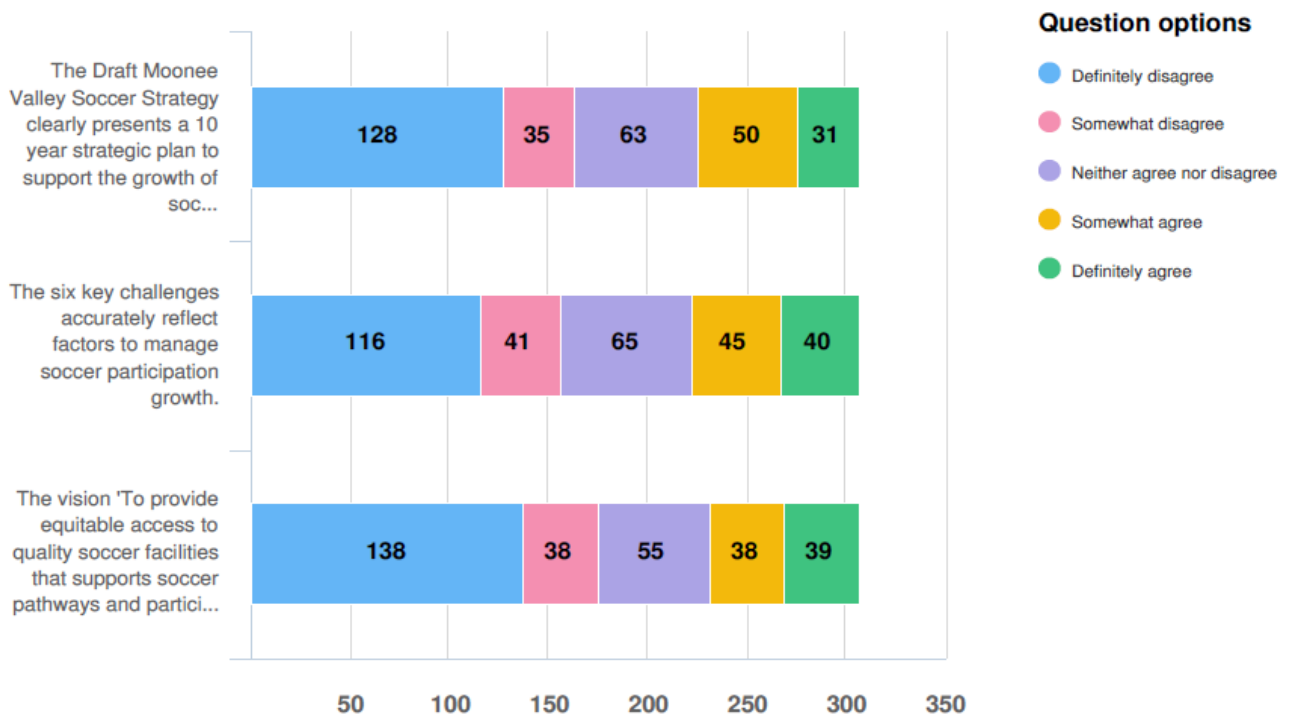
#### Question options

- Prefer not to say
- Non-binary
- Female
- Male

### 3.2.2 Strategy vision, accuracy and clarity

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with three statements to assess the support for the vision of the strategy, the accuracy of the challenges reflected and the clarity of the ten year strategic plan. Overall, more respondents indicated that they disagreed with the draft statements about the strategy vision, accuracy and clarity.

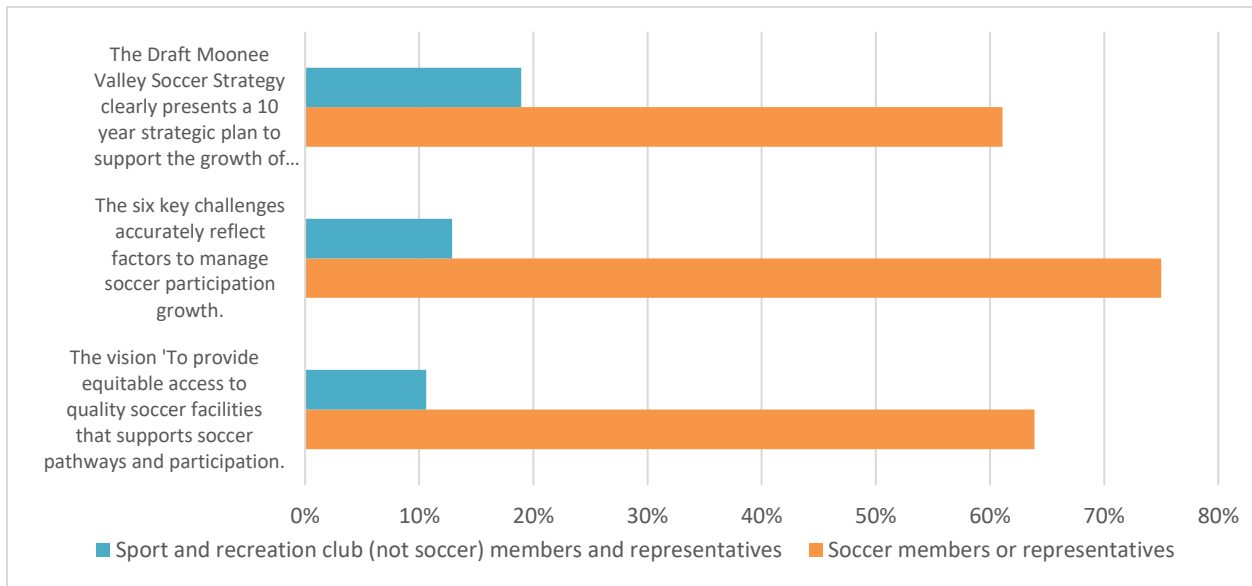
Figure 3 Level of agreement with statements about Strategy vision, accuracy and clarity



The results were mixed and the question regarding 'connection with Moonee Valley' and the associated comments identify that respondents who identified as being a soccer club member or representative were more likely to be in agreement with the statements as compared to respondents who belonged to other community groups who were more likely to disagree with the statements provided.

To illustrate, when asked whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the statement, 'The Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy clearly presents a 10 year strategic plan to support the growth of soccer', 61.1% of those who identified as a soccer club member or representative somewhat agreed and definitely agreed with the statement. 18.9% of those who identified as a non-soccer community club member or representative somewhat agreed and definitely agreed with the same statement. 132 respondents to this question identified as a sport and recreation club (not soccer) member or representative and 72 respondents to this question identified as a soccer club member or representative.

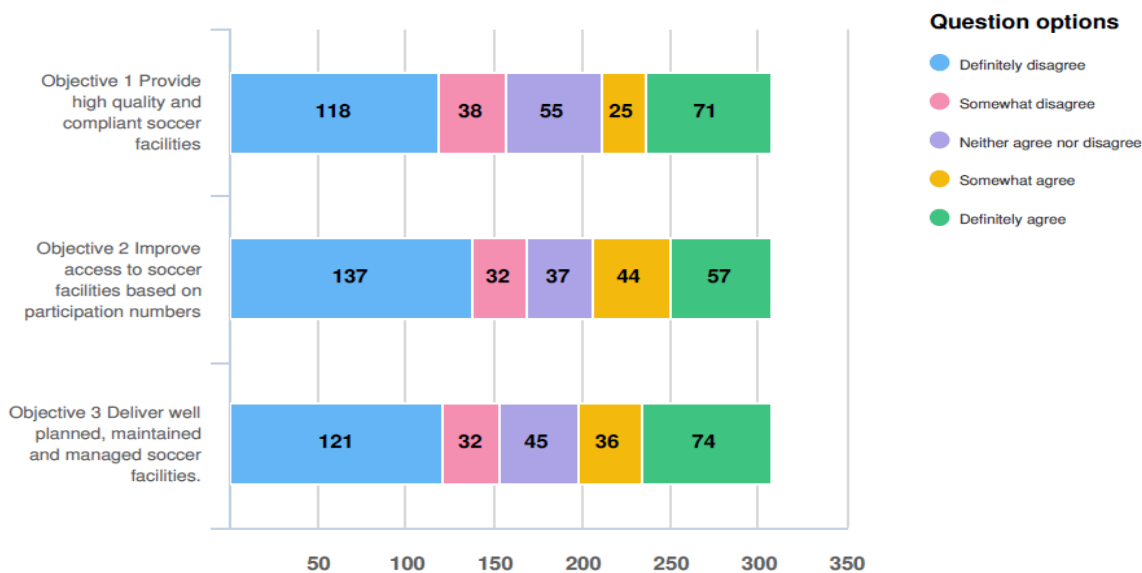
Figure 4 Percentage respondents that agreed and definitely agreed with the draft vision and challenges



### 3.2.3 Strategy principles

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the three draft objectives. The total results show that the views of respondents were mixed, with more indicating that they disagreed with the draft objectives of the strategy.

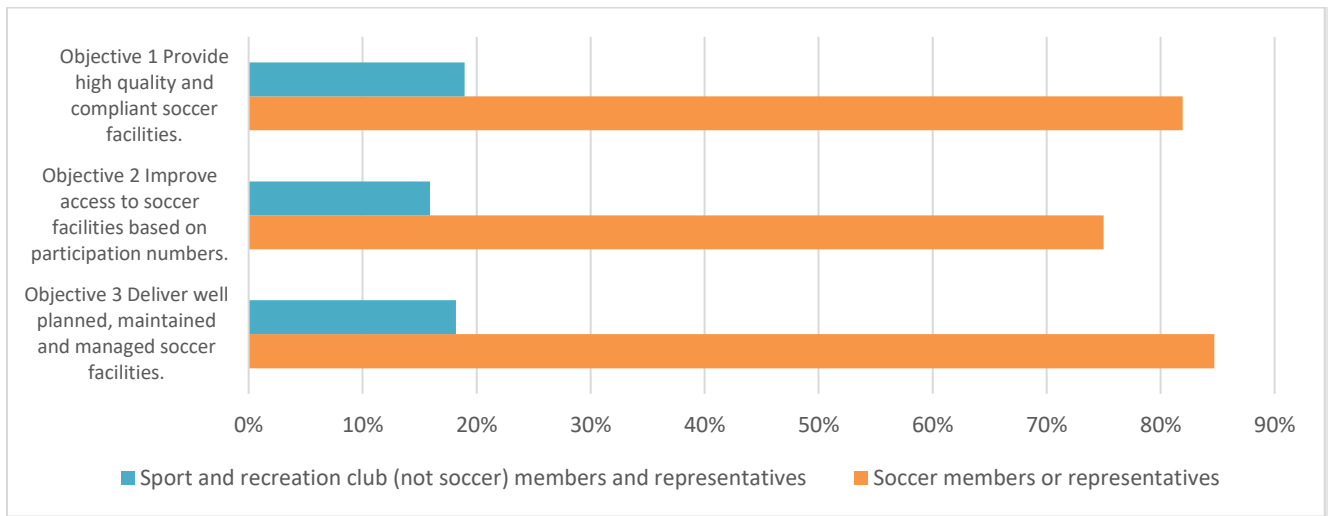
Figure 5 Level of agreement with draft objectives



Again, the results broadly reflect the proportion of respondents who identified as being a soccer club member or representative were in agreement with the statements as compared to respondents who belonged to other sport or recreation groups disagreeing with the statements

provided. Significantly more soccer club members and representatives agree with the draft objectives than other sport and recreation club members.

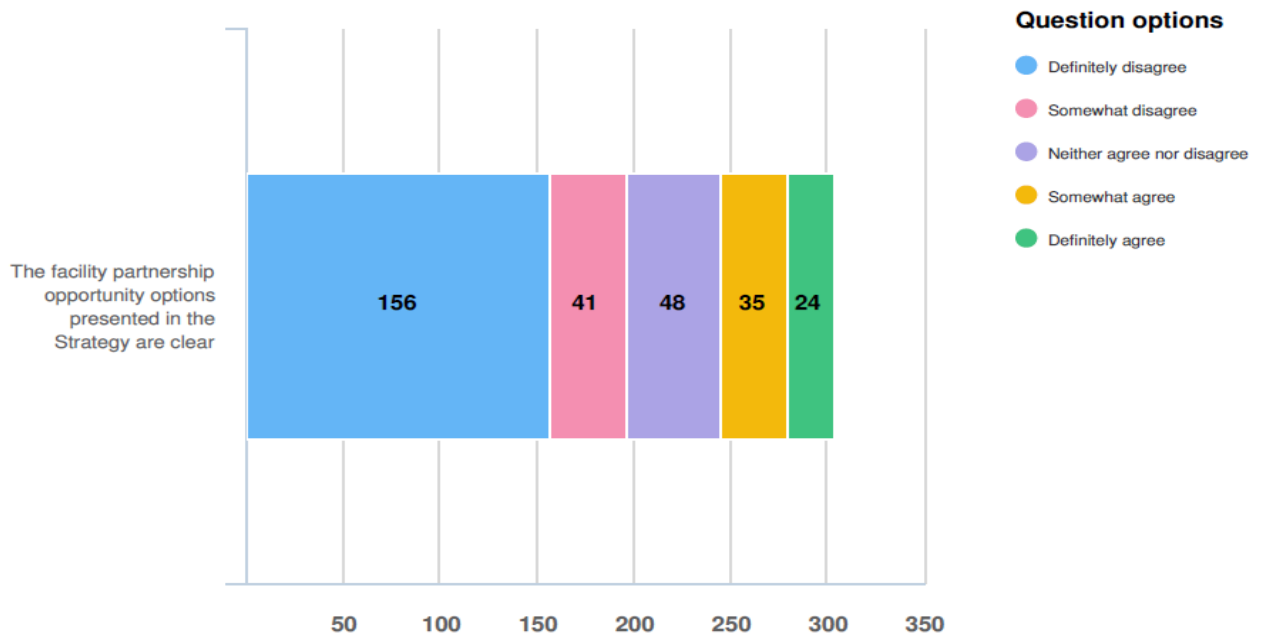
Figure 6 Percentage respondents that agreed and definitely agreed with the draft objectives



### 3.2.4 Strategy partnership opportunity

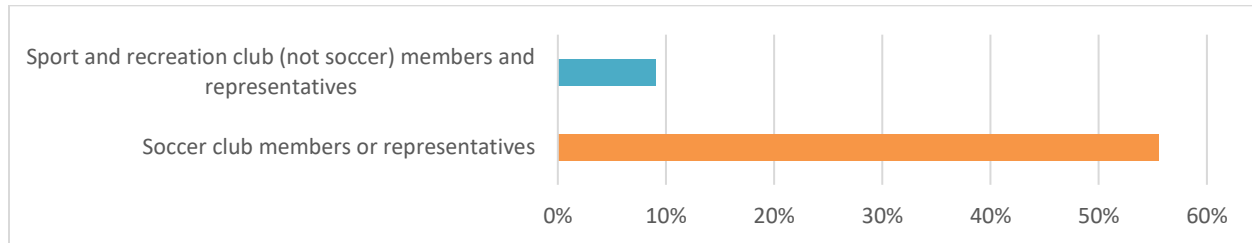
Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the facility partnership opportunity presented in the draft strategy. The results indicated that many people disagreed with the facility partnership opportunity options presented.

Figure 7 Level of agreement with strategy partnership opportunity



Respondents identifying as soccer club members or representatives were significantly more likely to agree and definitely agree that the facility partnership options presented in the Draft Soccer Strategy were clear (56% compared to 9%).

*Figure 8 Agree and definitely agree with the facility partnership options presented in the Draft Soccer Strategy*



### 3.2.5 Feedback on Draft Soccer Strategy

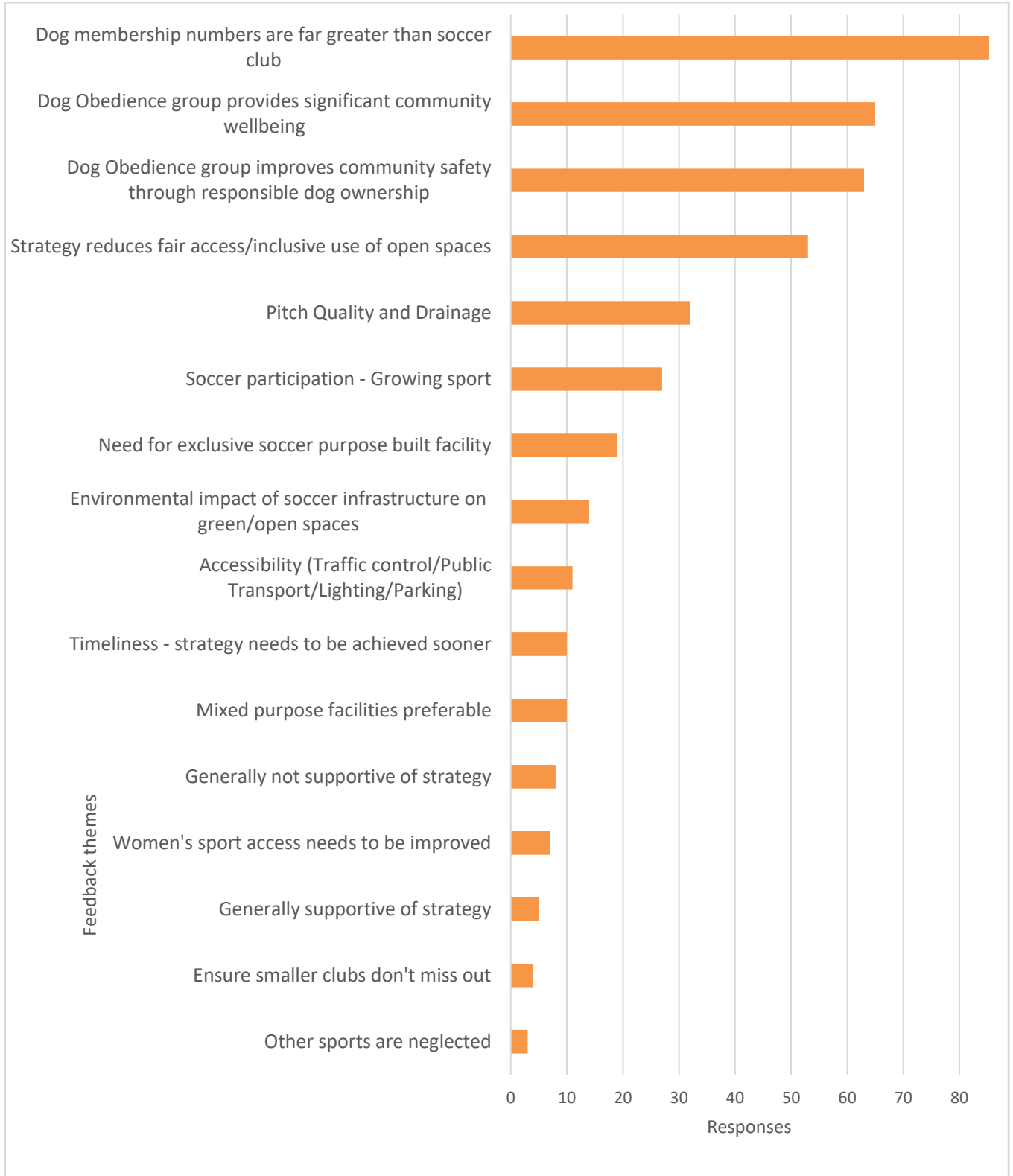
Participants were offered the opportunity to provide open feedback about the draft strategy. 248 comments were received. Full comment transcripts are provided in Appendix 5.

Many comments responded to the identification that the Northern Obedience Dog Club would be impacted by the actions of the strategy to increase access for Soccer Clubs to the spaces currently used.

Key points presented included:

- Northern Obedience Dog Club membership numbers are far greater than soccer club  
997 members of NODC should not have to move for 66 soccer members
- The Northern Obedience Dog Club provides significant community wellbeing
- Northern Obedience Dog Club improves community safety through responsible dog ownership
- More than 50 respondents, from a range of connections with Moonee Valley, commented that the Draft Soccer Strategy would reduce fair access and the inclusive use of open spaces.
- Other comments included feedback regarding the improvement of facilities for soccer including the pitches and the drainage, that there is a need for an exclusive soccer facility, concern for the environmental impact of soccer infrastructure on natural spaces and the need for improved ground accessibility such as traffic control, public transport, lighting and parking.

Figure 9 Draft strategy feedback





### 3.3 Written responses

Twelve written responses were received responding to the consultation. Whilst some requested anonymity, broadly they represented the views of soccer club representatives, dog obedience club representatives and environmental groups.

#### 3.3.1 10-year strategic plan for soccer

Football Victoria supports the draft Soccer Strategy, in that:

- Addresses areas of growth in the sport
- Facilities should be maximised with their usage and clubs consulted to facilitate this.

Some written responses shared that they were supportive that Moonee Valley City Council make soccer facilities available to the community:

*Supportive of soccer facilities being made available.*

Some expressed that facilities could be sole use facilities:

*Soccer should not need to accommodate other codes when MVCC has set precedence with other grounds having single use*

*Essendon Fields should be listed as an option for Strathmore club relocation.*

One respondent questioned why there was a draft strategy for a single sport rather than the review assessing the opportunity of all sports.

*Review should be inclusive of all sport and rec not just soccer*

Other responses highlighted that the single focus on soccer was not supported and that facilities were not well utilised and that the cost was unsubstantiated:

*Not supportive. Wants basketball facilities. Existing pavilion 'not used'.*

*Cost per member for proposed works does not offer value for money.*

*Not enough of a growth sport to justify investment.*

*MVCC funding of sporting and non-sporting recreational activities urgently needs to be reviewed (\$90 million for the past three financial years compared with \$33.5 for non-sporting recreational funding for the same period)*

*In the Strategy there is no real discussion relating to the funding issues.*

#### 3.3.2 Local residents

Feedback was also received that 'nearby residents should be taken into consideration and changes to the usage not have a negative impact'.

### **3.3.3 Soccer facility improvement**

An individual club proposed several facility changes to achieve a single use for soccer of Strathnaver Reserve including: Removal of Concrete Cricket Pitch; Surface Top Dressing; Fencing; Ground Configuration; Car Park; Spectator Viewing Option; On-Site Storage Shed; Hybrid Soccer Pitch installation, Pavilion Access and Boeing Reserve Floodlighting.

This consideration is outside the scope of the consultation and will be referred to existing Council infrastructure and budget processes.

### **3.3.4 Dog Obedience Clubs facility needs**

Dog Obedience Clubs submitted written concern that their needs for facilities may be overshadowed by the endorsement of the Draft Soccer Strategy. Feedback focused on the size, membership and longevity of clubs. The community benefits of dog obedience clubs with regard to community strengthening, pet safety and responsible dog ownership and accessibility for all were highlighted:

- Club requirements: Clubhouse (Approximately 250 sqm useable space including kitchen and pantry, equipment store and toilets).
- Exclusive use, no co-sharing with other sporting or community groups
- Training ground requirements:- Equivalent area to Aberfeldie Park, East Oval, with the availability of lighting for training at night in Winter. Majority off-street parking Located with minimal domestic housing or neighbours, adjoining. Not at an off-leash dog park.
- Dog club improves community wellbeing and health
- Promotes Responsible dog ownership
- Inclusive club – all people can participate. Promotes wellbeing and social connections.
- Current NDOC club financially contributed to club facilities.

### **3.3.5 Open passive space and environmental concerns**

Five of the twelve written responses raised concerns for the reduction of natural open space and the damage to natural spaces caused by increased sporting infrastructure.

*Artificial turf should not be used due to environmental harm*

*Appropriate lighting should not be so bright as to bother residents, be able to be turned on separately and minimally to avoid light pollution which is unnecessary, use batteries or connection to the grid, not diesel generators, which are a bad source of emissions for a climate emergency declared council to facilitate.*

*Synthetic sporting fields are environmental vandalism and have no place in our parklands and reserves.*

*Should not remove green space*

*Should not reduce available passive open space. Ensure space can still be used by the community for other recreation activities ie. Flying a kite.*

- Environmental concerns:

*Heat thermal impact of artificial turf is detrimental to the health of the creek and the players.*

*End-of-life artificial turf goes to landfill - contrary to council's commitment to reducing landfill waste.*

*Ensuring sufficient irrigation water for natural turf and adjacent plantings can be achieved by bringing forward Stage 2 of the Green Spine Project – mentioned in MV2040.*

*Carparks inevitably bring hydrocarbons and heavy metals in their runoff, as well as having heat thermal impacts.*

### **3.4 Social media responses**

Eighteen comments were extracted from social media posts. The full text is provided at Appendix 4. Social media comments highlighted a broad range of community sentiment, including

- Parks are great facilities when include other activities at the same place
- Concern about synthetic turf or grass being installed for both soccer players as well as environmental considerations
- Inadequate consultation of other user groups such as Dog Obedience Clubs
- Concern that soccer is presented as more important than other sports.

## 4 Appendices

### 4.1 Current facility users direct engagement meetings summary

Date	Club	Attendees – Clubs	Attendees - MVCC
6 June 2022	Essendon Royals	Vaughan Coveny Matt Galea	Simon Laughton Ben Rogers Lauri Filippone
15 June 2022	FC Strathmore	Ante Stipic Maria Raic Dani Cavar Josephine La Pila	Simon Laughton Ben Rogers Lauri Filippone
8 June	Avondale FC	Maria Englezakis Mark Englezakis Anthony Warden Sam Watson	Simon Laughton Ben Rogers Casey Hovenden
5 July	North West Wolves Rugby League Club & Keilor Dog Obedience Club	Joy Allen Drew Harrison Anthony	Casey Hovenden Ben Rogers
29 June 2022	Moonee Ponds United	Spiro Thalassinios Peter Koukoulis	Simon Laughton Ben Rogers Lauri Filippone
29 June 2022	Newmarket Phoenix	Abdi Ali	Simon Laughton Ben Rogers Lauri Filippone
30 June 2022	Moonee Valley Knights	Michael Morcos Peter Boulos	Simon Laughton Ben Rogers Jo Crosby
4 July 2022 21 July 2022 Online Meeting 24 July 2022 Onsite Meeting	Northern Dog Obedience Club	Glenys Barnes Glenys Barnes  Glenys Barnes and members of the NDOC.	Simon Laughton Ben Rogers

## 4.2 Draft Soccer Strategy Your say page



Home > Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy

### Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Email](#)

The **Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy** is a 10-year strategic plan to support the growth of soccer in Moonee Valley. The draft strategy includes partnership opportunities and options to meet current facility shortfalls in the short, medium and long term.

Moonee Valley has six soccer clubs that operate from nine sports reserves with 14 senior sized fields, three junior sized fields and two modified junior (senior sized) fields. Soccer participation is growing in Moonee Valley. The current participation of 1,600 players in 2021 is projected to grow to 2,300 by 2031.

The strategy aims to address six key challenges:

<b>Challenge 1</b> Need for additional sport locations and usage sites	<b>Challenge 2</b> Sustainable operation of soccer grounds
<b>Challenge 3</b> Condition of soccer sport facilities	<b>Challenge 4</b> Use of soccer sport facilities
<b>Challenge 5</b> Increasing access to community sporting reserves and assets	<b>Challenge 6</b> Community use of Moonee Valley City Council sites and limited assets

**Proposed vision for the Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy**



To provide equitable access to quality soccer facilities that supports soccer pathways and participation.

To achieve this vision, Moonee Valley City Council will deliver on the following strategic objectives:

- Objective 1:** Provide high quality and compliant soccer facilities
- Objective 2:** Improve access to soccer facilities based on participation numbers
- Objective 3:** Deliver well played, maintained and managed soccer facilities.

**Have your say:**

View the **Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy** and provide your feedback. Feedback will be received and presented to Council in a collated report. You may choose if your views are anonymous or identified as a submission.

-  Complete this brief survey to provide your feedback.
-  If you require assistance to complete the feedback questions online, phone the Customer Service on 5243 6000.
-  Email [Recreation@moonee.vic.gov.au](mailto:Recreation@moonee.vic.gov.au)
-  Write to us: Draft Soccer Strategy Moonee Valley City Council, PO Box 126, Moonee Ponds, VIC 3039

**SURVEY**

---

Code of this survey has concluded.

### Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy

Thank you for taking the time to consider the Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy. Your feedback helps to ensure that our work is relevant and supports health and wellbeing in our community. All responses are received anonymously and information will be collated into a report for Council to consider. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete. The survey will close on 17 July 2022.

**Privacy Statement**

A report that includes your feedback from this survey will be provided to Council. This report will not contain opinions or information that could lead to the identification of any individual. Council is committed to ensuring that survey information remains confidential in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic). If you have an enquiry regarding the survey, please feel free to contact Council's Advisory, Sport and Engagement team on 5243 6000.

[Complete Page](#)

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Email](#)

**Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy 2022**



**Stages**

- September 2021**  
Project plan completed and background research prepared
- October 2021**  
Stakeholder consultation completed, including the six soccer clubs that operate in Moonee Valley, other impacted sports field users and football clubs
- November 2021 - April 2022**  
Site analysis and review of all Moonee Valley soccer facilities including field condition, utility infrastructure such as lighting, site condition of parking. Development of strategic direction report and facility assessment and partnership opportunities.
- May 2022**  
Council Report: Draft Soccer Strategy
- June 2022**  
Council resolved to undertake a Soccer Strategy
- 1 June to 12 June**  
Direct engagement with Soccer Clubs
- 18 June to 7 July**  
Community consultation on Draft Soccer Strategy
- November - December 2022**  
Final report to Council to enable adoption of Soccer Strategy 2022

**Who's Leading**

**Crissy Howden**  
Policy & Program Officer



Email: [crissy@moonee.vic.gov.au](mailto:crissy@moonee.vic.gov.au)

## 4.3 Survey tool

### Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy

Your Say Moonee Valley City Council

#### Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy

Thank you for taking the time to consider the Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy. Your feedback helps to ensure that our work is relevant and supports health and wellbeing in our community. All responses are recorded anonymously and information will be collated into a report for Council to consider. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete. The survey will close on 17 July 2022.

Privacy Statement:

A report that includes your feedback from this survey will be provided to Council. This report will not contain opinions or information that could lead to the identification of any individuals. Council is committed to ensuring that survey information remains confidential, in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic). If you have an enquiry regarding this survey, please feel free to contact Council's Advocacy, Grants and Engagement Team on 9243 8888.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Questions	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Definitely disagree
The Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy clearly presents a 10 year strategic plan to support the growth of soccer in our community.					
The six key challenges accurately reflect factors to manage soccer participation growth.					
The vision 'To provide equitable access to quality soccer facilities that supports soccer pathways and participation' is well supported.					

To what extent do you agree with the three strategic objectives of the Draft Soccer Strategy?

Questions	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Definitely disagree
Objective 1 Provide high quality and compliant soccer facilities					
Objective 2 Improve access to soccer facilities based on participation numbers					
Objective 3 Deliver well planned, maintained and managed soccer facilities.					

To what extent do you agree with the facility partnership options?

Questions	Definitely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Definitely disagree
The facility partnership opportunity options presented in the Strategy are clear					

Please describe your feedback on the Draft Soccer Strategy.



## Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy

Your Say Moonee Valley City Council

---

What are your connections with Moonee Valley? Mark all that apply.

(Choose all that apply)

- Resident of Moonee Valley Study
- Study and/or work in Moonee Valley
- Soccer club member or representative
- Sport or recreation club (not soccer) member or representative
- Other (please specify)

Answer this question only if you have chosen Soccer club member or representative for What are your connections with Moonee Valley? Mark all that apply.

Which soccer club are you a member of?

Answer this question only if you have chosen Sport or recreation club (not soccer) member or representative for What are your connections with Moonee Valley? Mark all that apply.

Which other sport or recreation club are you a member or representative of?

Gender

(Choose any one option)

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

#### 4.4 Social media comments: Feedback on the Draft Soccer Strategy

Number	Reply thread	Comment/Tweet
1		I love Kensington soccer club at Holland Park. It's all about a great facility, active community and a fun engaging space for the whole family, including other sports and activities at the same place. Example: kids do soccer training, parents either join in or walk or run around track with dog, little kids have a great playground to play in. Coffee truck comes during games.
2		Synthetic grass??? Are you guys serious??? Soccer players hate playing on fake grass - way more injuries happen running on that stuff.... and what happened to your climate emergency... seriously guys, this is now getting ridiculous...
	2.1	Plus it soaks up heat and gets hotter than bitumen in summer, increasing the threat of deadly urban heat island effect. Not cool at all
	2.2	So many reasons not to do this, can't believe it was even considered... ☹️
3		Boroondara sorry to point this out (although your councillors may not care), but if mooneevalleycc execute on the draft [soccer] strategy, it'll arguably leave Boroondara as the worst [soccer] municipality in VIC which is a shame given there's some large clubs in your community no?
	3.1	I love that the parks in Moonee Valley are for community sports, but the amount of trash that is left on the ovals are horrible. The soccer fields this morning had at least 30x water bottles scattered around the oval from the weekend organised sports.
4		The Draft Soccer Strategy talks about potential new fake grass. But we know that increases deadly urban heat. So how do people think Council could lay fake grass AND keep our city cool and green? Are they compatible?
	4.1	Fun study done by the Brigham Young University: (certainly makes a strong argument against Synthetic Turf - especially if you go with the recommendation of it being unsafe to touch in temperatures above 30 degrees.) <a href="https://aces.nmsu.edu/.../documents/brigham-young-study.pdf">https://aces.nmsu.edu/.../documents/brigham-young-study.pdf</a>
	4.2	"Synthetic turf sparks outrage after reaching near boiling temperatures" <a href="https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.9news.com.au%2Fnational%2Fcommunity-group-from-banksia-takes-council-to-court-after-synthetic-turf-reaches-88-degrees-celsius">https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.9news.com.au%2Fnational%2Fcommunity-group-from-banksia-takes-council-to-court-after-synthetic-turf-reaches-88-degrees-celsius</a>
	4.3	Cooling artificial turf through evaporation from a subsurface water storage unit may be an option though? - haven't found references to cost evaluation or Australian resources yet....
	4.4	That seems about as clever as burning more fossil fuels and then paying money to a foreign country to "offset" it Oh hang on, that's actually what we're doing
	4.5	how have we gotten to the stage where we prefer synthetic grass rather than actual grass!??

	4.6	as bad as this is, it's the least of the worries right now, wait till your hear what happened with the pool heating - they basically voted to increase carbon emissions by hundreds of tonnes at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars of ratepayers money despite officers recommending not to and community clearly stating significant concerns over the increased economic and environmental impact. I'll write soemthing more about it tomorrow
<b>5</b>		So soccer is more important than other forms of recreation? What arrogance.
	5.1	Filled it out! Hope they realise what a special opportunity NODC offers so many community members
	5.2	<p>Proposed plan to turn the AJ Davis Reserve into an artificially surfaced soccer hub. The City of Moonee Valley are currently looking into a proposal to put an artificially surfaced soccer hub on the AJ Davis reserve. The proposed plan has the backing of the council, there is a strategy report out now inviting feedback by July 17. The final decision will be made by council by September.</p> <p>I am a member of the Keilor Obedience Dog Training Centre (club) and we were not consulted about the plan, although the strategy report states that all sporting clubs were consulted last October. It seems that only soccer clubs were consulted. An artificially surfaced soccer hub (likely 2 fields ) will totally change the reserve which is just starting to benefit from the planting that your group did a few years ago.</p> <p>The hub will likely be surrounded by cyclone fences and there will need to be facility for lots more parking on the reserve.</p> <p>Our club is meeting with a council rep next week and are planning to be very loud in trying to maintain the reserve, with its obvious environmental values, as it is. The council report does recognise that environmentally there may be concerns, that other sporting codes may be disadvantaged.</p> <p>Pease have a look at the strategy report.</p> <p>Urgent action is needed to stop the development (destruction) of the reserve.</p>
	5.3	FOSC doesn't comment on sporting matters unless they have a direct impact on the creek and its environs. We will ALWAYS argue for the best environmental outcomes for Steele Creek. A. J. Davis Reserve is actually part of the creek's flood plain. It is used as a sporting field and its current natural turf has the advantage of keeping the area cooler and provides a cooler playing surface. We will put our position to council before 17 July. The Green Spine Project Stage Two proposes to capture, treat and reuse stormwater from the Clydesdale drain to irrigate the oval. That also helps to maintain groundwater which keeps the creek flowing in dry times. All councils need to ensure that they have clear policies to support a diversity of female and male sports.
	5.4	100% agree that's an area that needs to grow. Sadly left behind in Moonee Valley. The Quinn Grove precinct is a wonderful example of council listening to the community. Thanks for the heads up. Just sent my feedback to council

## 4.5 Full survey comments: Feedback on the Draft Soccer Strategy

- \* There is a requirement for year round soccer facilities for two clubs, Royals and Split. A soccer hub at Essendon Airport would resolve this issue rather than using current facilities and relocating other sports, eg. cricket. We need to encourage shared tenancy to maximise open space and avoid clubs becoming territorial.
- \* Discourage increasing field supply and capacity at existing soccer facilities as trees will be removed to accommodate and facilities such as building and carparks will take over existing open natural green parkland. We cannot afford to lose natural green parkland.
- \* Partnerships with school should be encouraged.
- \* Synthetic turf must be discouraged COMPLETELY for environmental reasons.
- \* Carparks should not be built on open natural green parkland AT ALL. Instead, encourage carpooling, public transport, walking and bike riding, and implement a Council run shuttle bus from carparks not utilised on weekends, eg. school carparks.
- \* Stakeholder engagement and feedback in the report did not include Friends groups along the Moonee Ponds and Steele Creeks, Maribyrnong River and perhaps others. It also excluded open natural green space advocates and the public who use these spaces regularly at non sport times. We are stakeholders too and being excluded was disappointing and disheartening.
- \* A soccer hub at Essendon Airport would be ideal as it would not affect residents if strategically placed. Locations suggested in the soccer strategy are not suitable as they would reduce open natural green spaces and tree canopy, and would require unwelcome carpark spaces.

1. Melbourne city used to have Melbourne Park. The tennis centre started with Rod Laver Arena, now Melbourne Park is no more. It is simply a sporting complex. Please do NOT do the same with Aberfeldie Park. It is a community space and enough of the park has been transformed into off-limits sporting fields.

2. Aside from the small numbers for soccer compared to dog club members, the ever-developing municipality more than ever needs the easily accessible and highly visible dog obedience club to promote responsible dog ownership. Dwellings are becoming smaller with smaller yards, and townhouses and multi-unit dwellings taking over the suburban back yard. Post covid, it is more critical than ever to retain a community open space for training. The fact that the river frontage is popular with families, fitness users of all types, as well as sporting clubs, means that more people get a visual on RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP. Council should be celebrating and encouraging the growth and use of this community club, instead of forgetting it for yet another 'sporting' arena that excludes dogs from another open space.

Removing NODC will have many negative repercussions for the club and its members - location convenience, access, numbers, lighting, noise, no proximity to houses, existing financial contributions for club rooms, long history, etc.) There are other options that are perfectly suitable for soccer growth as tabled.

Please give due consideration to the dog club - such clubs AND community open spaces for ALL are notoriously overlooked by sporting bodies as expendable at the expense of other community groups and people needing just plain open space that can be used.

997 members of NODC should not have to move for 66 soccer members

A strategy for any public space must include all current users and stakeholders in a consultative process. As this strategy failed to do this, it should be disregarded and redone. A key stakeholder is the Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC), which has 10 times the membership (excluding dogs) of the current soccer club, was not included in the consultancy. As usage by the NODC is only 20%, it is not dominating the public space. The strategy suggests that NODC be moved, but hasn't done any investigations to find a suitable or better place, suggesting that there isn't one. Public spaces should be available for all community activities. NODC is inclusive of everyone and represent the broader community of Moonee Valley rate payers. Dog

training benefits the owners, the dogs and the broader community with better behaved dogs. The health and wellbeing of the community will be greatly reduced if the Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy is approved by council.

Aberfeldie park in its current state is in sufficient condition for use by Moonee Ponds United. It has satisfactory training lights, compliant change rooms (female friendly etc).

The club underutilizes its two fields (including one in Aberfeldie park). So it doesn't make sense for them to be allocated another space in Aberfeldie park at the expense of the dog club. Any space allocation should be shared.

The soccer club has declining membership (less than 75 members). The Northern Obedience Dog Club has 700 members for 2022 with 400 on the wait list. Their membership is more diverse and representative of the community. The soccer club has an under representation of female participants and is used by a smaller proportion of the community.

There has been limited consultation with the Northern Obedience Dog Club over proposed relocation plans. This could lead to negative impressions of both the Council and Moonee Valley soccer clubs.

There has been no consideration of alternative locations for Moonee Ponds United. The Northern Obedience Dog Club has strong ties to their current location - they have been in Aberfeldie park for 66 years. They paid half the cost of their current clubhouse and contributed to renovations/extensions.

Even if Aberfeldie Park is upgraded to two soccer fields, there's no need to relocate Northern Obedience Dog Club as Moonee Ponds United under utilize their facilities and so should share.

Action for a soccer strategy is definitely required asap

Again, MVCC favours a noisy niche group over broad-based community benefit (e.g. cyclists rather than pedestrians and dog walkers).

This proposal to benefit a soccer club with small and declining year on year membership comes at the expense of the Northern Obedience Dog Club whose large, extraordinarily diverse, growing membership uses the proposed site and would lose such use if this proposal proceeds. MV is very well served by facilities for organised sports. It has relatively few recreation facilities (and those of lesser quality) for broad-based community use.

In light of the impacts on mental and physical health and social opportunities of the past three years (not to mention the growth in dog ownership - and registration revenues), facilities for dog owners ought to be high on the Council agenda. This proposal to benefit a niche local group eliminates facilities highly valued by a significantly larger and more diverse local group.

All clubs should have great facilities and council should not favour the larger clubs only smaller clubs cannot get larger due to the lack of facilities

All parties who use the grounds have not been given equal consideration

Any strategy that supports the growth of one sport with a focus to making money but disadvantages existing user groups, or lessens potential other solutions for long term users is unfounded and undermines residents in general. All groups should be considered and dog owners need their club to remain in an accessible, safe and supported area

As a community member accessing the use of Aberfeldie Ovals, I'm highly concerned to see money spent on creating this strategy was spent on a single sport and not on an overall plan for all recreation pursuits that utilise sporting ovals. This strategy, as it stands, does not benefit the majority of our community. I am in favour of equitable sports, such as soccer. This strategy however, speaks of a lack of interest in the facts and appears to be a poorly researched knee-jerk reaction to 'look good'.

I am a member of NODC and have been since January 2019. This club supports community of all ages, genders, races etc. They do wonderful work in supporting individuals and their connection to their dogs. My dog and myself both suffer from profound anxiety, especially in public places. I am a low income earning person who would not be able to afford to attend a club that wasn't volunteer run. The structure, guidance and routine in being a member of NODC have been a consistent positive impact to my dog and myself. I am not alone in these sentiments and the club has a growing membership of dedicated members.

The club makes great use of the oval during training hours and benefits a large number of people over the course of training mornings. Due to the limited oval space allocation we are at full capacity and even have a large waiting list (380 people). This is in direct contrast to the soccer club based at Aberfeldie Park. Their membership has declined from 176 members to 66 members. This makes zero sense to be prioritising a small select group of people over the more diverse majority. It also makes zero sense to be relocating an established club of nearly 1000 people over a 66-person club, whether or not they are expanding.

Additionally, the time allocation on the oval is extremely limited and the NODC makes efficient use of this time. The NODC, despite being de-prioritised and limited to just 6 hours per week, maintains an average weekly attendance of 210 members and monthly 840 members. Compared to the Moonee Ponds United FC, which is allotted 28 hours per week, nearly 5X the allotted time over the month. The club also has minimal impacts on the grounds, whereas activities like soccer and football tear up the oval and created large amounts of litter and waste. The NODC members are highly responsible and clean up all pet messes promptly and do not cause damage to the oval.

The Northern Obedience Dog Club started in the early 1950's when a group of people interested in obedience began to meet regularly to train their dogs. We are proud to be the second oldest obedience club in Victoria, with over 600 paying members. The club has paid for a significant portion of the clubhouse building and has also continued to contribute significantly to the building extensions and renovations. The MVCC Sport and recreation team on the other hand have yet to make clear a new and definitive location/clubhouse facilities. Finally, the impact to community would be harmful to a large number of people. The NODC is an inclusive club welcoming all ages, sexes, races, religions etc. As a member I experience first hand the equality and amity amongst members. It is a unique club in this way and fosters friendships across all demographics. It would be a great loss to disrupt the club's strong history and roots to the wider community. As a person with a disability, it makes gentle exercise and outdoor socialisation accessible to someone like me who would not be able to participate in something like football or soccer.

Lastly, the location is historic to the club. The oval is a fantastic location specifically to dog training as it's far away from main roads, loud sounds, traffic etc. It is also far from residences, which means we don't elicit complaints about noise, parking, congestion etc. My dog for example can't go to most ovals due to his phobia of loud sounds and cars, but our current oval is perfectly within his window of tolerance and allows him to gain confidence in his surroundings.

I anticipate a number of negative outcomes that this Soccer strategy may not have considered.

- We don't know what the physical cost to relocate the club will be. This may have large financial impacts to a club, which largely runs on a shoestring.
- The brand and legacy of NODC will be impacted. The club may not be able to continue to offer affordable training and membership.
- The time, effort and strain on volunteers will be unfair and may be beyond their capabilities
- The most may result in a loss of membership, and volunteer instructors if the location is not suitable for the club/training/individuals.
- The club may need to leave the Moonee Valley municipality, which is a great shame for our proud members.



As a member of NODC, it does not make sense to move us elsewhere, when we only use the facilities 6 hours/week. We have been using NODC for years and it's a great community spot.

As a member of Northern Obedience dog club, I am shocked that this proposal would consider relocating a club with nearly 1,000 members in favour of a soccer club that had a mere 66 members in the same time frame.

In Moonee Valley's council plan, it lists as one of its goals to have an increased RANGE and quality of sporting facilities. Surely keeping the dog club increases the range.

As a female in their late 50s, there are very few sporting clubs that would welcome me, but Northern Obedience does just that. It helps to keep me active and involved and physically fit. It also means that I have a happy and well behaved dog too.

As a member of the community, Northern Obedience School and avid soccer fan I am bewildered at the lack of engagement with other stakeholders. I cannot support this strategy unless other key stakeholders are appropriately engaged.

As a Northern Obedience Dog Club member, I strongly disagree with the plan to kick NODC out.

We have 15 times the membership of the soccer club, and we get 1/4 of the hours per week.

The park is a shared facility, and should be shared fairly, not kicking out a \*big\* club to make way for a far smaller one who already get more time.

As a parent whose child plays at FC Strathmore, I am deeply concerned on how Moonee Council ignore their duty of care by allowing a concrete cricket pitch to be located in the middle of a soccer pitch. The soccer strategy should stipulate the removal of the cricket pitch and Strathnaver Reserve to be soccer only.

Has Council considered playing cricket at schools during the summer?

Strathnaver Reserve should be a soccer purpose venue only.

As a player of FC Strathmore, the Cricket pitch at Strathnaver Reserve is dangerous to play on and needs to be removed. I twisted my ankle on the cricket pitch.

We are the only club to have a cricket pitch in the middle of the ground compared to every other club I have played against.

As a resident of MVCC (Ascot Vale) and member of Northern Obedience Dog Club, I am deeply concerned with this proposal and lack of consultation with members of NODC, who clearly are affected by this proposal. My partner and I moved into the area at the start of 2020 from West Melbourne. We are in our 40s and likely won't have children of our own, hence our third member of our family is our beloved dog, Ernie. NODC was highly recommended by many people in the community who we have run into at Fairbairn and Aberfeldie Parks, not only for being an amazingly run volunteer organisation of over 50 years and for their education in canine training but for their role in fostering community. The training sessions and events we have attended with NODC have definitely made us connect and meet our wonderful community in MVCC. As mentioned, we don't have children and we lead busy lives, NODC has provided us a connection to our community which we are grateful for. The proposed relocation of this long established club threatens our sense of community, which is deeply concerning. Furthermore, I am deeply concerned that NODC has been discriminated against. Why have no other clubs been flagged to relocate to make "space" for a very small club of 66 members. Could it be that MVCC believe that sporting activities associated with animals and the benefits this brings to their owners is deemed of less importance? Absolutely seems this way to me. Additionally, why would MVCC consider relocating a club (i.e. NODC) which well and truly surpasses the club membership of Moonee Pond United FC 10 fold? I smell something fishy. I'm no Einstein but skimming through the football club numbers surely it makes MORE SENSE to relocate Moonee Pond United FC, a club decreasing in

membership numbers and the second smallest club membership to Debney Park for the following reasons:

- 1) Debney Park has an additional junior field compared to Aberfeldie
- 2) Debney Park only services one soccer club, which has the smallest club membership (i.e. 48), Newmarket Phoenix. So it surely can also accommodate the second smallest club of Moonee Ponds United FC
- 3) Disrupting the lives of 66 members compared to NODC's 997 members clearly is more sensible.

I would like MVCC to engage NODC members in CONSULTATION, with regards to your Draft Soccer Strategy as it effect 997 families. If MVCC do not engage in consultation I will be raising this issue with ABC news.

Kind regards,  
Resident of MVCC.

As a Senior player of FC Strathmore and local resident of Moonee Valley,

I am disappointed that the report did not contain stronger recommendations on the issues at Strathnaver Reserve.

Of main concern is the need to remove the concrete cricket pitch and relocate the cricket club to its main home as they also use 4 other ovals but are half the size of FC Strathmore.

FC Strathmore has continually worked to improve the facilities at Strathnaver Reserve and deserve more.

Soccer is the biggest sport in the world but not soccer club in Moonee Valley has its own appropriate facilities that is embarrassment given we have 2 clubs playing in very high quality competitions.

Multi use facilities is not the answer when Council could easily amalgamate cricket to 2-3 venues and utilise unused ovals.

Why does soccer clubs continue to suffer?

As an active member of the Northern Obedience Dog club I am appalled that the club has not been actively engaged in the consultation process.

For 66 years NODC has been helping people from all walks of life.

Please take a step back, consult with the club to support them to support our community with clubhouse facilities and a high level of access to the oval for training

As an active member of the Northern Obedience Dog Club I think the needs of such a large club utilised by the community should be prioritised. The NODC is continuing to grow and has a far larger membership base than the emerging soccer club. The NODC is an incredible resource improving the lives and welfare of dogs and their owners. The needs of the club and suitable training space and time should be strongly considered when finalising the strategy and relocation should only occur with the in depth involvement and consultation of the NODC senior staff.

Assessment of ground conditions seems somewhat superficial - when have these visits taken place? If they were to occur during the season after a period of rain, the condition of grounds would be quite different ie: they are unsafe, cannot be played on and result in training being cancelled, games unable to be played and parents actively looking for other clubs that have better grounds. This strategy also does not adequately consider car parking at clubs where there is generally a lack of public transport and for younger children, this is not an option anyway and parents driving is on the only to attend or those families attending the club from other local council areas - this is causing chaos and concern from neighbours as is the case at Strathnaver. The partnership approach ie: a soccer club and cricket club co-existing needs to be considered in the context of membership and need for access to grounds and facilities. At Strathnaver, the cricket club rarely uses the club rooms during its cricket season yet the soccer club is unable to maintain access at that time. There should be a consideration of a true co-existence or perhaps a more suitable location for the cricket club which only accesses the ground 1-2 per week during it's season.

Based on the Draft Soccer Strategy, soccer already receives an equitable allocation to Moonee Valley sports fields (Slide 16 of Draft Soccer Strategy). If any sport, AFL requires additional allocation as the ratio of fields:players is 1.8x higher than preferable. Ormond Park is also in desperate need of: 1) fixing the netting around the ground, 2) upgraded lights to competition standard. It appears MVCC has invested far greater amounts into Soccer than AFL since 2015 (adjusted for number of registered participants). Is this equitable? Many of the key assumptions in the Draft Soccer Strategy rely on "modelling" of player numbers. The key assumptions behind this modelling is not transparent; as a Consulting Data Scientist, I'm inclined to not trust the modelling until this process is transparent.

As the Draft Soccer Strategy conveys, there is a wide array of sports available in MVCC - which is a good thing. Sport is good for bringing a group of people together, regardless of background. Though, not all people have the same inclination to sport - not all ages, not all gender, ethnicity, etc. This is where other community groups come in. The Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC) fills a gap for the community by providing obedience training to the dog-lovers of MVCC. The NODC is over 65+ years old (one of the oldest in Victoria), having been founded in the 1950's. This is significant. NODC has been a mainstay in the community at Aberfeldie park for over 65 years (since before most of our MVCC Councillors were born). The NODC is inclusive - welcoming members of all ages (I've never seen a 70 year old play Soccer), sexes, sexual orientations, colour and religion. The NODC is in a great location - central of MVCC, located far enough from local residential properties, but close enough for all their members.

Membership has been growing steadily over the years - accounting for a reduced 2022 year, membership has been growing by 8.8%p.a. for the past 5 years. In addition to that, there is a waitlist of 380 people (which is 30-40% of total membership numbers). This is all the while NODC is provided 6 hours of "oval time" per week. The limitation on NODC growth is due to ground availability (hence the waiting list) - this means NODC cannot offer training in other dog sport disciplines due to the lack of "oval time". There is clear demand for the NODC within the community. On the contrary, as the Draft Soccer Strategy outlines, membership in Moonee Ponds United FC (MPUFC) has been declining of recently, with Soccer membership in general only increasing by 5.3%p.a. over the past few years. MPUFC also has 28 hours of "oval time" per week. Per hour of oval time, NODC accommodates 165 members, while MPUFC accommodates 2.4 members. Therefore NODC is a more efficient use of the space at Aberfeldie Park, being able to include more of the community per hour of "oval time".

Ultimately, it is far easier to relocate an expanding club of 66 members, than an established and entrenched one of ~1000 members. As mentioned, many sports are catered for within the community. Council should ensure other community groups/activities are also looked after to ensure a prosperous community. That is diversity.

Based on the relative numbers of members between the soccer club and Northern obedience dog club, I believe this strategy is based on a completely false premise. The dog club membership out numbers the soccer club by over 10 to one. If anything, more space and facilities should be provided to the dog club.

Boeing Reserve has scope to include 1 soccer pitch. Why hasn't this been considered?

Build it and they will come. I support upgrading of pavilion facilities elsewhere to the Cross keys standard so clubs can use them. Also, why not expand Fairbairn Park as the main shared soccer facility?

Built on the basis of failing to consult with all relevant groups, it seems a typical consultant report where they do 30% of the work and bill for 100% of the work.

MVCC and other councils publicly call for pet owners to be responsible, with some requiring dogs to be trained, yet here MVCC are looking to push an obedience club with around 700 members and a long waiting

list away from its home of approximately 10 years, in favour of a sporting group with a declining membership base.

Collaboration and support is a must for future development and growth. Let's not just talk and think but "Do". For way too long that's all we do is talk talk talk. We must "Do" something now.

Coming from Europe, soccer, football, is close to my heart.

But we should not "develop" it on the sacrifice of something else highly important and needed for the community.

For more than a decade we have been members of the Northern Obedience Dog Club. We brought our first dog there, and now we have our second dog there.

So I speak from experience

I don't know how much the panel knows or understands about dogs and the importance they have to the community.

Or the importance of having well socialised dogs in our community.

The NDOC is doing such a fantastic job.

Please do not sacrifice this important need on a whim. Make it work for soccer and the dog obedience training. I am confident it is possible and the community will be better for it.

Consideration of a synthetic soccer pitch at Strathnaver Reserve.

Removal of the cricket pitch at Strathnaver Reserve to be a soccer purpose facility.

Cricket Clubs need to be relocated and soccer clubs have full access and proper soccer pitches that are fenced off.

Dedicated Soccer only facilities would be beneficial to Juniors

Rather than sharing with Cricket. Soccer will be the fastest growing and most popular sport.

Despite this being an incredible bias surgery. The NDOC has been active for 66 years at its current location with 997 members unlike the Moonee Valley FC with 66.

This strategy fails to see how inclusive, community focused and beneficial the club is on an individual and community scale.

Why relocate an incredible, long standing and vital resource?

Instead find an alternate location to expand soccer fields - this to me seems a far easier and logical method

Didn't the Council pay consultants to draft the report? The report is a farce and clearly has been influenced by Council Officers as the outcomes including recommendations are very poor and doesn't go far enough.

The report should stipulated that Cross Keys Reserve and Strathnaver Reserve be soccer only venues. The 2 clubs Royals and Strathmore Split are bigger clubs than the summer cricketers and deserve more recognition and respect.

Once again, colonial codes like cricket and AFL interests are looked after at the expense of soccer.

Until a "soccer" person is employed by Moonee Valley who understands the game and culture, soccer will get nothing.

10 years ago a soccer strategy was drafted and was poorly written and got shelved this will go right next to it in the bottom draw.

Disappointing that Northern Obedience Dog club, that has successfully operated in this location for 66 years, is being kicked out despite having higher and growing member numbers. NDOC provides great physical and social benefits to many members of the community through its training programs. NDOC has contributed

financially to the building of infrastructure on this site. This Soccer Strategy does not take into account the contributions and value of NODC.

Disgusted - No regard for other community clubs

displacing an old dog club (the northern obedience dog school) that use the oval only for 6 hours a week is petty, mean and speaks volumes to narcissistic culture of soccer. where the smallest knock appears to be a permanent injury - the soccer temperament does not appear to working well with the community, especially the community which poses little impact to soccer - the main reason for moving the dog club is probably so soccer can steal the club house or if not steal it knock it down - anyway soccer doesn't need this oval at the time the dog club needs it and doesn't the dog club to move really...  
the dog club has a lot of members and really this stinks of simple strong arming - it is a mini version of the move 'the castle' - the big soccer people moving the little people out of inconvenience - shame on the council for supporting such a sport  
AFL wouldn't do this

Do not relocate the northern obedience dog club. This is a fantastic location for this club and relocating it is ridiculous.

Does not consider the future of the Northern Obedience Dog Club - Poor attempt to disband a popular community club.

Draft – Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy

It's great to see the Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC) taking steps to listen and learn from residents and organisations, regarding their present an ongoing needs and requirements.

The MVCC openly encourages feedback to ensure, “our work is relevant and supports health and wellbeing in our community.”<sup>1</sup>

It seems, from the Soccer Strategy Draft Report (MVSS-DR), there is a wanting to capitalise on more open space, for longer time periods, a need for more or updated facilities, etc; at a remarkable financial cost to the MVCC and rate-payers.

Football Victoria and MVCC have “endorsed the recommendations of the Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy”<sup>2</sup>, but at what cost to other sport and non-sporting clubs, organisations and locals (which use/share the same space). This information doesn't seem to have been collected or made public. The report is a good start, but doesn't include other community groups, their needs and wellbeing.

The MVSS-DR favours soccer, and soccer only. There doesn't seem to be any findings to show if these costly and larges scale proposed changes support the 'overall' health and wellbeing (for all) in our community, and the impact on other groups and organisations. The report shows little regard to other organisations, stating, “find a suitable alternative site for dog club activities”<sup>3</sup> for “Moonee Ponds United Soccer Club to increase use at Aberfeldie Park.”<sup>4</sup>

The MVSS-DR proposals for Aberfeldie Park, can be concluded:

- there will be great impacts on another organisation, and
- there will a reduction in time as to when locals can use Aberfeldie Park as a public recreation spot.

It seems there is going to be major impacts upon clubs like the Northern Obedience Dog Club (with weekly attendance in the 200s), just to support a dying soccer club with 66 members. The Obedience Dog Club is one of the largest non-sport and non-ball organisations in the MVCC.

If the proposed changes take place at Aberfeldie Park, adding extra soccer in place of the Northern Obedience Dog Club (second oldest obedience club in Victoria), this would provide an unbalanced and unjust service to the health and wellbeing in our community. The MVCC would seem to be heavily favouring sport over another large-scale community groups. Aberfeldie Park has already seen drastic changes of late with



extra AFL games added – this has already heavily reduce the time and use for general public recreation, and increased noise. The addition of extra soccer would unbalance the nature of the park, and turn Aberfeldie Park into an all-ball precinct. This change would not be healthy.

The Northern Obedience Dog Club is the heart of Aberfeldie Park (east oval). Aberfeldie Park has been its home since 1980 (42 years). As much as the Essendon-Maribyrnong Park Ladies Cricket Club is to the west oval, and next door the Essendon Rowing Club and Moonee Valley Athletics Track, these organisation have very proud and long histories with the park and area, stemming over life-times, generations, decades – serving the community. This diverse mix adds to the support, health and wellbeing in our wider community. The diverse mix of activities at Aberfeldie Park brings a diverse group of people together. Diversity is healthy, vibrant and inclusive for community spirit.

At Aberfeldie Park, an increase in soccer activities and the removal of the Dog Club, isn't healthy, isn't vibrant, isn't inclusive, isn't diverse, and not in spirit.

The MVSS-DR is trying to find a quick fix solution to a soccer issue – by moving the Dog Club. The impact on the Dog Club and the local community most likely hasn't been established by MVCC or Otium Planning Group (who drafted the MVSS-DR).

It seems the MVSS-DR is proposing Aberfeldie Park as a quick fix to a soccer issue. A proposed fix without thought or understanding towards other organisations, the park, residents and the community. Not to mention, if the proposal did proceed, what impact would the increase noise (yelling players, cheering spectators and umpire whistles) have on the wildlife-life in the park and adjacent along the Maribryngong River.

The MVSS-DR clearly illustrates it wants to oust a healthy long-term organisation, home to Aberfeldie Park. The MVSS-DR could have make recommendations to close or merge the Moonee Ponds United FC (based on a heavy member decline), cap club numbers, etc. Instead, it proposes to force a long-standing organisation of land. This thinking is not in the spirit of the game.

“Moonee Valley is proud of its rich heritage”<sup>6</sup>. So are other organisations who have called Aberfeldie Park home for generations, “where history goes back a long way and continues to grow.”<sup>7</sup>

It would be devastating if the MVCC acts to move the Dog Club, a long-standing trusted group from Aberfeldie Park to elsewhere.

1, Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy, [yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au)

2 Pg 16, Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy Draft Report, May 2022

3,4 Pg 23, Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy Draft Report, May 2022

5 Pg 2, Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy Draft Report, May 2022

6, 7 [mvcc.vic.gov.au](http://mvcc.vic.gov.au)

Essendon royals have over half the players registered in Moonee Valley. Their facilities currently allocated are inadequate for a club of that size. Ormond Park is an embarrassment and not having female friendly facilities is a blight on the council who have seen to be actively bias towards the other football code on that field with the Mayor never answering questions himself. The toilets that are at the east Keilor synthetic grass pitch are a disgrace and again not female friendly. We have girls training there and they'd prefer to hold their bladders than to use such a facility. Take a look at the incredible facilities the council have provided for the AFL code at Aberfeldy, Ormond park and other venues. The Cross Keys venue is a great pavilion, but the field is not up to standards and while drainage has been done well the use of grass is clearly more suited to cricket than soccer. A more robust grass that has a stinger root system is clearly needed.

Extremely disappointed with council. I realise sport is beneficial for one's health and council needs to find space but what about all the rate payers who also use this oval.

Failure to prepare is to prepare to fail!



FC STRATHMORE should have their own ground like other codes Hockey, Baseball, AFL. Council needs to get rid of the cricket pitch that is dangerous for kids to play on.

Strathnaver Reserve should be a soccer venue only.

Focuses on one sport/ community activity to the exclusion of all others. Soccer is a violent sport that actively teaches physically aggressive behaviour that can and often does lead to emotional and physical injuries in children and young adults. The expansion of facilities for this sport is leading to the reduction for opportunities to pursue other outdoor activities for middle aged women like me who will never consider participating in soccer.

Football is about to explode with a Mens World Cup in Dec 2022 and Female World Cup cohosted in Australia. Partipation numbers will explode and facilities don't exist

From my current & past observations multiple sports ie NODC (Northern Obedience Dog Club), Soccer, Aussie rules, Cricket and the adjacent athlete club have been occupying the eastern sports field successful for many years. Co existing hasn't been a problem. The various sports/activities occur at different times. The NODC probably has the largest membership of all the sporting groups that occupy the eastern oval but are restricted to maximum 6 hours per week ie Sunday mornings (approx 5 hours) and Wednesday nights (1 hour). Due to current pandemic ownership of dogs have increase dramatically hence facilities like the existing NODC are more important since they train the local residents in responsible ownership. The existing facilities is surrounded by good parking for transporting dogs to the oval and or to the existing Club House. The current SOCCER Stratergy Plan doesn't address WHERE the NODC will be relocated to, who will be paying for the new facilities ie Club House, Storage Facilities, will it have ground lighting etc. The Strategy Plan is very vague on details ie "do you agree with the facility partnership options?"WHAT OPTIONS????? The existing Strategy Plan basically saying NODC MUST RELOCATE!!!!

Get rid of the cricket pitch at Strathnaver Reserve! Player safety is paramount!  
FC STRATHMORE deserves its own ground that is a soccer purpose only ground.

Get rid of the cricket pitch at Strathnaver Reserve. I done my knee playing there years ago and never played soccer again.

No soccer pitches should have a cricket pitch on it.

Given the advanced investment in Cross Keys reserve to support soccer and the size and scope of the Essendon Royals, I believe that further enhancement of Cross keys as a dedicated 12 month accessible soccer hub facility would be the best use of rate payer funds and service local community members. Further development of JH Allen is also appropriate.

Greedy proposal that does not take NODC in to account.

Harmful to the community and poorly thought our.

Having a plan for just one sport is not effective for the community here. If the Council want to be more inclusive, look at using the park for all kinds of community usage. The dog club is an amazing resource for building a strong community. Every week I bring my dog there and we learn together, with our community how to care for our pup, train them and care for one another. Without this space, there will be a huge hole in the lives of many.... And just for the sake of one more soccer field to add to the many?!? Makes no sense!

Having attended the oval for the past year with the northern obedience dog club this proposal puts that entire community in doubt.

There are people of all ages, ethnicities, faiths, genders and abilities that use this facilities for dog training yet you seem to be happy to push them aside and put it doubt this great community club

Hi there, it's good that you are fixing the pitches and facilities but I don't see any plans on increasing the carpark at Strathmore Soccer ground. It is a nightmare on game day and parking on the streets??? Can someone go visit the football clubs and see their parking compared to strathmore, why are they looked after? please something needs to to done. There's plenty of room to expand and I dont know why the council is not making this a priority... Its been a issue for the last 10 years please dont wait another 10 years thank you.

Highly offensive and single sport centred approach where other recreation activities are less valued. Big fat WTF to the reloation of the well established and popular dog club! No way. They should not be kicked out and bullied by soccer clubs. Council needs to apply an equally approach to sport and recreation and recognise dog clubs as a sports clubs! This organised club supports public safety, teaches responsible pet ownership and promotes physical activity and well being for people of all abilities. More people in Moonee Valley own dogs than play soccer. So the growth of participation in dog walking and dog sports should be considered in the same way soccer growth is planned for! Will dogs all of a sudden be banned at the current dog off leash park?? Where are the to go? How about focusing on more safe dog off leash parks (non fenced) to increase public health in Moonee Valley rather than treating soccer clubs like they are superior.

I agree quality facilities should be available to all Moonee Valley community groups. Soccer is a growing sport, however it's growth should not have a negative impact on existing users of our open space. The report does not compare the growth of soccer to other activities so it is difficult to prioritise this need.

I don't support the proposed synthetic fields, Council has declared a climate emergency and must consider climate change in all decision making. Council has limited open space that it can use to promote urban cooling with natural surfaces, we cannot contribute to the growing heat island effect by constructing synthetic pitches. Furthermore these surfaces are manufactured from fossil fuels. It is clear that the use of these fields conflicts with Council environmental policy.

I don't agree to the partnership options presented, specifically the relocation of the northern obedience dog club. The strategy notes that the dog club is to be relocated, however while the dog club has a relatively small time and area allocation, the club participation is very high compared to soccer. The dog club offers support to residents with dogs (a very large population in MVCC) and one of the few available community activity alternatives to sport in Moonee Valley open spaces. A relocation of this club will hinder access for many moonee valley residents.

I am a member of NODC, this change will greatly impact our club and the impact on our ability to train our pets. My 7mth old dog loves attending classes here and the location perfectly suits our needs. Our past dog also trained here until he very sadly passed at 10mths old. Please dont take our club.

I am a member of NODC, this change will greatly impact our club and the impact on our ability to train our pets. Please dont take our club.

I am a member of Northern Obedience Dog training and think that MVCC should provide clarity on it's future and also provide equivalent facilities and cover costs to relocate if they are driven out. It provides much needed and affordable dog training that isn't available elsewhere. On consideration of the plan, the benefit to the community from the dog training is more important than the soccer facilities.

I am a member of the Northern Obedience Dog Club and feel that the 10 year proposal for the soccer strategy does not take into account the interests of the whole community and use of the shared grounds,

especially of Aberfeldie Park. I've been enjoying the Maribyrnong river and surrounds for well over a decade now. It is one of my most favourite places to visit to grab a coffee with a friend, walk, run, or play with my dog. I think it's great there are so many different spaces for different activities and sports. There is something for everyone in the family.

NODC has been using Aberfeldie Park for nearly 70 years, which is incredible when you think about it. The location is ideal because it is accessible to people living in the North and West. They have built a really inclusive community for all different kinds of people and ages. NODC have a strong reputation for being a great and affordable training service amongst dog owners in the north-west of Melbourne. It would truly be a shame to lose the NODC for the sake of one sports club.

I am a member of the Northern Obedience Dog Club and I do not want to be displaced by another club's plans. Collaborate with your community and groups in it rather than trying to usurp them.

I am a member of the Northern Obedience Dog Club. The club was not consulted on the strategy, even though we should have been. It is very disconcerting to hear about the potential move by first reading about it in a published strategy. We are not opposed to moving but would like information or at least some early options on where a possible relocation would be. We would also like to know what support, including financial support, the council could provide. The club has a long history at the ground, and relocation would involve a lot of work, communication and promotion to be done by our volunteers. There club has on average 600-700 members per year, but it feels like we have been overlooked just because we use the ground a relatively small amount of hours per week, and those particular hours are inconvenient for the soccer strategy. So please, don't overlook us, involve us in these plans. Thank you

I am a NODC Member and I DO NOT approve of this stategy which will leave our club homeless. It is very upsetting that one club has so much disregard for another, they both have high membership and immense value to the community. If Moonee Valley does not want dog attacks and responsible pet ownership in their community THEY SHOULD SUPPORT THAT. For every extra kid who will play soccer there will be repercussions for those in the community. This plan is incredibly selfish and upsetting.

I am concerned that the Strategy is structured as the only community focused pathway Council can take and that it will be implemented without consideration of another community organisation that has grown and developed at Aberfeldie Park for over 65 years and currently has a membership of 650 individuals.

Northern Obedience Dog Club offers to all people who want to enjoy obedience training with their dog. Northern membership is open to all and offers encouragement to those who need support to enjoy the training and succeed in training their dog.

Dog ownership has increased over the past 2 years and Northern is able to assist in producing good canine members of our community (and their owners)

The current location is ideally situated - good access, parking and a well known lot the community with good clubhouse facilities for training and workshops.

As a long time Moonee Valley resident and ratepayer, I have reservations regarding the Draft Soccer Strategy and they are not restricted to concerns Northern Obedience. Soccer is the winter game at Fairburn Park. Games bring destruction to the grass surfaces and careless rubbish littering to the area as well as heavy parking demands. Eventually demands for all weather surfaces lead to loss of natural turf and we end up with concreting these turf areas resulting in a loss of environment for insects and birds.

Northern Obedience as a successful and active club should be given priority in Council planning not diminished as it appears to be in the Strategy.

Also there is an underlying assumption that Moonee Valley needs a Soccer Strategy. I do not think this need has been fully established and a strategy no matter how well structured is of reduced relevance.

I am extremely disappointed to see that this strategy ignores the benefit that the dog club provides for the community. While community sport is important, so is the promotion of responsible dog ownership. Also, the dog obedience club has strong numbers and is steadily growing. It is great for the wider community as it is inclusive, helps maintain mental and physical health of its members, and has been located here for the past 66 years. Also, the weekly time allocation for the dog club is only 6 hrs (which is far less than the time allocated to soccer clubs already). Therefore, I strongly disagree with this plan and the Northern Obedience Dog Club should NOT be relocated!!!

I am not sure allocating resources to a sporting group with 66 members will serve the community in general. I feel like Moonee Valley's resources and rates payer money will be better spent in activities which serve larger number's in the community. I completely disagree with relocating the dog club as it is very conveniently located and purely volunteer run and serves a very important purpose of providing dog training at very reasonable cost. This is even more important during post covid lock downs with dog missing out on 2 years of training

I am part of the northern obedience dog club who trains at the park every Sunday. This club is crucial to dog owners who wish to have well mannered and good behaved dogs which impacts the community. We have over 600 members with over 300 additional on a waiting list and relocation could mean a drop in members and volunteers not to mention a loss of facilities which the club has worked hard to improve and expand. The soccer club has less than 100 members and it would be easier to relocate them to a more suitable home than to relocate an already well established club. Investing in accessible dog training and therefor responsible dog ownership should be a part of your council plan as over 60% of Australians own at least one pet. The club also offers puppy socialisation which if attended and accessible can decrease the amount of aggression and reactivity in dogs around the area.

Jo

BSc (Zoology and Animal Science)

I am quite disappointed that consultation on this strategy has not taken into account all relevant stakeholders in the area. With a membership of almost 1000 people and a local history of more than half a century, the northern obedience dog club should have been properly consulted. The idea that a soccer club with less than 100 members, is not inclusive to the greater community, and has greater membership gender and age biases compared to NDOC is getting precedence over a shared community asset is disheartening and shows the lack of council foresight to the needs of the community.

I am writing to express my disgust and dissatisfaction with Moonee Valley soccer strategy draft report with regards to so called "equitable allocation of soccer grounds". The sheer fact that I as a member of NODC received an email notification from NODC with regards to the potential relocation of the club on the 14th of July left me to wonder if this was a strategic move by Moonee valley soccer strategy giving the NODC minimal time to respond to the so called "equitable allocation".

Question- Where in the Moonee valley soccer strategy draft report does it state that NODC was in consultation during the formulation of the Moonee valley soccer strategy draft report" with regards to the re-allocation?

To a member of NODC it feels like someone in Moonee valley has just come in to position of power and wants to exercise their position of authority just to make a statement! Period!

The NODC is more than just a Dog Club, it is a lifestyle choice for families with pets who are integral part of the family. The NODC provides more than just dog training. The NODC is a professional organisation that provides a safe and controlled environment for beloved pets to ensure they pick up important behaviours no matter how old they are and make for amazing life long companions

Please note, I was on a waiting list for 10 weeks which clearly indicates the definite need and demand for NDOC by our local members of the community.

They NODC and its Team have 60 plus years of experience in dog training! The passion and dedication of the team shines through their commitment to hold the sessions every week and the professionalism with which the sessions are conducted is Top level- My dog and I absolutely love it and look forward to the Sunday session every week. I would be absolutely devastated to not be able to do that at our idealic location in Aberfeldie Park.

]From my personal interactions I have had with some of the senior members who have been coming down to the Aberfeldie grounds for over 20 years. For them its a part of who they are. The training held on Sunday, motivates them to get out and about. It gives them purpose. To have this taken away from them at this juncture of their lives would be cruel to say the least.

Has Moonee valley soccer strategy draft given any consideration to the impact relocation of the NODC would have on the health and mental well being of our Elderly who love to come down to a Sunday session @ the Aberfeldie park with their beloved Dog.(sometimes their sole companion) at this juncture in their lives.

I believe the option for using Aberfeldie Park is the less desirable option over the alternative. This space is used by many groups throughout the week and restricting this to a soccer field would have an adverse effect. People use this oval for dog training, cricket, personal training and much more. The dog club has hundreds of members that attend weekly and help support the local community by walking dogs around the river/to nearby shops and vendors whilst finishing training. The club has been in this location for over 60 years and my family has always been involved in it and much of the local community who accesses this club won't be able to relocate. It is one of the few remaining open park spaces where dogs can be off leash. As outlined in the longer term strategy there are many more suitable alternatives for a soccer field that won't detract from so much of the community which has been ongoing for so many decades.

I believe the right questions are not being asked in this survey and that the questions are not worded to be able to get true constructive feedback.

It is unclear what your future demand is for soccer and the number of participants is lower for soccer than football and cricket. From the information presented it appears that you do have enough fields.

I believe that looking at soccer in isolation as a strategy is not the answer and that all sports and other activities need to be considered and others groups should not be penalized by prioritizing soccer. My biggest concern with this proposal is the relocation of the northern obedience dog club. The dog club is going to be relocated as a result of this proposal and I believe hat it is unacceptable that an alternative (close by) was not provided in the proposal nor was a way of replacing the club house/compensating for their relocation. It is unacceptable that the Northern Obedience Dog Club is getting asked to relocate when its participation numbers are much higher (and growth is higher), the population spread is more diverse and acceptable of all ages, genders, etc. Additionally the time that Northern Obedience are using this oval is minimal. If they were allowed more time numbers and rates would also grow faster. There is a very large number of dogs in this region and it is in the best interest of Moonee Valley to have opportunities for dog owners to be able to train their dogs to keep our population safe.

Additionally the proposal of synthetic fields is a very large concern given that we are in a state of climate emergency. Synthetic fields can get very hot and cause burns and add to urban heat. One reason for this strategy is limited open spaces and we should not be limiting what natural resources remain by replacing natural material with fields that are constructed by fossil fuels.

While sport is important fostering other activities and ways of bringing our community together are equally important and sport should not take precedence over what little alternative activities we have to sport. DO NOT force the Northern obedience dog club to relocate.



I believe the strategy is good however. I feel there is more opportunity to be explored with the Moonee Valley racecourse. The initial design was to include a number of soccer pitches and perhaps if a club room was considered also then this could become a permanent home for a club and free up other grounds. What I also feel is missed. According to the data and Football Victorian clubs with 350+ members are difficult to maintain. Maybe some emphasis should be on upgrading the facilities of smaller clubs to attract people to those clubs rather than making the larger clubs even bigger.

I can't agree with the change as it stands as it sacrifices a popular community club (northern obedience dog club) that has many benefits to Moonee Valley. Dogs and humans are trained together, dogs are better behaved in our community and we enjoy getting together with all the other members of the club each week. It's a flourishing club that is inclusive, positive and quite frankly helps my mental health to get out there with my dog. I don't understand why an activity that caters to all ages and levels of health would be sacrificed for a sport club (of which there are many). I know many of my neighbors in Ascot Vale are members and would be equally disappointed that something they appreciate and actually make use of in their community is being pushed out.

I disagree with the proposal to relocate the Northern Obedience Dog Club. While soccer can be held in any ovals and facilities, off lead dog facilities are not widely available. This is a necessary service to dog owners and the community. This removal could mean a number of dogs would remain untrained and in doing so, be a hazard to the community. It is within the Moonee valley community's best interest to keep the northern dog club and find an alternative area for the soccer teams.

I do not support the draft soccer strategy because it does not adequately account for the other users of the complex. Before this proposal is progressed a solution for Northern Dog Obedience club should be found. Factoring in the number of current members and the wait list of 350 people. The fact the club has financially contributed to the current club house at Aberfeldie reserve and that the club would also like to expand in the future to offer other dog sport options that the time allocations current provided do not allow. Soccer is not the only sport participated in, in Moonee valley and not the only one that should be focused on.

I do not want my club threatened for the sake of another's. NORTHERN OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB has been at this park for longer than any of these pushy soccer parents have been alive.

I do not want my Dog Club relocated - NODC - Northern Obedience dog club

I don't believe it addresses the relocation of the northern obedience dog club. It's unclear to me why a club that generates more memberships and use in a week compared to soccer should be required to relocate.

I don't believe that enough consideration has been given to other parties using the ground. Aberfeldie is known for its family orientated environment and therefore having all sports is not the correct outcome for the oval. Other clubs using the oval have considerable impact on the area eg NODC, Aberfeldie football should be taken into consideration. Why not leave soccer at Ormand Park.

I entirely disagree with the draft soccer strategy as it doesn't support and provide equitable access to other users such as the dog club members of North Obedience Dog Club (NODC). There is less than 70 members of the Moonee Ponds United Football Club (MPUFC) vs. 688 members of NODC who utilise Aberfeldie Park (East Oval). However 112 hours are allocated to MPUFC (66 members) and only 24 hours are allocated to NODC (688 members) on a monthly basis. It is very clear that the number of dog owners/community who benefit from NODC being located in Aberfeldie Park outweigh the usage of MPUFC members. The park allocation basis is totally not justifiable based on the numbers of users and the allocated hours to the respective clubs. This whole allocation/usage of Aberfeldie Park does not provide an equitable access to the

NODC members. The usage of Aberfeldie Park has and always been skewed towards for sport usage and never provide much consideration for dog owners/NODC members (the usage data speaks for itself). As such, I strongly disagree with the draft soccer strategy and disagree to relocate NODC from Aberfeldie Park (East Oval). The usage of Aberfeldie Park (East Oval) by NODC (home base for 66 years!) should be maintained and in fact the hours allocated to NODC should be increased.

i find it difficult to understand how a club with minimal membership can be given access to grounds over a well established Not For Profit organisation such as the NODC. the soccer club in question here barely has any members when compared <70 versus >970 based on last years numbers. Why wouldn't Moonee Valley Soccer Club use fairburn park, extremely under utilised or even other second oval at Dousta stars on Market street which is also very under utilised. It seems that the ay in which this has been done is some what underhanded and not in line with community values. I struggle to see how this makes sense at all.

I have 2 kids that have been playing for FC Strathmore for 6 years and enjoy the great club and sport. However, as a parent I am overly concerned by the cricket pitch in the middle of the ground that is shared by other parents.  
I would like for the cricket pitch removal to be included in the soccer strategy as it is unsafe and dangerous for kids to play a fast and on the ground sport like soccer with a concrete cricket pitch.  
With the new surface reconstruction to happen this year, Council need to relocate the cricket club away from Strathnaver Reserve as they uses 5 other grounds, but FC Strathmore have 1 ground for double the teams.

I have been a member of FC Strathmore Split for 5 years where over that time we have had continuous problems with the club's pitch. Games and training often get canceled as the pitch conditions are so poor. I am really disappointed that the club has been asking for synthetic pitches knowing that this will be an ongoing problem year after year. The recent drainage that was installed unfortunately does not seem to have fixed the problem, so the only way forward is to fo to synthetic.

I have been training my dog at Northern Dog Obedience Club which is the dog club with the largest membership (over 1000) for over a year now. Without this low cost community resource I would not be able to effectively control my dog in the community. Relocating the dog club does not solve any problems. Every large oval in Moonee Ponds has a variety of people using it. If the soccer club does not have enough room or space at trhis oval THEY should look elsewhere for more space not simply bully the Dog Club in to being displaced. This dog club promoted responsible pet ownership which is something the council should be promoting not discouraging. It is one of the last low cost options in this area to train your dog and relocating the club will mean massive costs to the members and loss of membership. When citizens do not have adequate access to resources to train their dogs dog attacks rise, Moonee Ponds council is protecting everyone, man woman and child when it protects this Club and it is also protecting the dogs which your residents pay good money to register in this council expecting that they will be supported. I am very upset that Moonee Ponds FC has even made this proposal, it shows their blatant disregard for other people and organisations needs and right to local spaces including this park. They have had NO meaningful conversations with the dog club in regards to whether they are receptive to move (which we ARE NOT) or how they would support the club with the MASSIVE COSTS associated with relocating the clubhouse and OVER 1000 Members. Instead they have simply bullied the club by sending this proposal to the council against their wishes. There are over 1000 people in Moonee Ponds and surrounding suburbs that (and many more who have come through the club over the past 66 years) that are appalled at this decision, the members of our club WERE NOT EVEN NOTIFIED until very recently that this was happening and as such, the responses to this survey represent only a small percentage of the NODC community who were both made



aware of the proposal and had access to a computer to reply to it. PLEASE SAY NO to blatant bullying of our club and SAY NO to this proposal. Thank you.

I have no opinion about the Soccer Strategy as I am writing in support of the Northern Obedience Dog Club's continued access to Aberfeldie Park which has been their home for over 66 years. During that time the club has made significant financial contributions to the building and maintaining the clubhouse and providing an important, mostly volunteer, service to the Mooney Ponds community

With a large and expanding membership (as at 2020 - 2021 stood at 997 and 8 months of the current year stands at 688)

In contrast Mooney Ponds United FC has a declining non-inclusive membership of young, mostly males (2018 = 176 members, 2019 = 56 members, 2021 = 66 members)

Northern Obedience Dog Club with its large and inclusive membership (welcomes all ages, sexes, sexual orientation, colour, religion etc.) should not be required to relinquish their access to the park. As this survey only supports a soccer strategy it would appear that the council is not interested in providing recreational facilities for the broader community in favour of the 66 young males who play soccer for the Moonee Ponds United FC Club rather than the almost 1000 members of the Northern Obedience Dog Club it does seem to be a fairly unbalanced strategy for a council who should have the best interest of the entire community at heart not the interest of 66 young males of one club who play soccer and also has a competition "Last Man Standing" which is self explanatory. kind regards.

I have no real criticisms of the objectives or strategy, however the assessment of the Strathnaver pitch is completely inaccurate. Despite the drainage work completed earlier this year, the pitch has drastically deteriorated within a couple of months of use. The pitch is now in a state where we can no longer use it for training and is becoming challenging for matches.

The pitch condition, that is the lack of drainage after rain, is having a drastic impact on the club's and council's shared objective of catering for the local demand and participation rates.

As a parent, and in discussions with other parents, this problem is causing us to consider leaving the club and joining other local clubs which we absolutely do not want to do, due to constantly having to have to train at other pitches and/or risking our kids safety at strathnaver. If we were to leave Strathmore Split, this would put greater strain on other clubs, which are already at maximum capacity. Again, this is contrary to the objectives of the council's strategy.

In the last twelve months, having played at many of the venues listed within the strategy paper, I believe it is objectively inaccurate to conclude that the Strathnaver reserve is not in greater need of immediate attention. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

I note that it is suggested the Northern Obedience Dog Club is to be removed from Aberfeldie Park. My family are members of this club - there are over 1,000 members - and we were not consulted on this draft strategy. Training club members to be responsible pet owners is important for the whole community who may come into contact with that dog, not just the owners. Council should not propose to move a club of 1000 members to cater for a soccer club with far few members without consultation.

The Victorian Government announced this week that pet ownership has increased significantly due to lifestyle changes post COVID. In fact the government will soon be conducting the first ever pet census in order to ensure the appropriate services are in place. Council's proposal to remove Northern Obedience Dog Club from its home of nearly 70 years runs counter to the Victorian Government's objectives.

I notice that there's little mention of what suitable alternatives there are for other club relocation, like Northern Obedience Dog Club, and I fear that the alternatives will not be so suitable. Given the low number of hours used per week (6) and higher number of people in the community this impacts relative to the Soccer club, I'd

much rather support a proposal that doesn't require this relocation. Frankly, the time and resources dedicated to the soccer strategy goal seems excessive and disproportionate to the benefits to the community overall.

I object to the proposal to forcibly relocate the Northern Obedience Dog Club, with around 800 current members and over 300 on the waiting list, from Aberfeldie Park to an UNKNOWN location in favour of a soccer club that has 66 members and, according to the strategy report, under utilizes the facilities presently at it's disposal. The Northern Obedience Dog Club, through it's voluntary organisation, provides a vital community service in assisting members of the community to be responsible dog owners. In addition I contend that the club plays a significant role in community physical and mental health.

I put 'definitely disagree' not because I disapprove of soccer but there is no clear location for the NODC suggested or any consultation engaged with. Meaningful consultation ALWAYS comes before a decision. There has been an explosion of dog ownership during Covid-19 and the club reaches far beyond the present membership which already far exceeds that of the MPUFC. I have been a member of the club for 20 years and am now a volunteer with many others. The location is easily accessible for most of our members and we are heavily involved in the local community. To consider the future of our club as a passing one liner indicating an indeterminate future is unacceptable.

I strongly disagree with the Soccer Strategy if that means the Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC) will need to be relocated. There are significantly more members in the NODC and it is a well established and extremely friendly club for locals to take their dog for essential trainings. It would be completely unreasonable to relocate a well established club elsewhere when the soccer club has a much smaller membership base. It would be much easier to find an alternate park that would be able to accommodate the number of people in the soccer club than it would be to find a park that can accommodate NODC. The NODC is currently in a well placed location where local and surrounding suburb people can easily access, it would be hard for existing members to access another park of this size if the relocation is too far. Furthermore, it is completely unreasonable to discuss relocation without suggestion as to where the club can be relocated to.

I think it is absolutely preposterous to assume that the majority of rate payers in the area would be happy with the the proposed changed. Soccer is important, and the growth of the sport is important, however, Aberfeldie park is a PUBLIC FACILITY and it should NOT be dominated by a single sport in this manner. This proposal highly disadvantages groups that use this area for other purposes, including the Northern Obedience Dog Club which is a much utilised and necessary facility. Particularly considering the dog ownership has increased 50% over the past 2 years. Please consider the needs of the ENTIRE community, not just a small portion before implementing this strategy which is discriminatory.

I think it sounds great for the soccer club but it negatively affects the Northern Dog Obedience Club as well as other groups. I believe that ovals for soccer aren't in short supply but areas for a large dog training club are. We need this oval to continue the important work the Northern Obedience Club are doing.

I think its unfair that a established clubs that already have great facilities get more assistance from council I would like to see the clubs who haven't been able to expand due to the lack of facility be given the oppurtunity to grow as well share the love

I think the first step definitely is to find a way to confirm the participation numbers per club, I'm involved in a local soccer club and some of the numbers doesn't make sense to me, we need to find a way to confirm the participation numbers per club otherwise we might make the wrong decision and support clubs that are not doing enough to support the development of soccer players

I think this is ridiculous. Soccer is a great sport, one I played for many years myself. But it shouldn't take precedent over all other activities in the area. I've been an active member of the NODC operating on that same over for over a year. Without their help and support, I wouldn't have the happy and healthy dog I now have. The location is perfect, and has been for 66 years! We have hundreds of members that rely on this service for the health of their dogs and their own physical exercise. We should not be moved, especially considering the low number of hours we are permitted to be there. Soccer should be made to fit around us. We are only there on a Wednesday evening and Sunday morning.

I think you are hugely underestimating the importance of the dog school and I suspect you have not attended and seen how beneficial it is for the wider community. The dog school is affordable for everyone and not only benefits the physical and mental health of owners, it also helps in ensuring our communities have well behaved and safe dogs.

I think you underestimate participation numbers in soccer. Cricket is clearly dying and being replaced by soccer amongst younger children. The fact you are planning to improve access based on participation levels shows a level of misunderstanding, access needs to come before participation or people clearly can't participate, local clubs have large waiting lists and once children miss the opportunity at age 7, they will likely never catch up.

I travel 40 minutes every week to attend Northern Obedience Dog Club at Aberfeldie Park. I've tried several in my area and they are the best around - with ethical training methods and top notch instructors. The classes are big because they are so popular, and the volunteers who run it are just superb. Please don't move the club without providing an adequate space (and club room) to accommodate the hundreds of owners and dogs who train at this club every week. These dogs then go out in public spaces, and their behaviour is a reflection of the training they've undergone - any losses in membership will have downstream effects on the broader community.

I was shocked to read the proposed plan to install additional soccer fields at Aberfeldie Park for several reasons and would like to voice my strong opposition to the proposal. I have been a resident of the area for over 20 years and in fact moved to this area because of the open parklands for recreational use. Over the last several years there has been a gradual erosion of the open parklands that are used by many residents for casual walking, dog walking, picnics, play with children etc etc, in favour of sporting facilities. Numbers of sporting participants are continually stated in reports such as yours, but with no comparison to the numbers of residents who will lose the use of that parkland. Maybe there should be consultation into participation numbers of how many people would like to use the parkland for non-sporting purposes? I am sure it would be significantly greater than the 66 members of the Moonee Valley United Football Club! I will also state that I am a sports lover, I watch sport, I play sport and my children play sport, but I don't think that gives me greater rights than other residents who require the open spaces for other reasons. I might also point out that I am not in the age bracket that your report states as using sporting facilities and I play active, high impact sport three times a week.

Furthermore, I have seen soccer fields and temporary lighting recently installed in Fairbairn Park. This is the park that I use multiple times a week for walking and walking my dog. The grassland has always been in good condition, but over the last few weeks since soccer has been played there there has been a massive deterioration in the park overall. Your report states that these are Level 2 fields in good condition. This was perhaps true when the report was investigated but is grossly untrue at present. They could not possibly be described as anything but poor condition. The area where the soccer fields are now nothing but saturated, churned up mud over a vast area of the entire oval. The grass is covered in mud and you can no longer walk

there in normal footwear. The area has essentially been made useless for any other activity, even walking/ dog walking. I am no expert but am confident that if soccer was ceased immediately the oval would take months to recover. The surrounding cricket fields have had no such deterioration despite continual use for some time. There is no reason to believe that if similar fields were installed at Aberfeldie Park that a similar deterioration in the oval would not occur and would make yet another public area unusable by residents for any other purpose.

I also note in the report the mention of relocation of the Northern Obedience Dog Club. This club has been using the Aberfeldie Oval for 66 years and I have been a member of the club on and off for the last 22 years. This club plays an enormous role for the community, not only for the mental health and wellbeing of residents by exercise and social interaction, but also in assisting them in training their dogs so our canine friends are also good citizens in our community. The club has over 800 members which is significantly more than the 66 members of the Moonee Valley United Football Club! Why should such a large established club with its own clubhouse have to relocate for such a small club? Surely it make sense to find another site for the small soccer club? Additionally the Dog Club only uses the oval for a small number of hours per week (maybe 6 hours at a guess), has no negative impact of the condition of the oval, and the rest of the time is it usable by the rest of the community for other recreational purposes. In contrast, if the soccer club were to take over the ground they would monopolise its use for 28 hours a week and, if Fairbairn Park is any example, will render it useless to the rest of the community at any other time.

I would be interested to know what other options are genuinely being investigated for the dog club and at what expense to members? Will the council cover the relocation and building of new facilities?

I strongly urge you to reject the proposal in the Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy for the benefit of all community members and not consider the installation of soccer fields at Aberfeldie Park.

I would like to see an opportunity for private partnership where ideas could provide clubs and council options that are looking outside the box where for decades no one has come up with. I believe I have an idea where this could work.

I'm concerned about the Dog Obedience Club. It's a fabulous resource to the community and has not been part of the consultation

If the soccer club gets there way I'll send them the invoice for the cost of training my dogs

Im a foreigner to Australia. Essendon was the first place I moved to. I lived very close to Aberfeldie Park and loved watching the dog school on the weekends. When I left my country I had to leave behind my dog with my parents. Watching the dogs being trained for years at Aberfeldie Park help my wellbeing and home sickness. Recently I got a dog of my own. Because the dog school brought me happy memories, i have my dog trained there now. It would be a shame if it moved. I dont have a car and the park is a great place to walk to. Its a great all family park with many different things. I dont need soccer at Aberfeldie Park, but i need a dog school.

I'm a member of NODC since many years. This is a very established club with close to 1000 members and are continuously expanding. To continue to have such a fantastic, community oriented, inclusive and friendly dog club in our municipality is extremely important. Dog ownership is rapidly expanding and it's us owners responsibility to keep our dogs well trained to be to no harm and disturbance for the rest of the community. Training our dogs also gives us all some fresh air and exercise on the same time. To move such an established and big club would be devastating. The location is perfect with no close neighbors and other facilities to disturb. The club is only operating on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, which makes it possible to share the grounds. I can see that the plan has several other parks that might be suitable. Please

consider those options. I'm not against good facilities for our soccer clubs, but I'm sure it is other options than taking NODC facilities. Thank you.

Im in grade 6. I love dogs. I cant play physical sport because my body is too weak. I also have a learning disability. I take my dog to the dog school so I can learn something new. If the dog school moves I might not get there. I'm sad. I dont understand the soccer info so i cant answer question. Im sad you want to take my dog school away.

I'm writing in support of the Northern Obedience Dog Club, and the impact the Draft Soccer Strategy will have on this longstanding and well-subscribed community organisation. If my research is correct, the NODC has been in its current location at Aberfeldie Park for 66 years. Given this longstanding stakeholder status, it seems crazy to me that the committee was not involved in the Draft Soccer Strategy. It's also crazy to imagine that this organisation, which is entirely volunteer run, would be able to relocate to another site. Despite having more than four times as many members than the soccer club, the NODC only gets 18 percent of ground allocation. It should be the opposite! Plus it's an organisation that's growing, with over 380 people on the waiting list. Surely it's easy to relocate an expanding club of 66 members than a longstanding, established club of almost 1000!

Installation of 1 Synthetic Pitch at Strathnaver Reserve Strathmore that will assist growing Junior numbers for matches and training.

It has been brought to my attention that this 'soccer strategy' involves the relocation of the Northern Dog Obedience Club. NDOC provides a professional and LOCAL opportunity for 600 plus members to benefit from community access to the outdoors whilst increasing positive mental health and physical exercise. Dog ownership is high in Moonee Valley which comes with additional benefits to companionship which promotes better mental health for owners and their families.

Member numbers provided in the Soccer Strategy for the soccer club that currently uses the spaces shared with NDOC clearly demonstrates the NDOC has an overwhelmingly higher membership and active use of the NDOC facilities, grounds and training sessions. It would be easier to relocate an expanding club of 66 soccer members than an established club of 997 members. Increasing access and expansion for large scale sporting clubs is a great idea and the Soccer Strategy document includes many details relevant to possible improved conditions for soccer in Moonee Valley.

However, it seems there has been NO meaningful consultation between Moonee Valley Council representatives and NDOC. Moonee Valley Council reps have obviously spent numerous hours producing the 'Soccer Strategy' document. If given the same amount of PAID resources, I am sure the NDOC could have also provided a comprehensive and glossy document that highlights current usage, positive outcomes for NDOC members and community and expansion needs for NDOC and it's members.

There are alternatives mentioned in the Soccer Strategy for improvements available for multiple areas in Moonee Valley to cater for a hopeful increase in soccer club membership. Sharing of school facilities would certainly be a better option for soccer club expansion for the club who currently shares grounds with NDOC. NDOC have provided substantial funds to establish and maintain their current club facilities and could easily use the current space for additional hours during the week. If a relocation of NDOC occurs, will Moonee Valley Council ensure funding for the provision of adequate buildings and grounds facilities without NDOC having to wait for these facilities to be upgraded and available?

NDOC continues to provide a well needed service in the community as the more people who are better able to manage their dogs in the home and the wider community promotes higher access to the outdoors (owners feeling comfortable to safely take their dogs for regular walks), greater physical health and better wellbeing outcomes. NDOC is a highly respected and professional community group that provides education for



hundreds of dog owners who then share this knowledge with their families. I contend that authors of the 'Soccer Strategy' may not be aware of the outstanding service and health and wellbeing benefits that NDOC provides for the LOCAL community and beyond. I would be interested to also have advertised the number of dogs registered in Moonee Valley which by far would outnumber significantly the 60 plus soccer player members who share the outdoor space with NDOC.

It appears from the Soccer Strategy document that the relocation of NDOC is a 'done deal'. It is highly disappointing to be informed that Moonee Valley Council has NOT engaged in meaningful consultation with the NDOC community. If Moonee Valley Council decides that relocation of NDOC is the only option, this needs to be discussed extensively with NDOC executive and their members to ensure outdoor space is within Moonee Valley and LOCAL, Club facilities and buildings are maintained and equitable. I would hope that Moonee Valley Council will allocate time to discuss these issues with NDOC PRIOR to making concrete decisions for relocation of NDOC.

Gayle Dawson – Moonee Valley resident, rate payer & NDOC member.

It is a pity that the council have spent money on a single sporting strategy, rather than looking at a recreational plan for all sporting users of the public ovals in the municipality. I notice with dismay that Football Victoria (FV) are committing little financially to this 10 year strategy, with most of the financial burden being placed on the residents of Moonee Valley. FV will benefit from extra income with the anticipated increase in player numbers.

But I digress, whilst I am all for increasing numbers of people participating in sport, especially younger women and girls; as an older female in the community, I wonder where and how my recreational needs are going to be met.

One of my chosen recreation pursuits is dog sports, which covers competing in obedience, rally, tracking, scent work and to a lesser extent now agility trials. I have been a member of the Northern ODC for almost 17 years and I am a little dismayed to see on page 3 of the strategy, that a very strong and vibrant community Club is being relocated, to accommodate a hopeful doubling of soccer club players from 66 to 150 (being generous here), over a 10 year period. It seems hardly fair. I believe the Dog Club has a much larger membership base (?700 last I was aware), than a Super club (as outlined in page 8), but is not given equitable oval time for training or competition; again hardly seems fair! I would hate to see the City of Moonee Valley under value this fantastic community asset it has on its doorstep.

When not competing around the state with my dogs, I enjoy going to my local dog club to meet like minded people, who are happy to talk 'all things dog'. I enjoy assisting around the club where I can, when I'm there. It is lovely to see the members who range from youngsters to senior citizens, enjoying learning about enhancing their relationship with their dogs, through positive rewards based training, from some wonderful volunteer instructors. Dogs bring us so much joy and have helped a great many people through the last couple of years. I have made many friends over the years through the dog club.

When finding a new location for the dog club, there are a number of things that should be taken into account. As I get older, the ease of access to the grounds from either the boulevard or the Rutherford Street car park is good for us oldies. I can not help as much with getting training equipment down on the ground these days, so it would be good if some form of storage at oval level could be sorted out. Our activities are pretty kind to the surface of the oval, unlike the winter co-tenant, whose activities certainly leave the ground in dis-repair, making it a little more treacherous for us oldies.

It is disappointing that MVCC is looking to relocate the Northern Obedience Dog Club and not considering the beneficial impact that the club has on the community.

This organisation provides a very needed service to the community for a minimal annual cost and is welcoming to all people and their dogs.

Rather than look to relocate the NODC, MVCC should be looking to expand the number of hours the club is able to utilise the grounds. An expansion of hours could lead to an expansion of activities such as competitions and agility. These types of activities bring positive attention for the need to train your dog, especially with the increase in dog ownership during the pandemic and the options of dog engagement available.

MVCC need to consider the risk of relocating the club to other grounds. These risks include

- 1) The cost associated in relocating the club and the rebuild on new grounds.
- 2) The central location in Aberfeldie and the facilities in the club rooms are a critical component to providing an affordable option of dog training.
- 3) The loss of brand - from personal experience it is very difficult to find a dog training organisation that works with all breeds using the positive reinforcement method. Other clubs do not have the same highly skilled instructors which NODC do and people are attracted to NODC due to the quality of dog training that they will receive. If we were to relocate and potentially lose those quality instructors, then the quality of training decreases. There is also the possibility that a new location may mean higher lease costs which in turn mean the club may no longer be the affordable choice it currently is.

I would hope that MVCC reconsider the strategy proposed to be inclusive of the soccer and dog training club. There is sufficient space and time for both organisations to utilise the parks available.

It is ridiculous that this strategy intends to disband the northern obedience dog club which has been an important place for its members for many many years and has a very large participation and membership. What is the point of increasing community involvement in soccer only to destroy another very important club in the process.

It seems to be all about soccer what about the other groups using this council land where will they go.

It states Strathnaver as having adequate facilities with good drainage, this is not correct, still can't train if it has rained, pitch has poor drainage and is very inadequate and members are frustrated with the number of times training is cancelled and that we can not train there all the time and have to travel 30 minutes for training when pitch is 1km from house.

It will mean the closure of Northern Dog obedience club which has been a pillar of the community for 66 years at this park.

It's time the council appropriately reflected the priority and contribution of soccer across the community. Identifying shortfalls but not providing acceptable solutions is a big failure of the report

its a starting point that needs to be followed through with a positive outcome

I've learnt that it's a key part of this strategy to relocate the Northern Obedience Dog Club, which has been operating in its current location for something like 60 years. For starters, NODC has hundreds of members and (referencing that 60+ years again) is a proven to be valuable and constructive use of the facilities, compared to a new and unproven soccer strategy supporting a fraction of the number of members. The dog obedience activities offered by the club are much more inclusive of the community, and it allows for residents of all ages and physical abilities to have a fulfilling activity that they can participate in. The club, which is run by volunteers, is highly invested in its current location, and in the financial sense of that investment actually paid for half of the club house. This sort of disruption to the club's ability to operate is unwarranted and just doesn't make any sense.



During the pandemic the training and socialisation we were able to give our new puppy though NODC has been really crucial to us. We love our dogs and are very aware that dogs often need training and work to ensure that they operate smoothly in human society - and in our case there's a definite factor of the dogs happiness and well-being, active smart dogs need an activity. On our part too, the impact of this activity on our wellbeing during the times out of lockdown have been really really important.

In terms of the quality of what the club does I'm not sure the council has a handle on what an asset we've got here. The fees are really low, the quality of instruction is just fantastic and there's a large and active community of dogs and owners that attend. Compared to other options for dog training and for clubs it's just way out in front. I love the sport but soccer clubs are a dime a dozen. There must be a way that doesn't involve disrupting such a large, well established club that means so much to Moonee Valley.

Lack of detail is provided in regards to improving current sites to be more female friendly. For example, Doyle street grounds, why is it not important to make the toilet female friendly???

Makes me feel ill what sort of a maniac is running this club that will so carelessly mow everyone else down in its path to control our parks.

Makes me sad that they are trying to render NODC homeless

More facilities is essential

More kids play soccer in Victoria than football or cricket, yet we have poor facilities.

MVCC has many sporting facilities and fields. There appears to be a bias toward soccer and providing many more fields and facilities to this sport to the detriment of others and residents who use the areas for family activities or dog walking. For example at Fairburn park, at least 4 ovals are used for soccer games and training. The soccer is ruining the fields turning the grass into mud fields. This makes the area a mess for the cricket players and all other local residents wanting to take their kids out to kick a ball or fly a kite. Fairburn Park is also a dogs off lead park- we are walking dogs in muddy mess now with the grass being trashed from the soccer.

I use the Aberfeldie Oval for dog obedience class as a member of NODC. I think it's central location is perfect for residents and can walk there with my dog. The facilities are great for the obedience classes and the club house adequate. If this oval is used for soccer, it will be another field ruined by soccer boots for any other purpose. It will be turned into another muddy oval unsuitable to the dogs off lead park that it currently is. Take your soccer club elsewhere! Build a new oval for it and don't take a public one away from the local residents and our dogs.

Your draft strategy has not mentioned where they think they will send the dog obedience club - which has many more members and plenty on the waiting list and a long history of using this facility. The soccer club has reduced in membership so should not have priority to this oval.

NODC has nearly 10x the membership numbers than MPUFC (997 v 66 in 2021). Surely it's easier to relocate the 66 members than it is the nearly 1000.

NODC has sunk a lot of money over the years to improve the clubhouse facilities and yet they still receive minimum time on the oval. Dog training is a humongous part in the well-being and safety of dogs being interstates into human society.

Relocation of NODC will create massive disruption to its thousand members and volunteers, massing in major cost and likely loss of members if moving out of locality.

NODC members should not have to move. Our community is larger and longer standing than the soccer club. We should work in partnership.

To move over 990+ members is not justifiable.  
Your above questioner does not go into detail with your proposed plan.  
I disagree completely with this proposal.  
NODC can not move for 66 members.

Northern Obedience Dog Club has over 1000 members we cannot and will not be displaced by this absurd and greedy proposal.

Northern Obedience has been helping locals train dogs in the area for 66years and has nearly 1000 members. The parks in the area should cater to many different needs in the community as we contribute to the maintenance of the parks in our rates.

Not enough consultation with the effectors community

Not enough is being done consistently unless the people stand up and in many cases are not heard nor do we see action from council & if we do it takes years. There needs to be a designated representative who oversees all grounds & does everything in his/her role to improve every club in every way of its individual needs. All clubs need to be upgraded in facility, size, amenities, grounds, stands for spectators, pitch, lighting, car park, safety, kitchens, club rooms, heating, cooling, hall area to enable fund-raising capabilities to the extent to have capacity to hold larger disco's for the kids & dinner dances/ presentation evening/galas for the members but note this in turn will provide a space for the extended community to hire.

Not in support of this strategy. Pushing out the Northern Obedience Dog Club in favour of a soccer club reduces community amenity. More families own dogs and need them trained than people play soccer.

Not sure how or why this strategy has been undertaken. Soccer options are extremely plentiful in this area with numerous teams available to play at in both Community and NPL league levels. The club in question barely has any players when compared to the Dog school that is close to 1000 members as i understand it having been a member of this group on two separate occasions previously. If the MVCC was genuine in its sporting endeavours then build basketball courts in a stadium. I don't think moving the Dog school, a community based volunteer organisation is fair nor representative of the community. There are plenty of other parks to use for such a small soccer club.

One of the most established and loved clubs in our community the Northern Obedience Dog Club, is under threat of losing their clubhouse and being left without its home which over 1000 people each year rely on to train their dogs and make them good citizens of the Moonee Ponds community. The council needs to support people to train their dogs and be responsible pet owners. They can do this by saying NO to this proposal by Moonee Ponds FC.

Other people use aj grant reserve. What about the dog club and scouts? We are important too.

Please don't move the NODC. we have been coming here for over 1.5 years and travel from Yarraville. It's such a well run club who deserve to continue their fantastic program in this current space.

Please don't remove this dog club away from this facility which has been serving individuals for many and provides the proper teaching of good dog edicate which illuminate illegal and dangerous behaviours to other dogs and people in the community which is most important since post covid withe increased numbers of animals families.

Please fix Strathnaver reserve. The kids need to play and the ground to be flooded.  
The council cancels the training at the last minute.  
It was "fixed" but we still have the same issues.

It is turning into a Health and safety issue!

We pay our rates please attend to this immediately.

Please let Northern Dog Obedience club continue to train hundreds of dogs and owners on a Sunday.

Please remove the cricket ground from Strathnaver Reserve and make it a soccer only facility.

Proposes to displace the Northern Obedience dog club which has been at this park more than 60 years.

Putting in synthetic turf at AJ Davis is not very environmentally friendly. Existing clubs should still have their usual access and not be impeded in any way. AJ Davis reserve is used by the surrounding communities for exercise, dogs and already used by the rugby club/dog clubs it would be a shame if the community loses their access to this green space in place of a game that already has many places to play. However the EKC idea is interesting and the rugby club rooms are in desperate need of an upgrade so as long as it is done taking into account who was there first and environmentally friendly options this would be a sensible idea. Not really good enough that council has neglected the rugby/dog club pavilion all these years though:/ my son plays rugby and it would be nice if this sport could be supported not just the sports that have lots of money to throw councils way! My other son plays soccer and i feel they have more than enough support for their game in this area.

RE: Aberfeldie Park East oval - MV - How has this report got this far without engaging a key stakeholder, the Northern Obedience Dog Club?. There has been no consultation and I have seen this before with developers delivering a fancy plan and saying they have consulted with stakeholders. They are lying.

MP Football club numbers - Northern Dog Obedience membership has grown steadily every year whereas MP UFC declined in 2019 therefore how can they project growth at such a rapid rate? And their membership is dramatically less than in 2018. It is declining not growing.

The Dog Club has minimal access as it is, which is insufficient and not allowing the club to offer its full capacity of training options. The FC has 82% access and is obviously the majority user but how is it fair to push the Dog Club out?

The Dog Club is inclusive and services a wider community. To remove this is unjust and unfair to the community.

The Dog Club funded half the clubhouse construction and ongoing improvements. The members will seek recompense from Council if access to this is removed.

Where is the consultation with the Dog club and members? There have been no discussions entered into whatsoever about any potential relocation and change to our facilities. The Dog Club deserves the courtesy of MEANINGFUL consultation and not being consult told and railroaded into either a poor but costly relocation or the collapse of the club due to no suitable alternative. If I have to travel outside the MV zone and even further than I already do to Alberfeldie from Maribyrnong/Footscray then I won't be able to continue being a member. How is this fair?

Re: the possible move of the Northern Obedience Dog School.

If the aim is fair and equitable use of facilities then I believe that the move of the dog school acts against this aim.

At present, the dog school uses Aberfeldie Park Sports Field 2 (East) on a Wednesday night and Sunday morning. For the remainder of the week, the field is available for other users including the Soccer Club. Has the Soccer club looked at the notion of games on a Friday night at Aberfeldie Park under lights?

From your draft strategy, why not fully develop J H Allan reserve for the use of the Moonee Ponds United Soccer club and then use Aberfeldie Park sports field 2 (East) as a back up for overflow of games from the Royals and other clubs. During any construction phase, arrangements could be made to accommodate the soccer club at a number of temporary venues similar to the policy when the AFL Grounds at Doutta Stars, Maribyrnong Park and Aberfeldie football clubs were being upgraded.

Are the number of soccer participants anticipated to grow substantially? If, as the strategy suggests, the numbers for Moonee Ponds United are falling due to players moving to the Soccer Academy then J H Allen reserve may be the best fit. There is no mention of numbers declining due to being at J H Allen reserve so moving displaces the Dog Club for no gain but substantial disruption to both clubs.

Regarding Strathnaver Reserve, it urgently requires:

- exclusive use by Strathmore Split all year round
- complete re-surfacing and improved drainage
- removal of cricket wicket which creates a dangerous surface
- improved lighting and signage off the street
- more off-street and safe parking
- higher secure fencing all around the pitch to prevent dogs and pedestrian traffic

Removal of the dangerous synthetic cricket pitch at Strathnaver Reserve.  
Strathnaver Reserve to be soccer only.

Removal of the existing synthetic cricket pitch at Strathnaver Reserve as its extremely unsafe and poses a major threat to footballing participants

Removing the dog obedience club has serious consequences to the community. Replacing the obedience club with a soccer club is totally irresponsible as a community with the rise in pet ownership. There's already another field next to the obedience club for sports I'm totally outraged at this proposal

Sad, why try to hurt NODC for your own gain?

Sharing the grounds shows good community spirit and cooperation. These are skills and an attitude that all people need to adopt for a fair and equal social community.

Small clubs need to have the opportunity to grow and provided the same facilities as the larger clubs

Smaller newer clubs shouldn't be discriminated against and should be provided with the opportunity to grow like the bigger clubs smaller clubs are forced to turn back participants due to the lack of facilities

Soccer Club has few members unlike the approximately 1000 dog club members and should learn to fit in with the community.

NODC has been in existence for over 66 years and provides invaluable community support.

Soccer clubs in the area are over subscribed, therefore I feel there may be more young people interested in joining soccer clubs but are not able to. I understand it would be hard to identify and count these people. Also

should consider access to sporting field for Mount Alexander Collage. Following the 2 covid affected years i would like the council to do all it can to encourage outdoor activities

Soccer facilities should be based on the number of players per club. If a particular club has an excessive amount of participation, obviously that club is doing something right and should be rewarded, so it can continue to grow the game and participation rate. Also the number of girls/women playing at a particular club should be factored. We want women involved and it is a big push within society, so this should be considered also.

We should not be looking at 10 years, it needs to be done now

soccer is important to the community and children but I am a longterm member and instructor of the northern obedience dog club and I believe we are of greater importance to the area on the whole. We are involved with helping all people boys girls mums and dads and their dogs to be better citizens of the area. We have a large and very much growing membership and we have good facilities where they are and have put lots of time and money into improving them over the years. I believe we should stay where we are and if the soccer club needs more then they should look elsewhere. Thanks Margaret Jongejans

Soccer is not the only sport in Australia. What will happen to the Maribyrnong Womens Cricket? Strathnaver reserve has double Soccer grounds and recent Brand New club rooms. They have taken over the ground at the back of the Cross Keys and got recent BRAND NEW CLUBROOMS. It was a huge fight to get a club room for the headquarters of the VWCA and Maribyrnong Womens Cricket Club going back to the 1970's. I think Northern Obedience Dog training should hit the council for new facilities at Aberfeldie and also takes to a complete set up for Agility Training also . That facility could be built and fenced off.

Soccer players are a vastly small proportion of the community and should not be undertaken at the expense of existing park users and clubs.

Sounds great! Would love to see soccer grow and more access to good quality pitches all over!

Stick with dog obedience and soccer can use at other times

Strategy did not consider impact upon NODC. A consultative process needs to be restarted.

Strategy is based on one user group instead community as a whole. It mirrors the errors that maribyrnong city council followed in excuting masterplan that was focused on Melbourne Victory & soccer rather than the entire community. Relocating the dog club which has more members and provides more support to local community is ignorant especially as park maintenance is lower with allocation for dog club quarter of the projected soccer use. Additionally soccer club won't want locals to use grounds for off lead dogs. Furthermore there is sign of consultation with other sporting clubs that could use additional sporting use.

Strathnaver reserve has improved over the years and the soccer club has help facilitate that along with hundreds of hours of volunteer support to improve things from humble beginnings. Better facilities to accommodate growth amongst juniors, boys and girls as well as accommodating Seniors playing at a much higher level. Safety also remains a key concern. The surface and injuries caused as well as parking and lighting. Parking often becomes an issue and only realised once you drive in and struggle to then reverse or get out - many accidents have occurred

Strathnaver reserve has terrible drainage problems (even after Council did some work to try and rectify). When there is rain training and matches have to be cancelled sadly. There is also not enough parking and so we often have to park a long way from the ground and walk. Not to mention there is only one road in and out! At night there is also not enough lighting to even see where the ground is.

Strathnaver reserve is a cow paddock and kids and games are constantly getting cancelled, council did the drainage but same problem persist with wrong grass and soil on surface,.

Strathnaver Reserve should be a soccer purpose built facility. The demand from players, both boys and girls far exceeds what the facilities can accommodate at present. Especially with the Womens world cup in Australia next year, the girls numbers can not be supported at present which is unfortunate. Safety also remains a concern given pitch conditions, as well as poor parking and lighting.

Synthetic fields??? Are you serious??? Have you actually spoken to any soccer players? We HATE playing on synthetic fields - they are extremely dangerous - VERY slippery when wet and when dry, viciously painful when you slide across it. You cannot put synthetic grass on any sports pitches. Oh and how on Earth is that environmentally friendly too??? I thought this council was trying to be more environmentally conscious after all that 'climate emergency' messaging you put out. This is a terrible idea - definitely have REAL grass for all council owned property.

Terrible Proposal

The "partnership involves moving the Northern Obedience dog club to an undisclosed location. No. The club is an inclusive diverse rapidly growing group of volunteers improving all park users lives by increasing the good behaviour of a large and ever growing part of the community.Dogs! (and their owners)! Play soccer if you want to share

The addition of a Soccer sporting facility/grounds will result in the removal of the Northern Obedience dog club. There has been no consultation of the general public who live in the proposed area. I wasn't able find this survey when I actively looked for it, and had to find out about the proposal itself from the Northern obedience dog club. The MVCC routinely claims that projects such as the proposed expansion of soccer facilities have been advertised to the general public, and while this is true in the sense that there is a survey such as this one available, they are incredibly difficult to find and are in no way advertised in any mainstream or widely accessed format, and hence leave no room for argument or protest to these changes. The implementation of soccer fields will serve a purpose for a small minority of youth soccer players, to the detriment of the wider majority local population. The dog club sees members of every age, gender, sexuality, race and other groups within the population, and has been this way for decades. I would not have any issue with the implementation of the soccer fields if this was the wish of the majority population of the local community, but when the survey is not widely known or communicated to those who are not actively involved in the minority soccer community, then there is no way the council can be certain that feedback received through this survey is representative of the views of the community whom the council represent. I hope the MVCC can reflect on the many lives of local people and their pets that will be impacted by the relocation/removal of the northern obedience dog club in favour of soccer fields. Not only will this effect them, but also any local people who simply wish to enjoy the limited outdoor space available to them to simply exercise, walk their pets, have a picnic, or simply enjoy the outdoors. I cannot agree with a project which will diminish the enjoyment of the many, to promote the enjoyment of a few.

The council needs an approach that includes a range of community priorities. The council should not prioritise soccer over other community activities. If the council pursues this exclusive focus on soccer, it will be building social divisions. I play soccer weekly, so I can see that soccer is already given far more money, space and attention than other community-building activities. Council needs to encourage current soccer activities to be more socially inclusive, but soccer doesn't need more money, space or a higher priority to do that.

The Draft Soccer Strategy fails to adequately consider the impact on all community members within the MVCC. The Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC) has operated from Aberfeldie Park, East Oval, for over



66 years and the Draft Soccer Strategy proposes relocating the NODC to a "suitable alternative site". To my knowledge, the MVCC Sport and Recreation Team have not provided any details of the proposed relocation of the NODC. The NODC has demonstrated continued growth in membership over the last five years and currently has approximately 1000 members including those on the wait-list. NDOC is open for anyone with a dog to join for a small yearly fee and only uses Aberfeldie Park, East Oval, for six hours per week. NDOC funded half the cost of the clubhouse building at Aberfeldie Park and contributed to renovations and extensions. Considering the above, relocating NDOC does not seem like a very fair course of action.

The Draft Soccer strategy has considered the needs and requirements of one group only, that is the soccer community, which is a relatively small group. Other interested groups have been ignored.

The Draft Soccer Strategy has failed to consult other park users.

Aberfeldie Park in its current condition for soccer has been rated as in good condition with satisfactory training lights, with changerooms compliant and female friendly etc.

The current use of the fields used by Moonee Ponds United FC includes Aberfeldie Park. In the report this club is underutilising its 2 fields.

The proposal to build a second field at Aberfeldie Park is unnecessary as is the redevelopment of the JA Fullarton Pavilion as the field is already underutilise by the above soccer club and the facilities have been deemed satisfactory.

The Moonee Ponds United FC has a declining membership (66 members for 2021). Overall soccer clubs in the Moonee Valley underrepresents female participants.

The Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC) has a membership of nearly 700 for 2022 (6 months only), with 400 on the waitlist. It is inclusive to all members of the community.

The proposal to relocate the NODC lacks thought and foresight. The club uses the field already has limited access to the oval at Aberfeldie Park because of the soccer club when it should have increased access due to the size of its membership and participation.

There has been no meaningful discussion on alternate locations from MVCC Sport and Recreation Team.

The NODC paid for half of the current club house building and contributed to renovations and extensions.

The current location of the NODC at Aberfeldie Park (which has been the home of NODC for 66 years) is a safe area for dog training. It is away from main roads and traffic and far enough away from residential homes to avert noise or light complaints.

If the Aberfeldie Park facilities are to be upgraded to 2 fields this will allow more use of the field by the NODC as it is underutilised by the Moonee Ponds United FC with no need for relocation of the NODC to a new location.

The draft soccer strategy is addressing a minor need only in our Moonee Valley community, and is a grossly disappointing strategy for a Council to consider at all. Mental Health issues exist in the community and the current occupants of the building - The Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC) provide a low cost outlet for families, children, seniors, singles, students, and all others to address issues of loneliness, isolation, companionship and ultimately assistance and learning with their dog safety and obedience. Suggesting or recommending that the Dog Club moves its premises for the soccer strategy to exist, is very short sighted by Council. The dog club currently has over 800 members and serves/provides relevant dog obedience training for the wider diverse community. Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC) have been the current residents of the Club rooms for the last 66 years, and the club rooms have been the fabric that binds the success of this club. Dog training is a Critical safety skill needed for our entire community, with the increase in dog attacks during the COVID pandemic and currently. From what I can see the soccer membership is only 66 members, and has declined. At the dog club we have over 200 members on a waiting list due to the COVID pandemic. I



have been a member of the Dog Club for over 20 years, and it is staffed by volunteers who are passionate about the work and skills they provide to dog handlers. We train on Sunday mornings, and Wednesday evenings, and utilise the rooms for meetings, and club events outside of these times. The Instructors and Committee are well organised, and I am aware that they are well managed. The club utilises Puppy equipment, with a trailer that is loaded with tunnels, ramps, jumps, hoops, witches hats, dog bowls, and buckets and cleaning equipment. This equipment is housed in the club rooms and is moved on to the grounds weekly. I have actually assisted to move this equipment, and have found that the rooms are full of this type of equipment for dog trials and competitions that they run during the year. My investigation on this matter has found that The Dog club originally paid for Half of the build of the clubhouse and currently pays for repairs and upkeep of the rooms. The education component of the Dog Obedience classes are critical for the increase in the dog ownership numbers in Moonee Valley since the pandemic. The soccer strategy does not address any of these social issues, to the same degree. Please do not move the longest running Dog Club in Victoria. It has always been at Aberfeldie - a Leash Free Dog Park and it cannot and should not be moved from this site for a poorly supported Soccer Strategy, that supports just a few. Any change in policy and direction regarding the Dog Club premises creates the following risks: 1. A reduction in much needed Dog membership since the pandemic. 2. A decline in the support for mental and community health of Moonee Valley residents 3. Reduction in education in dog safety and obedience 4. Increase in dog attacks in our community.

The draft soccer strategy is OK in some parts but should not over ride the benefits of other sporting and social usage of existing grounds

There are a number of exclusive soccer grounds within the district that have had new clubrooms and extensive renovations to the pitches

We believe it is totally unfair that proposals such as ejecting the Northern Dog Obedience from Aberfeldie Park are even considered when there is a large number of keen dog owners taking advantage of the grounds

The draft soccer strategy is too single dimension and does not consider the impact to other sports or activities. Soccer is not the only sport played in Moonee Valley

The draft strategy requires more thought, and should involve all stakeholders

The faster the better. Kids are either missing out or need to travel outside of Moonee Valley to join other clubs.

The first question in this survey - "The Draft Moonee Valley Soccer Strategy clearly presents a 10 year strategic plan to support the growth of soccer in our community" is without foundation in that the strategy is particularly unclear. Projections have been made out some 20+ years on the basis of demand growth in the municipality. If such growth was attributed to an area in the northern or western suburbs, where population and construction growth are already happening, then such a statement could perhaps be supported.

Within Moonee Valley there is a finite limit to dwelling construction, and by extension the influx of young people requiring significantly expanded soccer facilities.

On the other hand the maintenance and continuation of facilities for domestic dog obedience training at a venue which has been active for over 50 years, and therefore well-known to the whole population, is of paramount importance.

The growth in participants is out dated. A soccer club in this area a coach last week said he was concerned that they don't have enough seniors to make up full teams. Also the juniors have dropped since covid. He is concerned that more families will drop off due to financial reasons. The dog club at Abberfelde ground is central to the surrounding area great for community

The issue has been around for a long time and it shows council is clearly behind, the short term options period is too long and will do more damage to the game of soccer, need the medium to long term brought forward.

The move to relocate the dog club, which had 997 active members in 2021 and has operated there for over 66 years, in order to facilitate a soccer club which has a mere 66 members, is unacceptable. Dog ownership increased several fold in Victoria during the pandemic and there have never been so many first time dog owners as there are now. It has therefore never been more important for there to be access to hands-on education on how to be a responsible dog owner. Poorly socialised, untrained and out of control dogs are a menace to everyone in the community. The dog club provides an essential service by making available a low cost puppy school and adult dog training to the whole Moonee Valley community and beyond. Further, dog sports provide a way for people of a wide range of physical abilities to be active, get outside and socialise. Relocating the dog club, with its enormous membership base, would be far less reasonable than relocating a small soccer club with a declining membership base.

The MVSS failed to consult key stakeholders in the planning stage. The disruption to one of the community's largest volunteer organizations in the Northern Obedience Dog Club is extremely poor considering it affects over 800 paying members and serves a large community service. I can in no way endorse this plan and fail to see how the council can do so either.

The NODC is a community of people and their dogs, which you will be destroying by prioritising one group of people over another. You have presented a strategy relating to soccer only, not factoring in other uses of Aberfeldie Park, notable the Northern Obedience Dog Club. You have not consulted with the Club. You have not provided an alternative venue for the Club to conduct activities. You have put the needs of one group above everyone else without proper, meaningful or transparent communication.

There are already ample football and soccer ovals around the river, there is not a need for another one. How many ovals / pitches are already located around the river?! There are a number at Fairbairn Park, Walter Street Reserve, Maribyrnong Park, Maribyrnong Reserve, Clifton Park and Aberfeldie Park. You can spare the 6 hours that NODC uses the oval each week.

I will be voting against all current Council members for their complete lack of integrity, consultation and lack of ability to act in the interests of for THEIR constituents.

Why don't you concentrate on fixing the water log issue with the park?

Why don't you focus on fining the resident (quite obvious who it was) that chopped down trees at the park so they could get a view of the river?

Why don't you focus on the rubbish that ends up in the river?

The Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC) has been there for 66 years and should not be relocated. It has a significant number of members and volunteers which is steadily growing and has not declined! The soccer strategy should work around NODC.

The Northern Obedience Dog Club has a very large membership compared to Soccer. As a ratepayer and a dog owner I am very disappointed with the lack of consultation with NODC especially as it affects its location. I do not agree with the strategy to relocate NODC.

The Northern Obedience Dog Club has been at Alberfeldie Park for 66 years and has a consistently large membership. The club has kept the clubhouse in good condition and has put a lot of resources into maintaining it. The club does not want to move as it is a central well established position. The club has not had extensive communication with the Soccer Strategy personnel and it's viewpoint on the proposed use of the oval should be sought and carefully considered. The Northern Obedience Dog Club is well supported with a large waiting list of people wishing to join the club. It is a very important community organisation.

The number do not stack up to provide soccer with exclusive use of these grounds. I think all sports are growing and need a strategy plan.

The proposal the relocate the dog club to an alternate site is atrocious and incredibly short sighted. That club has over 900 active members and helps to better community engagement and promote responsible dog ownership. All of which should be of higher priority that bettering the lives of 60 FC members.

The club uses a mere 6hrs of oval time a week.

Do not relocate NODC

The proposal to 'redesign sports field (east) with two soccer fields' and 'find a suitable alternative for dog club activities' does not meet the needs of all stakeholders and must be reconsidered. As a member of the Northern Obedience Dog Club, it saddens me that they have been chosen to relocate. With a huge number of members (688 with 380 on the waitlist) it seems illogical to ask all those members and a club, who have been there for 66 years, to relocate. The number of members at the Moonee Ponds United FC is currently at 66 members, down from 176. It seems much more reasonable to find an alternative for a smaller number of members from a smaller club. There are plenty of alternative grounds in the area such as the Maribryngong Reserve. It is already home to a local soccer club so the facilities would suffice. Another reason this proposal should be reconsidered is that the Northern Obedience Dog Club only uses the grounds for 6 hours per week. There is no other alternative for the NODC to offer training in other dog sport disciplines due to the lack of ground allocation time. Everyone at the NODC does such amazing work, solely run on volunteers. If they were asked to relocate, that would require the volunteers to offer up more of their time, of which they probably don't have, to move a whole club to another location.

Please reconsider the relocation of a community icon and hub. It draws in so many from other surrounding suburbs to enjoy Maribryngong and the Moonee Valley Council. It would be a shame for so many to see it moved.

The proposed relocation of Northern Obedience Dog Club presents material issues that need to be addressed:

Increasing membership base due to increased dog ownership that improves the mental and physical health of the Moonee Valley Community as a whole, a well trained dog that is socialised and obedient benefits the whole community (Current membership base is 997, with a waiting list of 380 people). The soccer club proposed being relocated only has a membership of 66, a decline from 176 back in 2018).

The Northern Obedience Dog Club is inclusive - it welcomes everyone regardless of background, sex, age etc - if you have a dog, the club will train it.

The Dog Club has existed for 66 years , the location at Aberfeldie Park is a great location that meets parking, noise, and does not impact the neighbourhood.

The NODC has paid for existing facilities and contributed to upgrades in the past.

There has been no discussions with anyone from council on any proposed relocation suggestions, costs etc

The council would be putting at risk a fabulous community asset and the consultation process appears to have been very limited

There is a risk of a loss of the membership base that has been active and successful since 1966.

This would be a terrible decision to relocate the Northern Obedience Dog Club rather than looking at an alternate location for the 66 members of the soccer club.

The proposed soccer strategy was developed without the engaging the Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC). As a key stakeholder the NODC should have been engaged!

On page 3 of the Soccer Strategy the proposal is to relocate the NODC, but the new location of the dog club isn't disclosed nor has it been discussed with dog club members. Aberfeldie Park has been the home of the NODC for 66 years, as a community member it is upsetting the the MVCC has spent money developing a strategy for one sport instead of an overall plan for all recreational activities that utilise the sports ovals. The proposed strategy as it stands does NOT benefit the majority of the community.

As stated, the NODC has a 66 year history at Aberfeldie Park and the club paid for half the clubhouse building including making significant contributions to building renovations. The MVCC sport & recreation team are yet to have any meaningful conversation about a definitive location or clubhouse facilities for the NODC. Being relocated will have a negative impact on the NODC brand, which is a club that offers affordable dog training to the community. It could also result in loss of membership and volunteer instructors if the new location is not as central as Aberfeldie Park.

This survey is skewed toward supporting the development of soccer facilities for the Moone Ponds United FC whose membership is declining. The NODC has seen steady growth in its member base with at present over 990 members and a further 380 people on a waiting list. Surely it is easier to relocate a small club of 66 than a large established club of over 990 members.

Despite the large member base of the NODC the time allocation is only 6 hours a week, when compared to the 28 hours per week allocated to the Moonee Ponds FC. Due to the lack of time allocation the NODC is unable to offer training in other dog sport disciplines.

The NODC is an inclusive club welcoming members of all ages and backgrounds. It benefits the wider community maintain mental and physical health through outdoor exercise and socialization. The oval that has been the home of NODC for 66 years is the perfect location being far enough away from residential property to avoid noise and traffic complaints.

Please consider the the negative impact the proposed soccer strategy will have on the NODC

The reason I have ticked definitely disagree is because I am a Dog Club member and use this oval for dog training lessons.

The redesign of Aberfeldie Park does not take into consideration the needs of the Northern Obedience Dog Club which has been established for over 66 years. The dog club has a large membership of almost 1000 members (including those on the waiting list). The grounds are suitable for training because it is not close to residential homes.

Pet ownership has increased significantly and dog training helps facilitate responsible dog ownership. Any disruptions and relocation of the training grounds will impact the dogs significantly and even set back any positive progress that has been achieved to date with the training.

The NODC should be carefully consulted in any relocation decisions but to date, this has been minimal to non existent.

What will happen to the dog club training facilities and any disruptions as a result of the Soccer Strategy decisions?

The Royals Soccer Club is fast growing and proving to be a presence in the soccer community in the region and beyond. They require a dedicated ground with appropriate facilities including a stadium.

The soccer community has been wanting this space for some time. The plan was made without any consideration of other recreational activities at Aberfeldie Park. I am concerned and extremely disappointed

that the Northern Dogs Obedience Training centre was not consulted or combined to be part of the plan. Surely a club that trains animals should be a priority for the health and safety of the community and for animal welfare. The soccer plan surely could consider a shared space allowing Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings as training times. The community has been operating for 66 years and has contributed to the building works of the clubs. Would the community prefer feral dogs? I don't think so. The Northern Dogs is a community. For six years I have attended training at this local venue. I know the people and I know my dog is safe here and receives the best care. A relocation would really disrupt the community and how it operates. With over 850 participants per month, is it really fair to separate members and the community? The training is currently very affordable. A new venue could be costly to the club and members and there reduce membership meaning dogs not being trained meaning a greater cost to the community if a dog can not be trained properly. Have you thought about this? It is a safety issue. The more people that bring their dogs to training the safer the dog is in the community. There is an elderly community as well as young members and I don't think it is fair on elderly members to have to relocate. I am not against the soccer proposal but surely the proposal can work with the already established community that is there. I really hope you can understand how distressing this is for me and many members of the dog club. We should be working together and not segregating.

The soccer strategy does not consider other groups using the facilities (I.e. Northern Territory Obedience Dog Club). This dog club is a keystone for the community and surrounding areas, as they bring us Dog owners together in a family-friendly environment, to learn and share experiences around a topic that involves us all. I think the Moonee Valley council would be remiss if the NDC is ignored when relaunching the fields strategy. Please consider the impact of this to all of our hundreds of members. Thanks.

The soccer strategy has been very thorough and well presented - but alas- it ONLY takes into consideration the soccer club and rejects any other clubs to access the Council's facilities. I am aware that NODC uses the same facilities for far fewer hours per week and also has MANY more members than the soccer club and yet is being forced out.

The Soccer strategy is certainly a glossy document full of hopes and dreams for the expansion of soccer in the City of Moonee Valley. Unfortunately, there are no such options for the Northern Obedience Dog Club (NODC), included in the pages. As the only club nominated to be relocated to accommodate the expansion of soccer in the municipality, the lack of meaningful consultation and communication from the Sports and Recreation Team to date has been underwhelming.

NODC is a not-for-profit organisation that has been located at Aberfeldie Park for over 66 years, offering affordable dog training to the residents of Moonee Valley and surrounding municipalities. The Club welcomes members of all ages, sexes, sexual orientation, colour, religion etc. If you have a dog, we will help you train it. Being inclusive is not something we do for our own gratification; it is something we do because we are part of being involved and participating in the community.

In 2017 NODC membership base was 677; in 2018 the membership base was 785; in 2019 membership base was 810; in 2020 which extended into 2021 because of covid lockdowns, the membership base was 997 (18 month membership year). This was followed by another disrupted covid membership year in 2022, but after 8 months the membership base was a healthy 688. These membership numbers do not include the 380 people still on the waiting list to become a member of the Club. NODC membership base steadily grows even despite the lack of increase in ground allocation time, although the Club is getting near capacity with our 6 hour allocation. The club cannot offer training in other dog sport disciplines due to the lack of ground allocation time.

According to the Soccer Strategy, the soccer club based at Aberfeldie Park membership has declined from



176 members in 2018 to 66 members in 2021. NODC has had a bigger membership base than a Super Soccer Club for more than a decade. Yet the Club's weekly allocation of oval time is 18% of the time allocated to the soccer club based at Aberfeldie Park (6 hours for NODC compared with 28 hours for the soccer club). Each week there are around 210 club members, that's around 19 soccer teams, who participate in the training offered by NODC.

Would it not be easier to relocate or amalgamate the Soccer Club based at Aberfeldie Park to another location? The Club understands the prize is securing a second soccer pitch on the East Oval. NODC training and competition activities are certainly much kinder to the oval surface, than the planned soccer activities for that oval.

Over the years the NODC has paid its way and not been a drain on the Council purse. The Club contributed 50% of the cost of the original clubhouse building and has made significant contributions to building extensions and renovations over the years. The Annual rent, Council rates and Ground allocation fees are always paid promptly.

The Sport and Recreation Team have yet to communicate any thoughts or plans on viable options regarding new locations, clubhouse and storage facilities being offered to NODC. We would like to discuss with council a solution that does not disadvantage our 800+ members. And we would like the opportunity to review this solution with our members before it is confirmed, and we would like it implemented according to an agreed timeline.

The soccer strategy is not right and is intentionally bulldozing The Northern Obedience Dog Club and its members. It is an established club that has been at Aberfeldie for 66 years, there are many volunteers, dog owner members that are heavily reliant on the club staying put. This survey is ridiculous and offensive to all of the founders and community members that have kept a strong dog obedience club going for 66 years. Our family - 5 of us plus our two fur babies are not happy with the relocation proposal or the soccer strategy. The Northern Dog Obedience club, has 66 years of reasons to stay put and has earned the right for the soccer strategy & schedule to work around them.

The soccer strategy is suggesting we move the current residents of the Northern Obedience Dog Club. We serve over 800 members of the community and provide much needed dog obedience training for a much wider community, that encompasses a wider diverse community within Moonee Valley - children, family members, students, seniors. All of these people will be impacted if you move the dog club. It has been here for 66 years, and its main objective is to create a safe environment for our valley, with the increase in dog attacks. The soccer strategy serves only a smaller group of people - currently 66 members. Council needs to consider the wider impact of moving the dog club - that has much more wider scope and uses the club rooms minimally. Soccer is not strategic at all in comparison to dog obedience - particularly with the increase in dog ownership in our community.

The Soccer Strategy should not go ahead at the expense of the Northern Obedience Dog Club which has been in the area for over 60 years. There are more members in NODC than in the soccer club and it will be easier to find a new location for the soccer club than move the existing NODC club house and training facilities

The Soccer Strategy would see the demise of the NDOC - a club which has promoted responsible dog ownership and ethical training for community members for over 66 years! The club rooms are maintained at little cost to the Council and is staffed by volunteers. Generations of dog owners have trained and sung the praises of NDOC. The ground is kept in a clean and tidy condition with only a few hours of use on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, allowing the rest of the community to enjoy the beautiful grounds.

The strategy needs to treat incumbent users of existing facilities fairly. That means honestly acknowledging the full range of the benefits of the activities of incumbent users, communicating fully and openly with incumbent users and working collaboratively with them to arrive at the best outcomes for all. Action taken to meet the goals of the soccer strategy should not be to the detriment of existing users only. Fairness should be respected as a guiding principle when taking action under this soccer strategy.

There are already enough facilities for soccer in the MVCC area. There is no reason why more public parkland should be usurped for sporting interests that seem to be minorities. Judging by the current use for Cricket many of the users do not even pay rates in the MV area. The recent placement of Kennard hired light towers and multiple soccer fields in Fairbairn Park is an example of the process of slow attrition of public green space in favour of the sporting lobby. The non-transparent plans to usurp the Aberfeldie Dog Clubs rights to an area to train dogs is the next one. I do not agree with the current proposals that are non transparent and will likely prevent my future use of the parks I pay rates to use.

There are already six soccer clubs using nine reserves, but only two obedience dog clubs, and there isn't an Agility dog club, in the municipality.

The municipality is overloaded with soccer clubs, all claiming that they might grow.

Some of the soccer clubs are tiny compared to Northern Obedience Dog Club active membership base. The soccer clubs are small and fragmented, duplicating structures and facilities.

Moonee Ponds United FC has only 66 members, compared to Northern ODC's membership of 997 fully paid up members, plus 380 more people on the Waiting List. Moonee Ponds United FC has 28 hours of Oval time compared to 6 hours for the dog club. Therefore, a soccer member has 70 times more access to an Oval than a member of the dog club. That's ridiculous when you consider both sports need oval space for training and competition.

Northern ODC needs a larger ground, more weekly time allocation, and support from Council. Northern needs time and space to provide more facilities for local residents.

Northern ODC has been located at Aberfeldie Park for more than 50 years, paid half of the cost of the clubhouse, and contributed to the cost of extensions.

Northern caters for all the community who own a dog, and encourages proper handling of dogs and registration with Council, to deter lost and injured dogs, deter dog attacks, and promote that dogs are properly housed at people's residences.

Council needs to encourage the soccer clubs to amalgamate, and provide better facilities to Northern Obedience Dog Club. It's easier to amalgamate the 66 members with other clubs, than impose a change on a dog club with almost 1,000 dog owners.

There are major issues with this strategy as it doesn't consider the other sporting and community clubs that use the current space, such as the Northern obedience dog club. This club is an institution in the community and serves a legitimate and necessary purpose, to ensure safe dog ownership. This proposal requires review to consider the whole community, not just a small percentage that use soccer facilities.

There has been no consultation with all stakeholders. There are ample soccer fields in the immediate area. Three pitches in fairbairn park, and one in Maribyrnong reserve. This plan does not take into account other uses of this space. Particularly those who use this space for dog obedience training. This is a big community who come to share the space fairly. The plan- has no plan for where this diverse section of the community will move to, despite their significant contributions to the community and improvement of this space. The northern obedience dog club has provided support and training for tens of thousands of people over 60+ years. It is a vibrant hub of support for many diverse people across all ages, gender, sexuality etc. the club only uses the oval for a few hours per week compared with others. There is interest within the club to



provide more dog sport opportunities, but this is not supported with the small percentage of time allocated proportional to other groups. Attendance wise northern obedience dog club has consistently significantly higher numbers of participation, comparatively to other groups in this plan.

This plan has had poor advertisement to consult with anyone other than those set to gain from it. To ignore a large part of the community for the benefit of a much smaller section who already have significantly more use and time of allocated space is unfair.

there has been no consultation with other sports that use the grounds within the MVCC, in particular A.J Davis reserve & it is not clear how the soccer strategy will impact other sports/users of the grounds, this needs to be addressed before the soccer strategy can go ahead

There is more to soccer at aberfeldie park

There is no evidence of consideration for existing facility users, for example, Keilor Obedience Dog Training Centre; a dog club of which I am a member, and that has operated from AJ Davis reserve continuously since the 1970s.

There is no mention of consideration of other users of grounds in the proposal. I have been a member of Keilor Obedience Dog Training club for over 20 years, training at AJ Davis Reserve. This club has been there for over 50 years and offers just as much community engagement as soccer.

There seems to be no consideration of the impact this has on residents living within the precincts or the potential impact on community organisations. Consultation has been quite vigorously undertaken with sporting clubs (particularly as indicated by some councillors' social media accounts), however, public forums are not freely made available, and in particular, some Buckley Ward councillors refuse to engage with residents. The report demonstrates soccer participation is presently significantly lower than that of other organised sports which will also see an increase in participation, however, we do not see a concerted effort to accommodate these sports or organisations i.e. basketball, netball, rugby and rugby league. We see small, suburban grounds being considered for clubs with growth aspirations, which are often mismatched to the local amenities and surrounds of these sporting grounds. As an MVCC resident, I want to ensure fair and equitable access for all sporting, cultural and community groups to open spaces and pavillions irrespective of the code and organisation. All spaces should be multi-use with NPL and Division 1 teams supported by Football Victoria to fund and find land and grounds which are suitable and fit for purpose. I would hate to see grass-roots cricket, martial arts, dance, AFL, community, cultural or other sporting codes, and most importantly, locals locked out of spaces due to the domination of one code. I've never had the opportunity to use, access or engage with a 'community' pavilion opposite my own home! I thought MVCC cared about diversity, inclusion, respect and our environment but I'm starting to feel as though residents and their needs come second to sporting clubs who demand more and more money each year. When is enough, enough? I would like to see a 'soccer' strategy scrapped and a holistic 'sporting' strategy created which can accommodate all sports codes and truly engage and consider the local communities and environments they engage with and in.

These greedy parents are sick, pushing their children to succeed at any lengths I see them screaming aggressions from the sidelines each week. NOW THEY ARE TRYING TO COLLAPSE A 66 YEAR OLD DOG CLUB. Despicable.

They are trying to bully Northern Obedience Dog Club in to relocating which is not feasible financially or otherwise. the club has been at this site since 1956. If the Moonee Ponds FC needs additional space and or time to expand its Membership (Which with over 1000 members we have already done) they should look at

community spaces which are actually available rather than trying to get rid of established pillars of the community by rendering them homeless and bankrupt from relocation costs.

This draft soccer strategy is not serving the community fairly. Save the dog club. They have more memberships for years compared to the soccer team. And their new memberships are going up whereas soccer is going down. This means more people in the community are becoming a part of it and need the dog club to be there. Why uproot the more established club than a soccer club that's got very low memberships. This draft soccer strategy is not the most strategic use of the space and definitely will be affecting a greater population in the community.

This draft strategy only covers soccer. I would like to ask why. There are other sports and clubs that benefit from this area, one of them being the Northern Obedience Dog club. There are so many dogs in the area and training is important. So many families benefit from this club. Having a well behaved and socialised dog benefits not only the pet owners but general public.

This has been long overdue. We've suffered 6 years of bouncing from bad ground to bad ground, often with reduced access because of cricket season. Despite the greater popularity of soccer. It has been a scandal, verging on racism towards all of the non-anglo families in the north west.

This is a great step forward as a family who has lived in Moonee valley for 16 years and had 2 boys both involved and still involved in soccer in Moonee Valley this is a step in the right direction and Moonee valley needs to move along like other councils in Victoria and support a sport which has a highly and growing participation and orchids suitable facilities.

This is a one-focus strategy that supports soccer and nothing else. For example, The northern obedience dog club is an essential part of the community, has put money into the facilities on the belief it will stay there and helps promote diversity, inclusion and general well-being and makes the safety of the community a priority by training people and their dogs in how to coexist. With the increase in dog ownership during covid facilities like this are essential to reduce dog aggression, socialise and train animals and their people. There is no reason why a public sports ground cannot be multifunctional and this particular area is the perfect location for training dogs well away from residential housing and other community activities. It is my understanding that no alternative location has been offered. One would hope that the money the club put into building and improving facilities will be reimbursed should the club be removed from this location.

This is a Soccer Plan... "to support the growth of soccer in our community." A plan allocating yet more space and money to the young and fit and, dare I say it, predominantly male. The lavish sports facilities and space already at Fairburn Park show a Council favoritism to team sports. This soccer plan seems to continue this policy.

As a member of the Northern Obedience Dog Club for more than 20 years I can see the impact of a community based training facility similar to Northern. I have seen so called 'Problem Dogs' rehabilitated. to become reliable and friendly canine citizens. Children learn to train and respect their pups. 80 year olds develop new friendships, fight off loneliness and arthritis. A club that is ethnically diverse. On any Sunday I would guess more than 100 people and dogs train from simple puppy play through to competition level. Our long list of people waiting to join is testimony to the success and inclusiveness of the club. This soccer strategy gives no space for us to continue.

This is not an appropriate initiative for the greater community, restricting access to the area for the benefit of a small fledgling soccer club seem ill considered.

There should also be more work done to work with the Northern Obedience Dog Club and how the

organisation will be effected by proposed changes.  
Please consider these changes in depth.

This plan is a waste of printer ink.

This plan is clearly based on the wants of a small minority of people and takes no account of the long term involvement of Northern Obedience Dog Club and its past and future contributions to the community. NODC from my memory alone ha been a resident of Aberfeldie Park for more than 50 years. In that time it has assisted thousands of people to become more responsible dog owners. And assisted in improving the behavior of thousands of dogs. This year alone has seen in excess of 600 members join and have more than 300 on the waiting list. NODC is fully inclusive and does, and has for many years accepted anyone (including children under guidance of one of their significant persons) wanting to improve their dogs behavior and and become better citizens. NODC initiated and contributed to the first of the buildings established in that part of the park as well as initiating the installation and contributing to the first night light to be used on that park. NODC is highly regarded as an obedience club by the canine fraternity. It is absolutely appalling that this "strategic"plan???? does not consider the ingoing impact to the citizens and canines of the area, and does not even indicate where the relocated site would be. It would appear to me that the number of active participants at a soccer game is far fewer that the average number of active (Fully Inclusive including elderly participants who could never play soccer) participants involved in NODC activities. NODC is fully funded by the members and run by unpaid volunteers. I am quite sure the same cannot be said of a soccer club. The fact that a the plan does not name an alternate facility for NODC has totally disregarded the mental and physical wellbeing of a large number of people from a very broad spectrum of the community. I could go to a closer dog club but travel further because of the quality and skill of the personnel running NODC

This should not be a 10 year strategy but more immediate response needs to be taken. Awareness should be made to realise soccer has a hirer participation and supporter rate than a sport like cricket and therefore this should be taken into account with ground priority and allocation.

This strategy is absolutely ridiculous and will have a hugely negative impact on a much wider community. The soccer club has been losing numbers year after year and now you want to have them take over the facilities that have been mostly paid for by the NODC (out of their own pockets). That's appalling. The NODC have been using those grounds for the past 66 years and have just shy of 1000 participants. Additionally the NODC only require the use of the grounds for around 18% of the time which provides the community with a huge quantity of time for them to use the grounds recreationally. Whereas the soccer club wants to monopolise the grounds a whopping 82% of the time, rarely allowing the wider community to use the area. Giving 66 people 82% of time vs almost 1000 people 18% should be reason enough to scrap this plan and leave the NODC where they are and find another place for people to play soccer. My final point is that this recommendation is incredibly biased. The soccer club is primarily made up of men under the age of 35. In comparison the NODC have a wide range of ages from children all the way through to the elderly, as well as genders, ethnicities etc. Anyone is welcome at the dog club. But just by looking at the soccer club's social media it's apparent that the same cannot be said by them, and by supporting this strategy the council is speaking loud and clear about the constituents they value. If this strategy goes forward the council will be letting down not just the huge member base of the NODC but also the wider community as a whole.

This Strategy will destroy a well established, long running club that has high membership and participation - Northern Obedience Dog Club

This survey ignores the current community usage of the oval by the diverse and community minded NODC. Why is an alternate site being considered for the dog club? A club with nearly a thousand members and a

long waiting list. To relocate this club could mean the end of it. Shame on you for totally disregarding the importance of this club to your ratepayers. Please act in the interests of all your people by revisiting the proposal with a view to finding a new location for the soccer club that doesn't wipe out a 66 year history and destroy a highly successful and value added community service. Hands off NODC.

To whom it may

I am really disappointed and upset to find out that there is a Strategic plan in place to take our much-beloved dog park which has been at Aberfeldie for 66 years for a soccer club to take over without consultations or consideration of the northern obedience dog club or the dog lovers who attend. It is disrespectful arrogant and rude not to consider dog lovers who enjoy the companionship social aspect but also who teach their dogs to be well-behaved dogs in our community.

I urge you to consider having a holistic approach when planning activities for the Moonee valley area as dogs are a huge priority to many families in the area and to have them discarded as unimportant is shameful and I hope you do not go ahead with the proposal for to extend soccer facility at the cost of our dog park

Too little too late.

Lot of money spent with failing results. Like Strathnaver Reserve.

Drainage not working. Some body pocketed a lot go money for very little work and results. Needs to be investigated. Contractor needs to be accountable for their works.

Unfair to force the NODC, an affordable club with obvious positive effects on the wider community, to move after 60+ years. Either way the dog park will need to be in a field somewhere. It makes more sense to start a new club somewhere else than relocate something already established.

Unfortunately, it is not the Soccer Strategy as such but the implications for other users of this site that causes me concerns. The Northern Obedience Dog Club has used this resource for more than 60 years and provides a crucial recreational activity for people and their dogs of all genders, ages and cultural backgrounds but have not been consulted during this soccer strategy process. Surely they are a key stakeholder of this space? I have been a member for more than 25 years continuously which has provided me with an active recreational activity as well as an important social activity. Members come from MVC and surrounding Council areas. I have not been contacted that my use of this resource may be jeopardised! The soccer strategy surely should have addressed that but it seems to assume other users of the site will be moved elsewhere. The NODC has not been consulted on how they will be accommodated and where might they be moved to.

Utter nonsense.

We are members at strathmore split and are extremely disappointed with the recent ground irrigation/ upgrade at strathnaver reserve.this has led to the postponement of junior training and senior fixture games.it is imperative that the younger children are able to practice weekly and improve there skills and at the same time allowing them to build comradeie & develop team bonding.there are not enough local facilities available when forced to train away

We don't want a soccer-only field. It's very inefficient, impractical, and selfish use of the space. Lots of people in the community don't place soccer. Make it a multi-use field. Keep the dog club!

We don't want the soccer club. We need to keep the dog club. This is way more valuable to our residents and is a long established pillar in our community (66+years)! We have a huge dog ownership community that brings together so many more people for a common interest. Responsible dog ownership needs a place to be held that is appropriate for the dogs and central to the community. It promotes fitness and socialisation way better than an under established soccer club would be. Northern Obedience is the best dog training club in

the area and it needs to stay. The clubhouse was paid for by them and it is THEIRS, it is OURS. It is not good enough to try to move them along and not provide an alternative. NODC provides affordable responsible dog ownership to the community. The volunteers are all local and moving the location could cause this inclusive, stable, growing (997+ members) club to dissolve and this would have a huge mental and physical impact on the members. NODC utilise the grounds to full capacity every week. It must stay! No soccer club please.

We need to provide sporting facilities for our young kids

Well done on the Quinn Grove precinct. Would have been devastating to see soccer miss out there

What kind of a monster tries to collapse a near 70 year old community dog club

Whilst supporting expansion of Soccer, some consideration needs to be given to supporting infrastructure and users of adjacent areas. In regards to Fairbairn Park, there is a scarcity of parking at peak times where the ovals are all in use. If you add events at the Canoe Club and Scouts, then parking and access for all users becomes an issue. In regards to the Essendon Canoe Club (I am the President), events can be held without Council involvement as the relevant authority for the Maribynong River is Melbourne Water. The plan quite rightly focuses on Soccer facilities, but I feel there needs to be more discussion around the broader issue of supporting infrastructure and this needs to be acknowledged in the plan.

Whilst there is numerous playing fields within the municipality, Council also needs to look at the use of Aberfeldie Park for other groups that live and pay rates here. The fact that this Council appears to have little regard for the Dog Obedience Club at this ground is appalling, this club promotes much more than dog obedience it includes friendship and support to a large number of people who live in this community. The Club supports responsible dog ownership and is a valuable member of Moonee Valley Municipality. Stand up Moonee Valley you are quick to take and up the fees for dog registrations and give nothing back to this community

Why is there only a strategy for Soccer? What about the other sports and activities like cricket, footy, athletics, tai chi, dog training, personal training, outdoor walking or running groups? Council should have done a Strategy for all sorts of healthy activities that require use of the fields and not just focus on one thing that really is more a youth activity even if you do have a >35 players group. Every other activity I listed is even more diverse in multi generation, gender, etc.

I note that you wish to relocate the Northern Obedience Dog Club and that is not acceptable. I don't think you realise the damage you will do if you move the Dog Club elsewhere.

This Club has been there for over 60 years! In fact, I would like to complain that after people play soccer on the field, the grass and ground are badly damaged by those spiky shoes the players wear which end up becoming trip hazards and ankle twistors for the rest of us who use the park. The Soccer Club that uses Aberfeldie Park only has 66 members but the Dog Club has something like 600 or 700 members. Maybe you should be offering MORE park space to the dog club since they have such an astounding member headcount! Every time I train my dog, there are at least 200 people there. In Summer, that number goes up higher and it's fun and amazing to be amongst so many dog lovers.

Thinking about this, I bet Council has reduced canine related incidents because of this Club. They teach reward based and positive reinforcement methods and their philosophy is to teach people to be responsible dog owners. I especially love seeing many elderly people mixing with younger people and sharing their doggy experiences with each other. I even see 12 year old kids who show up every week without fail and this is teaching them to become responsible adults. Again, you have focused only on expanding ONE sport that benefits a small part of our community instead of building on the positive impacts the other clubs are ALREADY spreading throughout the community.



With so many cricket wickets in the Moonee Valley Council, it could be time to remove the pitch on Strathnaver

Wonderful idea - excited this may happen with 2 boys who Love playing soccer & have done for numerous years now

Would love to see more out of the box thinking. Proposal only looks at existing grounds and some schools - I would love to see more use of Public Schools esp High Schools in the area where they also get benefit from pitches and facilities (think Maribyrnong College) - this would unlock more grounds quicker AND a plan that includes smaller pitches both indoor and outdoor (5 and 7 a side) - these are great all weather options, can be used for competitions and add diversity to training facilities for teams and the community

Would love to see synthetic improvements ASAP at Buckley Park College Sportsfield in particular. My 12 yr old soccer playing son is currently at Avondale FC and his soccer playing school friends at BPC would certainly utilise it too. Currently they only have rough grass to play on at such a high performing gov school. These kids often are aiming to join the highest ranking soccer teams in Vic yet our soccer facilities in Moonee Valley are still not up to scratch at high school level. It should be easier and cheaper to do improvements via the schools too. Great for health and activity while during breaks and PE also. . A wonderful asset to have and get kids away from vaping or fighting which I believe is quite common in MVCC secondary schools of ALL types !!

Your decision to shaft the Northern Obedience Dog Club for an increase in facilities for a single sport (soccer) is disheartening. The NODC had 997 members in 2021, average weekly attendance is about 260, monthly individual attendance is 840 members. The only soccer club that came a little close to these numbers was Essendon Royal, that doesn't even use Aberfeldie Park. The Moonee Ponds FC that actually uses the grounds has a fraction of the members of NODC (66 in 2021 and everyone seems to be leaving to go to the Soccer Academy). The NODC is at full capacity for the allocation of the oval for its activities and literally cannot accommodate any more members, nor can it expand its offerings due to the current limitations put on its allocated space. There are many aspects of dog training and learning with animals that NODC could expand into that they currently cannot due to lack of space.

You have not detailed how or where the NODC will go - instead you just dispose of them. I am unsure as to why you are shafting a huge part of the community by saying "we'll find a place for them" but not actually having or consulting with the club regarding what this place is. The NODC paid for half of the clubhouse which you are going to kick them out of. The club assists all ages with their health, both mentally and physically in getting outside with like-minded people, and training their dogs.

The NODC is reknowned across Victoria for providing affordable training for dogs to safely and confidently interact with society and for their handlers to actually know how to manage them. Many people come from outside Moonee Valley to participate at NODC. In a society where pet ownership is increasing, clubs like this are invaluable. And your draft strategy completely disregards that.

The NODC has members of all ages, all creeds, all religions ,all sexual orientations and all colours.... And that's just the humans.

Fix up your strategy to actually detail how you plan to relocate the almost 1000 members of the dog club in a way that is beneficial for all, and factors in the financial loss you will cause by throwing them out of their clubhouse that they paid for and upkeep, for a soccer club with 66 members. Do better for the community as a whole than the badly researched strategy that you have currently presented to the community.