

Submission to South Australian 20 Year State Infrastructure Plan

Tennis SA Submission

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About Tennis SA

Tennis SA Incorporated (Tennis SA) is the peak body that represents the sport of tennis in South Australia.

Tennis SA is a Member Association affiliated with the national peak body for tennis, Tennis Australia (Limited).

Tennis SA membership consists of Tennis Associations and Bodies that control, conduct, encourage, promote, advance and administer the game of tennis for a group of tennis clubs or groups, usually within a concentrated area.

Tennis SA control, conduct, encourage, promote, advance and administer the game of tennis across South Australia. To achieve this, the Tennis SA strategy concentrates on the advancement of Participation (increase community interest in tennis and retention of players), Performance (encourage and assist South Australians to reach standards of excellence in tennis), and Profile (lead, promote and advance the operations and activities tennis throughout South Australia).

Tennis SA encourage and assist the maintenance, development, and improvement of tennis courts and related facilities in South Australia to deliver a network of welcoming tennis venues and providers hence Tennis SA have a strong interest in the 20 Year State Infrastructure Plan.

The Importance of Tennis

Social Return On Investment

Investment in tennis delivers far beyond infrastructure and participation outcomes to provide lasting positive impacts on local communities.

Tennis Australia appointed Victoria University's Institute of Sport and Health to undertake research to determine the societal value to Australia communities. Every dollar invested in to community tennis delivers up to \$5.16 in economic, health and social outcomes in communities.

With a focus on community based tennis, the research compared financial and volunteer investments into tennis with outcomes reported by participants.

The benefits include increased productivity at work and home, improved health status of participants, enhanced social capital in communities, and playing tennis reduces your chance of cardiovascular death by 59%.

Tennis is a Sport for Life

Tennis is a sport enjoyed by a large number and different cross sections of the Australian population.

Some key national statistics are:

- 40% of all tennis participants are women.
- 4.1% of tennis participants are aged over 55 and 3.5% are older than 65.
- Tennis participants are culturally diverse – 18% of the tennis population speaks a language other than English.
- 543,850 children aged between three and 12 taking part in Tennis Australia's official development program, ANZ Tennis Hot Shots.

Memorial Drive – the spiritual home for South Australian Tennis

Since the Memorial Drive tennis facility was officially opened in October 1921, the venue has staged many major events including the Davis Cup and Australian Open Championships. Through to 1967 Memorial Drive hosted 12 Australian Championships (now the Australian Open) and from 1974, Memorial Drive played host to the Australian Men's Hardcourt Championships for 15 years and then the World Tennis Challenge for 11 years. The venue accommodated over 50 concerts including best-selling artists such as Led Zeppelin, Phil Collins, AC/DC, U2 and Aerosmith.

Two \$10 million investments, firstly by the Turnbull Coalition Federal Government for the redevelopment of the Memorial Drive Tennis Club/Next Gen tennis courts, and then by the Marshall Liberal State Government for the new canopy roof over centre court, has recently revitalised the Adelaide Oval precinct into a world-class sports and entertainment hub centrally located in the heart of Adelaide.

The developments, along with the coordinated and combined resources between Adelaide Oval and Next Gen, has allowed minimal standards to be achieved for Adelaide to again host a combined ATP and WTA professional tennis tournament.

20 Year State Infrastructure Plan – Discussion Paper

The Discussion Paper briefly addresses 'Culture, Sport & Tourism' as a collective theme. Unfortunately, there are no further references within other sections in the Discussion paper.

Tennis SA note that, other than the Adelaide Oval redevelopment, only nominal investments has occurred for state sports centres (including tennis at Memorial Drive) which have largely been attributed to address immediate and critical concerns. In the case of Memorial Drive, to activate an opportunity to host world-class professional tennis leading into the Australian Open.

Following the completion of the new canopy roof over centre court, further investment is requirement to improve the aging grandstands and associated infrastructure in order to meet expectations of today's population. Tennis SA, using a portion of funding granted through the Marshall Liberal State Government, is preparing a strategic and investment feasibility study with a view to potential further re-development, which will be completed by the end of September 2019.

Tennis SA is pleased about the preparation of a State Sports Infrastructure Plan and a Feasibility Report for Adelaide to host the Commonwealth Games as Tennis SA believe these reports will strengthen the importance of Memorial Drive for tennis and other sports and entertainment options.

Tennis Infrastructure Priorities

Tennis is played at over 300 venues across Adelaide and South Australia, all offering a variety of facilities and services. The Tennis SA Places to Play Strategic Plan 2019-2022 has been developed to guide the accountable provision and sustainable management of places where tennis is accessible so to benefit the whole community. The Plan delivers a set of broad expectations for

Tennis SA affiliated bodies, all levels of Government and other key stakeholders to work collaboratively and clearly communicate on proven and innovative actions that will:

- Continued redevelopment of Memorial Drive
- Improve the quality of existing facilities
- Enhance our partnerships
- Ensure an appropriate spread of quality venues across the state
- Plan and develop new facilities in major growth areas, schools and community spaces

In the context of the infrastructure context considerations, as outlined in the Discussion Paper, Tennis SA's Infrastructure Priorities can be noted as follows:

Continued redevelopment of Memorial Drive

Recent redevelopments of the Memorial Drive Tennis Club/Next Gen tennis courts, and then by a new canopy roof over centre court, has revitalised the Adelaide Oval precinct into a world-class sports and entertainment hub centrally located in the heart of Adelaide.

Continuing on from this, Tennis SA is currently undertaking a strategic and investment feasibility study.

The study includes considering the Strategic Plan of Tennis SA, Tennis Australia and overlays its vision across the needs of the relevant portions of South Australian Government and the State Growth Agenda. As a result of the comprehensive process, all subsequent decisions can then be fully aligned to the business service needs and ensures the future decisions continue to support Tennis SA's strategic values, priorities and objectives as well as align and integrate with South Australian government values, priorities and objectives.

As part of the study, consideration of the key physical asset that Tennis SA utilises to provide the services it is required to provide, the Memorial Drive facility, will be considered with a view to potential further re-development. Further re-development is based on the view of improving existing services offered to meet the minimum standards that Tennis SA is required to achieve to remain relevant in sport of tennis, as well as take into account potential future opportunities that Tennis SA could take advantage of that are currently presenting themselves, all for the ultimate benefit of all the people of South Australia, as well as the South Australian tennis community.

The first part of this study is due by September 2019.

Improve the existing facilities

Tennis has an adequate footprint across the majority of the state, however the quality of the existing infrastructure is in many cases poor. Tennis Australia is one of the few sport peak bodies that has capacity to contribute towards its own infrastructure however support through government grants and funding often unpredictable. As a means to continue and advance the \$5.16 benefit for every \$1 spent in Tennis, a manageable pipeline of community tennis facility projects is required.

As mentioned previously, the continued investment into Memorial Drive will entrench high quality tennis events in Adelaide, while also servicing the needs of other court sports, and entertainment events.

Enhance our partnerships

Tennis, like many sports, can deliver on a range of policies and social issues facing today's society. Tennis has demonstrated benefits in physical and mental fitness and wellbeing through being physically active and the development of social connections and interactions, and has demonstrated

financial and economic benefits through events and tournaments, being world-class events to mass participation carnivals.

Tennis therefore is working hard to enhance our relationship with government & stakeholders, as our biggest sponsors of tennis facilities. Through increasing the profile of tennis within government we are aiming to achieve greater resourcing for tennis venues through all funding sources. The role of local councils has been undervalued in the Discussion Paper.

An appropriate spread of quality venues across the state

As noted in the Discussion Paper, Tennis SA also recognise that our regional cities and areas are in many aspects different to their metropolitan peers. Regional and district level tennis centres in regions provide a central focus for surrounding communities and encourage all age groups to be active and connected. These centres can offer more programs and services than remote courts which simply offer a simple opportunity to play. Tennis SA is actively committed to managing and minimising our carbon footprint while seeking environmental and sustainable processes that reduce expenditure and financial pressures.

Connecting such tennis centres with other community facilities and spaces, such as aquatic centres, libraries and shopping centres provide greater options for local communities to connect socially and undertake physical activities.

New facilities in major growth areas, schools and community spaces

Tennis SA is being increasingly prepared to maximise new opportunities where tennis currently does not have a strong footprint. New suburbs built in growth corridors, areas of new development increasing residential density, redevelopment of school sites and master plan improvements to community spaces are all opportunities for tennis to improve the societal benefit for every dollar spent.