"One State, One Network, All Welcome"

NSW ATHLETICS

NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy

Final Strategy | June 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PARTNER SUPPORT

NSW Athletics acknowledge the significant contribution made by stakeholders in developing this Strategy. We acknowledge and thank the athletics community, including the 606 clubs, centres and individuals that participated in the online Strategy survey.

NSW Athletics also acknowledges the support provided by key partners, including Australian Athletics, the Australian Sports Commission, the NSW Government, the NSW Education sector and local councils.

Our partners participated in a range of strategic and project planning activities and stakeholder engagement sessions, as well as significant funding to support communities across NSW to participate in athletics.

It is further acknowledged that with the support from all involved, the sport of athletics would not have been able to achieve what it has to date. The sport will require ongoing support and investment in order to continue to achieve great outcomes and to successfully implement the NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

NSW Athletics acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We acknowledge their Elders, past, present and emerging. In particular, we pay our respects to the Wann-gal peoples, who are the Traditional Custodians of the land which our home office, Sydney Olympic Park, is situated. We pay our respects to ancestors of this land, their spirits and legacy which remain linked to traditional lands and waters.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

We are proud to present the inaugural NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy, the first statewide facilities plan developed to guide the future of athletics infrastructure across New South Wales.

For the first time in the history of athletics in New South Wales, the sport has come together to articulate a single, unified position on the infrastructure needs of athletics across the state.

Through NSW Athletics, we are now able to speak with one voice about the facilities required to support participation, athlete development and performance pathways for our sport. This Strategy reflects our collective ambition to ensure that communities across NSW have access to safe, modern and appropriately located athletics facilities, supporting the full pathway of the sport from grassroots participation through to high performance.

Developed in collaboration with Australian Athletics, local councils, schools, government partners, clubs, volunteers, coaches and athletes, this Strategy reflects a true whole-of-sport vision for athletics in New South Wales. The insights and contributions from across our community have been invaluable in shaping a clear and practical roadmap for the future of our facilities network.

Our shared ambition is simple: to ensure that every participant, regardless of age, background or ability, has access to quality athletics facilities in the right places, at the right time.

By strengthening our statewide network of venues and investing strategically in infrastructure, we can support growing participation, develop future champions and ensure athletics continues to connect communities across New South Wales.

This document marks the completion of the first phase of this project, establishing a clear statewide framework and identifying key infrastructure priorities for the sport. The evolution of this work will involve a deeper and more detailed focus on localised infrastructure needs, working closely with clubs, centres, councils and regional partners to better understand demand, identify priority projects and support the development of strong cases for investment across communities throughout New South Wales.

Through NSW Athletics, the sport is now better positioned than ever to advocate clearly and collectively for the investment required to support one of the most accessible and widely participated sports in the state.

Christian Renford

Chief Executive Officer

NSW ATHLETICS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy 2025–2035 ("the Strategy") sets out a clear roadmap to secure the future of athletics in New South Wales through a unified network of quality, inclusive and innovative facilities.

Each year, more than 50,000 registered members and over 1 million school students participate in athletics across NSW. From grassroots discovery in Little Athletics and school carnivals to elite competition on the international stage, the sport's pathway depends on accessible, fit-for-purpose facilities.

However, our current network of facilities face significant challenges, including:

- ageing infrastructure and costs of renewal
- heavy reliance on grass tracks
- climatic impacts as a predominantly outdoor sport
- geographic disparities in provision and access, and
- increasing operational and financial pressures on clubs and volunteers.

Without coordinated investment, these challenges will limit participation growth, compromise inclusivity and risk NSW falling behind other states in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Strategy is based on the detailed analysis of geographical regions, participation rates, population trends, stakeholder and industry feedback and known statewide facility and related inventory information.

This baseline information, data and analysis is available in a separate supporting document – the *NSW Athletics State of Play Report*.

The Strategy provides a facilities framework built around three strategic pillars:

- **Community Participation** – delivering safe, inclusive, and welcoming environments for all participants, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators.
- **Pathways & Development** – ensuring high-performance venues and hubs are in place to support athlete progression and event delivery.
- **Collaboration & Partnerships** – aligning landowners, operators, government and the athletics community to ensure sustainable provision and management.

20 key strategies have been identified to support these pillars and underpin Strategy action and implementation.

By implementing this framework and key strategies, NSW Athletics aims to achieve five key outcomes:

1. Equitable access to facilities across all regions of NSW.
2. Fit-for-purpose venues that meet safety, quality and usability standards.
3. Inclusive and accessible environments for all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
4. Sustainable operations for clubs, venues and the broader athletics network.
5. Adoption of innovative planning, data and technology solutions to future-proof the sport.

Individual priority projects to support these outcomes include the revitalisation of the State Athletics Centre at Sydney Olympic Park, delivery of strategically located Regional Athletics Hubs, renewal of synthetic tracks, and upgrades to amenities that enhance accessibility and child safety. Collectively, these investments will close critical gaps in provision, address regional inequities and build capacity for future growth.

Looking ahead, this Strategy positions athletics in NSW to capitalise on the opportunities of Brisbane 2032, while leaving a legacy of greater participation, stronger pathways and facilities that inspire and connect communities across the state.

It is both a roadmap for the next decade and a call to action for partners, stakeholders and government to invest in the future of athletics.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

STRATEGIC DRIVERS AND KEY CHALLENGES

A comprehensive review of athletics facilities across New South Wales has identified a number of strategic drivers and systemic challenges that must be addressed to secure the sport's future and ensure equitable access for all communities. These insights form the foundation for the NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy.

ALIGNMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

NSW Athletics is aligned in its commitment to grow participation, strengthen athlete pathways and increase facility provision. Achieving these objectives requires stronger coordination with government, education providers, landowners and other stakeholders to ensure investment is targeted, consistent and sustainable.

PARTICIPATION GROWTH AND ACCESS

Athletics engages more than 50,000 registered members and over 1 million school students each year. However, the network is heavily reliant on grass tracks (89%) with only 3 synthetic (or all-weather) tracks available statewide. This creates geographic inequities across metropolitan and regional NSW, limiting opportunities and placing additional pressure on existing venues.

With participation in Athletics projected to grow by 11% to 2039, and with Brisbane 2032 expected to drive further demand, facility capacity must be expanded and strategically located in order to close the vulnerability gaps across the network.

INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITATIONS

The existing network faces significant pressures:

- **Ageing and limited track stock** – reliance on weather-dependent grass facilities and ageing synthetic tracks undermines reliability and safety.
- **Access and affordability** – temporary venue closures, renewal projects and over-subscription restrict participation and increase costs for clubs and schools.
- **Cost of renewal** – track renewal, amenity upgrades and maintenance costs have all escalated significantly, as has competition for government investment.
- **Supporting amenities** – outdated or insufficient changerooms, toilets, storage and spectator areas limit inclusivity and event delivery.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Increasing impacts from flooding, storms, extreme heat and limited water access are affecting the long-term sustainability of athletics facilities, particularly grass tracks. Environmental considerations in site selection, design and maintenance are critical to reducing vulnerability and ensuring the network remains resilient.

By minimising disruption and managing climate-related risks, facilities can better support participation and program delivery across NSW.

CLUB AND OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Volunteer decline and inconsistent revenue streams and management models place long-term sustainability of clubs and venues at risk. In many cases, facilities are also under pressure for multi-sport use, which reduces availability for athletics and compromises the delivery of field events. Finding the balance with shared use or multi-sport access can be challenging for some venues but it may also be viewed as a potential investment opportunity for others.

INNOVATION AND FUTURE READINESS

Athletics in NSW has been slow to adopt international facility trends such as indoor or short-track venues and to integrate modern technology, including digital timing, video streaming and performance analytics.

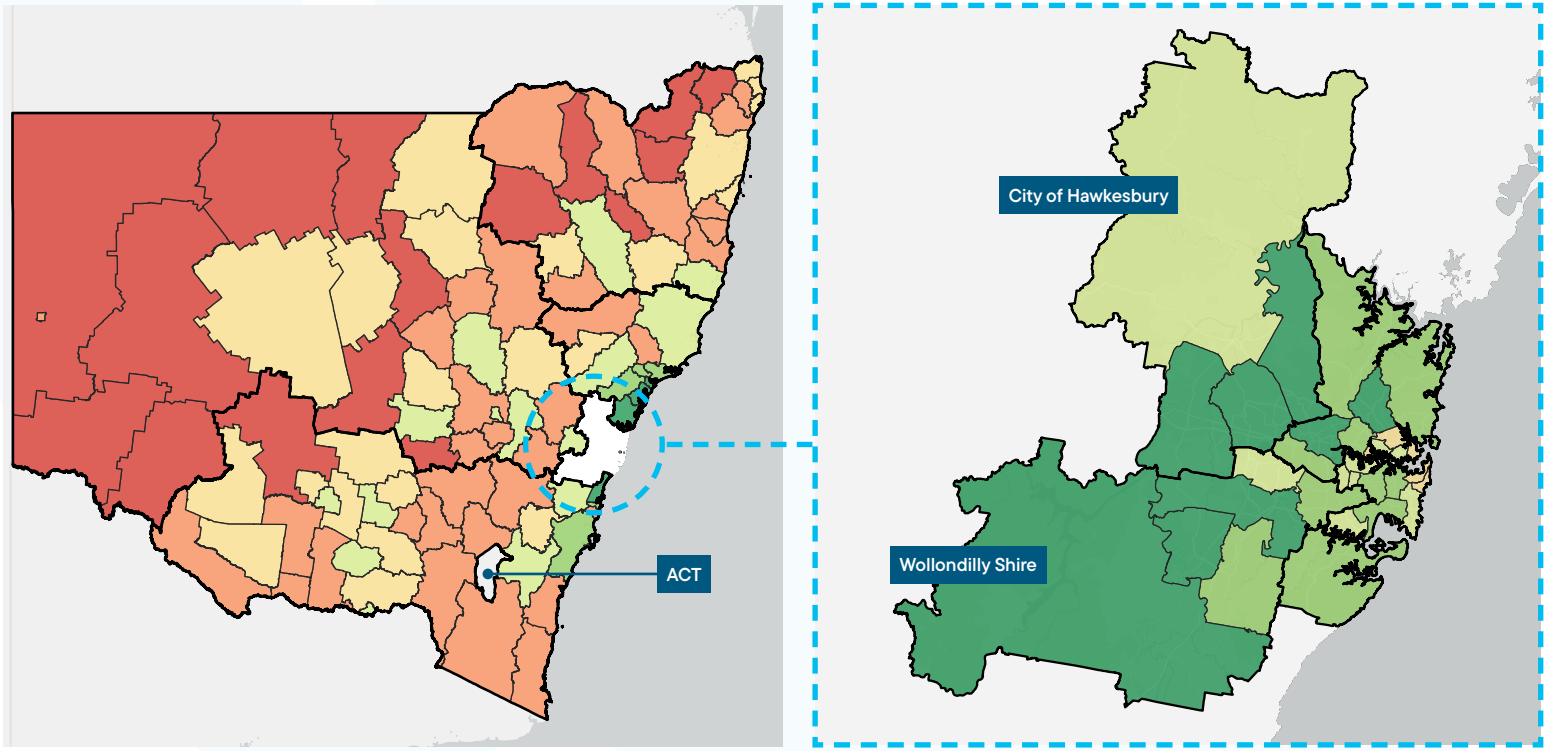
A lack of coordinated infrastructure planning in growth areas has further limited the sport's ability to meet future demand. Proactive land use planning - identifying future greenfield sites, protecting open space, and engaging early with developers and government - will be critical to ensuring long-term facility provision. Without timely action, NSW risks falling behind other states in delivering contemporary, accessible and innovative venues and in realising the legacy opportunities of Brisbane 2032.

POTENTIAL FUTURE DEMAND FOR ATHLETICS

The potential demand for Athletics across all NSW Local Government Areas (LGAs) has been mapped using an Athletics Demand Model. The model and associated criteria used to develop the outputs is further referenced in Appendix 3. Key potential high-level demand hot spots are highlighted by the green and dark green shaded LGA locations.

NON-METROPOLITAN LGAs BY DEMAND SCORE

METROPOLITAN SYDNEY LGAs BY DEMAND SCORE



The Athletics Demand Model uses four key metrics to assess potential demand. A rating (or score) of 1 to 6 has been applied to each demand metric, with a maximum possible total demand score per LGA of 24. The higher the total demand score, the greater the demand for athletics facility provision is likely to be.

- > 16-24
- > 13-15
- > 10-12
- > 8-9
- > 5-7
- > 0-4

More detailed demand analysis has been conducted at LGA and NSW Athletics Region level and is available in the NSW Athletics State of Play Report that complements this Strategy.

STRATEGIC FACILITIES FRAMEWORK

VISION	Secure the sport's future through a unified network of quality, inclusive and innovative facilities.					
STRATEGIC PILLARS	**ONE:** Community Participation		**TWO:** Pathways & Development		**THREE:** Collaboration & Partnerships	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Ensure athletics facilities are inclusive, designed to enhance user experience and promote opportunities for all to participate, coach, officiate, volunteer and spectate.		Develop a strategic network of venues that create high-performance environments to support athlete development, coaching excellence and event delivery.		Work closely with landowners, facility operators and the club network to ensure facilities consider sustainable and innovative approaches to provision, management and financial operation.	
PRINCIPLES	1.1 Capacity & Capability	1.2 Safe & Inclusive Environments	2.1 Talent Development	2.2 Elite Performance	3.1 Sustainability & Innovation	3.2 Partnership Support
KEY STRATEGIES	20 Key Strategies and Actions have been developed and presented over the following pages.					
DESIRED OUTCOMES	Equitable access to quality athletics facilities across all regions of NSW.	Improved facility quality, safety and usability for athletes of all levels.	Welcoming, safe, and inclusive environments are provided for all participants.	The long-term sustainability of clubs and venues is secured.	Modernised facility planning, data and operating methods are implemented, and innovative approaches are embraced in the future.	

ONE: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Strategic objective: Ensure athletics facilities are inclusive, designed to enhance user experience and promote opportunities for all to participate, coach, officiate, volunteer and spectate.

Principles	Key Strategies	Outcomes / Targets
1.1 Capacity & capability	1.1.1 Audit athletics venues to identify ways to boost facility capacity and participation and assess accessibility and universal design needs.	• All regional hubs to be audited by 2028. • Audits of all other venues to follow by 2030.
	1.1.2 Upgrade track surfaces, lighting and other venue features to support year-round use.	• Utilise audit findings to prioritise venue specific needs. • Utilise Appendix 4 to advocate for synthetic track renewals.
	1.1.3 Advocate for new facilities and expansion of existing facilities in growth and identified high-demand areas.	• Develop facility plans with relevant LGAs and landowners and advise on ideal facility amenities and attributes (use the Athletics Facility Hierarchy in Appendix 1 to guide needs).
	1.1.4 Monitor usage and event data across all venues to guide future investment priorities.	• Maintain annual membership and event data by club / centre / venue – prepare annual summaries to support advocacy. • Prepare summarised event and school carnival hosted content for each venue.
1.2 Safe & inclusive environments	1.2.1 Partner with landowners to support accessibility improvements to meet universal design needs across the venue network.	• Use audit data to identify priority access improvements required. • Advise landowners of athletics specific needs across the venue network as audit results become available.
	1.2.2 Support initiatives that create inclusive competition and training environments.	• Identify and promote venues that support wheelchair and other para-athletics activities, competitions and events.
	1.2.3 Prioritise upgrades to change rooms, toilets and spectator areas.	• Use audit data to advocate to LGAs and landowners on where key improvement projects are required. • Prepare best practice case studies to showcase great examples of provision and the benefit of investment.
	1.2.4 Support facilities that enhance child and athlete safety (e.g. shade, storage, track improvements).	• Prepare best practice case studies to showcase great examples of provision and the benefit of investment.

TWO: PATHWAYS & DEVELOPMENT

Strategic objective: Develop a strategic network of venues that create high-performance environments to support athlete development, coaching excellence and event delivery.

Principles	Key Strategies	Outcomes / Targets
2.1 Talent development	2.1.1 Create a statewide network of Regional Athletics Hubs to support talent ID, regional competition and reduce travel impacts.	• Work towards a minimum of 2 Regional Athletics Hubs in each Region by 2032.
	2.1.2 Enhance venues that can serve as para-athletics development hubs.	• Identify and promote venues that support wheelchair and other para-athletics activities, competitions and events.
	2.1.3 Promote the need for flexible indoor spaces for coach and official training and education.	• Create spaces in Regional Athletics Hub facilities. • Grow coach and official numbers over time.
2.2 Elite performance	2.2.1 Secure Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre (SOPAC) as NSW's State Athletics Centre for high-performance, athlete management and State / National events.	• Develop SOPAC master plan in conjunction with relevant stakeholders. • Secure the Newington Armory as a long-term cross-country event facility. • Partner with NSWIS in the planning and advocacy for an indoor training facility within Syndey Olympic Park. • Negotiate ongoing use, access and headquarters for NSW Athletics at SOPAC.
	2.2.2 Fill gaps in the high-performance training venue network ahead of Brisbane 2032.	• Prioritise new venues in Orange, Lismore, Port Macquarie Hastings and in Sydney's North and NSW South Coast.

THREE: COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic objective: Work closely with landowners, facility operators and the club network to ensure facilities consider sustainable and innovative approaches to provision, management and financial operation.

Principles	Key Strategies	Outcomes / Targets
3.1 Sustainability & Innovation	3.1.1 Explore a new Indoor Training / Short Track facility in Metropolitan Sydney.	• Investigate with government and other partners potential sites that may support indoor venue development. • Advocate to NSW Government to support a detailed feasibility study and business case for a venue.
	3.1.2 Promote shared-use models (e.g. shared fields, sprint lanes).	• Develop operating and management guidelines that demonstrate how shared use models can work.
	3.1.3 Join the Sport Environment Alliance (SEA) network and seek support on climate-resilient design in all new and upgraded venues (e.g. solar, water harvesting and use of low-impact materials).	• Join SEA and participate in annual conference and education opportunities. • Contribute relevant research and data on the athletics facility network as it relates to environmental sustainability.
	3.1.4 Continue to develop software platforms to further integrate NSW Athletics membership, participant, event and facilities data and GIS intelligence.	• Review current software platform capabilities by 2027. • Improve existing or implement new reporting to better inform facility provision, usage numbers and venue performance.
3.2 Partnership support	3.2.1 Advocate for a NSW Athletics Infrastructure Fund with government partners.	• Secure annual funding program to support the delivery of NSW athletics facility priorities. • Align funding objectives and priorities with other sports, education sector and aligned stakeholders in order to create greater shared investment attraction opportunities.
	3.2.2 Expand the facility network through partnerships with education and university sector, landowners and developers.	• Identify preferred future locations and provide relevant data and guidance on facility provision needs.
	3.2.3 Create planning, asset management and operational guidelines for clubs and facility owners.	• Develop draft guidelines in collaboration with Australian Athletics to inform recommended facility audit process in Strategy 1.1.1. • Use the Athletics Facility Hierarchy and available industry information and technical requirements to prepare guidelines.

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INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

ATHLETICS FACILITY HIERARCHY

Athletics facilities serve a variety of purposes across the facility hierarchy—from elite training and professional events to regional hubs and local clubs/centres supporting grassroots programs.

Providing the right mix of facilities in the right locations is essential to a sustainable sporting ecosystem in NSW. It supports club viability and encourages participation across all levels.

NSW Athletics recognises the critical role these venues play in delivering programs, competitions, events and development pathways at every level of the sport.

The Athletics Facility Hierarchy aligns with the strategic objectives of the sport, ensuring facilities are fit-for-purpose and support the sport's broader structure.

Appendix 1 provides full details of facilities, amenities and infrastructure recommended at each level of the hierarchy.

Athletics Facility Hierarchy

Hierarchy Level	Facility Role	Facility Examples	"Preferred" World Athletics Classification
State Athletics Centre	The showpiece facility for Athletics in NSW, catering for the highest level of events (international, national, state) and primary location for high-performance training and development.	Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre (SOPAC)	Class I
Regional Athletics Hub (Metro & Non-Metro)	Strategically located full-service venues that can deliver a full range of athletics competitions, programs, events and high-performance training/coaching. Catering for Regional and NSW scale events and providing full synthetic tracks and associated support amenities.	Campbelltown Athletics Centre (Leumeah); Beaton Park Athletics Track (Wollongong)	Class II
Local Club / Centre	Traditional Local Athletics Clubs and Centres designed and developed to support open age and/or little athletics training, activities, programs, competitions or Gala Days. Predominately providing seasonal grass tracks, but capable of catering for Zone level competitions and events (larger centres) or local / club event hosting capabilities (for smaller centres).	Alder Park (Newcastle); Balmoral Oval (Mosman)	N/A
School or Temporary Athletics Venue	Temporarily marked tracks or throwing areas at schools or other locations to support training use, seasonal PE programs, one-off events or cross-country circuits.	Newington College (Inner West)	N/A

ATHLETICS FACILITY PROVISION

There are currently 202 known athletics facilities across NSW, supporting a broad range of participation, programming, competition and event delivery.

Of these, 84 facilities are located within metropolitan Sydney, with the remaining 118 distributed across regional NSW.

The State's principal venue is the State Athletics Centre at Sydney Olympic Park (SOPAC), the former site of the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is the only location in NSW with two synthetic athletics tracks at a single location.

In addition, a network of Regional Athletics Hubs is distributed throughout the State, with at least one hub located in each of NSW's eight regions.

A key priority of the NSW Athletics Facility Strategy is to ensure the adequate provision of Regional Athletics Hubs across all regions while maintaining the long-term sustainability of the broader facility network.

Refer to Appendix 2 for further regional facility and membership analysis.

Athletics Facility Provision in NSW by Hierarchy and Region

Region	Total Athletics Venues	State Athletics Centre	Regional Athletics Hubs	Local Clubs / Centres	School or Temporary Venues
Region 1 - NSW North	29	-	1	26	2
Region 2 - Central Coast/ Hunter	36	-	4*	30	2
Region 3 - NSW West	24	-	1	23	-
Region 4 - NSW South	29	-	4	24	4
Region 5 - Sydney North	27	1	2	20	4
Region 6 - Sydney North-West	23	-	3	20	-
Region 7 - Sydney South-West	18	-	4	14	1
Region 8 - Sydney South-East	16	-	1	7*	4
Total venues by hierarchy	202	1	20	164	17

* The Hensley Athletics Track in Sydney South-East and the Fearnley Dawes Athletics Track in Central Coast/Hunter both only have 6-lane synthetic tracks.

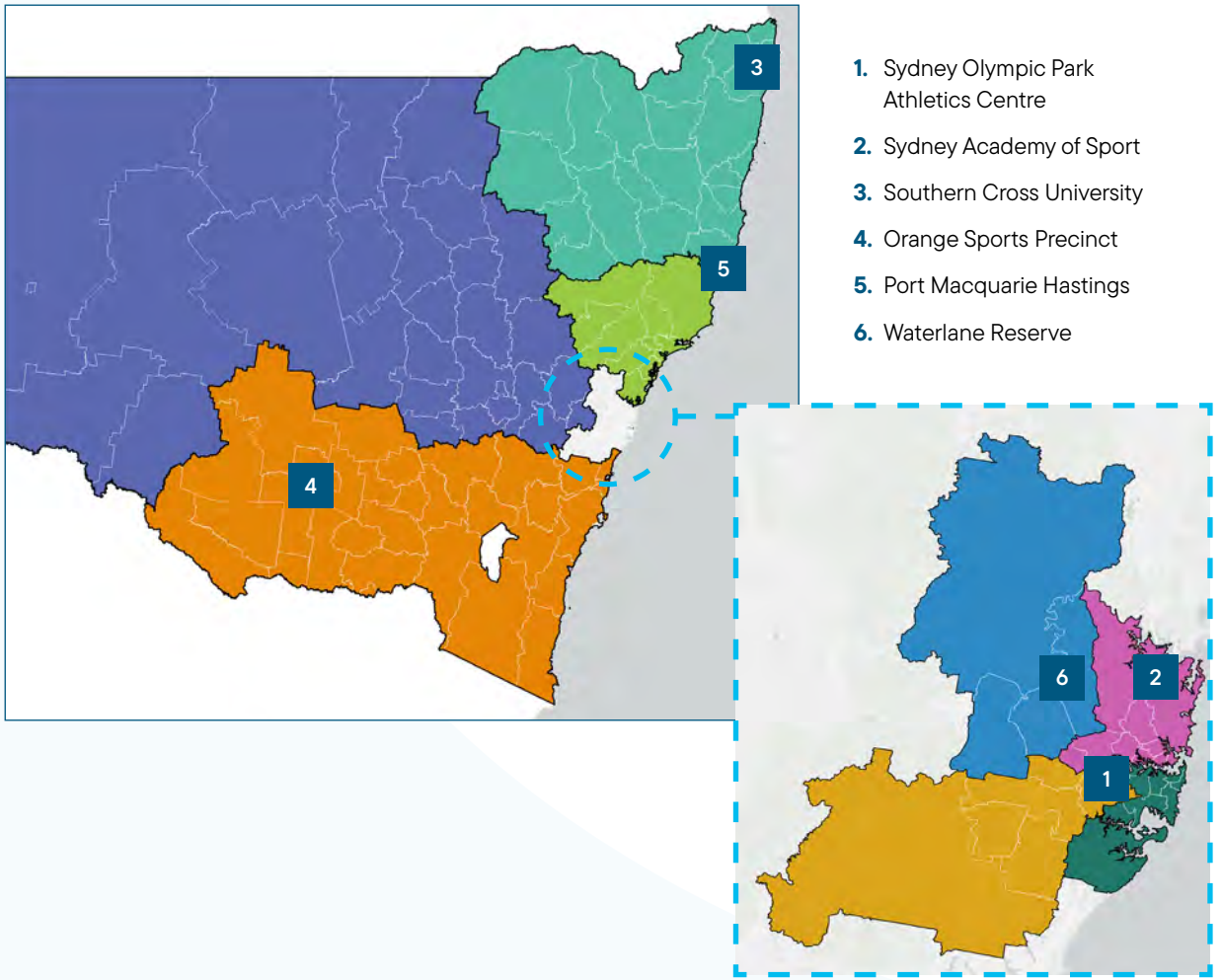
PRIORITY VENUE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Identified major infrastructure development projects for Athletics in NSW represent a network of significant opportunities that will be transformative for the sport in the long-term and will support participation growth, improve accessibility for talent pathways and ensure efficient event hosting and management.

Each of the identified projects are regionally significant. They have been strategically identified through the development of the NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy and evidenced through a rigorous data analysis and stakeholder consultation program.

Key projects are based in both the Greater Sydney area, as well as in regional locations across NSW. Each project is focused on creating a quality and accessible network of Regional Athletics Hubs that support the NSW Athletics Facility Hierarchy structure.

Priority projects are all in various stages of their planning and delivery and each will form part of Athletics' combined advocacy to ensure there is sufficient investment made into their implementation.



1. Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre
2. Sydney Academy of Sport
3. Southern Cross University
4. Orange Sports Precinct
5. Port Macquarie Hastings
6. Waterlane Reserve

PRIORITY 1: STATE ATHLETICS CENTRE

The sustainability and ongoing revitalisation of the Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre (SOPAC) is vital for the health, growth and development of athletics in NSW.

SOPAC is a unique flagship facility, serving as the state's premier venue for track and field. Purpose-built for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, SOPAC remains the most iconic and internationally recognised athletics venue in NSW.

SOPAC holds a World Athletics Class II track certification, enabling it to host high-performance and nationally sanctioned competitions.

The centre is regularly used for major events including State and National Championships, Olympic and Paralympic trials and school sport finals, making it a critical piece of infrastructure for the entire athletics pathway.

The facility comprises a nine-lane synthetic track with full field event amenities, a dedicated warm-up track, and associated high-performance features such as advanced timing systems, competition lighting and athlete support spaces.

SOPAC also accommodates a broad range of user groups, from grassroots little athletics to elite programs delivered by NSW Athletics and the NSW Institute of Sport.

Its location within Sydney Olympic Park ensures exceptional public transport access and co-location with other national-level sporting facilities, supporting multi-sport development and integrated programming.

As a high-capacity, high-quality venue, SOPAC plays a vital role in enabling participation, performance, and progression in athletics across NSW.

Opportunities for improvement to the SOPAC venue and opportunities for additional athletics provision within the Sydney Olympic Park precinct also need to be explored in order to create NSW's only full-service athletics venue.

In the future, Athletics in Sydney Olympic Park has the potential to provide:

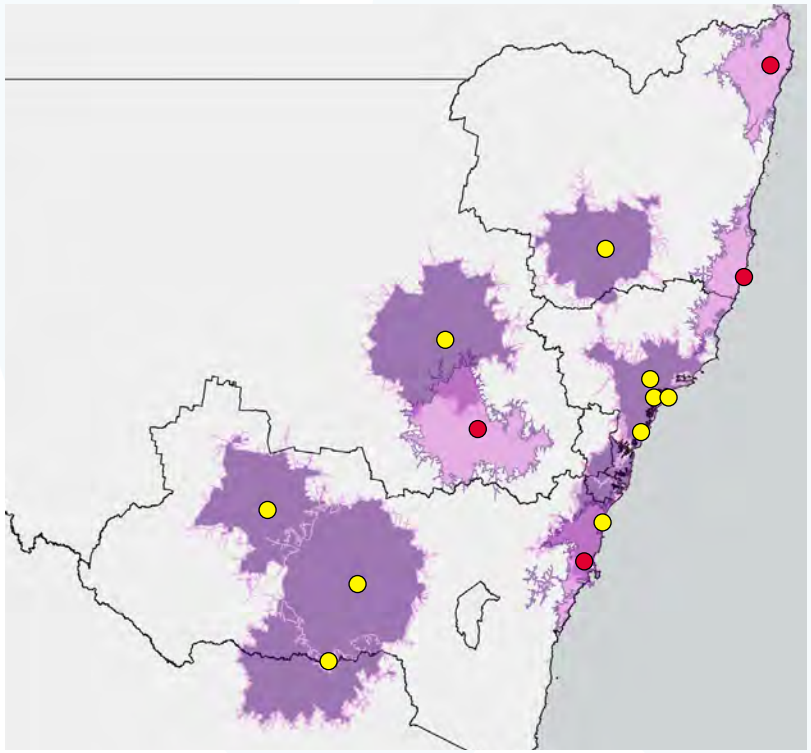
- Track and Field activities within SOPAC (potentially with Class I and II tracks)
- Road events throughout the Sydney Olympic Park road and path network
- Cross Country at The Armory
- Indoor high-performance training and short-track provision at NSWIS.

Sydney Olympic Park could become the most significant, all-purpose athletics precinct within Australia, developing it as Australia's most unique, innovative and technically advanced athletics venue in Australia.

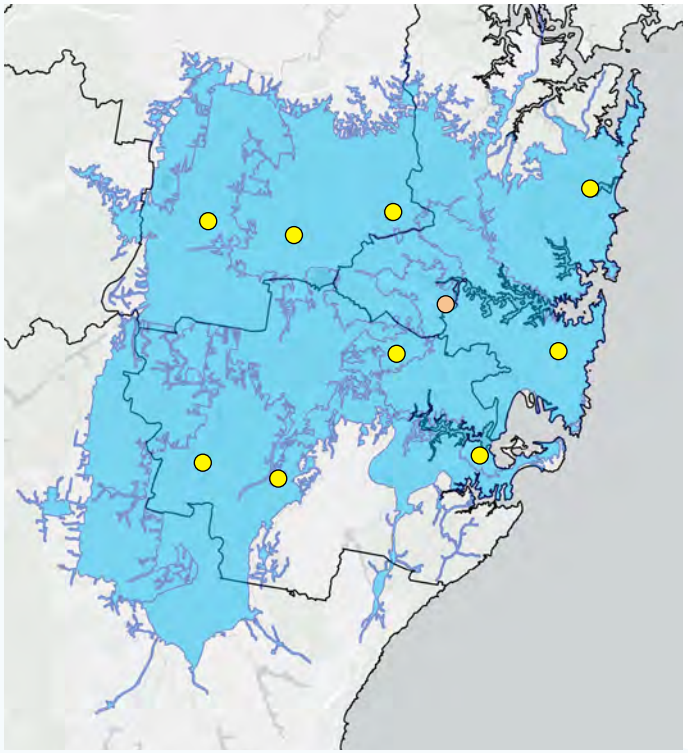
PRIORITY 2: REGIONAL ATHLETICS HUB DELIVERY

The following maps provide the existing locations of the State Athletics Centre and the 20 identified existing Regional Athletics Hubs across Greater Sydney and NSW. Potential future Regional Athletics Hubs are also located to guide priority development and delivery over the next decade. Investment in these Hubs is vital to ensure geographical gaps in the NSW facility network can be closed.

ALL OF NSW (EXCLUDING METRO SYDNEY VENUES)



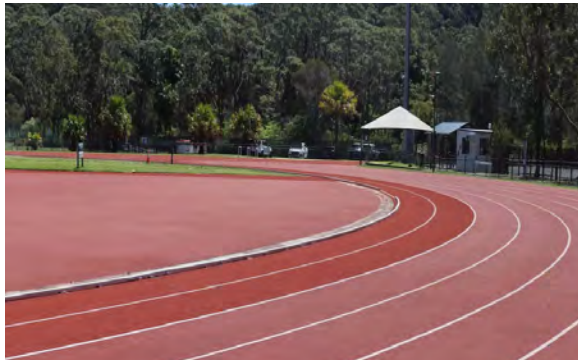
METRO SYDNEY (ZOOMED IN)



- State Athletics Centre
- Regional Athletics Hub
- Potential Future Regional Athletics Hub
- 90 minute drive time for existing non-metro hubs
- 90 minute drive time for proposed new regional hub locations
- 30 minute drive time for existing metro hubs

PRIORITY 2: REGIONAL HUB DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT



Venue: Sydney Academy of Sport

Location: Narrabeen, Northen Beaches Council

Athletics Region: Region 5 – Sydney North

Hierarchy: Regional Athletics Hub

Facilities: Full renovation of existing track to Class II, including drainage improvements.

Key purpose: Bring venue back online and continue to support a significantly growing region.

Project budget: $8.3m, including $6.7m NSW Government 2025/26 state budget allocation.

Timeline: Likely completion by 2028

SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

Venue: Southern Cross University

Location: Lismore, City of Lismore

Athletics Region: Region 1 – NSW North

Hierarchy: Regional Athletics Hub

Facilities: 400m synthetic track, long jump, javelin, shot put, discus, hammer throw and pole vault.

Key purpose: Address regional facility gap in Northern NSW. Potential training base for Brisbane 2032 Games.

Project budget: Unknown, $3.6m NSW Government grant confirmed in 2025.

Timeline: Planned completion pre-2032

ORANGE SPORTS PRECINCT

Venue: Orange Sports Precinct

Location: Orange, Orange City Council

Athletics Region: Region 3 – NSW West

Hierarchy: Regional Athletics Hub

Facilities: Floodlit 400m synthetic track, throwing and jumping field disciplines, storage, athlete and spectator amenities. Class II level track.

Key purpose: New athletics facility development that addresses a geographical gap between venues in Dubbo, Wagga, Canberra and Western Sydney.

Project budget: Estimated $10m, with funding commitments from Federal Government and Local Council.

Timeline: Likely completion by 2027

PRIORITY 2: REGIONAL HUB DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS

Venue: Wayne Richards Park

Location: Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Athletics Region: Region 1 – NSW North

Hierarchy: Regional Athletics Hub

Facilities: Facilities and amenities to meet Regional Athletics Hub hierarchy levels.

Key purpose: Synthetic athletics track that addresses a geographical gap in the NSW North Region between venues in Newcastle, Tamworth, Coffs Harbour and Lismore (new venue proposed).

Project budget: Unknown

Timeline: Ideally by 2032

WATERLANE RESERVE (BOX HILL)

Venue: Waterlane Reserve

Location: Box Hill, The Hills Shire

Athletics Region: Region 6 – Sydney North-West

Hierarchy: Local Club / Centre

Facilities: New athletics site with full range of track and field provision, with athlete and spectator amenities. Grass only track with shared use and access.

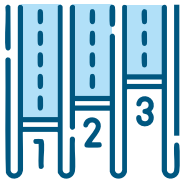
Key purpose: Will not develop to regional athletics hub capacity, but addresses the significant identified demand within the LGA and Region.

Project budget: Unknown

Timeline: Master planned in 2020, medium to long-term development window

PRIORITY 3: LOCALISED VENUE PROJECT DELIVERY

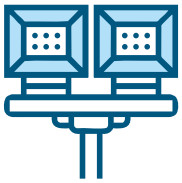
The NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy identifies a number of gaps in the existing facilities network across the state. Several localised infrastructure priorities have been identified to enable the sport and its stakeholders to deliver on the sports' vision and strategic objectives and to assist in meeting facility hierarchy provision levels across the network. Securing an annual funding and support program from government and industry partners will be critical to driving localised facility projects.



Synthetic Track Renewal Projects

Goal: Ensure all existing synthetic athletics tracks across NSW are renewed within their 10-year life span, with 15 tracks to be renewed by 2035.

Refer to Appendix 4 for likely track renewal timeframes and annual priorities based on life-cycle status and conditions.



Track and Field Lighting

Goal: Ensure the synthetic track network across NSW provides a mix of training and competition standard lighting to support year-round athletics participation.

Use proposed athletics facility network audit, participation and event needs to identify priority venue lighting projects.

Track and Amenity Upgrades

Goal: Prioritise upgrades to existing grass tracks and to off-field amenities including change rooms, toilets, spectator areas and social facilities that enhance child safety, promote inclusivity and deliver improved accessibility.

Use proposed athletics facility network audit, participation, event and club needs to identify priority venue improvement projects.

Management Practices

Goal: Assist landowners, managers and user groups to develop appropriate supporting infrastructure (such as storage, canteens, technology systems) in order to support the transition of athletics venues into long-term sustainable operating models.

Identify key models that work for different facility hierarchy levels and usage and work collaboratively with stakeholders to implement them.

STRATEGY DELIVERY & IMPLEMENTATION

NSW ATHLETICS ROLE

NSW Athletics have a strong and vested interest in ensuring the athletics facility network across NSW is accessible. They also need to ensure facilities are activated in ways that ensure all users feel welcomed, engaged and supported on their journey through the sport.

To achieve this and to support the range of actions and implementation initiatives identified within this Strategy, NSW Athletics will need to focus on three key roles:

1. Advocate
2. Lead
3. Collaborate

1. ADVOCATE

NSW Athletics plays a critical role in advocating for state-wide investment in athletics infrastructure. To be effective, advocacy efforts must be unified and clearly articulate the sport's infrastructure priorities.

This Strategy provides the foundation for consistent messaging and helps identify key priorities for future facility investment and support.

2. LEAD

Athletics as a sport offers broad guidance on facility needs, drawing from international (World Athletics) and national (Australian Athletics) standards.

However, existing guidance primarily focuses on high-performance and technical requirements, with limited clarity around the needs of local clubs and community centres.

NSW Athletics, through the NSW Athletics Facility Hierarchy outlined in this Strategy, will provide targeted direction to define infrastructure standards and support the development of fit-for-purpose facilities that meet both community and sporting needs.

Guidance on developing collaborative design solutions and multi-use outcomes is also a role NSW Athletics can play with venue stakeholders.

3. COLLABORATE

There are strong opportunities across NSW for shared use of athletics facilities, especially within the sport itself.

NSW Athletics has already led the way nationally by aligning Little Athletics and Athletics NSW — this alignment will extend to facility use and provision.

Further collaboration with Government and Education sectors—key stakeholders in athletics infrastructure—will strengthen support and sustainability.

Developing a partnership framework and clearly communicating shared benefits is vital to building, maintaining and operating high-quality, community-focused facilities.

STAKEHOLDER ROLES

Many stakeholders and partners have been identified as playing an important role in the implementation of the NSW Athletics Facilities Strategy.

The adjacent table provides a high-level summary of Athletics' core stakeholders in facility planning, provision and access, and identifies how each stakeholder group can support the sport in NSW to achieve its strategic objectives related to facilities.

The role and extent to which stakeholders are involved and engaged will vary between each specific strategy and related action.

Stakeholder roles

Stakeholder group	Key roles in supporting Strategy implementation
NSW Government	• Align state and federal planning for sport infrastructure • Define key policy directions for sport facility funding • Clarify NSW's position on Brisbane 2032-related initiatives • Co-fund NSW Athletics' priority facility projects • Maintain priority access to Sydney Olympic Park as the State Athletics Centre
Local Government	• Co-invest in NSW Athletics' priority facility projects • Support clubs with access to quality, affordable facilities • Assist with facility renewal and upgrades • Ensure seasonal and year-round access to facilities on Council land • Identify new sites for future facility provision and development • Collaborate on the development of business cases for new venue development
NSW and Australian Athletics	• Set facility standards based on hierarchy and athlete pathways • Factor venue access into event scheduling • Promote strong facility case studies • Lead facility-based collaboration will all levels of the Athletics community • Collect and share relevant data to strengthen the facility network
School Sport and Education Sector	• Embrace new approaches to facility use and programming • Share data on access, capacity, use and need • Support advocacy for facility investment and improvement • Explore ways schools can support and grow athletics participation
Industry Stakeholders	• Lead innovation in facility design and delivery • Provide data to support strong investment cases

NSW ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS ACROSS NSW

ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION IN NSW

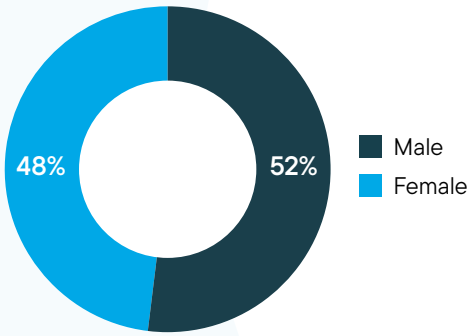
2024 REGISTERED NSW ATHLETICS MEMBERS

51,565[1]

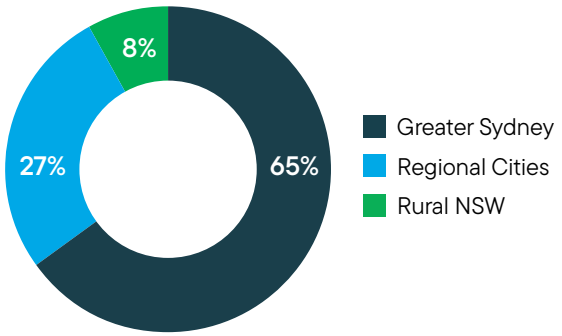
2024 MEMBERS BY CATEGORY

Participants	48,845
Coaches	811
Officials	321
Volunteers & other non-participants	1,588

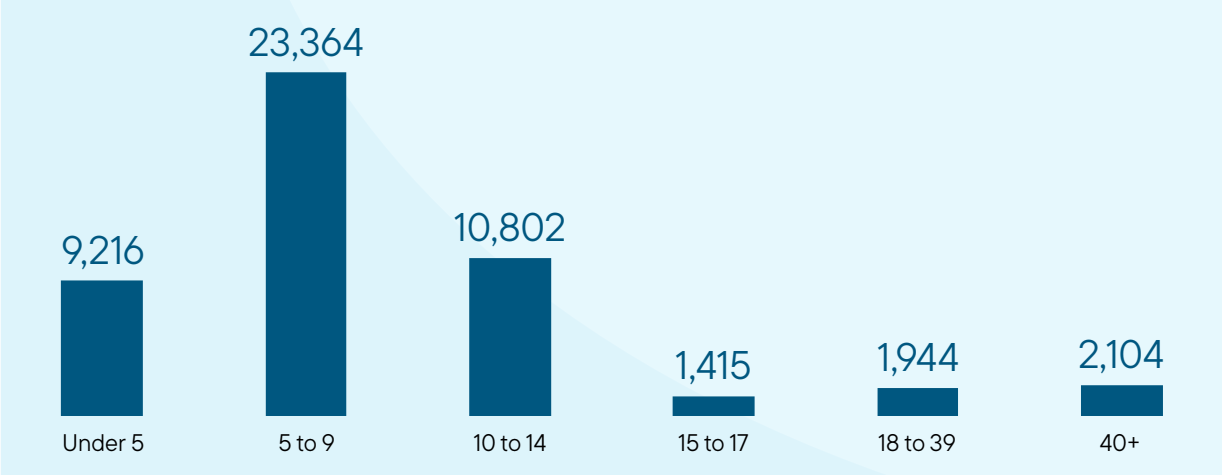
2024 PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER



2024 PARTICIPANTS BY LOCATION



2024 PARTICIPANTS BY AGE CATEGORY



1. This figure include all registered NSW Athletics members, participants, coaches, officials and other registered volunteers.

NSW SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

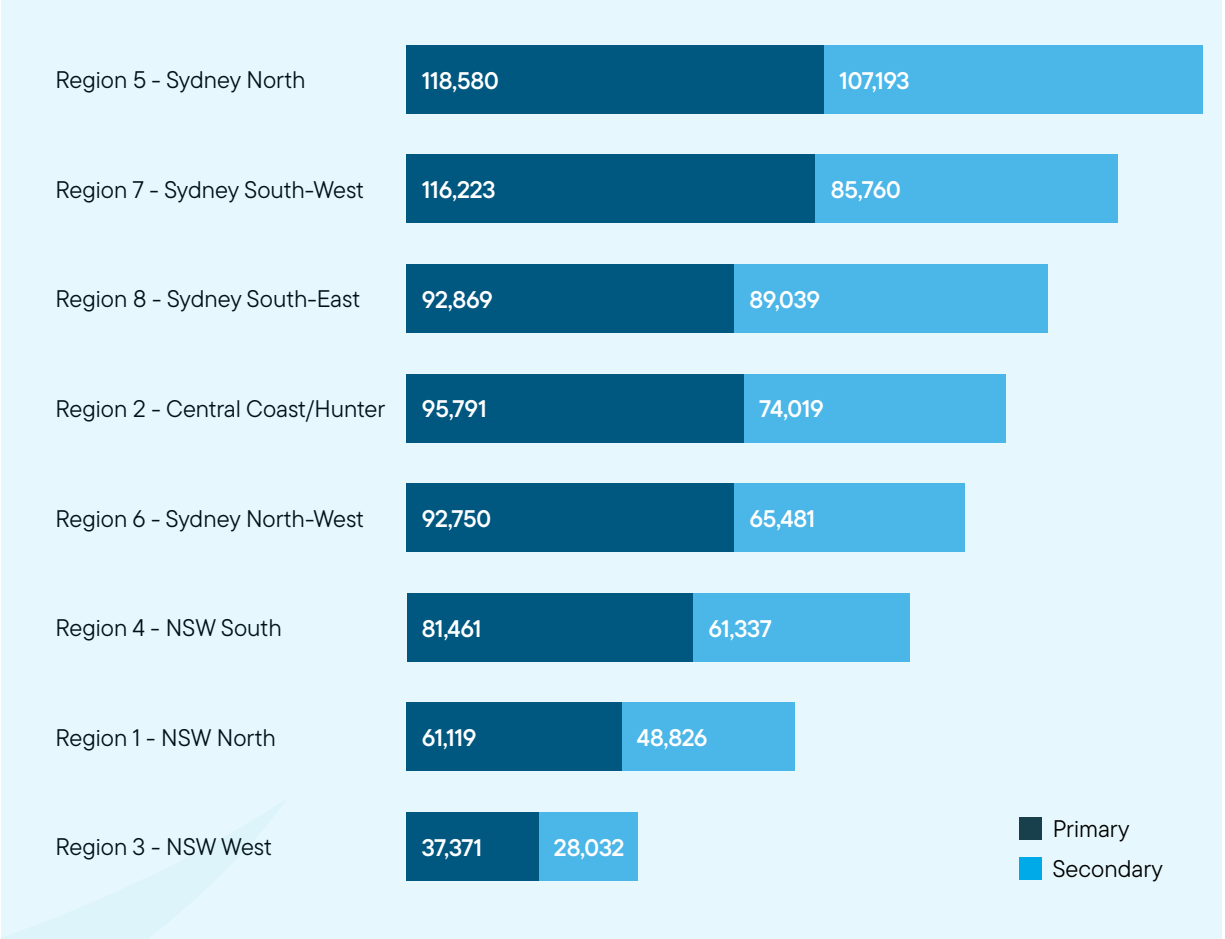
In 2024 there were 3,396 schools operating in NSW, including Government, Independent and Catholic schools, representing a total of 1.256M enrolled students.

Schools play an important and essential role in the Athletics community and offer a significant opportunity to young people to be exposed to the fundamentals of athletics activities.

School Sport NSW reported more than 2,400 schools across NSW participated in school-based athletics carnivals in 2024, representing 150 zones across the 8 regions. School-based athletics operates its own participant and athlete pathway, from local school carnivals, to Zone, to Region and through to a range of State Schools Championships and events.

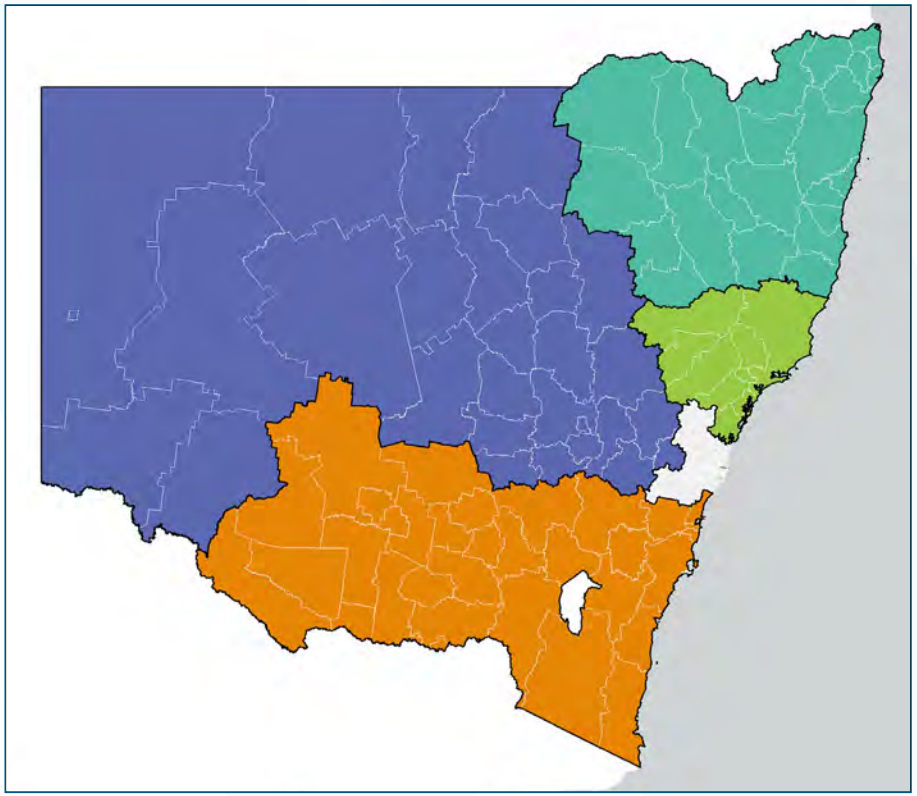
School athletics participation is facilitated alongside club-based community athletics and is considered a significant additional participant base. It is estimated that around 600,000 school students participated in some form of formal athletics program, event or carnival in 2024 across NSW (this includes those in Grade 4 primary school and above).

2024 NSW SCHOOL ENROLMENTS BY REGION – PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS



NON-METROPOLITAN REGIONS

The NSW Athletics region structure establishes four geographic regions across NSW (outside Metropolitan Sydney) based on local government boundaries. The four regions and their corresponding LGAs are provided within the map and table below (and on the following page). More detailed data analysis at a Regional and LGA level is provided in the following pages and in the complementary *NSW Athletics State of Play Report*.

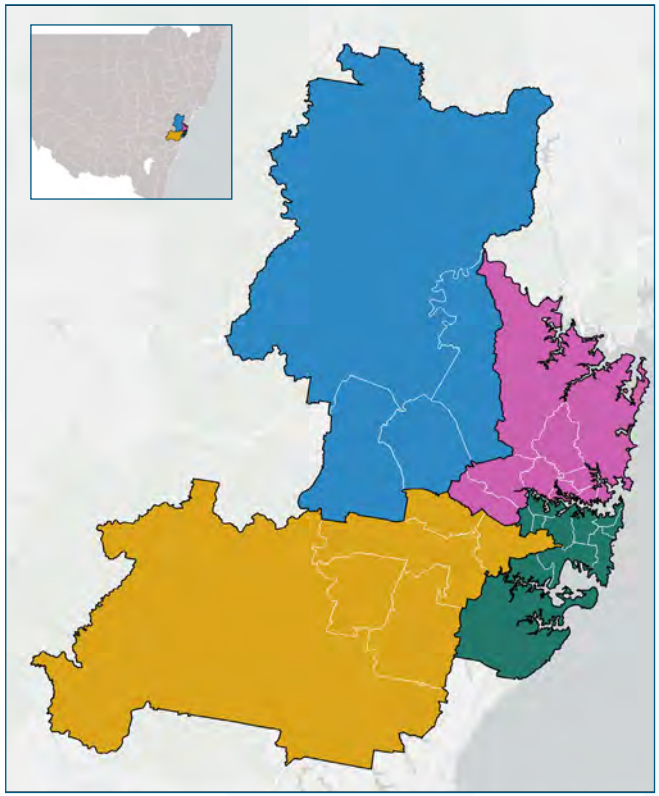


Region 1 - NSW North		Region 2 – Central Coast / Hunter
Armidale Regional	Port Macquarie-Hastings	Central Coast
Ballina	Richmond Valley	Cessnock
Bellingen	Tamworth Regional	Dungog
Byron	Tenterfield	Lake Macquarie
Clarence Valley	Tweed	Maitland
Coffs Harbour	Uralla	Mid-Coast
Glen Innes Severn	Walcha	Muswellbrook
Gunnedah		Newcastle
Gwydir		Port Stephens
Inverell		Singleton
Kempsey		Upper Hunter Shire
Kyogle		
Lismore		
Liverpool Plains		
Moree Plains		
Nambucca Valley		
Narrabri		

Region 3 - NSW West		Region 4 - NSW South	
Balranald	Mid-Western Regional	Albury	Leeton
Bathurst Regional	Narromine	Bega Valley	Lockhart
Blayney	Oberon	Berrigan	Murray River
Blue Mountains	Orange	Bland	Murrumbidgee
Bogan	Parkes	Carrathool	Narrandera
Bourke	Walgett	Coolamon	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional
Brewarrina	Warren	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	Shellharbour
Broken Hill	Warrumbungle Shire	Edward River	Shoalhaven
Cabonne	Weddin	Eurobodalla	Snowy Monaro Regional
Central Darling	Wentworth	Federation	Snowy Valleys
Cobar		Goulburn Mulwaree	Temora
Coonamble		Greater Hume Shire	Upper Lachlan Shire
Cowra		Griffith	Wagga Wagga
Dubbo Regional		Hay	Wingecarribee
Forbes		Hilltops	Wollongong
Gilgandra		Junee	Yass Valley
Lachlan		Kiama	
Lithgow			

METROPOLITAN REGIONS

The NSW Athletics region structure establishes four geographic regions across Metropolitan Sydney based on local government boundaries. The four regions and their corresponding LGAs are provided within the map and table below. More detailed data analysis at a Regional and LGA level is provided in the following pages and in the complementary *NSW Athletics State of Play Report*.



Region 5 - Sydney North	Region 6 - Sydney North-West	Region 7 - Sydney South-West	Region 8 - Sydney South-East
Cumberland	Blacktown	Camden	Bayside
Hornsby	Hawkesbury	Campbelltown	Burwood
Hunters Hill	Penrith	Canterbury-Bankstown	Canada Bay
Ku-ring-gai	The Hills Shire	Fairfield	Georges River
Lane Cove		Liverpool	Inner West
Mosman		Wollondilly	Randwick
North Sydney			Strathfield
Northern Beaches			Sutherland Shire
Parramatta			Sydney
Ryde			Waverley
Willoughby			Woollahra

NSW ATHLETICS MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Combined participation in NSW Athletics programs, activities and membership is very diverse. The following table represents combined member registrations for 2024 (by NSW Athletics Region) and by age cohorts (14 and under and 15 to 59 years). It highlights the diversity of participation by age and the geographic distribution of participation. Geographical representation of NSW Athletics regions and additional related data is provided in Appendix 2.

NSW Athletics Region	2024 Members by Region (aged 14 & under)	2024 Population by Region (aged 14 & under)	2024 Engagement % by Region (aged 14 & under)	2024 Members by Region (aged 15-59)	2024 Population by Region (aged 15-59)	2024 Engagement % by Region (aged 15-59)	2024 Members by Region (aged 0-59)	2024 Population by Region (aged 0-59)	2024 Engagement % by Region (aged 0-59)
Region 1 - NSW North	2,839	127,079	2.23%	506	370,379	0.14%	3,345	497,458	0.67%
Region 2 - Central Coast/Hunter	7,534	205,148	3.67%	474	627,522	0.08%	8,008	832,670	0.96%
Region 3 - NSW West	3,176	79,516	3.99%	388	220,680	0.18%	3,564	300,196	1.19%
Region 4 - NSW South	4,404	183,367	2.40%	445	555,349	0.08%	4,849	738,716	0.66%
Region 5 - Sydney North	7,055	256,263	2.75%	1,283	878,038	0.15%	8,338	1,134,301	0.74%
Region 6 - Sydney North-West	8,310	202,558	4.10%	401	587,661	0.07%	8,711	790,219	1.10%
Region 7 - Sydney South-West	4,813	253,482	1.90%	418	749,174	0.06%	5,231	1,002,656	0.52%
Region 8 - Sydney South-East	5,083	201,903	2.52%	1,131	972,926	0.12%	6,214	1,174,829	0.53%
Total	**43,214**	**1,509,316**	**2.86%**	**5,046**	**4,961,729**	**0.10%**	**48,260**	**6,471,045**	**0.75%**

Note: Athletics NSW registered participants aged 60 and above have not been included within this analysis. This age cohort only makes up 1.2% of the total NSW Athletics membership, but 23.5% of the total NSW population. To ensure that member-to-population analysis, engagement rates and ratios are meaningful, data analysis is focused on participants and population between the ages of 5 and 59. The table also only refers to NSW Athletics members who reside within NSW.

APPENDIX 1:
Athletics Facility Hierarchy

ATHLETICS FACILITY HIERARCHY

This hierarchy has been proposed to support the planning and sustainable development of athletics facilities across NSW.

#	Facility Type	Facility Role	Current Known Provision in NSW
1	**State Athletics Centre** (Sydney Olympic Park)	The showpiece facility for Athletics in NSW, catering for the highest level of events and primary location for high-performance training and development.	**1**
2	**Regional Athletics Hub** (Metro & Non-Metro)	Strategically located full-service venues that can deliver a full range of athletics competitions, programs, events and high-performance training/coaching. Catering for Regional and NSW scale events and providing full synthetic tracks and associated support amenities.	**20**
3	**Local Club / Centre**	Traditional Local Athletics Clubs and Centres designed and developed to support open age and/or little athletics training, activities, programs, competitions or Gala Days. Predominately providing seasonal grass tracks, but capable of catering for Zone level competitions and events (larger centres) or local / club event hosting capabilities (for smaller centres).	**164**
4	**School or Temporary Athletics Venue**	Temporarily marked tracks or throwing areas at schools or other locations to support training use, seasonal PE programs, one-off events or cross-country circuits.	**17 “known”**

STATE ATHLETICS CENTRE

Facility attributes	
Track provision (duplicated at main and warm-up tracks)	• 10 lane 100m synthetic track • 9 lane 400m synthetic track • Steeple chase, water jump • Marked for hurdles, distance, relays • Floodlit to broadcast / live stream level
Field facility provision (duplicated at main and warm-up tracks)	• Long and triple jump pits x 2 • Caged discus / hammer throw cages x 1 • Shot put circles x 2 • High jump area x 1 • Pole vault pit x 1-2 • Javelin runways x 2
The above elements are required to be duplicated to provide two separate track and field facilities – one to act as a main competition venue and the other as a secondary or warm up venue.	
Off-track amenities	• Admin & event management offices • Event timing, photo finish & presentation technology • Digital video board(s) • Equipment storage
Athlete support amenities	• Allied health & medical suites • Change rooms (male, female, accessible) • Drug testing room • First aid room • Shaded team & technical official areas
Visitor support amenities	• Kiosk / canteen (local use) • Spectator food & beverage outlets • Spectator seating & accommodation (500+ seats) • Spectator toilets & amenities • Temporary event overlay provision • 1,000+ car parks, train & bus transport

Programs and services	
High-performance	• Home of NSWIS • Elite, HP &/or professional athlete training centre • Para Athletics training & development centre • HP squads and training camps
Event use (highest level)	• International & national events • State Championships (e.g. NSW Open Champs) • State Schools Championships (e.g. NSW All Schools)
Club / community	• School carnivals – all age groups • Club hire

Planning and management conditions	
Hierarchy	• State Athletics Centre (x1) • Class II World Athletics Certification (minimum - Class I preferred)
Access	• Catchment area – State-wide • Located as part of major sports precinct
Management	• Professional / commercial management • 12-months of the year operation • Prioritised provision as an Athletics facility
Venue drivers	• Economic benefits driven through event delivery • NSW / AA talent identification and selection • Home of elite athlete, official, coach development • Aspirational location for pathway athletes

REGIONAL ATHLETICS HUB – METRO & NON-METRO

Facility attributes	
Track provision (competition)	• 9-10 lane 100m synthetic track • 8 lane 400m synthetic track • Marked for hurdles, distance, relays • Steeple chase, water jump • Competition level lighting (200+ lux)
Field facility provision	• Long and triple jump pits x 2-4 • Caged discus / hammer throw cages x 2 • Shot put circles x 2-4 • High jump area x 2 • Pole vault pit x 1-2 • Javelin runways x 1-2
Off-track amenities	• On-site storage • Social area / multi-use community space • Admin & event management office • Event timing, photo finish room • Digital scoreboard
Athlete support amenities	• Change rooms (male, female, accessible) • Shaded team & technical official areas • First aid room • Equipment hire
Visitor support amenities	• Kiosk / canteen (spectator access) • Spectator seating & accommodation (500 seats) • Spectator toilets & amenities • Access to 500+ shared car parks • Bus drop-off area • Public transport access within walking distance

Programs and services	
High-performance	• Para Athletics events, training and coaching • Private and high-performance coaching
Event use	• State championships (e.g. NSW Masters) • Country or Combined Championships • Regional / School Championships
Club / community	• Little Athletics Gala Days • Junior Athletics Treloar Shield, Specialist Series • Club Open and Masters training and competition • School carnivals – all age groups

Planning and management conditions	
Hierarchy	• Metropolitan or regional population centre location • Class II World Athletics Certification
Access	• Catchment area (metro) – 10km • Catchment area (regional) – 100km • Accessible to population (metro) – 250,000 • Accessible to population (regional) – 200,000 • 30min drive between metro athletics hubs • 90min drive between regional athletics hubs
Management	• Professional management / LGA managed • Combined club model to support operations • 12-months of the year operation
Venue drivers	• Align with NSW Sport Hub model • Regional scale event hosting – feeder for State events • Economic benefits driven through event delivery • Talent ID venue • Regional NSW Athletics administration (non-metro)
Environmental sustainability	• Avoid floodplain locations for new facilities • Consider site risk, climate vulnerability and asset recovery time • Consider access to sustainable water source for maintenance

LOCAL CLUB/CENTRE

Facility attributes	
Track provision (competition)	• 6-8 lane 100m & 400m grass track • Marked for hurdles, distance, relays • Training level lighting (100+ lux)
Field facility provision	• Long and triple jump pits x 2-4 • Caged discus / hammer throw cages x 1 • Discus circle x 2 • Shot put circles x 2 • High jump area x 1 • Javelin runways x 1
Off-track amenities	• On-site storage • Social area / multi-use community space preferable • Administration office preferable • Event timing equipment preferred
Athlete support amenities	• Toilets (male, female, accessible) • First aid room • Shaded team & technical official areas • Equipment hire (hurdles, jumping pads)
Visitor support amenities	• Kiosk / canteen (club use) • Spectator toilets, amenities and shade • Access to 250+ shared car parks

Programs and services	
High-performance	• Individual athlete coaching
Event use	• Seasonal club event use • School carnivals – Primary school • Zone / School Championships (potentially)
Club / community	• Little Athletics Gala Days • Club Open and Masters training and competition

Planning and management conditions	
Hierarchy	• Little Athletics Centre and/or Senior Club facility • Club based locations, determined by distance catchment
Access	• Minimum LGA population of 20,000 to trigger venue • One per 30,000 accessible population for multiple venues • Drive time between Local Club / Centre (metro) – up to 20min • Drive time between Local Club / Centre (regional) – up to 40min
Management	• Seasonal operation • Volunteer Club management
Venue drivers	• Combined Senior and Junior Club base • Initial introductory contact with the sport • Local access to all aspects of Athletics participation • Volunteer education
Environmental sustainability	• Avoid floodplain locations for new facilities • Consider site risk, climate vulnerability and asset recovery time • Consider access to sustainable water source for maintenance

SCHOOL OR TEMPORARY ATHLETICS FACILITY

Facility attributes	
Track provision	• 6-8 lane 100m & 400m grass track • Marked for relevant training activities • Cross country track / circuit marked
Field facility provision	• Discus circle line marked • Shot put circle line marked • Javelin runway line marked • High jump area
Off-track amenities	• Optional
Athlete support amenities	• Toilets (male, female, accessible)
Visitor support amenities	• Access to 250+ shared car parks • Shaded team & technical official areas

Programs and services	
High-performance	• N/A
Event use	• Potential for cross-country events
Club / community	• Seasonal school / PE program use • Occasional local club training use

Planning and management conditions	
Hierarchy	• School or Temporary Facility
Access	• School population • Casual or pre-booked use
Management	• School managed • Council managed
Venue drivers	• School athletics training and development needs • Community engagement • Cross-country running

Little Athletics
WE ARE LITTLE ATHLETICS
9561
597
6933

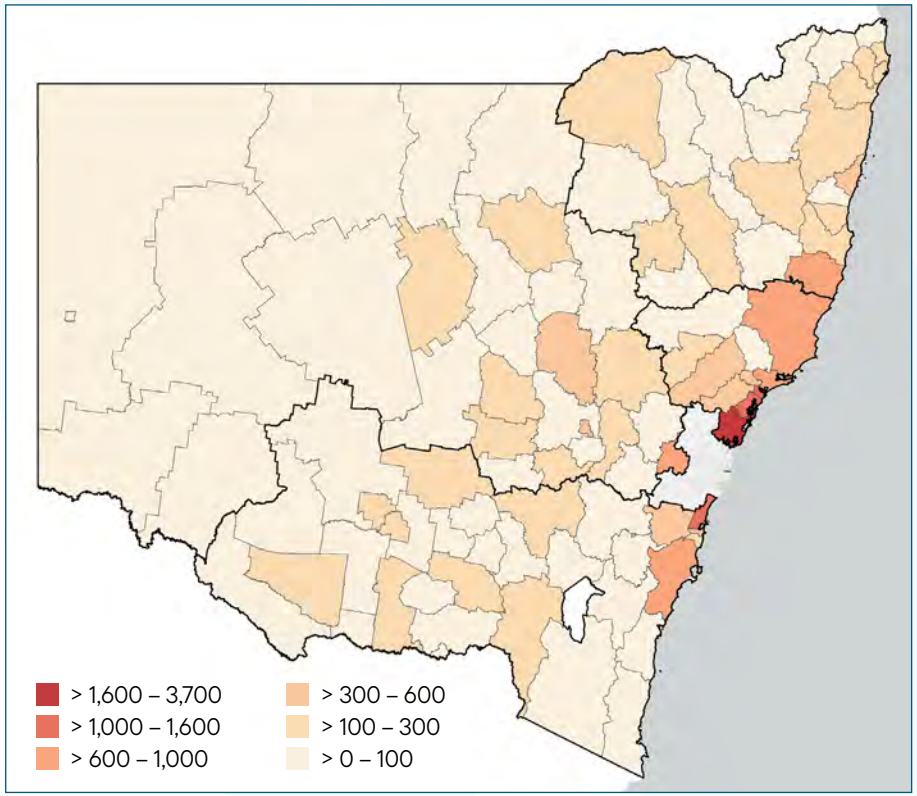
NSW ATHLETICS

APPENDIX 2:
NSW Athletics Regions Summary

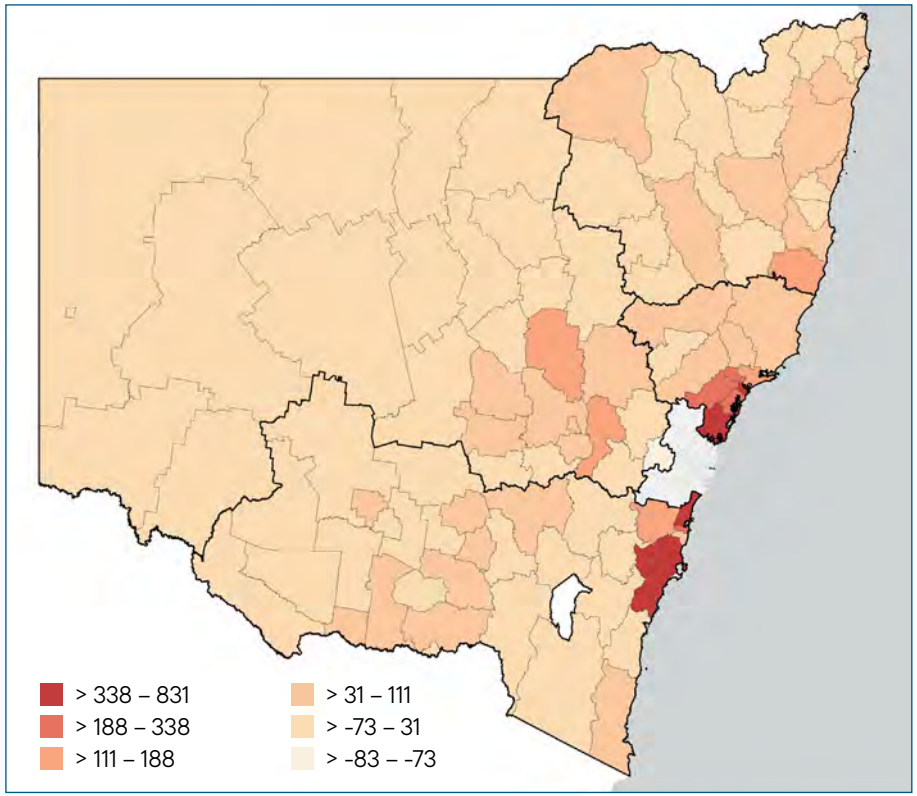
NON-METROPOLITAN REGION SUMMARY

The following maps provide a high-level visual summary of where NSW Athletics members resided (by LGA) in 2024 and what the projected change in memberships might be between 2024 and 2039, based on population and demographic change over the 15-year period. Only Non-Metropolitan Sydney LGAs are included within these maps. Greater Sydney based LGAs are provided in the latter pages of this report.

2024 NSW ATHLETICS MEMBERS BY LGA



2024-2039 FORECASTED NSW ATHLETICS MEMBER CHANGE BY LGA



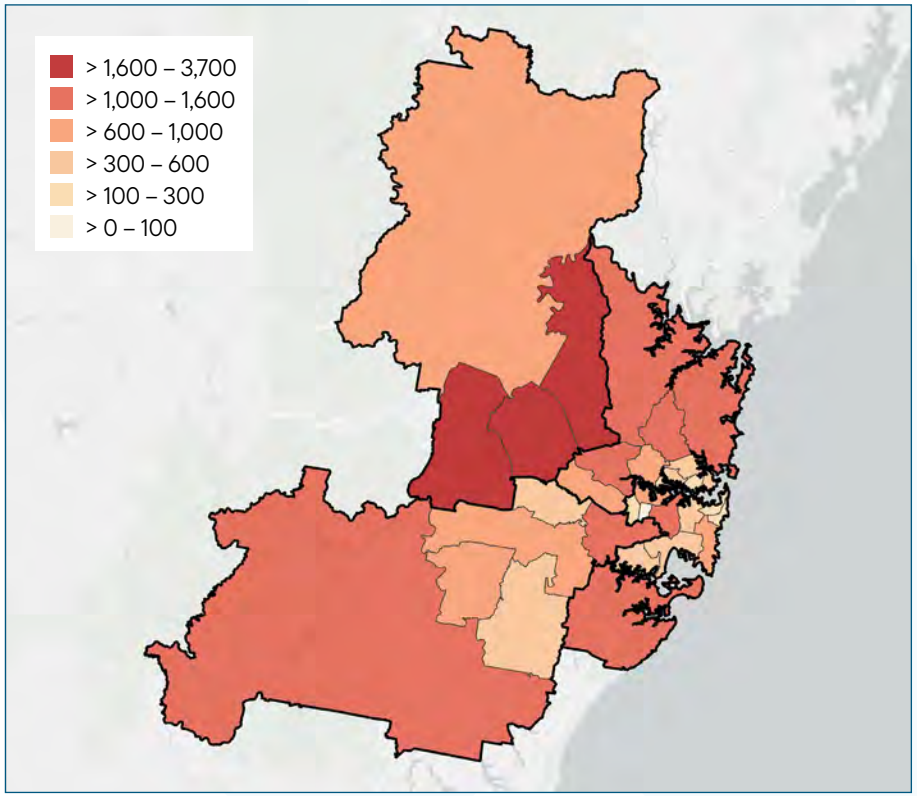
The following table provides a summary of existing known data related to existing athletics venue and track provision, membership and engagement rates, projected population and future participation demand estimates. Data is provided at a regional level for each of the four Non-Metropolitan Regions. A detailed breakdown of this data at LGA level and a summary of regional insights and opportunities is available in the complementary *NSW Athletics State of Play Report*.

NSW Athletics Region	Exisitng venue and track provision						Current participation & engagement			Projected participation		
	Venues	Grass Tracks	Synthetic Tracks	Total Tracks	Venue to Population Ratio (2024)	Venue to Population Ratio (2039)	Total Members (2024)	Total Population Aged 0 to 59 (2024)	Total Engagement Rate (2024)	Total Projected Population Aged 0 to 59 (2039)	Estimated Members (2039)	Estimated Change in Members (2024-2039)
NSW	202	179	23	202	32,035	36,292	48,260	6,471,045	0.75%	7,331,037	53,199	+4,939
Regional NSW	118	108	10	118	20,077	22,454	19,766	2,369,040	0.83%	2,649,624	21,444	+1,678
R1 - NSW North	29	28	1	29	17,154	17,739	3,345	497,458	0.67%	514,437	3,446	+101
R2 - Central Coast/Hunter	36	32	4	36	23,130	26,649	8,008	832,670	0.96%	959,379	8,907	+899
R3 - NSW West	24	23	1	24	12,508	12,935	3,564	300,196	1.19%	310,451	3,550	-14
R4 - NSW South	29	25	4	29	25,473	29,840	4,849	738,716	0.66%	865,357	5,541	+692

METROPOLITAN REGION SUMMARY

The following maps provide a high-level visual summary of where NSW Athletics members resided (by LGA) in 2024 and what the projected change in memberships might be between 2024 and 2039, based on population and demographic change over the 15-year period. Only Metropolitan Sydney LGAs are included within these maps.

2024 NSW ATHLETICS MEMBERS BY LGA



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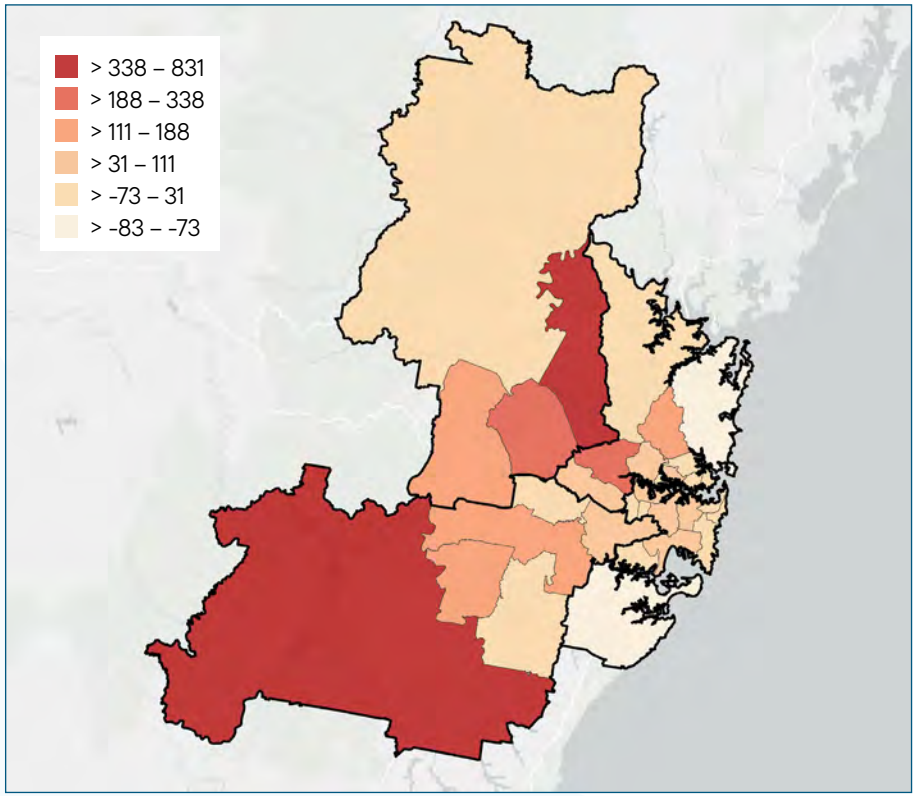

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NSW Athletics Region	Exisitng venue and track provision						Current participation & engagement			Projected participation		
	Venues	Grass Tracks	Synthetic Tracks	Total Tracks	Venue to Population Ratio (2024)	Venue to Population Ratio (2039)	Total Members (2024)	Total Population Aged 0 to 59 (2024)	Total Engagement Rate (2024)	Total Projected Population Aged 0 to 59 (2039)	Estimated Members (2039)	Estimated Change in Members (2024-2039)
NSW	202	179	23	202	32,035	36,292	48,260	6,471,045	0.75%	7,331,037	53,199	+4,939
Greater SYDNEY	84	71	13	84	48,833	55,731	28,494	4,102,005	0.69%	4,681,413	31,755	+3,261
R5 - Sydney North	27	23	4	27	42,011	46,855	8,338	1,134,301	0.74%	1,265,075	8,992	+654
R6 - Sydney North-West	23	21	2	23	34,357	41,505	8,711	790,219	1.10%	954,610	9,818	+1,107
R7 - Sydney South-West	18	15	3	18	55,703	66,078	5,231	1,002,656	0.52%	1,189,412	6,522	+1291
R8 - Sydney South-East	16	12	4	16	73,427	79,520	6,214	1,174,829	0.53%	1,272,316	6,423	+209

APPENDIX 3:
Potential future demand for athletics

POTENTIAL FUTURE DEMAND FOR ATHLETICS

The potential future demand for athletics participants and facilities is driven by a range of key factors and influenced by specific conditions within individual LGA locations.

The potential future demand for athletics participants and facilities is driven by a range of key factors and influenced by specific conditions within individual LGA locations.

To assist in identifying the priority geographical areas for the provision of athletics facilities, an Athletics Demand Model has been developed. The model is based on four key metrics:

- The projected 2039 population (by LGA) of 0 to 59 year olds.
- The growth rate of the 0 to 59 year old population (by LGA) from 2024 to 2039, expressed as a percentage.
- The 2024 NSW Athletics registered members (within an LGA), expressed as a percentage (%) of the 0 to 59 year old 2024 population (of that LGA).
- The total 2024 NSW primary and secondary school student enrolment numbers (by LGA).

A rating of 1 to 6 is applied to each demand metric, with a maximum possible total demand score per LGA of 24. The higher the total demand score, the greater the demand for athletics facility provision is likely to be.

Demand Criteria	Demand Ratings					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Lowest demand rating →				Highest demand rating	
2039 LGA Population (0-59 years)	<20,000	20,0001 to 50,000	50,001 to 100,000	100,0001 to 150,000	150,001 to 200,000	200,001+
2024-2039 LGA Population Growth Rate (0-59 years)	<5.0%	5.1% to 10%	10.1% to 15%	15.1% to 20%	20.1% to 25%	25%+
2024 NSW Athletics Membership Rate (%)	<0.5%	0.6% to 1.0%	1.1% to 1.5%	1.6% to 2.0%	2.1% to 2.5%	2.5%+
2024 Total School Student Enrolments	<2,000	2,001 to 6,000	6,001 to 14,000	14,001 to 26,000	26,001 to 45,000	45,000+

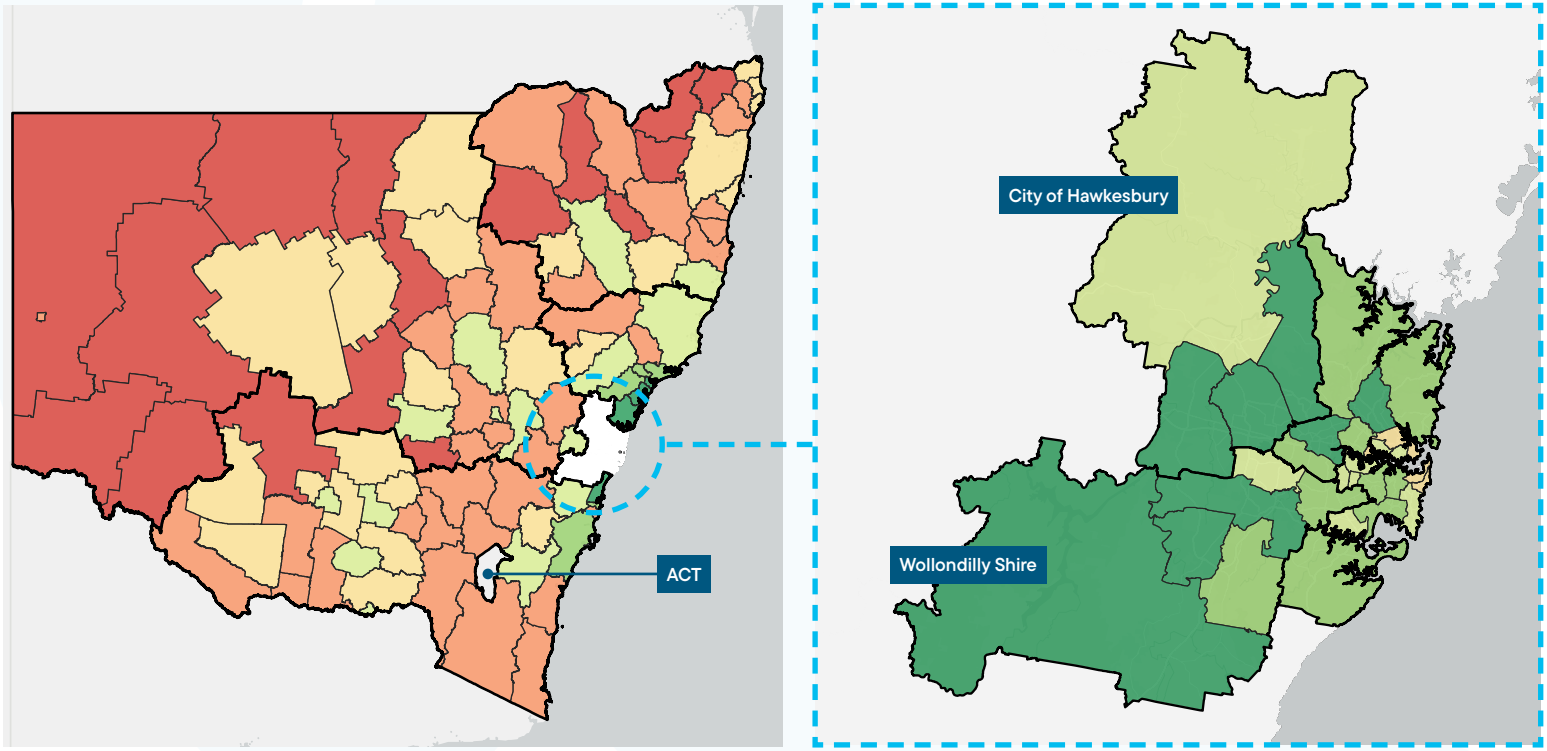
This model is not an exact science and is influenced by many different factors. However, it can be used as a consistent guide to apply across the LGA network of NSW to highlight key priority locations and drive stakeholder conversations. Demand ratings should also be viewed with LGA stakeholders, in conjunction with existing LGA athletics facility provision in order to identify specific infrastructure needs.

POTENTIAL FUTURE DEMAND FOR ATHLETICS

The potential demand for Athletics across all NSW Local Government Areas (LGAs) has been mapped using an Athletics Demand Model. The model and associated criteria used to develop the outputs is further referenced on previous pages. Key potential high-level demand hot spots are highlighted by the green and dark green shaded LGA locations.

NON-METROPOLITAN LGAs BY DEMAND SCORE

METROPOLITAN SYDNEY LGAs BY DEMAND SCORE



The Athletics Demand Model uses four key metrics to assess potential demand. A rating (or score) of 1 to 6 has been applied to each demand metric, with a maximum possible total demand score per LGA of 24. The higher the total demand score, the greater the demand for athletics facility provision is likely to be.

- > 16-24
- > 13-15
- > 10-12
- > 8-9
- > 5-7
- > 0-4

More detailed demand analysis has been conducted at LGA and NSW Athletics Region level and is available in the NSW Athletics State of Play Report that complements this Strategy.

NSW ATHLETICS

APPENDIX 4:
Synthetic track renewal program

SYNTHETIC TRACK RENEWAL PROGRAM

The following provides a summary of known synthetic athletics track provision across NSW, by hierarchy and region. To ensure all tracks remain in a safe usable condition and where required, maintain a World Athletics classification, a 7 to 10 year (traffic light) track renewal period has been applied. Years 7-8 indicate planning to have commenced, with Years 9 and 10 reflecting the priority delivery period for track renewal.

Venue	Region	Last renewal	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Alexandra Park (Albury)	R4	2023					Yr 7	Yr8	Yr 9	Yr 10		
Barden Park (Dubbo)	R3	2024						Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	
Beaton Park (Wollongong)	R4	-	Scheduled									
BISP (Blacktown)	R6	2024						Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	
Campbelltown Stadium	R7	2025								Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9
ES Marks Field (Mascot)	R8	2022				Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10			
Griffith Regional Sports Centre	R4	2023					Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10		
Harold Corr Oval (Penrith)	R6	2023					Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10		
Hensley Athletics Field (Eastgardens)	R8	2017	Yr 9	Yr 10								
Hunter Sports Centre (Lake Mac)	R2	2022				Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10			
Jindabyne Sport & Rec Centre	R4	unknown										
Jubilee Park (Wagga Wagga)	R4	2025								Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9
Maitland Regional Sports Centre	R2	2020		Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10					
Mingara Regional Athletics	R2	2020		Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10					

Venue	Region	Last renewal	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Narellan Sports Hub (Camden)	R7	2022				Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10			
Newcastle Athletics Field	R2	2017	Yr 9	Yr 10								
Tamworth Regional Sports Hub	R1	2019	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10						
Sydney Academy of Sport	R5	-	Immediate									
SOP – Main Track (Homebush)	R5	-	Immediate									
SOP – Warm-up Track (Homebush)	R5	-	Scheduled									
Sylvania Waters Field	R7	2017	Yr 9	Yr 10								
The Crest (Georges Hall)	R8	2019	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10						
The Ridge (Barden Ridge)	R8	2023					Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10		

Yr 7	Ideally planning for the track renewal process has commenced, with condition audits followed by contractor estimates prepared. Budget allocations and investment requests should be made at this time.
Yr 9	Any design work followed by track renewal tender documentation and an associated timeline for renewal works to be undertaken should be secured. Optimal timing to minimise user and athletics season disruption should be considered.
Yr 10	Last opportunity for track renewal within the World Athletics classification window. Track surfacing beyond 10 years cannot achieve a World Athletics certification. Beyond 10 years and safety and risk management will need to be considered by venue management and landowners.

NSW ATHLETICS

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