

EA Networks Centre & Surrounding Land 30 Year Draft Masterplan

There has always been an idea for the EA Networks Centre and the surrounding land to grow into a sporting hub for the district.

Over the last few years, Council has been talking with local sport and recreation groups to form a vision of what development could look like over the next 30 years.

We now want to hear what our community thinks. Find out more about the draft Masterplan and have your say inside.

Introduction

The EA Networks Centre is 100% owned and operated by Council. It features four indoor pools, four indoor courts, two outdoor courts and a fully equipped fitness centre.

The EA Networks Centre was opened on 9 May 2015, it was a \$35 million, council-community project that had been in the making since 2007. The Ashburton Stadium Complex Trust drove fundraising efforts and together with the community, raised \$5 million dollars.

The initial site selection, building design and subsequent land purchases by Council were made with an eye to the future, with the intention of expanding the current centre to create a larger sporting hub.

EA Networks Centre plays an important role in making our district a great place to live. We know that this asset is valued by the community, it contributes to our wellbeing and provides significant economic benefit for our district when larger events are held.

To get the best outcome for generations to come, we need a plan that ensures development at the site is logical, supported by the community and keeps the centre relevant to our growing and changing district.

We encourage you to have your say on what you think about the proposed plan for the next 30 years.

We are accepting feedback until Sunday 28 April.

How will the plan be actioned?

This plan proposes where we see the development of EA Networks Centre heading over the next 30 years. It aims to provide an overall vision to help guide future projects in the area.

It is important to note that many of the individual projects identified within this draft plan are not currently funded. When the need exists and funding is available, the identified projects will be included in a future Long-Term Plan or Annual Plan, and community consultation will occur as part of this process.

Why do we need a plan?

The Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy adopted in 2022 identified the need to complete a stocktake of sporting groups' current and future needs. In 2023, we completed a utilisation study of sports facilities and Council land across the district. The study showed that some areas of the EA Networks Centre are already being used at capacity during peak times, and that the growth of some sports will be limited due to the size of current facilities. This shows there is a need for more space for both current and future generations.

You can read the full Utilisation Study 2023 report [here](#) or the summary report [here](#).

While the Masterplan aims to increase capacity for areas struggling to meet current and projected demand (such as the indoor court space), we also wanted to add more active recreation and play activities within the plan to join the existing disc golf course and outdoor court space (such as a mini golf course, a hydroslide and allocated space for play within the stadium).

The purpose of the Masterplan is to show the community what can be achieved on the land we currently own. If implemented, it will ensure staged development of the proposed projects, resulting in a future-proofed, cohesive and well utilised community asset. The plan will also prevent adhoc, unplanned development and help us to maximise the space available.

Have a question?

There may be an answer in our Frequently Asked Questions, available on our website here [>LINK<](#).

Otherwise, feel free to email us at submissions@adc.govt.nz

The proposed Masterplan



- 1 ADDITIONAL VEHICLE ENTRANCE
- 2 ADDITIONAL CAR PARK AREA A - APPROX 297
- 3 ADDITIONAL CAR PARK AREA B - APPROX 106
- 4 BUS DROP OFF AREA
- 5 HOCKEY TURF
- 6 TEAM SHELTER
- 7 STEPPED TERRACE SEATING
- 8 MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS FIELDS
- 9 CHANGING ROOMS AND PUBLIC TOILETS (~680m²)
- 10 SPECTATOR STAND - 500 SEATS
- 11 PROMENADE - ACCESS/SERVICE WAY (10m WIDE)
- 12 GRASS EMBANKMENT
- 13 PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY CONNECTION

- 14 MULTI USE GREEN SPACE (EVENT SPACE, OVERFLOW CARPARK)
- 15 EXISTING SHED CONVERSION (EVENT SPACE)
- 16 MINI GOLF COURSE
- 17 SAND COURT - TO BE CONSTRUCTED 2024
- 18 OUTDOOR LIGHTING TO SPORTS FIELDS AND TURF
- 19 EXISTING VEHICLE ENTRANCE WIDENED - ADDED EXIT LANE
- 20 SECONDARY ENTRANCE AT STADIUM EXTENSION FOR EVENTS
- 21 EXISTING DISC GOLF COURSE - MODIFIED 2 HOLES
- 22 OUTDOOR BASKETBALL - 3 HALF COURTS
- 23 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- 24 SOLAR FARM AREA (1 HECTARE)
- 25 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION LAND - POSSIBLE FUTURE INCLUSION

- AQ AREA FOR ADDITIONAL AQUATICS SPACE
- S2C STADIUM ADDITION - SIZE OF 2 COURT OPTION
- S3C STADIUM ADDITION - SIZE OF 3 COURT OPTION



NOTES

1. CARPARKING SPACES
 EXISTING CAR PARK SPACES 188 + 130 EXISTING OVERFLOW PARK SPACES = 318
 PROPOSED CAR PARK SPACES 188 EXISTING + 297 (AREA 2) + 106 (AREA 3) = 591

2. FIELD AREA SUBJECT TO CHANGE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT A&P SHOWGROUND PROJECT

3. FIELDS AND TURF ROTATED 15 DEGREES OFF NORTH FOR OPTIMAL DAYLIGHT CONDITIONS

Maguire and Harford

EA NETWORKS CENTRE - 30 YEAR MASTER PLAN

DRAWING
PLAN - PROPOSED SITE

SCALE
 1:2000 / A3

STATUS
 DRAFT - FOR CONSULTATION

DATE
 21.02.24

PAGE
 03

Current and future proposed projects

(including those proposed in the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34)

The following projects are current projects already happening, or those proposed to be included in the draft Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34, which we are currently consulting on.

	Proposed for	Cost
Vehicle entrance widening (19)		
A project to widen and add an additional lane at the existing vehicle entrance has been included in our proposed Draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34. This has been proposed due to current challenges when exiting the EA Networks Centre car park onto State Highway 77 at peak times.	2024/25 (Year 1 of draft LTP)	\$155,000
Solar farm (24)		
The draft Masterplan includes a proposed one hectare solar farm, which has been designed to produce enough electricity to power the EA Networks Centre and secure the financial energy spend of the facility. In time this is expected to increase the sustainability and fix a key operating cost for the the facility.	2027/28 (Year 4 of draft LTP)	\$65,000
Internal building changes		
Included in our draft LTP budget is a project to make some internal changes to the EA Networks Centre building. We are proposing to reconfigure some of existing office and staff spaces to include a 100sqm studio that could be used for a number of activities including dancing or yoga. The project would also includes moving the staff room to the opposite end of the building. Since this project is already included in proposed budgets, it is not included as part of this Masterplan.	2024/25 (Year 1 of draft LTP)	\$325,000
Outdoor sand court (17)		
A minor project scheduled to be completed in the 2023-24 year is an outdoor sand court that the community can use. As this is to be completed before June 2024, it is not included in the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34.	2023/24	\$30,000
Oak grove steps		
We have also recently installed steps that join the Oak Grove footpath to the EA Networks Centre.	2023/24	\$28,000

Stadium extension (S2C or S3C)		
<p>A stadium extension has been included in the draft masterplan due to the high usage that we are already seeing in the stadium. We have also heard from key stakeholders that capacity here is already an issue and sport growth and participation is being curtailed. A stadium extension also has the positive economic flow-on effect of bringing additional tournaments and events to Ashburton.</p> <p>This draft Masterplan includes two options for the stadium extension – an extension of two courts, or an extension of three courts, and Council’s preferred option is the three court extension. This is what has been included as part of the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34.</p> <p>See pages 5 - 8 of the masterplan >LINK< for more detailed plans that show the extension options for the stadium.</p>	<p>2028- 2031 (Years 5 – 7 of draft LTP)</p>	<p>\$23,738,100</p>
Aquatic extension (AQ)		
<p>The 2023 Utilisation Study identified that the indoor pool at EA Networks Centre had high levels of utilisation, at times the learn to swim pool size is at capacity, and that this is an activity with a growing need. The indoor pool extension included in this plan would relieve the capacity issues year around, whereas the outdoor pool option would only assist in the summer months when operating.</p> <p>The masterplan allows space for the following activities; an additional indoor pool or an outdoor pool, a hydroslide, wet/dry climbing wall, wet obstacle course and splash deck designed for older children.</p> <p>Council’s current proposal involves an outdoor pool with the possibility of an integrated splash area, and this has been included in the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34. This project was preferred over the option to rebuild Tinwald Pool due to ongoing operational efficiencies.</p> <p>See pages 9 – 10 of the masterplan >LINK< for more detailed plans that show a number of upgrade options for the aquatic area.</p>	<p>2024- 2026 (Years 1 & 2 of draft LTP)</p>	<p>\$3,025,000</p>

Draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34
Have your say at itsourplace.com

Other projects

Hockey turfs

The masterplan includes two new artificial turfs, labelled as (5) in the draft plan. The current hockey turf is an area that was identified in the Utilisation Study as having high levels of use. The proposed turfs could service hockey and potentially other recreation opportunities. The turfs are proposed to be on an angle for optimal daylight conditions.

Multi-purpose sports fields

Two multi-purpose sports fields are included as part of the proposed vision, labelled as (8) in the draft plan. It is expected that these fields may be used for a variety of sports such as rugby, league, football or softball. The sportsfields are proposed to be on an angle for optimal daylight conditions.

Mini golf course

The plan includes a mini golf course (16). The current vision is that the course would not be staffed, and users could either bring their own golf balls and clubs or hire them at the EA Networks Centre reception, which is the same model as the disc golf course at Smallbone Drive.

This is included in the plan as it has been identified as a gap in the Ashburton District, and due to the low/no charge we expect the community would enjoy it.

Playground equipment

Playground equipment has been included as part of the plan (23) to provide an opportunity

for spontaneous play and entertainment for younger family members. This reflects what has been set out in the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy 2022.

Outdoor courts

With the existing outdoor courts proposed to be built over by the stadium extension project, it is important to replace these community courts which are free for all to use. When tournaments are on, these courts are also used for additional space and warm up areas. These are labelled as (22) in the draft plan.

Vehicle entrances, parking and drop off areas

An additional vehicle entrance is included as part of the plan (1), as well as widening of the current entrance (19). Additional car parking is also part of the vision, and is proposed to have an extra 403 parking spaces (2 & 3), as well as a drop off area for buses (4) and service vehicle access within the sports field area (11). These projects are proposed as they are seen as necessary to support the future development and increasing number of visitors to the sports hub as a whole.

Disc golf

The existing disc golf course has been identified as (21) in the draft Masterplan, as it is expected that two of the golf course holes will need to be modified to allow for the other proposed developments in the area.

Have your say

Your feedback will help us to know whether we are on the right track.

Before providing your feedback, we encourage you to look at the full draft Masterplan for more information. This can be viewed here >LINK<

Please note all feedback is public and will be made available on Council's website with the names of submitters included.

Feedback presented in the form of a petition or accompanied by multiple signatures will be processed as a single submission.

Got a question on anything with the plan before giving your feedback?

There may be an answer in our Frequently Asked Questions, available on our website here >LINK<

Otherwise, feel free to email us at submissions@adc.govt.nz

The easiest way to provide your feedback is online at itsourplace.com

Alternatively, you can provide feedback by filling in the attached form and send back to us using one of the following methods:

Freepost to Ashburton District Council

Freepost 230444

PO Box 94

Ashburton 7740

Email to submissions@adc.govt.nz

Hand in to Council reception at Te Whare Whakaterere, Baring Square East

You have until Sunday 28 April to get your feedback in.

Your details

Name*

Organisation (if appropriate)

Address

Phone

Email*

**these fields are required*

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing?

(if no boxes are ticked, it will be considered that you do not wish to be heard)

Yes:

The hearing will be held at Hine Paaka (the Council Chamber) on >date TBC<.

No:

I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following written submission be fully considered.

Please note that by providing feedback, your information will be used in the following ways:

- Feedback material, including your name and organisation (if applicable) but excluding your contact details, will be included in material available to Council, media and the public at our office and on our website.

- The contact details you provide will be used for administration of the consultation process, including informing you of the outcome of the consultation.

- The information you have provided will be stored and held by Council. If you would like to request access to, or make a correction to your personal information, please contact the Council staff.

You can submit on any or all of the questions below. You don't have to complete every question and you can comment on any aspect of the draft plan. You can provide attachments to support your feedback. The full draft plan is available at ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Do you support the EA Networks Centre & Surrounding Land MasterPlan vision for our sports facility and adjacent council land?

Yes/No

Please explain:

Is there anything you think we have missed? E.g. any sports or activities that should be included?

Yes/No

Please explain:

Is there anything you think we should change? E.g. location of some facilities

Yes/No

Please explain:

Of the larger financial projects, please indicate how you would prioritise them below.

Project	Priority (1,2,3)
Stadium extension*	
Aquatic extension*	
Sports field & turf development	

**Proposed as part of the draft Long-Term Plan 2024-34 currently out for consultation. If you want to comment on these specific projects, please have your say at [itsourplace.com](https://www.itsourplace.com)*

Any other comments or feedback:
