

Progress Report: Active Banyule Plan 2025-2030

July 2026

The following table provides an update on the status of the short-term actions (1-2 years) in the Active Banyule Plan 2025-2030, 12 months after the plan was adopted in July 2025.

 = complete  = in progress/ongoing  = not started  = referred elsewhere

Action	Status	Notes
Action 1: Implement Fair Access in Sport Policy Action Plan 2024-2028 to ensure equitable sports participation for women, girls and gender diverse people. Ongoing		- Gender Impact Assessments are undertaken on all new and upgraded community sports infrastructure projects. <u>Macleod Park completed</u> 3/26– Female Friendly changerooms with unisex, DDA compliant/unisex and family friendly toilets. <u>Montmorency North Pavilion</u> – completed 4/26. Unisex changerooms for players and umpires, DDA compliant/unisex and family friendly toilets. <u>Yallambie Pavilion</u> – completed 5/26 Female Friendly changerooms with unisex, DDA compliant/unisex and family friendly toilets. <u>Olympic Park</u> – completed 3/26. Female Friendly changerooms with unisex, DDA compliant/unisex and family friendly toilets. - Council has funded the Rainbow Ready Club Program, the following clubs have participated: Ivanhoe Bowls Club, Heidelberg Junior Football Club, Diamond Valley Athletics Club.

Action 2: Review Sporting Facility User Guide and Allocation Policy.
Focus on:

- Opportunities to strengthen inclusion focus
- Review of signage requirements and permissions at sports ovals
- Fees and charges for seasonal allocations
- Shared and joint community use
 - Review of assessment criteria, allocation criteria and incentives.



- Sport club consultation completed in November 2025
- SFUG has been drafted and will be presented to Council for adoption 24 August 2026

Short Term 1-2 years

Action 3: Continue to partner with Disability Sports Australia to implement targeted programs specifically for people living with a disability to experience a range of sports and recreation activities such as the Abilities Unleashed Program.

Ongoing



- All Abilities Come and Try Session delivered at Olympic Leisure Centre as part of the Active April program. The session was attended by 10 participants from Scope Disability Services.
- Concord School and Diamond Valley Special Developmental School registered to attend but were unable to participate on the day. As a follow-up, the three participating sports were connected directly with both schools to explore opportunities for the delivery of sport-specific programs on school grounds.

Action 4: Partner with our Leisure Centres to develop programs which increase physical activity participation for CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities such as women's only slide nights.

Ongoing



- WaterMarc Banyule delivered two Women's Only Slide Nights for culturally diverse and Somali women in 2025–26, providing inclusive and culturally safe opportunities for aquatic recreation.
- Ivanhoe Leisure launched 'Little Boorais', a Learn to Swim program for First Nations mothers and infants, which commenced as a pilot in May 2026 and continued into Term 3 following strong community interest.

Action 5: Support and encourage clubs to access and utilise the variety of tools, training and resources that can assist clubs to be inclusive and welcoming. This includes:

- Rainbow Ready Program – educating and guiding sports clubs to understand, embrace and celebrate the diversity within the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Sport for All – educating and guiding clubs with the support and skills to include people with disability when, where and how they choose.



- Three clubs participated in the Rainbow Ready Program which commenced at the end of 2024, 2 completed and 1 in progress.
- Information on Sport4All's resources and tools will be sent out to sporting clubs and groups via Club Chat in June 2026.
- Information on Set the Standard, VicHealth's new campaign to prevent racism in community sport, will be sent out to sporting clubs and groups via Club Chat in April 2026.

Sport Integrity Australia – tools and campaigns to take action against racism and help clubs develop an anti-racism skillset. Short Term 1-2 years	
Action 6: Ensure our annual sports club forums seek to educate, celebrate and highlight inclusion in sport approaches and best practice. Conduct an annual review of the Banyule Sports Forum to ensure the content and information is relevant, engaging and tailored to club needs. Ongoing	 - The Centre for Multicultural Youth and CMSport’s recently launched Racism Doesn’t Belong In Our Game campaign was sent out to clubs in the August edition of Club Chat. 50 clubs attended Annual Sports Club Forum in June 2025. Format included Council information sharing and clubs presenting best practice. - Post forum survey was completed by 50% of clubs in attendance. 54 representatives from 42 clubs attended the Sports Club Forum in May 2026. The agenda included innovative fundraising and sponsorship strategies, successful examples of participation growth and community engagement from local clubs, and resources to help sporting clubs become more inclusive and sustainable.
Action 7: Partner with Barrbunin Beek to develop regular physical activity programming and identify other opportunities for increased First Nations participation and engagement in physical activity. Short-Term 1-2 years	 ‘Move it Mob March’ initiative delivered in March 2026 with a range of physical activities delivered at Barrbunin Beek for the month of March to encourage First Nations engagement in physical activity, including wellness sessions and Traditional Games. - Ivanhoe Leisure is currently delivering ‘Little Boorais’ mums and bubs Learn to Swim program for First Nations mums and infants.
Action 8: Collaborate with Council-run leisure centres to foster a culture of inclusion for all ages, abilities, bodies and backgrounds. This will occur through use of inclusive language and imagery in marketing materials, continuing to train staff with empathy and inclusive practice, offering beginner-friendly sessions and use of community-focused messaging. Short-Term 1-2 years	 Scheduled to commence as part of the reopening of Olympic Leisure Centre – August/September 2027.
Action 10: Conduct a comprehensive review of fees, charges and membership structures across all Council-owned leisure centres to ensure fair, equitable and accessible pricing. This includes Ivanhoe Leisure Centre, Olympic Leisure Centre and NETS Stadium Macleod. Explore the development of fee relief options for individuals experiencing financial hardship, ensuring these options are clearly communicated and promoted to maximise community awareness and	 - A comprehensive fees and charges review was completed and presented to Council in January 2026. - The review confirmed that Banyule’s leisure centres were well placed to meet the needs of the community through fair and equitable pricing options. - People experiencing disadvantage and financial hardship are well supported through a variety of heavily subsidised program and membership options across the centres. Further promotion has been done to ensure that the subsidy options are broadly known and the uptake has significantly increased as a result.

uptake.

Short Term by February 2026

Action 11: Conduct a review of Council-run leisure programs and events including Active April and This Girl Can to ensure they include a wide range of community members and enable disadvantaged groups to participate in free and low-cost leisure programs.

Short Term 1-2 years



- The range of Council leisure events has been expanded to include:
 - Active April event delivered in Ford Park Bellfield (April 2025), Willinda Park Athletics Track (April 2025), Anthony Beale Reserve (April 2026).
 - Scouts School Holiday Program event delivered in Heidelberg in partnership with Scouts Victoria September 2025.
 - Older Adults Walk-a-thon scheduled for 29 October 2026.
 - Olympic Park Activation event delivered in Heidelberg West 27 March.
 - Wellness Sessions for First Nations delivered in Barrbunin Beek March 2026.

Action 12: Conduct a review of the Banyule Club Chat (sports newsletter) to ensure its content and information is relevant, engaging, and tailored to club needs.

Short Term 1-2 years



- Reviewed Club Chat's performance and content relevance, finding strong engagement across 24 editions since 2021, with average open rates of 61.6% and click-through rates of 7.2%, indicating the newsletter remains a valued communication channel for sporting clubs.
- Identified opportunities to improve effectiveness through more frequent database updates, streamlined content collection processes, a clearer purpose statement to guide content, and increased promotion of gender equity and women in sport to better meet club needs and interests.

Action 15: Identify and assess emerging recreational activities by exploring trends and participation data to better understand their growing popularity and local demand.

Short Term 1-2 years



- Pickleball has been identified as an emerging sport in Banyule. Pickleball trial program commenced in February 2026 and is ongoing at Nets Stadium Macleod.
- A Pickleball court was built at Bundoora in April 2026 and courts are due to commence being built in Ivanhoe 2026-27 and Greensborough 2027-28.

Action 16: Explore options to deliver and facilitate informal play and recreation activities that maximise the natural outdoor environment and open space. Includes linking into National Parks Week and Nature Play Program.

Short Term 1-2 years



- Outdoor classroom space built in Viewbank Reserve using logs and rocks with garden beds and tree plantings, for the adjacent Winston Hills Preschool to use.
- Open Spaces team are creating nature play spaces with playgrounds that have been delivered and proposing actions (e.g. in the not yet endorsed

		Rosanna Parklands Management Plan) for an outdoor classroom using logs and rocks as seats.
Action 17: Increase physical activity opportunities for older adults through the following: • Increase promotion of the local, low-cost activities available specifically for adults, such as classes at leisure centres, neighbourhood houses and senior's groups in Banyule. • Elevate the annual Banyule Seniors Festival Celebration to include the Older Adults Walk-a-thon event, to promote exercise awareness for older adults and promote local groups and clubs who deliver physical activities for older adults.		• Social pickleball commenced in Feb 2026 and heavily promoted to older adults through print and digital distribution. The program has a very high participation of older adults aged 55 years and over. • Older Adults walk-a-thon scheduled for October 2026 to be included in 2026 Seniors Festival. • Active Banyule website launched in June 2026, containing a function for users to search for suitable physical activities for older adults in Banyule.
Action 19: Explore opportunities for pickleball participation in Banyule. This includes investigating sports facilities and dedicated pickleball courts. Medium Term 2-3 years		• Weekly pickleball program commenced at Nets Macleod Feb 2026 • Dedicated pickleball courts were built in Bundoora March 2026. • Dedicated pickleball courts for Greensborough & Ivanhoe due to start construction 2026 & 2027.
Action 20: Review Banyule Tennis Strategy (2017-2026) to identify current and future needs of tennis in Banyule, including opportunities for pickleball.		• Actions of Banyule Tennis Strategy 2017-2026 have been achieved. • Facility audits, data analysis and community consultation undertaken for Tennis Strategy 2027-2032. • The draft strategy has been prepared and was released for public feedback from 1-28 July 2026. • Strategy includes actions for implementing pickleball. • Final Strategy goes to Council for adoption September 2026.
Action 23: Conduct a review of the Aquatics Strategy (2026) to guide the future direction and decision-making around Banyule's four community owned aquatic facilities. Short Term 1-2 years		• Scheduled to commence 2027
Action 24: Collect club participation data from clubs, associations and leagues and report to Council to help inform decision making and planning. Every 2 years		• The majority of club participation data has been collected and collated. Council is continuing to work with a small number of clubs to confirm participation figures, with final reporting to be completed once all data has been received and validated.

Action 27: Continue to implement and develop a pipeline priority of sporting capital works based on assessment of condition, current and future use and broader community need. Annually		• In progress for review every October. • Priority upgrades have been incorporated into the Banyule 10-year capital works plan.
Action 28: Undertake regular access audits of sports and recreation facilities to identify priorities for upgrade that address barriers and support inclusive use. Every 2 years		• In progress – most recent audit completed in February 2025.
Action 31: Develop a consistent and integrated approach to wayfinding and signage to support the community to travel safely and confidently within the municipality and further afield particularly by active modes. Develop and support initiatives and programs that provide opportunities for the community to develop skills, confidence and connection through walking and bike riding. This includes Ride2Work Day and active travel to school programs. Short Term 1-2 years		• Council is currently developing a Wayfinding Management Plan for Banyule to establish a consistent approach to the provision of wayfinding information across the municipality, including signage design standards and improved processes for the installation and management of wayfinding infrastructure. • Successfully achieved organisational target of 500 rides during the Biketober event challenge, despite significant disruptions to local public transport services. Highlights included a successful Ride to Work Day breakfast event. Bicycle trips for transport increased by 9%, and 17 new riders participated in the challenge. • Active to School proudly partnered with Dr Cranky's to offer their Bike Check program at Montmorency Primary School at the end of Term 2.
Action 34: Increase promotion and awareness of dog-walking parks and areas in Banyule to better inform dog-walkers of suitable local locations. Short Term 1-2 years		• Due to commence 2027
Action 36: Review Council's sports field maintenance and upgrade program, including drainage and irrigation. Short Term 1-2 years		• A review of Council's sports field maintenance and upgrade program was undertaken in June 2026, identifying priorities for future drainage and irrigation improvements to support improved field performance. Irrigation and drainage priority upgrades have been planned in Banyule's 10-year Capital Works Plan.
Action 38: Support inclusive, community-focused sport club initiatives through accessible facilities, funding support, promotion and targeted programs for underrepresented groups, while celebrating success to		• Access improvements to the Montmorency Tennis Club were completed end of June 2026. Access improvements included the delivery of accessible pathways, handrails, ramps and DDA compliant car parking. • Further initiatives to commence in 2027.

foster pride and engagement.

Ongoing

Action 39: Conduct a yearly sports club survey to understand challenges, opportunities and support needed from Council to enable effective club operation and optimise participation opportunities.

Short Term 1-2 years



- The survey was distributed in January–February 2026 and received 81 responses from 70 Banyule sporting clubs.

Action 40: Produce an Annual State of Sport Report to Council highlighting:

- Participation data
- Program initiatives
- Completed projects
 - Awards and recognition

Short Term 1-2 years



- Data has been collated and analysed to inform the Annual State of Sport Report to Council, which will be delivered later in 2026. The report will highlight participation data, program initiatives, completed projects and awards and recognition across the municipality.

Action 41: Conduct events and networking opportunities that promote sharing of information and knowledge between sports clubs and Council. Includes Annual Women in Sport Night and Sports Forum.

Short Term 1-2 years



- Annual Sports Forum delivered 27 May 2026 with 54 representatives from 42 clubs.
- Banyule Sports Club Celebration Night scheduled 18 November 2026

Action 42: Review how Banyule Council currently acknowledges and celebrates sports club volunteers and explore opportunities to enhance recognition and support.

Annually



- Sports Club Celebration Night scheduled for 18 November 2026 at Heidelberg Golf Club to celebrate sports clubs in Banyule and recognise the contributions of sports club volunteers to our community.
- Sports Club volunteers celebrated and won several awards at Banyule Volunteer Awards Night May 2026.

Action 43: Undertake an annual review of the sports capital works pipeline program and meet annually with the Victorian Government Department of Sport and Recreation to identify funding priorities and advocate for grant opportunities.

Short Term 1-2 years



- Council has regular meetings with the Victorian Government Department of Sport and Recreation to identify priority projects and funding opportunities. Through these discussions, State Government funding contributions have been secured towards several projects that include, but are not limited to, upgrades for: Ivanhoe Bowls Club, Ivanhoe Croquet Club, James St Reserve, Macleod Park and Montmorency North.

Action 44: Engage annually with leagues and associations to align with their strategic priorities, identify opportunities for clubs and organisations, and communicate relevant opportunities back to local



- Council officers from Sport & Recreation team have met with representatives from Tennis Victoria, Football Victoria and AFL Victoria in 2026 to hear about the leagues' strategic priorities and identify

clubs. Ongoing		opportunities for improvement in Banyule. The ongoing engagement with Tennis Victoria has informed the draft Tennis Strategy 2027-2032.
Action 46: Collaborate with Scouts clubs and Neighbourhood houses to support precinct-based activities and promote these activities to the wider Banyule community. Short Term every 1-2 years		• Council delivered a large school holiday event in partnership with Scouts Victoria in September 2025 with 50 kids in attendance. • In the past financial year Council has supported Neighbourhood Houses to deliver a range of health and wellbeing programs, including walking groups, yoga, pilates and dance activities.
Action 47: Explore joint infrastructure investment opportunities where a clear business case, community benefits and measurable returns to Council can be demonstrated. Annually		• No joint infrastructure investment opportunities have been identified during this reporting period that address identified infrastructure gaps. Council continues to engage with neighbouring councils and regional partners to explore future collaborative investment opportunities that deliver mutual community benefits.
Action 48: Regularly communicate with schools on their sports infrastructure projects to help identify Council advocacy priorities. Annually		• A Council report dated 20 May 2024 identified the following priority projects: ◦ Works at Macleod College are progressing, with the sports oval upgrade, new change amenities and installation of lighting expected to be completed by the end of 2026. This will be funded by the Level Crossing Removal Project in Ruthven St. The partnership will involve the school maintaining the grounds and changerooms and Council managing the use after school hours. ◦ Council will meet with Viewbank College later in the year to discuss the proposed indoor multi-courts and artificial turf oval project and explore opportunities to progress the partnership. ◦ Council will meet with Bundoora Secondary College later in the year to discuss the proposed synthetic playing surfaces and running track project.
Action 49: Support partnerships with local health and community service providers where shared wellbeing outcomes can be achieved. Includes local partners like Austin Health and Banyule Community Health, and state bodies like VicHealth and VicSport. Annually		• Supported partnerships with community and health organisations to deliver wellbeing outcomes across Banyule. • Continued collaboration with Austin Health's North East Public Health Unit (NEPHU) through implementation of the Urban Food Strategy. • Provided funding support to the Somali Australian Council of Victoria (SACOV) to deliver the annual Somali Week Soccer Tournament, promoting community participation and social connection.

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- Maintained partnerships with local community organisations to facilitate opportunities for physical activity, community connection and improved wellbeing outcomes.
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