



GYMSPORTS WAIKATO

FACILITY PLAN

Prepared for funders, local authority,
sport and education partners:
To guide and support investment



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Gymsports is a collective of gymnastic codes that includes aerobics, artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, and trampoline.

Each code has specific facility requirements. There is a strong focus on developing fundamental movement skills with pre-schoolers and young primary aged participants.



GYMSPORTS NATIONAL STRATEGY

PURPOSE

To provide a high-level strategic framework for national facility planning.

SUCCESS MEASURES FOR GYMSPORTS FACILITIES INCLUDE;

1. Financially sustainable.
2. 'Fit for purpose' and conducive to Gymsports activity.
3. Are used by a range of participants regardless of club affiliations.
4. Facilitate the progression of gymnasts as they move through the sport.
5. Have engagement and investment from key stakeholders and funders.
6. Have requirements and specifications which are commonly known and understood.

Beyond this plan, additional planning will be required at community and club level, including detailed focused research, analysis and planning. Feasibility and business case analysis will also be required on all potential facility projects. For plan methodology refer to the Gymsports National Facility Strategy (Cessford, 2017).

The National Strategy and this Regional Plan should be seen as a living document and will require updating at least every three years.

KEY PRINCIPLES

TO GUIDE
INVESTMENT
DECISIONS

- Integrated network accessible to people wishing to participate in gymnastic sports.
- Well-utilised with strong governance and management able to meet their operational costs.
- Facilities able to deliver benefit for useful lives.
- Purpose built Gymsport facilities.
- Neighbouring Gymsports clubs working together.
- To meet changing trends and demographics.
- Optimisation of existing assets first, before new investment.
- Return on project must outperform other project opportunities.

HIERARCHY OF FACILITIES

Adopting a hierarchy of facilities ensures that a network of facilities is provided to meet future demand, in a structured way and that avoids duplication. Gymsports needs to ensure participants have an opportunity to progress through the more specialist facilities as they become more skilled and advanced in the sport.



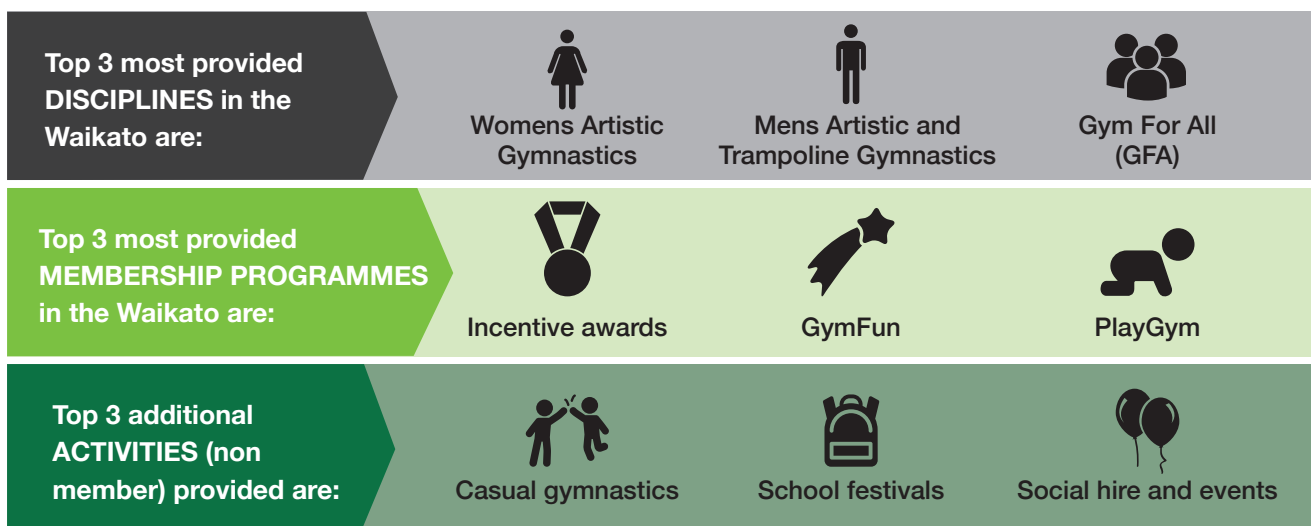
NATIONAL FACILITY CHALLENGES

The Gymsports facility network faces a number of challenges which are outlined below, some are unique only to Gymsports (Gymsports National Facility Strategy (Visitor Solutions, 2017).

- Funding.
- Gymsports space and equipment requirements.
- Population distribution and changing demographics.
- Growth in members and participation trends.
- Maintaining assets, facility sustainability and service levels.
- Lease arrangements.
- Legislative challenges (i.e. Health and Safety at Work Act, 2016).
- Access to shared facilities.

GYMSPORTS IN THE WAIKATO

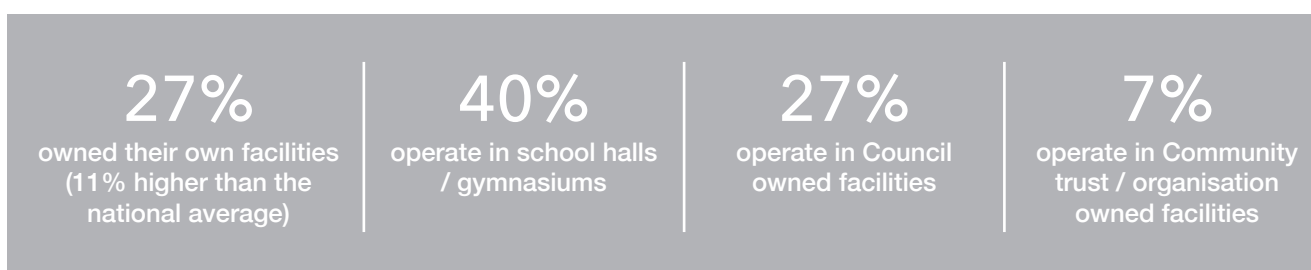
The existing Gymsports facility network is complex with a large variety of ownership, management and use models. There is also a wide spectrum in terms of the distribution, age and conditions of the existing facilities. The Gymsports National Facility Strategy was published in November 2017, the Gymsports Waikato Facility Plan highlights regional results and implications for Waikato clubs from the national strategy and links with the Waikato Regional Sports Facilities Plan (Sport Waikato, 2018). All facility types are as defined by the National Gymsports Facility Strategy (Visitor Solutions, 2017).



Supplementary activities are of considerable importance to club sustainability and growth, and include recreational trampoline, cheerleading, parkour and martial arts. These can be areas where additional revenue, marketing and social benefits can be generated for the member clubs. In some cases they may also represent potential new directions for gymnastics-based activities that might offer new opportunities for Gymsports to engage with a wider range of population age-groups and interest-groups.

FACILITIES

FACILITY OWNERSHIP



¹Piako Gymnastics club operated from 4 sites. ²Hamilton City Gymsports facility.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT



Waikato clubs operate from a variety of building types including community halls, purpose built Gymsport facilities, school gyms, school halls, multi-use recreational facilities, and converted industrial building. Given the facility ownership and management arrangements, over half (53%) of Waikato clubs had only temporary use arrangements for those facilities (8 clubs – with some clubs using multiple facilities). In those cases, the clubs were largely renting space in shared use facilities for fixed time-slots, requiring them to have to set-up and then pack-down their equipment for each use period. The extent of setting up and removal tasks varies across the Waikato.

GYMSPORTS MEMBERSHIPS AND TRENDS - WAIKATO REGION



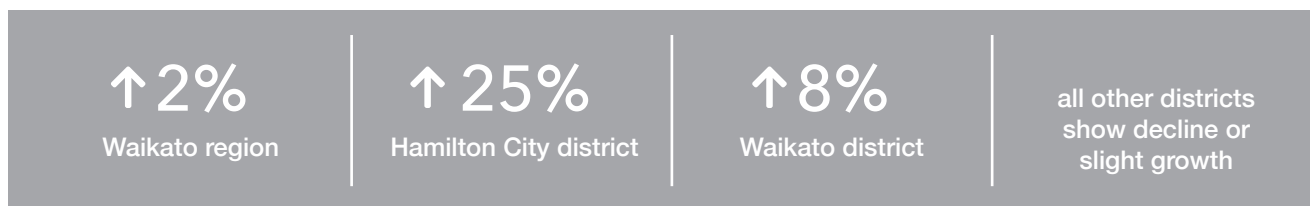
In some cases membership is constrained by facility provision, suggesting there is considerable potential to release facility demand if facility capacity and accessibility can be enhanced.

Trends of casual participation fluctuate from club to club and there are no clear trends within the Waikato. Nationally however there is a clear upward trend between 2013 and 2015 (from approximately 152,000 to 193,000 recreational participants).

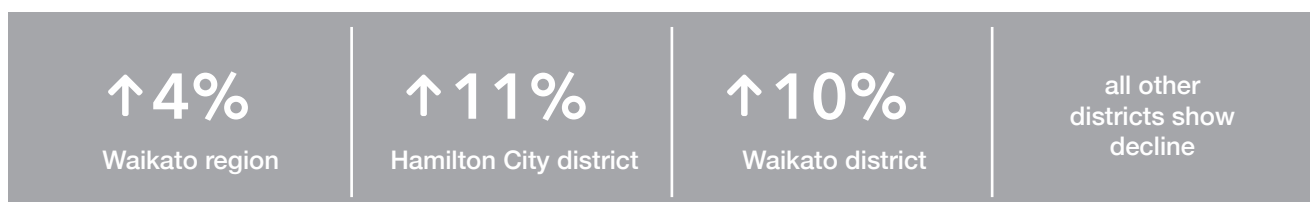
Due to this upward trend, the important role casual participation could play will be explored further in any additional studies.

TRADITIONALLY THE MAIN POPULATION CATCHMENT FOR GYMSPORT PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN YOUTH. REGIONALLY, GROWTH OF THE YOUTH POPULATION IS GOING TO BE LOW (2%) 2013-2043.

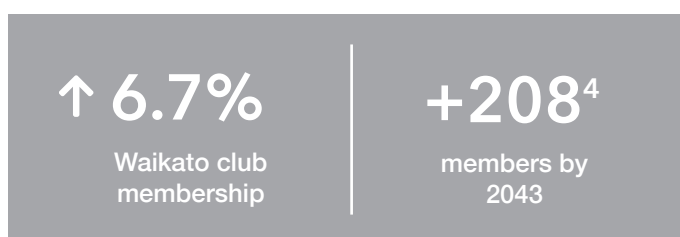
GYMSPORT TARGET POPULATION 5-15 Years (2013-2043)³



GYMSPORT PRE-SCHOOL TARGET POPULATION 0-4 Years (2013-2043)³



PROJECTED MEMBERSHIP (2013-2043)³



Any regional membership increase is likely to be focussed on those areas of Hamilton, projected to receive higher future population growth generally (intensification or greenfields), or any other more localised areas of the Waikato with sufficient volumes and growth rates in the key participating-age ranges.

IMPLICATIONS

With declining participation-age population in most districts, planning for future investment and programming will need to capture a greater proportion of the population than at present if current use levels (and trends) are to be sustained. Most clubs must generate new uses and users of facilities. Only a minority will be able to rely on general population growth to sustain or grow current numbers doing current activities. Whilst this is true for most of the region, Hamilton district will see an increase in both the 5-15 years age group (25%) and the 0-4 years age group (11%).

While acknowledging the baseline population trends, it is important to understand that localised factors / trends / initiatives can influence and often exceed these base estimates. This will require generation of higher relative levels of participation in Gymsports than currently exist. This may relate to the continuation of membership growth, or through particular initiatives, such as: enhancing facility capacity in some cases where unmet latent demands are identified (such as waiting lists); or it may relate to the suitability of activities, programmes and their timing to meet market interest and demand (including new market development).

This indicates that certain clubs could exceed past membership capture rates and increase their market share, due to factors such as good governance, management, service/programme delivery, and collaborative approaches.

³Statistics New Zealand Population Projections (Census 2013 base), Medium Series. Membership projections listed are based on 'baseline capture rates'. These use the percentage of an age group that was captured by Waikato Gymsports in 2016 and applies this 'capture rate' to the projected age groups population in 2043. While acknowledging the baseline population trends, it is important to understand that localised factors / trends / initiatives can influence and often exceed these base estimates. ⁴Based on an estimated membership of around 3,089 today, Waikato club membership by 2043 is projected to be around 3,297 – representing only an increase of 208 (6.7%). Source: Gymsports National Facility Strategy (Visitor Solutions, 2017) and Statistics New Zealand Population Projections (Census 2013 base), Medium Series.

CURRENT STATE AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES

EXISTING GYMSPORTS FACILITIES

56% of Waikato Clubs rate their facilities as not currently meeting or providing for their member/community needs compared to 77% nationally. Mt Tauhara Gymnastics Club, Cambridge Gymnastics Club, Te Awamutu Gymsports Club provide less than 2.5m² per member. The two Hamilton Clubs, Turn and Gymnastic Circle and Hamilton City Gymsports, are under extreme pressure with only 0.8m² provided per member.



IMPLICATIONS

For clubs using permanent facilities (permanent equipment setup) size was the main constraint.

For clubs using facilities on a temporary basis the main constraints were the requirement to pack in and pack out equipment and securing access times. Size was also an issue for clubs with temporary facility use. The combination of Hamilton's current capacity challenges and the population growth described in the previous section suggests that the growth of capacity within the Hamilton District should be a focus for the Waikato region.

When capacity ratios are less than 2.5m² per member, it is likely to indicate capacity pressure, while less than 1m² is likely to be an indicator of extreme capacity pressure. It is also likely that membership and/or programmed activities are being restricted when capacity ratios are below 2.5m²/person (although this is still dependent on many other factors such as the disciplines / Gymsports codes offered and membership composition).

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION OF WAIKATO GYMSPORT FACILITIES

SUB REGIONAL HAMILTON CITY GYMSPORTS

COMMUNITY FACILITY PIAKO GYMNASTICS CLUB, CAMBRIDGE GYMNASTICS CLUB, COROMANDEL GYMNASTICS CLUB, HUNTLY GYMNASTICS CLUB, MATAMATA GYMNASTIC CLUB, MERCURY BAY GYMNASTICS CLUB, MT TAUHARA GYMNASTICS CLUB, BIBLE CHURCH, MORRINSVILLE (PIAKO GYMNASTICS CLUB), MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE (PIAKO GYMNASTICS CLUB), SOUTH WAIKATO GYMSPORT, SPIRALZ RHYTHMIC OF HAMILTON, TE AWAMUTU GYMSPORTS, THAMES GYM SPORTS INC, TOKOROA GYMNASTIC CLUB, TURN AND GYMNASTIC CIRCLE, WHANGAMATA GYMNASTIC CLUB

⁵As defined in the National Gymsports Facility Strategy (Visitor Solutions, 2017).



PLANNED GYMSPORTS FACILITIES

There are 7 clubs proposing to develop new Gymsports facilities, or upgrades to existing facilities in the Waikato Region. Three gym clubs within the Waikato region have engaged Visitor Solutions to undertake feasibility studies to determine potential facility development options.

Hamilton City Gymsports is currently the largest gymnastics club in the Midlands region of the North Island (Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Taranaki) and one of the top eight clubs in New Zealand. The Gymnastics New Zealand National Facility Strategy recommends that a regional Gymsports hub is developed in Hamilton.

Outcome: The study found that Hamilton is undersupplied with gymnastics space currently.

Turn and Gymnastic Circle is currently operating out of a short term lease at the Hamilton Old Boys Rugby facility. Their previous facility is to be sold with investment targeted towards a new facility that allows for future growth.

Outcome: The feasibility study concluded that there was a need for Turn and Gymnastic Circle to develop a new Gymsports facility in Hamilton to provide a space for recreational gymnastics and to compliment the proposed Waikato Regional Hub facility that was identified as a requirement in the National Facility Strategy.

The Piako Gymnastics Club currently operates from a main facility in Morrinsville (Morrinsville College Gymnasium) and three satellite facilities. One facility in Te Aroha is leased, which enables equipment to be set up permanently. The other spaces are all shared and involve packing equipment up and down after each booking. Morrinsville College has indicated that the school gymnasium is under increasing pressure from other community users and from the school itself. The Club has also stated that the available booking times at the school gymnasium are restricting club activities and the club's growth potential.

Outcome: The feasibility study concluded that there was a need for a Gymsports facility in Morrinsville that could act as a hub for the Piako Gymnastics Club's surrounding satellite facilities and link with the proposed Regional hub in Hamilton.



STRATEGIC APPROACH

NATIONAL STRATEGIC FACILITY APPROACHES

NETWORK OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL HUBS

Negotiate access and use agreements so that clubs/participants can have access to regional and sub regional hubs within the network. Future capital funding grants should build shared use of facilities into their grant agreements (shared across Gymsports clubs and compatible activities).

COLLABORATION OF CLUBS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Work proactively with key stakeholders such as Councils, other Gymsports Clubs and the MOE/Schools to explore long term use/lease agreements and facility partnership approaches to secure quality Gymsports access to facilities.

MAINTAIN EXISTING FACILITIES

Maintain existing facilities in line with asset and maintenance plans.

OPTIMISE USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Monitor and review existing facility utilisation and quality to ensure Gymsports is nurtured and optimised.

CRITERIA PRIOR TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Prior to any major renewals or upgrades, undertake a needs and options assessment to determine the costs and benefits of alternative facility delivery models (such as those outlined in this strategy). If need is identified, undertake a feasibility and business case analysis prior to developing any new facilities/refurbishments.

MAINTAIN SUSTAINABILITY OF FACILITIES AND CLUBS

Review and monitor the sustainability of community facilities. If required investigate changing the facility delivery approach. This will involve exploring the applicability of the different delivery models.

WAIKATO STRATEGIC FACILITY APPROACH 2019-2022

The Waikato requires a regional hub facility in Hamilton, a series of a viable network of community facilities to support and optimise delivery.

Proposed Waikato Facility Structure (Visitor Solutions, 2017)



It is recommended that these priorities are delivered by a collaboration between Gymnastics NZ, Sport Waikato, partners and clubs. These priorities will need to be reviewed every 3 years.

	INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME	PROJECT	RATIONALE
FACILITY PROJECTS	YEAR 1-3	Developing a regional hub in Hamilton (2018-2020). ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hamilton City Gymsports and Turn and Gymnastic Circle are under extreme pressure (at 0.8m² per member). Hamilton has high population growth and subsequent facility demand. The Waikato requires a regional hub in the largest population centre. Hamilton City Gymsports, is the largest gymnastics club in the Midlands region, and is considered the preferred club for regional hub development. This facility will likely reduce current capacity issues and significantly impact Gymsports participation.
	YEAR 1-3	Explore developing community facilities in key areas of demand (which support a sustainable facility network). ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piako Gymnastics club require a facility redevelopment in Morrinsville and a smaller scale facility provision in Te Aroha. Investigate the impact of clubs under capacity pressure, including Te Awamutu, Cambridge and Mt Tauharu.
ONGOING ACTIVITIES	ONGOING	Work proactively with key stakeholders such as Councils and the MOE / Schools to explore long-term use / lease agreements and facility partnership approaches to secure quality Gymsports access to facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise exploration of satellite options for continuity of delivery. Delivers benefits to the Gymsports network regionally. Improves 'grass roots' facility provision. Develops case examples / best practice that can be shared nationally. Potentially has lower capital cost implications.
	ONGOING	Review and monitor the sustainability of community facilities. If required, investigate changing the facility delivery approach. This will involve exploring the applicability of the different delivery models.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivers benefits to the Gymsports network nationally (regardless of population size and location). Improves 'grass roots' facility provision. Develops case examples / best practice that can be shared nationally. Potentially has lower capital and operational cost implications.

⁶Note: Pre-development - run the proposal through the facility planning process. Refer to the National Gymsports Facility Strategy and Facility Guide for more information (Visitor Solutions, 2017).

APPROACH:

The Gymsports National Facility Strategy was published in November 2017, the Gymsports Waikato Facility Plan highlights regional results and implications for Waikato clubs from the national strategy and links with the Waikato Regional Sports Facilities Plan (Sport Waikato, 2018). This plan aims to give an overview of current facilities, population trends, and recent feasibility studies which all inform the Gymsports Waikato Strategic Facility Approach.

LIMITATIONS:

This plan has been developed with the use of secondary data sourced from the Gymsports National Facility Strategy. (Visitor Solutions, 2017). We recognise the need for ongoing focussed planning and analysis within the Waikato Region to inform development of future facilities.

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Visitor Solutions (2017). Feasibility study: The Piako Gymnastics Club. Prepared for The Piako Gymnastics Club.

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