

The logo for RSL (Recreation Sport Leisure Consultancy) is displayed in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The letters 'R', 'S', and 'L' are significantly larger than the 'R' and 'L' in 'RSL'. The 'L' has a unique design with a square cutout at its top right corner.

RSL

RECREATION | SPORT | LEISURE | CONSULTANCY

A photograph of an indoor sports court with a blue floor and a high, arched ceiling. A group of people is gathered in the center of the court. The court is surrounded by a black metal frame and a white safety net. The background shows a building and trees through the glass walls.

Hokitika Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan 2022-2032

Document Info & Acknowledgements

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1.1 Acknowledgements

Project Steering Group

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With Thanks To:

Hokitika and Westland Sport, Recreation and Community Groups
Sport Canterbury
Destination Westland
Hokitika and Westland Primary and Secondary Schools

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Executive Summary

Westland District Council engaged RSL Consultancy to undertake a review of sport, recreation and play facilities for the Hokitika Area in order to meet the needs of the Hokitika Community.

The current and future use of Cass Square and the Hokitika Racecourse area are seen as significant drivers for this plan but the scope includes all sport, active recreation and play facilities in Hokitika and the immediate surrounds.

The methodology included:

- Review of existing documents
- Stakeholder engagement through survey, one-on-one meetings and phone calls, a stakeholder forum and individual follow-up as required.
- Analysis of demographic data, membership data and trends.
- Identification of key issues, gaps and over-supply in the network
- Identification of options to address gaps and over-supply in the network
- Preparation of a draft report
- Incorporation of feedback received from the Project Steering Group
- A final report.

Key findings include:

1. Hokitika's population is expected to decline and age over the next 25 years.
2. Membership in most sports is either declining or stable with some pockets of growth while there is movement toward more informal, individualised sporting activities.
3. Hokitika is relatively well served for facilities but many are aging
4. Cass Square is the key site for recreation and sport activities and there is strong desire for current users to remain at the ground.
5. The Westland Hub is a vital recreation hub for Hokitika providing indoor, outdoor and covered facilities for multiple codes and users. The recent upgrades to the grass sports fields will provide high quality fields to improve overall capacity of sports fields. This will be very useful when Cass Square is unavailable due to conditions or other use.
6. The Hokitika Racecourse land was purchased by Westland District Council and provides an opportunity for provision of sport and recreation activities as part of an overall master plan for the site. Activities could include:
 - A mix of shared and dedicated trails for horse riding, walking, biking
 - Open space for general recreation
 - Associated public amenities (toilets, car parking etc)
 - Public recreation activities such as frisbee golf
 - Walking and biking tracks linking to existing surrounding tracks to facilitate active transport and recreation
 - A playground
7. An opportunity exists to investigate the option to develop the old tennis courts on Sewell Street into a sports hub incorporating more 'public' facilities such as a beach volleyball court, ½ court basketball and petanque court.
8. The Hokitika Swimming Pool is 33m long which is no longer a standard length and the shallow end is too shallow for tumble turns. If an opportunity still exists to consider reconfiguration of the lane pool as part of the upgrade this may pay dividends in the long term.

9. Stakeholders should continue to seek to host sporting tournaments and events that are a good fit with existing sport and recreation facilities and other infrastructure such as accommodation.

Actions to address issues and gaps identified in the plan were developed and prioritised and presented in the following Action Plan:

Proposed Actions and Timing

	Action	Timing (years)		
		0-5	5-10	10+
1	Sports Hubs			
1.1	Undertake a master plan for the Racecourse land setting aside sufficient space for sport and recreation use including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mix of shared and dedicated trails for horse riding, walking, biking • Open space for general recreation • Associated public amenities (toilets, car parking etc) • Public recreation activities such as frisbee golf • Walking and biking tracks linking to existing surrounding tracks to facilitate active transport and recreation • A playground 	✓		
1.2	Investigate the opportunity for redevelopment of the disused tennis courts on Sewell Street into a public recreation space.	✓		
1.3	Continue to work with Westland High School (WHS) and Westland Hub on access to hub facilities for public access.	ongoing		
2	Sports Fields			
2.1	Ensure ongoing public access to WHS fields for sports clubs	✓		
2.2	Upgrade drainage and lighting at Kaniere Domain		✓	
2.3	Allocate a home and training ground for Hokitika Rugby League Club	✓		
2.4	Install an artificial cricket block if junior player numbers continue to rise	TBC		
2.5	Develop a centralised booking system for sports grounds.	✓		
3	Outdoor Hard Courts			
3.1	Develop an artificial practise surface for hockey, tennis and other use that is available to the public on the existing asphalt surface adjacent to the Westland Hub covered courts.		✓	
4	Indoor Courts			
4.1	Monitor use of the WHS gym court and seek alternative options if demand exceeds supply.	ongoing		
5	Aquatic Facilities			
5.1	Complete the planned stage 2 upgrade to the Hokitika Swimming Pool.	✓		
5.2	Review the configuration of the existing lane pool as part of the planned Hokitika Pool upgrade if the opportunity still exists.	✓		
6	Specialist Surfaces and Facilities			
6.1	See action 3.1		✓	

	Action	Timing (years)		
		0-5	5-10	10+
6.2	Retain current access to sections of the Racecourse land for recreational horse riding and RDA activities while a master plan is developed for the site.	✓		
6.3	Include provision for recreational horse riding and RDA activities as part of the Racecourse master plan.	✓		
6.4	Investigate options for provision of a fit-for-purpose Gymnastics facility	✓		
7	Other Sport and Recreation Facilities			
7.1	Consider a frisbee golf course as part of the Racecourse master plan.	✓		
7.2	Consider development of the disused tennis courts on Sewell street for a public recreation space for example including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball ½ court • Petanque court • Beach volleyball court 	✓		
7.3	Include walking and biking tracks as part of the Racecourse land master plan that link to existing tracks and to key points of interest for recreational and transport use.	✓		
7.4	Work with the Mountain bike club and community in the development of the Blue Spur mountain bike tracks. This may include upgrading or developing amenity services such as toilets or car parking.	ongoing		
8	Schools			
8.1	Continue to support the development of the Westland Hub at Westland High School.	ongoing		
8.2	Continue to work with local schools to facilitate public access to school sport and recreation assets after school hours.	ongoing		
8.3	Consider school access and needs when planning new or upgraded facilities.	ongoing		

1 Introduction

Westland District Council engaged RSL Consultancy to undertake a review of sport, recreation and play facilities for the Hokitika Area in order to meet the needs of the Hokitika Community.

The current and future use of Cass Square and the Hokitika Racecourse area are seen as significant drivers for this plan.

Cass Square is the premier sporting and events park in Hokitika and there are numerous user groups using it regularly. There are competing demands between regular sport and recreation use and large scale events as the park is well-sited close to the centre of town. The demand on the field can lead to deterioration of the playing surface. Some of the facilities on the park are ageing and no longer fit-for-purpose.

The Hokitika Racecourse land has recently been purchased by the WDC and a master plan is being prepared for the site in a separate exercise. While there are some equine and other activities already occurring on the land, there is the opportunity to further utilise the site for a wide range of sport, recreation, community and other uses.

To enable development of these two key Hokitika spaces, a broader understanding of the community's needs is required.

It is envisaged that this plan will provide direction for future use of Cass Square and the Racecourse land as well as other short, medium and long term priorities to meet the sport and active recreation needs of the Hokitika community.

This Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan is a natural follow-on from the West Coast Spaces and Places Plan, developed by Sport Canterbury – West Coast, in partnership with the councils and sporting groups in 2020.

2 Background

In 2020, Sport Canterbury led the development of a West Coast Spaces and Places Plan including the Grey, Buller and Westland Districts. That plan set the direction for development of sport and recreation facilities for the West Coast and a foundation to identify and prioritise sport and recreation facility needs for the community into the future.

In 2019, Westland District Council purchased the former Hokitika Racecourse land when the course closed following a review of facilities by the New Zealand racing industry. A master plan for the land is being prepared in a separate exercise by Council. Recommendations and opportunities identified in this report will be considered in the development of that master plan.

Cass Square is the premier sporting and events park in Hokitika. It is well used for sport, recreation and events. However, demand for use often exceeds the current capacity of the surface to cope – particularly during poor weather conditions. There are also facilities on the park that are ageing and no longer fit-for-purpose.

These are key drivers behind the development of this sport and recreation facilities plan.

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to develop a long-term plan for sport and recreation facilities for Hokitika. The plan covers:

- Understanding the Council's vision and objectives it wishes to achieve through the provision of sport, recreation and play spaces and places.
- Analysis and alignment to current WDC policies and strategies.
- Identifying the current network of spaces and places provided for within Hokitika.
- Current and future demographics of Hokitika and how these can influence what type of provision is required in the future.
- Review of relevant regional and national strategies and plans (such as national sporting organisation facility plans and Sport NZ literature).
- Analysis of previous feedback received from local stakeholders on their current and future sports facility needs. Identification of stakeholder gaps.
- Gathering information from other stakeholders.
- International and national trends in the provision of spaces and places for sport, recreation and play (such as the move toward more hubbing of facilities).
- Understanding the wider environmental challenges facing the area and their implications on spaces and places.
- A gap analysis of spaces and places in the Hokitika area.
- Proposing a prioritised future network of spaces and places in the study area.
- Providing a site-by-site view of the current and future provision, with a particular focus on the current and future of Cass Square and the Racecourse sites.
- Other current issues, challenges and opportunities that need to be considered.
- Potential partnership analysis (schools and other third parties).

2.2 Scope

The scope of the plan covers the following aspects:

- 1) The Township of Hokitika and immediate surrounds as defined by the two Statistics New Zealand Statistical Areas of Hokitika and Hokitika Rural (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1. Defined Area of Scope



- 2) Sporting and physical activities that occur both indoors and outdoors and both on land and water. Some activities are not included in this plan as development plans and priorities are covered off elsewhere. This includes broader recreation activities such as walking and non-sport-based cycling (active transport).
- 3) A timeframe of 10 years.

This plan is not designed to capture operational issues identified by codes, rather it provides an outline of the significant facility-based issues that WDC should consider addressing over time. Operational issues raised by codes have been fed back to the WDC outside of this report.

2.3 Methodology

The key steps undertaken in preparing this plan were:

1. An initial meeting with the Project Steering Group in February 2022
2. A Council briefing in February 2022.
3. Site visits to key sport and recreation facilities in February 2022
4. A review of secondary (background) data and documents
5. Stakeholder consultation including:
 - An online survey
 - One-on-one meetings
 - A stakeholder forum held in June 2022
 - Follow-up discussion or communication with stakeholders

6. A workshop with the Project Steering Group members in August 2022
7. Presentation, feedback and completion of a Draft Report for the Steering Group in September 2022.
8. Consultation on the Draft Report (undertaken by the Steering Group)
9. Finalisation of the Report – November 2022

3 Strategic Context

3.1 Background Documents

There are some key strategic planning documents that need to be considered for the development of the Hokitika Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan.

3.1.1 Westland District Council Long Term Plan 2021-2031

The Westland District Council's 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP) informs the community of the work that Council intends to do, the challenges that are faced, and how Council plans to pay for those services.

The LTP is based on a vision and associated set of Community Outcomes which guide Council's decision-making processes. The Council's Vision is shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2. Westland District Council Vision

Westland District Council Vision

We work with the people of Westland to grow and protect our communities, our economy and our unique natural environment.

Figure 3 shows Council's three community outcomes and what they mean. Of particular relevance to this document is the first point under the 'Resilient Communities' outcome that states that:

"All areas of the district have access to quality recreational and cultural facilities."

Figure 3. Westland District Council Community Outcomes

A Diverse Economy This means that...	A Sustainably Managed Environment This means that...	Resilient Communities This means that...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We work to find sustainable, diverse and resilient options for encouraging economic growth.• We work to find sustainable, diverse and resilient options for encouraging economic growth.• We collaborate with other stakeholders to achieve common outcomes.• Economic growth has a minor / reduced impact on the natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The district is involved in sustainable waste management practices.• We support sustainable environmental practices.• We support strategies to enhance and protect the district's ecosystems.• Development is sustainable, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All areas of the district have access to quality recreational and cultural facilities.• A community that cares for all members at all life stages to reduce isolation and promote inclusion.• Communities less vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change.• All voices are enabled and heard, power is more evenly distributed and the community can share its strengths.

Council and its subsidiaries own and/or operate a number of community, sport and recreation facilities and parks throughout the district.

3.1.2 West Coast Sport and Active Recreation Spaces and Places Strategy

The West Coast Sport and Active Recreation Spaces and Places Strategy was developed in 2020 to understand the future requirements for sport and recreation facilities in the area.

The West Coast is a truly unique region within Aotearoa. This creates both opportunities and challenges. The relatively small population is spread across a wide area increasing the need to travel to access facilities.

The Strategy identified a number of planning principles and a hierarchy of facilities that have been adopted for use in this Hokitika Spaces and Places Plan.

The report found that the West Coast area has a wide range of facilities, many of which are ageing or have served communities that have changed.

The following are recommendations have been taken from the report that relate directly or indirectly to Hokitika:

Table 1. West Coast Sport and Active Recreation Spaces and Places Strategy Recommendations

Activity	Recommendation	District
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a project to identify sport and recreation assets at risk to climate change / sea level rise. • Work to improve relationships between codes and increase facility sharing of existing facilities. • Work with key community funders to determine the viability of establishing a regional funding approach. • Investigate options to provide increased operational support to sport and recreation groups. • Prioritise investment in multi-use facilities rather than single use sites. • Encourage all asset owners to have Asset Management Plans in place and undertake ongoing, regular maintenance. • The three Councils to consider what support may be able to be provided to sports codes to enhance the quality of sports field maintenance in the region. • If capacity issues start to be experienced for specific, multi-use facilities an annual, coordinated allocation meeting could be implemented with key user groups to help negotiate effective compromise solutions and ensure a reasonable level of equity of access for different codes. • Continue to encourage sporting tournaments and events to come to the region for the multiple benefits they bring to local participants, local facilities and the local economy. • Continue to acknowledge the importance the network of school facilities plays in providing spaces and places for participation in a wide range of sport and recreation activities. • Other non-sporting facilities (not captured in the stocktake and plan) could serve as facilities to host sport and active recreation. • Where possible, prior to renewing sports club's leases, Councils should review conditions to facilitate increased sharing/sub-tenancy arrangements and consider implementing shorter lease terms so areas can be adapted to alternative uses if demand declines. • Continue to support and maintain a network of multi-use community halls catering to a wide range of indoor specialised sports where sufficient demand/use levels exist. 	All
Aquatic Sports	With significant aging of the population projected, any major renewals or upgrades to existing aquatic facilities need to consider the potential demand for Hydrotherapy pools, indoor pools, accessibility considerations and warmer water options.	All
Bowls	Retain the existing network of single community bowling clubs where demand continues to exist. Seek partnerships with other sports, recreation or community groups for clubrooms use to increase sustainability.	All

Activity	Recommendation	District
Cricket	Monitor cricket wicket supply and demand in the short term and consider provision of additional artificial wickets if required to maximise use of the regions' current cricket grounds.	All
Equestrian	Continue to provide a network of Equestrian facilities providing accessible participation opportunities.	All
Football	Pending the outcomes of the sports field supply and demand analysis (see below), investigate the development of a "Home of Football" to serve both Grey and Westland Districts, located in either Greymouth or Hokitika.	Grey, Westland
Golf	To enhance sustainability of Golf Clubs, investigate opportunities to increase clubroom sharing with other sports, recreation or community groups, along with alternative programme delivery.	All
Gymsports	If Gymsport participation numbers increase significantly, investigate partnership opportunities for a dedicated, fit-for-purpose facility, to serve the entire region. If demand exists, the location of such a facility should be where it can best serve the majority of the regional population (likely Greymouth or Hokitika).	Grey, Westland, Hokitika
Hockey	Maintain a hub and spoke approach to hockey provision in the Region with the Pulse Energy Recreation Centre turf providing the hub facility in Buller and the Westurf Stadium providing the hub facility for Grey and Westland.	All
	Hokitika Hockey should investigate the opportunity to access the Westland Sports Hub facilities to provide local training opportunities. If availability there is limited, seek alternative partnerships with other schools or sports codes to access a suitable 1/2 turfsized court/field/surface.	Westland
Sports Fields	Undertake a detailed sports field supply and demand analysis for rugby, rugby league, sevens, touch and football and assess the potential need to reallocate some fields between codes to minimise any field access imbalance (under and over provision) between codes.	All
Softball, Touch, Sevens Rugby	Continue to make space available at multi-use field sites for Softball//T-ball, Touch and Sevens where demand exists. Do not invest in single use field sites for these codes.	All
Tennis	The Westland Sports Hub site should be supported as the primary wet-weather Tennis site for the region.	Westland
	Undertake detailed demand analysis to prove need before investing in any single-use covered Tennis courts.	All
Water Sports	Investigate a programme of promotions, events and new activities with sailing/yachting clubs in an effort to increase participation and membership. If demand exists, this could also include identifying clubroom sharing partnerships with other sports and community groups to support facility sustainability. Specifically, this could include waka ama and rowing.	Grey, Westland
	If demand emerges for additional storage and clubroom facilities from new water-based codes, consider partnerships with existing facility providers in the first instance.	All

3.1.3 Other Documents

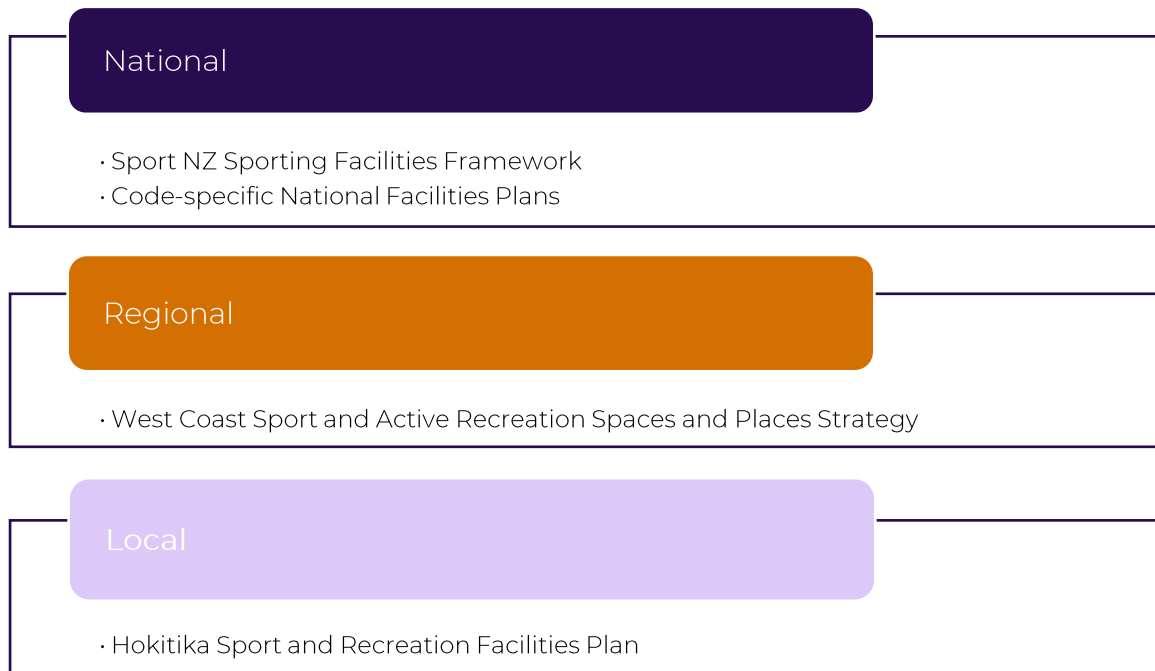
A number of previous documents were reviewed in the development of this plan. Documents reviewed included:

- Active Westland 2007
- Hokitika Review of Recreation and Entertainment Facilities 2007
- Relevant Regional Sports Facilities Plans
- Relevant National Sports Facilities Plans
- Sport New Zealand Sporting Facilities Framework

3.2 Sports Facility Planning Landscape

This plan has been developed to understand the current and future supply and demand of sporting facilities in Hokitika. It provides local context to the hierarchy of sports facility planning occurring regionally and nationally as outlined in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4. Facility Planning Hierarchy



National context and leadership is provided through Sport NZ's Sporting Facilities Framework. Some national sport and recreation organisations have also developed their own national facilities plans. An assessment of regionally significant facilities is provided in the West Coast Spaces and Places Plan. The Hokitika Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan references these national and regional plans to ensure alignment of local provision.

3.3 Sports Facility Planning Principles

Key principles have been developed for the Hokitika Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan. These principles can be drawn on when needs are being assessed and prioritised to allow recommendations to be made regarding the future network of facilities.

The key principles are taken from the West Coast Spaces and Places Plan and are:

Meeting an Identified Need

Clear demand for a facility is demonstrated within the community.

Sustainability

Well-utilised facilities, able to meet their operational costs and with strong governance and management.

Partnering and collaboration

Working together to achieve maximum return on investment

Future Proofing

Ability to adapt facilities to changing needs and trends.

Optimise Existing Before Building New

Optimise existing facilities before developing new ones.

Accessibility

Facilities and spaces that are accessible for all to get to, move within (physically accessible), and use (priced appropriately).

Unique Nature of the West Coast

Respond to the unique geography, communities and weather of the West Coast.

3.4 Facility Hierarchy

A facility hierarchy is a categorisation of assets based on the level of activity the facility is able to accommodate. Having a hierarchy encourages investment at the right level for the needs of the community.

Hierarchy definitions for this document are taken from the West Coast Sport and Active Recreation Spaces and Places Strategy. Most facilities in Hokitika are local level facilities.

International

A facility with the ability to host international competitions / events between nations.

National

A facility with the ability to host regional representative competitions (including professional and semi-professional franchise competitions involving teams from outside New Zealand) and / or to serve as a national high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes.

Regional

A facility with the ability to host inter-regional and internal regional competitions and / or serves as a regional high-performance training hub for one or more sports codes.

Sub Regional/District

A facility with the ability to draw significant numbers of participants/teams/competitors from a whole district or across adjacent territorial authority boundaries for either competition or training purposes.

Local

A facility which often facilitates people's introduction to sports and recreation and primarily serves a town or suburb (or potentially two suburbs) only.

4 Hokitika Demographic Profile

This section provides an overview of the demographic profile and projections for the Hokitika area.

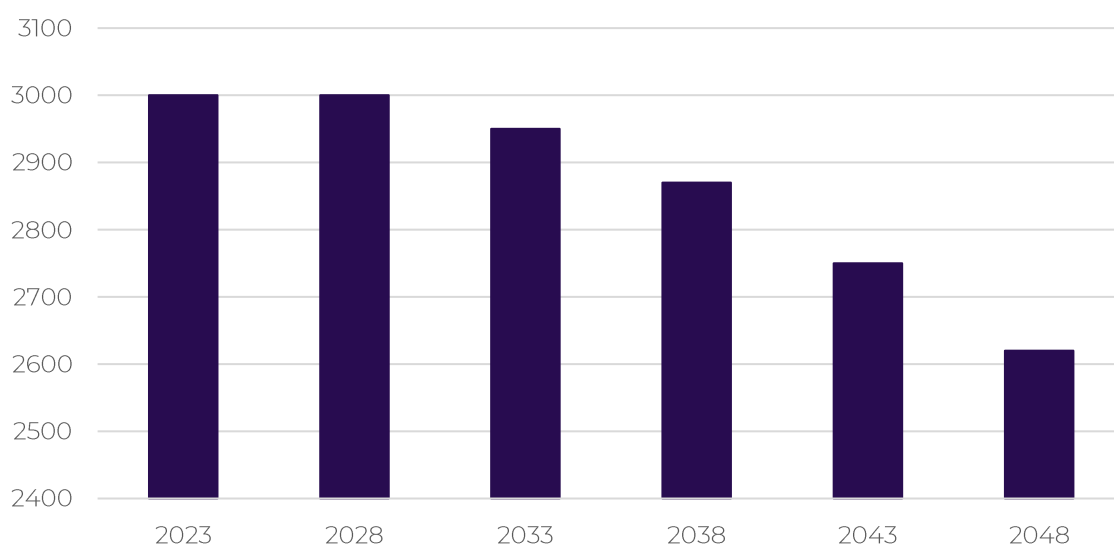
The population considered in this section is the medium-level projections of the two Statistics NZ areas of Hokitika and Hokitika Rural as outlined in Figure 1, Section 2.

A summary is provided in section 4.5.

4.1 Declining Population

The population of Hokitika has declined in recent years and is expected to continue to decline. Between 2023 and 2048 it is projected the population will decline by 12.6% from 3,000 to 2620 people.

Figure 5. Hokitika Population Projection



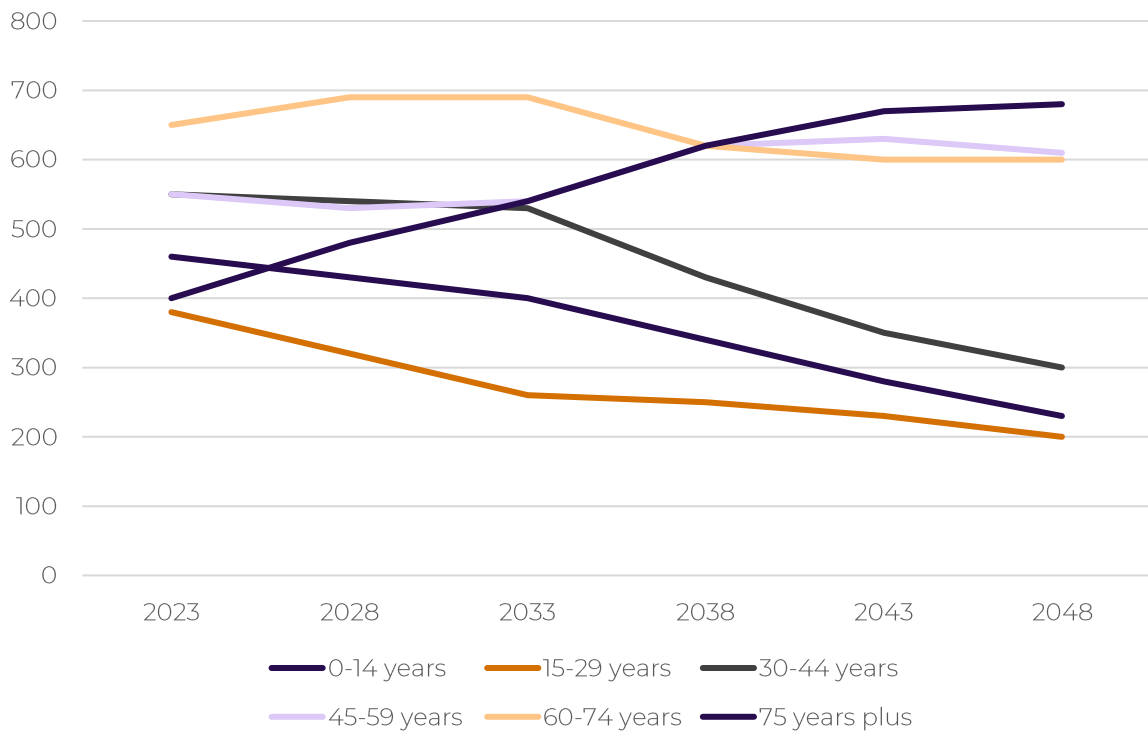
Source: Statistics New Zealand – medium projection.

4.2 An Aging Population

Figure 6 shows that by 2048 it is expected that people aged over 45 will make up 72% of the population of Hokitika.

The number of people aged 15-29 will experience the greatest decline, reducing by 60% between 2023 and 2048. Those aged 75 years and over will increase by 70%.

Figure 6. Hokitika Age Group Projection



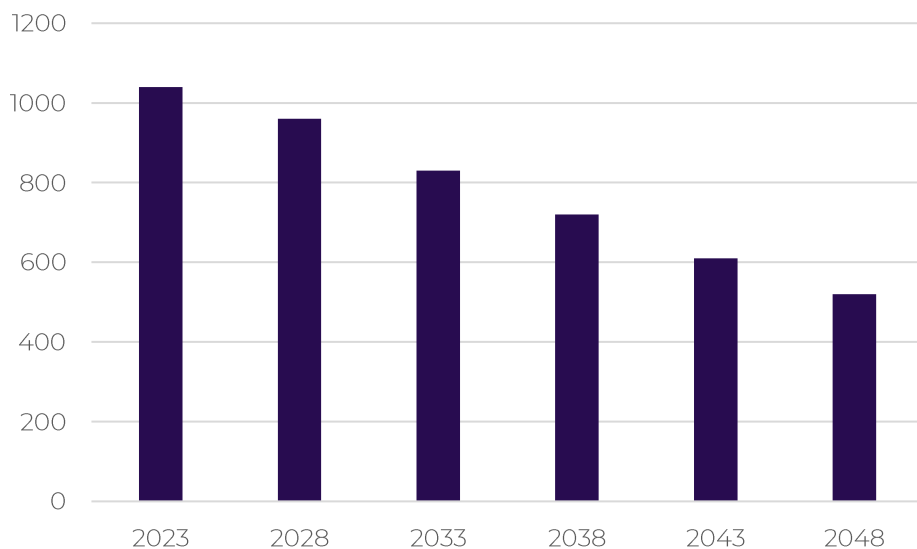
Source: Statistics New Zealand

4.3 Playing Age Population

Figure 6 shows that by 2048 when assessing the need for sport and recreation facilities it is useful to consider those in the population of playing age. The Playing Age population includes individuals aged between 5 and 39 years as this is the age that most people are most active.

The playing age population of Hokitika is expected to decline by 54%, from 1120 to 520 people, between 2023 and 2048.

Figure 7. Hokitika Playing Age Projection

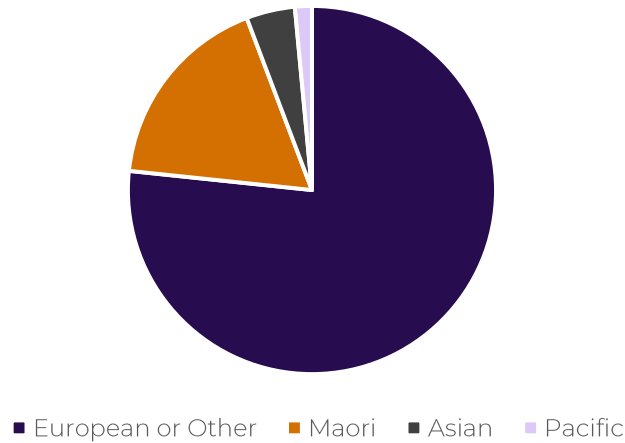


Source: Statistics New Zealand

4.4 Hokitika Ethnic Profile

In 2018 87.7% of the population of Hokitika identified as European. 26.6% of the Hokitika population identified as Māori, Asian or of Pacific descent¹.

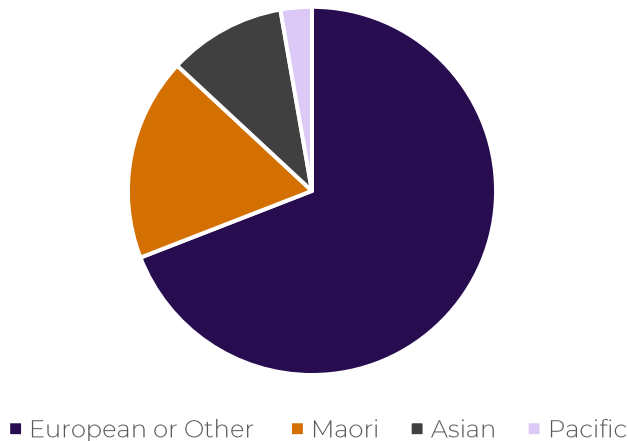
Figure 8. Hokitika Ethnic Profile 2018



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Projections for the ethnic profile of the Hokitika District were not available but the profile for the wider Westland District indicates the ethnic profile of the district will continue to become more diverse. In Westland in 2043 it is expected that the population of those identifying as either Māori, Asian or Pacific will comprise 38% of the population.

Figure 9. Ethnic Profile Westland District 2043



Source: Statistics New Zealand

4.5 Demographic Summary and Conclusions

Figure 10 summarises the key demographic details for Hokitika and the wider Westland District.

¹ Individuals can identify as more than one ethnicity, as a result the ethnic proportions total more than 100%.

Figure 10. Hokitika Demographic Snapshot



Between 2023 and 2048, it is projected the population of Hokitika will decline by 12.6% from 3,000 to 2620 people.



By 2048 it is expected that people aged over 45 will make up 72% of the population of Hokitika.



The number of people aged 15-29 will experience the greatest decline, reducing by 60% between 2023 and 2048.



Those aged 75 years and over will increase by 70% between 2023 and 2048.



Indications are that the ethnic profile of Hokitika will continue to become more diverse.

The implications of the changing profile of the Hokitika area include:

- Increases in participation numbers cannot be expected to come from population growth.
- Facilities and organisations must adapt to accommodate the changing demographic profile of the district.
- Providing facilities that are suitable for those in the older age groups will become increasingly important. Accessibility, comfort and affordability becomes more important with age. Facilities should be affordable, warm, easily accessible and comfortable.
- Organisations must look to share facilities as much as possible to reduce costs and keep participation affordable.

5 Sport and Recreation Trends

5.1 Participation

Sport NZ undertakes comprehensive research into the sport and recreation participation behaviours of New Zealanders. Approximately 91% of young people and 73% of adults participate in some form of sport or active recreation in any given seven-day period².

On average young people spend 11.5 hours per week participating in active recreation and sport activities. Participation is slightly higher among boys than girls. Adults spend on average 5.4 hours per week participating in active recreation and sport activities.

Participation can vary with people's socio-economic position (where deprivation is high participation is lower) and where they live (rural participation is lower than urban participation).

5.2 Covid-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered participation levels and preferences. Participation in organised sport has been most negatively impacted, affecting some population groups more than others, depending on the extent to which organised participation contributes to overall levels of physical activity.

This drop in organised sport participation has more severely affected levels of participation for young people than adults.³

5.3 Trends

A recent report commissioned by Sport NZ highlights six key factors driving sports participation in New Zealand⁴:

1. **The offering of sport** – How commercialisation, globalisation and sport branding are creating powerful offerings for consumers, sometimes supporting existing sports, and often challenging them with attractive new alternatives.
2. **Individualisation** - How technology and personal choices are creating individualised sports activity, as likely to be supported by the (internet) 'cloud' as it is by clubs and coaches. Individual sports are thriving.
3. **Connection** - Countering individualisation is how people strive for community and belonging through sport, increasingly enabled by technology, and challenged by an increasing diversity of cultures and sports offerings.
4. **Lifestyle and health** - As we live through the 'age of chronic disease' the value of sport and activity is highlighted. Organised sport and technology can help but medical and pharmaceutical interventions are emerging that enable a preferred body image without physical activity.

² Sport NZ (2021) Active New Zealand Survey

³ Ibid

⁴ Sport NZ (2015) Future of Sport in New Zealand: A report by Synergia for Sport New Zealand (2015)

5. **The built environment** - Most of us live in cities. Are we modifying our city infrastructure and facilities to cater for tomorrow's diverse sporting needs?
6. **The structure of sport** - The trends above challenge the structure and leadership of sport in New Zealand. Do we have the right capacity, workforce and partnerships to respond?

Recreation activities top the lists of activities for both young people and for adults. Walking, running and cycling, tramping and swimming are popular with adults while running, cycling, playing and swimming are popular for young people.

At the same time some traditional sports codes have experienced growth. Football and basketball are two of the largest participation sports for young people while golf, table tennis, tennis and football are popular amongst adults.

There has been a move toward more individualised sport and active recreation pursuits that can be undertaken at times suitable to the participant. That said, there is still a critical place in communities for team sports and the benefits (socialisation, teamwork) that can be gained from this form of participation.

The rapid rise of e-bikes has opened up new possibilities for older adults and e-games are now becoming more widely accepted as a legitimate form of recreation particularly for young people.

WDC should consider these sporting trends as future sporting facility support is allocated.

6 Hokitika Sport and Recreation Facilities - Overview

6.1 Current Situation

Hokitika has a wide range of sport and recreation facilities for a relatively small population. This could be partly due to the distance from other main centres. Greymouth is the closest urban area (1/2 an hour drive away) with Westport (2 hours) and Christchurch (3+ hours) further afield.

Westport and Greymouth both provide regional-level facilities for many indoor and outdoor sport. The Westland Recreation Centre in Greymouth is the sports and recreation hub of Greymouth and the wider region. It contains an aquatic centre including hydroslides, spa, sauna, gym, group fitness, sports stadium for multi-sporting codes, and an activity/meeting room.

The Pulse Energy Recreation Centre in Westport provides a similar level of facilities for the region.

The Westurf facility in Greymouth provides a full-size artificial playing surface for hockey competition and training.

The major sport and recreation facilities in Hokitika are shown in Figure 11 and Figure 12 with additional detail given in Table 2.

Figure 11. Hokitika Township Sport and Recreation Facilities.

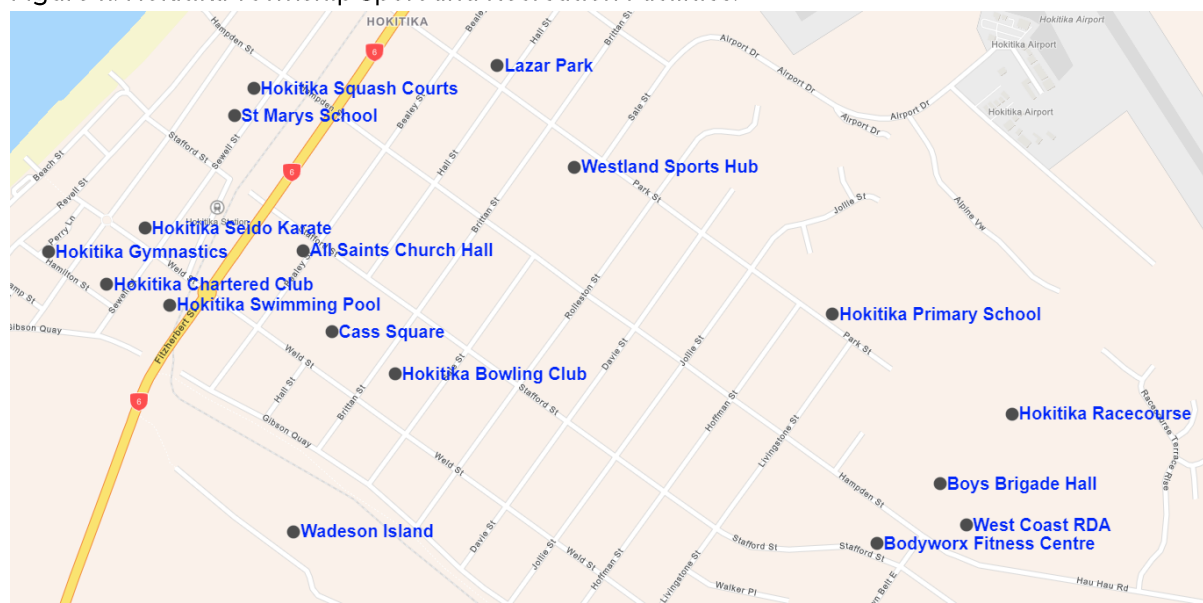


Figure 12. Hokitika Surrounds Sport and Recreation Facilities Map

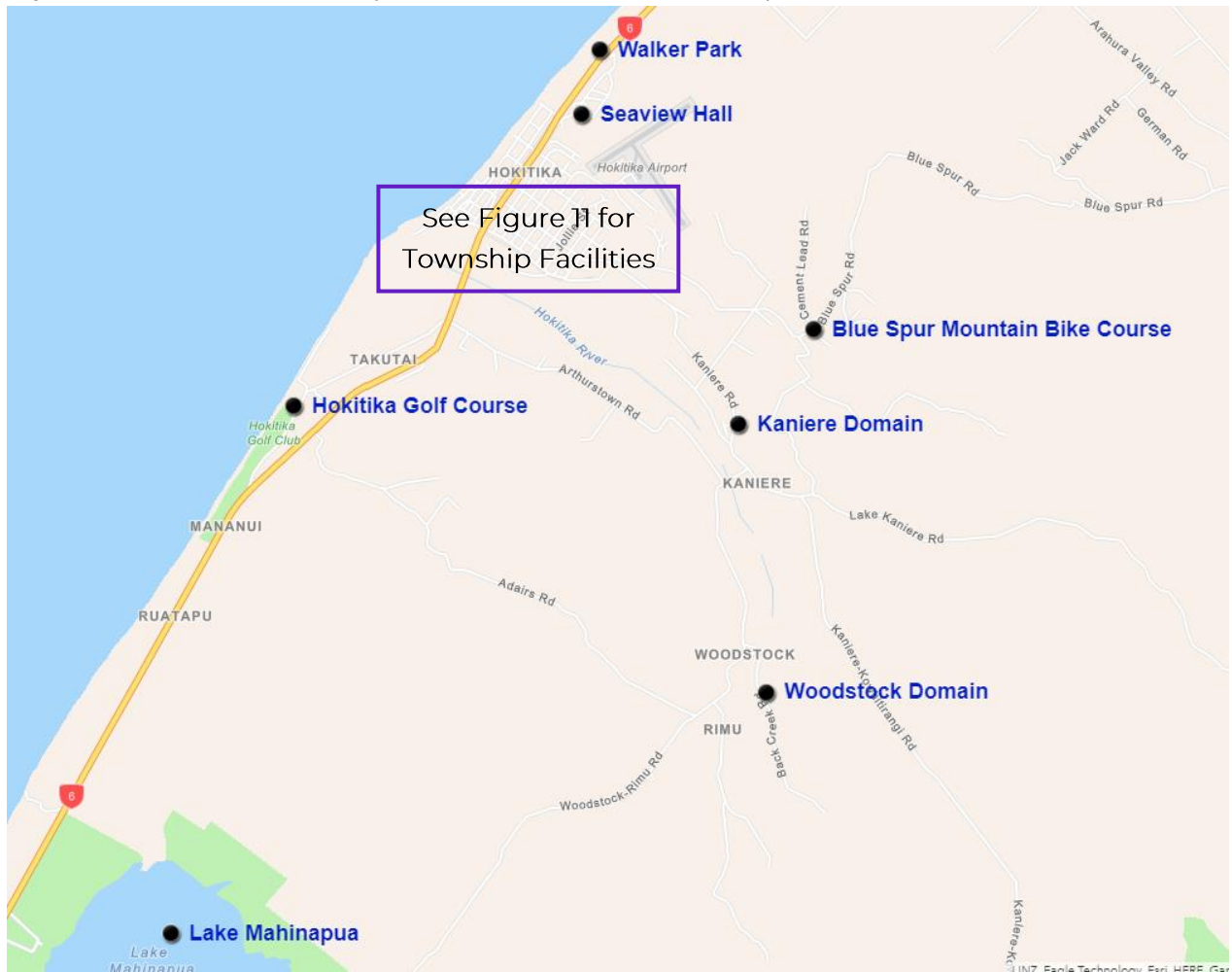


Table 2. Hokitika Sport and Recreation Facilities Summary

Facility	Main Users	Comment
All Saints Church Hall	Indoor Bowls	Multi-use church hall. Built 1936 - restoration project 2017.
Blue Spur Mountain Bike Course	Mountain Biking	Club-developed mountain biking tracks on Iwi land at Blue Spur.
Bodyworx Fitness Centre	Members	Private gym and group fitness centre
Boy's Brigade Hall	Boys Brigade, badminton, hockey	Owned by Boys Brigade on WDC leased Land. Court too small for basketball games. Hockey use for indoor training and summer hockey.
Cass Square	Cricket, Rugby, Rugby League, Athletics, Events	Main central sports and events park for Hokitika. Heavily used. Plans for upgrading existing change rooms and toilets. Two sports fields, susceptible to damage from major events. One artificial cricket block. Long jump pit but no throwing circles. Grandstand. Skate park. Playground. Recreation cycle/walk track surround. Wests Rugby Club rooms adjacent on Brittan Street (planned upgrade in 2-3 years' time).
Hokitika Bowling Club	Lawn Bowls	1 green with 6 rinks and clubrooms (adjacent to Cass Square)
Hokitika Chartered Club	Pool, darts, indoor bowls, table tennis	Chartered club providing activities for members. Meeting facilities for affiliated clubs
Hokitika Golf Course	Golf	18-hole links course with clubroom and bar facilities
Hokitika Gymnastics Club	Gymnastics	Privately-owned facility leased by gymnastics club. Approximately 250m ² .
Hokitika Primary School	School	School swimming pool, bike pump track, adventure playground, school hall.
Hokitika Racecourse	Equestrian, recreation users (dogs, walkers etc)	Ex Hokitika Racecourse land purchased by Council in 2020. 19 Ha site on south-eastern edge of township. Equestrian use plus grazing and riding for RDA. Also used for school cross-country.
Hokitika Seido Karate		Private dojo on Weld St
Hokitika Squash Courts	Hokitika Squash Club.	Two courts. Aging building. Adjacent asphalt surface previously used by tennis club now no longer used.
Hokitika Swimming Pool	General Public Hokitika Swimming Club	Public 33 yard, 8 lane pool, tapered depth, covered, heated, tiered seating, small children's pool attached to laned pool, changerooms. Staged upgrades currently underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 (2021): core infrastructure • Stage 2 (2022): renovate changing facilities and create a new reception and entryway. • Stage 3 (TBC): extension to include a heated toddlers or learners swimming pool.
Kaniere Domain	Kiwi Rugby Club	Sports Ground with flood lights (poor condition).

Facility	Main Users	Comment
Lake Mahinapua	Sailing	Lake Mahinapua Aquatic Club. Trailer access ramp & clubrooms available for event hire. Limited storage space for boats.
Lazar Park	Playground	Modern, public and accessible playground
Seaview Hall	Dance, Community Markets	School-type hall. Previously part of Seaview Hospital.
St Mary's Catholic School	School	1 multi-purpose artificial sand based court with netball, basketball and tennis markings.
Wadeson Island	General Public - recreation	Sports field previously used by Hokitika Rugby League. Modified containers previously used as changing sheds – poor condition. BMX track removed. Dirt Track open for public use.
Walker Park	West's Rugby Club	Two-field park with training lights. Northern field now not usable due to ground conditions. Drainage upgrade scheduled by club in 2023/34 and lighting upgrade in 2023.
Walkways / cycleways	Mountain Biking, e-bike, walking	Multiple cycle and walkways in and around Hokitika including West Coast Wilderness Trail, Hokitika Heritage Trail.
West Coast RDA	Horse riding for the Disabled	Riding area for disabled people, dressage area and access ramps. Situated adjacent to the Racecourse. Plans for an indoor riding arena on site.
Westland Sports Hub / HS hard courts	Tennis, Netball, Rugby	4 covered and two outdoor hard surface court at Westland High School.
Westland Sports Hub / HS indoor gymnasium.	Volleyball, Badminton, Basketball, Korfball	Single basketball-size court also marked and used for badminton and volleyball. Recent new floor surface, lighting and heating. Tiered seating on court-side.
Westland Sports Hub / HS sports fields	Football, Rugby	School grass multi-use playing field. Currently undergoing renovation and installation of flood lighting to increase quality and capacity of surface for play and practise. Has had 400m athletics track marked out previously for school and athletics use. 2 bay cricket nets (available for public use).
Woodstock Domain	Football	Sports Ground with training lights. Westland United Football Club junior football currently temporarily use while WHS grounds upgraded.

6.2 Sports Hubs

Hubbing of sports facilities is common practise. True sports hubs are not just multiple facilities co-located on a common site but may also share ownership, governance and management administration spaces, staff, volunteers, programmes and promotion. Benefits include:

- Reduced investment required for shared amenities (e.g., car parks, change rooms, clubrooms and toilets)
- Lower facility operating costs
- Bulk-purchasing leverage
- Cross-code membership
- Reduced travel for users
- Multi-membership opportunities for users

Three areas could be considered sports hubs in Hokitika.

6.2.1 Westland Sports Hub

The Westland Sports Hub is a school-community project based at the Westland High School. The Hub Assets are managed by the Westland Sports Hub. Community investment has enabled development of significant assets which are available during school time with community access after school hours.

The Hub partnership is currently upgrading the adjacent sports fields with lighting and drainage to provide a high quality playing surface for winter and summer sports. It is not yet known which sports will get access to the fields but the additional capacity will provide the opportunity to reduce pressure on existing fields such as Cass Square – especially following use of the square by the Wildfoods Festival and/or particularly wet weather.

6.2.2 Cass Square

Although not a formal sports hub, Cass Square is arguably the most important sport and recreation space for the town. It includes sports fields for summer and winter sports codes as well as recreation opportunities through the skate park, playground, and cycling track. The Wests Rugby Club clubrooms and the Hokitika Bowling Club are located adjacent on Brittan Street.

The park is also home to the annual West Coast Wildfoods Festival and other community events.

The park is well used and one of the drivers for the development of this plan is to address some of the issues associated with the pressure from that use. Sports park users often lament the time it takes to return the park to a usable state following major events but its central location is ideal for hosting events.

6.2.3 Ex Hokitika Racecourse Land

The Hokitika Racecourse land was purchased by Westland District Council in 2019. Options for development of the land were one of the drivers for the development of this plan.

The Racecourse land comprises approximately 19 Ha on the immediate outskirts of Hokitika. It is currently used as grazing for stock and horses. A number of buildings associated with the Racing Club are still on the land including a grandstand and totaliser building. Access is available off Park Street or Hampden Street.

The site has the potential to become a significant sport and recreation hub for the town in the long term.

A master plan for the site is currently being developed. Input from this Hokitika Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan will be used as part of that master planning process.

6.2.4 Sewell Street Tennis courts

The old outdoor tennis courts adjacent to the squash club could be considered as a future sports hub incorporating more 'public' facilities such as a beach volleyball court, ½ court basketball and petanque court.

7 Hokitika Sport and Recreation Needs

7.1 Key Issues

During the development of this plan sporting codes, recreation groups, schools and other key organisations were asked to complete an online survey outlining their current facility situation and any future plans they have for facility development. Site visits and one on one meetings or phone calls were also undertaken with some groups.

The most prevalent issues reported were:

- Low or declining numbers of players (although not in all cases).
- Aging assets and poor quality of playing or training surfaces – especially sports fields in wet weather.
- Uncertainty around future access for grazing and riding of horses on the Racecourse land.
- Pressure on Cass Square from the amount of use and the time it takes to remediate the surface following major events such as the Wildfoods Festival - especially in wet weather.
- Cost of maintaining and upgrading existing facilities.
- Time and financial cost to travel to train and play.

7.2 Rural Travel Fund

The Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund is an annual contestable fund that is designed to help subsidise travel for rural junior teams aged between 5-18 years. It aims to remove or reduce the barrier of travel cost so people can compete in regular sporting competition. The fund is available for sports teams in rural communities and is administered on behalf of Sport NZ by Westland District Council.

7.3 Activity Summaries

The following section provides a summary of each activity by broad facility type. Membership levels where shown are as reported by the code or organisation. Regional trends are based on a compilation of the latest Sport NZ data sets and the Sport Canterbury 2021 Sport Report Card data. Participation was heavily affected by the impact of Covid-19 so recent trends may not reflect long-term trends or future growth. Facility issues are those identified by the code or organisation.

7.3.1 Outdoor Field Sports

Table 3. Outdoor Field Sports Needs Summary

Cricket			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cass Square 		
Local membership trend (if known)	Stable	Regional Trend	10-year trend: decrease Recent: decreasing
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competes for access to Cass Square (especially end of season). • Require an additional artificial wicket block and outfield. 		
Football			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodstock Domain • Kaniere Domain • Westland High School 	Currently temporarily playing / training at Woodstock Domain while WHS grounds are being upgraded.	

Local membership trend (if known)	Increasing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 junior teams One senior team 	Regional Trend	10-year trend: steady Recent: steady
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting completion of WHS grounds. 		
Rugby League			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cass Square 	<p>Currently still utilising Wadeson Island until the future requirements of the land are being considered. Have used Cass Square previously. No permanent home ground or adequate storage facilities. Sharing facilities with Kiwi Rugby. Train at Cass Square, Play in Greymouth mostly.</p>	
Local membership trend (if known)	Stable	Regional Trend	10-year trend: increase Recent: large drop during Covid but recovering
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs long term home ground Happy to share a facility as long as long as it has basic requirements (storage, change rooms) 		
Rugby Union			
Facilities Used	<p>Kiwi Rugby Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaniere Domain Cass Square WHS <p>West's Rugby Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walker Park WHS Cass Square Westland Hub covered courts 		
Local membership trend (if known)	Stable	Regional Trend	10-year trend: steady Recent: decrease during Covid but recovering
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cass Square ground condition can be poor – especially in bad weather. Cass Square pressure from other users - can sometimes be unavailable at start of season due to Wildfoods Festival. <p>Kiwi Rugby Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting at Kaniere Domain is poor. Wishes to stay on Cass Square long term. Looking for a clubroom space to share. <p>West's Rugby Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubrooms adjacent to Cass Square so wish to remain there Upgrades to clubrooms on Brittan St planned in next 2-3 years Drainage and lighting upgrades planned at Walker Park in 2023.24. 		

Other Outdoor Field Sports

There is currently no Touch module or competition in Hokitika although there has been one in the past. A module currently operates in Greymouth.

Softball is also not offered in Hokitika but potentially could be at one of numerous existing sports fields.

Ultimate is a non-contact, self-refereed team sport played with a flying disc. It is played by two teams of seven players on a playing field about the same length as a football field, but narrower. It is a fast-growing sport as it can be played with mixed teams, does not involve significant cost and can easily be played on existing sports fields.

7.3.2 Outdoor Hard Courts

Table 4. Outdoor Hard Courts Outdoor Needs Summary

Tennis			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWC Westland Hub 	Recently moved from facility on Sewell St to Westland Hub covered courts. Sufficient for needs.	
Local membership trend (if known)	Unknown	Regional Trend	10-year trend: decrease Recent: increase
Facility Issues	A publicly accessible outdoor tennis court and backboard (volley board) would encourage more casual tennis play, assist with coaching and learning and enable practise outside of normal club access to the Hub Courts.		

7.3.3 Indoor Courts

The West Coast Sport and Active Recreation Spaces and Places Strategy applied benchmarks from the National Facilities Strategy for Indoor Sports (2013) to the West Coast context. The findings included:

- The West Coast has a ratio of 1 court per 4,000 people. This is well above national averages and the national benchmark (1 court per 9,000 people), effectively making the region over-supplied with multi-use indoor courts.
- The demand profile for indoor facilities is highly dependent on the age profile of the community. Regions with static but aging populations are likely to have a declining demand for indoor facilities.
- The West Coast is likely to experience a decline in indoor sports demand of up to 19% between 2011 and 2031.
- The adaptation and redevelopment of existing facilities is a far greater priority than additional facilities.
- A strategy of adopting existing facilities to meet the needs of an aging population will be required.

Table 5. Indoor Courts Needs Summary

Badminton			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHS Gym 	Recent upgrades to WHS gym mean the facility is meeting current needs. Previously used the Boys Brigade Hall but it is not fit for purpose and the upgrades at WHS gym meet needs now.	
Local membership trend (if known)	Stable	Regional Trend	10-year trend: increase Recent: decrease
Facility Issues			

Basketball			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHS Gym 	Boys Brigade court is non-compliant for basketball. Basketball court at St Mary's School but not available for public use.	
Local membership trend (if known)	Juniors increasing Seniors stable.	Regional Trend	10-year trend: increase Recent: increase
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHS Gym is the only compliant indoor basketball court in Hokitika. Competing with other users for access at WHS requiring late finish of games (10pm). Requires additional indoor playing space. Basketball court at St Mary's school not accessible for public use. Basketball would like to see a public outdoor court in Hokitika – ideally next at Cass Square. 		
Netball			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWC Westland Hub 	Covered courts working well and currently sufficient for needs.	
Local membership trend (if known)	Stable	Regional Trend	10-year: increase Recent: increase
Facility Issues	No specific facility issues reported.		
Table Tennis			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hokitika Club 		
Local membership trend (if known)	Unknown	Regional Trend	10 year: unknown Recent: increase
Facility Issues	No specific facility issues reported.		
Indoor Bowls			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Halls 		
Local membership trend (if known)	unknown	Regional Trend	10 year: unknown Recent: decrease
Facility Issues	No specific facility issues reported.		
Volleyball			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHS Gym 	Social leagues run from Sept-December No training is undertaken – just games.	
Local membership trend (if known)	Steady 18 teams – mostly senior social	Regional Trend	10-year: increase Recent: increase
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sees an opportunity for an outdoor public volleyball court (could be on waterfront) 		

7.3.4 Other Specialist Indoor Sports

Table 6. Other Specialist Indoor Sports Needs Summary

Gymnastics		
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leased facility on Hamilton Street 	Offers Women's and Men's Artistic Gymnastics

Local membership trend (if known)	Recent decrease due to covid but normally 130-160 children	Regional Trend	10 year: decrease Recent: steady
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying a commercial lease. • Building is not heated or air conditioned so hot in summer, cold in winter. Leaks. • Space is limited (approx. 250m²) • Roof height limited by rafters 		
Martial Arts			
Facilities Used	• Weld Street	Private dojo	
Local membership trend (if known)		Regional Trend	Unknown
Facility Issues	•		
Squash			
Facilities Used	• Hokitika Squash Courts	Two courts.	
Local membership trend (if known)	Declining	Regional Trend	10 year: decrease Recent: decrease
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging building requires updating. • Requires earthquake assessment. • Increasing cost to repair and maintain • Adjacent asphalt surface previously used by tennis club now no longer used. 		

7.3.5 Aquatic Sports

Table 7. Aquatic Sports Needs Summary

Swimming			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hokitika Swimming Pool • Hokitika Primary School Pool 	Upgrades to Hokitika Swimming Pool underway. Scheduled for winter to minimise impact of downtime.	
Local membership trend (if known)	Currently around 60 members	Regional Trend	<u>Competitive swimming</u> 10-year: stable. Recent: increase Leisure, Learn to Swim and warm-water use increasing.
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club would like more lane time • No leisure water, warm water or dedicated learn to swim spaces. • Length (33m) and depth not ideal for swim training or competition. • Start blocks must be moved to poolside then removed again for each club session. 		
Yachting			
Facilities Used	• Lake Mahinapua	Trailer access ramp & clubrooms available for event hire.	
Local membership trend (if known)		Regional Trend	10 year: decrease Recent: decrease

Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited storage space for boats.
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Other outdoor Aquatic Sports

No information was available on access for other aquatic sports such as waka ama, water skiing, canoeing/kayaking and rowing.

7.3.6 Specialist Surfaces

Table 8. Specialist Surfaces Needs Summary

Golf			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hokitika Golf Course 		
Local membership trend (if known)		Regional Trend	10 year: decrease Recent: decrease
Facility Issues			
Hockey			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westurf, Greymouth Boys Brigade Hall St Mary's turf WHS covered courts 		
Local membership trend (if known)	stable	Regional Trend	10 year: increase Recent: decrease
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No appropriate playing or practise turf in Hokitika Travel to Greymouth can be an issue (financial and time cost but also low attendance reduces the effectiveness of practises). Cost of facility hire can be prohibitive 		
Cycling			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cass square 	Simple learn to ride concrete track surrounding Cass Square	
Local membership trend (if known)		Regional Trend	
Facility Issues			
Lawn Bowls			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hokitika Bowling Club 		
Local membership trend (if known)		Regional Trend	10 year: decrease Recent: steady
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		
Athletics			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cass Square WHS Hokitika School 	Informal full or partial tracks marked out. Mostly school use	
Local membership trend (if known)		Regional Trend	10 year: steady Recent: steady
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No athletics club currently active in Hokitika 		

7.3.7 Other Outdoor Activities

Table 9. Other Outdoor Activities Needs Summary

Equine Sports			
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Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hokitika Racecourse Riding for Disabled 	Racecourse used for casual horse riding (trails) and RDA activities. RDA also use Racecourse for grazing	
Local membership trend (if known)	RDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable numbers Up to 140 riders per week. Equestrian – unknown	Regional Trend	10 year: unknown Recent: steady
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Racecourse land for riding and grazing is important. RDA planning an indoor facility on their leased land on Hau Hau Rd. Equestrian community would like a 100m2 all weather (sand) arena to train. 		
Mountain Biking			
Facilities Used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Spur Forest Cass Square (skate park and perimeter track) 	Club-built tracks. Mostly suited to moderately experienced riders Often used by non-members Blue Spur could hold competitive races	
Local membership trend (if known)	Variable/slow increase Family membership increasing Casual participation at around 2x membership.	Regional Trend	10 year: increasing Recent: decrease over covid period.
Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Spur track difficulty restricts novice riders Distance from town limits access for youth as young riders have to be driven Currently investigating options closer to town to encourage new and young riders (a flow or pump track type facility). 		

7.3.8 Recreation Activities

Walking/Cycling

There are a number of walking and cycling trails in and around Hokitika and the Racecourse land that are often used by people of all ages as transport routes and for recreation.

The West Coast Wilderness Trail runs directly through Hokitika and provides opportunities for local residents to ride. The trail also brings economic benefits to Hokitika through visitors who stay and spend money in Hokitika as part of their experience.

Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission, is a Crown agency that works with communities to create and sustain public access to the outdoors. The Commission facilitates and promotes access for walkers, mountain bikers, anglers, horse riders, landholders, trail runners and more.

The Commission can assist with connecting existing tracks and access to improve connections within the community and between key sites.

An example is the opportunity the Racecourse land presents to operate as a hub to better link existing trails and create new trails to schools, community facilities, Blue Spurt Forest and other amenities.

BMX and Pump Tracks

The BMX track at Wadeson Island has recently been removed. BMX riders can access the Blue Spur Forest Mountain bike tracks or the skateboard park at Cass square and a basic dirt track still exists at Wadeson Island.

Frisbee Golf

Frisbee golf is a recreation activity that is growing in popularity. As the name suggests it is a cross between golf and frisbee. Courses can be set up in an existing park or open space of appropriate size and are relatively maintenance free. The only equipment needed to play is a frisbee.

This is an activity that could be established at an existing park or as part of the Racecourse development.

Beach volleyball, outdoor ½-court basketball, Petanque

Organisers of the local volleyball competition have indicated a desire to establish a public outdoor beach volleyball court in Hokitika. The Basketball club also has plans to establish a ½ court public basketball court as well.

These could be combined along with other publicly accessible recreation spaces such as Petanque court to create a community recreation space. The old tennis courts on Sewell street may be an option for a location.

The Elmwood Club in Christchurch is an example of a similar facility.

Skateboarding and Scootering

There is an excellent skateboard facility at Cass Square and the concrete track surrounding the park provide opportunity for skateboarding and scootering.

Planning of future tracks and paths should consider ease and safety to encourage use by riders as a form of recreation and transport e.g., to and from school.

Playgrounds

Public playgrounds are provided at Lazar Park and Cass Square with others at Hokitika Primary, St Mary's Catholic School and local kindergartens and playcentres. The Hokitika Kiwi Holiday Park also has an excellent playground but is only available for use by guests.

Most of the playgrounds in Hokitika are located towards the western end of the township so a playground as part of the Racecourse master plan would provide a more accessible option for those towards the eastern end of town.

Weights Gym and Group Fitness

The Hokitika Fitness Centre is a privately-run gym and group fitness facility in Stafford Street. Access is available 24 hours of the day. The facility is well equipped and has a wide range of programmes available to meet most needs. There is also a physiotherapist on site.

8 Facility Summary

The following provides a summary by facility type of the information presented in this report and further analysis around possible solutions to meet needs.

8.1 Sport and Recreation Hubs

Sports hubs form a key part of the Hokitika facility landscape. Existing hubs at Cass Square and the Westland Hub at Westland High School already provide a focus for activity.

The Racecourse land presents an opportunity for long term development of a hub and an opportunity exists to consider turning the existing tennis courts on Sewell Street into a recreation hub close to town that would provide options for local residents and visitors to Hokitika alike.

8.2 Sports Fields

Hokitika has a network of sports fields that are primarily used for community sport. The major users are cricket in the summer and rugby, rugby union and football in the winter. There is currently no touch rugby or softball offered in Hokitika but both sports could be accommodated at existing parks if a competition was to be organised.

A key issue for sports fields is the pressure on Cass square from use as a major sports park and event location. Access to the park for the start of the winter season following the Wildfoods festival can be delayed if the ground is not remediated in time – especially if the weather has been wet in the lead up to the event. The upgrading of the sports fields at Westland High school will provide an excellent training and playing surface for winter codes and could provide a buffer should Cass square grounds not be playable.

New public toilets and an upgrade to the existing change and storage facility on the park is planned.

Both rugby clubs use Cass square for training and play and have a strong desire to remain at Cass square. Wests Rugby Club plan to upgrade their clubrooms adjacent to the square in the next 2-3 years as well as upgrades to Walker park drainage and lighting. Kiwi rugby club train at Kanieri Domain but the ground is not well drained and the lighting is poor.

Football is currently using Woodstock Domain while the High School grounds are being upgraded. The club will move back to the High School grounds but may continue to use Woodstock domain for training.

The local rugby league club currently does not have a home ground and is playing most games away in Greymouth. Finding a home ground for the club will provide stability and improve the offering of the sport to potential players. Woodstock Domain may provide a solution once the High School grounds are completed.

Cricket can also be disrupted by preparation and planning around the Wildfoods Festival and also requires one additional artificial cricket block to accommodate growth in the district.

Overall, there was not much appetite from sports users to move from Cass Square to the Racecourse site.

A centralised booking system for sports grounds has been suggested as a way to avoid clashes and manage ground use.

8.3 Outdoor Hard Courts

The completion of the Westland Hub indoor courts has vastly improved the level of service for many users. As the main summer and winter users respectively, tennis and netball have benefited from the development of the covered courts at the Westland Hub. The covered space guarantees training and play can go ahead in all but the worst weather. The adjacent uncovered asphalt courts provide additional space for play if required.

Other codes such including rugby and hockey occasionally use the indoor or adjacent outdoor enclosure for training.

Access to the covered tennis courts is only via membership of the tennis club and even then, only for 6-months during the summer season. With the old tennis courts on Sewell street no longer usable, there is now no public tennis court available in Hokitika.

The tennis club also does not have a volley board available for practise. A public court with a volley board that was available throughout the year would be a good recreation amenity for locals and visitors alike. This could be located on the existing asphalt courts at the Westland Hub or on the old tennis courts at Sewell Street as part of a multi-sport facility.

8.4 Indoor Courts

The indoor gymnasium at Westland High School performs a vital function for delivery of sport in Hokitika. It is used by the school and extensively by the community after school hours for basketball, volleyball, badminton and korfbal.

The Boys Brigade Hall adjacent to the Racecourse land is mostly used for Boys Brigade activities and occasionally for hockey practise. Recent upgrades to the Westland High School gymnasium mean it is now the preferred location for badminton and the Boys Brigade Hall is not the correct size for competition basketball.

The Westland High School Gym is well used but indications⁵ are that there is not enough demand to justify a second indoor court at this stage. The situation should be monitored and reconsidered following completion of the National indoor sports court facility plan or if demand at the High School Gym increases to the point where codes are unable to access sufficient court time to meet their needs.

Alternative options may exist for some sports at existing community halls or school halls.

8.5 Aquatic Facilities

Upgrades to the core infrastructure, entrance way and change facilities at Hokitika Swimming Pool are currently underway. Future developments include an extension to include a heated toddlers or teaching (learn to swim) pool.

The current lane pool is not planned to be altered under the proposed upgrades. The Hokitika Swimming Club has indicated that at 33m long it is not the standard length and the shallow end is too shallow for tumble turns. If an opportunity still exists to consider reconfiguration of the lane pool as part of the upgrade this may pay dividends in the long term.

⁵ See section 7.3.3

8.6 Specialist Surfaces and Facilities

There are a number of other activities that require specialist facilities or spaces to train or compete.

Hokitika hockey players currently travel to Greymouth to play and train. The existing artificial surface at St Mary's school is not suitable for hockey practise due to proximity of classrooms and concerns over damage to buildings.

A small (e.g., 1/2 field) artificial practise surface would reduce the time and financial cost of travel and encourage more participation in the sport. This could be part of the existing hub at the high school or potentially on the disused tennis courts in Sewell St. This surface could also be used to play tennis with the addition of a volley board for practise.

The equestrian community wishes to retain access to the existing Racecourse site for recreational horse riding indicating the Racecourse is currently the only place in the district where riders can safely unload and load horses and ride on a good surface in an enclosed space. The Racecourse site is 19 Ha in size and with planning, provision could be made in the site master plan for shared riding tracks and space to load and unload horses.

The Hokitika Lawn Bowls Club is located on Brittan Street across the road from Cass Square. The club did not provide input into the stakeholder survey.

Artistic Gymnastics is provided by the Hokitika Gymnastics Club. They operate from a commercially leased facility in Hamilton Street. With up to 160 members at a time, the club make the existing facility work but it is ultimately not fit-for-purpose. Long term, a more appropriate space (considering total footprint, ceiling height, comfort and cost) should be pursued. The group is not affiliated to Gymnastics New Zealand.

Croquet New Zealand does not list a croquet club in Hokitika.

8.7 Other Sport and Recreation Facilities

A frisbee golf course could easily and affordably be set up in an existing park or open space of appropriate size or considered as part of the Racecourse land master plan.

A public beach volleyball court, outdoor 1/2 court basketball court and petanque court would provide free, easily accessible spaces for locals and visitors to use on a casual basis. These Ideally these would be part of an existing sports hub or could be part of a wider development including a small artificial turf practise area on the tennis/squash club land on Sewell Street.

The Hokitika Club offers sections for pool, table tennis, darts and golf for members and also provides bookable space for other clubs to meet and socialise. It also currently hosts the Kiwi Rugby Club.

There are also a number of community halls, scout halls and similar places that are not part of the scope of this plan but provide venues on a casual or long term basis for activities.

8.8 Schools

Schools form an important part of the sport and recreation facility landscape and especially so in smaller towns like Hokitika.

The Westland Hub at Westland High School is an essential resource for delivery of sport and recreation in Hokitika.

The Hokitika primary schools who submitted to this plan sited facility hire and travel costs as barriers to participation in some activities. Schools also raised concern about damage to school property through public use of school facilities outside school hours. Most Council facilities are already heavily subsidised and the Sport NZ Rural Travel fund⁶ is available to school teams competing outside school time. If measures to mitigate damage to school property can be found this can unlock a number of underutilised sport and recreation assets in a community at very little cost.

The Racecourse has been used for school cross country events for many years and future access should be factored into the master planning for the site.

The opportunity to develop the old tennis club site could provide a very accessible and useful asset for schools and the upgrade of the sports fields at Westland High School will reduce pressure on Cass Square – particularly during adverse weather and when the park is used for major events.

⁶ See section 7.

9 Conclusions

The Westland District Council engaged RSL Consultancy to develop a Sport and Recreation Facility Plan for Hokitika.

Hokitika has a current population of around 3,000 people but is expected to decline to around 2,600 over the next 25 years. The population will also age over this time with those over 45 years of age expected to make up 72% of the population by 2048. The population is also becoming more ethnically diverse. These changes will have an impact on what sports are preferred and how people participate in them

It was found that membership in most sports is either declining or stable with some pockets of growth while there is movement toward more informal, individualised sporting activities. Care should be taken when updating existing or developing new facilities to ensure facilities meet the needs of the changing demographic and are able to be adapted over time to meet changing needs of the community.

There are a number of development projects currently in progress that are being undertaken by Council, the Westland Hub and other community groups including:

- Swimming pool upgrade
- Westland High School sports field redevelopment
- Blue Spur mountain bike tracks
- RDA indoor arena
- Cass Square upgrades including toilets, playground and change/store facility
- Wests Rugby clubrooms on Britain St
- Walker park drainage and lighting upgrades (club)

The acquisition and long term planning of the Hokitika Racecourse Land and the pressure on Cass Square as a sport, recreation and event venue were two key drivers in the development of this Hokitika Sport and Recreation Facility Plan.

Cass Square is the key site for recreation and sport activities and is the home ground for a number of sports clubs. It is also used for large scale events (most notably the Hokitika Wildfoods Festival) and as such it is heavily used. The upgrading of the sports fields at Westland High School will provide a high quality training and playing surface with training lights that will assist with relieving pressure on Cass Square.

The Hokitika Racecourse land was acquired by the Westland District Council in 2020. Council is currently undertaking a master planning exercise for the land which could include sport and recreation use of some of the site. There was not a lot of appetite from the current sports users to move their activities to the Racecourse land but the site could provide excellent opportunities for more recreation-based activities such as walking, running, cycling, frisbee golf and horse riding. The site should also consider linkages to existing walking and riding tracks to improve connections in and around Hokitika.

The disused tennis courts on Sewell St and the asphalt courts adjacent to the Westland Hub covered courts represent opportunities for development to meet some of the needs identified in this report such as tennis, hockey, basketball, volleyball and petanque.

The current Hokitika Gymnastics facility is not fit for purpose and a more suitable long term solution should be investigated.

In all cases, maximising use and upgrading existing facilities should be prioritised ahead of developing new ones where possible.

Working with existing community and government agencies such as the Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa the Outdoor Access Commission and the various sports groups in the community to ensure a joined up approach to facility provision will pay dividends.

Sports events bring multiple benefits to local participants, local facilities and the local economy. Stakeholders should continue to seek to host sporting tournaments and events that are a good fit with existing sport and recreation facilities and other infrastructure such as accommodation.

A centralised booking system for sports grounds has been suggested as a way to avoid clashes and manage ground use.

10 Action Plan

Table 10 takes the information and conclusions from the plan and presents a number of actions for delivery.

The proposed actions are listed by facility type and prioritised by timing. Those already in progress as listed in Section 9 above are assumed to be committed and will be delivered so are not included in the table.

Table 10. Proposed Actions and Timing

	Action	Timing (years)		
		0-5	5-10	10+
1	Sports Hubs			
1.1	Undertake a master plan for the Racecourse land setting aside sufficient space for sport and recreation use including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mix of shared and dedicated trails for horse riding, walking, biking • Open space for general recreation • Associated public amenities (toilets, car parking etc) • Public recreation activities such as frisbee golf • Walking and biking tracks linking to existing surrounding tracks to facilitate active transport and recreation • A playground 	✓		
1.2	Investigate the opportunity for redevelopment of the disused tennis courts on Sewell Street into a public recreation space.	✓		
1.3	Continue to work with Westland High School and Westland Hub on access to hub facilities for public access.	ongoing		
2	Sports Fields			
2.1	Ensure ongoing public access to WHS fields for sports clubs	✓		
2.2	Upgrade drainage and lighting at Kaniere Domain		✓	
2.3	Allocate a home and training ground for Hokitika Rugby League Club	✓		
2.4	Install an artificial cricket block if junior player numbers continue to rise	TBC		
2.5	Develop a centralised booking system for sports grounds.	✓		
3	Outdoor Hard Courts			
3.1	Develop an artificial practise surface for hockey, tennis and other use that is available to the public on the existing asphalt surface adjacent to the Westland Hub covered courts.		✓	
4	Indoor Courts			
4.1	Monitor use of the WHS gym court and seek alternative options if demand exceeds supply.	ongoing		
5	Aquatic Facilities			
5.1	Complete the planned stage 2 upgrade to the Hokitika Swimming Pool.	✓		
5.2	Review the configuration of the existing lane pool as part of the planned Hokitika Pool upgrade if the opportunity still exists.	✓		
6	Specialist Surfaces and Facilities			
6.1	See action 3.1		✓	

	Action	Timing (years)		
		0-5	5-10	10+
6.2	Retain current access to sections of the Racecourse land for recreational horse riding and RDA activities while a master plan is developed for the site.	✓		
6.3	Include provision for recreational horse riding and RDA activities as part of the Racecourse master plan.	✓		
6.4	Investigate options for provision of a fit-for-purpose Gymnastics facility	✓		
7	Other Sport and Recreation Facilities			
7.1	Consider a frisbee golf course as part of the Racecourse master plan.	✓		
7.2	Consider development of the disused tennis courts on Sewell street for a public recreation space for example including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball ½ court • Petanque court • Beach volleyball court 	✓		
7.3	Include walking and biking tracks as part of the Racecourse land master plan that link to existing tracks and to key points of interest for recreational and transport use.	✓		
7.4	Work with the Mountain bike club and community in the development of the Blue Spur mountain bike tracks. This may include upgrading or developing amenity services such as toilets or car parking.	ongoing		
8	Schools			
8.1	Continue to support the development of the Westland Hub at Westland High School.	ongoing		
8.2	Continue to work with local schools to facilitate public access to school sport and recreation assets after school hours.	ongoing		
8.3	Consider school access and needs when planning new or upgraded facilities.	ongoing		

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