



Have your **Say!**

Draft **EA Networks Centre & Surrounding Land**

30 Year Masterplan

Consultation Document

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

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

Find out more about the draft Masterplan and have your say inside.



itsourplace.nz

EA networks
centre 

 **Ashburton**
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

You have until Friday 28 April to provide your feedback.

Have a question?

There may be an answer in our Frequently Asked Questions, available at ***itsourplace.nz***



How will the plan be actioned?

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

It is important to note that many of the individual projects identified within this draft plan are not currently funded.

When the need exists and funding is available, the identified projects will be included in a future Long Term Plan or Annual Plan, and community consultation will occur as part of this process.



Why
do we need
a plan?

The Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy adopted in 2022 identified the need to complete a stocktake of sporting groups' current and future needs.

In 2023, we completed a utilisation study of sports facilities and Council land across the district. The study showed that some areas of the EA Networks Centre are already being used at capacity during peak times, and that the growth of some sports will be limited due to the size of current facilities. This shows there is a need for more space for both current and future generations.

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

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

Have your
Say!

Want to know more?

You can read the full Utilisation Study 2023 report and summary report at itsourplace.nz or email us at submissions@adc.govt.nz

The Proposed Masterplan



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Additional vehicle entrance | 11 Promenade - access/service way (10m wide) |
| 2 Additional car park area a - approx. 297 spaces | 12 Grass embankment |
| 3 Additional car park area b - approx 106 spaces | 13 Pedestrian walkway connection |
| 4 Bus drop off area | 14 Multi use green space (event space, overflow carpark) |
| 5 Hockey turf | 15 Existing shed conversion (event space) |
| 6 Team shelter | 16 Mini golf course |
| 7 Stepped terrace seating | 17 Sand court - to be constructed in 2024 |
| 8 Multi-purpose sports fields | 18 Outdoor lighting to sports fields and turf |
| 9 Changing rooms and public toilets (680m ²) | 19 Existing vehicle entrance widened - added exit lane |
| 10 Spectator stand - 500 seats | 20 Secondary entrance at stadium extension for events |



- 21 Existing disc golf course - modify two holes
- 22 Outdoor basketball - three half courts
- 23 Playground equipment
- 24 Solar farm area (1 hectare)
- 25 Department of Conservation land - possible future inclusion
- AQ Area for additional aquatics space
- S2C Stadium addition - size of two court option
- S3C Stadium addition - size of three court option

Notes

1. Currently, EA Networks Centre has 318 car parks, consisting of 188 permanent spaces with an additional 130 spaces in the overflow area. Under this plan, two new car parking areas would increase total capacity to 591.
2. Depending on the outcome of a proposed Ashburton A&P Showground project, the field area could be subject to change, see our FAQs for more information.
3. Fields and turf rotated 15 degrees off north for optimal daylight conditions.

Current and future proposed projects

Have your
Say!

These projects are already happening or are proposed to be included in the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34, which we are currently consulting on.

Oak Grove steps

✓ **Project recently completed**

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We have also recently installed steps that connect the Oak Grove footpath to the EA Networks Centre.

2023/24 | \$28,000

Outdoor sand court

17

➔ **Project starting soon**

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A minor project scheduled to be completed in the 2023-24 year is an outdoor sand court that the community can use. As this is to be completed before June 2024, it is not included in the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

2023/24 | \$30,000

Vehicle entrance widening

19

A project to widen and add an additional lane at the existing vehicle entrance has been included in our proposed Draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

This would help solve the current challenges when exiting the EA Networks Centre car park onto State Highway 77 at peak times.

2024/25 | \$155,000
(Year 1 of draft Long Term Plan)

Solar farm

24

The draft Masterplan includes a proposed 1 hectare solar farm, which has been designed to produce enough electricity to power the EA Networks Centre and secure the financial energy spend of the facility.

In time, this is expected to increase sustainability and fix a key operating cost for the facility.

The budget indicated below will facilitate early preparatory work, however the construction of the solar farm itself will require further funding in the future.

2027/28 | \$65,000
(Year 4 of draft Long Term Plan)

Internal building changes

Included in our draft Long Term Plan budget is a project to make some internal changes to the EA Networks Centre building. We are proposing to reconfigure existing office and staff spaces to incorporate a 100m² studio that could be used for a number of activities including dancing or yoga.

The project would include moving the staff room to the opposite end of the building. Since this project is already included in proposed budgets, it is not included as part of this Masterplan.

2024/25 | \$325,000
(Year 1 of draft Long Term Plan)

Stadium extension

S2C

S3C

A stadium extension has been included in the draft Masterplan due to the high usage that we are already seeing in the stadium. We have also heard from key stakeholders that capacity here is already an issue and sport growth and participation is being curtailed. A stadium extension also has the positive economic flow-on effect of bringing additional tournaments and events to Ashburton.

This draft Masterplan includes two options for the stadium extension – an extension of two courts or an extension of three courts, and Council's preferred option is the three court extension. This is what has been included as part of the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34.

See pages 5 - 8 of the [Masterplan](#) for more detailed plans that show the extension options for the stadium.

2028/31 | \$23,738,100
(Year 5 - 7 of draft Long Term Plan)

Aquatic extension

AQ

The 2023 Utilisation Study identified that the indoor pool at EA Networks Centre had high levels of utilisation. At times, the Learn to Swim pool is at capacity and demand is growing for this activity. The indoor pool extension included in this plan would relieve the capacity issues year round, whereas the outdoor pool option would only assist in the summer months when operating.

The Masterplan allows space for the following activities; an additional indoor pool or an outdoor pool, a hydroslide, wet/dry climbing wall, wet obstacle course and splash deck designed for older children.

Council's current proposal involves an outdoor pool with the possibility of an integrated splash area, and this has been included in the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34. This project was preferred over the option to rebuild Tinwald Pool due to ongoing operational efficiencies.

See pages 9 – 10 of the [Masterplan](#) for more detailed plans that show a number of upgrade options for the aquatic area.

2024/26 | \$3,025,000
(Year 1 - 2 of draft Long Term Plan)

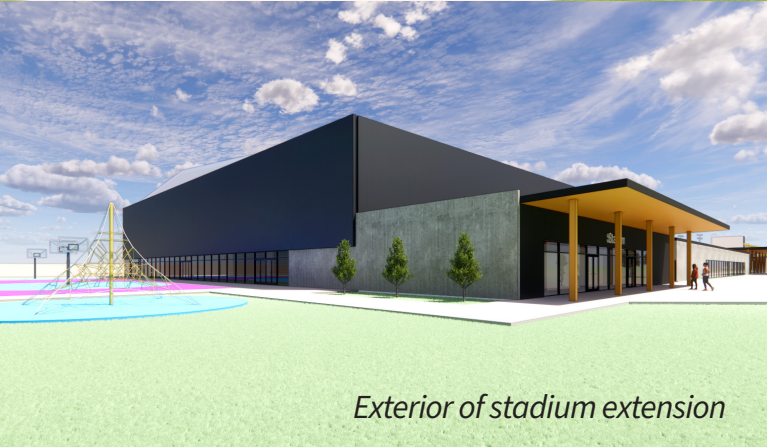


Scan the QR code to read more and provide your feedback online.

Have a question?

There may be an answer in our Frequently Asked Questions, available at itsourplace.nz

Other projects



Exterior of stadium extension



Multi-purpose sports fields

Hockey turfs

The Masterplan includes two new artificial turfs. The current hockey turf is an area that was identified in the Utilisation Study as having high levels of use. The proposed turfs could service hockey, turf sports and other recreation opportunities. The turfs are proposed to be orientated for optimal daylight conditions.

5

Multi-purpose sports fields

Two multi-purpose sports fields are included as part of the proposed vision. It is expected that these fields could be used for a variety of sports such as rugby, league, football and softball. The sports fields are proposed to be orientated for optimal daylight conditions.

8

Mini golf course

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

16

This is included in the plan as a lack of low cost/no cost recreational activities has been identified as a gap in the Ashburton District, we expect it would provide enjoyment to the community.

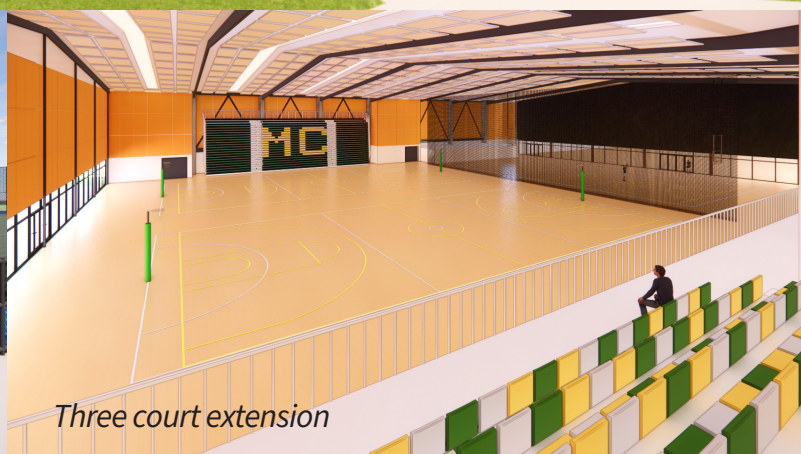
Playground equipment

Playground equipment has been included as part of the plan to provide an opportunity for spontaneous play and entertainment for younger family members. This reflects what has been set out in the Play, Active Recreation and Sport Strategy 2022.

23



Hockey turfs



Three court extension

Outdoor courts

Under this Masterplan the existing outdoor courts would need to be relocated to make way for the stadium extension project. These community courts would remain free for all to use. When tournaments are on, these courts are also used for additional space and warm up areas. These are labelled as in the draft plan.

22

Disc golf

It's expected that two disc golf holes will need to be modified to provide space for the other proposed developments.

21

Vehicle entrances, parking and drop off areas

An additional vehicle entrance is included as part of the plan, as well as widening of the current entrance. Additional car parking is also part of the vision, and is proposed to have an extra 403 parking spaces, as well as a bus drop off area and service vehicle access to the sports fields. These projects are seen as necessary to support future development and an increasing number of visitors to the sports hub as a whole.

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11

19



Read more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

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

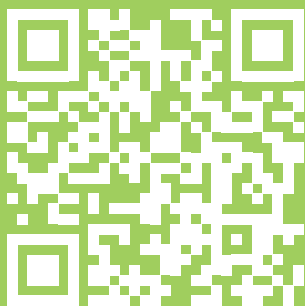
- Feedback material, including your name and organisation (if applicable) but excluding your contact details, will be included in material available to Council, media and the public at our office and on our website.
- The contact details you provide will be used for administration of the consultation process, including informing you of the outcome of the consultation.
- The information you have provided will be stored and held by Council. If you would like to request access to, or make a correction to your personal information, please contact the Council staff.

Got any questions you'd like answered before giving feedback?

There may be an answer in our Frequently Asked Questions, available on our website at itsourplace.nz. Otherwise, feel free to email us at submissions@adc.govt.nz

Before providing your feedback, we encourage you to look at the full draft Masterplan for more information. This can be viewed at itsourplace.nz

You have until Friday 28 April to provide your feedback.



You can provide your feedback:



FREEPOST

Ashburton District Council
Freepost 230444
PO Box 94
Ashburton 7740



IN PERSON

Dropping it off at:
Ashburton District
Council reception –
2 Baring Square East



ONLINE

itsourplace.nz



EMAIL

submissions@adc.govt.nz

It's easy to have your say online!

ItsOurPlace.nz



Your feedback

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Draft EA Networks Centre & Surrounding Land

30 Year Masterplan

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

You can answer any or all of the questions below, you don't have to complete every question.

Share your thoughts online at [ItsOurPlace.nz](https://www.itsourplace.nz) or complete this form.

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

Your details

FOLD HERE

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

Phone: Email:

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

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

☐

Yes: The hearing will be held at Hine Paaka (the Council Chamber) on **Thursday 6 June from 9am**. Please note that hearings may be live-streamed to our online channels.

☐

No: I do not wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that my written submission be fully considered.

If yes, do you wish to present: ☐ In Person ☐ Virtually



Prefer to submit online?

ItsOurPlace.nz

You have until Friday 28 April to provide your feedback.

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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

*The stadium and aquatics extensions are proposed as part of the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34 currently out for consultation. If you want to comment on these specific projects, please have your say at ***itsourplace.nz***

5 Any other comments or feedback:

FOLD HERE


Ashburton
DISTRICT COUNCIL
FreePost Authority 230444

Free 



Ashburton District Council
PO Box 94
Ashburton 7740