

New Zealand Rugby League Facility Strategy

Prepared for New Zealand Rugby League

A Report by Active Insight Ltd
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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The aim of the New Zealand Rugby League Facility Strategy is to identify the priorities for the development of league facilities at a national and NPC level and to provide a framework to support the development of facilities at club and local community levels.

The strategy will enable New Zealand Rugby League (NZRL), Zones, Districts, Clubs, Territorial Authorities and other partners to:

- Identify current demand for league fields.
- Consider changing population demographics and to identify the potential future demand for league fields.
- Identify the key facility challenges facing league.
- Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided, in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- Identify a hierarchy of facility requirements from club through to International competition.

The strategy will identify current and future gaps in provision; however it does not identify specific sites, clubs or local geographical areas where the priorities lie at a community level. Developing this detail at a local level is the next stage in implementing the project. This summary strategy document provides an outline of the current and future demand at a National level and identifies the key issues facility rugby league at the grass root level.

1.2 National Overview of New Zealand Rugby League.

The NZRL's strategic plan 'The Playbook' outlines what needs to be done to build upon Rugby League's rich history and take it to new levels. This acknowledges that there has been tremendous growth in the game across the country in recent years and that there are a number of opportunities ahead to build on this growth including co-hosting the 2017 World Cup.

The strategic plan clearly identifies the central role that league has within the community.

The Vision: *Te Iwi kiwi. Build a stronger family, community and game.*

The Mission: *To serve and lead our people to success through rugby league. It's more than just a game.*

The strategy identifies eight core strategies to work towards:

- International success
- Grassroots capability
- Strong partnerships
- Quality rugby league experiences
- Marketing and communications
- Commercial growth and re-investment
- Pathways and opportunities
- Governance and leadership.

Without access to high quality facilities it will not be possible to achieve the outcomes identified within the strategy. While 'The Playbook' does not specifically identify the development of facilities as a key objective; access to high quality facilities are an essential tool central to the development of the game.

1.3 Levels of participation

The NZRL has a central role to play in supporting and enabling the development of the game from grassroots participation through to the NZ Kiwis.

In terms of community participation league has achieved a sustained period of growth in recent years with club membership increasing by 70% from 23,228 in 2011 to 38,578 in 2015.

Table 1.1 Club membership

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	% change 2011 to 2015
0-12 years old	7,667	9,877	13,166	17,281	125%
13-18 years old	6,926	7,848	8,564	12,116	75%
19 years and over	8,635	12,554	11,782	10,181	18%
	23,228	30,279	33,512	39,578	70%

Table 1.2 Participation by District (2014)

Districts	0 - 13	13 - 18	19+	TOTAL
RUGBY LEAGUE NORTHLAND	1413	1254	482	3149
AKARANA ZONE	2878	4006	2178	9062
COUNTIES MANUKAU ZONE	4854	2612	2178	9644
UPPER CENTRAL ZONE	2915	1506	2032	6197
Bay of Plenty Rugby League	898	453	551	1902
Coastline Rugby League	673	262	254	1189
Gisborne	156	4	112	272
Waikato Rugby League	1188	787	859	2834
MID CENTRAL ZONE	1488	1095	834	3417
Manawatu Rugby League	74	307	256	637
Taranaki Rugby League	1224	364	178	1766
Hawkes Bay	190	424	400	1014
WELLINGTON RUGBY LEAGUE	1699	965	1215	3879
SOUTHERN ZONE	2034	678	1518	4230
Canterbury Rugby League	1097	416	990	2503
Tasman	56	48	244	348
Otago Rugby League	44	46	54	144
Southland Rugby League	-	78	120	198
West Coast Rugby League	837	90	110	1037
TOTAL	17281	12116	10181	39578

SECTION 2 CURRENT STATE OF COMMUNITY PLAY

2.1 A Large Active Population.

In considering the demand for the game it is important to consider that not all the population are ever likely to play the game. The active population is therefore defined as age 5 to 49, male and female. (Table 2.1)

Table 2.1 Active Population

Zone	Active Population
Northland	82,044
Akarana	571,086
Counties Manukau	348,858
Upper Central	350,460
Mid Central	297,540
Wellington	275,052
Southern	608,667
National	2,102,805

Different Participation Rates

Participation in league varies, both across the Country and within zones, and is influenced by a number of factors including:

- The local profile and popularity of the game.
- The strength of local clubs.
- The demographics of the local community.
- Access to fields and facilities.
- The strength and popularity of other codes.

Participation rates can vary across the zones and also at the different age grades within each zone. This provides an indication of the local participation rate in league, with the lower the number the more teams that can be generated. Participation rates are identified in Table 2.2, which indicates for example that in Southern there is Seven participants for every 1,000 population aged between 5 and 49 years old were as in Northland there is 38 participants from the same local population.

Table 2.2 Participation rates (Overall)

	Participants	Participants per 1,000 active population
Northland	3,149	38
Akarana	9,062	16
Counties Manukau	9,644	28
Upper Central	6,197	17
Mid Central	3,417	11
Wellington	3,879	14
Southern	4,230	7
National	39,578	18

2.2 Current Facility Provision

There are a large number of facilities used for league across the country, however the ability to meet demand for the game and the condition of these facilities vary.

While there are a number of challenges in meeting future demand it is considered that the main facility pressures are at the grass roots level, getting community teams onto good quality fields for training and competition.

As with all field based codes there is increased competition from other codes to utilise the limited space available. It is therefore essential to identify the demand for league and provide the support to key partners to ensure that the needs of league are fully considered in long term community planning.

In total 327 league fields (full field equivalents) have been identified across the country. The level of provision of fields varies from Zone to Zone. This can be as a result of a number of factors including the demand for the game, quality / capacity of the fields, Council policies, or historical agreements.

Using the number of fields per 1,000 active population as one measure of access it can be seen that in Northland 0.25 of a field is available to league for every 1,000 of the active population compared to only 0.12 of a field in Mid Central.

Table 2.3 Field Availability

Fields (full size equivalent) per 1,000 population	Fields per 1,000 Population
Northland	0.25
Auckland	0.16
Counties Manukau	0.20
Upper Central	0.16
Mid Central	0.12
Wellington	0.16
Southern	0.17
National	0.16

In considering the provision of facilities there are a number of factors that impact on the overall level of community field provision. These include:

Field capacity

The condition of sports fields varies significantly across the country and is influenced by many factors including weather conditions, soil composition and field maintenance. Levels of field maintenance play a significant role in the overall capacity of league fields, however this varies significantly from basic line marking and grass cutting through to field refurbishment and upgrading to sand based and artificial fields.

Council Owned Sports Grounds

Local Councils are the key provider of league fields across the country, with the vast majority of league fields owned and managed by the local Council. There are however significant differences in the provision of fields both in terms of the number and the quality.

Different Councils operate different booking systems, cancellation policies and field charging structures that impact on the local delivery of league. However, it is important to consider that Councils are required to balance the needs of many different community and sporting groups and that sports fields meet a wider community need for open space.

An additional pressure is placed on council fields as college age games are predominantly played through the club structure and on council owned fields unlike some other field based codes which play through the college structure on college fields.

Limited Seasonal Use

In the majority of areas league use is limited to a 20-week season; this restricts the ability to reschedule games lost through poor weather.

Securing fields for end of season NPC competitions, representative training and games is difficult in some areas due to field maintenance and other users.

Impacts of Population Change

There are significant changes forecast to the New Zealand population that will impact on levels of league participation. While there is overall population growth this varies significantly across the country with some areas projected to increase while others to decrease.

In addition to the projected growth the population is also aging resulting in the active league playing age groups making up a smaller percentage of the future population.

SECTION 3 KEY FACILITY CHALLENGES

There are a number of significant facility challenges which impact on the development of the game for both competition and training needs.

3.1 National Level Challenges

Access to suitable stadiums at a national level for major Tests is not considered a significant challenge facing the development of the game as there are a number of stadiums around the Country that meet the requirements.

While at a Test level the facilities are considered adequate to meet the needs of the game there are a number of other significant challenges that need to be addressed at a national level.

- **Limited access to appropriate small scale stadiums for International Competition.** There is limited access to small scale stadiums (capacity 5,000 – 10,000) that are appropriate to meet the needs of other competitions including:
 - Second tier Tests.
 - Junior Kiwi.
 - Kiwi Ferns.
 - NZXIII.
 - NZ Residents and Age Grade Competitions.

While the facilities at the current stadiums are of a high quality they are often far larger than is required for the game and the number of spectators. As a result, it is difficult to create the atmosphere and environment appropriate to the level of competition.

- **Limited access to appropriate small scale stadium for NPC Competition.** There is limited access to small scale stadiums to meet the needs of NPC based competition including:
 - National Competition.
 - NPC and District Representative games.
 - NPC and District Club finals.

Access is limited to small scale venues (capacity 2,500 – 5,000) to hold NPC and District competitions where there is a need to provide gated access. Where facilities can be identified challenges include:

- They are often fully utilised by the resident club.
 - The field quality is often poor as these games are usually held at the end of the season.
 - The timing of competition often impacts on the availability of fields.
 - It is difficult to provide gated access, or there is the requirement for significant additional temporary infrastructure to be provided.
 - There is often a high cost associated with hiring the facility.
- **Lack of National High Performance Training Venue.** Access to appropriate high performance training facilities is currently limited. NZRL have identified the need to secure access to a high performance training venue. It is identified that Auckland is the largest participation catchment area for league and is considered the most likely location for a national facility. A review by NZRL of the ideal requirements from a High Performance Training Venue include:
 - Administration base including office, meeting rooms, lecture theatre / video analysis, museum area, storage and car parking.
 - Dedicated training field with an artificial dedicated training area
 - High performance gym and indoor training area.
 - Changing facilities with showers, toilets and area for temporary hot and cold recovery pools.

In addition to the above core facilities, access would be required to:

- Sports medicine, physiotherapy, nutrition services.
- 25m swimming pool and hydrotherapy pool
- Accommodation with catering facilities.

It is considered that many of these facilities could be shared with other high performance sport if long term access can be secured to meet NZRL's High Performance needs.

- **Lack of NPC Training Facilities.** The majority of zones identified the difficulty in securing access to appropriate facilities for representative teams was a significant issue. Where facilities can be identified challenges include:
 - They are often fully utilised by the resident club.
 - The field quality is often poor as games are held at the end of the season.
 - The timing of competition often impacts on the availability of fields.
 - There is often a high cost associated with hiring the facility.

3.2 Community Level Challenges

A survey of the Zones, as part of the strategy development, identified that the key facility issues at a club and community level (in priority order are) are:

- **Access to Training Fields.** This was considered to be the number one facility issue for club and community league in terms of both the quality of field and the number of fields available. Challenges include:
 - Limited or no training fields available in some areas.
 - Poor quality / no training lights.
 - Poor quality fields.
 - High levels of field closures due to poor quality fields.

As a result of the limited access to training fields the following implications for the game were identified:

- Training was often cancelled due to the poor quality of the fields, or training was only possible at the beginning of the season since potential damage caused to the field at other times restricted competition play.
 - Some clubs did very little or no training as no facilities could be identified.
 - When training lights were provided this concentrated the club training onto particular parts of the field further increasing overuse and field damage.
- **Poor quality changing and clubrooms.** The majority of the zones identified that poor quality changing and clubrooms were a significant challenge facing the development of club and community league. Where facilities were available they were often considered outdated, or in a poor state of repair.
 - **Poor quality of fields for competition.** While not considered as significant an issue as the quality of training fields, securing access to quality competition fields was a challenge for some of the Zones. While not a challenge for all it was considered a major issue within the main urban areas. The quality of fields for competition is directly linked to the quality of fields for training as many clubs restrict training in an attempt to maintain the quality of competition.
 - **Access to competition fields.** Access to fields, in terms of number of fields, to meet the demands for competition was considered an issue by the Northern, Mid Central and Southern Zones.
 - **Secure access to fields.** Many fields are identified with league as a secondary user (predominantly informal agreements to share rugby fields). This works very well in many areas and can maximise the use of available resources. However where this does not and no formal arrangement is in place, the league club may not be able to access training fields, floodlights or clubrooms. Not having secured access to an established home base negatively impacts on the identity and community within the club.

SECTION 4 ACCESS TO COMMUNITY FIELDS

4.1 Current Position

To project the current and future league field requirements it is necessary to identify the current and future participation in, and demand for league. The Sports Field Demand Model has been used to calculate the current and future demand for league fields.

This model:

- Identifies all teams and fields in an area and calculates how many fields (hours) are required to meet demand.
- Hours of field time demand is based on current participation practices (based on the 2014 season) undertaken within the Zones (team sizes, hours of play, training, field size requirements).
- Assesses the number of hours play the fields can sustain (Based on NZSTI capacity estimates).
- Projects future demand based on population change and trends in sports participation.
- Identifies any surplus or shortfall in field provision for competition and training across an average week.

Current Capacity Surplus / Shortfall

Based on the 2014/15 participation data provided by the Zones table 4.1 identifies the current surplus or shortfall of fields.

Table 4.1 Capacity Surplus / Shortfall by Zone (hours per week)

	Competition	Training	Total
Northland	-6	-13	-22
Akarana	-2	-129	-131
Counties	-13	-7	-20
Upper Central	76	55	131
Mid Central	74	160	234
Wellington	20	-9	11
Southern	43	13	56

In considering the above surpluses and shortfalls it is important to note that these do not take into account the impacts of weather related closures.

In considering the capacity surplus / shortfall by Zone it is important to consider that some Zones cover a large geographical area and that supply and demand is not evenly distributed across the Zone and spare capacity in one area.

Table 4.2 Capacity Surplus / Shortfall by District (hours per week)

	Competition	Training	Total
Far North	-2	9	7
Whangarei	-5	-22	-27
Kaipara	0	0	0
Akarana	-2	-129	-131
Counties	-13	-7	-20
Waikato	29	21	50
Hauraki	15	26	41
Coastline	9	1	10

Bay of Plenty	17	3	20
Gisborne	4	1	5
Hawkes Bay	17	21	38
Manawatu	31	87	118
Taranaki	26	51	77
Wellington	4	6	10
Lower Hutt	8	-26	-18
Upper Hutt	8	9	17
Porirua	2	5	7
Kapiti	-2	-3	-5
Tasman	12	17	37
West Coast	3	-9	1
Canterbury	13	-15	24
Otago	6	10	21
Southland	8	9	23

4.2 Future Demand

The overall demand for league is increasing, however it is growing at different rates across the country. There are many factors that influence this growth including:

- Changing demand for league within the population through proactive coaching and development programmes.
- Changing demographics.
 - Population growth.
 - Increased ethnic diversity.
 - Aging population.

Table 4.4 Projected Future Teams.

	Teams (2014/15)	Projected Teams (2028)
Northland	94	130
Akarana	302	455
Counties Manukau	274	382
Upper Central	273	368
Mid Central	92	100
Wellington	93	117
Southern	257	338
National	1,385	1,890

Changing demographics have the potential to significantly impact on the numbers of people playing league. The national population is projected to increase significantly over coming years, however the rate of population change varies significantly across the country. When this is combined with an aging population, while there is projected to be a significant increase in participation in some areas, others are likely to see a decline in both the active population and participation.

Table 4.5 Projected Changes in Active Population

	Projected Change in Active population within the Council administrative areas
Northern	Whangarei static, other Council areas are declining.
Akarana	Growth in all areas, most significant in Auckland, North Shore and Waitakere.
Counties Manukau	Growth in all areas. Most significant in Manukau.
Upper Central	Growth in Tauranga City, Hamilton City, Waikato District and Waipa District. Western Bay of Plenty District static. All other Council areas are declining.
Mid Central	Growth in Palmerston North City. Manuwatu District static. All other Council areas are declining.
Wellington	Growth in all areas. Most significant in Wellington City.
Southern	Slight growth in Waimakariri District, Christchurch City, Selwyn District, Tasman District, Queenstown District and Central Otago District. Population is static or declining in other Council areas.

League has traditionally had higher levels of participation within the Maori and Pacific Island communities. In addition to the projected population growth it is important to consider the projected ethnic population projections and the impact these may have on future participation rates.

4.3 Projected Surpluses and Shortfalls (2028)

Taking the above factors into consideration the projected surpluses / shortfall for 2028 can be seen in tables it is projected that

Table 4.6 Capacity Surplus / Shortfall by Zone (2028 hours per week)

	Competition	Training	Total
Northland	-21	-13	-34
Akarana	-12	-203	-215
Counties	-31	-68	-99
Upper Central	40	-41	-1
Mid Central	70	152	222
Wellington	9	-40	-31
Southern	12	-68	-56

Table 4.7 Capacity Surplus / Shortfall by District (2028 hours per week)

	Competition	Training	Total
Far North	-6	-2	-8
Whangarei	-14	-47	-61
Kaipara	-1	-3	-4
Akarana	-12	-203	-215
Counties	-31	-68	-99
Waikato	10	-28	-18
Hauraki	13	22	35
Coastline	2	-20	-18
Bay of Plenty	11	-12	-1
Gisborne	2	-2	0
Hawkes Bay	15	12	27
Manawatu	27	83	111
Taranaki	27	56	83
Wellington	3	3	0
Lower Hutt	4	-36	-32
Upper Hutt	7	7	14
Porirua	-2	-6	-8
Kapiti	-4	-8	-12
Tasman	10	12	22
West Coast	2	-13	-11
Canterbury	-11	-82	-93
Otago	5	7	12
Southland	6	6	12

Important considerations

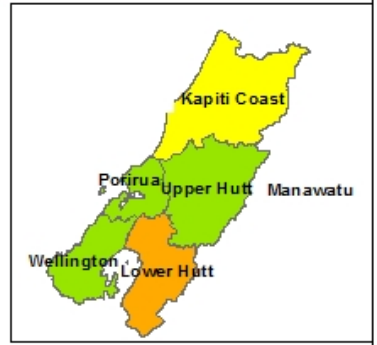
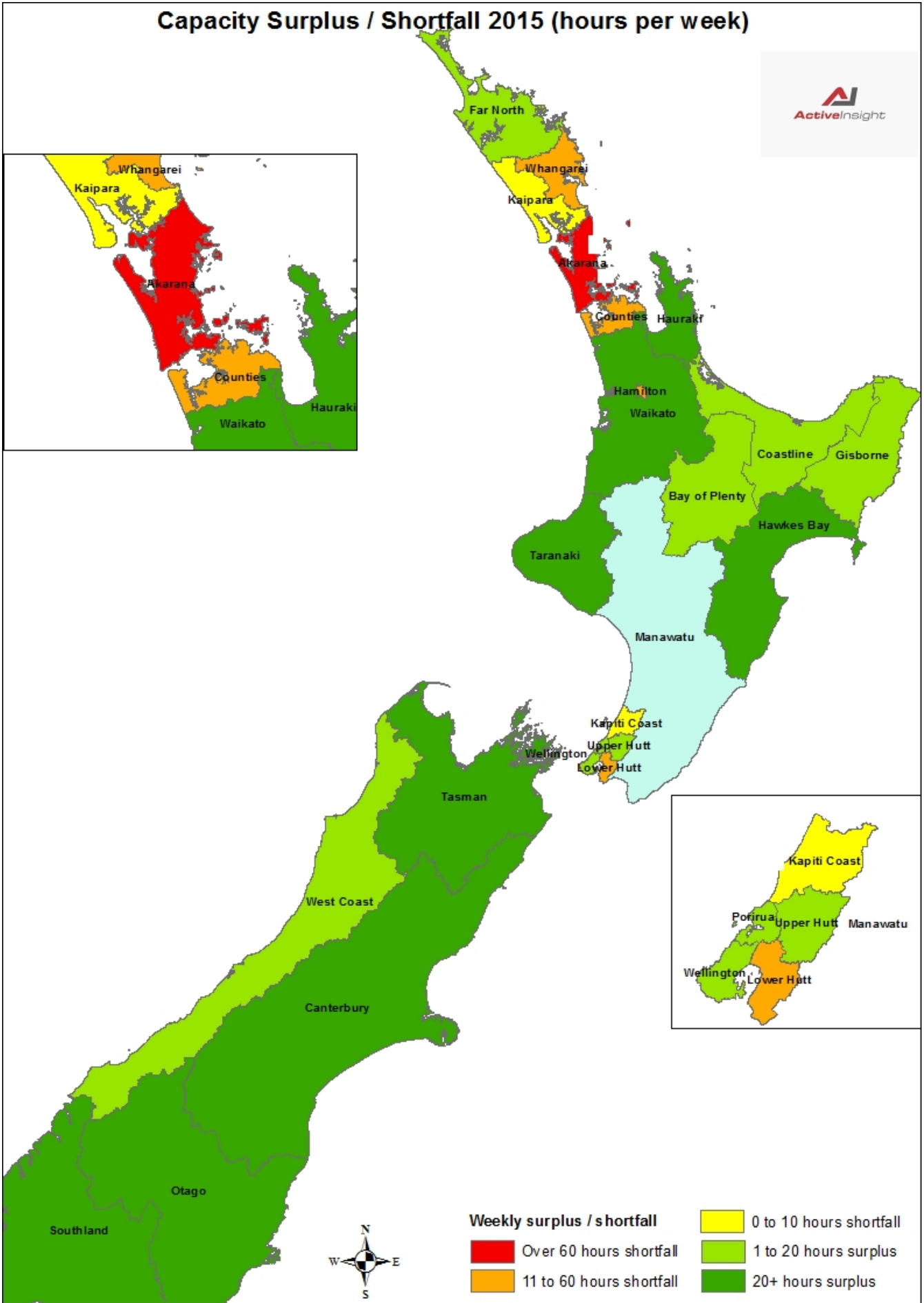
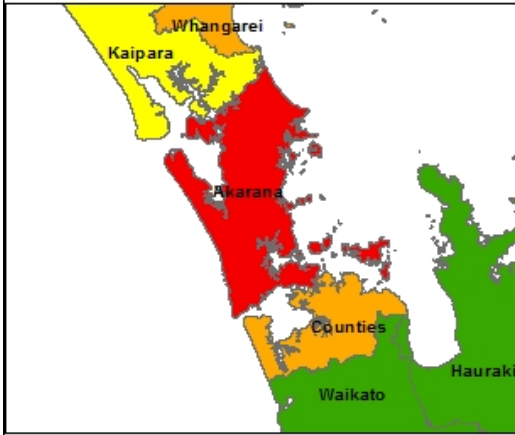
The above analysis provides an overview of the current potential surplus or shortfall. It is essential to consider:

- While there maybe a surplus in the District as a whole some parts may have a significant shortfall. Field capacities have been estimated based on the potential averages for the different geographical locations taking into account weather variations.
- No account has been made for weather related closures.

It is strongly recommended that a detailed analysis is undertaken at a local level to fully take account of field capacities and the local of fields in relation to the local community (field demand).

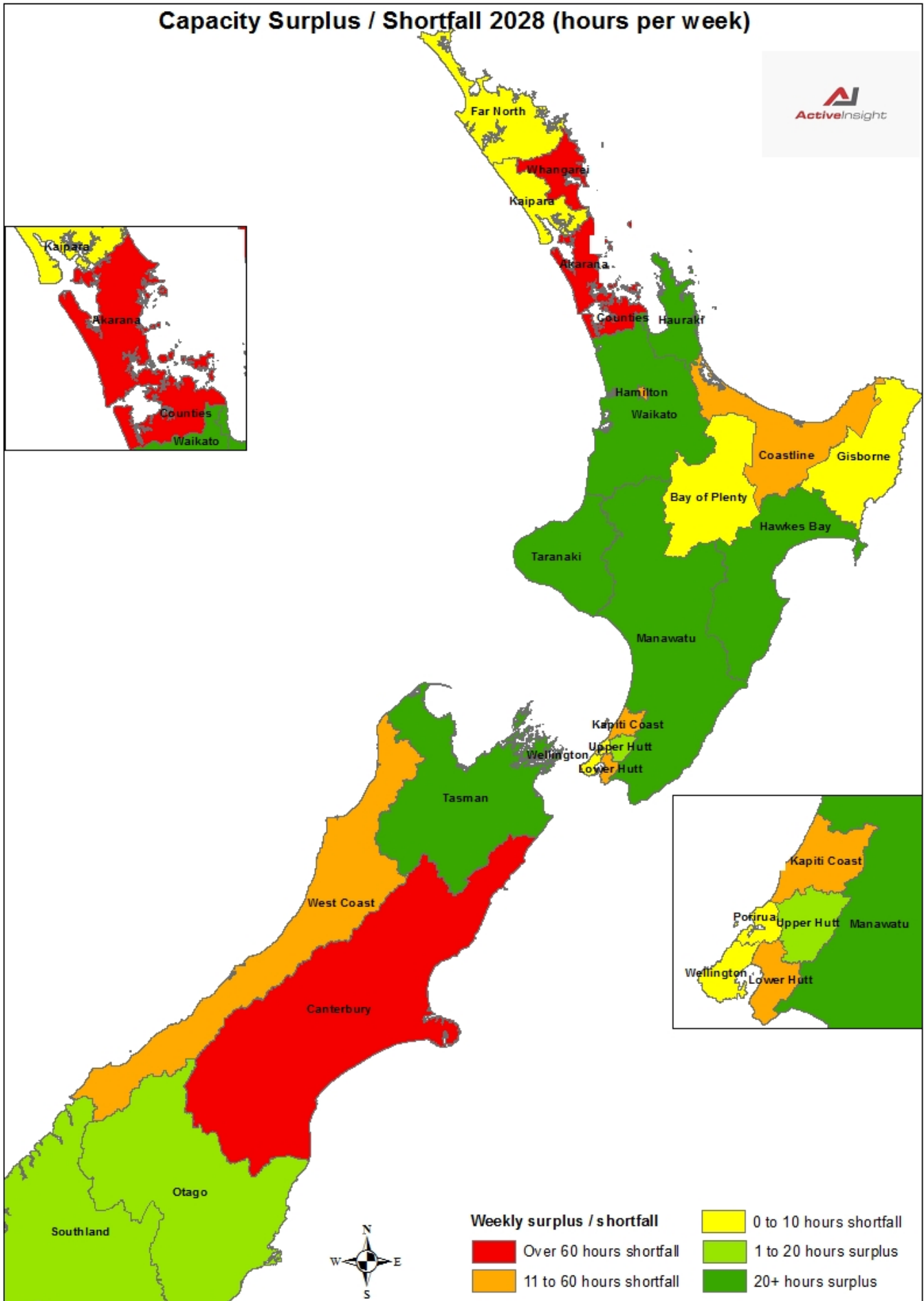
The maps on the following pages identify the surpluses and shortfall in 2015 and projected to 2028.

Capacity Surplus / Shortfall 2015 (hours per week)



Weekly surplus / shortfall	
■	Over 60 hours shortfall
■	11 to 60 hours shortfall
■	0 to 10 hours shortfall
■	1 to 20 hours surplus
■	20+ hours surplus

Capacity Surplus / Shortfall 2028 (hours per week)



SECTION 5 A HIERARCHY OF PROVISION

5.1 Impacts of these Challenges

In considering the potential approach to meeting the current and future facility requirements for league, it is important to recognise the impact the challenge identified will have on the way the game is played and the opportunities available to enable the game to develop and grow.

Understanding the implications of not addressing these challenges on the future of the game is essential. Should it not be possible to address these issues the impacts on the game include:

- Training at representative level from the Districts through to the NZKiwis will be restricted.
- Skills development will be restricted through reduced training.
- Future growth will not be met
- Clubs will not have the capacity to meet the increased demand.
- Increased maintenance requirements and cost to the existing fields as a result of overuse will be required.

To address these challenges it is necessary to prioritise future investment to ensure:

- Sufficient financial resources are available to meet all the identified facility needs of the sport
- Resources will be available to allow every facility requirement and league field to be improved, upgraded and extended within the timeframe of this Facilities Strategy
- It provides the maximum benefit and targets resources to areas of the sport or location where there is the most need.

As such a structured network of facilities to meet the hierarchy of needs has been developed.

5.2 Facility Hierarchy

In terms of the hierarchy it is essential to consider the different levels at which the game is played. A five Tier Hierarchy has been developed as part of the draft national Rugby League Facility Strategy as set out in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Facility Hierarchy

Facility Hierarchy	Level of Facility
Tier 1	Kiwi Test (Australia, England)
Tier 2	Kiwi Test (Pacific Island) Junior Kiwi Kiwi Ferns NZ XIII
Tier 3	National / NPC Competition NZ Residents Age Grade (16/18 Years, Premiers) District Competition
Tier 4	Club Competition

It is essential to consider both the competition and training requirements at each stage of the facility hierarchy. Based on the key facility challenges identified and the access to community fields the requirements are identified in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Facility Hierarchy Requirements

Facility Hierarchy	Competition	Training
Tier 1 and Tier 2	Existing facilities meet requirements	High Performance training facility required to meet minimum specifications
Tier 3	Access to gated stadium / venue required with potential for 2,000 capacity.	Identified NPC training facility required to meet minimum specifications within each Zone. Identified District training venue required within each Zone. Additional field capacity required for training. (Table 4.7) Access to minimum standard training fields required.
Tier 4	Appropriate quality club facility with minimum standard field (s).	Additional field capacity required for training. (Table 4.7) Access to minimum standard training fields required.

In terms of meeting this hierarchy a minimum standard at each level has been developed to consider:

- The requirements of International, National and NPC based competition and training
- The field of play
- Training facilities and access to floodlights
- Changing facilities and clubrooms.

The minimum standards have been developed as the desired minimum for the different levels of competition and training with the aim of raising the standard of facilities available. They are not intended to be prescriptive and should be used as a guide when considering all facility improvement projects. Detailed minimum standard can be found in Appendix A.

In terms of meeting the facility hierarchy requirements the future priorities are set out in Section 6.

SECTION 6 A NATIONAL FACILITY HIERARCHY

6.1 Competition Hierarchy

In considering the competition requirements it is important to ensure that the NZRL, NPC, Districts and clubs have secured access to appropriate competition venues.

In terms of Tier 1, 2 and 3 venues it is considered that sufficient venues are currently available to meet the needs of NZRL and NPC based competition. The challenge is to ensure that these facilities meet the minimum facility requirements and the league can secure affordable access to meet competition requirements.

Table 6.1 A Competition Hierarchy

Tier	Northland	Akarana	Counties	Upper Central	Mid Central	Wellington	Southern
1		Eden Park				Westpac Stadium	
2	Toll Stadium	Mt Smart No2 Waitakere Stadium Massey Park QBE Stadium		Rotorua International Stadium	Yarrow Stadium	Porirua Park	AMI Stadium Forsyth Barr Stadium
3	Arnold Rae Park Linvar Park	Mt Smart No2	Massey Park	Davis Park Resthills Park Tauranga Domain Puketawhero Park	Arena Manawatu Cooks Garden Hawera Hub Massey University	Porirua Park Hutt Recreation Ground	Stadium Southland Kensington Oval Canterbury Agricultural Ground
4	Appropriate club facilities that meet the minimum specifications. Preferred venues to be identified through a local / Zone based facility plan.						

6.2 Training Facility Hierarchy

In considering the training requirements it is important to ensure that the NZRL, NPL, Districts and clubs have secured access to appropriate training venues.

NZRL Training Facility (Tier 1 and 2 training requirements)

Secured access to appropriate high performance training facilities is currently limited. A review by NZRL of the ideal requirements from a High Performance Training Venue include:

- Administration base including office, meeting rooms, lecture theatre / video analysis, museum area, storage and car parking.
- Dedicated training field with an artificial dedicated training area.
- High performance gym and indoor training area.
- Changing facilities with showers, toilets and area for temporary hot and cold recovery pools.

In addition to the above core facilities, access would be required to:

- Sports medicine, physiotherapy, nutrition services.
- 25m swimming pool and hydrotherapy pool.
- Accommodation with catering facilities.

These do not need to be dedicated for the NZRL and it is considered that many of these facilities

could be shared with other high performance sports with the NZRL securing affordable long terms access to meet NZRL’s High Performance needs.

It is identified that Auckland is the largest participation catchment area for league and is considered the most location for a NZRL High Performance training venue.

NPC, District and Club Training (Tier 3 and 4 requirements)

In considering the training requirements for Tier 3 and 4 there is an identified need for each Zone to have secured access to training facilities as a Home of League within each Zone.

The Home of Rugby League should:

- Ensure that the Zones and Districts have secured access to the facilities throughout the training and competition period (secured access for league not necessarily owned by league).
- Be designed to meet the Tier 3 Minimum training specification.
- Engage with other codes and users to maximize the use of the facility.
- Be appropriate to the needs of the Zone.

In addition, while not essential, opportunities should be explored to develop the Home of Rugby League to meet the Tier 3 Competition requirements.

In considering how the Home of Rugby League can meet the needs of the Zone it is important to recognise that one solution does not fit all. While there should only be one premier Tier 3 training facility identified in each Zone this may be supported by a number of District / Club training facilities to ensure a wider access particularly in the larger geographical areas.

Table 6.2 A Training Hierarchy (preferred venue to be confirmed)

	Tier 3 A Home of Rugby League
Northland	Whangerau: Otaika Sport Ground Far North: Te Hiku Sports Hub
Akarana	Mt Smart No2
Counties	Finlayson Park
Upper Central	Bay of Plenty: Puketawhero Park Coastline: Tauranga Domain Gisborne: Awapuni Park Waikato: Resthills and Davies Park
Mid Central	Manawatu: Coronation Park Whanganui: Spring Vale Park Taranaki: Hawera Hub Hawkes Bay: Regional Sports Park.
Wellington	McEwen Park
Southern	Canterbury: Na Puna Wai Tasman: Trafalgar Park Otago: Kensington Oval Southland: Sandy Point West Coast: T.B.C. Wingham Park?

For Tier 4 training facilities, appropriate club facilities should be developed to meet the minimum specifications.

In addition to the Home of Rugby League it is important that there are a number of District hubs located at strategic geographic locations within the Zones. Opportunities should be explored to develop the District hubs in partnership with other codes to maximise the use of the facilities.

6.3 Facility Development Criteria

In considering future facility developments it is important to recognise that it will not be possible to secure the funds to develop all facilities to the desired level. It is therefore important to prioritise these developments to ensure that those which have the potential to have the greatest impact on the development of rugby league.

In terms of identifying the priorities, all potential facility based projects should be evaluated against the following criteria:

- **Meeting an identified need.** Facility developments should be prioritised in line with the competition and training hierarchy.
- **Ensuring a minimum facility standard.** All facilities should be developed to meet the identified minimum standard in terms of field of play, changing and clubrooms and floodlighting.
- **Multi-use.** Rugby league facilities should be multi-use and meet the needs of their local community. Multi use should include other sporting codes and importantly wider community based activities to ensure that the club is identified as an essential community hub .
- **Sustainable Facilities**
Facilities should be appropriate to the size and scale to meet the identified need. While it is recognised that maintaining and improving existing facilities is important, future facility developments that maximise the opportunities to increase participation where there is an identified demand, should be considered a high priority.
- **Supporting NZRL and ARL strategic initiatives**
Clubs should be fully supporting and engaging with the 'League for Life' including alcohol and smoke free policies, 'it's not ok'.

SECTION 7 FUTURE PRIORITIES

The following strategies are identified as the priorities to improve access to facilities for rugby league:

Strategy 1	Provide a minimum standard of provision for International, National, NPC and District competition.
Strategy 2	Secure access to high performance training facilities to establish a Rugby League Central.
Strategy 3	Establish a Home of Rugby League for each Zone and District.
Strategy 4	Provide a minimum standard of provision for community league facilities.
Strategy 5	Improve secure access to quality fields to meet current and future demand.
Strategy 6	Improve information and co-ordination.

Strategy 1		Provide a minimum standard of provision for International, National / NPC and District competition.
1.1	That New Zealand Rugby League review and assess the current sports stadiums and work with the Stadium providers to secure access as required and ensure they meet the Tier 1 or 2 event specifications.	
1.2	That New Zealand Rugby League partners with the Zones to review the Tier 3 competition venues for each Zone. Once identified each venue is audited against the minimum standards and an action plan developed as required.	
1.3	That New Zealand Rugby League develop a Tier 1 to Tier 3 Facility Action Plan that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies all Tier 1 to Tier 3 facilities • Details of the audit against minimum standards • Prioritise action plan for improvement. 	

Strategy 2		Secure access to high performance training facilities to establish a Rugby League Central.
2.1	New Zealand Rugby League work with Sport NZ, Auckland Council and potential partners (Vodafone Warriors) to develop / secure access to high performance training facilities and establish a Rugby League Central.	

Strategy 3		Establish a Home of Rugby League for each Zone and District.
3.1	That New Zealand Rugby League work with the Zones, TA's and other potential partners to review the potential options and identify the preferred option to develop a Home of Rugby League to meet the needs as a Tier 3 training venue.	
3.2	That once a preferred venue is identified a feasibility study is undertaken and an action plan developed to ensure it meets the minimum facility standards.	

Strategy 4 Provide a minimum standard of provision for community league facilities	
4.1	That New Zealand Rugby League partners with the Zones and representatives of Territorial Authorities to refine and adopt the Minimum Standard of Provision.
4.2	That New Zealand Rugby League and the Zones develop an audit template and evaluation system (Red, Amber, Green) to be used as the basis for auditing club facilities.
4.3	That the Zones complete an audit of all clubs against the minimum standards of provision. The audit should consider the following key facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition fields. • Training Fields. • Changing and Clubroom.
4.4	That each Zone develop a Community Facility Action Plan that identifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier and Community Clubs • Details of the audit against minimum standards • Prioritised action plan for improvement. <p>Facility Actions Plans should focus on short and long term developments with the initial priority on projects that can provide the greatest increase impact while minimizing the investment required.</p>

Strategy 5 Improve access to fields to meet current and future demand	
5.1	That the Zones and Clubs work with Councils to ensure that all clubs have secured access to competition and training fields.
5.2	The priority for field upgrades should be to increase the capacity and utilisation of fields for training.
5.3	That the Zones and Clubs work with Councils to improve the level of field maintenance and increase the capacity of the existing field network and to develop 'off-site' multisport training areas.
5.4	That Zones and Clubs work with Councils to improve training lights on fields with the ability to withstand increased usage. Consideration should be given to developing directional and/or portable training lights to rotate usage and minimize field damage.
5.5	New Zealand Rugby League and Zones to support the clubs to raise awareness of field maintenance issues.
5.6	That the Councils, Zones and Clubs engage with local schools and proactively seek to establish partnerships in areas of need.
5.7	The New Zealand Rugby League work to establish a trust fund to support investment into community club / facilities.

Strategy 6 Improve Information and Co-ordination	
6.1	That New Zealand Rugby League identify a 'facility champion' with responsibility for supporting facility development work with Zones, RST's and Councils.
6.2	That New Zealand Rugby League and the Zones raise awareness of the facility strategy and priority actions.
6.3	That New Zealand Rugby League and the Zones actively work with the Council's and potential funders within the priority areas to raise awareness of the priority projects.

APPENDIX A MINIMUM FACILITY PROVISION

Tier	Level of Facility	Facility Requirements - Competition	
		Essential	Desirable
Tier 1	Kiwi (Aus, Eng)	Current facilities meet requirement	Current facilities meet requirement
Tier 2	Kiwi (Pacific Island) Junior Kiwi Kiwi Ferns NZ XIII	Current facilities meet requirement	Stadium with seated capacity of 5,000 - 10,000
Tier 3	National Competition NPC NZ Residents (16/18 Yrs, Premiers) District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x international size fields (safe for play, well maintained and groomed for best presentation), fully marked to international Rugby League standard with goal posts, post pads and flags including spectator barriers at 2 metre minimum distance from the side line. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Alternatively, ability to play 3 games on 1 field. • Warm up areas for two teams at a time. • 5 x change rooms with separate hot and cold water and showers and toilets for each team and the Match Officials. • An area must be available for hosting special guests/VIPs. • Seated stands for 500 spectators. • Sufficient tables, chairs for teams and match official staff on sideline Suitable sin bin area (chairs at either end of match manager's table on halfway mark of sideline). • An audible sound system to play music and ground announcements. • A score board. • An area for after match function that can seat 100 people. • Catering capabilities (MUST be affordable, not corporate prices). • Tuck shop for public purchase of snack foods and beverages (preferably non-alcoholic with healthy food options). • Suitable vehicle access for emergency services (ambulance etc.). • Adequate parking space for team bus/vehicles etc. inside stadium boundaries. • Elevated stand/stage (covered) to film matches with unobstructed views of full field. Power points for electronic camera equipment. • Fenced arena with paid gate facilities (cash and eftpos sales). • Sufficient waste and recycling bins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x international size fields with spectator barriers at 2 metre minimum distance from the side line. • 1 x First Aid/Medical room. • 1 x Match Judiciary Room complete with DVD player plus TV. • Covered seating where available for reserve players, football staff and first aid/medics (i.e. Dugouts) that do not obstruct sight of video cameras. • Coach's boxes for match viewing (situated on half way line with full field view). • Spectator parking for minimum 500 vehicles. • Total seating 2,500 with 500 permanent. • 7 x change rooms with separate hot and cold water and showers and toilets for each team and the Match Officials. • An electronic score board (preferably with a clock). • Ability and means to erect sponsorship signage. • Suitable storage area for event equipment – lockable. • Lighting suitable for televised games.

Tier 4	Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x international size field (level, well drained and safe for play), fully marked to international Rugby League standard with goal posts, post pads and flags including. • Warm up areas for two teams at a time. • 3 x change rooms with separate hot and cold water and showers and toilets for each team and the Match Officials. • Sufficient tables, chairs for teams and match official staff on sideline Suitable sin bin area (chairs at either end of match manager's table on halfway mark of sideline). • Ability and means to erect sponsorship signage. • Suitable vehicle access for emergency services (ambulance etc.). • Adequate parking space for team bus/vehicles etc. • Sufficient waste and recycling bins. • Club rooms with cooking/catering facilities suitable and seating/tables for 100 people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x international size fields. • 5 x change rooms with separate hot and cold water and showers and toilets for each team and the Match Officials. • Suitable storage area for event equipment – lockable. • A score board. • Tuck shop for public purchase of snack foods and beverages (preferably non-alcoholic with healthy food options).
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Note: At the higher levels of competition the quality of the facility is not necessarily the main issue. The cost of venue hire is often considered prohibitive

Tier	Level of Facility	Facility Requirements - Training	
		Essential	Desirable
Tier 1	Rugby League Centre Home for New Zealand Rugby League. Base for Kiwis, Kiwi (Pacific Island), Junior Kiwi, Kiwi Ferns NZ XIII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration base including office, meeting rooms, lecture theatre / video analysis, museum area, storage and car parking. Training field. High performance gym. Changing facilities with showers and toilets. Area for temporary hot and cold recovery pools. Sports medicine, physiotherapy, nutrition services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor training area Artificial turf training field 25m swimming pool Permanent hot and cold recovery pools Hydrotherapy pool Accommodation with kitchen, dining room Café / catering facilities.
Tier 2			
Tier 3	National Competition NPC / District NZ Residents (16/18 Yrs, Premiers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x training fields Suitable lighting for night trainings. 3 x change rooms with separate hot and cold water and showers and toilets for each team. Suitable storage area for training equipment – lockable. Suitable vehicle access for emergency services (ambulance etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 x training fields Suitable lighting for night trainings. 4 x change rooms with separate hot and cold water and showers and toilets for each team. Club rooms with cooking/catering facilities suitable and seating/tables for 150 people. Access to artificial turf training area.
Tier 4	Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x training fields Suitable lighting for night trainings. 3 x change rooms with separate hot and cold water and showers and toilets for each team. Suitable storage area for event equipment – lockable. Suitable vehicle access for emergency services (ambulance etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x training fields Suitable lighting for night trainings. 4 x change rooms with separate hot and cold water and showers and toilets for each team. Club rooms with cooking/catering facilities suitable and seating/tables for 150 people.

APPENDX B DEFINITIONS

Active population	Defined as ages 5 to 49 – the age groups most likely to be playing winter code sports.
Capacity	The number of hours of play per week that a field can withstand before sustaining long term damage. Is determined by the type and standard of field surface and presence or absence of flood lighting.
Demand	The number of field hours per week needed for play.
FFE (Full field equivalent)	There are a number of small sided fields used by junior players. These fields are defined in terms of full field equivalents, e.g. a half sized field is ½ full field equivalent.
Full field	A full field is one suitable for senior games. Field measurements vary between codes. To be defined as a full field the measurements need to fall within maximum and minimum length and width.
RSO (Regional Sports Organisation)	The regional body running the sport in the district. In general they manage some or all the competitions and act as the link between sports clubs and the National Sports Organisation.
Secure sports fields	Secure fields are those where on going use is secured through ownership (e.g. council fields) or a formal agreement (lease, partnership etc.) for a period of longer than one year.
Surplus / shortfall	The balance when demand is matched against supply. Defined in terms of field hours per week.
Participation rate	The participation rate is calculated by dividing the population in the active age group by 1,000 and then dividing that by the number of participants identified. For example: if there is an active population of 200,000 and there are 5,000 league players living in the Zone the participation rate is 25 players per 1,000 active population. The figure is used as part of the future projection calculation.
Unsecured fields	Unsecured fields are ones where use could be terminated at very short notice.