



HOCKEY ACT BUDGET SUBMISSION

2024 - 2027



Introduction

Hockey ACT is the ACT's peak governing body for the sport of field hockey in the ACT. Our membership base consists of 24-member hockey clubs based in the ACT and surrounding communities along with two regional affiliated associations consisting of 5,500 registered playing members (which has increased from 3,200 in 2019). Hockey is a truly inclusive sport with its membership consisting of 53% female, 45% male and 2% other/non-binary.

Hockey ACT own and operate two facilities that cater for 95% of the association's activities being the National Hockey Centre at Lyneham and Tuggeranong Hockey Park at Greenway. The facilities at these venues include:

- 3 x Elite water based synthetic turf playing surfaces at Lyneham;
- 2 x sand dressed synthetic turf playing surfaces at Greenway;
- A 1717m² indoor multi-sport complex currently hosting several sports including Indoor Hockey, Volleyball, Powerchair Football, AFL 9's, Handball, Futsal and many other sporting and non-sporting activities;
- A 700m² dedicated gymnastics space operated by Canberra City Gymnastics Centre.

The National Hockey Centre is home for Canberra's Hockey One League franchise the Canberra Chill and previously has hosted major international competition such as FIH sanctioned Champions Trophy, test series, Masters World Cup events. In 2023-24 the facility has hosted the Oceania U21 World Cup qualifying event, the finals series for the Hockey One League, hosted the month-long Indoor Hockey National Championships for over 80 teams and in June is set to host the Indoor Hockey Oceania World Cup qualifying event.

Along with being the home for elite hockey in Canberra, Lyneham and Greenway also play host to over 5,000 community sporting fixtures annually, host 3,000 hours of community training activities, is the home for Volleyball ACT, Powerchair Football, Urban Rec and Canberra City Gymnastics and hosts events and competition for another 11 sporting associations annually. During the winter season, over 10,000 people are visiting these centres weekly to engage in community-based activities.

Unfortunately, due to the age of the facilities and changes to regulations, the National Hockey Centre at Lyneham has lost its international ranking and is no longer able to play host to FIH International outdoor hockey events due to the gradient and internal run off areas of the Carter Field (main playing surface) and leaves the ACT without a venue capable of hosting elite levels of competition.

Added to this, Hockey ACT is facing a financial crisis as several other playing surfaces are reaching the end of their usable life, indoor spaces are in urgent need of repairs to roofing structures and a need for an upgrade to LED lighting for the Taylor Field. Once pitches reach end of usable life, they can no longer host any competition or training and will not be insurable. As such pitches at the end of their life become dead spaces that are unusable until they are replaced. Hockey ACT is facing a future where two pitches will be unable to be used in 2025 with an additional pitch coming offline before the 2026 season. This would leave the sport in a position where three-fifths of total infrastructure for hockey will be unable to be played upon in the next 20 months.

Hockey ACT has invested resources and capital in many non-sport related projects to help diversify its revenue streams and attempt to reduce its reliance on Government support for sporting upgrades. Unfortunately, due to several factors including covid, these projects have not eventuated, and the organisation finds itself solely reliant



HOCKEY ACT
National Hockey Centre
196 Mouat St. Lyneham ACT 2602

on Government assistance to maintain its infrastructure and allow its much needed community facilities to remain usable and stay open for community use.

We are asking the ACT Government for financial investment over the next three years to allow much needed replacements and upgrades to take place and allow the National Hockey Centre and Tuggeranong Hockey Park to remain valuable community assets into the future.

The projects outlined have strong connection to all four strategic priorities outlined in the CBR Next Move strategy set in place to guide sport in the ACT through until 2028. The four strategic pillars of Capability & Capacity, Places & Spaces, Welcoming & Inclusive Experiences and Participation & Performance are all met with a project of this scale. The projects will allow hockey to continue to operate, maintain capacity demands on an already stretched sporting infrastructure landscape and meet the needs of both participation and high-performance athletes.

What is Hockey ACT Seeking

Hockey ACT is seeking a \$3.5 million dollar investment from the ACT Government over 3 years to maintain the National Hockey Centre at Lyneham and Tuggeranong Hockey Park at Greenway as vital pieces of community sports infrastructure in the ACT.

At least \$1.11 million is required in the next 12 months to replace Hockey ACT's two premier fields to assure the ACT community use can continue in 2025 and beyond. An additional \$740,000 in the same 12 months would return the Carter Field to an International Category 1 Pitch Certification, capable of attracting major international hockey events back to the nations capital and ensuring that the ACT isn't left as the only state or territory in Australia that can not host international matches.

Hockey ACT's venues host 10,000 visitors each week for a myriad of flexible uses. While the venues are the home for hockey in the ACT, they are also home to Volleyball ACT, Urban Recreation, Sports Medicine ACT, Powerchair Football, Canberra City Gymnastics Centre, Powerhouse Gym & Physiotherapy and many other social and organised sports across the year.

While the value may seem large, when you begin looking at the usage of the facility, the investment seems incredible value for money considering what it would cost for the ACT Government to develop and host venues for the users of the sites.

It is important to state that all the money is being allocated to help keep vital community infrastructure online and usable for the next decade. Hockey ACT want to stress that the allocation being sought is to maintain existing infrastructure for the 10,000 ACT community who utilise the facilities each week.

Without support in the next 20 months, these facilities can not be replaced, and Hockey ACT will be placed in a position where three-fifths of its total infrastructure for hockey will be unable to be played upon by the local community. This will also severely impact the associations capacity to generate income into the future, which will compound the challenges of maintaining its aging infrastructure and lead to more significant requests for government support into the future.

Hockey ACT have submitted two options for consideration. Option 1 allows the Carter Field to return to an international stadium field and host FIH sanctioned events for the life of the carpet (estimated to be 10 years).



Hockey ACT strongly support option 1 as ACT is currently the only state or territory in the country without a Category 1 International surface. Option 2 maintains the Carter Field to a community standard and allows the pitch to be usable for the ACT community for the life of the carpet.

Please note that all projects are listed in priority order and not in timeline for completion.



Project Budget

Project	Option 1	Option 2	Due
Carter Field Carpet Replacement and International Upgrade*	\$1,300,000*	N/A	Dec 2024
Carter Field Carpet Replacement	N/A	\$560,000	Dec 2024
Watt Field Carpet Replacement	\$553,000	\$553,000	Jan 2025
Powell Field Carpet Replacement	\$401,000	\$401,000	Jan 2026
Roof Replacement of Indoor Stadiums	\$800,000	\$800,000	2025
Taylor Field Carpet Replacement & LED Lighting Upgrade	\$510,000	\$510,000	2027
Estimated Total Cost	\$3,564,000	\$2,824,000	

*Note Option 1 costings are for an international category 1 pitch

Projects Requiring Funding

Option 1: Carter Field Carpet Replacement and International Upgrade

The Carter Field is the premier hockey pitch in the ACT, having hosted International Champions Trophy, World Cup events, Hockey One Finals and Canberra Chill home matches. The pitch is currently showing signs of heavy wear as it enters its ninth season. In 2023 matches had to be stopped as seems were lifting in heavy traffic areas making the pitch dangerous. The pile has also been reduced to an average of less than 6mm bringing the surface to the end of its life span at the end of the 2024 winter season.

Along with being the home for premier hockey in the ACT, the Carter Field also plays host to 23% of all community hockey that is played in the ACT. During its nine seasons the pitch will have hosted 10,000 junior and senior community matches and more than 10,000 hours of community training and other sporting activities.

Despite being the stadium field the existing profiles are outside of the FIH profile requirements of Category-1 or Category-2 classification as the current lateral profiles/fall exceed the FIH profile requirements that remain in place in the 2024 Pitch Handbook. The current lateral falls are approx. 0.8% with the FIH now requiring all pitches that host FIH sanctioned events to have lateral falls of no greater than 0.4%.

With that in mind, Hockey ACT have had quotes prepared with budgetary pricing to meet the Category-3 requirements and have also provided an estimate where the pavement, perimeter drainage and infrastructure is upgraded to suit the new finished levels. This work will also require an upgrade to the existing irrigation system and sprinkler heads.

The carpet itself would be an international leader and the same synthetic that will be used for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. The product is carbon zero and requires 45% less water than the current surface in place on the Carter. The reduction in water usage also leads to a 45% energy efficiency with the pumps and electronic systems not being required to be used as frequently. Polytan are continually seeking new initiatives to ensure their products are as environmentally friendly as possible, with trials currently underway to replace rubber fill with a sugar cane alternative. Polytan are also the only manufacturer that has a recycling plant in operation in Australia meaning the current carpet will be recycled and not be placed in landfill.

The proposed works would allow the pitch to maintain international category 1 certification for the next ten years (expected life span of the carpet), with additional works to maintain its international ranking moving forward only relating to the carpet itself with no additional earthworks required. Most importantly, it will play a vital role in

hosting 10,000 community fixtures and over 10,000 hours of community training and other activities over its 10-year life span, making it an incredibly cost-effective playing surface for the ACT community.

Key work to be undertaken:

- Take up, dispose and replace existing playing surface.
- Take up, dispose and replace existing shock pad.
- Decommission, remove and replace irrigation system.
- Pavement construction and reshaping of the playing surface.
- Adjust fencing.
- Category 1 pitch certification.

Estimate Project Cost: \$1,300,000

OR

Option 2: Carter Field Carpet Replacement

The variation in work between option 1 and option 2 essentially lies with the earthworks. This proposal will not return the Carter Field to and International Stadium pitch standard, however it will keep it usable for community and national level events.

The proposed works would allow the pitch to maintain international category 3 certification for the next ten years (expected life span of the carpet). It will allow the Carter Field to play a vital role in hosting 10,000 community fixtures and over 10,000 hours of community training and other activities over its 10-year life span, making it an incredibly cost-effective playing surface for the ACT community.

Estimate Project Cost: \$560,000

Option 1 and 2

Watt Field Carpet Replacement

The Watt Field carpet is also about to host its ninth season in which it has played host to International World Cup matches, elite training camps, Canberra Chill training and most importantly has played host to 23% of all community hockey played in the ACT over that period. It will have hosted 10,000 junior and senior community matches and 10,000 hours of community training. Due to its heavy usage, the pile has also been reduced to an average of less than 6mm bringing the surface to the end of its life span at the end of the 2024 winter season.

The carpet itself would be an international leader and the same synthetic that will be used for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. The product is carbon zero and requires 45% less water than the current surface in place on the Carter. The reduction in water also leads to a 45% energy efficiency with the pumps and electronic systems not being required to be used as frequently. Polytan are continually seeking new initiatives to ensure their products are as environmentally friendly as possible, with trials currently underway to replace rubber fill with a sugar cane alternative. Polytan are also the only manufacturer that has a recycling plant in operation in Australia meaning the current carpet will be recycled and not be placed in landfill.

The proposed works would allow the pitch to maintain international category 3 certification for the next ten years (expected life span of the carpet). Most importantly, it will play a vital role in hosting 10,000 community fixtures

and 10,000 hours of community training and other activities over its 10-year life span, making it an incredibly cost-effective playing surface for the ACT community.

Key work to be undertaken:

- Take up, dispose and replace existing playing surface.
- Take up, dispose and replace existing shock pad.
- Repair irrigation system.
- Category 3 pitch certification.

Estimate Project Cost: \$553,000

Powell Field Carpet Replacement

The Powell Field carpet is about to host its thirteenth season in which it has played host to International World Cup matches, elite training camps, Canberra Chill training and most importantly has played host to 23% of all community hockey played in the ACT over that period. It will have hosted 13,000 junior and senior community matches and 13,000 hours of community training. Due to its heavy usage, the pile has also been reduced to an average of less than 7mm bringing the surface to the end of its life span at the end of the 2025 winter season.

The carpet itself would be an international leader and the same synthetic that will be used for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. The product is carbon zero and requires 45% less water than the current surface in place on the Carter. The reduction in water also leads to a 45% energy efficiency with the pumps and electronic systems not being required to be used as frequently. Polytan are continually seeking new initiatives to ensure their products are as environmentally friendly as possible, with trials currently underway to replace rubber fill with a sugar cane alternative. Polytan are also the only manufacturer that has a recycling plant in operation in Australia meaning the current carpet will be recycled and not be placed in landfill.

The proposed works would allow the pitch to maintain international category 3 certification for the next ten years (expected life span of the carpet). Most importantly, it will play a vital role in hosting 10,000 community fixtures and 10,000 hours of community training and other activities over its 10-year life span, making it an incredibly cost-effective playing surface for the ACT community.

Key work to be undertaken:

- Take up, dispose and replace existing playing surface.
- Repair existing shock pad.
- Repair irrigation system.
- Category 3 pitch certification.

Estimate Project Cost: \$401,000

Roof Replacement of Indoor Stadiums

The Ray Brown Indoor Stadium and the Canberra City Gymnastics Centre offer valuable indoor space for a multitude of different sports and community groups in the ACT.

The Indoor Stadium is 1717m² of space that was built in the mid 1990's. Over time the roof has had mounting issues with leaking and guttering concerns that are impacting the ability to utilise the space in extreme wet

weather events. The venue hosts 2500 hours of community sporting activity annually and is in much need of urgent repair to keep the space operational.

The replacement would see the entire roof, flashing, capping, ventilation, improved insulation to assist with climate management and box guttering replaced with the hope that it will last for the next 30 years or 75,000 hours of community sport activity.

The Canberra City Gymnastics Centre is located inside a 2005 building originally designed to house the ACTAS Gym. The site has had issues with flooding and leaking for its duration with annual investment being spent to correct the issues. The reality is that no additional work can be undertaken, and the design of the roof does need to be adjusted and a new roof installed if the space is going to be utilised. Insurers are now concerned about the current state of the premise due to water damage. The replacement would see the entire roof replaced, redesigned support structure to increase gradient of roof, flashing, capping and ventilation.

“Due to the significant water damage risk in the gymnastic centre and indoor stadium, it is highly recommended that the roof of the buildings is replaced / refurbished to prevent further damage to the property. The damage being caused by water is offering a significant risk and the potential for fire is now a concern”

Lysaris Bravo, Senior Risk Engineer, HDI Global

The upgrade would also see structural improvements to the roof to enable the installation of large roof mounted fans to eliminate the use of industrial fans to assist with air movement and player comfort in the spaces and eliminate the need for future air conditioning inside the Ray Brown Indoor Stadium. During the recent Indoor National Championships, the energy bills rose by \$350 per day (25 days) running temporary cooling solutions to allow the event to be played during hot conditions.

Structural improvements to the roof will also allow the association to invest in its solar capabilities with both roof spaces able to cater for larger solar energy systems. Currently due to weight concerns and ongoing issues with the surfaces, only a very small solar system exists on the Ray Brown Indoor Stadium. Improved insulation, permanent cooling solutions and a larger solar collection system (all energy efficient options) will, over the course of a year (with the venue hosting over 2500 hours of community activity) have a significant and beneficial environmental and financial impact on the associations running costs.

Key work to be undertaken:

- Ray Brown Indoor Stadium roof replaced, insulation added, box gutter upgrades and structural support.
- CCGC roof replaced, redesigned support structure to increase gradient of roof, flashing, capping and ventilation.
- Industrial ceiling fans installed.
- New and expanded solar energy system installed with panels on both stadiums.

Estimate Project Cost: \$600,000

Taylor Field Carpet Replacement & LED Lighting Upgrade

The Taylor Field carpet is about to host its fourteenth season in which it has played host to 17% of all community hockey played in the ACT over that period. It will have hosted 11,000 junior and senior community matches and

8,000 hours of community training. Due to its heavy usage, the pile has also been reduced to an average of less than 8mm bringing the surface to the end of its life span at the end of the 2026 winter season.

The carpet itself would be an international carbon zero Poligras sand dressed surface most likely the H2Oz Coolplus with the expectation that sugar cane mulch would be used instead of rubber fill. Polytan are continually seeking new initiatives to ensure their products are as environmentally friendly as possible. Polytan are also the only manufacturer that has a recycling plant in operation in Australia meaning the current carpet will be recycled and not be placed in landfill.

The Taylor Field currently operates a halogen lighting system that was put in place in 2011. It is becoming increasingly difficult to source globes and operating parts for the current halogen system with all current globes being replaced by second hand globes that have been utilised across other pitches that have since been upgraded to LED systems.

Due to difficulty in sourcing parts and globes for the current system the pitch urgently requires an upgrade to a modern and more energy efficient LED system.

The proposed works would allow the pitch to maintain community category 1 certification for the 12-15 years the surface is estimated to be online. Most importantly, it will play a vital role in hosting 12,000 community fixtures and 10,000 hours of community training and other activities over its 15-year life span, making it an incredibly cost-effective playing surface for the ACT community.

Key work to be undertaken:

- Take up, dispose and replace existing playing surface.
- Repair existing shock pad.
- Category 1 community pitch certification.
- Removal of halogen light system.
- Install 500LUX LED lighting system.

Estimate Project Cost: \$510,000

**Please note that all prices quoted above were supplied by preferred contractors in 2023 and are subject to change.*

Hockey ACT Members

Hockey ACT Principal Members:

ACT Mens Masters, ACT Womens Masters, ADFA Bears Hockey Club, ANU Men's Hockey Club, ANU Women's Hockey Club, Canberra Girls Grammar, Canberra Grammar, Canberra Queanbeyan Hockey Club, Central Hockey Club, Daramalan College, Goulburn Hockey Club, Hockey Albury Wodonga, Marist Hockey Club, Monaro Hockey Club, North Canberra Eagles, Old Canberrans Hockey Club, St. Patrick's Hockey Club, Time Travellers, Tuggeranong Vikings Hockey Club, Uni Juniors, United Hockey Club, UC Stars Hockey Club, Valleys Hockey Club, Wagga Scorchers, Western Districts Hockey Club, Young Combined Hockey Association