



Growing Basketball in Merri-bek

Merri-bek

Our ask:

Invest \$10 million towards a multi-court basketball stadium at Coburg High School that will facilitate education and community use and provide basketball infrastructure to support one of Merri-bek's fastest growing sports.

Basketball is one of the fastest growing team sports in Australia, with 1.3 million people playing the game nationwide. It also ranks as one of the top five most played organised sports among children aged 5 to 14, with over 350,000 regular junior participants and participation among girls and women has increased by 25 per cent since 2022.²² This is particularly true for Victoria, which leads the way with 31 per cent of the nation's basketball participants and this number is expected to grow.²³

The Coburg Basketball Association has over 1,000 junior and senior local competition teams and just under 5,000 participants, with approximately 78 per cent of players aged under 20. They also have representative teams for juniors and seniors, alternative formats like 3 x 3 competition and community programs such as all abilities, entry-level and holiday programs.

The Coburg Basketball Association currently uses 22 basketball courts across 18 venues within Merri-bek, Darebin and Hume and faces the constant challenge of an inadequate supply of courts. Merri-bek only has seven indoor basketball courts across four locations. The main stadium, Coburg Basketball Stadium, was opened in 1968 and has four courts, none of which are compliant with contemporary sporting regulations.

Merri-bek City Council completed the Coburg North Sports Hub Masterplan in 2025, focusing on the area in Coburg North that is home to five key sport and recreation facilities, trails and open spaces that are well used by the community.

The Coburg North Sports Hub Master Plan of the current stadium site identified the significant mismatch of supply and demand for indoor basketball courts. In early 2026, Council completed a basketball feasibility study to identify options for more indoor basketball courts in Merri-bek. The study evaluated more than 900

sites across Merri-bek and has identified the Coburg High School as a preferred option for a new multi-court basketball stadium, with support from the Coburg Basketball Association and Coburg High School.

A new stadium at Coburg High School would enable shared school and community use to include education spaces, community spaces, basketball courts and female friendly amenities and gym.