



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Date: 17 March 2026

Presented by: Nathan Bacon - YJRL President

Supported by:

Wade Elliot - YJRL Internationals Coordinator

Rebecca Warner - YJRL - Treasurer





About Our Club

Empowering young athletes, supporting families, and strengthening the Yeppoon community through grassroots rugby league.

★ Over 500 registered players and 40% growth in the past five years, making YJRL one of the fastest growing junior sporting clubs in the region.

Yeppoon Junior Rugby League (YJRL) was established in 1993 at Webb Park before relocating to Barmaryee in 2017 to accommodate the club's continued growth.

YJRL provides a safe, inclusive environment where young athletes can develop their skills, confidence, and friendships through sport. The club promotes the values of teamwork, respect, discipline and sportsmanship, helping young players grow both on and off the field.

The club is powered by the dedication of volunteers, coaches, parents and families, whose ongoing support allows the club to provide opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to participate in rugby league.

YJRL also plays an important role in the Yeppoon community, encouraging youth participation in sport while creating a strong sense of belonging and community pride.

The club is proudly supported by local sponsors and businesses, whose contributions help provide equipment, uniforms and development opportunities for players. Their support reflects the strong partnership between the club and the local community and a shared commitment to investing in grassroots sport and local youth.





Wade Elliott
Internationals
Coordinator
(Gold)



Renee Hiscox
Internationals
Coordinator
(Girls)



Tiffany Pringle
Internationals
Coordinator
(Blue)



Lewis McPhail
Mini Mods
Coordinator
(Gold)



Tiffany Pringle
Mini Mods
Coordinator
(Blue)



Monique Jarrett
Mini Mods
Registrar



Marni Duffy
Mini Mods
Registrar



Renee Hiscox
Internationals
Registrar
Girls



**Tamara
Kemmerling**
Internationals
Registrar



**Michelle
Nielsen**
Internationals
Registrar



Nathan Bacon
President
Exec
Committee



Lewis McPhail
Vice-President
Exec
Committee



Tiffany Pringle
Secretary
Exec
Committee



Rebecca Warner
Treasurer
Exec
Committee



**Beau
Nielsen**
Coaching
Coordinator



Carl Green
Sponsorship
Coordinator



Luke Hardman
First Aid Officer
Coordinator



Rob Ramke
First Aid Officer
Coordinator



Ange Hinds
Uniform
Coordinator



Kylie Carige
Grants
Coordinator



Bronwyn Delaivuna
Events
Coordinator



Maddie Powell
Events
Coordinator



Nikita Cherry
Carnivals
Coordinator



April Cant
Social Media
Coordinator

YJRL Committee 2026

Demonstrated Growth & Demand

In recent years, the club has recorded a 40% growth in 5 years



- Rapid and sustained player registration growth
- Increased female participation
- Expanded team numbers across multiple age divisions
- Growing attendance at training and game days
- Greater demand for representative fixtures and gala days



Rapid Regional Growth is Driving Demand for Sporting Infrastructure

Growing demand for community sporting opportunities

- Encourages active, healthy lifestyles for young people
- Builds community connection and volunteer involvement
- Creates inclusive opportunities for children from all backgrounds

More Young Families Moving to the Region

- Continued population growth across the Capricorn Coast
- Increasing number of school-aged children and families
- Greater demand for organised junior sport programs
- Opportunities to host regional carnivals and sporting events

Junior Rugby League Participation is Rising

- Female participation growing rapidly across Queensland
- Increased demand for safe, modern sporting facilities
- Existing infrastructure struggling to keep up with growth

Our community is growing - and our sporting infrastructure must grow with it



Why Livingstone Shire is Ideal for a Regional Hub

Strategic Regional Accessibility

Accessibility
Yeppoon is centrally positioned within Central Queensland, providing convenient access for teams and families travelling from Rockhampton, the Central Highlands, Gladstone and surrounding regional communities. This accessibility supports the delivery of large-scale carnivals, representative games and regional competitions.

Rapid Population & Growth

The Capricorn Coast is experiencing significant population growth, particularly among young families. This demographic trend is driving strong participation in junior sport and highlights the need for facilities that can support expanding community demand. The health and well-being benefits for young people is paramount.

Tourism & Local Economic Impact

Sporting carnivals and regional events attract visiting teams, families and supporters who utilise local accommodation, hospitality and retail services increasing spending in Yeppoon. Investment in sporting infrastructure strengthens Yeppoon's capacity to host events that generate positive economic outcomes for the region.

Established Sporting & Volunteer Base

Yeppoon has a strong culture of community sport supported by dedicated volunteers, local businesses and families. This foundation ensures events and competitions are well supported and successfully delivered.

Family-Friendly Destination for Sporting Events

Yeppoon's beaches, recreational spaces and welcoming coastal environment create an appealing destination for families attending sporting events, helping increase participation and attendance.

Capacity to Host Major Regional Events

With upgraded infrastructure including additional fields, improved lighting and spectator facilities, Yeppoon has the potential to host regional carnivals, representative pathways and development programs that currently need to be held elsewhere. As female participation in rugby league continues to rise, Yeppoon is well positioned to support this growth through inclusive facilities, safe amenities and opportunities to host girls' and women's competitions at a regional level.

With strategic investment, Yeppoon has the opportunity to become the Premier Junior Rugby League Hub for the Capricorn Coast and Central Queensland region

Female Participation

Female participation is the fastest-growing part of rugby league. With more girls entering the game each year, clubs need modern facilities, safe change rooms and appropriate playing spaces to support this growth and ensure equal opportunity for all players.

In 2026 we are excited to host our first Girls Rugby League Carnival, with support from the QRL a milestone event that reflects the rapid growth of female participation and our commitment to supporting girls in rugby league.



📈 Female participation growing 13–14% per year

👧 45,000+ female players across Australia

🏈 Junior girls competitions expanding rapidly

🚀 Pathways from junior league to NRLW

📺 8+ million viewers for NRLW competitions

Fastest-Growing Area of the Sport

Girls and women are the fastest-growing participation group in rugby league, with participation increasing around 13–14% annually in Australia.

Tens of Thousands of Female Players

There are now around 45,000 registered female rugby league players across Australia, and the number continues to rise each year.

Junior Girls Competitions Expanding Rapidly

Many regions have seen junior girls teams double in the last 5–10 years, with competitions now running from Under-6s through to Under-18s pathways. Many regions have seen junior girls teams double in the last 5–10 years, with competitions now running from Under-6s through to Under-18s pathways.

Pathways Now Exist All the Way to Professional Level

Female players now have a clear pathway:

- Junior Rugby League
- Lisa Fiaola Cup (U17)
- Tarsha Gale Cup (U19)
- NRLW (professional competition)

Women's rugby league is also attracting massive interest, with NRLW seasons drawing more than 8 million viewers, showing strong support for the women's game.

Identified Infrastructure Needs

New Clubhouse to Host Community Events

Safe Player Amenities
(Female Change Rooms & Showers)

First Aid & Medical Space

Additional Fields & Updated Lighting

Meeting / Education Rooms

Field Drainage Upgrades

Canteen Facilities & Operational Areas

Universal Design Referee Changerooms

Covered Grandstands & Adequate Seating

Accessibility Pathways

Volunteer & Administrative Functions

Media/Officials Box

Why Infrastructure Investment is Needed

A modern multi-purpose clubhouse & additional fields is essential for support and growth of our expanding region. Participation growth has placed increasing pressure on existing facilities.

To support continued growth, improved infrastructure is required to provide:

- Modern multi-purpose clubhouse
- Safe player amenities (female change rooms and showers)
 - First aid and medical space
 - Meeting and education rooms
 - Canteen and operational areas
- Volunteer and administration facilities



Investing in modern infrastructure will not only reduce these risks but will ensure the club can safely support its growing player base, volunteers and community well into the future

Sporting Infrastructure Improvements

Covered grandstands
and spectator
seating & sun safety



Media and official's
box



Improved
drainage on
existing fields

Two additional
competition-standard
playing fields



Energy-efficient
LED sports field
lighting

This initiative will establish a sustainable sporting precinct designed to support the Livingstone Region for years to come.



Male Dressing Sheds

1



Continued Player Growth

2



Community Events

3



Representative Competitions

4



Multi-Use Recreational Activities

Female Dressing Sheds

First Aid / Medical Room

Administration

Canteen



Infrastructure Risks without Investment

As a non-profit organisation, YJRL relies on the support of volunteers, parents and local businesses. Expanded infrastructure will help support the volunteers who keep the club running and allow the club to host larger events and carnivals that benefit both the club and the wider community.



Overcrowded Facilities

With continued growth in player numbers, existing amenities such as change rooms, canteen areas, spectator spaces and storage facilities are becoming increasingly congested. This limits the club's ability to comfortably accommodate players, families and visitors on game days and during large events.



Increased Pressure on Volunteers

As participation grows, the demands placed on volunteers also increase. Limited infrastructure makes game day operations more challenging, from managing equipment and first aid to coordinating teams, referees and spectators. Improved facilities would help streamline operations and better support the volunteers who are vital to the club.



Limited Capacity for Future Growth

When facilities cannot keep up with demand, it can restrict the number of teams, training sessions and programs the club can offer. Upgraded infrastructure would ensure the club can continue to grow and provide inclusive opportunities for boys, girls and young people in the community.



Overall Site
Plan
Lot 14 on SP239039

Barmaryee
SportsComplex





Proposed
Plan
Lot 14 on SP239039 Barmaryee SportsComplex



IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2

Partnership Opportunity

Yeppoon Seagulls Junior Rugby League seeks to work collaboratively with Livingstone Shire Council.

The club remains committed to contributing through

- Volunteer labour where possible
 - Fundraising initiatives
 - Sponsorship efforts
 - Grant applications

Advocacy for State and Federal Election commitments in collaboration with the QRL and their targeted priorities



Capital Works Funding

Livingstone Shire Capital Works Program



Infrastructure Grants

QLD Government Sports Infrastructure Grants



Co-Funding Arrangements

Federal Community Infrastructure Grants / QLD Rugby League Infrastructure Support
Club contribution through fundraising & sponsorship



Developments/Technical/Planning Assistance

QLD Rugby League Partnerships

Long term community asset for the Livingstone Shire

Conclusion and Q&A

With over 500 junior players, Yeppoon Junior Rugby League is a significant and growing community asset within Livingstone Shire.

The club is proud to have developed players such as NRL and Queensland Maroons star Harry Grant, who began his rugby league journey as a Yeppoon Seagull before progressing to the highest level of the game.

Upgraded infrastructure will ensure:

- Safe participation
- Sustainable growth
- Enhanced community value
- Regional sporting opportunities
- Council partnership in this project will deliver enduring benefits for youth, families, and the broader community.







