5 for our future

Kia Rima mō te Anamata

Have your Say!

Should we extend the **EA Networks Centre** stadium?



Learn more and share your thoughts at

ItsOurPlace.nz

We want your feedback on this and other key decisions in our draft Long Term Plan

Ashburton DISTRICT COUNCIL

Should we extend the **EA Networks Centre** stadium?

The stadium at EA Network Centre currently has four indoor courts but at peak times, like after school and weekends, it doesn't have enough space to meet demand. We're proposing to extend the stadium between 2029-2031 to house more indoor courts.

A study of recreational facilities in the district last year confirmed that sports groups are struggling to get enough court time. Bookings in the stadium have surged from 3,116 hours in 2021/22 to 4,209 hours in 2022/23.

We've investigated two options for extending the stadium; an additional two courts could be added for around $16.4m or three courts for $23.7m. Both options would take around two years to complete and include additional seating, changing rooms and storage facilities.

Doing nothing is also an option, however this may limit the growth of local sporting opportunities.



ItsOurPlace.nz

OPTION 1 Two new indoor courts would be added at an estimated cost of $16.4m

- ✓ Goes some way towards meeting community requirements.
- ✗ Unlikely to address all capacity issues for sporting groups seeking court space.
- ✗ Will not address short-term capacity issues over the next 5 years.
- ✗ More expensive than doing nothing.

OPTION 2 Three new indoor courts would be added at an estimated cost of $23.7m

OUR PREFERRED OPTION

- ✓ Meets the demand for stadium space and future-proofs for additional growth.
- ✓ Potential economic benefit by attracting large sports events and tournaments.
- ✓ Has the potential to also cater for shows and events.
- ✗ This is the most expensive option.
- ✗ Will not address short-term capacity issues over the next 5 years.

OPTION 3 Do nothing

- ✓ Requires no additional funding.
- ✗ Participation in sport would be restricted to current levels.
- ✗ Restricts opportunities to expand use of the stadium.

What would it cost?

If an extension was approved, it would be loan funded and paid back over time through rates and increased user fees. For the three court option, this would add around $31 annually to your rates from 2029, or $21 for the two court option.



Conceptual image for illustrative purposes only.

What does the Council think?

The Council prefers OPTION 2

We think extending the stadium with three additional multipurpose courts would best cater for the needs of local sporting groups and help attract large sporting events to the district.

The extension could also be configured to cater for events or shows with seating for 1,500 people.

But we want to hear from you, which option do you support?

Have your Say!

The easiest way to share your feedback is at ***ItsOurPlace.nz***

Feedback closes Sunday 28 April

Frequently Asked Questions

Having the stadium full sounds like a good thing, do we really need more courts?

While it is pleasing to see the facility so well used, without additional courts, growth in sport will be limited. The 2022 Recreation Facilities Utilisation Study showed that during peak times (5pm-9pm) in winter, stadium occupancy is already reaching 96% on weekdays and 70% on Saturdays. Feedback from sporting groups also suggests that they are struggling to get sufficient court time.

Why can't teams just play sport at different times?

Where possible, we encourage groups to make use of off-peak times and some sports do play during daytime hours. However, with many players and coaches working during the day, demand is expected to remain highest in the evenings and on weekends.

How does this tie into the EA Networks Centre 30-year Masterplan?

The expansion of the stadium is one of the projects included in the draft EA Networks Centre Masterplan, which outlines our long-term vision for the development of the facility and its surrounding land. We are currently inviting feedback on the Masterplan, visit itsourplace.nz for more details.

Want to look at this topic in more detail?

Check out the consultation document.

OUR LONG TERM PLAN

The draft Long Term Plan provides a roadmap for the projects and services we intend to deliver over the next 10 years.

It lets you know what we'll be doing, how much it will cost and how we intend to pay for it.

We have five key decisions that we think are important, but we welcome your feedback on any part of the plan. This is your chance to help define the priorities of our district and it's important that everyone has their say.

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Our Place | Our Plan

Scan the QR code to view the consultation document.

ItsOurPlace.nz



Community Events

Learn more about the topics in the Long Term Plan, ask questions and chat with councillors at these upcoming events.

Saturday Sausage Sizzles

10am-2pm

Visit any time between 10am-2pm, grab a free sausage and chat to us about the Long Term Plan.

Sat 6 April	Tinwald Pool
Sat 13 April	Baring Square East, Ashburton
Sat 20 April	Methven iHub

We'll also be popping up elsewhere around the district, check ***ItsOurPlace.nz*** for an event near you.

Community Meetings

7pm-8pm

Thu 4 April	Rakaia Community Centre
Hosted by the Rakaia Community Association	
Tue 9 April	Mount Somers War Memorial Hall
Mon 15 April	Hinds Community Centre
This meeting will focus on the key stockwater decision	
Tue 16 April	Ashburton Library
This meeting will be livestreamed on Facebook & YouTube	
Wed 17 April	Mt Hutt Memorial Hall