

HAMILTON GYMNASTICS FACILITIES NETWORK STUDY

| 2024



PREPARED FOR:



VISITOR
SOLUTIONS



INFORMATION

Document Reference	Hamilton Gymnastics Facility Network Study
Authors	Andy Adams, Anita Coy-Macken and Gordon Cessford
Sign off	Craig Jones
Version	Final
Date	August 2024
Cover Image Credit	Hamilton Girls' High School

Disclaimer:
Information, data and general assumptions used in the compilation of this report have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Visitor Solutions Ltd has used this information in good faith and makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, concerning the accuracy or completeness of this information. Interested parties should perform their own investigations, analysis and projections on all issues prior to acting in any way regarding this project.
© Visitor Solutions 2024.



CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Purpose	3
1.2 Scope & Methodology	3
2.0 DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS.....	4
3.0 CURRENT STATE	6
4.0 PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS	9
4.1 Membership Insights	9
4.2 Membership Composition	11
4.3 Member Profile	12
4.4 Catchment Analysis	12
4.5 Membership Forecasting	15
4.6 Casual Participation	15
5.0 GYMNASTICS DELIVERY NETWORK.....	17
5.1 Network and Catchment Insights	17
5.2 Club Facility Proposals	21
5.3 Network Challenges & Opportunities - Summary	22
5.4 Future Network Approach.....	23
6.0 THE WAY FORWARD	24
6.1 Network & Provision Guidelines.....	24
6.2 Implementation Approach	25
7.0 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS.....	28
7.1 Key Conclusions.....	28
7.2 Recommendations.....	28



INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

Sport Waikato and Gymnastics NZ want to undertake a gymnastics network approach focused directly on Hamilton, with consideration given to the wider sub-region. The study was commissioned in response to two separate proposed facility developments for Hamilton City Gymnastics and Turn and Gymnastic Circle. Both clubs have recently undertaken research and analysis on prospective facility options.

While both clubs have or can gain proceeds from land/building sales, the likely scale of development(s) will exceed available internal funds, thus requiring third-party investment. As the funding landscape is constrained, strategic direction is required to determine the priorities for future gymnastics facility provision in Hamilton (to help guide future capital investment).

The study is required to inform future facility provision by reflecting and analysing membership and population trends across Hamilton and its immediate surrounds. Guidance is necessary on the scale of facility provision needed to complement the network, duly facilitate the diverse nature of gymnastics activity, and best service the catchment area(s).

1.2 SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

The Hamilton Gymnastics Facility Network Study primarily focuses on gymnastics activity occurring within the Hamilton City boundary. As the city has wider regional importance for gymnastics, the surrounding districts were also considered to gain a full contextual understanding of the landscape to best inform the way forward. The scope includes:

- Demographic data insights with particular reference to the typical participation profile of gymnastics members.

- Gymnastics membership analysis for Hamilton and the neighbouring territorial authority boundaries.
- High-level catchment analysis of all clubs across Hamilton, Matatmata-Piako, Waikato, Waipa Districts. This phase of work includes breaking down and mapping different membership types to understand the spatial patterns relative to the existing gymnastics facility network. Drive time analysis of current and proposed gymnastics facilities/sites was undertaken to understand both geographic and function gaps across Hamilton.
- Drive time analysis of current and proposed gymnastics facilities to understand both geographic and function gaps across the city and wider district (for context and network implications).
- Meetings with Hamilton City Gymnastics and Turn & Gymnastic Circle to understand current challenges being experienced, work completed to date and details on proposed facility opportunities.
- Definition of the optimal gymnastics facility network, setting-out indicative spatial guidelines for future facility provision and to provide direction on how to advance establishing the facility network – the way forward.

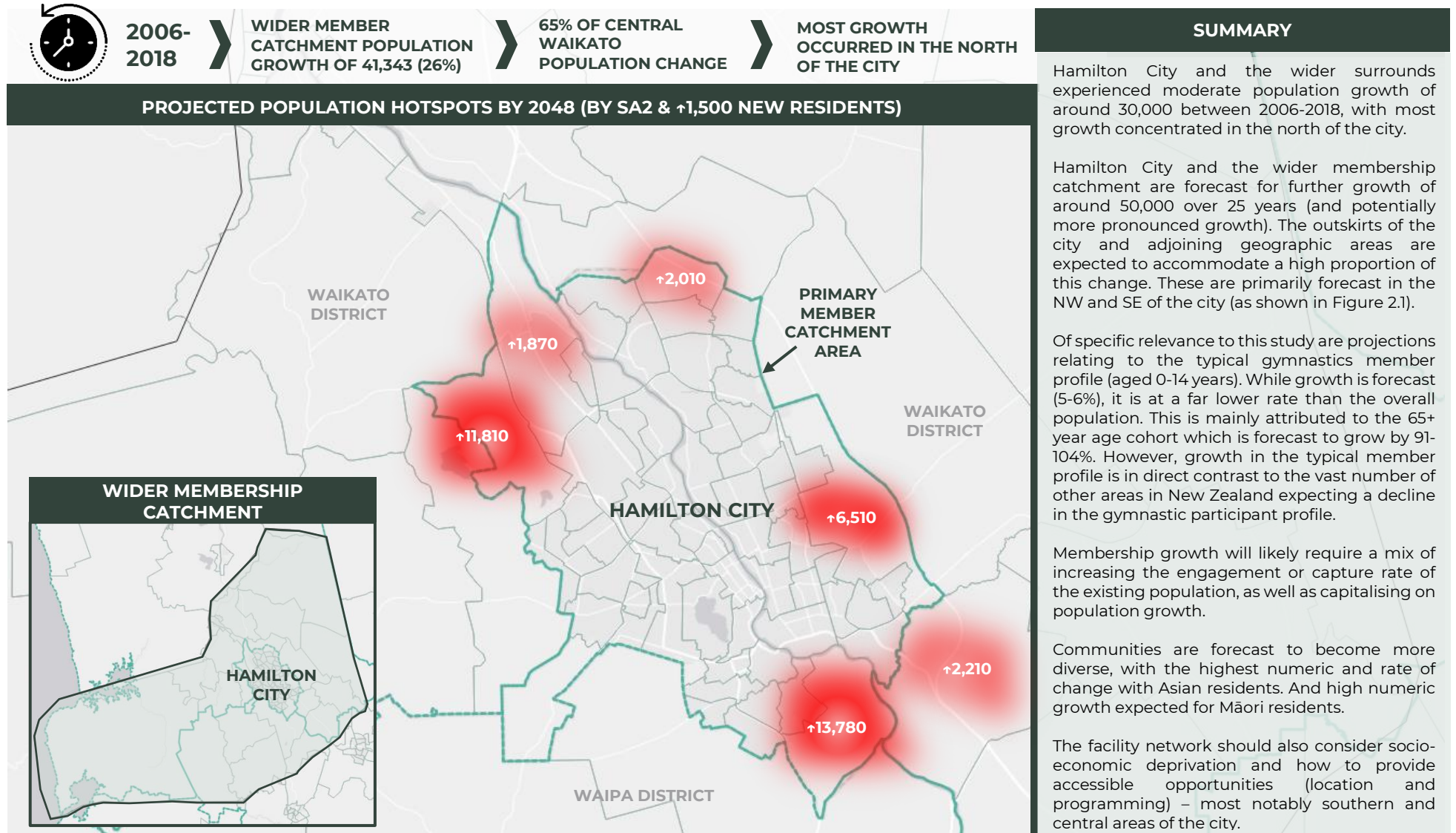
It is important to state upfront that this study is not intended **to be used in lieu of more detailed analysis and investigation** into facility options and responses (through a detailed feasibility study and/or business case). The findings, data and analysis contained in this study can form a significant part of the needs assessment component of any subsequent feasibility studies. The viability and impact of any future facility development will need to be evaluated at the feasibility and/or business case stage.

2.0

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Figure 2.1 and the supplementary data tables (following page) provide an overview of the demographic context of the gymnastics member catchment.

FIGURE 2.1 – DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW OF THE HAMILTON GYMNASTICS CATCHMENT



GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

Three geographic areas have been identified with specific relevance to the Hamilton City Gymnastics Facility Network Study. These include:

1. Hamilton City – core gymnastics membership resides within this boundary (for those clubs located in Hamilton City),
2. Wider Hamilton Catchment – wider contributing catchment for gymnastics membership (see Figure 2.1),
3. Central Waikato Subregion – encapsulates virtually all gymnastics membership (of clubs located in Hamilton City). Comprises Hamilton City, Waikato, Waipa and Matamata-Piako Districts.

POPULATION TRENDS

TABLE 2.1 - POPULATION TRENDS (2006-18)

	2006	2018	Change 2006-18	% Change	Av. %/year
Hamilton City	129,588	160,911	31,323	24	2.0
Wider Membership Catchment	161,172	202,515	41,343	26	2.1
Central Waikato Subregion	260,160	324,174	64,014	25	2.1

Source: Statistics NZ Census

TABLE 2.2 - TOP RECENT GROWTH AREAS (SA2s>1,500 NEW RESIDENTS)

SA2	Location	2006	2018	Change 2006-18	% Change
Te Manatu	Hamilton City	657	3,762	3,015	459
Flagstaff North	Hamilton City	231	3,192	2,961	1,282
Flagstaff South	Hamilton City	138	2,829	2,691	1,950
Rototuna Central	Hamilton City	2,463	4,779	2,316	94
Pokeno	Subregion	570	2,517	1,947	342
Tamahere North	Wider Catch.	2,499	4,152	1,653	66
Cambridge North	Subregion	237	1,737	1,500	633

PROJECTED POPULATION

TABLE 2.3 – PROJECTED POPULATION (2023-48)

	2023	2048	Change 2023-48	% Change	Av. %/year
Hamilton City	183,000	236,000	53,600	29	1.2
Wider Membership Catchment	228,220	295,650	67,430	30	1.2
Central Waikato Subregion	365,400	464,600	99,200	27	1.1

Source: Statistics New Zealand Projections

TABLE 2.4 - TOP PROJECTED GROWTH AREAS (SA2s>1,500 NEW RESIDENTS)

SA2	Location	2023	2048	Change 2023-48	% Change	Av %/yr
Peacockes	Hamilton City	470	14,250	13,780	2,932	117
Rotokauri-Waiwhakareke	Hamilton City	1,090	12,900	11,810	1,083	43
Ruakura	Hamilton City	2,210	8,720	6,510	295	12
Tamahere North	Wider. Catch.	4,720	6,930	2,210	47	1.9
Rototuna North	Hamilton City	2,200	4,210	2,010	91	3.7
Te Rapa North	Hamilton City	250	2,120	1,870	748	30

Source: Statistics New Zealand Projections

TABLE 2.5 - PROJECTED 'TYPICAL MEMBER PROFILE' POPULATION¹

	2023	2048	Change 2023-48	% Change
Hamilton City	37,200	39,200	2,000	5
Wider Membership Catchment	47,020	49,930	2,910	6

TABLE 2.6 - PROJECTED ETHNICITY COMPOSITIONS – HAMILTON CITY

	2023	2043	Change 2023-43	% Change
European	111,700	125,200	13,500	12
Māori	45,500	65,900	20,400	45
Asian	41,000	73,300	32,300	79
Pacific	12,950	21,100	8,150	63

Source: Statistics NZ Census 2018

¹ The 'typical membership profile' is characterised as residents who are aged 0-14 – as highlighted in Section 4.0).



3.0 CURRENT STATE

An overview of the current state of gymnastics facility provision across Hamilton City and the wider surrounds is shown in Table 3.1 and Map 3.1. The following high-level findings of specific relevance to Hamilton City are outlined below:

- There are two dedicated gymnastics facilities located in Hamilton City – both located on the western side of the Waikato River.
 - a. Hamilton City Gymnastics – club owned and operated facility,
 - b. Turn & Gymnastic Circle – short-term leased facility.
- The two dedicated facilities are complemented by the Te Rapa Sportsdrome which is used for rhythmic gymnastics (set-up/pack-down arrangement). Following the merger of Spiralz Rhythmics and Turn & Gymnastic Circle in 2024 the facility is used as a satellite rhythmic gymnastics facility.
- Turn & Gymnastic Circle has been relatively nomadic since 2018, following the sale of its former premises due to spatial constraints and condition issues. This includes using the John West Training Centre (Hamilton Old Boys Rugby & Sports Club) on two separate occasions and the Claudelands Event Centre.

The club currently does not have a lease with Hamilton Old Boys Rugby & Sports Club. Resultingly, their short to medium-term future is unsecure (high risk factor for the network). The club has continued to explore acquiring and leasing facilities and investigated development opportunities on Ministry of Education land and more recently at Eastlink Community Hub to secure tenure.

- Both clubs offer preschool and recreational activity (with some variance in recreational programme delivery evident between the clubs). Aside from Women's Artistic Gymnastics, contrasting gymnastics codes are being delivered:
 - a. Hamilton City: Women's & Men's Artistic, Trampoline & Aerobics.
 - b. Turn & Gymnastic Circle: Women's Artistic & Rhythmic.

All codes have distinct apparatus and spatial requirements associated with training and competition, which are outlined further in Section 6.0.

- Gymnastics in Hamilton is also serviced through The Y Hamilton. Although current delivery is notably lower compared to Hamilton City Gymnastics and Turn & Gymnastic Circle - and appears lower than previous levels. There are currently six classes offered on Mondays and Tuesdays from 5:00-7:15pm.
- There is a relatively even proportion of dedicated and non-dedicated gymnastics facilities in the surrounding area. These facilities have differing footprint sizes, which are primarily borne by available and financially viable spaces and not necessarily driven by the level of membership, or the types of activity being undertaken. Subsequently, these facilities are owned by a range of entities.
- All clubs offer preschool and recreational programmes, while a majority offer some form of competitive artistic gymnastics programme (primarily women's) – under affiliation with Gymnastics New Zealand. Some clubs appear to cap their competitive membership at the elementary or junior level with pathway opportunities to other clubs should they progress into senior levels. This approach is typically due to facility and apparatus constraints and/or availability of suitably qualified coaches.

In an environment of funding constraints, limited availability of financially viable and suitably specified facilities, and where senior gymnastics coaches are at a premium, inter-club pathway and facility-sharing approaches are strongly recommended by the national body.

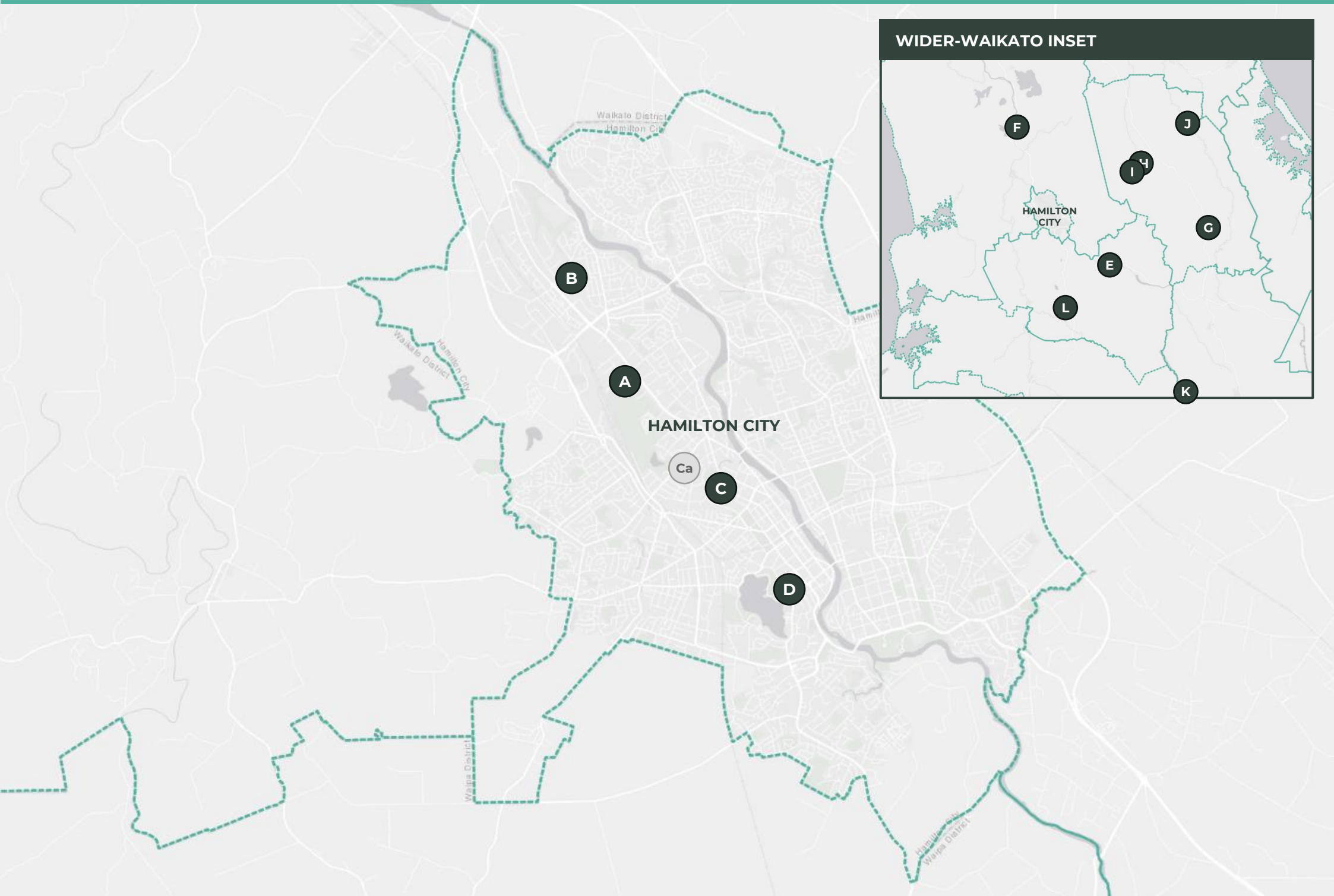
- Overall, the wider gymnastic facility network is well spread geographically, with available opportunities in most built-up settlements across the Waikato.
- Of note, and compared to other cities across New Zealand, very few private commercial properties are used to deliver gymnastics activity. Commercial properties are often used due to their large open spaces being conducive to the activity and because of a lack of alternate community facility options. As evidenced nationally, privately owned sites can lead to some tenure and financial sustainability issues, which can impact participation outcomes for local, sub-regional and regional catchments.

More refined facility analysis is outlined in Section 5.0.

TABLE 3.1 – OVERVIEW OF GYMNASTICS FACILITY PROVISION ACROSS HAMILTON CITY AND WIDER WAIKATO

MAP REF	CLUB	LOCATION	TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	LAND/BUILDING OWNERSHIP	ACTIVE FLOOR AREA (M ²)	GYMNASTICS CODES	DEDICATED
Hamilton-Based							
A	Hamilton City Gymnastics	Te Rapa, Hamilton	Hamilton City Council	Club	850	Preschool, Recreational, Men's and Women's Artistic Gymnastics, Aerobics, Trampoline	Yes
B	Turn & Gymnastic Circle – Spiralz Rhythmic	Te Rapa Sportsdrome, Hamilton	Hamilton City Council	Council	400	Rhythmic – Recreation and Competitive	No
C	Turn & Gymnastic Circle – Main Facility	John West Training Centre, Whitiara, Hamilton	Hamilton City Council	Land – Council Building – Hamilton Old Boys Rugby Club	550	Preschool, Recreational, Women's Artistic Gymnastics, Tumbling	Yes
Ca	Turn & Gymnastic Circle – Former Site	Maeroa, Hamilton	Hamilton City Council	Club	140	Preschool, Recreational, Women's Artistic Gymnastics	Yes
D	The Y Hamilton	Hamilton Lake, Hamilton	Hamilton City Council	YMCA	400	Preschool, Recreational	No
Wider-Waikato							
E	Cambridge Gymnastics Club	Cambridge	Waipa District Council	Private	360	Preschool, Recreational	Yes
F	Huntly Gymnastics Club	Huntly	Waikato District Council	Council	900	Preschool, Recreational, Men's and Women's Artistic Gymnastics	Yes
G	Matamata Gymnastics Club	Headon Stadium, Matamata	Matamata-Piako District Council	Council	630	Preschool, Recreational	No
H	Piako Gymnastics Club	Morrinsville College	Matamata-Piako District Council	Ministry of Education	400	Preschool, Recreational, Women's Artistic Gymnastics	No
I		Bible Church, Morrinsville		Private	400		No
J		Te Aroha		Private	300		Yes
K	South Waikato Gymsports	South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, Tokoroa	South Waikato District Council	Council	500	Preschool, Recreational	No
L	Te Awamutu GymSports	Te Awamutu YMI & Youth Centre	Waipa District Council	Private	600	Preschool, Recreational, Men's and Women's Artistic Gymnastics	No

MAP 3.1 – CURRENT GYMNASTICS FACILITY NETWORK



4.0 PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS

This section highlights longitudinal participation analysis and insights across 13-years and provides a more refined analysis at set periods, including the current state. All data has been sourced from Gymnastics New Zealand for consistent reporting and analysis.

4.1 MEMBERSHIP INSIGHTS

Table 4.1 and Figures 4.1 to 4.3 show membership trends using various gymnastics-related data metrics. These include:

1. **Average term memberships** – represents the average number of members attending on a term of a given year – this indicates the level of member demand across a typical week.
2. **Total term memberships** – the cumulative number of Term 1-4 registrations per year.
3. **Annual individual members** – represents how many individual members a club attracts within a year, regardless of when or how many terms they attend.

For clarity, Wider Waikato represents all clubs outside Hamilton City (listed in Table 3.1) within the Waikato Regional Council boundary.

KEY INSIGHTS

- All Hamilton City-based clubs have experienced high relative growth since 2011. **Annual membership grew 142%** during the period 2011 to 2023 (total term memberships grew by 160%).
- When reviewing this growth, there are notable phases evident:
 - a. 2011 – 2017 – high numeric growth for Hamilton City (664 additional members) and high proportionate growth by Turn & Gymnastic Circle (268% or 161 additional members).
 - b. 2018 – 2023 – the sale and subsequent relocation of Turn & Gymnastic Circle to larger premises resulted in a marked increase in membership (210% growth, equating to an additional 382 annual members).

Over the same period, Hamilton City Gymnastics peaked at 1,359 annual members (792 in one term) but were severely impacted during COVID-pandemic years. Recent term memberships indicate levels are returning and reaching beyond pre-COVID levels.

- Encouragingly, there does not appear to be any direct correlation between the growth of Turn & Gymnastic Circle and the drop-off previously experienced at Hamilton City Gymnastics. Both clubs are now demonstrating term-by-term and annual growth, indicating gymnastics membership is increasing its 'capture rate' of the population.
- The wider Waikato shows more pronounced growth indicating strong demand for gymnastics-related activity across the Waikato.
- The wider Waikato displays notable seasonal activity with lower membership evident in Terms 1 and 4 (summer). By contrast, the Hamilton-based clubs show less seasonal activity, demonstrating there is more demand and/or activity offerings throughout the year. This is likely connected with volunteer clubs versus clubs with employees and servicing a larger population base in Hamilton.

TABLE 4.1 – INDIVIDUAL GYMNASTICS MEMBERSHIP

	AV. TERM MEMBERSHIP			TOTAL TERM MEMBERSHIP			ANNUAL MEMBERS		
	2011	2017	2023	2011	2017	2023	2011	2017	2023
Hamilton City Gymnastics	367	748	734	1,469	2,991	2,937	695	1,359	1,243
Spiralz Rhythmic	31	47	53	122	189	211	46	71	93
Turn & Gymnastic Circle	42	121	358	169	484	1,432	60	221	603
TOTAL	440	916	1,145	1,760	3,664	4,580	801	1,651	1,939

FIGURE 4.1 – TERM-BY-TERM MEMBERSHIP (2011 TO 2024)

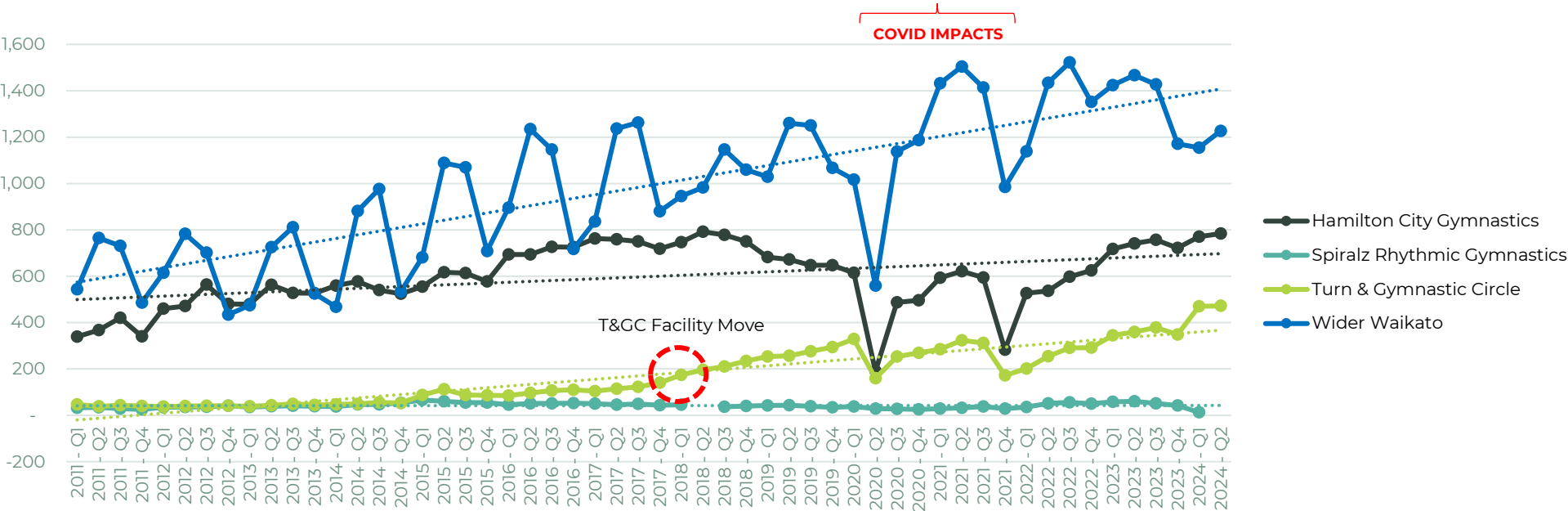


FIGURE 4.2 – CUMULATIVE TERM MEMBERSHIPS (2011-2024)

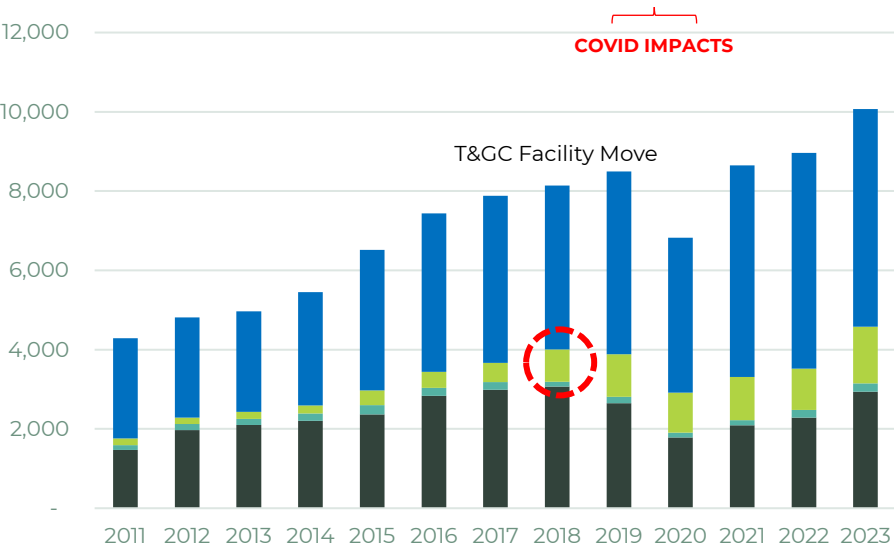
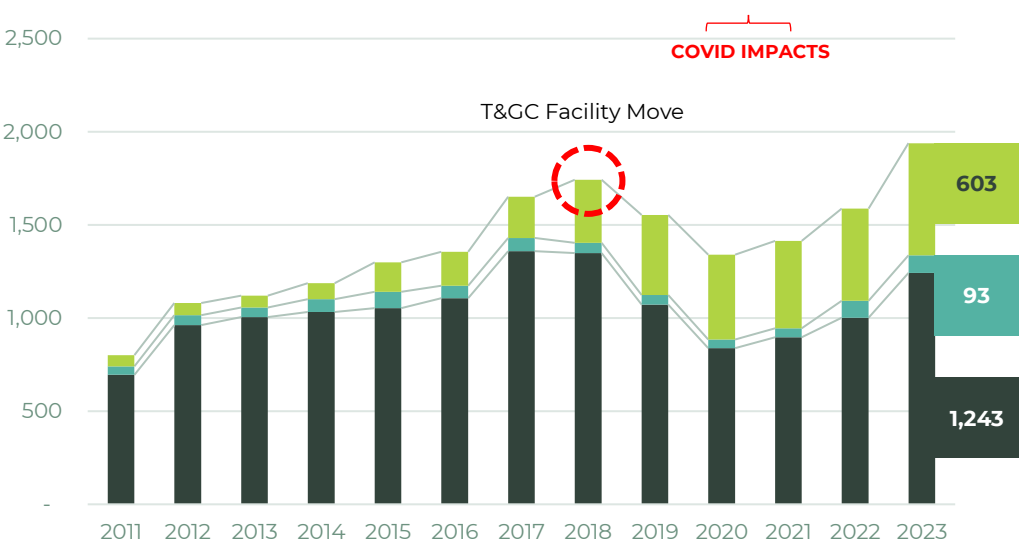


FIGURE 4.3 – INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL MEMBERS BY CLUB (2011-2023)



4.2 MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

It is important to consider and understand the type of membership demand on gymnastics facilities. This has a direct impact on spatial requirements. Figures 4.4 and 4.5 highlight the following:

- Recreational activity (including preschool activity) represents a significant proportion of club membership across the Waikato. From 2011 to 2021, this equated to 84% of all gymnastics membership. In recent years, this membership has increased to 89%.
- There is a lower proportion of recreational activity for clubs in Hamilton City (86%) compared to the Wider Waikato (94%).
- Most current competitive programming is associated with artistic gymnastics (11%) – primarily women’s artistic gymnastics (8%). All other gymnastics codes are offered but with notably lower membership.
- At a club level, Hamilton City Gymnastics has a slightly higher proportion of competitive members (15%), which is largely attributed to its artistic gymnastics programme. The club also offers competitive aerobics and trampoline programmes.
- Turn & Gymnastic Circle and Spiralz Rhythmics collectively comprise 12% competitive membership – mainly associated with women’s artistic gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics.
- Since 2011, the proportion of recreational activity has increased 14% (excluding preschool), while the proportion of all other activity has reduced (although still experiencing some slight numeric growth). **This demonstrates that most demand experienced across the last 13-year is related to recreational activity (150% growth).**

FIGURE 4.4 – WAIKATO MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION (2011 TO 2024)

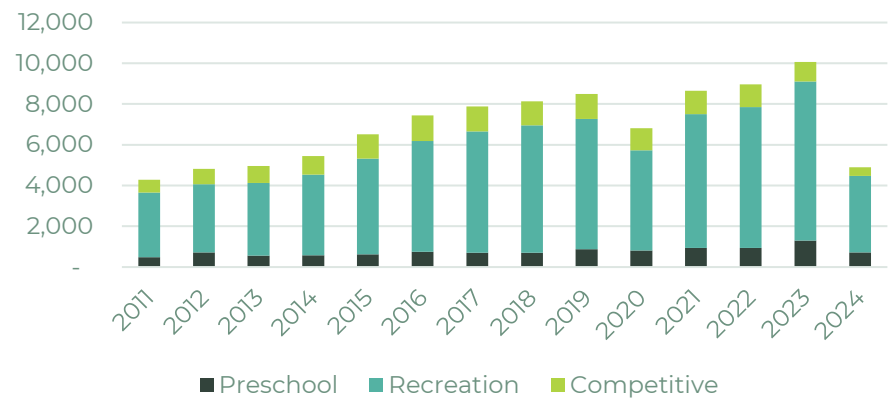


FIGURE 4.5 – HAMILTON-BASED CLUB MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION (2023)

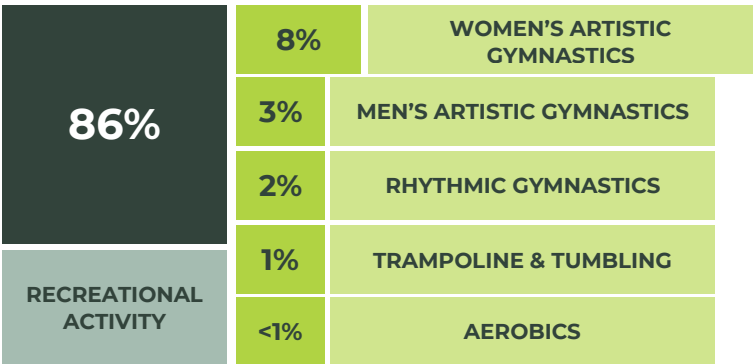


TABLE 4.2 – AV. TERM MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN BY CLUB AND ACTIVITY (2023)

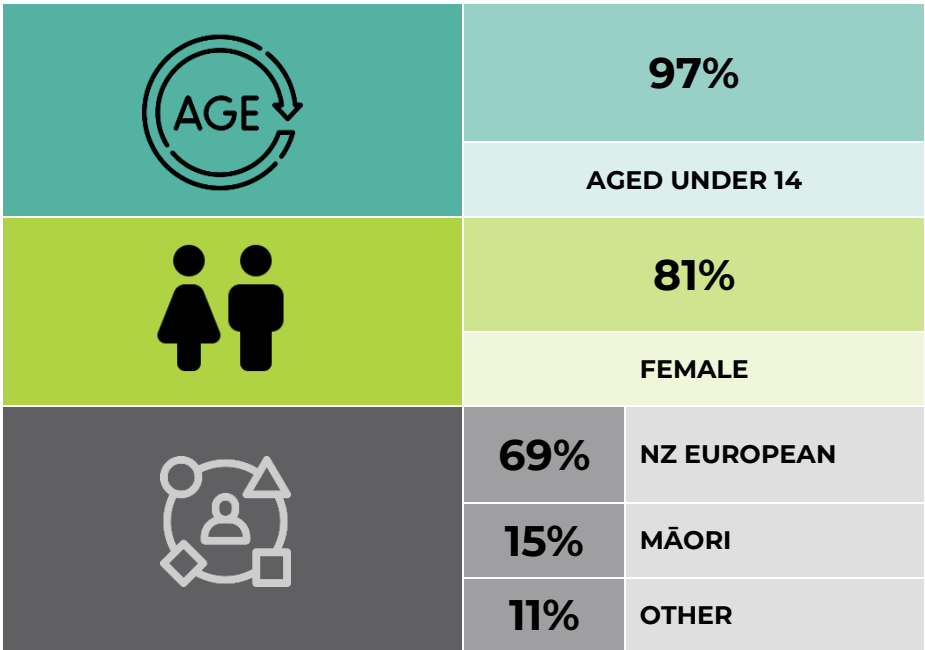
	PRE	REC	AER	MAG	RG	TRA	WAG
Hamilton City Gymnastics	120 (16%)	504 (69%)	2 (0%)	37 (5%)	-	13 (2%)	59 (8%)
Spiralz Rhythmics	-	35 (66%)	-	-	18 (34%)	-	-
Turn & Gymnastic Circle	77 (22%)	251 (70%)	-	-	-	1 (0%)	30 (8%)
TOTAL	197 (17%)	790 (69%)	2 (0%)	37 (3%)	18 (2%)	14 (1%)	89 (8%)

Membership abbreviations denote:

- PRE Preschool
- REC Recreation
- AER Aerobics (competitive)
- MAG Men's Artistic Gymnastics (competitive)
- RG Rhythmic Gymnastics (competitive)
- TRA Trampoline and Tumbling (competitive)
- WAG Women's Artistic Gymnastics (competitive)

4.3 MEMBER PROFILE

The following infographic highlights Hamilton's typical gymnastics membership profile.



While the above infographic provides an overall view of the member profile, there are some notable variances at the club level. These include:

- Spiralz Rhythmics have a slightly older membership composition (although still youthful with 99% of the membership under 19 years old), while Hamilton City Gymnastics has a slightly younger composition.
- Notably higher Asian proportion of members at Spiralz Rhythmics.
- Higher proportion of Māori and 'other' ethnicities at Hamilton City Gymnastics.
- A higher proportion of males at Hamilton City Gymnastics can, in part, be associated with the competitive codes of men's artistic gymnastics and trampoline.

Wider regional and national profile trend insights include:

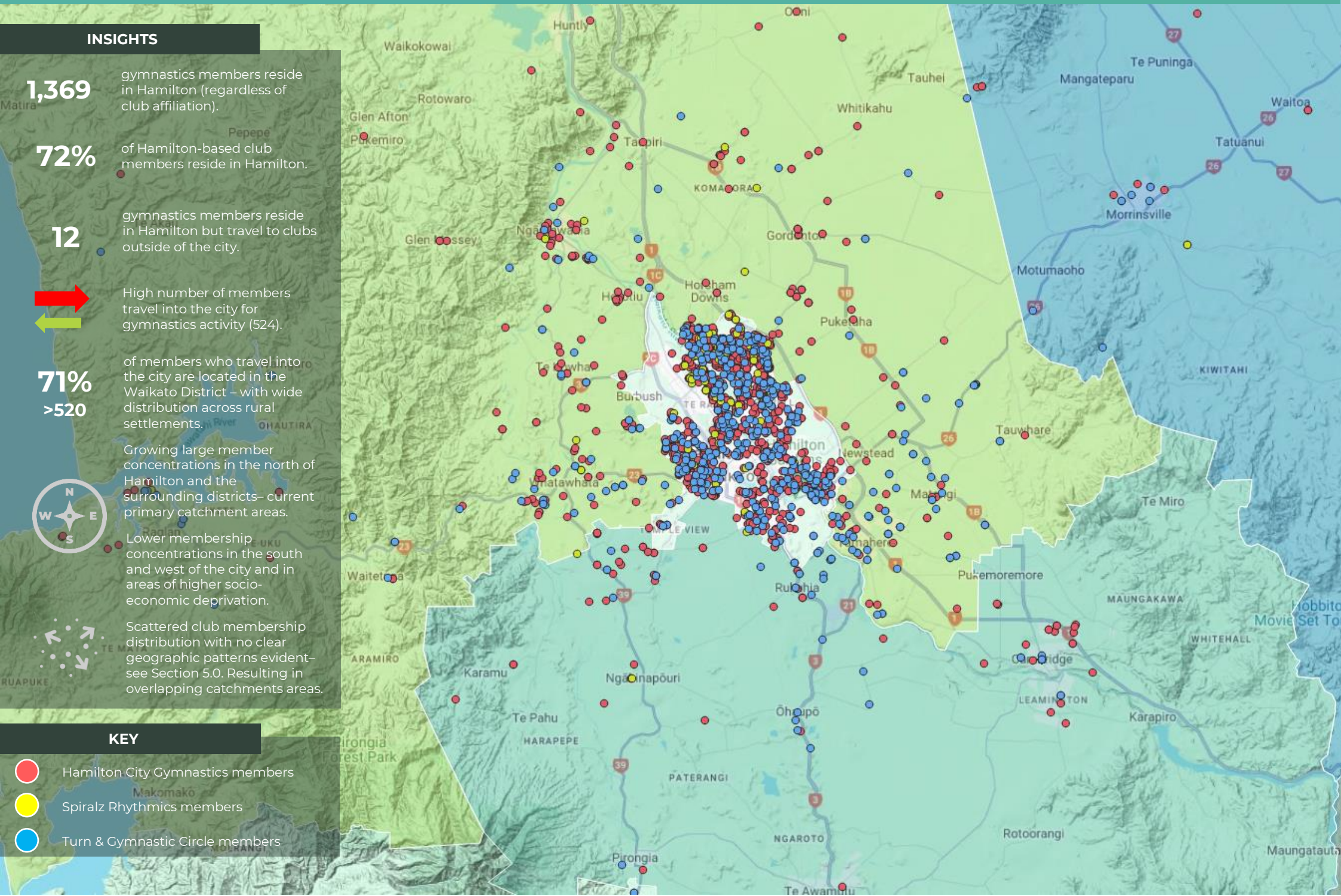
- The age profile is largely consistent with Wider Waikato and national membership profiles. Although there is a slightly higher proportion of preschool activity within Hamilton compared to the wider region and nationally.
- There is slightly more diversity across Hamilton compared to the wider region. The Wider Waikato is primarily comprised of members identifying as NZ European and Māori (88%).
- There is a higher proportion of Māori members in Hamilton City compared to the national ethnicity profile – presenting a closer resemblance to regional demographics.
- Gender composition remains consistent across city-based, regional and national profiles.

4.4 CATCHMENT ANALYSIS

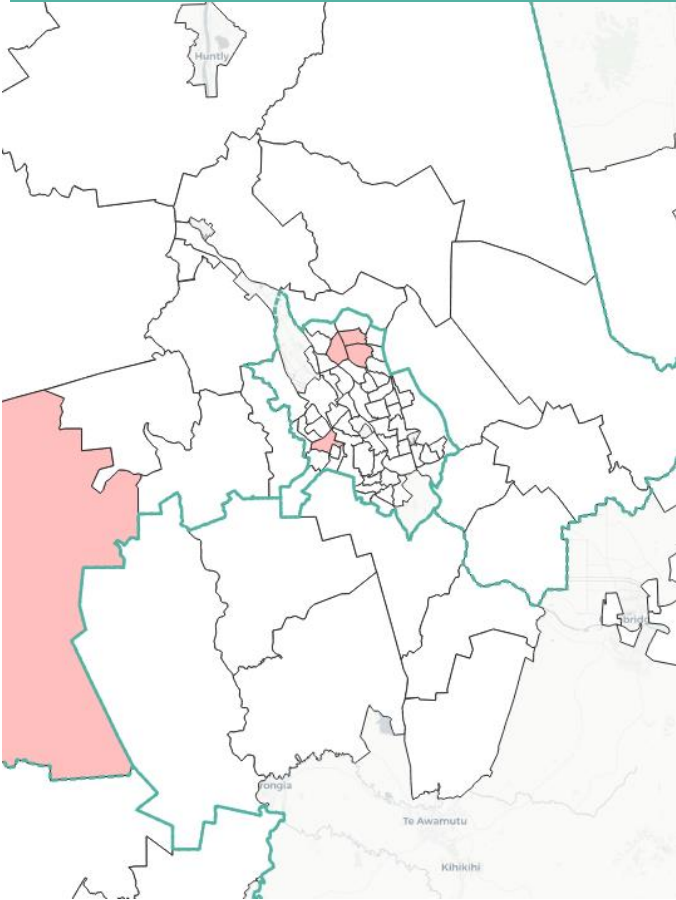
Maps 4.1 and 4.2 summarise key elements of gymnastics membership across the member catchment area.

More refined and supplementary gymnastics analysis is outlined in Section 5.0.

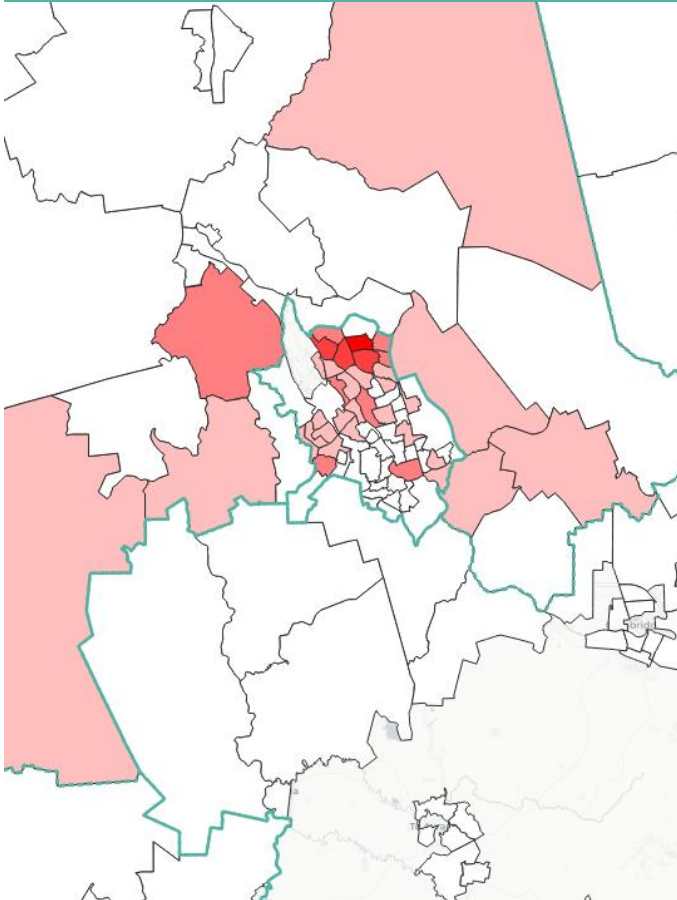
MAP 4.1 – GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF HAMILTON-BASED GYMNASTICS CLUB MEMBERSHIP



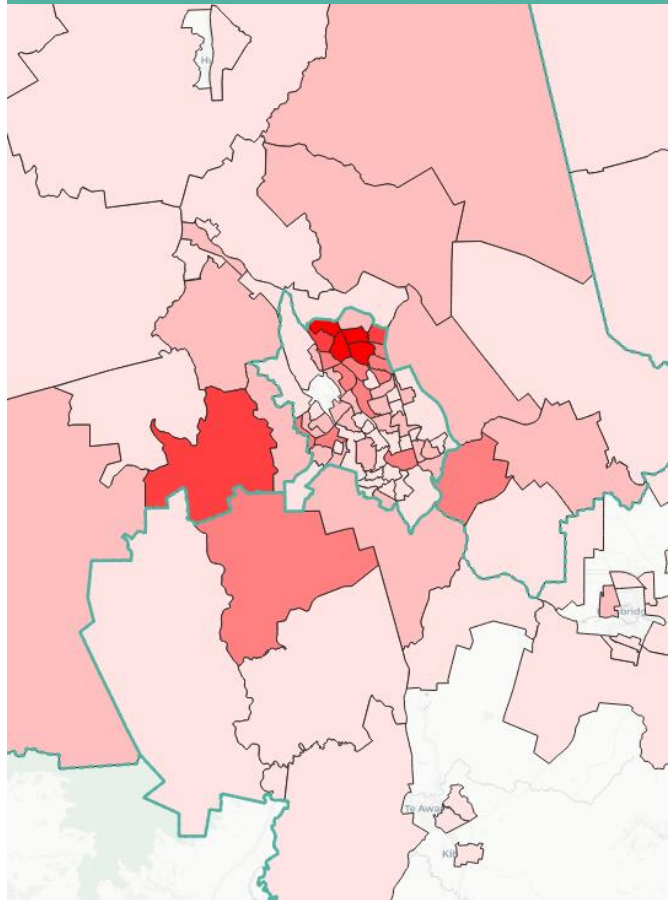
2011 MEMBERSHIP - SPATIAL PATTERNS



2017 MEMBERSHIP - SPATIAL PATTERNS



2023 MEMBERSHIP - SPATIAL PATTERNS



Membership Concentrations 1-15 members 16-30 members 31-45 members 46-61 members 62-75 members

2011 - HAMILTON INSIGHTS				
CITY QUADRANTS	↗	NORTH-EAST	42%	75% NORTH HAMILTON 25% SOUTH HAMILTON
	↘	SOUTH-EAST	13%	
	↙	SOUTH-WEST	12%	
	↖	NORTH-WEST	33%	

2017 - HAMILTON INSIGHTS				
CITY QUADRANTS	↗	NORTH-EAST	47%	75% NORTH HAMILTON 25% SOUTH HAMILTON
	↘	SOUTH-EAST	15%	
	↙	SOUTH-WEST	10%	
	↖	NORTH-WEST	28%	

2023 - HAMILTON INSIGHTS				
CITY QUADRANTS	↗	NORTH-EAST	47%	72% NORTH HAMILTON 28% SOUTH HAMILTON
	↘	SOUTH-EAST	14%	
	↙	SOUTH-WEST	14%	
	↖	NORTH-WEST	25%	

4.5 MEMBERSHIP FORECASTING

Table 4.4 outlines high-level gymnastics membership forecasting for Hamilton. Three forecasting metrics have been used:

1. The typical 'gymnastics member profile' of ages 0-14,
2. Overall catchment area population,
3. Increased population capture/engagement rate.

UNDER CURRENT CAPTURE/ENGAGEMENT LEVELS

It is forecast the membership banding for Hamilton (as the primary catchment area) will be 2,043 - 2,501 by 2048 – see Table 4.3. This is based on the current member 'capture rates' applied against projected population growth.

Data and past trend analysis suggest that the member profile projections will significantly understate future membership levels. This is evident from known club waitlists and the level of latent demand that was accommodated when Turn & Gymnastic Circle relocated to larger and more suitable facilities.

TABLE 4.3 – GYMNASTICS MEMBERSHIP FORECASTING FOR HAMILTON

	CURRENT POPULATION	CURRENT MEMBERS	2048 POPULATION	2048 PROJECTED MEMBERS	% CHANGE
Gymnastics Member Profile	37,200	1,939	39,200	2,043	5%
Full Population	183,000	1,939	236,000	2,501	25%

BENCHMARKING

An alternate approach was undertaken to benchmark gymnastics in Hamilton against comparable facilities and clubs – see Table 4.4.

The analysis highlights that **Hamilton has low relative population capture** (gymnastics engagement). This could be due to a mix of reasons, including capacity constraints (which was the case with Example C), the geographic distribution of facilities relative to membership catchments, perceived costs, programme delivery and/or activity preferences.

If a more moderate rate of 65 members per 1,000 residents can be attained (which would require a combination of interventions — both building footprint and operational), the city's **projected gymnastics membership could reach around 2,500 by 2048 (growth of 25%)**.

TABLE 4.4 – COMPARATIVE POPULATION 'CAPTURE RATES'

Club/Facility	Annual Members	Av. Term Members	Population (0-14 Years)	Members per 1,000 Residents
Example A	1,191	652	15,504	77
Example B	1,139	757	21,108	54
Example C	996	512	18,180	55
Example D	1,291	759	19,368	67
Example E	581	368	8,967	65
Example F	1,601	1,038	16,767	95
Hamilton City	1,243	734		
T&GC	603	358		
Spiralz	93	53		
All Hamilton	1,939	1,145	37,200	52

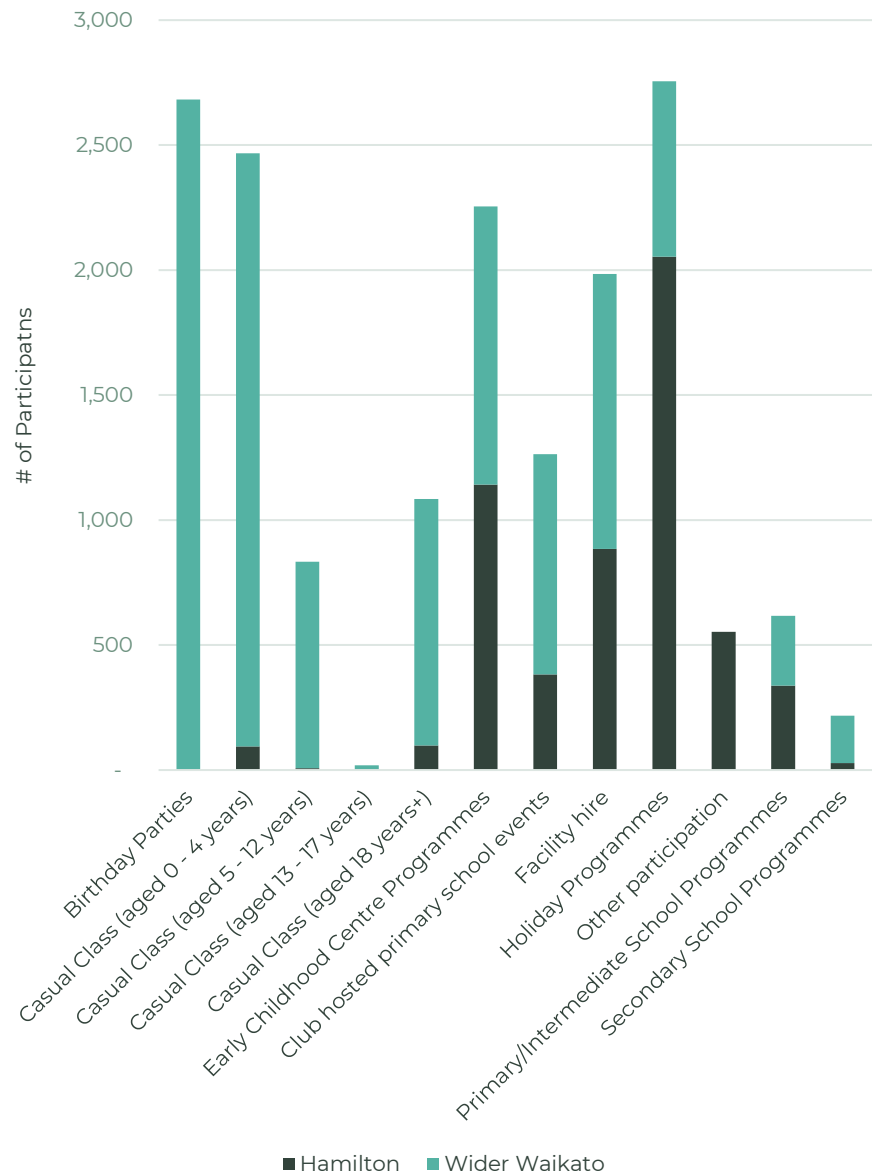
Note: more refined membership forecasting should be undertaken at the feasibility stage to fully factor in programme and facility specification impacts with any proposed future provision.

4.6 CASUAL PARTICIPATION

While Sections 4.1-4.6 highlight membership insights, the wider context of gymnastics-related participation is required. This primarily occurs in the form of casual participation. Typically, this activity has complementary scheduling to the membership programmes. In doing so, it maximises facility utilisation and community outreach, and can be used as a marketing tool (increase visibility) and to support revenue generation.

Figure 4.6 shows Hamilton-based clubs provide casual (non-membership-based) activities to an **additional 5,500 participants**. Most of this activity centres around pre-school and school-aged children through casual classes, school and holiday programmes. A majority of the activity occurs during Terms 2 and 3. Opportunities to expand and diversify this activity further exist.

FIGURE 4.6 – CASUAL PARTICIPATION BREAKDOWN



KEY SUMMARY POINTS

- Hamilton-based gymnastics activity has experienced significant growth since 2011 and more renewed growth over the last 3-years.
- All metrics (average term membership, total term membership and annual members) demonstrate notable membership growth.
- Typical term membership for Hamilton-based gymnastics is 1,145, while attracting 1,939 members annually in 2023.
- Most growth is attributed to recreational (non-competitive) gymnastics activity. Recreational membership is the primary form of activity (86% of all activity).
- A high proportion of the growth can be connected to the relocation of Turn and Gymnastic Circle for larger and more suitable premises.
- Most competitive codes have remained relatively stable or declined over the last 5-years. The largest competitive code is women’s artistic gymnastics.
- The typical member profile can be characterised as young (97% of members are under 14), female and primarily identify as NZ European. Aside from more members identifying as Māori, the profile closely resembles wider regional and national profiles.
- 72% of members reside in Hamilton, while a relatively high proportion reside in the neighbouring Waikato District.
- High demand and population capture in the north and east of the city, with lower levels in the south, west and in identified areas of higher socio-economic deprivation.
- Clubs' catchment areas overlap, resulting in clubs drawing members from the same areas (uncommon spatial patterns).
- Benchmarking analysis indicates that Hamilton has a **low gymnastics ‘capture rate’** (ratio of members to residents), suggesting **high latent demand likely exists**.
- With interventions (both building footprint and operational), **annual membership could reach 2,500 by 2048 (growth of 25%)**.
- Casual participants play a key role in driving non-member engagement opportunities. In a typical year, this can result in an additional 5,500 participants being involved in gymnastics-related activities. Opportunities exist to expand and diversify this activity.



GYMNASTICS DELIVERY NETWORK

5.1 NETWORK AND CATCHMENT INSIGHTS

The following pages highlight network and catchment data insights, including:

- a. Current distribution of club membership and further refined by the respective competitive gymnastics codes.
- b. Localised (15-minute drive time catchment) data insights of the existing facilities.

Based on analysis of other gymnastics clubs, a 15-20 minute drive-time encapsulates a good proportion of members. While recreational members typically have shorter drive-time preferences than competitive members (which can extend up to 45 minutes to 1 hour).

Note: It is important for localised impact to be clearly understood as its population will be the primary source and driver of membership. This has a direct relationship to financial sustainability (localised is characterised as members residing within 15 minutes' drive time).

- c. High-level indicator of capacity constraints – capacity ratios.

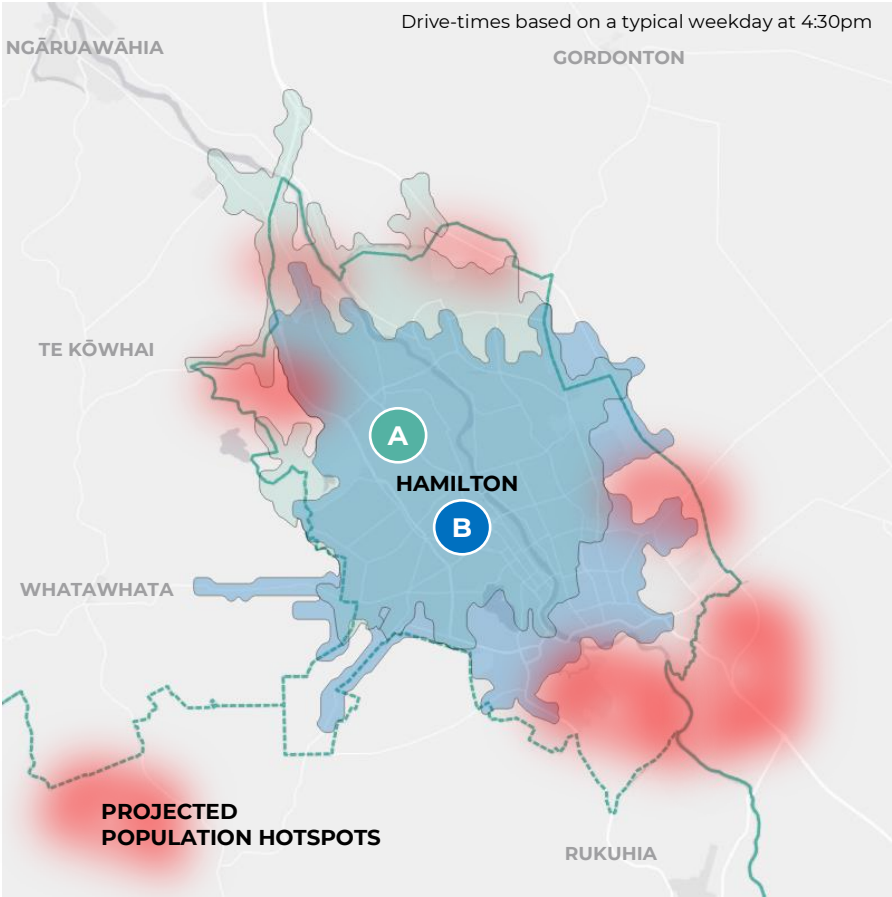
KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- Hamilton accommodates two dedicated gymnastics facilities which are located relatively close to one another (3.8km or up to a 10-minute drive).
- This appears to have influenced the scattered distribution of the membership. Other areas of the country, and other codes, typically show strong localised catchments (as is shown in Map 5.2).
- Both clubs draw a high proportion of their membership from the same catchment area. Turn & Gymnastic Circle reaches a larger population base within 15-minutes drivetime (with slightly lower regional gymnastics members residing in the area) compared to Hamilton City Gymnastics.
- A majority of the activity is preschool and recreation-based, with some variance in the competitive gymnastics codes being offered.

- The 15-minute drivetime from the respective current club facilities reaches 81% of the population located in the member catchment area. Although this is forecast to decline slightly to 79% by 2048.
- The current facility network has limited connection to projected population growth areas located around the periphery of the city – most notably the south and east of the city.
- As a broad indicator of facility capacity, a capacity ratio has been used to ascertain activity space (m²) per member. As a guide, a national level of 3.5 members per square metre indicates there are likely capacity constraints being experienced. Table 5.2 shows both Hamilton City Gymnastics and Turn & Gymnastic Circle have extremely low capacity ratios (small amount of space per member), suggesting high capacity pressures exist. While other capacity constraints are also likely to be experienced in some surrounding rural settlements.
- It is important to recognise that the two largest clubs in the wider region are also likely to be experiencing capacity constraints. They also service large population catchments stretching well beyond the city boundary. This could result in notable latent demand and participant experience concerns due to space pressures. The above factors should be further analysed and considered during future feasibility analysis.
- 70% of all competitive membership across the Wider Waikato occurs within Hamilton.
- Over half the competitive members residing in Waikato and Waipa Districts are members of clubs in Hamilton (primarily associated with women's artistic gymnastics).
- Hamilton City Gymnastics has a far higher number and proportion of junior and senior competitive gymnasts (55%) compared to all other clubs offering competitive programmes (higher level gymnastics). The club comprises around two-thirds of Hamilton-based competitive membership and 45% of the Wider Waikato.
- Competitive membership is more diverse in Hamilton than in the surrounding area, with only artistic gymnastics (primarily women's) delivered outside Hamilton.

TABLE & MAP 5.1 – 15-MINUTE DRIVE TIME INSIGHTS

15 Minute Drive Time Insights				
Site Location	2023 Pop. 2048 Pop.	Age Profile Catchment Populations	All Members	Competitive Members
(A) Hamilton City Gymnastics	136,660	28,440	1,068	92
	170,570	29,080		
(B) Turn & Gymnastic Circle	168,920	34,760	934	86
	211,380	36,420		
Combined Catchments	184,180	38,300	1,249	106
	233,020	40,040		



MAPS 5.2 & 5.3 – MEMBER DISTRIBUTION COMPARISON FOR AUCKLAND AND HAMILTON

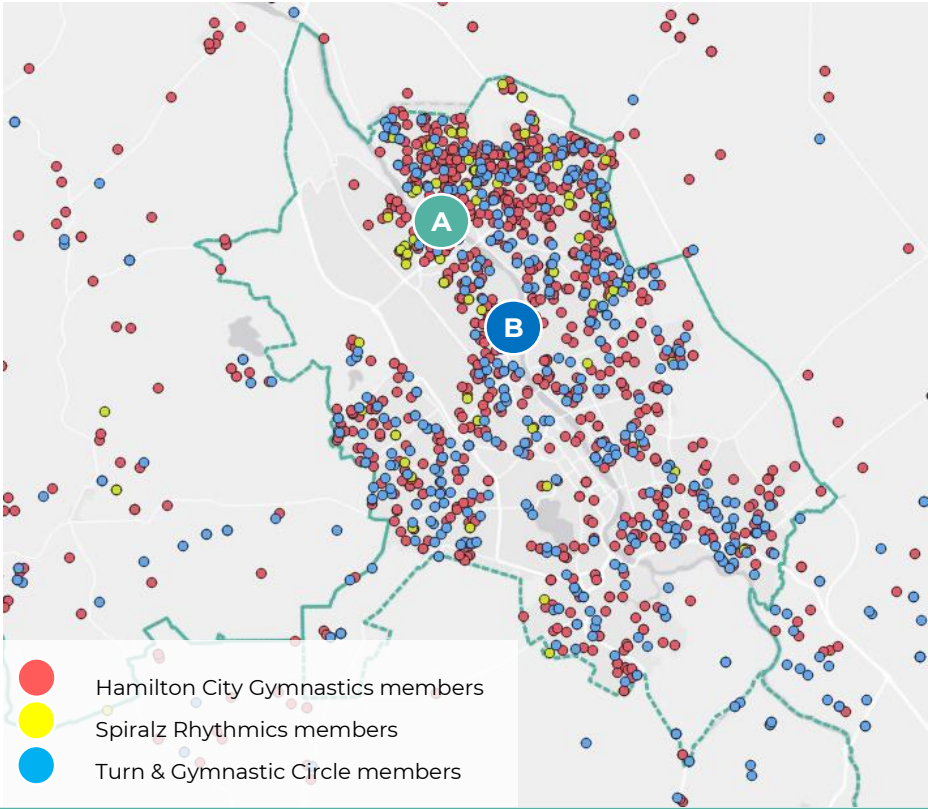
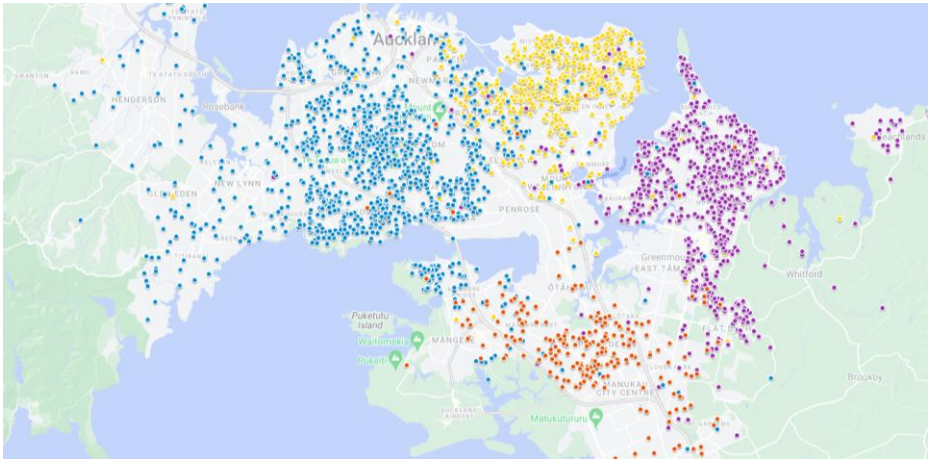


TABLE 5.2 – CAPACITY RATIO OF GYMNASTICS FACILITIES

CLUB	INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS – 2023	ACTIVITY FLOOR AREA (m ²)	CAPACITY RATIO
Hamilton-Based			
Hamilton City Gymnastics	1,243	850	0.68
Turn & Gymnastic Circle			
(1) John West Training Centre	603	550	0.91
(2) Te Rapa Sportsdrome - Rhythmic	93	400	4.30
Wider Waikato			
Cambridge Gymnastics Club	456	360	0.79
Huntly Gymnastics Club	203	900	4.43
Matamata Gymnastics Club	152	630	4.14
Piako Gymnastics Club	518	1,100 (total)	2.12
South Waikato Gymsports	12	500	41.67
Te Awamutu GymSports	349	600	1.72

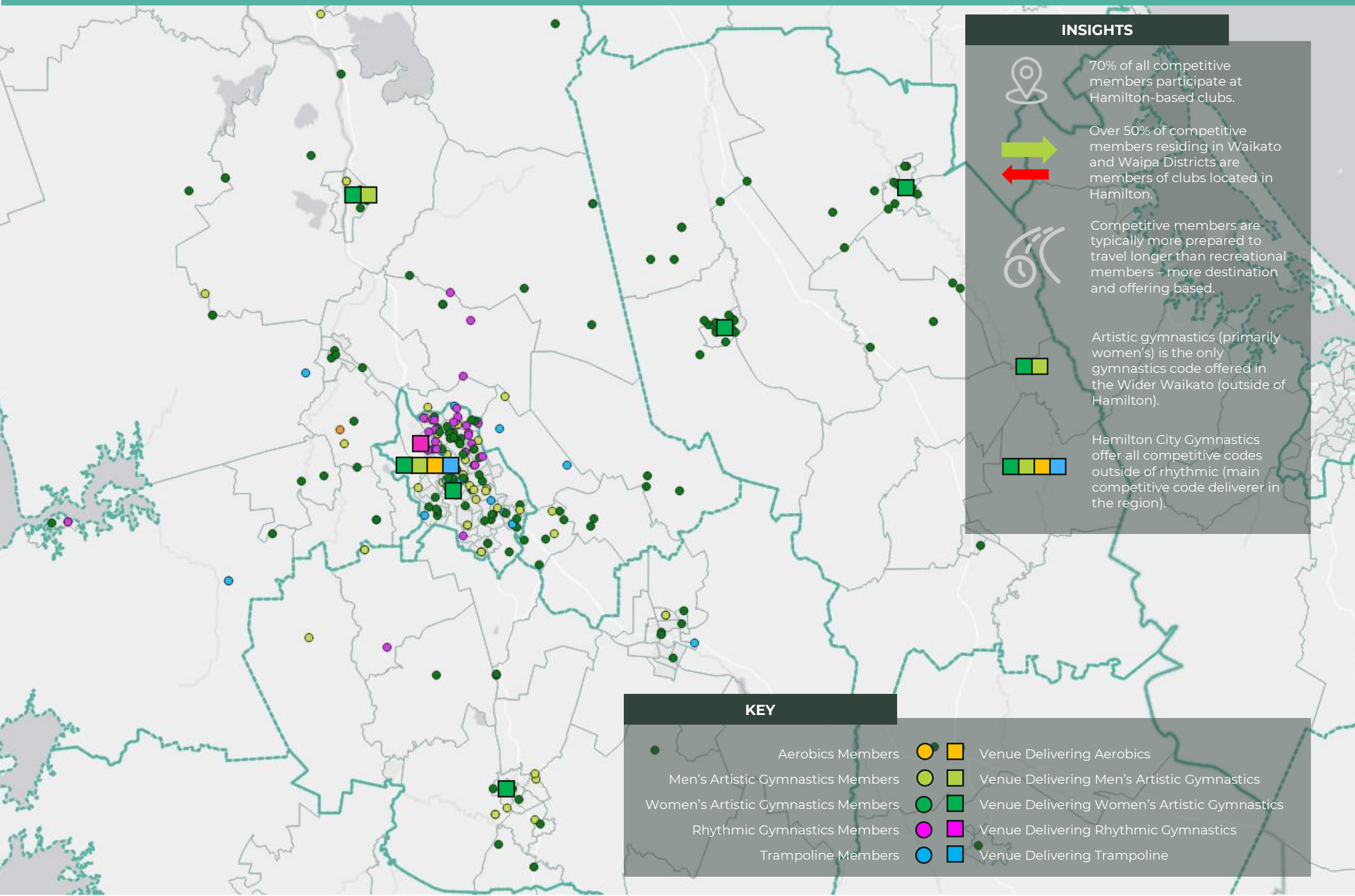
TABLE 5.3 – COMPETITIVE MEMBERS BY TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY

TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY	HAMILTON-BASED CLUBS	TOTAL WIDER WAIKATO	% HAMILTON BASED
Hamilton City	121	121	100%
Waikato District	39	65	60%
Waipa District	16	31	52%
Matamata-Piako District	7	37	19%
Other	4	12	33%

TABLE 5.4 – SUMMARY COMPETITIVE BREAKDOWN BY CLUB (2023)

	ELEMENTARY COMPETITIVE	JUNIOR COMPETITIVE	SENIOR COMPETITIVE	TOTAL
Hamilton City Gymnastics	54	39	27	120
Huntly Gymnastics Club	14	7	1	22
Piako Gymnastics Club	34	3	1	38
Spiralz Rhythmic Gymnastics	24	2	2	28
Te Awamutu GymSports	21			21
Turn & Gymnastic Circle	25	12	1	38
Total	172	63	32	267

MAP 5.4 – COMPETITIVE CODE MEMBER DISTRIBUTION & VENUE DELIVERY

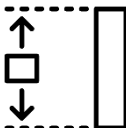


5.2 CLUB FACILITY PROPOSALS

This section provides a high-level overview of the facility proposals for Hamilton City Gymnastics and Turn & Gymnastic Circle.

HAMILTON CITY GYMNASTICS

Key Issues

	Significant capacity constraints are currently being experienced, even when introducing new initiatives such as opening 52m² of the spectator mezzanine for activity space and scheduling classes and programmes on Sundays (it is now open seven days a week). Aerobics has limited use of the main gym, and the Te Rapa Sportsdrome and University have been hired to meet class needs. Capacity is currently restricting growth through wait lists and the ability to offer more or new classes/programmes/pathways and for running clinics/workshops and other activities (space constraints and conflicting schedules).
	Spatial dimensions inhibit suitable apparatus and equipment layout and flow and the transformation between training and event mode. The current height of the building does not meet trampoline requirements, limiting skill development and creating health and safety considerations (current height is around 6.5m to the centre beam). More ancillary and storage space is required to accommodate staff, coaches and equipment.
	The provision of a foam pit has been cited as a critical element for the club to support skill development in a safe and controlled environment for gymnasts at all levels. Whilst also providing cross-code and other training opportunities. There are no foam pits for gymnastics use located in the Waikato or in the wider region – necessitating travel to Auckland.

Proposed Way Forward

The club has prudently investigated a range of prospective options and approaches for meeting its needs. In line with its current strategic direction, the club prefers to maintain a building portfolio (while the club also acknowledges that it is open to alternate facility approaches if they arise).

Maintaining a building portfolio can occur under three scenarios:

1. Acquire a new building (current preferred approach of the club).
2. Leasing out the existing building to help offset a new lease at a larger premises.
3. Extension of the existing building.

The club desires to remain in the northwest of the city. This general location aligns with the main commercial and industrial areas of the city, which typically share the required common spatial requirements, i.e., large open shells and ancillary spaces.

TURN & GYMNASTIC CIRCLE

Key Issues

	In 2017, the club sold its former premises following health and safety concerns and space restrictions.
	Following this sale, the club has been relatively nomadic across multiple sites. The club is currently located at the John West Training Centre (Old Boys' Rugby Training Venue). However, with no lease, this creates short to medium term uncertainty and a high risk factor for the network as tenure is unsecured.
	The club has thoroughly explored a multitude of alternate sites for dedicated or co-located use, including existing buildings (either deemed unsustainable or not available), development at Fairfield College (ground lease was ruled out by the Ministry of Education due to forecast population and roll growth), and most recently at the Eastlink Community Hub.
	The provision of a foam pit has been cited as a critical element for the club to support skill development in a safe and controlled environment for gymnasts at all levels. Whilst also providing cross-code and other training opportunities. There are no foam pits for gymnastics use located in the Waikato or in the wider region – necessitating travel to Auckland.

Proposed Way Forward

Turn & Gymnastic Circle have been extensively involved in the development of the Eastlink master plan (not currently adopted by Hamilton City Council). A purpose-built gymnastics facility on a current vacant parcel of land has been prioritised in the recommended implementation plan for Years 1-3. The proposed development seeks to accommodate rhythmic gymnastics to free space at the sportsdrome.

5.3 NETWORK CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES - SUMMARY

This section highlights the key challenges and opportunities that may positively or negatively impact the gymnastics facility network in Hamilton.

KEY CHALLENGES

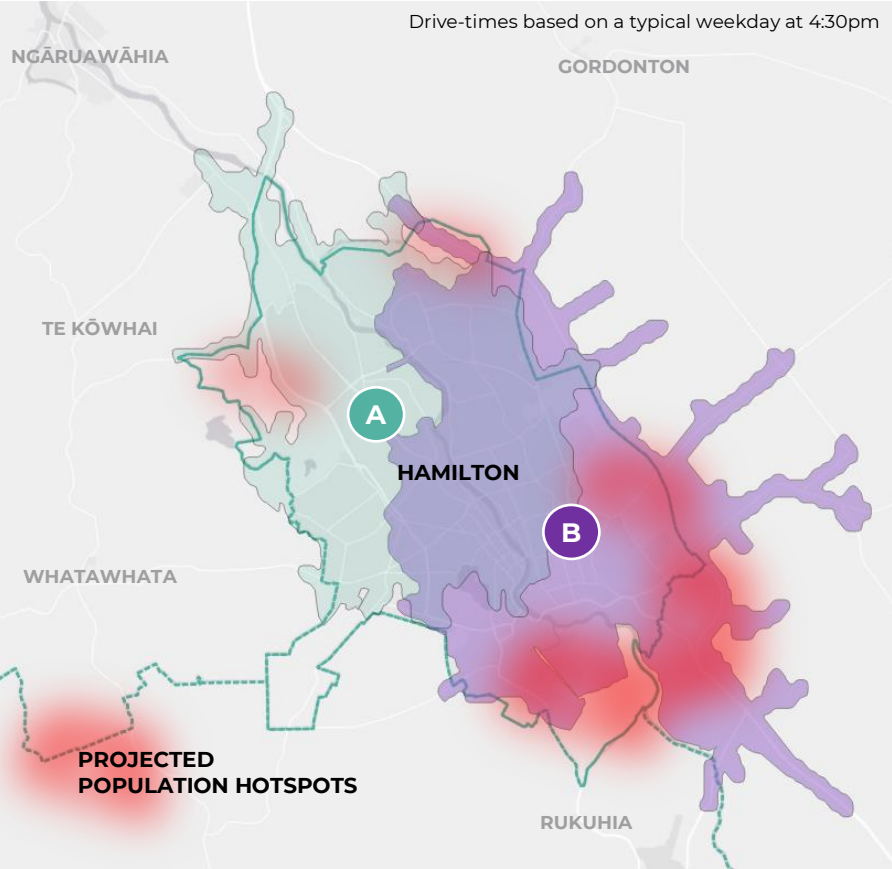
	CAPACITY PRESSURES Current facility capacity constraints – inability to meet current and future projected demand.
	HEALTH & SAFETY AND PARTICIPANT EXPERIENCE CONCERNS Capacity pressures have wider reaching implications which, if not managed effectively, can lead to health and safety concerns (having suitable apparatus set-up and use protocols) and overall impact on the participant experience.
	GYMNASTICS SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS Height restrictions exist for accommodating trampoline activity across all levels, while general space constraints are restricting programme delivery (i.e. apparatus configuration, more apparatus set-up and overflow activity). Having no provision of a foam pit in the Waikato was cited as a critical element in supporting skill development in a safe and controlled environment.
	TENURE With no current lease, Turn & Gymnastics Circle have no security of tenure. With risk of displacement, this provides a high level of uncertainty for programme delivery. With current capacity issues, Hamilton City Gymnastics cannot accommodate any possible displacement.
	FINANCIAL VIABILITY Cost of acquiring property and building facilities has increased against a backdrop of a very constrained funding environment and high interest rates. This is further magnified by two facilities in need of investment at the same time.
	LOCATION & REACH The current facilities are relatively close to one another, with overlapping catchment areas. This positioning also impacts the ability to reach projected population hot spots (within 15 minutes' drive time).

KEY OPPORTUNITIES

	COLLABORATION Taking a collaborative approach across club operations and optimising facility use – working together for the best gymnastics delivery (now and in the future). Reducing duplication and maximising available resource.
	LAND OPPORTUNITY – CREATES GREATER DISTRIBUTION The development proposal at Eastlink Community Hub presents an opportunity for fit-for-purpose gymnastics facility provision, whilst also increasing the geographic spread across the city (reducing overlapping catchment areas). – Table & Map 5.2.
	SEED FUNDING/LEVERAGE Through sale proceeds (current or prospective), Hamilton City Gymnastics and Turn & Gymnastic Circle have available seed funding. Hamilton City Gymnastics' capital building evaluation is circa \$2.3 million, while Turn & Gymnastic Circle have circa \$500,000 to contribute from their previous land/building sale. This seed funding will be valuable for leveraging other funds.
	RATIONALISATION Opportunities exist to rationalise some facilities i.e. possible relocation of rhythmic away from the Te Rapa Sportsdrome could free-up use of indoor courts – another strategic facility priority area for the region.
	FIT-FOR-PURPOSE FACILITIES Opportunities exist for addressing specific gymnastic code requirements (i.e. height for trampoline) and for adequately accommodating apparatus in a suitably configured way to optimise training and to enable event hosting.
	GROWTH Enable gymnastics to capitalise on the projected level of latent demand that exists – more participants involved more often.

TABLE & MAP 5.2 – 15-MINUTE DRIVE TIME INSIGHTS FOR PROPOSED LOCATIONS

15 Minute Drive Time Insights				
Site Location	2023 Pop. 2048 Pop.	Age Profile Catchment Populations	All Members	Competitive Members
(A) NW Site	136,660	28,440	1,068	92
	170,570	29,080		
(B) Eastlink Community Hub	143,770	28,830	983	94
	184,190	30,730		
Combined Catchments	192,180	39,640	1,399	123
	255,940	43,780		



5.4 FUTURE NETWORK APPROACH

The geographic spread arising from the proposed facility approaches in the north-west of the city and Eastlink Community Hub are validated by:

- a. Creates greater distance between the respective facilities (around twice the current drive time).
- b. Establishing more distinct localised catchments over time (less overlap).
- c. Higher population capture – with local catchments (15-minute drive time) reaching virtually all areas of the city and immediate surrounds.
- d. All projected population growth areas can be serviced.
- e. More accessibility to dedicated gymnastics facilities for members (current and prospective) and clubs (gymnastics and other users) from the surrounding districts. This is extremely important given the typical member age profile for gymnastics (need to reduce drive times where possible to negate potential participation barriers).

From a blank canvas perspective, the logical approach for Hamilton would be to develop a regional hub gymnastics facility at Eastlink, with more localised provision in the northwest of the city.

This is primarily based on transport access to Eastlink from both Hamilton and from neighbouring towns. Its location would help optimise use and encourage connection with other gymnastics clubs – a key premise and desired outcome sought from regional hub facilities.

Suitable land provision at a key sport and recreation precinct presents a significant opportunity for gymnastics. This is further emphasised by its identification as a priority development action as part of the proposed Eastlink master plan.

However, achieving this network would require a quantum mindset and direction change from both clubs. The indicated scale of the facility proposed for Eastlink would not currently meet the requirements for a regional hub. When considering the resource and investigation that have already been undertaken by both clubs to date, and current operations and delivery, there appears to be little appetite to revisit the current positioning. The approach would need to consider further appropriate governance and management structures, operational model, viability, and desire to develop the network to this scale and specification.

Establishing the optimal network does not currently appear practical. The following section outlines a proposed alternative way forward that provides positive outcomes and appears more achievable within the current context.

6.0 THE WAY FORWARD

This section outlines the proposed way forward in response to the findings detailed in earlier sections.

6.1 NETWORK & PROVISION GUIDELINES

Eight key principles underpin the National Gymsports Facility Strategy and the desire for a complementary network of facilities. Pertinent to this study are:

- **Accessibility** – an integrated network of facilities accessible to people wishing to participate in gymnastics activity.
- **Sustainable** – well-utilised facilities with strong and capable governance and management, with the ability to meet operational costs, repairs, maintenance, and future renewals.
- **Focused-Use** – gymnastics facilities have unique apparatus/equipment placement and health and safety requirements, which necessitate dedicated space in many instances. Shared spaces are typically impractical, but facilities and their set-up lend themselves to cross-code/other activity use, while co-location within large open buildings can be explored to best utilise space.
- **Partnerships** – clubs play to their strengths and avoid unnecessary duplication with neighbouring clubs/facilities. Optimising assets through collaboration (internally and externally of gymnastics) is essential.
- **Optimise Existing Assets** – existing assets should be optimised/refurbished where practical and viable.
- **Return on Investment** – as capital funding is limited, it is important to maximise the sporting return that the project is likely to deliver.

A range of prospective network approaches **were explored and subsequently ruled out**, including:

- Regional gymnastics facility at Eastlink and a community/local facility located in the north-west of the city (as outlined in Section 5.4),
- Multiple sub-regional facilities across the city – not financially viable or suitably functional to meet spatial needs,

- One large regional facility and potentially a satellite venue (with consideration given to co-location or amalgamation) – can limit service, capital cost implications, autonomy and ownership concerns, prolonged timelines, differing club philosophies and operations.

The following facility specifications are based on a mix of facility provision guidelines (as detailed in the Gymsports Facility Guide – supplementary document to the National Gymsports Facility Strategy), other gymnastics delivery across the country (current and proposed), current and intended gymnastics delivery of the respective clubs located in Hamilton, all within the context of the identified gymnastics network principles.

PROPOSED HAMILTON CITY GYMNASTICS – NW HAMILTON SITE (TBC)	
Gymnastics Activity and Specification Guide	• Preschool • Recreation • Men's Artistic Gymnastics • Women's Artistic Gymnastics Indicative Activity Footprint: 1,200-1,400m² with height ranging from 6.5m to 8m • Trampoline (includes double-mini and tumbling) Indicative Activity Footprint: 500-900m² with essential height of 10m • Aerobics Indicative Activity Footprint: 150m² Total Indicative Activity Footprint: 1,850-2,300m² The facility should be able to accommodate up to senior-level activity for each of the above gymnastics codes – with the ability to support high performance pathways.
Specialised Equipment / Apparatus	• Foam pit (essential) – based on the level of activity and gymnastics codes being delivered.
Events	• Ability to host national qualifying events for each gymnastics code. • Primary gymnastics event venue for the region.

PROPOSED TURN & GYMNASTIC CIRCLE - EASTLINK	
Gymnastics Activity and Specification Guide	• Preschool • Recreation • Women's Artistic Gymnastics Indicative Activity Footprint: 600-700m² with height ranging from 6.5m to 8m
	• Rhythmic Gymnastics Indicative Activity Footprint: 225-350m² with essential height of 9-10m
	Total Indicative Activity Footprint: 825-1,050m² The facility should be able to accommodate up to senior-level for rhythmic gymnastics and support most women's artistic gymnastics activity up to a senior level. As a purpose-built gymnastics facility, the building should be designed to enable extra bays to be added.
Specialised Equipment / Apparatus	• Foam pit (desirable) – as there is uncertainty around future foam pit provision for the region, the proposed development should plan for foam pit inclusion. Cost benefit analysis should also be factored in to ensure the facility best meets participation outcomes. • If cost allows, the network could support multiple foam pits. This requires careful consideration given to the scale of excavation, capital cost, layout implications (including potential space compromises) and what activities and skills the foam pit is designed to support (needs to be commensurate to the activity). • Alternate technologies are also becoming more prevalent and available. These should be considered during feasibility stage.
Events	• Primarily local recreational and artistic events. • Up to regional level rhythmic gymnastics events (although these could be hosted in other suitable indoor court venues in the city – subject to cost and availability).

Key notes:

1. The above activity footprints are indicative for guiding purposes only. They are subject to testing, viability, and change in the wider facility network and should be explored in more depth as part of the feasibility analysis.
2. The spatial guidelines focus solely on the required footprint to deliver gymnastics activity/outcomes and does not consider additional footprint required for other potential user groups. Other use and associated facility requirements should be investigated as part of the feasibility study.
3. The footprint excludes ancillary spaces. Where possible, the development at Eastlink should look to maximise connection and leverage from existing and proposed facilities of the wider precinct. This will help to reduce the overall project cost and to place primary focus on the activity area.
4. In some cases, the activity footprint area can be reduced where more overlap across programmes can be achieved – necessitating less dedicated code space (enabling more shared space across gymnastics codes).

6.2 IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

Key objectives being sought for gymnastics across the city include:

1. Security of tenure for gymnastics delivery,
2. Grow the level of engagement and participation in gymnastics activity (including meeting identified latent demand for gymnastics activity),
3. Make gymnastics more accessible to current and future population catchments,
4. Suitably specified facilities that can facilitate concurrent activity in a safe and controlled environment,
5. Establish collaborative approaches within gymnastics and with external clubs/organisations/agencies.

Taking a parallel scoping and development approach will best achieve these objectives and is the recommended approach moving forward.

This accounts for dynamic markets, types of funding streams available, protracting timelines, opportunity costs, and potential challenges that may arise or be encountered.

PARALLEL APPROACH

The premise of this approach is based on the clubs targeting different funding streams due to their respective facility response proposals.

	Hamilton City Gymnastics	Turn & Gymnastic Circle
Approach	Acquire an existing large commercial building.	New purpose-built development at Eastlink Community Hub.
Funding Considerations	Acquiring a building in a dynamic market does not typically align with capital grant funding allocation or expenditure timelines. Lending potential from the bank is relatively low. Likely requires some form of debt servicing (but at community level rate).	Constrained capital funding environment. Need to align multiple funders to meet capital requirements. Lending potential from the bank is low.
Opportunities	Leverage from prospective building/land sale (circa \$2.3 million). Community loan opportunities exist across the region – provides greater flexibility and typically less reliance on needing a multitude of sources. Potential sponsorship partners exist (fewer constraints compared to some Reserve Act restrictions). Smaller fit-out costs can be sought from community grant funders and in-kind support (unlikely to detract or compete with T&GC funding).	Gain some leverage from previous building/land proceeds (circa \$500,000). Lower specification build and access to skilled professionals to reduce capital cost + building scalability can be factored in. Primary grant funding focus for the gymnastics facility network with Hamilton City Gymnastics focusing on other sources.
The Way Forward	1. Complete robust, options analysis (including financial modelling) for expanding the existing building, leasing-out the current building and leasing a larger building	1. Complete the feasibility study for developing at Eastlink (including funding assessment).

Hamilton City Gymnastics	Turn & Gymnastic Circle
and acquire a new building. Showing full due diligence will be important for prospective funders and investors. 2. Model realistic hypothetical scenarios so the club can respond with key partners when a suitable option presents (providing confidence for all parties and enabling the club to react quicker in a dynamic market). 3. Discuss potential community loan options i.e. with Trust Waikato. This should be included as part of actions 1 and 2. 4. Discuss the approaches with potential sponsors/investors to understand their appetite to contribute and confirm what they are seeking in return for their investment. 5. Continue to explore available or prospective buildings.	2. Quantify in-kind and sponsorship value towards the project. 3. Continue following the draft 'facility development proposal on reserves process' (Hamilton City Council). Key actions/requirements include: a. Gain in-principle support from Council to proceed (initial-screening) – Completed b. A preapplication meeting with Council's Planning Guidance Unit - Completed c. Submitting this study alongside the feasibility study. d. Submit Community Occupancy Application, e. Concept or developed design, f. Resource consent, g. Developed and detailed design, h. Building consent. 4. Continue exploring suitable existing buildings as they become available (as interim and/or potentially longer-term options).

PRIORITISED APPROACH

If a parallel approach cannot be progressed, a prioritised approach may need to be adopted to focus and maximise community grant funding. In this case, it is recommended that the development at Eastlink be prioritised first based on the following rationale:

- a. The opportunity cost of not establishing at Eastlink is too great (when it is already defined and is a prioritised action within the master plan and has momentum),
- b. The project addresses security of tenure across the network,
- c. Hamilton City Gymnastics is unable to accommodate any notable displacement of Turn & Gymnastic Circle should operations cease,
- d. Securing a new large commercial premises to accommodate Hamilton City Gymnastics has potentially protracted timelines,
- e. Provides a greater distance between gymnastics facilities and supports larger coverage across the city,
- f. Has greater potential to leverage being located in a sport and recreation precinct,
- g. The proposed development provides scalability and flexibility to meet current and future demand.

It should be noted that **Hamilton City Gymnastics should also progress analysis and planning for all potential options**. This will prepare the club for potential opportunities that may present. For example, if any unforeseen challenges are experienced with developing at Eastlink, and/or when grant funders focus on the next gymnastics priority.



7.0 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 KEY CONCLUSIONS

The Hamilton Gymnastics Facility Network Study concludes that:

1. The current facility network is not suitably distributed to create distinct membership catchment areas or to service the city effectively (within a 15-minute drive time). This will be magnified in the future with projected population growth forecast around the city's periphery.
2. Gymnastics membership and casual participation across Hamilton has increased significantly over the last decade – by more than 140%.
3. Currently around 2,000 members engage in gymnastics-related activity annually in Hamilton, with an additional 5,500 casual participants.
4. High latent demand levels were evident when Turn & Gymnastic Circle relocated to larger premises. Very high membership to space ratios indicate high space constraints. Relatively high latent demand is forecast based on population and benchmarking metrics. Gymnastics membership in Hamilton could grow to 2,500 by 2048 (25% growth).
5. Most activity is recreation-based (86%), while a majority of competitive members are members at Hamilton City Gymnastics.
6. The facility network has numerous challenges including capacity constraints, height restrictions, lack of foam pit provision, tenure concerns, and a lack of suitable and financially viable options.
7. Club proposals have highlighted the desire for acquisition of an existing building in the north-west of the city and for a purpose-built gymnastics facility in Eastlink (identified as a priority action in the Eastlink master plan).
8. There is a strong need for collaboration and commitment to progress the respective projects to avoid unnecessary duplication and maximise participation outcomes across the sites.
9. Both projects should be able to advance in parallel due to the nature of their proposals and the funding streams best attributed to their success. When or if these funding streams converge, a prioritised approach will need to be adopted. Based on available information, the Eastlink development is recommended to be prioritised first.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Hamilton Gymnastics Facility Network Study recommends:

1. All parties adopt the proposed gymnastics facility network approach for Hamilton.
2. Establish a steering group comprising club, Gymnastics New Zealand, and Sport Waikato representatives to provide collective and transparent oversight on progress, address challenges, and seize opportunities.

It is recommended the group meets bimonthly to ensure there is clarity on what is occurring, seek opportunities, revisit approaches (if needed), foster collaboration and position gymnastics to have a collective voice when engaging with key stakeholders on facility-related matters.
3. Present and discuss the key findings from the Study, and the agreed network approach, with funders and key stakeholders.
4. Clubs continue to advance the actions outlined in the Study, with support and guidance from Gymnastics NZ and Sport Waikato (where or if required).
5. The following gymnastics-specific insights should be explored and included within feasibility analysis to best inform future provision.
 - a. Apparatus/equipment layout plans,
 - b. Testing of facility floor space against membership (current and forecast) and gymnastics activities being offered (ensuring space and configuration is commensurate to the level/type of activity),
 - c. Future capacity modelling of the facility.
6. Satellite venues are explored by clubs (as interim solutions and/or to complement the main facilities). Satellite venues have been established across the country, particularly by large gymnastics clubs. Such facilities can generally be established quickly, provide a yardstick for understanding demand, serve certain types/level of activity, can be established with less capital, and create community reach (increasing participation).