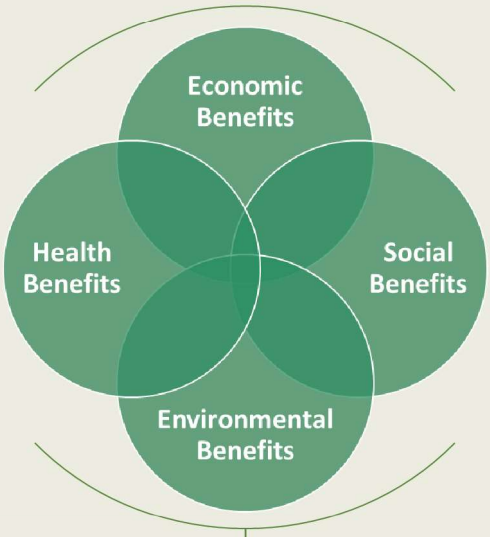
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF

TURF GRASS AND LAWN CARE INDUSTRIES IN AUSTRALIA

5 key benefit streams represent the value of social, economic, health, and environmental benefits of turf to the Australian community.

These benefits provide a compelling case for investment in turfed areas, especially in public areas which have significant benefits to the community.



Avoided Costs of Maintaining Pavements and Synthetic Turf

Pavements and hard surfaces require repair such as sealing cracks, while synthetic turf requires rinsing, cleaning and replacing damaged areas. The maintenance costs of well-managed turf are less than those for pavements and synthetic turf, leading to cost savings.

Value of Carbon Dioxide Sequestered

Turf captures greenhouse gas worth $3/Ha/year, playing its part in limiting climate change.

Avoided Costs of Home Cooling

Irrigated turf in the local environment lowers air temperatures, allowing people to spend less on cooling and avoid the negative effects of the Urban Heat Island.

Increase in House Rent Values

Homes with turfed lawns attract a market premium as they are desired by households for the benefits they provide. The annual value of the premium is the extra rent a property earns as a result of having turfed lawn.

Willingness to Pay for Turfed Public Areas

The value people place on turfed parks and sports fields reflects the many social, environmental and health benefits they receive. For example, they boost the health of users by providing spaces for physical activities, and provide social benefits as places for people to meet and enjoy communal activities.

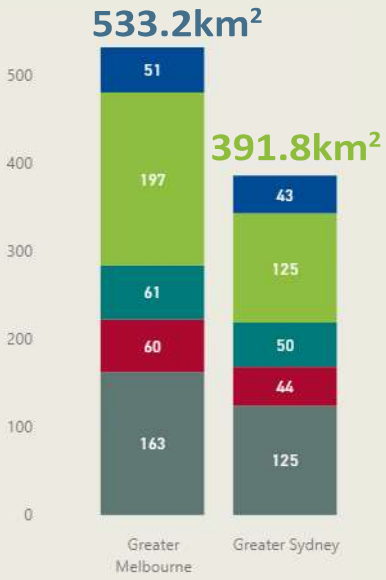
Average Annual Benefit Value of Turf in Urban Suburbs of Australia's Capital Cities

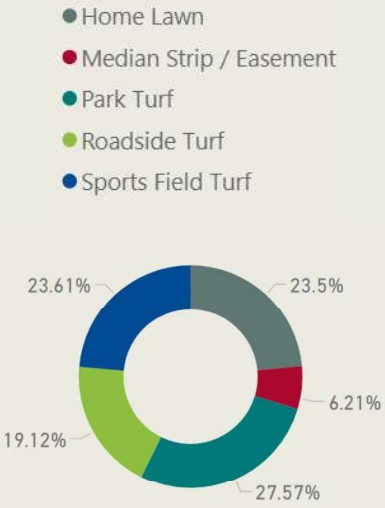
These values can be used to find the value of certain areas of turf to the community, such as the average sized home lawn, park or sports field in each capital city.

	Avoided costs of cooling $/m² turf/year	Increase in house rent values $/m² home lawn/year	WTP for turfed parks $/m² /year	WTP for turfed sports fields $/m² /year
SYDNEY	0.033	4.45	31.47	31.59
MELBOURNE	0.017	3.33	25.79	26.10
BRISBANE	0.027	2.54	18.73	18.84
ADELAIDE	0.018	2.19	22.77	22.90
PERTH	0.017	3.13	18.20	18.31
HOBART	0.003	1.55	13.60	13.68
DARWIN	0.029	2.59	15.36	15.45
A.C.T.	0.009	3.25	17.93	18.04

Turf cover data for Sydney and Melbourne was used to estimate the total annual benefits in those cities flowing from different turf uses.
Data on turf area was not available for other cities.

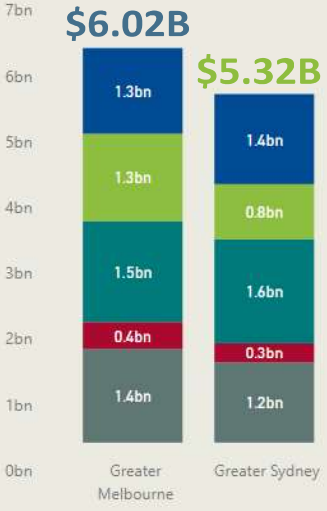
TOTAL AREA OF TURF IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE (km^2)





AVERAGE SHARE OF BENEFITS BY TURF USE

TOTAL BENEFITS OF TURF IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE ($/year)

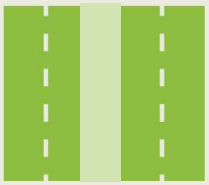


Average household Willingness to Pay for the environmental, social, and health benefits of turfed parks and sports fields in their suburb ($/household/year)

Replacing natural turf with synthetic turf or pavement would cost:

$2170.2M
To replace Roadside turf

$704.9M
To replace Median Strip & Easements



$647.4M
To replace sports field turf

$757.4M
To replace park turf

per year in Sydney and Melbourne in maintenance costs

Hort Innovation Strategic levy investment | TURF FUND

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the turf research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit horticulture.com.au

The Balmoral Group