

## **Martin Sheppard – Director of Smart Connection Consultancy**



Martin has been in the sport and recreation industry for 40+ years, both in the UK and Australia. Managing facilities, parks and open space, museums and leisure services has provided him with insights to planning and facilities that are practical and realistic. Martin has in recent years specialised in using synthetic sports surfaces to encourage the community to be more active and is recognised as being one of the predominant advisors on surfaces in the world. His presentation at the 2024 SAPIA National Conference will be:

### **How Global Environmental Standards and Issues are Changing the Narrative for Sports Surfaces Locally**

Global challenges on the environment, safety perceptions around PFAS, impact concerns on environmental footprint, ongoing negative narratives on PAH's, heat, circular economy, and injuries. The European Union, International Sports Federations, and industry leaders have started to look at standards to offset these challenges and concerns. How can Australia “Change the Narrative” with these good practices in our local settings?