

**7.8 COLUMBIA PARK RESERVE PAVILION UPGRADE PROJECT**

Submitting Councillors: Mulgrave Ward Councillors – Councillors Davies, Drieberg and Sharkey

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

*That Council:*

1. *Notes this Notice of Motion; and*
2. *Provides in-principle agreement to an increase of the budget for the Columbia Park Reserve Pavilion Upgrade Project from \$1.4 million to approximately \$1.7 million pending confirmation of the final design costs determined by a quantity surveyor.*

**INTRODUCTION**

This Notice of Motion seeks Council's in-principle support to increase the budget allocation for the Columbia Park Reserve Pavilion Upgrade Project from \$1.4 million (\$1.1 million Council contribution and \$300,000 State Government election commitment) to an estimated \$1.7 million in order to meet the requirements of the project brief and deliver a project that meets the sporting needs of the tenant clubs and local community.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Monash has 125 parks and reserves used for recreation and sporting activities. This infrastructure is important for promoting and encouraging healthy, active and engaged lifestyles at the local level.

The Columbia Park Reserve is a bustling centre of sporting and community activity for the Wheelers Hill and surrounding community. It is home to the Waverley Park Hawks Junior Football Club and the Nottingham Brandon Park Cricket Club. These clubs are highly regarded in the community as family friendly and inclusive clubs. The junior football club, established in 1972, in particular has reported a growing junior membership and an increase in female teams and now supports over 400 members.

The oval and first pavilion was established in 1976 and the facility was extended to its current status in 1999. Whilst there have been some interior refurbishments in 2000, the current pavilion does not meet the clubs' needs nor appropriately cater for junior female teams.

Located adjacent to the reserve are the Columbia Park Early Learning Centre (established in 1987) and Columbia Park Preschool (established

1972) with Waverley Meadows Primary School located opposite the reserve.

The Columbia Park Reserve Pavilion has been identified for upgrade in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years with a budget allocation of \$1.4 million, \$1.1 million from Council and \$300,000 from the State Government as an election commitment. The Columbia Park Reserve Pavilion Upgrade Project (the project) was identified for an extension to the existing building footprint and a major remodelling of the facility to bring it up to contemporary sporting standards, achieve compliance with current codes and ensure a female friendly pavilion that will cater for current community needs and expectations.

### ***DISCUSSION***

A project working group consisting of officers, representatives from the club and more recently Mulgrave Ward Councillors have been working to develop a design that will bring the pavilion up to a more contemporary standard. A range of concept designs have been developed that include possible refurbishment options and a new build option. A further consideration in the design process has been to ensure that any option will not adversely impact on the visual and safety amenity of childcare users.

Importantly, this planning and design process to date has identified that the allocated budget amount of \$1.4 million is insufficient to complete the minimum requirements for the refurbishment or new build option. Two options will be pursued further with the club pending support for this Notice of Motion. These include:

- a) Option 1 (refurbishment) at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.54 million; or
- b) Option 2 (new build) at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.7 million (preferred option that will deliver the best community outcomes)

Both options will deliver an increased indoor social space, an undercover spectator area, female friendly change rooms, coach's rooms and storage. The new build option (preferred option) will deliver a more flexible and compact footprint and will have less amenity impacts on the child care centre.

We urge our colleagues to support this project by noting and endorsing an in-principle additional budget allocation of approximately \$300,000 to complete this project for the Wheelers Hill community. We are foreshadowing this budget increase pending confirmation of the final design by the club and confirmation of project costs by a quantity surveyor. Without this in-principle endorsement, the project design options will not be able to progress with the view to delivering the best community

outcome to support local grass roots junior footy and cricket whilst being mindful of budget constraints.

### ***SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Council actively promotes physical activity and healthy lifestyles through the way it plans and develops the municipality. The Monash Active Reserve Strategy informs the development of sporting and recreation facilities including new facilities and the upgrade of existing facilities on Council land. Further, Monash's Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan 2013-2017, Access and Equity Framework 2013 – 2020 and Gender Equity Strategy 2015-2020 outline Council's commitment to providing safe and equitable access to sport and recreation facilities, programs and services for all members of our Monash community. These documents acknowledge that the way we plan and design community facilities and spaces can significantly impact on female perceptions and engagement in local grass roots sport.

The need to build active and engaged communities through community sport is an important part of Council's approach to community development and to this end, Council supports sporting clubs in the provision of diverse and sustainable sport and recreation opportunities.

### ***CONCLUSION***

This project has been a priority of the club users for many years. The initial budget is clearly not sufficient to achieve the refurbishment or a new build option. We urge our colleagues to support this project by noting and endorsing an in-principle additional budget allocation of \$300,000 to complete the design phase of the Columbia Park Reserve Pavilion Upgrade Project.