

8.1 “DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNCIL OWNED FACILITIES AND RESERVES BY RESIDENT SPORTS CLUBS” – POLICY REVIEW
(IS:REC17)

Responsible Councillors: Cr McGill and Cr Dimopoulos

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council:

- 1. Adopts an amendment to the current “Development Improvements to Council Owned Facilities and Reserves by Resident Sports Clubs” Policy outlining the guidelines for Council’s financial contribution to assist sporting clubs fund sports lighting on Council owned property, as per Attachment 1 to this report.*
- 2. Makes provision to financially assist sports clubs with lighting projects through its ongoing capital works budget.*
- 3. Refer the inclusion of a funding allocation as a New Initiative to the budget process for the 2008/2009 Budget.*

INTRODUCTION

At Council’s 30 October 2007 meeting it was resolved to investigate Council assistance to sports clubs wishing to install sports lighting at Council owned facilities.

ANALYSIS

At present Council’s policy is not to contribute toward the costs of sports lighting at Council reserves or facilities.

This report proposes to amend the current policy to allow Council to financially contribute toward the costs of installing sports lighting on a 50:50 or half share basis with clubs. There may however be particular circumstances where Council determines to comprehensively fund the installation of sports lighting specifically to increase the utility of a reserve and increase sport club access to that reserve.

At present there are 36 fields or facilities with lighting, 67 tennis courts with lighting and four bowling greens with lighting, totalling 107 facilities with lights. There are currently 48 fields, single courts and bowling greens without lighting.

Given Council’s available resources, it is proposed that the current process followed by clubs wishing to install sports lighting remain largely unchanged. In essence this will involve the club:

- Applying through Council’s Facility Development Program for funding assistance.

- Managing the project if successful unless costs exceed the public tender trigger point of \$75,000 (in which case Council will oversee the project's delivery).
- Applying for relevant planning approvals and designing the project in accordance with plans certified by relevant electrical and structural engineers.
- Obtaining up to three quotations for works for Council's approval and engagement of a lighting contractor.
- Supervising the works and obtaining all necessary building permits, inspections, approvals and certificates of compliance for Council's files.
- Undertaking all ongoing maintenance requirements including regular structural and electrical inspection reports for forwarding to Council.

Council may elect to apply for State Government grant funding under its Community Facilities Funding Program. Where successful, grant monies would be considered part of the project's funding and shared between Council and the club.

In general, Council's payment of its agreed share of the costs would be through a separate invoice provided by the approved lighting contractor engaged by the club.

Council's lawyers have confirmed that as occupier of the land Council's liability remains unchanged in relation to this policy change.

Attachment A provides the detail to be inserted in the current policy to reflect the funding alterations and procurement methods.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is currently no provision in Council's annual capital works budget to fund sports lighting at Council Reserves.

Adopting the policy change will commit Council to a level of ongoing funding to cope with the anticipated demand to either install new lighting or upgrade existing lighting across the municipality.

The following summarises the anticipated different types project costs likely to be encountered:

1. Suburban oval (used for football, soccer, rugby, etc)
 - A basic training light set up would involve at least two poles with six lights with accompanying electrical works and is estimated to cost approximately \$35,000-\$45,000.
2. Tennis and bowls facilities
 - A basic lighting set up for two courts would include poles, lights and electrical works is estimated to cost approximately \$45,000.

3. Upgrades to existing lighting facilities

Currently one light fitting, labour and equipment hire costs approximately \$4,000 to install. An average oval or pitch would contain up to eight lights totalling around \$32,000 to re-lamp and upgrade the associated fittings.

4. Match lighting

Current pricing for match quality lighting is approximately \$150,000. Match lighting facilities are currently located at Jack Edwards Reserve, Holmesglen Reserve, Waverley Hockey Centre and the Waverley Women's Softball Centre.

The average cost for lighting of two tennis courts or a bowling green, upgrading of existing training lighting, or installing a basic training light set up for a typical suburban oval is approximately \$35,000-\$45,000.

On the assumption, for budget purposes, that these works will cost on average \$40,000 and that Council would fund half of these costs (either on the 50:50 basis or the current project funding ratio for leased clubs), the following costs would apply:

Potential Order of Costs:

Facility Type	Number	Costs @ 50% (\$20,000 each)
1. Sports fields likely to need lighting to improve utility.	9	\$180,000
2. Pairs of tennis courts and single bowling greens with no lighting.	23	\$460,000
3. Existing lighting on sports fields with potential renewal.	36	\$720,000
4. Existing pairs of tennis and single bowling facilities with potential upgrade.	38	\$760,000
TOTAL		\$2,120,000¹

Note ¹: This does not take into account cost escalation, or any additional preparatory or groundworks that may be encountered on a site by site basis.

Given the small number of facilities that currently have match quality lighting, upgrades to these amenities would be considered in line with available budget and Council's priorities at the relevant time and as such have not been included in this cost summary. Additionally in the short to medium term, it is not anticipated that additional Council reserves would be able to support night competition that would require match lighting.

To accommodate the anticipated lighting installation and/or lighting upgrade project workload and priorities as outlined elsewhere in the report, Council should expect to set aside approximately between \$100,000-\$200,000 per year, for at least the next 10 years to 20 years.

IMPLEMENTATION

Following the adoption of the amended policy, a schedule of works based on a hierarchy of need will be established. This hierarchy will in turn reflect the following priorities to enhance usage, participation and club viability:

Priority	Description
1.	Establishment of training lighting at Council reserves and facilities with no existing night training capabilities.
2.	Upgrading existing training lighting on Council reserves and facilities for safety, compliance and maintenance reasons.
3.	Expansion of existing training lighting at Council reserves and facilities to enable greater coverage and usage of sporting facilities.
4.	Upgrading of existing match quality lighting at Council reserves/facilities to comply with appropriate competition standards.
5.	Establishment of new match quality lighting at Council reserves/facilities to accommodate a demonstrated need.

All sporting clubs will be informed of the policy change and invited to make submissions through Council's current Facility Development Program on a yearly basis.

CONCLUSION

Following Council's resolution of the 30 October 2007 to review the current policy to allow a financial contribution to assist sporting clubs with funding of sports lighting, recommendations have been made and priorities established to reflect Council's intentions. It is estimated that this policy change will cost in the order of an additional \$100,000-\$200,000/year on Council's capital works program on an ongoing basis.