

2.2 MELBOURNE EAST REGIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY

(KM:)

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Councils endorsement of the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy (the Strategy) has been developed to support and guide Councils and stakeholders in the Eastern Metropolitan Region in the planning and delivery of regional level sport and recreation facilities and shared recreation trails.

The core project team consisted of representation from the seven Melbourne East Councils (Boroondara, Manningham, Monash, Maroondah, Whitehorse, Knox and the Shire of Yarra Ranges), Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) and the Regional Development Australia (East). The project was funded through contributions from Sport and Recreation Victoria (\$50k); RDA (\$15k) and the seven Councils (\$5k each).

The purpose of the Strategy is to undertake a regional planning approach that supports the development of both current and new sport and recreation infrastructure for the Melbourne East Region for the next 10 - 20 years.

Also included in the Strategy is a planning framework to support Councils and other regional stakeholders to prioritise, plan and deliver regional facilities and shared trails collaboratively and effectively.

The Strategy is supported by the background, research and consultation reports (Preliminary Situational Analysis and Key Findings Report and the State Sporting Association Consultation Findings Report).

DISCUSSION

Regional level sport and recreation facilities play an important role in contributing to the health and well being of communities, as they generally serve a broad catchment and cater for a diverse range of activities. The key objectives of the strategy are to:

- Identify the vision and principles that will guide future planning and development of regional level sport and recreation facilities;

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- Develop a sustainable governance model to drive regional project delivery, improve stakeholder collaboration and create a structure for assessment and decision making;
 - Identify and map current and proposed regional level sport and recreation facilities and shared trails across the region;
 - Identify gaps in existing regional facility provision and recommend future development priorities that meet current and future demand; and
 - Develop a regional project assessment criteria to support future project selection and prioritisation.

Also included in the Strategy is a planning framework to support Melbourne East councils and other regional stakeholders to prioritise, plan and deliver regional facilities and shared trails collaboratively and effectively.

The Strategy is supported by the background, research and consultation reports (Preliminary Situational Analysis and Key Findings Report and the State Sporting Association Consultation Findings Report).

Key Findings

A number of high level findings informed and guided the development of the strategic directions recommended for the region as follows:

- There is a strong supply of regional level sports facilities and shared recreation trails in Melbourne's East catering for a range of formal and informal activity;
- Some of Melbourne's East Region Councils are under ongoing financial pressure and are prioritising the renewal of existing community facilities over committing to regional planning and collaboration;
- Councils core business is to provide facilities and services that serve their local communities however are financially constrained on the level of support they can provide to regional level projects;
- Informal sport and recreation activities such as walking, swimming and gymnasiums are popular with adults in Melbourne's East;
- Structured sports such as basketball, netball, football, cricket and soccer have high participation rates, particularly in the junior category; and
- State Sporting Associations have limited information and strategic direction available to influence regional planning and support key projects.

Part of the Strategy has led to the development of a planning framework and a process for evaluating, assessing and prioritising regional projects that improves collaboration across local government areas and delivers regional facilities that support healthy and active communities.

Benefits for the Melbourne East Councils

For a broad perspective, the Strategy identifies a number of benefits that directly support sports development and participation across the Melbourne East cluster of Councils:

- Increases participation in sport and recreation activities;
- Provides facilities that can accommodate future demand;
- Provides increased opportunities to bid for and host regional, state and national sporting events resulting in economic benefits to communities;
- Provides access to a wider range of quality facilities;
- Avoids duplication of facility service provision across Council boundaries; and
- Ensures sports facilities are financially viable and sustainable.

Specific Opportunities for Monash

The key findings are supported by 23 recommended actions across the region and included in the attached report (refer Attachment 1). Two of the actions are directly related to Monash include:

- Waverley Gymnastics Centre; and
- Shared Trails – Glen Waverley Rail Trail and Connecting Forster/Gardiner.

Potential regional facilities as identified by State Sport Associations:

- Ashwood Reserve second synthetic pitch development (hockey).

CONCLUSION

The Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy has been developed through detailed consultation and research to create a Strategy that provides a snapshot of the current provision of regional facilities and identifies future priorities.

The establishment of strategic partnerships and improved collaboration across key sport, government and community stakeholder groups will provide more opportunities for Councils to fund and develop regional sport and recreational projects.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council endorses the Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy.