

2.3 ACTIVE MONASH CLUB FORUMS

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Active Monash Club Forums initiative;*
- 2. Endorses the development of sport specific discussion papers to assist in the future planning of key sports within Monash; and*
- 3. Is presented with the discussion papers and potential outcomes for review prior to external distribution.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a proposed series of sport specific based forums to be held by City of Monash, process and timeline.

The objective of the forums will be to work with representatives from each club to identify challenges and opportunities for each sport, develop ideas and options to respond to these and then seek opinions and suggestions from the broader community and inform the development of sport specific discussion papers.

BACKGROUND

Regular physical activity can provide significant gains in health and wellbeing by preventing chronic disease including type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers. It can also improve mental wellbeing, build social connection, increase productivity and create positive change in the places where we live, learn, work and play (Chau 2007, Department of Sport & Recreation 2008, Dunstan et al. 2010, Owen et al. 2010, VicHealth 2010a; 2010b).

A key contributor to the amount of physical activity being undertaken in the community is sport. Sport can be defined as an individual or group competitive activity involving physical exertion or skill, governed by rules, and sometimes engaged in professionally.

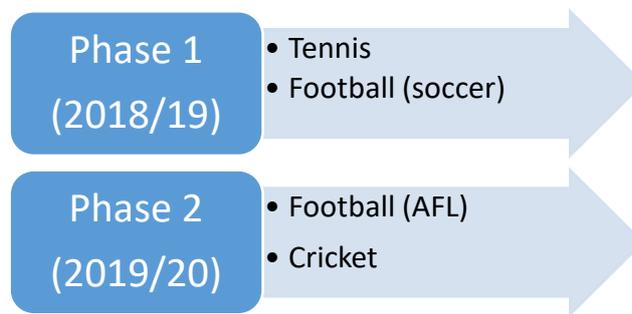
Council's commitment to sport can be demonstrated through its provision of sports infrastructure which includes 47 sporting reserves, eighteen tennis facilities, three stadiums, three aquatic centres, two athletics complex, four bowling clubs, two golf courses and one hockey centre. In this sense, Council's commitment to outdoor sport played on its sporting reserves and facilities represent its greatest investment, and as such, its greatest challenge.

DISCUSSION

Competing demands and priorities, coupled with a traditional approach to facility allocation, mean it is often difficult for Council to leverage better outcomes for the community or make decisions based on merit.

The Active Monash club forums proposal aims to work with leaders from each club of the selected sports to firstly develop an issues/discussion paper, seek broader community input and report back to Council on proposed recommendations. Final recommendations would be subject to Council endorsement and further community engagement.

The selected sports to be undertaken in the first instance are:



Tennis and soccer are the first two sporting codes earmarked for this process. In 2018, Council has collected a wealth of information on tennis clubs and tennis facilities, including facility condition audits and club membership data. The timing of this information gathering means Council is well placed to engage with clubs and host the tennis forum in 2019. With regards to soccer, the growth of the sport and expansion of seasonal participation opportunities and associated pressures, mean the forum and potential outcomes generated out of this process are a priority. Following an initial presentation by officers, it is envisaged that each sport will work together to identify and prioritise key challenges and opportunities for their respective sport. Potential challenges and opportunities may include:

- Access and allocation to facilities
- Quality of facilities
- Hierarchy of use
- Cost of use
- Asset maintenance and renewal
- Equity

Following the workshopping of ideas, officers will prepare a discussion paper for review by Council, then clubs and broader community. The discussion paper will identify key challenges and opportunities for each sport and set out a range of ideas and options. Following endorsement by Council, the

discussion paper will be released for broader community consultation before findings are presented to Council with any recommendations.



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This process is closely aligned with key actions areas of *A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-21*.

We envisage that there will be future implications on policies and procedures for sport in Monash derived from this process.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This process will greatly support Council's broader social agenda for creating a healthy and resilient Monash community that is active, healthy and connected through sport.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Active Monash Club forums will be conducted using existing resources from Council's existing operational budget.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council note the Active Monash Club forums and endorse the development of sport specific discussion papers to assist in the future planning for key sports within Monash.