

2.2 MONASH TENNIS DISCUSSION PAPER

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the draft Monash Tennis Discussion Paper to assist in the future planning of tennis within Monash.*
- 2. Endorses the release of this discussion paper for community consultation.*
- 3. Receives a further report detailing the outcomes from the consultation process and draft Tennis Plan to ensure the sustainability and viability of tennis in the City of Monash.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for the public release of the draft Monash Tennis Discussion Paper for community consultation.

BACKGROUND

Council's commitment to sport and recreation can be demonstrated through its provision of community sports facilities which include 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.

At its Meeting held 30 October 2018, Council endorsed a plan to conduct a series of club Forums with major sporting codes to identify and potentially address issues and opportunities for each sport. The major sporting codes identified were tennis, football, Australian rules football and cricket.

The draft Monash Tennis Discussion Paper was developed using information collected through audits of each tennis facility, club surveys, data analysis and interviews conducted with each club throughout 2018. Information and data was then presented to all clubs at an introductory meeting held with all tennis clubs on 10 December 2018. Tennis Victoria representatives and all Monash clubs were then invited to participate in a Tennis Forum, held 27 February 2019 specifically to inform the preparation of a discussion paper.

It is important to note that this Discussion Paper is not a statement of the views of Monash Council, or any other parties. It identifies the challenges and opportunities for tennis facilities in Monash, use and management, sets out ideas and options to respond to these, and seeks opinions and suggestions from the community.

Following Council endorsement of the Discussion Paper and feedback from the clubs and the broader community, a draft Tennis Plan will be prepared and presented to Council. The draft Tennis Plan will undergo one further round of consultation with the community before seeking final endorsement from Council.

DISCUSSION

The draft Monash Tennis Discussion Paper has identified five key issues for the sport of tennis. These issues have emanated from discussion held with clubs at the forums, and are closely linked with the information and data collected on tennis clubs and tennis facilities in 2018.

The key issues identified in the draft Monash Tennis Discussion Paper are as follows:

1. Condition of tennis facilities;
2. Management/governance models for tennis facilities;
3. Sustainability and governance of tennis clubs;
4. Tennis participation; and
5. Prioritisation of investment.

Each of these issues come with a list of questions that are intended to prompt discussion and encourage community/club feedback and submissions to Council on each of the five issues. This feedback and submissions will be reviewed and used to inform recommendations on each of the key issues for Council consideration.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021

This Plan outlines Council's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the Monash community. Key pillars of the Plan relevant to this Discussion Paper are:

- *Active and Healthy*: Focuses include supporting older people to remain connected and engaged in their community, ensuring that community needs, both now and into the future are central to the physical design of infrastructure, encouraging and supporting regular physical activity,
- *Engaged, Confident and Connected*: A city which actively listens, engages and values community wisdom in shaping its own future. Focuses include ensuring everyone has the opportunity to be a part

of the community, being responsive, flexible and creative in responding to existing and emerging community needs, providing services and activities that are accessible and affordable to people from all walks of life, reducing barriers to participation, and pursuing partnerships that benefit the community.

Monash Council Plan 2017 - 2021

The Council Plan outlines the key objectives and priorities Council has for the Monash community. Of relevance to this Discussion Paper is

- *Inviting open and urban spaces* focusing upon improving public infrastructure, meeting places and open spaces, and providing inclusive, safe and inviting places for the community to use. Strategies include committing to long term infrastructure and asset management planning and renewing and maximising community and sporting facilities.

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. The process will greatly assist Council to create a clear direction for tennis infrastructure improvements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Active Monash Club forums and discussion paper have been developed from Council's existing operational budget.

Following the release of the discussion paper and community feedback, officers will prepare a draft Tennis Plan to guide the future investment of tennis infrastructure across Monash.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council endorse the release of the draft Monash Tennis Discussion Paper, which will encourage discussion and submission back to Council to assist in the future planning of tennis within Monash.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – draft Monash Tennis Discussion Paper