

2.2 COMMUNITY SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS PROGRAM

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council endorses, submits and agrees to fund the required Council contribution to the following projects as outlined in this report to the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program:

- Community Activation – Playgrounds
- Sportsground Activation – Lighting
- Recreational Pathways

INTRODUCTION

Council endorsement of proposed funding applications is sought to strengthen the chances of success under the recently announced State Government Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

BACKGROUND

The Victorian Government is investing \$68 million to build and upgrade community sports facilities across the State to create jobs and boost Victoria's economic recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The desired outcomes of the program are to:

- Provide a stimulus to local economic activity by planning, building and operating new or redeveloped significant community sport and active recreation infrastructure.
- Respond to demand for new participation opportunities by considering strategic and well-planned projects that have broad community and sector support.
- Improve diversity and inclusion by increasing participation by disadvantaged and under-represented groups identified in *Active Victoria*.

Only Local Government and Alpine Boards are eligible to apply.

Funding may be provided for the construction and/or upgrade of significant community sport and active recreation infrastructure that is ready to commence construction within six (6) months of executing a funding agreement with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. This may include but is not limited to:

- Multi-sports precincts that include the delivery of sports fields, sports courts and pavilions.
- Regional or strategic single-sport precincts such as netball or football facilities.
- New indoor multi-sport stadiums or new indoor courts.
- New or redeveloped aquatic leisure centres including development of new water or dry program spaces.
- New or redeveloped outdoor seasonal pools.
- Active recreation spaces such as significant play spaces and shared recreation trails.
- New sports fields, sports courts and surfaces that increase capacity or improve safety, including provision of sports lighting.
- Pavilions including change rooms for participants that are female friendly and accessible.
- Packaging of similar projects across multiple sites are permissible. For example, this may include grouping play spaces or sports lighting installations across multiple sites.
- Significant additional scope to existing projects to provide new participation opportunities. This may include new elements to a project that otherwise could not be delivered.

Along with recipients being required to commence construction within six (6) months of executing a funding agreement, projects will need to be completed within two years unless the project is of significant scale where completion within that timeframe isn't practical.

Applications already being considered under the *2020-21 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund*, *2019-20 World Game Facilities Fund*, *2019-20 Community Cricket Program* or funded through *Local Sports Grants* are not eligible, unless the application is for additional scope not included within those projects.

Applications for funding from this program must be between **\$1 million** and **\$10 million**. A 10 percent minimum local financial contribution of the funding amount sought is required to be committed and confirmed by Council, for each application submitted.

Timelines:

Applications open	28 May 2020
Applications close	19 June 2020
Outcomes advised	Late July 2020
Funding Agreements executed for successful projects	July 2020 onwards

DISCUSSION

Following careful consideration of potential projects, officers have prepared three proposed funding applications to best meet the funding eligibility criteria.

Package 1 – Community Activation – Playgrounds

This project includes:

- Five playgrounds – all shovel ready (design detail completed)
- Four are playground upgrades – ready for delivery in 20/21 as per the draft playground strategy
- One is a new playground development (Centre Road Skyrail project) incl. of LXRA contribution of \$75,000.

Package 2 – Sportsground Activation – Lighting

This project includes:

- Six new sportsground lighting projects to replace existing sportsground floodlighting at the end of its useful life.
- Seven sportsground lighting upgrades to convert existing lighting to LED lighting and meet minimum lighting standards.

Design has been completed for all sportsground lighting replacement projects. Priority has been based sportsground lighting audit results, demand and project suitability.

Package 3 – Recreational Pathways

This project includes:

- Two upgrades of existing recreation pathways from 2 metres to 3 metres; and,
- Installation of two recreational pathways at reserves.

Further detail on each of these packages of works is attached.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Each proposed project under the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program is seen as being highly beneficial to the community for a range of reasons including and not limited to:

- Projects cover a large portion of the municipality, are well planned and will receive broad community and sector support,
- The number of beneficiaries to each project is expected to be significant,
- A primary outcome of each project is to improve community well-being and health benefits; and,
- Strategic planning has occurred to enable detailed applications to be made.

CONSULTATION

Under the funding eligibility guidelines, it is expected that community consultation has occurred prior to the commencement of works.

The required level of consultation has occurred on all projects being considered under the playground package, and can be achieved for the sportsground lighting and pathways packages on the basis of the nature of the projects being low risk and highly beneficial.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is currently \$700,000 within the draft 2020/21 capital works program to deliver the existing four, playground renewal projects.

If Council was successful in receiving funding for Package 1, a total of \$505,330 would become available to re-allocate within the 2020/21 capital works program or returned to consolidated revenue. It is proposed however that, that any available funding achieved through the success of Package 1 be re-allocated to fund Council's share of Package 2 and/or Package 3 should they be successful.

Project	Total Project Cost	State Contribution	Council Contribution	Existing Council Funding
Package 1 – Playgrounds	\$1,946,700	\$1,752,030	\$194,670	\$700,000
Package 2 - Lighting	\$3,143,169	\$2,828,852	\$314,317	
Package 3 - Trails	\$1,610,350	\$1,449,315	\$161,035	
	\$6,700,219	\$6,030,197	\$670,022	\$700,000

In the event that Package 1 is unsuccessful and either or both Package 2 or 3 are successful under the program, then it is recommended that any funding shortfall be sourced from the open space reserve fund and allocated to eligible projects as required to ensure there is no net shortfall.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council endorse the application made to the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program as outlined in this report.