

2.4 JACK EDWARDS RESERVE PAVILION & GRANDSTAND DEVELOPMENT (TO)

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Notes the currently committed funding towards the development of the Jack Edwards Reserve pavilion and grandstand of \$2 million from the Federal Government, \$4 million from the State Government, \$500,000 from the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club and \$8.2 million from Council.*
2. *Begins the design for the development of the Jack Edwards Reserve pavilion and grandstand on the basis of a project cost of a minimum of \$14.7 million, being the amount committed to date.*
3. *Enters into a binding agreement with the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club in relation to its contribution of \$500,000 towards the cost of this project.*
4. *Continues to explore options for additional funding to enable the project to fulfill its original scope estimated at \$16.4 million, including but not limited to other levels of government and the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club.*
5. *Authorises the CEO or her delegate to formalise the funding agreements with the State and Federal Governments for a project value of \$14.7 million.*

INTRODUCTION

This report seeks Council endorsement to proceed with the Jack Edwards Reserve Pavilion & Grandstand project on the basis of a guaranteed funding commitment at this time \$14.7 million.

BACKGROUND

The Jack Edwards Reserve Grandstand and Pavilion project was considered by Council at its meeting held 26 April 2022 where Council resolved to:

1. *Note the funding commitment from the State Government of a \$4 million contribution towards the development of a new sports pavilion at Jack Edwards Reserve.*
2. *Make application to Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) under the 2021-22 Special Projects funding stream for \$8 million dollars in matching funding towards this project.*
3. *Commit to a maximum contribution of \$8.2 million towards the project.*

4. *Direct officers to pursue additional funding contributions including but not limited to State and Federal Governments and the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club.*
5. *Note that the project will not commence until such time as full funding is confirmed.*

DISCUSSION

Since the Council Meeting of 26 April 2022, Council has received a funding commitment from the Federal Government of \$2 million toward the cost of the Jack Edwards Reserve Pavilion & Grandstand project leaving a funding shortfall of \$2.2 million.

In accordance with Council's resolution officers have made application to the State Government for additional funding to meet the funding shortfall. Council has recently received advice from the State Government that this application has been unsuccessful, and that Council should either reduce the scope, provide funding for or guarantee the shortfall of funding for the Jack Edwards Reserve Pavilion & Grandstand project before the State Government funding commitment can be confirmed. Confirmation is required before the caretaker period for the November State election, at which point the funding offer will expire and potentially be withdrawn.

Officers have explored options for meeting the current shortfall in funding from other levels of government and has also discussed the matter of a contribution from the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club (the Club) with Club representatives. The Club has indicated that it is prepared to contribute \$500,000 towards the project in cash payments to be paid over a period not exceeding two years from the project completion.

Including the contribution from the Club, the committed funds total \$14.7M. Given that there is no guarantee of additional funding towards the project, it is proposed that planning for the development of the Jack Edwards Reserve pavilion and grandstand begin on the basis of the funding committed to date. This will involve a review of the current scope of the original plans in conjunction with key stakeholders taking into account the areas of priority that will meet the needs of the Club and broader community.

Work will also continue in exploring options for additional funding to enable the project to fulfill its original scope estimated at \$16.4 million, including but not limited to other levels of government and the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are a number of Council policies, strategies and plans that provide an important framework for the Strategy. In particular, the Council Plan, A Healthy and Resilient Monash, Monash Open Space Strategy, Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan, Football (Soccer) Plan, Active Monash's Vision and Active Communities Framework and Council's Asset Management Policy.

Key State Government strategies and plans that impact on this project include, Active Victoria Framework and Safe and Strong - A Victorian Gender Equality Policy.

CONSULTATION

Council has consulted with the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club executive during the preparation of this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are there no known human rights implications with regard to this proposal.

GENDER EQUITY ASSESSMENT

A formal gender impact assessment has not been undertaken for the Jack Edwards Pavilion & Grandstand Project, however will be undertaken as part of the funding application required to secure the State Government funding commitment and before the commencement of the project.

It is noted that one of the major improvements associated with the proposed redevelopment is the provision of additional changerooms to accommodate women's and girl's teams.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Jack Edwards Reserve Pavilion & Grandstand project is not included within the current long term financial plan of Council and will require a Council contribution of \$8.2 million.

CONCLUSION

The Jack Edwards Reserve Pavilion & Grandstand project has received significant funding from other levels of government, Council, and more recently, a commitment from the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club. However, a shortfall in funding of \$1.7 million remains.

This report seeks Council endorsement to proceed with the Jack Edwards Reserve Pavilion & Grandstand project on the basis of the current committed funding of \$2 million from the Federal Government, \$4 million from the State Government, \$500,000 from the Oakleigh Cannons Football Club and \$8.2 million from Council (a total of \$14.7 million). This will require work to revise the existing scope of the project.

Work will continue in relation to sourcing additional funding to enable the project to fulfill its original scope and vision.