

2.4 PINWOOD RESERVE CRICKET NET FEASIBILITY AND DESIGN 2022/23

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

RECOMMENDATION*

That Council:

- 1. Approve a cricket net feasibility and design project for Pinewood Reserve including a budget of \$30,000 for delivery in the current financial year 2022/23.*
- 2. Note that, subject to the findings of this feasibility and design project, a budget bid for construction of new cricket nets at Pinewood Reserve will be submitted for consideration as part of the 2023/24 capital works budget.*

BACKGROUND

Pinewood Reserve is a site currently without any form of cricket nets, despite being a home ground to the cricket club in Monash with the most teams – Mount Waverley Cricket Club.

Officers seek to add the Pinewood Reserve Cricket Net Feasibility and Design project to the 2022-2023 Program Budget to assist in the imminent temporary relocation of the Mount Waverley Cricket Club from Mount Waverley Reserve due to the implementation of masterplan for the site and considering the anticipated Melbourne Water main drain works at Mount Waverley Reserve.

DISCUSSION

The lack of training nets at a relatively high-profile cricket venue that accommodates Monash's cricket club largest club in terms of participation is an anomaly. This matter has also been raised previously with Councillors by the community. This opportunity will alleviate the current pressures faced by club and Council around adequate and sustainable training solutions for the Club, particularly boys and girls.

Mount Waverley Cricket Club is the biggest cricket club in Monash in terms of participation, especially with regard to juniors. For the current season, the club has 34 teams overall, including designated teams for women and girls.

As a result of Pinewood Reserve not having cricket nets in any form, the Club is currently allocated junior training for boys and girls at a range of secondary training facilities across the municipality. In a typical week, this can be up to six sites just to manage training and midweek activities.

This issue will be heightened with the expected impact to cricket nets and other sporting infrastructure through the upcoming Mount Waverley Reserve Masterplan implementation. Recent election commitments from both the State and Federal Governments require works to be undertaken for infrastructure at the reserve ranging from the pavilion to the oval and lighting. Melbourne Water has also indicated that it will be undertaking main drain works at the reserve in the near future which will also need to be factored in. Officers are currently liaising with Melbourne Water regarding the implications of these works. Consequently, there will be a significant shortage in cricket training nets for this Club and by result, the broader Monash community.

Officers see benefit in constructing a synthetic cricket net facility at Pinewood Reserve to alleviate short-term impacts (approx. next 3 years), but also in having this additional cricket facility to meet the future needs of the Club and broader community.

SCOPE

Subject to recommendations from the design work to be undertaken, it is envisaged that the scope of this new training facility will include:

- 4 synthetic cricket lanes
- Fully enclosed nets to prevent stray balls exiting the bowlers end, ultimately preventing safety issues for other park users
- 1 cricket lane that is open for community use outside of club training hours
- Connection to power for bowling machine use

FINANCIAL

This is a new project, not currently endorsed or funded within the 2022/23 budget. Officers are requesting \$30,000 project funding in the current financial year to deliver this feasibility and design work. It is expected that the funding can be accommodated within Council's adopted budget.

Officers will also prepare a budget bid for the 2023/24 budget cycle for construction of this project should the design component be approved.

CONCLUSION

That Council approves a new project within the 2022/23 financial year, being for the Pinewood Reserve Cricket Net Feasibility and Design.