1.3 RELOCATION OF RICHMOND CRICKET CLUB TO CENTRAL RESERVE
(JC: RES 56)

Responsible Director: Carolyn McClean

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Supports the relocation of Richmond Cricket Club to Central Reserve.

2. Notes the commitment from the State Government of $500,000 and $400,000 from the Richmond Football Club with the support of the AFL for the construction of a new pavilion.

3. Funds the shortfall of $900,000 for the construction of a new pavilion at Central Reserve North Oval from the 2011/12 Capital Works program major pavilion fund.

4. Defers the refurbishment of Central Reserve South Oval Pavilion until 2013/14.

5. Agrees to enter into discussions with the Richmond Cricket Club regarding a long term licence agreement; and

6. Considers the allocation of the Central Reserve North Oval during winter as part of the active reserves allocation process.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to recommend the construction of a second pavilion at Central Reserve to accommodate the relocation of Richmond Cricket Club on the North oval.

BACKGROUND

The City of Monash recently adopted Stage 1 of the Active Reserves Strategy. The Strategy examined the needs of sporting clubs and provided guidance for the future provision of sport and sporting facility development within the municipality. The recommendations provided Council with a greater understanding of existing usage for the allocation of licence agreements at active reserves. The majority of agreements are due to expire at 1st April 2011 (winter tenants such as football and soccer clubs) and 1st October 2011 (summer tenants such as cricket and athletics).

Clubs were given the opportunity to complete an ‘Expression of Interest’ to enter into an agreement for the use of a reserve. Expressions of Interest closed on 31st August 2010.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Active Reserves Strategy highlighted that Central Reserve, Glen Waverley had the capacity to accommodate additional matches in both the winter and summer seasons.
Richmond Cricket Club approached Council regarding the possibility of relocating to Central Reserve. Their existing arrangement at Punt Rd Oval does not allow them to play two senior games simultaneously.

Discussions were held between Council Officers and representatives from Richmond Cricket Club. It was determined from these discussions that the opportunity to develop a second pavilion at Central Reserve, adjoining the North Oval was the most effective way of meeting the needs of both the Richmond Cricket Club and other community clubs. A second pavilion would also allow additional winter usage of the reserve by other Monash clubs.

On 27 October 2010, the State Government announced a commitment of $500,000 towards the pavilion and the Richmond Football Club with the support of the AFL has committed a further $400,000, pending a Council decision to fund the remainder of the costs. Richmond Cricket Club plans to hold an extraordinary meeting in the coming days to enable members to vote on the move.

Central Reserve South Oval Pavilion was due to be refurbished as part of Council’s 2011/12 Capital Works Program. It is proposed to allocate these funds for the Central Reserve North Oval Pavilion from the refurbishment budget of Central Reserve South Oval Pavilion which will be deferred until 2013/14.

The development of a new pavilion at Central Reserve North Oval would also provide an additional tenancy in winter. This would then make available a pavilion and ground at another reserve, and assist Council with the increasing growth in junior football and soccer.

The Richmond Cricket Club has suggested the adoption of a new name that reflects the local community which is an initiative supported by Council. In addition, the Club will develop an engagement plan to connect with other local cricket clubs and the community. This would also include access for local cricket clubs to the new facilities and ovals when they are not in use.

**FINANCIAL**

Council’s architects have developed initial schematic designs and cost estimations. The estimated cost of a new pavilion and surrounding infrastructure (car parking, lighting and landscaping) is $1.8 million.

The State Government has announced funding of $500,000 and the Richmond Football Club, with the support of the AFL, has committed $400,000 towards the project, pending a Council decision regarding funding the remaining $900,000.

The shortfall of $900,000 for the construction of a new pavilion at Central Reserve North Oval would be funded by Council’s 2011/12 Capital Works program.

**CONCLUSION**

The construction of a new facility and the relocation of Richmond Cricket Club to Central Reserve will provide a clear pathway for local junior cricketers into district cricket. In addition, the new arrangement will allow greater access to Central Reserve for local sporting clubs.