

6.6 CITY OF MONASH PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO GAMBLING POLICY STATEMENT 2016 – 2020 - SPORTS CLUBS

Submitting Councillor: Cr. Stuart James

MOTION

That prior to December 2019, Council officers:

a. prepare a draft sports grounds and facilities allocation policy for Council consideration that addresses issues regarding the Club compliance with Council's Approach to Gambling Policy Statement 2016 – 2020, and to better promote the principles of access and inclusion of Council facilities.

b. prepare a draft revision of the City of Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy Statement 2016-2020 for Council consideration that addresses the outcomes sought in this motion

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to consider the need to introduce a new Council policy to address ongoing breaches of Council policy by sporting clubs and to introduce a means by which Council can better support sporting clubs to embrace broader community objectives including access, inclusion and maximising participation.

BACKGROUND

The City of Monash has approximately 80 active reserves currently used for activities such as cricket and football. The majority of active reserves are licenced to respective sports clubs for occupation and use throughout their relevant seasons.

Under Council's current policy "City of Monash Public Health Approach to Gambling Policy Statement 2016 – 2020, POLICY PRIORITY 4: The use of Council Resources and Facilities for Gambling Purposes": sporting clubs are not permitted to advertise or promote gambling-related activity at local venues or via online gambling agencies. This includes promoting venues that operate EGM's on any signage (on buildings, pavilions, around the perimeter of grounds etc), newsletters, websites, social media and event flyers.

Despite the policy being in effect for a number of years, the incidences of clubs advertising and promoting venues that operate EGM's continues to occur including the use oval signage and on-line promotion of club activities.

Council could consider a variety of approaches to address this issue, including but not limited to:

- Charging the club the full cost recovery for use of its sports grounds

- Provide discounts (as per sliding scale we passed in the recent policy) to clubs who are not associated in any way with venues, organisations or venues that have EGMs
- Penalise clubs (through reduced discounts) where a breach occurs, so that there is a financial penalty associated to any breach of Council policy.

A sports grounds and facilities allocation policy could also be developed to reinforce and support broader Council objectives regarding access, inclusion and maximising participation.

FINANCIAL

Council's investment in sport and recreation is significant. In accordance with its Active Reserves Fees and Charges Policy, Council currently recovers 15% recovery of annual maintenance costs for natural turf playing fields representing an 85% subsidy to users. Further discounts apply for junior teams and under 13 year old teams which receive a further 50% and 75% reduction respectively on the 15% recovery charge.

CONCLUSION

Council should introduce a sports grounds and facilities allocation policy to address the ongoing breaches of Council policies including the Approach to Gambling Policy Statement 2016 – 2020 and to mandate change within our sporting community to better promote the principles of access and inclusion and to maximise the use of Council facilities to improve broader community outcomes.