

4.1 LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (PHASE 2)

[Author: RE]

Responsible Director: Ossie Martinz, Infrastructure and Environment

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the nominated list of projects being submitted for consideration under the second phase of Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

That Council approves the nominated list of projects for funding in Council's 2020/21 Capital Works Program and inclusion in Council's 2021/22 draft Budget.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to allocate a list of projects for delivery as part of Phase 2 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI). This program supports local government to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

In May 2020, the Australian Government announced the \$500 million LRCI Program. The LRCI Program is administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department). The objective of the LRCI Program is to stimulate additional infrastructure construction activity in local communities across Australia and support them in managing the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The intended outcomes of the LRCI Program are to deliver benefits to communities, such as improved road safety, accessibility and visual amenity.

LRCI funding is available for local road and community infrastructure projects that involve the construction, maintenance or improvements to Council-owned assets that are generally accessible to the public. Monash City Council will enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth as an eligible funding recipient. Co-contributions are not required under the LRCI Program, but grant money can only be used on eligible projects which meet the program requirements and deliver benefits to the community.

In the first round, Monash nominated five priority projects proposed to be delivered through the program and funds were made available from 1 July 2020. The second round of funding is proposed to nominate a further ten projects and submit the list to the Department for approval.

DISCUSSION

The allocation of this funding allows Council to prioritise delivery of a range of 'shovel ready' projects by the end of 2021 that would have otherwise been funded in later years.

An assessment of all potential projects was undertaken against the program's eligible projects requirements. These requirements include:

- Local Road Projects that involve the construction or maintenance of roads managed by local governments, with encouragement to consider projects which improve road safety;
- Community Infrastructure Projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council owned assets (including natural assets) that are generally accessible to the public;
- All projects whether carried out on council owned land, or another type of public land, must deliver benefits to the community, such as improved accessibility, visual amenity, and/or safety; and
- Construction activity on eligible projects must be undertaken before 31 December 2021.

The table below identifies the 'shovel ready' priority projects which meet the program's eligible projects requirements and would deliver a range of community outcomes and improvements across multiple asset classes.

Project	Brief Description	Cost Estimate
Footpath Renewal Program	Requested funding enables Council to improve pedestrian amenity, accessibility and safety by renewing more footpaths than current renewal funding allows.	\$575,884
Environmental Upgrade Street Lighting Program and New Street Lights	Upgrade and implement sustainable public lighting in activity centres and shopping areas, including car parks, Monash University and Monash Medical Centre. The Major Category Public Lighting Renewal is a key project in delivering on the Zero net Carbon Action Plan, and allows Council to deliver this work one year earlier.	\$2,200,000
Lever Street Car Park and Brickmakers Park Improvements	Provide footpaths, landscaping, lighting, linkages and formalise the temporary car park to improve safety, accessibility and amenity in the vicinity of Oakleigh Recreation Centre.	\$300,000
Scotchmans Creek Trail - Waverley Road to Betty Court	Construct relocated shared pathway to a position closer to the creek alignment to enable private site redevelopment. This is a nominated project (discretionary) in Council's 2021/22 draft Budget. Requested funding allows Council to deliver this project that otherwise may not occur in 2021/22.	\$400,000 ⁽¹⁾
Gardiners Creek Trail - Highbury Road to High Street Road, Ashwood	Upgrade of shared pathway to current standards and compliance in safety and accessibility. This is a nominated project (discretionary) in Council's 2021/22 draft Budget. Requested funding allows Council to deliver this project that otherwise may not occur in 2021/22.	\$550,000 ⁽²⁾

Wellington Reserve Mulgrave Recreational Pathway and Outdoor Fitness Equipment	This project enhances the nominated Wellington Reserve Sportsground Boundary Fence Renewal project (non-discretionary) in Council's 2021/22 draft to enable a new recreational path around the main playing field and running through the field, and outdoor exercise equipment (Councillor budget nominations).	\$284,000
Hughesdale Kindergarten Refurbishment	Minor refurbishment of kindergarten to ensure accessibility requirements. Requested funding enables Council to proceed with more minor refurbishment works than current renewal funding allows.	\$150,000
Davies Reserve Athletics and Soccer Redevelopment Project	This is a multi-year project that commenced this year, and requested funding allows Council to complete the full project scope in 2021/22. Conversion of existing asphalt athletics track to natural grass with sand profile and washed turf. Upgrading of athletics event infrastructure to Little Athletics Victoria approved standard. Upgrading of track in-field to a senior turf soccer pitch with drainage, irrigation and LED lighting.	\$910,000
New Street Furniture Works	Implement new street furniture in activity centres and open space. Requested funding enables Council to bring forward a priority list of unbudgeted new street furniture to be delivered in 2021.	\$300,000
Glen Waverley Forecourt Activation	Renewal of RoW, footpath and kerbs. Improved pedestrian safety improvements by creating a raised pavement and shared zone. Requested funding enables Council to deliver this project in 2021 that would have otherwise been delivered in later years.	\$200,000
	Total Grant Amount (Excl. GST)	\$5,869,884

(1) Due to change in project scope such as removing of retaining walls, construction cost estimate (\$400,000) is less than the original cost of \$500,000 as reported to Councillors as part of Council's annual projects planning workshops.

(2) Due to change in project scope such as lighting, construction cost estimate (\$550,000) is more than the original cost of \$450,000 as reported to Councillors as part of Council's annual projects planning workshops.

Management recommends these projects be submitted for funding under the LRCI Program.

The capacity of the organisation to deliver these projects in addition to the already committed capital works program has been assessed and is deemed achievable within available resources.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The nominated projects, if funded and delivered, will bring forward projects already assessed as required for our community. These projects will deliver improvements to our assets which deliver safer environments or improved amenity.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no identified human right implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

Under Phase 2 of LRCI funding, the recommended project nominations were discussed at the Community Infrastructure Project Board (CIPB) meeting in February 2021. The CIBP supported the application in-principle and recommended a report to Council.

Community consultation would be undertaken for all nominated projects. Due to the requirement to deliver these projects by end of December 2021, projects recommended have a low risk of delay through the consultation phase due to the type of projects (e.g. asset renewal) and an already established understanding of community user needs (e.g. sports facility upgrades).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No Council funding is required to be committed to this grant program should Council be successful in receiving the \$5,869,884 requested. No additional staffing resources are required to deliver the program.

With any new infrastructure, there are ongoing maintenance and renewal costs. These will be referred to the annual budget process as part of the operational budget to ensure appropriate maintenance of these assets. All projects nominated include at least some proportion of renewal works, thereby directly assisting Council to meet its renewal targets. Others such as the Lighting Program will result in recurring operational cost savings from lower energy use and support Council's Zero Net Carbon targets.

CONCLUSION

Council has been allocated up to \$5,869,884 to nominate eligible projects through round two of the LRCI Program. With Council endorsement, officers will submit project nominations for each of the projects listed within this report to the Department for its review and approval.