

**5.3 COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND - ANNUAL AND FORWARD PLANNING ROUND APPLICATION**

**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council ENDORSES the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund – 2024/25 Forward Planning Grants Round application for consideration by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, as follows:**

**Priority 1 – Robertson Park Tennis Precinct – Stage 1B Implementation.**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To seek endorse the submission of a funding application to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) for the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF), 2024/25 'Forward Planning grants round'.

**BACKGROUND:**

Local Government authorities and not-for-profit sport/recreation organisations are eligible to apply for CSRFF grants aimed at infrastructure for sport and recreation which aims to increasing participation through the development of basic sustainable infrastructure that is well planned and designed. Priority consideration is given to projects that lead to facility sharing and rationalisation with floodlights, playing surfaces and change rooms listed as one of the Department's priorities.

The DLGSC offers the CSRFF Forward Planning round annually to assist with projects above \$500,000.

The State Government recently announced changes to CSRFF funding rounds which is administered by DLGSC. The changes relating to the Forward Planning grants round include:

- Increase to the total CSRFF funding allocation available up to \$20 million for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years, up from \$12.5 million per year.
- Annual CSRFF application maximum grant increased up to a one third total estimated project cost (excluding GST) up to a maximum grant of \$2.5 million for annual major projects.

The maximum CSRFF grant awarded by the DLGSC will be no greater than one-third of the total cost of the project. In some cases, funds provided by the Department do not equate to one-third of the project costs, and the applicants are advised to fund the shortfall. The level of financial assistance offered is based on the eligibility and overall significance of the proposed project, including the benefits provided to the community.

The City utilises the grant assessment principles and guidelines, as well as relevant strategic plans and policies, to assess the need, viability, and priority of applications.

Applications are ranked by the City in order of priority and rated as either:

- A. Well planned and needed by municipality;
- B. Well planned and needed by applicant;
- C. Needed by municipality, more planning required;
- D. Needed by applicant, more planning required;
- E. Idea has merit, more planning work needed; or
- F. Not recommended.

After consideration by Council, the applications are submitted to DLGSC for formal assessment.

Announcements on successful/unsuccessful applicants for the Forward Planning Grants Round is scheduled for February 2024.

**DETAILS:**

Project: Robertson Park Tennis Precinct - Stage 1B Implementation

Applicant: City of Vincent

At its 14 September 2021 Ordinary Meeting, Council adopted the Robertson Park Development Plan (Development Plan). The Development Plan outlines the improvements to Robertson Park, identifying infrastructure upgrades that respond to community needs, whilst maximising land use and improving community access to recreation and leisure activities. The Development Plan is included as a Strategic Project in the City's Corporate Business Plan.

The Development Plan was divided into three project zones, which includes the Dog and Leisure Park, the Tennis Precinct, and the Turf/Eco Area.

At its September 2022 Ordinary Meeting, Council authorised the City to submit a funding application for the CSRFF 2023/24 Annual and Forward Planning Round for the Tennis Precinct. The City was unsuccessful in this funding round. Feedback from DLGSC indicated that the uncertainty regarding the Tennis West Junior High Performance clay courts, and a highly competitive round were the reasons the City was unsuccessful. Due to timing of the grant submission and recent update of the High-Performance clay courts the City was unable to achieve additional planning prior to the grant submission therefore, the application could only talk about both parties' intents on those elements of the project.

The City has since met with DLGSC staff to address the timing concerns associated with the High Performance clay courts, State Tennis Centre business case and Robertson Park. The City is staging the implementation of the Tennis Precinct to minimise concerns and maximise funding opportunities.

The City is staging the implementation of the Tennis Precinct as follows:

- Stage 1A incorporating the implementation of the multi sports courts and the entrance,
- Stage 1B includes the conversion of synthetic grass to acrylic hard courts and lighting of 12 tennis courts and thoroughfare,
- Stage 1C includes the natural grass court conversion, lighting and remaining thoroughfare (currently reserved for Tennis West Junior High Performance clay courts).

The application is for Stage 1B of the project, which includes:

- Conversion and rationalisation of synthetic grass tennis courts to 12 acrylic hard courts.
- Expanding courts to required dimensions.
- Re-grading court surfaces for effective stormwater runoff management.
- New LED floodlighting to 12 courts.
- Renew tennis court fencing.

The improvements and changes to the Tennis Precinct will increase participation and utilisation of the courts, improve the sustainability of the centre, promote, and improve shared facilities, and increase community accessibility.

The City has received in-principle approval of \$200,000 from Tennis Australia through the National Court Rebate funding program to implement Stage 1B. The grant funding is currently being formalised.

The project is estimated to cost \$1,771,350. To fund this, the City would seek \$590,000 through CSRFF, \$200,000 National Court Rebate grant funding, and City contribution of \$981,350.

The City has previously received \$100,000 grant funding from the State Government to assist with implementation of Stage 1A – multi sports courts.

As required by DLGSC the City's assessment of the applications is below:

- The City recommends that the Robertson Park multi sports courts conversion project receives a priority ranking of "1"; and a "A" rating

Following endorsement by Council, Administration would submit the application to DLGSC by the 30 September 2023 for formal assessment.

**CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:**

Community consultation for Robertson Park was completed through the development and subsequent endorsement of the Robertson Park Development Plan.

The City has consulted with DLGSC on this project noting the consultation aligns with the priorities of the CSRFF criteria.

Key stakeholders (Tennis West and Tennis Central) have been consulted with and are in support of the application.

**LEGAL/POLICY:**

Nil.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Low: It is low risk for Council to endorse Administration submitting a funding application to financially assist the Implementation of the Robertson Park Development Plan.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032*:

*Enhanced Environment*

*Our parks and reserves are maintained, enhanced and are accessible for all members of the community.  
Our urban forest/canopy is maintained and increased.  
We have improved resource efficiency and waste management.*

*Connected and Healthy Community*

*Our community facilities and spaces are well known and well used.  
We have enhanced opportunities for our community to build relationships and connections with each other and the City.*

*Thriving Places*

*Efficiently managed and maintained City assets in the public realm.*

*Innovative and Accountable*

*We deliver our services, projects and programs in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and sustainable way possible.*

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

This is in keeping with the following key sustainability outcomes of the *City's Sustainable Environment Strategy 2019-2024*.

*Urban Greening and Biodiversity*

**PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:**

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

*Increased physical activity*

*Increased mental health and wellbeing*

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

The City has allocated the relevant budget in the 4 year Capital Works Program in year 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 to deliver this project, with the support of grant funding.

The grant will assist the City to deliver the project and reduce the municipal funds.

**COMMENTS:**

Robertson Park is a vital community asset to provide sufficient community recreational and sporting opportunities. There is a need to retain and improve the quality of open space and sporting facilities in the local area to meet the growing community needs. The funding is a vital part of the project delivery. Following endorsement by Council, Administration would submit the application to DLGSC by the 30 September 2023 for formal assessment.