

5.9 COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND - JULY SMALL GRANTS ROUND APPLICATION

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council **ENDORSES** the:

1. **Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund – 2023/24 July Small Grants Round application for consideration by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, as follows:**
 - 1.1 **Priority 1 – Robertson Park Development Plan – Tennis Precinct – Multi Sports Courts conversion; and**
2. **Club Night Lights Program – 2023/24 July Small Grants Round application for consideration by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, as follows:**
 - 2.1 **Priority 1 – Robertson Park Development Plan – Tennis Precinct – Multi Sports Courts flood lighting.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek authorisation for administration to submit two funding applications to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) for the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF), and the Club Nights Lights Program (CNLP) 2023/24 July Small Grants Round, to assist with the delivery of the Robertson Park Development Plan, Tennis Precinct – 1a multi sports courts.

BACKGROUND:

Local Government authorities and not-for-profit sport/recreation organisations are eligible to apply for CSRFF and CNLP grants aimed towards 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, change rooms listed as one of the Department's priorities.

DLGSC offers the Small Grants Funding round twice annually for CSRFF and CNLP, to assist with projects under \$500,000, previously under \$300,000.

The CNLP has \$10 million (total) allocated over four years between 2021/2022 and 2024/2025 to fund sports floodlighting infrastructure.

The CSRFF now has \$20 million available for allocation annually over 3 rounds.

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. Any ineligible items are deducted from the eligible project cost. This may result in the funding eligible for the project being less than the amount requested. DLGSC does not guarantee the full grant amount requested or the maximum level of funding will be received. The level of financial assistance offered is based on the overall significance of the proposed project, including the benefits provided to the community.

The City coordinates and prioritises all applications from sporting clubs in conjunction with City submissions. This is to ensure there is no duplication of applications, the project is viable, and allows the City to prioritise applications. 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 Small Grants Round are scheduled for November/December 2023.

DETAILS:

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 the uncertainty over the new scope of works, in relation to the Tennis West Junior High Performance clay courts, and a highly competitive round were the reasons the City was unsuccessful.

The City is staging the implementation of the Tennis Precinct to assist with maximising funding opportunities. This includes a Stage 1a incorporating the implementation of the multi sports courts and the entrance, Stage 1b includes the surfacing and lighting of 12 tennis courts and thoroughfare, and Stage 1c which includes the court conversion and lighting of the grass courts.

Stage 1a of the project converts 6 of the existing tennis courts to 4 multi sports courts. This would allow for increased community accessibility, increased participation, and utilisation of the courts, promote and improve shared facilities, and increase female participation.

At its March 2023 Ordinary Meeting, Council authorised the City to submit a funding application for the CSRFF and CNLP 2023/24 February Small Grants Round for consideration by DLGSC to delivery Stage 1a. The City was unsuccessful in the funding round. Feedback indicated the project was supported in-principle; however, it was a competitive round with limited funding allocation. DLGSC subsequently confirmed its support for the City submitting a funding application in the July Small Grants Round for the delivery of Stage 1a.

During the State Election in 2021, an election commitment of \$100,000 was announced to support the delivery of multi sports courts to allow netball at Robertson Park.

Stage 1a - Multi sports courts conversion is estimated at \$322,916. To fund this, the City would be seeking \$107,638 through CSRFF, \$50,000 election commitment funding and City contribution of \$165,278.

Stage 1a - Multi sports courts floodlight project is estimated to cost \$297,162. To fund this, the City would seek \$90,049 from CNLP, \$50,000 election commitment funding and City contribution of \$157,113.

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

- CSRFF Application – The City recommends that the Robertson Park multi sports courts conversion project receives a priority ranking of “1”; and a “A” rating for the CSRFF Program.
- CNLP Application – The City recommends that the Robertson Park multi sports courts flood lighting project receives a priority ranking of “1”; and a “A” rating for the CNLP Program.

Following endorsement by Council, Administration will submit the application to DLGSC by the 31 August 2023 for formal assessment.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Nil.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Low: It is low risk for Council to endorse Administration submitting a funding application to financially assist with implementation.

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. We have minimised our impact on the environment.

Connected and Healthy Community

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

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 mental health and wellbeing

Increased physical activity

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The City has allocated the relevant budget to deliver this project with the support of grant funding. The grants will assist the City to deliver the project, as outlined in the Capital Works Program.

COMMENTS:

The project would have a positive impact on both the City of Vincent and the local community. The upgrades would support participation in sport and build greater capacity of the City's community sporting facilities.