

**6.1 COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND APPLICATION - NORTH PERTH BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB SYNTHETIC BOWLING GREEN CONVERSION**

**Attachments:** 1. **North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club - Synthetic Bowling Green Conversion - CSRFF application - Confidential**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council:**

1. **ENDORSES** the proposal from North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club to convert one of its grass bowling greens to a synthetic bowling green; and
2. **Subject to its endorsement, APPROVES:**
  - a) **the inclusion of \$66,104.55 (ex GST) for North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club synthetic bowling green conversion on the 2024/2025 budget, subject to confirmation of the required financial contribution through external grant funding and North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club; and**
  - b) **that all supporting documentation, including the completed application form, be forwarded to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To seek Council endorsement for North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club to submit a Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) application to convert one grass bowling green to a synthetic bowling green.

**DELEGATION:**

As the North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club grass bowling green is within an area leased by the City, any developments to the existing facility require endorsement from the City. The club has proven financial stability and strong club health. There is three (3) years remaining on their existing lease.

**Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund**

The purpose of the program is to provide Western Australian Government financial assistance to community groups and local government authorities to develop basic infrastructure for sport and recreation.

The program aims to increase participation in sport and recreation, with an emphasis on physical activity, through rational development of sustainable, good quality, well-designed and well-utilised facilities.

Through CSRFF, the State Government will invest annually in the development of high-quality physical environments in which people can enjoy sport and recreation. There is \$20 million available for allocation in the 2024/2025 funding round.

The completed application and corresponding Council report are required to be forwarded to Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) by 29 March 2024, for assessment. The outcome of the grants will be advised in June or July 2024, with grant funding to be acquitted by June 2025. North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club has sought an extension from DLGSCI to seek Council approval. Should Council support not be forthcoming the application will be withdrawn.

**DETAILS:**

North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club have explored converting one of the existing grass bowling greens to a synthetic bowling green. The club has undertaken a comprehensive project plan and feasibility which identifies all key components of the project and how it will be delivered as a community benefit.

The two project deliverables are:

1. Synthetic Bowling Green conversion; and
2. Irrigation Upgrade (required for the synthetic bowling green).

The club identified the existing grass bowling green has several issues including:

- General deterioration during regular use resulting in an increased maintenance cost for the club.
- Existing drainage problems which become an additional maintenance cost for the club.
- Challenges managing atmospheric conditions e.g. warm weather resulting in increased water usage, or cool weather making it difficult to maintain the surface in a useful condition.
- Infestation of pests which reduce the turf quality with limited options to eradicate or remove the problem.

The conversion to a synthetic bowling green will remove most of these issues and reduce the ongoing operational costs for the club to manage the asset, identified in **Attachment 1**.

DLGSCI provides specific criteria to assess (rank and rate) each application received from the City as follows:

- 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.*

Administration has assessed this project as *B. Well planned and needed by applicant*.

**Social and Recreational Benefit**

North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club is the only lawn bowls facility in the City Vincent and is expected to service lawns bowls and be a well-used, affordable function centre for the local community going forward. The club recognises the recreational and social benefit its facility offers and is committed to ensuring the facility can remain well-utilised and socially inclusive beyond just its competitive members. The conversion to a synthetic bowling green will allow greater participation through increased opportunities for the club to engage the local community.

**Accessibility**

The Club already provides access through the provision of ramps to the playing surface. A synthetic bowling green provides better accessibility for wheelchair users who will be at a lesser risk of being stuck as they are currently on natural turf.

**Environmental Benefit**

North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club anticipate approximately 50% reduction in water usage, significant reductions in chemical application and less power required to operate machinery if the grass bowling green is converted to a synthetic green. The environmental benefit of a synthetic bowling green comparative to a grass bowling green illustrates North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club's wider commitment to sustainability within the city.

**Project Management**

North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club has advised that subject to Council endorsement and successful grant funding, the club will manage the project delivery whilst complying with all respective rules and regulations. The City will not need to play an active role in the project delivery beyond that of monitoring as the land manager. Administration supports this undertaking due to the extensive feasibility and planning undertaken by North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club and the positive outcomes derived.

**CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:**

The City and North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club have consulted with DLGSCI who are in support of this application being submitted.

North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club have consulted directly with Bowls WA to support the application.

**LEGAL/POLICY:**

Nil

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Low: It is low risk for Council to endorse North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club submitting a funding application to convert one of its existing grass bowling greens to a synthetic bowling green and commit \$66,104.55 (ex GST) to support funding the project.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

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

Enhanced Environment

*We have minimised our impact on the environment.*

Connected and Healthy Community

*Our community facilities and spaces are well known and well used.  
We protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within Vincent.*

Thriving Places

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

Sensitive Design

*Our built form is attractive and diverse, in line with our growing and changing community.*

Innovative and Accountable

*We engage with our community so they are involved in what we are doing and how we are meeting our goals.*

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

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

*Water Use Reduction/Water Quality Improvement  
Sustainable Energy Use/Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction*

**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:**

Should the Council support the North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club synthetic bowling green conversion project, an amount of \$66,104.55 will be required in the 2024/2025 Capital Works budget to cover the city contribution towards the project. This figure is based on the quote acquired by North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club for this project.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funds (ex GST)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
City of Vincent Contribution	\$66,104.55	25% of total project cost  Required for FY24/25 Budget
North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club	\$66,104.55	25% of total project cost
DLGSCI Grant Request	\$132,209.10	50% of total project cost
<b>TOTAL Project Cost</b>	<b>\$264,218.20</b>	

Should there be a financial shortfall once all funding sources are confirmed the City of Vincent will not contribute beyond its \$66,104.55 (ex GST) commitment towards project.

**COMMENTS:**

North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club converting a grass bowling green to a synthetic bowling green will have environmental and operational benefits. The conversion will reduce water, chemical and power use at the facility and allow better access to the green by being more "wheelchair friendly". This will allow North Perth Bowling and Recreational Club to be a more accessible, higher quality, and sustainable recreational asset for the local area.

The suggested funding model will be a mutually beneficial arrangement with the City contribution being a financially sound means of delivering a justified project, whilst North Perth Bowling and Recreation Club can deliver the project in a financially responsible, beneficial timeframe.

The CSRFF application was submitted to DLGSCI by 29 March 2024 with the outcome of this report to be provided once confirmed.