

**9.6 COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND FORWARD PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION**

**Attachments:** Nil

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council AUTHORISES Administration to submit a funding application for the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund – 2023/2024 Annual and Forward Planning Grants for the Robertson Park Development Plan Tennis Precinct Implementation.**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To seek authorisation for Administration to submit a funding application to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) for the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF), 2023/24 'Annual and Forward Planning Grant' for the Robertson Park Development Plan Tennis Precinct Implementation.

**BACKGROUND:**

Local Government authorities and not-for-profit sport/recreation organisations are eligible to apply for CSRFF grants aimed at increasing participation through the development of basic sustainable infrastructure that is well planned and designed. Priority consideration is given to projects which will maintain or increase physical activity that leads to facility sharing and rationalisation, and female participation.

The DLGSCI offers the Annual and Forward Planning round annually to assist with projects above \$300,000. The maximum CSRFF grant awarded by the DLGSCI will be no greater than one-third of the total cost of the project, up to a maximum of \$2 million. The CSRFF grant must be at least matched by the applicant's own cash contribution equivalent to one-third of the total project cost, with any remaining funds being sourced by the applicant.

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. DLGSCI 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 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 to rank the applications in order of priority. Robertson Park is the only application being proposed for the CSRFF Annual and Forward Planning Grant.

The Department provides specific criteria to assess (rank and rate) each application received by 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.

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants are notified by DLGSCI by February 2023.

Robertson Park is well-used by the community with rich culture and history. The popular Robertson Park Tennis Precinct and surrounding areas are dated, generally aging, and not keeping pace with community expectations.

At the 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 Robertson Park Development Plan is included as a Strategic Project in the City's Corporate Business Plan.

#### **DETAILS:**

The City will be applying for \$1,274,701 of funding which equals one-third of the Robertson Park Tennis Centre Precinct cost. Based upon DLGSCI specific CSRFF criteria (rank and rate) this project is rated A – well planned and needed by the municipality.

The Development Plan was divided into three project zones, which includes the Dog and Leisure Park, the Tennis Precinct, and the Turf/Eco Area. Implementation of the Development Plan is in stages, with the Tennis Precinct being stage one. The Tennis Precinct includes:

- Rationalisation of Tennis Courts (36 tennis courts to 18 tennis and 4 multi-sports courts);
- New multi-sports courts;
- Resurfacing to all courts;
- New LED lighting to all courts;
- Renew tennis court fencing;
- New hit-up wall; and
- New thoroughfare between courts which includes shade structures and landscaping.

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, increase community accessibility, and increase female participation.

#### **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 DLGSCI on this project noting the consultation aligns with the priorities of the CSRFF criteria.

Key stakeholders (Tennis West, Tennis Central, and North Perth Dynamites Netball Club) 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 2018-2028*:

##### Enhanced Environment

*Our parks and reserves are maintained, enhanced and well utilised.*

*Our urban forest/canopy is maintained and increased.*

*We have improved resource efficiency and waste management.*

Connected 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

*Our physical assets are efficiently and effectively managed and maintained.*

Innovative and Accountable

*Our resources and assets are planned and managed in an efficient and sustainable manner.  
Our community is aware of 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*.

*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 total implementation cost of the Tennis Precinct is \$3,824,105 (excluding GST). The City has allocated the relevant budget to deliver this project. Obtaining CSRFF funding will greatly assist the City to minimise the financial impact of the project, to reduce the municipal funds required for implementation.

**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 will submit the application to DLGSCI by the 30 September 2022 for formal assessment.