

## 10.5 NOTICE OF MOTION - 271 - ELSTERNWICK PARK SOUTH OVALS 3 AND 4

Environment, Recreation & Infrastructure - Open Space, Recreation & Wellbeing  
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### Executive summary

#### **Purpose and background**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the implications and costs of activating Elsternwick Park Ovals 3 and 4 for competition based winter sport. This report also provides the proposed community engagement plan with the immediate surrounding neighbours and the broader community.

On 24 April 2018, it was resolved:

*That Council receives a report at its June 2018 Ordinary Meeting of Council on the implications and costs of activating Elsternwick Park Ovals 3 and 4 for competition based sport, and undertakes consultation with the immediate surrounding neighbours.*

Since 2012 Council has invested approximately \$37 million to improve the standard of sportsgrounds, lighting and pavilions. As a result of this investment Bayside is better equipped than other municipalities to respond to the growth in structured winter sport. Further investment will ensure the supply of appropriate sportsground facilities to meet future demand.

The recent 2018 winter allocation process identified a further increase in demand with the 22 winter clubs reporting 7,891 participants forming 418 teams on 42 sportsgrounds. This results in an average sportsground use of 27 hours per week. The carrying capacity of sportsgrounds is impacted by several factors however sports turf experts recommend no more than 25 hours per week of use. Sportsground use in summer has not reached the same level as winter demand.

While Council is currently well placed to service the current registered number of players any additional growth will place pressure on Council's finite resources. Growth projections show that to meet future demand for AFL in the central and northern regions of Bayside two additional sportsgrounds are required.

#### **Key issues**

Elsternwick Park Ovals 3 and 4 are highly utilised throughout the summer tenancy period for community cricket purposes with formal competition conducted Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday morning.

Excluding the six rounds of winter cricket competition held in June and July, the ovals are not used for winter sport purposes. The absence of use during the winter period is based on a historical Council resolution (pre-dating 1999), preventing use on a Sunday to balance the needs of dog walkers and organised sport.

In 2013, as part of the Bayside 'Active by the Bay' - Recreation Strategy 2013 - 2022, the importance of utilising Elsternwick Park Ovals 3 and 4 for formal winter sport was identified and both ovals were included in the sportsground lighting plan and are currently being designed as part of the delivery of the 2017/18 capital works program for use as training grounds.

#### Passive recreation use

Elsternwick Park South (including Oval 3 and 4) is a highly utilised area of open space and is home to registered personal trainers, a dog obedience school and significant levels of use by dog owners taking advantage of the dog off-leash areas.

While dog off-leash activity can still be appropriately accommodated if the formalisation of the ovals proceeds, it will be a significant change in use and will require broad communication to inform park users. The area currently used for the Elsternwick Park Golf Course will be made available for passive recreation on 1 July 2018.

#### Sportsground Lighting

The sportsground lighting design for Ovals 3 and 4 forms part of Council's 2017/18 and 2018/19 Budgets and is currently being designed to include 50 lux lighting for Oval 3, suitable for training purposes and 100 lux lighting for Oval 4 suitable for AFL competition purposes and training purposes for both AFL and Soccer.

Lighting of these sportsgrounds will enable Council to relocate some of the existing training load from ovals with use exceeding 25 hours per week (either AFL or soccer) and relocate to Elsternwick Park, improving the sustainability of Council sportsgrounds.

#### Sportsground reconstruction and formalisation

Further investigation will be required to determine the level of reconstruction required to make the assets fit for purpose. Initial investigations indicate that upgrades to drainage, irrigation, shaping of the oval and turf will be required at both sportsgrounds.

It is proposed that both sportsgrounds are fenced to provide structure to the sportsground and enable use for football final purposes. This will also provide delineation between the ovals and surrounding dog off-leash areas during times of allocated sports usage and will prevent sportsground lighting masts becoming an obstacle to park users.

If Ovals 3 and 4 are formalised with fencing, eight hectares of open space will remain available for dog off-leash activities in Elsternwick Park South during times of allocated sport.

#### Sports Pavilion

The formalisation of the sportsgrounds will require infrastructure to support use. A pavilion will be required at the site with four female friendly changerooms to service both ovals, umpire facilities, first aid room, public toilet, storage, and kiosk with large under cover areas on both sides for spectators. It is not proposed that this pavilion be allocated as a home venue for a sports club and accordingly will not require social space or bar facilities.

#### Community Engagement

No community consultation has been finalised due to the timing of the reporting requirements of this report, based on the resolution of 24 April 2018. The result of the community engagement will be reported to Council in August 2018.

Consultation is being undertaken and includes advising residents immediately surrounding the sportsgrounds via a letter box drop of Council's intent to utilise the sportsgrounds for winter sport and the proposed infrastructure to be installed. A "Have you say" page encompassing all projects at Elsternwick Park is went live in mid-June. All interested parties are being encouraged to register to receive updates and provide feedback.

Signage is installed at the site, providing an overview of Council's intent.

#### Project Costs

Detailed cost plans will be sought as part of the planning of Oval 3 and 4, the costs listed below are based on equivalent projects delivered in the 2017/18 financial year:

Pavilion	\$2,000,000
Full oval reconstructions	\$1,800,000
Sportsground Lighting	\$ 230,000
Total	\$4,030,000

#### Project Timing

Sportsground Lighting for Ovals 3 and 4 is currently being designed and will be installed in 2018/19. This will provide for improved training opportunities in the winter months and cater for current demand.

Upgrades to the sportsground surfaces and providing a new pavilion are not needed immediately and could be planned and implemented over the next five years.

### **Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Notes the assessment of infrastructure requirements needed if Elsternwick Park Ovals 3 and 4 are utilised for winter competition sports; and
2. Receives a report at the 21 August 2018 Ordinary Meeting detailing the outcomes of community consultation on the proposed sporting infrastructure improvements at Elsternwick Park Ovals 3 and 4.

### **Support Attachments**

Nil

### **Considerations and implications of recommendation**

#### **Liveable community**

#### **Social**

Sport provides opportunities for the community to build social networks and community connections and encourages lifelong engagement in sport and recreational opportunities.

**Natural Environment**

There are no natural environment implications associated with the recommendations included in this report.

**Built Environment**

The local context will be considered through any design phases to ensure the local amenity is improved.

**Customer Service and Community Engagement**

Consultation is being conducted in line with Council's Community Engagement Framework.

Consultation is currently underway with outcomes of the engagement will be made available via Council's "Have your say" page.

**Human Rights**

The implications of this report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

**Legal**

There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations included in this report.

**Finance**

The sportsground lighting at ovals 3 and 4 is budgeted for construction in 2018/19. The proposed ovals and building works are not currently included in Council's Long Term Financial Plan. A detailed review of Recreation based capital works program would need to be undertaken once an approach to improving Ovals 3 and 4 is endorsed by Council.

**Links to Council policy and strategy**

Improvement to sport and recreation facilities is supported by a number of key strategy and policy documents including the Council Plan 2017-2021, Bayside 2020 Community Plan and Wellbeing for All Ages and Abilities Strategy 2017-2021.

The Bayside Open Space Strategy 2012 recognises that projected population growth will have a significant impact on the demand for open space over the next 20 years.

The development of additional fit for purpose sportsgrounds is in line with a number of Key Principles included in the Bayside 'Active by the Bay' Recreation Strategy (2013-2022) including:

1. The provision of recreational opportunities for all;
2. Providing great places for people to recreate in, and to be socially connected; and
3. Responding to identified recreational needs of the community.