

Recreation Reserves Capital Works Contribution Policy

Date Adopted:	13 March 2024
Adopted By:	Council
Review Due:	March 2028
Responsible Officer:	Manager Community Wellbeing
RM8 No:	SGSC- 1209825626-1028

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Grampians Shire Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2019-2029 identifies a range of capital projects at Council managed Recreation reserves to be implemented over the 10 year period. The Shire faces some significant challenges to identify suitable funding options to enable the identified projects to proceed. Partnerships with community groups, Council and funding agencies such as the State and Federal Governments will enable additional development and renovation of existing community assets.

State Government facilities operated by Community Committees and schools are also facing significant pressures with respect to aging infrastructure and are looking to Local Government to contribute to urgent maintenance and renewal. Sporting and community groups are also looking to provide or expect regional standard facilities to maintain or build participation, rather than the local facility level required.

This policy provides the principles of determining funding options and responsibilities, with contributions to be provided by Council and users for the agreed development of associated infrastructure at Recreation Reserves and sporting facilities within Southern Grampians Shire.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for Council and community groups when considering external grant applications and internal capital work applications for sport and recreation projects across the municipality.

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of this policy are to:

- clearly outline and communicate to the community Councils standard provision for core sport and recreation infrastructure at recreation reserves; and
- provide guidelines regarding funding models for future capital works and upgrades on key sporting infrastructure

The policy will also:

- Provide Council with a clear process for determining priorities when allocating capital works funding for the development and upgrading of sports reserve infrastructure.
- Establish effective partnerships with sporting and community groups to provide suitable facilities for the community;
- Ensure equity for groups to develop new and/or upgrade existing sports ground infrastructure on Council owned or managed land;
- Provide transparency and clarity for sporting clubs and community groups concerning expectations and responsibilities in respect to capital works development and funding requirements.

APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This policy directly applies to all future recreation related infrastructure development projects that are proposed to be undertaken within the Southern Grampians Shire Council that will be considered by Council.

Where existing Council owned/managed sports ground infrastructure does not currently meet the proposed standard provision, remedial projects will be referred to Councils capital works development program for consideration in future budget processes for upgrading.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

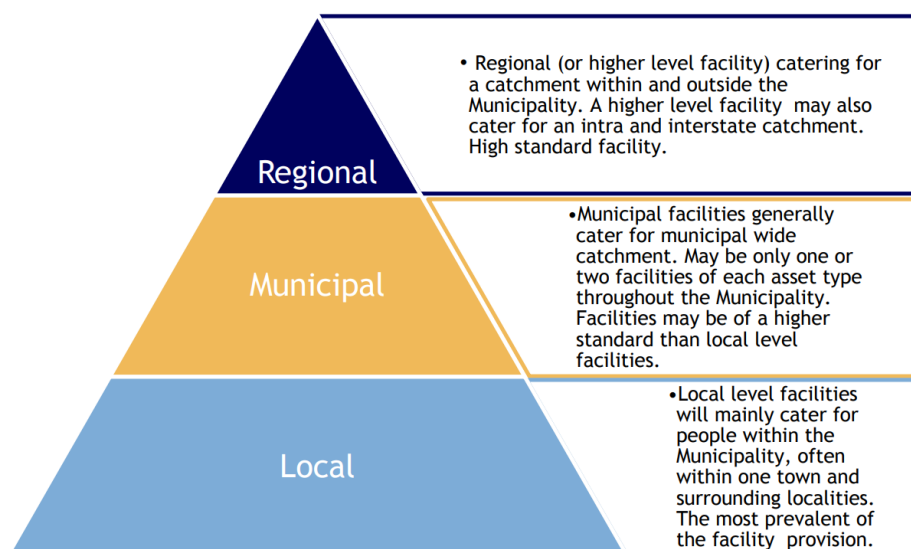
Sporting and recreation facilities will have a basic provision of infrastructure suitable for a sport to be played at the level consistent with the sport facility's hierarchical classification of Local, District or Regional, as determined by Councils Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2019 – 2029.

Fair Access

Council is committed to the implementation of the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy which aims to improve the access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure for women and girls, which was introduced in August 2022. All capital works proposals must be assessed to ensure that they are compliant with the Gender Equality Act 2020, and support the Fair Access Policy.

Facility Hierarchies

The Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2019-2029 establishes a hierarchy for sports facility provision that recognises that various sports and reserves will be required to provide for different requirements for infrastructure provision. The hierarchy will assist to delineate between the different standards of facility provision for each of the nominated sports at each reserve. A three-tier hierarchy (regional, municipal and local) for sports facilities will guide the future provision and development sporting facilities so the appropriate level of provision can be provided at the appropriate facility.



Proposed Infrastructure Standards

Council's role in encouraging active participation is in the provision of facilities to a level which is suitable for training and / or active competition. In order to provide clarity to clubs on Council's standard infrastructure provision, guidance will be taken from State Sporting Associations (SSA) and peak bodies.

Principles

Many projects across the municipality are required to continue to support recreation and sporting infrastructure. The number of opportunities for funding are limited each year, and each of these funding programs is a competitive process with no guarantee of funding.

To ensure that each application has the best chance of success, projects that are ready to commence will be given priority. This is demonstrated by the following:

1. Land Manager/Owner Consent;
2. Detailed Plans suitable for tender development;
3. Budget developed by Quantity Surveyor or written independent contractor quotes;
4. Written SSA or Peak Body support;
5. Confirmed funding contributions from partner organisations evidenced by bank statements.

Projects will be assessed against the Recreation Investment Principles to determine priority for funding.

RECREATION INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES	CRITERIA FOR PRIORITISING CAPITAL WORKS	WEIGHTING
1. Increasing participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will attract more participation in recreational activities - Addresses a gap in demand - Contributes to a better pathway for the sport 	25%
2. Equal Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aligns with State Government's Fair Access principles 	25%

and Fair Access	- Supports a social connection need, initiative, or non-player involvement	
3. Strategic justification	- Is in line with Council plans or localised masterplans - Aligns with Environmentally Sustainable Design principles	25%
4. Multi-use	- Development increases community use or provides for multiple users	10%
5. Asset Management	- Is in line with Asset management principles - Identifies value and financial viability	15%

TABLE 1: Recreation Investment Principles

Contribution

Where the Council is requested to make a financial contribution to the project and the project design meets the SSA or Peak Body Facility guidelines the following funding contribution breakdown will apply:

- Total Project Cost less the external funding contribution
- The remaining balance of the project will be funded on a 1:1 funding ratio (Council 1 : Community Group 1)

Council contributions will be determined through the annual budget process.

For Council owned improvements, the contribution from user groups may be provided as an upfront contribution, or an annual contribution over a period of up to 10 years by agreement. Council will not support capital development project partnerships with clubs that are in arrears on any user fees and charges or unpaid contributions to previous projects.

Where user groups require works to exceed SSA or peak body guidelines, the requesting users will be required to contribute the additional facility costs. Examples include reserve perimeter fences (for the purpose of charging a ground admittance), extensions to canteens, larger than standard coaching boxes, additional practice facilities and development of and improvements to social club areas.

Depending on the project budget and scope of works, there may be instances where external funding is not suitable. In this instance alternative funding strategies will be explored by Council subject to other relevant Council Policies and processes (e.g. Capital Works process, Community Grant).

Sports Lighting

Sports lighting will be considered (subject to Town Planning approval) where an increase in sports participation is likely to result and/or to minimise risk of injury through improved management of the use of playing fields. The focus for Sports Lighting will be on provision of lighting that meets the relevant Australian Standards to training level only for specific sports. Clubs will be required to fully fund lighting beyond the Standard Provision Standard.

COUNCIL PLAN REFERENCE

Key priority

1: Support our Community

Objective

2: A Healthy and vibrant community

Strategies

- 1.2.1 Provide appropriate, accessible and equitable Council services, facilities and activities
- 1.2.2 Support and encourage participation in quality arts and cultural, Education, leisure, recreation and sporting opportunities
- 1.2.3 Partner with services and agencies to increase the health and wellbeing of our community
- 1.2.4 Provide, promote and support appropriate and accessible services, facilities and activities for the community.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Southern Grampians Shire Recreation and Leisure Strategic Plan 2019- 2029
- Southern Grampians Shire Recreation Framework
- Reserves and Halls Operational Funding Policy
- Sport and Recreation Reserve and Facilities User Fees and Charges Policy
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CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

It is considered that this policy is compatible with the relevant human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*.

GENDER EQUALITY COMPLIANCE

It is considered that this policy is compatible with the relevant gender equality principles identified in the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Is a Gender Impact Assessment required?

- ☒ Yes (*legally required for all policies that have a direct and significant impact on the public*)
- ☐ No (*please provide an explanation why a Gender Impact Assessment is not required*)

REVIEW

The Sport and Recreation Reserve and Facilities User Fees and Charges Policy will be reviewed in conjunction with the Recreation Reserve Management Framework. The policy will be reviewed every four years.

ATTACHMENTS

END