

2.2 CRICKET IN MONASH DISCUSSION PAPER AND DRAFT CRICKET WICKET POLICY

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorses the draft Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper and draft Monash Cricket Wicket Policy for public release and consultation with the community.*
- 2. Receives a further report with a draft Monash Cricket Plan which includes guiding principles and key actions linked to findings from the consultation on the Cricket In Monash discussion paper and an updated Cricket Wicket policy for final adoption.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for the public release of the draft Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper and draft Monash Cricket Wicket Policy for community consultation.

BACKGROUND

Council's commitment to sport and recreation can be demonstrated through its provision of community sports facilities which include 47 sporting reserves, 16 tennis facilities, three stadiums, three aquatic centres, two athletics complex, four bowling clubs, two golf courses and one hockey centre. In this sense, Council's commitment to outdoor sport played on its sporting reserves and facilities represent its greatest investment, and as such, its greatest challenge.

At its Meeting held 30 October 2018, Council endorsed a plan to conduct a series of club Forums with major sporting codes to identify and potentially address issues and opportunities for each sport. The major sporting codes identified were tennis, football, Australian rules football and cricket.

The draft Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper was developed using information collected through audits of turf wickets and outfield, participation data and findings from the Monash Cricket Forum, which was held with all cricket clubs and Cricket Victoria on 8 September 2020.

The discussion paper identifies the challenges and opportunities for cricket in Monash and sets out ideas and options to respond to these, and seeks opinions and suggestions from the community.

An important element of the cricket discussion paper is the use, maintenance and provision of turf wickets. A draft Cricket Wicket Policy that has therefore been developed to support the discussion paper and will be included within the consultation process. These documents are very closely linked and therefore, it is important that they are released concurrently for community feedback.

Following Council endorsement of the Discussion Paper and draft Cricket Wicket Policy and subsequent feedback from the clubs and the broader community, an updated Cricket Wicket Policy will be presented to Council for final adoption, as well as a draft Monash Cricket Plan to be presented to Council.

DISCUSSION

The draft Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper has identified four key issues for the sport of cricket in Monash. These issues have emanated from discussion held with clubs at the forum, and are closely linked with the information and data collected pertaining to cricket participation and condition of facilities in Monash.

The key issues identified in the draft Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper are as follows:

1. Cricket facilities;
2. Sustainability and governance of cricket clubs;
3. Participation; and
4. Prioritisation of investment.

Each of these issues come with a list of questions that are intended to prompt discussion and encourage community/club feedback and submissions to Council on each of the four issues. This feedback and submissions will be reviewed and used to inform recommendations on each of the key issues for Council consideration.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021

This Plan outlines Council's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the Monash community. Key pillars of the Plan relevant to this Discussion Paper are:

- *Active and Healthy:* Focuses include supporting older people to remain connected and engaged in their community, ensuring that community needs, both now and into the future are central to the physical design of infrastructure, encouraging and supporting regular physical activity,

- *Engaged, Confident and Connected*: A city which actively listens, engages and values community wisdom in shaping its own future. Focuses include ensuring everyone has the opportunity to be a part of the community, being responsive, flexible and creative in responding to existing and emerging community needs, providing services and activities that are accessible and affordable to people from all walks of life, reducing barriers to participation, and pursuing partnerships that benefit the community.

Monash Council Plan 2017 - 2021

The Council Plan outlines the key objectives and priorities Council has for the Monash community. Of relevance to this Discussion Paper is

- *Inviting open and urban spaces* focusing upon improving public infrastructure, meeting places and open spaces, and providing inclusive, safe and inviting places for the community to use. Strategies include committing to long term infrastructure and asset management planning and renewing and maximising community and sporting facilities.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This process will greatly support Council's broader social agenda for creating a healthy and resilient Monash community that is active, healthy and connected through sport. The process will greatly assist Council to create a clear direction for cricket infrastructure improvements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Active Monash Club forums and discussion paper have been developed from Council's existing operational budget.

Following the release of the discussion paper and community feedback, officers will prepare an updated Cricket Wicket Policy for final adoption, as well as a draft Cricket Plan to guide the future investment and actions for cricket across Monash.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council endorse the release of the draft Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper and draft Monash Cricket Wicket Policy, which will encourage discussion and submissions back to Council to assist in the future planning of cricket within Monash.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – draft Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper

Appendix B – draft Monash Cricket Wicket Policy