

Community Development Report

Committee Consideration – 9 August 2016
Council Resolution – 23 August 2016

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Committee	9 August 2016
Council	23 August 2016
Applicant	City of Nedlands
Officer	Amanda Cronin - Senior Community Development Officer (Recreation) Rachel Birighitti - A/Manager Community Development
Director	Lorraine Driscoll – Director Corporate and Strategy
Director Signature	
File Reference	CD-007463
Previous Item	N/A

Executive Summary

This item seeks Council's endorsement of a grant application for the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) Annual Grant round to the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR). The application is from the City for an irrigation upgrade at David Cruickshank Reserve. Submissions to DSR's 2016 CSRFF Annual grant round close on 16 September 2016. All CSRFF applications to DSR must be accompanied by a formal Council resolution.

Recommendation to Committee

Council advises the Department of Sport and Recreation that it has ranked and rated the application to the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund Annual Grant round as follows;

- a. **City of Nedlands - Irrigation Upgrade, David Cruickshank Reserve: Well planned and needed by the municipality (A Rating);**

Strategic Plan

KFA: Community Development

This report contributes to the Community Development key focus area based on the principles of building community partnerships, supporting community organisations and sporting clubs and encouraging sport and recreation within the City.

The City's Strategic Community Plan identifies that the majority of Parks Assets including irrigation systems have passed or are near the end of their useful life and require replacing.

The David Cruickshank Masterplan identified an upgrade to the irrigation system is required for the reserve to ensure the quality of the playing surface is sustained at a high standard required for competition sport.

City of Nedlands Recreation Plan 2010 – 2015

The City's Strategic Recreation Plan sets Council's priorities for targeting recreational facility funding to best effect. Both the reserve and sport type are taken into account. David Cruickshank Reserve is identified as a major recreational reserve to be prioritized for future development funding.

The City's Recreation Plan rates all sport types as Low, Medium or High priority, in relation to allocating funding to facilities. This rating is determined by considering:

- demand for the sport (current membership and membership trends); and
- supply (what facilities already exist within the City for this sport type).

The Recreation Plan identifies that cricket and football facilities within the City are of relatively good quality and that the sport is well catered for. Therefore these sports attracted a relative rating of "Low" priority within the Recreation Plan in 2010. (This priority rating is not intended to reflect the value of the sport; rather, the Recreation Plan ratings are intended to provide Council with a way of prioritising funding applications from clubs if multiple applications for facility funding are received for one CSRFF funding round). The "low" priority rating allocated by the Recreation Plan is only relative, in relation to the City's stock of aging facilities. It does not mean that these sports facilities do not need to be upgraded.

Background

Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund

DSR administers the CSRFF. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to sporting clubs, 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.

This fund has three categories, shown below:

Table 1: CSRFF Grant Categories

Grant Category	Total Project Cost Range	Standard Contribution	DSR	Frequency
Small Grant	≤ \$200,000	\$2,500 – \$66,666		Bi-annual
Annual Grant	\$200,001 - \$500,000	\$66,667 - \$166,666		Annual
Forward Planning Grant	≥ \$500,000	\$166,667 - \$1,000,000		Annual

For applications to be supported by DSR, they must firstly be endorsed by the relevant Local Government Authority. For approved projects, DSR will provide a grant of a maximum of 1/3 of the total project costs.

Ranking: the City is by required by DSR to rank in priority order the applications received for each CSRFF round.

Rating: the City is required by DSR to rate each application against the categories below:

- 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 preliminary work needed
- F Not recommended

Annual grant round occurs annually, with the current financial year's applications to DSR closing on 16 September 2016.

David Cruickshank Reserve

David Cruickshank Reserve is a well used community reserve managed by the City. The main users of the reserve are Collegians Amateur Football Club, Dalkeith Nedlands Junior Football Club, Claremont Nedlands Junior Cricket Club and Western Suburbs Cricket Club. The reserve is used by other adhoc hirers on a casual basis.

In the past, sporting clubs have raised concerns over the quality of the playing surface. While the City has improved the quality of the surface in recent years, this is only a short term solution. The current irrigation system services the entire David Cruickshank precinct including the Dalkeith Nedlands Bowling Club and Dalkeith Tennis Club. The system is 30 years old and has reached the stage in its lifecycle where replacement is required. A new irrigation system is required for the reserve to ensure a high quality playing surface suitable for competition sport and to address an imminent reduction in groundwater abstraction allocations.

Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:

PD48.12 Final Endorsement of the David Cruickshank Master Plan (27 November 2012)

Consultation

Required by legislation: Yes No
 Required by City of Nedlands policy: Yes No

The City has completed a formal application to submit to DSR for the project. The application is available to Councillors on request from the CEO’s office.

Legislation / Policy

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

Discussion

Table 2: CSRFF Annual Grant Applications 2017/18 Round

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost (EX GST)
City of Nedlands	Irrigation Upgrade David Cruickshank Reserve	\$360,500

The City is seeking a CSRFF Annual grant to assist in funding an irrigation upgrade at David Cruickshank Reserve. The application is from the City because the reserve is managed by the City, available to be booked by multiple users and not part of any Club’s exclusive-use leased area.

The existing reticulated irrigation system was designed and installed in 1986. The system connects to three bores and supports the irrigation of David Cruickshank Reserve sports field and surrounds, the Dalkeith Tennis Club, the Dalkeith Bowling Club and Point Resolution Reserve. The design, age and condition of the system significantly limits the ability to manage the watering requirements of the various recreational areas it supports.

The limitations of the current system significantly impact the ability to maintain a safe and satisfactory sporting surface. In order to manage these limitations, and provide a safe and even sports surface, requires employing irrigation practices that rely on inefficient use of groundwater. The fundamental design of the system gives rise to hydraulic limitations resulting in poor system pressure capacity and distribution uniformity of irrigation water. To counteract this necessitates the over watering of sections of the sports field to ensure an acceptable and safe playing surface is maintained.

The City has been collaborating with the Department of Water (DOW) on a project to quantify the cost of various water minimisation applications related to the irrigation of public open space. The DOW have outlined their intention to reduce groundwater abstraction allocations associated with Ground Water Licences. Reduction of ground water allocations for significant users, including local governments, has been identified by the DOW as a short term measure to protect declining ground water resources.

Reduced ground water abstraction allocations already apply to local governments for the watering of open space in all new developments in the northern coastal corridor of the metropolitan area. The DOW has outlined a future expectation that water users manage ground water abstracted for irrigation more efficiently through public open space and irrigation design more compatible with a lower rainfall environment.

The upgrade of the reticulated irrigation system will have a high level of community benefit as the reserve is a shared facility used by multiple sporting and community groups. A high percentage of users are City of Nedlands residents, resulting in a high health and social dividend to the City. The reserve has the capacity to sustain greater use, therefore providing greater physical benefit, if surface conditions can be improved and maintained.

Budget/Financial Implications

Within current approved budget: Yes No
 Requires further budget consideration: Yes No

Table 3: Funding – Irrigation Upgrade – David Cruickshank Reserve

<i>City of Nedlands</i>	<i>\$240,334</i>
<i>DSR</i>	<i>\$120,166</i>
<i>Total Project Cost</i>	<i>\$ 360,500</i>

No further budget consideration is required for this project. Council has approved \$360,500 for expenditure on an irrigation upgrade at David Cruickshank Reserve. If the City’s application to DSR is successful, this will result in a budget saving.

Risk Management

Funding available to DSR for distribution throughout the state under the CSRFF program has been cut in recent years from \$20 million in the 2014/15 financial year to \$12 million in the current financial year. Therefore it is anticipated that this round of CSRFF funding will be highly competitive, increasing the risk of not receiving funding approval from DSR.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council endorses the City’s CSRFF application for funding to DSR. The project is an identified, long term strategic Council project. Council’s support for this application will reinforce Council’s position that supporting and developing sport and recreation infrastructure is essential for creating healthy communities

Attachments

Nil.