

7.2.3 MOUNT WAVERLEY RESERVE MASTERPLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Responsible Manager:	Tony Oulton, Manager Active Monash
Responsible Director:	Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes the expedited implementation program for the Mount Waverley Reserve Masterplan as a result of State and Federal Government funding.**
- 2. Notes that compensation funding that has been negotiated between Council and Melbourne Water for pipe upgrade works at Mount Waverley Reserve and allocates this funding towards the 2323/24 Mount Waverley Reserve oval reconstruction and the 2024/25 Mount Waverley Reserve Cricket Nets project.**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of external funding received for the Mount Waverley Reserve Masterplan Implementation and the proposed allocation of these funds.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Inclusive Services

Renew our community assets to deliver contemporary services.
Community development and advocacy to support the Monash community.
Fostering an equitable, just and inclusive Monash.

Enhanced Places

Improving open spaces, bushland and street trees, including prioritising biodiversity and community engagement.

BACKGROUND

The Mount Waverley Reserve Masterplan was adopted by Council in November 2021 and was aspirational in nature and included a range of works packages to be delivered over a number of years.

Subsequent to the adoption of the Masterplan by Council and in the lead up to State and Federal elections, Council and local clubs successfully lobbied local candidates and sitting members for project funding for the pavilion and sportsground.

Council subsequently received confirmation of a \$2 million State Government contribution toward oval improvements, sportsground lighting, pavilion design and cricket net design and a \$7 million total Federal Government contribution towards the pavilion.

Works on the oval are expected to start in late 2023, whilst the pavilion is expected to start construction in mid-2024.

DISCUSSION

Melbourne Water (MW) has advised that the Mount Waverley (M76) water main will be replaced between the corner of High Street Road and Blackburn Road and Mount Waverley Reserve. A new easement is being created through Mt Waverley Reserve to facilitate the project. Melbourne Water works on the oval will commence in August 2023 and will be completed prior to oval reconstruction works start in late 2023.

The new easement, use of the site as a works depot until August 2024, tree loss, oval re-instatement and a community benefit payment are elements of an agreement with MW that will see compensation paid to Council. Total compensation is not yet confirmed and likely to be around \$1 million.

Officers have been liaising with MW and clubs on site in good faith to negotiate the timing and scope of works to mitigate the impact of MW and Council works on users. Clubs have actively supported the timing of works and plans to re-locate their use for the duration of the project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A total of \$9.127 million in external funding has been received toward the delivery of the Mt Waverley Reserve Masterplan. Confirmed external funding to date includes:

- Federal Government – Dept of Infrastructure: \$7 million for the pavilion
- State Government – Sport & Recreation Vic: \$2 million toward oval works, sportsground lighting and cricket net design.
- State Government Living Local Fund - \$76,000 toward the playground renewal.
- AFL and Waverley Blues Football Club - \$43,000 toward sportsground lighting upgrade to 150lux.

A further funding contribution of more than \$1 million from Melbourne Water is also expected to be confirmed shortly.

The staging plan shown below is scheduled to minimise the impact on the incumbent clubs and meet the timeframes of the funding bodies.

2023/24

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| • Pavilion design | Funded |
| • Pavilion construction (year 1) | Funded |
| • Playground construction | Funded |
| • Sportsground lighting | Funded |

- Cricket net design Funded
- Oval design Funded
- Oval reconstruction Partially funded

2024/25

- Pavilion construction (year 2) Funded as multi-year project
- Cricket net construction Unfunded

Officers recommend that the Melbourne Water compensation be allocated to fund the 2023/24 shortfall plus the cricket practice facilities in 2024/25, to reduce the overall burden on Council funding for complete delivery of the masterplan. Other elements of the masterplan including public toilets, carparking, landscaping and Active Recreation Hub will be considered in future capital works programs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan, 2021 – 2025 outlines Council’s commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the Monash community. Council’s continued commitment to infrastructure improvements across community sporting venues, especially those that contribute to gender equity in sport as is the case at Mount Waverley Reserve, will deliver on a Monash community that is *Active and Healthy and Engaged, Confident and Connected*.

CONSULTATION

The Mount Waverley Reserve Masterplan went through a comprehensive consultation process prior to adoption. Ongoing communication between Council and the tenant clubs continues, including the tennis, football and cricket clubs.

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.


HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights implications to this report.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A GIA was not completed because this agenda item is not a ‘policy’, ‘program’ or ‘service’.

However, it should be noted that the Mount Waverley Masterplan Implementation stands to benefit two of the most progressive and inclusive sporting clubs in Monash when it comes to female sporting participation.



Both the Mount Waverley Cricket Club and the Waverley Blues Football Club score highly against Council's Active Monash Sports Club Framework and are well placed to thrive under the State Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap for gender equity across community sporting venues.

The Mount Waverley Cricket Club's participation is primarily focused around two activities: training in the nets and matches. The club has proactively prioritised access and timeslots for their female cricketers in recent seasons to support the growth of female cricket at their club.

CONCLUSION

Officers recommend that the best allocation of anticipated Melbourne Water funding is to:

- Address the current year project shortfall related to the oval reconstruction
- Allocate the remaining Melbourne Water funding to the 2024/25 Mount Waverley Reserve Cricket Nets project.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil