

2.1 MONASH TENNIS PLAN

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes the consultation findings and submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the draft Monash Tennis Plan in Attachment 1.*
- 2. Endorses the Monash Tennis Plan (Attachment 2).*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's consideration of the Monash Tennis Plan (Attachment 2), following Council endorsement and public exhibition of the draft plan late 2020.

BACKGROUND

Council endorsed a draft Monash Tennis Plan (or draft plan) at its Ordinary Meeting held on 25 August 2020. The draft plan had been developed as the result of extensive consultation and collaboration with Monash tennis clubs that focused on strategically addressing key issues facing the sport.

The draft plan was subsequently advertised in the September 2020 Monash Bulletin distributed to every Monash household and exhibited on Council's website on *Have Your Say* from 3 September - 30 October 2020. At the close of consultation, 50 individual submissions were received.

A Community Consultation Report (Attachment 1) presents the community submissions and outlines the findings of the community consultation the draft plan.

DISCUSSION

Overall, of the 50 individual submissions received. Twenty-six submissions or 52% of respondents were supportive of the draft Monash Tennis Plan and with twenty-four submissions or 48% of respondents indicated they were not supportive of elements of the draft plan.

Further to this, we received a written submission from Tennis Victoria (or TV) with some recommended additions to the draft plan. Where supported, TV's recommendations were worked into the wording of existing actions.

Themes arising from positive/supportive feedback

Open ended questions were assessed to identify common positive/supported themes mentioned in feedback. Most responses

commented on more than one element and the most commonly **supported** elements were -

- increasing public and casual use of tennis facilities,
- clarification of financial obligations for Council v clubs,
- exploring merger opportunities for smaller clubs,
- developing more inclusive and inviting tennis clubs; and,
- fit-for-purpose and accessible facility improvements.

Themes arising from negative/unsupportive feedback

As indicated above, open ended questions were assessed to identify common negative/unsupported themes mentioned in feedback. Most responses commented on more than one element and the most commonly **unsupported** elements or concerns raised were -

- too much financial onus being placed on clubs to repair and replace tennis facilities,
- increased wear and tear to court surfaces resulting from increasing public and casual use of courts (especially en-tout-cas courts),
- Council will sell land for housing developments in the event that clubs relocate,
- small clubs/venues should be left as they are and continue to play a role in providing tennis opportunities,
- a lack of detail and/or ambiguity around guiding principles and actions presented in the draft plan,
- implications for clubs following implementation of the Active Monash Sports Clubs Framework,
- a belief that Council should not interfere in the strategic planning and/or management of tennis clubs and should simply provide suitable facilities for clubs to operate from,
- highlighting the under-representation of female committee members at Monash tennis clubs is inappropriate and unnecessary; and,
- potential impact and/or lack of support for club-appointed coaches.

Recommended changes to draft plan

All submissions were reviewed and considered, where appropriate and feasible to do so, in the development of the final Monash Tennis Plan (attachment 2). The following key changes were made to the draft plan:

- Court surface renewals now proposed to be a 50:50 cost split between Council and tenant clubs. This was previously listed in the draft plan as 100% responsibility of tenant clubs. This is in response to feedback that too much onus was placed on clubs to repair and replace tennis infrastructure. Any capital projects that Council is required to part fund will be prioritised in accordance with Active

Monash's Capital Works Priorities Framework and subject to budget approval as part of Council's annual capital works program.

- Action 1.4 - additional information added encouraging clubs to collaborate with their Tennis Victoria Club Development Officer to develop a Diversity and Inclusion Plan.
- Action 2.4 - removal of Glenvale Tennis Club as a result of ongoing discussions to explore the feasibility of the club relocating to the new Monash Tennis Centre at the Glen Waverley Golf Course.

The final Monash Tennis Plan, inclusive of the above-mentioned changes, is now presented for Council consideration and endorsement in Attachment 2.

A total of 18 actions have been identified in the Monash Tennis Plan. Relevant stakeholders have been identified for each action, with a lead organisation highlighted for the delivery of each action. A proposed timeframe has been documented for each action and where required, an indicative budget has been provided.

Further detail and information on the recommended changes made to the draft plan can be viewed in Attachment 3 - Summary of updates made to Actions and Financial Obligations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021 outlines Council's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the Monash community. Key pillars of the Plan relevant to the Monash Tennis Plan are:

- *Active and Healthy:* Focuses include supporting 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 outlines the key objectives and priorities Council has for the Monash community. Of particular relevance to the Monash Tennis Plan 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 renewing and maximising community and sporting facilities.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Tennis Plan will support Council's agenda for a healthy and resilient Monash Community.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report is in line with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities ACT 2006 and does not raise any specific considerations.

CONSULTATION

A community consultation process has been undertaken, including direct consultation (e.g. Monash Tennis Forum) with Monash tennis clubs and Tennis Victoria.

Further consultation findings have been used to refine and update the draft plan to ensure the final Monash Tennis Plan provides a considered strategic and sustainable approach to addressing the issues facing tennis whilst being considerate of club, community and State Sporting Association needs and expectations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Some of the actions documented in the Monash Tennis Plan are reliant on Council and/external funding. These actions will be prioritised based on Active Monash's Capital Works Priorities Framework and subject to Council's annual capital works planning and budget approval process.

A summary of financial implications are set out in Monash Tennis Plan Actions.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council endorse the final Monash Tennis Plan detail in Attachment 2. This updated version of the plan includes changes made to the draft plan in response to submissions made by Tennis Victoria, Monash tennis clubs and the broader community as part of the community consultation and engagement process.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Community Consultation Report

Attachment 2 - Monash Tennis Plan

Attachment 3 - Summary of updates made to Actions and Financial Obligations