

## 2.2 MONASH TENNIS PLAN

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That Council endorses the release of the draft Monash Tennis Plan for the purposes of community consultation.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this Report is to seek Council approval to release the draft Monash Tennis Plan for community consultation. Feedback will be reviewed at the end of consultation, and used to inform a final draft of the Monash Tennis Plan to be prepared and presented to Council for consideration.

### **BACKGROUND**

The draft Monash Tennis Plan (attachment 1) has been developed as the result of an extensive consultation period and work with tennis clubs in Monash to strategically address key issues for the sport.

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.

A forum with all tennis clubs and Tennis Victoria was held on 27 February, 2019. Opportunities and challenges for the sport that were nominated by clubs at the forum, as well as facility condition reports and membership data gathered by officers through this period informed the development of the Tennis In Monash Discussion Paper, which was subsequently released for public exhibition between 4 October and 15 November 2019. A total of 177 responses were received to the Discussion Paper.

The consultative and evidence based approach adopted throughout this process has guided the development of the draft Monash Tennis Plan, which includes Guiding Principles and Key Actions to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for tennis in Monash.

***DISCUSSION******Key Findings***

There are four key issues informing the development of the draft Monash Tennis Plan:

1. Facility condition data:
  - 36% of court bases are compromised due to tree root invasions.
  - 84% of courts do not have floodlighting that meets preferred standards for tennis.
  - 77% of courts are located in Glen Waverley, Mount Waverley and Wheelers Hill.
2. Club member and usage data:
  - On weekdays, average tennis club court utilisation drops to 40%.
  - Membership at Monash tennis clubs has dropped 4% since 2010.
  - 110 males hold committee positions across Monash tennis clubs, compared with 52 committee members who are female.
3. Common themes emanating from Monash tennis club forum:
  - Prioritising investment into facilities in the worst condition.
  - The cost of capital improvements is the most critical issue for clubs.
  - Work towards having fewer, bigger more viable clubs at venues with more courts.
4. Community responses to the Tennis In Monash Discussion Paper:
  - 67% of respondents were supportive of clubs offering casual and non-member participation. Many clubs do not offer casual use.
  - 91% of respondents were supportive of Council investing in tennis facility renewals.
  - 70% of respondents were supportive of working towards having fewer, bigger tennis clubs.

***Guiding Principles and Key Actions***

The following guiding principles have been used for the development of key actions from the Monash Tennis Plan:

- ✓ Optimising use of tennis facilities.
- ✓ Inclusive and accessible tennis clubs.
- ✓ High quality and successful tennis venues.

In total, 18 actions have been identified in the Monash Tennis Plan. Relevant stakeholders have been identified for each action, with lead for delivering each action highlighted. A proposed timeframe has been documented for each action and, if required, an anticipated budget to deliver each action. The actions of the Monash Tennis Plan are aligned to Tennis Australia's four Key Pillars of Successful Tennis Venues, namely Accessibility, Sustainability, Community Benefit, Accountability.

**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 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*

The Council Plan 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 will be undertaken and will include direct consultation with Monash tennis clubs.

The consultation period will be used to refine and update the plan, to ensure it meets community and tennis club expectations.

***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Any of the actions documented in the plan reliant on Council funding will be subject to priorities set within Council's annual capital works budget.

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

***CONCLUSION***

It is recommended that Council endorse the draft Monash Tennis Plan for the purposes of public consultation. Feedback will be reviewed at the end of consultation, and used to inform a final draft Monash Tennis Plan to be prepared and presented to Council for consideration.

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Attachment 1 - Draft Monash Tennis Plan