**Major Equipment Grant Policy**

The Major Equipment Grants Program is a component of the Community Capital Works Grants Program and aims to support Recreation Reserve Committees of Management to purchase major equipment items that are required for maintenance of their playing surfaces.

**Objectives**

The objectives of this program are to:

* Enable eligible Recreation Reserve Committees of Management an opportunity to purchase major maintenance equipment that will be used to maintain playing surfaces on their own accord, without the need to engage contractors
* Create opportunities for reserve committees to work together in obtaining funding for new equipment and collaborate in the usage of this equipment.

**Eligibility**

Only Recreation Reserve Committees of Management are eligible to apply for a Major Equipment Grant.

Recreation Reserve Committees of Management will need to provide detail of the equipment they are seeking and demonstrate how it will be used to maintain playing surfaces and surrounds at the reserve.

Parts required to maintain existing equipment cannot be purchased, for example tractor tyres and tools.

Other maintenance equipment items that are not eligible, for safety reasons include chain saws.

**Criteria**

The number of applications received by Council may exceed the allocated program funding. To assist Council to assess the competing projects, eligible applications will be assessed against the following priorities:

***Priority 1***
Demonstrated need for major equipment

***Priority 2***
Demonstrated need for funding assistance

***Priority 3***
Ability to maintain equipment

Applications must also:

* Be consistent with agreed reserve maintenance schedules
* Demonstrate financial capacity to purchase the equipment.

**Funding formula**

All major equipment will be funded on a matched funding basis: $1 from Council and $1 from the applicant to a maximum grant of $20,000.00

The applicant’s contribution may include funds sourced from other organisations or non-Cardinia Shire Council grant programs.

**Assessment process**

All grant applications are reviewed by:

* An assessment panel comprising a multidisciplinary team of relevant Council staff
* Senior Managers within Council
* A panel of Councillors

Once agreement is reached in these forums, grants are referred to Council for endorsement and formal approval.

**Dispute resolution**

If an applicant wishes to query a grants assessment, a written request may be made for clarification of the assessment. Such requests will receive due consideration and a formal, written response will be provided.