

### **3 2019-20 COMMUNITY CAPITAL WORKS GRANT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

FILE REFERENCE INT1951490

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That;

1. Council approve the 2019/20 recommended Community Capital Works grants allocations,
2. The successful grant recipients be advised and formal announcements of the successful grant recipients be made at the Community Capital Works Grants Presentation Evening being held on 27 August.

#### **Attachments**

- 1 Grants projects summary (circulated to councilors only) 6 Pages

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2019-20 round of the Community Capital Works Grants program received 34 applications, eight preschools, 19 sporting clubs/ active reserves, four community centres/halls, one passive reserve and two not applicable. The Major Equipment grants had four applications, with three supported and one not eligible.

After rigorous assessment of the 32 Community Capital Works projects eligibility and in meeting the guidelines the assessment panel supported a total allocation of \$331,481.63

The Major Equipment Grants had an allocation of \$18,304.00

The total grant allocation therefore is \$349,785.63 out of \$450,000.00

Due to the significant balance in the Community Capital Works budget it is proposed that a portion of the funds be allocated to support additional upgrades to community facilities highlighted as priorities and consistent with the Policy guidelines.

2019/20 Community Capital Works Grant applications supported by Council by Ward

Ward	Number of Grants	Total Grant funds requested	Percentage of grant funds
Ranges	15	163,556.84	49%
Port	11	80,322.20	24%
Central	6	87,602.59	26%

2019/20 Community Capital Works Grant applications by activity/ organisations

Activity	Number of grants	Percentage
Sports Clubs and recreation/passive reserves	20	59%
Community Neighbourhood Houses and Halls/ Senior Citizens	4	12%
Kindergartens/ preschool/ community childcare	8	24%
Not eligible	2	6%

2019/20 Major Equipment Grant applications supported by Council by Ward

Ward	Number of Grants	Total Grant funds requested	Percentage of grant funds
Ranges	0	0	0%
Port	2	\$10,054.00	55%
Central	1	\$8,250.00	45%

\*\*Please note that one additional application from Port Ward was not eligible.

## BACKGROUND

Council staff from the Governance, Active Communities, Child and Family Services, Safer Communities, Development and Community Services, Buildings and Facilities teams, undertook a rigorous assessment process followed by the Councillor Grants Panel round table discussion. Projects that did not meet the grant application requirements were not supported.

At the conclusion of the assessment process, 32 Community Capital Works Grants projects are recommended to receive grants at a total grant allocation of \$331,481.63 from the total grants budget of \$400,000. And 3 Major Equipment Grant applications are recommended to receive grants at a total of \$18,304 from the total grants budget of \$50,000.

This was an increase to the 19 eligible Community Capital Works grants applications submitted in the 2018/19 round. The previous decrease may have been partly due to changes implemented after the program review (SLT Report 21 November 2017) to strengthen the application process ensuring community organisations only submit fully completed applications that meet Councils building requirements, environmental standards and contractor risk and safety requirements.

This current 19/20 round was also extensively promoted through the grants workshops and social media avenues. However at the initial time of closure for the grants of the 4 March 2019, there were only seven submitted applications. This was largely due to the impact of the local Bunyip fires to our community. Therefore a decision was made to extend the opening of the grants for an extra two weeks, providing some more time for submissions, with a closing date on the 18 March 2019.

With respect to the remaining grant funding, it is recommended that a portion of the balance be allocated to projects that support the Community Capital Works Policy priority areas. These projects are to be managed internally in conjunction with the Buildings and Facilities team and Parks Services. Included in the list of projects are: bathroom stalls in all Kindergartens; servicing and replacement where required of all shade sails and structures; access works in line with Cardinia's Universal Access Matrix; replacement and updating of signage across the Community Places Facilities; and an upgrade of Lakeside Children's Centre Community Room outdoor space.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Projects funded under the Community Capital Works and Major Equipment Grants are subject to arrangements under the following Council and Government Policies:

- Community Capital Works Grants Policy
- Major Equipment Grants Guidelines
- Access and Inclusion Policy
- Recreation Reserve Facility Standards Policy
- Recreation Reserve Management and Usage Policy
- Buildings and Facilities Maintenance Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Children's Services Regulations
- Playground safe standards
- Department of Education and Training Early Years Policy Guidelines
- OHS Policy
- Risk Management Policy

## RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

### **Our People**

Variety of recreation and leisure opportunities

### **Our Community**

Our diverse community requirements met  
Increased levels of community participation

### **Our Environment**

Provision and maintenance of assets on a life-cycle basis  
Enhanced natural environment

## CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

An extensive internal and external communication process has occurred in relation to the Community Capital Works grants program including:

- Promotion of the grants to the community in accordance with a well-developed Community Grants Communication Plan - both during, and in the lead-up to the grant rounds opening, promotion of the grants was undertaken through social media and targeted emails to eligible groups sent by Child and Family Services, Community Strengthening and Active Communities as well as Council's website;
- Workshops designed to support prospective applicants to appropriately plan for and scope their projects were undertaken prior to the grants round opening;
- Provision of support with the application process by relevant Council staff (i.e. staff from Child and Community Services, Environment, Buildings and Facilities, Active Communities, Engineering, Municipal Building Surveyors and Community Strengthening). This involved staff encouraging and supporting eligible groups to apply in their usual interaction with these organisations and groups;
- Extensive internal dialogue between relevant Council staff as part of the assessment process; and
- Liaison with applicants to confirm application details during the assessment process.

## FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All projects will be funded under the Community Capital Works Program budget allocation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The grants supported have undergone a rigorous assessment process involving Council staff and Councillors.

Due to the lack of applicants to the Community Capital Works Grant and Major Equipment Grant funding, the Child and Family team recommend a portion of the budget balance be used to support priority projects that align with the Community Capital Works Policy and will continue to upgrade community facilities in line with community expectation.