

6.2.7 Reserve Community Asset Committee Project Update and Actions

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Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. Exercise the powers conferred by Section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), resolving to establish a special committee, the Yannathan Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee.
2. Thank all recreation reserve Community Asset Committees for their valuable contribution to the management of community recreation reserves and for meeting Council's and the new Local Government Act requirements.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

All fifteen Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committees have implemented actions that were required to ensure compliance with Council's governance and risk project recommendations and the Local Government Act 2020. The risk project requirements are listed in the Community Asset Committee Governance Manual, which outlines the statutory requirements and aids, pertaining to good governance.

Council has not appointed a Community Asset Committee for the Yannathan Recreation Reserve, despite a committee being established and currently operating and managing the land. It is recommended Council formally establish a Community Asset Committee for this recreation reserve in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Background

In February 2019, Councillors support retaining Section 86 Recreation Reserve Committees and transitioning to Community Asset Committees if/when the new Local Government Act was implemented. This followed the Recreation Reserve Maintenance and Management review. Councillors also supported developing and implementing a program to work with each of the Section 86 Reserve Committees to address risk, OHS and governance issues and report back to Council on the outcomes.

Due to a change in the Local Government Act, all Section 86 committees transitioned to Community Asset Committees.

At the start of the 2021-22 financial year, Council provided all recreation reserve Community Asset Committees with a list of requirements that needed to be met by 31 October 2021. These were identified through Council's governance and risk project and the introduction of the new Local Government Act 2020.

This project focussed on recreation reserve Community Asset Committees initially, due to the potential risks associated with the maintenance tasks they undertake. Some of the key changes to roles and responsibilities that were implemented, because of the risk project's recommendations included the following:

- Council to be responsible for all reserve surrounds maintenance.
- Maintenance performed by committees must be conducted by Council approved contractors.
- Committee's must collect user fees from all users.
- All committee members must complete the governance training module (online and face-to-face offered).

Council has allocated increased maintenance grants to ensure committees have the resources to engage contractors to undertake the required playing field and building maintenance.

Committees are required to:

- Hold a meeting to action and implement the requirements of the governance manual and adopt the occupational health and safety policy and code of conduct policy.
- Provide completed user agreements and maintenance agreements to Council.
- Meet quarterly at a minimum.

Council officers have been working with the Community Asset Committees to assist them to implement these requirements. Due to the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and inability to meet face-to-face, Council initially extended the deadline to meet the requirements to 31 December 2021 and then again to 30 June 2022.

Based on recent feedback from committees, Council officers updated the Community Asset Committee Portal to make it more user friendly. Multiple short online sessions were offered in May 2022 to show committee members how to navigate the page and get the most out of the resources provided. One of the sessions was recorded and uploaded onto the portal.

The following Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committees have met the requirements outlined above and will continue to manage their respective recreation reserves on behalf of Council:

- Cardinia Recreation Reserve
- Chandler Reserve
- Garfield Recreation Reserve
- Gembrook Recreation Reserve
- Huxtable Road Reserve
- Josie Bysouth Reserve
- Lang Lang Community Recreation Reserve
- Maryknoll Recreation Reserve
- Officer Recreation Reserve
- Pound Road Reserve
- Rythdale Recreation Reserve
- Sutherland Park Recreation Reserve
- Worrell Reserve
- Yarrabubba Reserve

Despite the Yannathan Recreation Reserve operating as if they were a Community Asset Committee and successfully participating in the risk project, it was recently discovered that there is no Council appointed Community Asset Committee for the Recreation Reserve, only for the Hall.

This was communicated to the now informal committee in July 2022 by Council officers. The informal committee's preferred option was for Council to establish a Community Asset Committee for the Yannathan Recreation Reserve. Council officers support this option.

Policy Implications

This proposal is consistent with both Council policy and requirements for Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committees.

Relevance to Council Plan

2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places

2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

5.1.5 Champion the collective values of the community through the Councillors' governance of the shire.

Climate Emergency Consideration

N/A

Consultation/Communication

Council officers are in regular communication with all reserve Community Asset Committees. Whether it's through supporting governance, assisting with questions and queries, or promoting development opportunities.

Recreation reserve committees are aware of Council's processes and requirements, and support has been offered to every committee on every aspect of the project.

Financial and Resource Implications

There is no additional cost to Council to establish a Community Asset Committee for the Yannathan Recreation Reserve. The maintenance grant provided is covered by an existing budget allocation.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council formally establish a Community Asset Committee for the Yannathan Recreation Reserve, and that Council thank all recreation reserve Community Asset Committees for their valuable contribution.