

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Report Author: Manager Recreation Parks & Facilities
Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

Council has allocated \$185,000 in the adopted 2025/2026 Capital Works Budget to the Capital Development Grants Program. Capital development grants offer financial assistance to not-for-profit organisations to improve sport and active recreation infrastructure. Funding is provided as a one-off grant with the goal of benefiting sporting and recreation groups as well as the general community.

Fifteen applications were received in the 2025/26 funding round and eleven projects are recommended to be funded, totalling \$181,040 of Council grant contributions toward a combined project value of \$402,128.07. Funding agreements will be established with each recipient for the delivery of their initiative following formal consideration by Council.

Of the four applications not recommended to be funded, some related to works Council will already be delivering as part of its property and building maintenance services, while on others, Council will work with the unsuccessful applicants to support the outcomes being sought, including over following grant rounds.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Capital Development Grants of \$181,040 for 2025-2026 as follows

- 1. \$1,300 to Belgrave Heights Tennis Club***
- 2. \$3,750 to Yarra Glen Bowls Club***
- 3. \$6,568 to Mooroolbark & District Miniature Railway & Steam Club Inc.***
- 4. \$9,070 to Monbulk Pony Club***
- 5. \$10,000 to Doongala Pony Club***

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. <i>\$15,000 to Silvan Football Club Inc</i>7. <i>\$21,041 to Mooroolbark Cricket Club</i>8. <i>\$24,311 to Mount Evelyn Football Club</i>9. <i>\$30,000 to Chirnside Park Football Club</i>10. <i>\$30,000 to Eastern Ranges Football Club</i>11. <i>\$30,000 to Montrose Tennis Club</i> |
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RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council Meeting 27/08/2024 - Council resolved to provide \$226,491 as part of the 2024/25 Capital Development Grants Program to thirteen successful clubs and associations for improvements to their facilities.

Council Meeting 10 October 2023 – Council resolved to provide \$173,349 as part of the 2023/2024 Recreation and Sport Capital Development Grant Program to sixteen successful clubs and associations for improvements to their facilities.

Council Meeting 27 September 2022 – Council resolved to provide \$160,304 as part of the 2022/23 Capital Development Grants Program to thirteen successful clubs and associations for improvements to their facilities.

Council Meeting 28 September 2021 – Council resolved to provide \$160,304 as part of the 2021/22 Capital Development Grants Program to thirteen successful clubs and associations for improvements to their facilities.

Council Meeting 15 December 2020 – Council resolved to provide \$166,625 as part of the 2020/21 Capital Development Grants Program to thirteen successful clubs and associations for improvements to their facilities.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

The purpose of the Capital Development Grants is to support the local community to undertake Minor Capital Improvements to Council assets that benefit sport and recreation organisations and the wider community. A maximum of \$30,000 can be applied for with matching funding to be provided by the organisations.

The Grant applications proposed to be funded have demonstrated an ability to achieve significant outcomes in the four criteria outlined in the Capital Development Grant Program – Funding Guidelines, as follows:

- Clear evidence of demand for the project and the ongoing benefits to community participation (40%)
- The degree to which the organisation has provided the required project documentation and can demonstrate the ability to deliver the project

(30%)

- Demonstrated increased opportunities for female participation and/or disadvantaged groups (25%)
- Sustainability elements incorporated in design, materials, or outcomes (5%)

The 2025/26 guidelines prioritise projects that improve female participation, access for disadvantaged groups, and sustainability. Eligible projects include cosmetic upgrades to pavilions and club rooms, improvements to recreational facilities, new infrastructure promoting active lifestyles, safety enhancements, storage solutions, and fencing. Projects that involve maintenance responsibilities under existing leases, restrict public access, or include structural changes, operational costs, or non-permanent equipment are ineligible.

Options considered

In the adopted 2025/2026 Capital Works Budget, \$185,000 is allocated to the Capital Development Grants Program.

Recommended option and justification

The 2025/26 Recreation and Sport Capital Development Grant Program was assessed by an evaluation panel consisting of members from the Recreation & Sport, Facilities, Property and Minor Works team which recommends a total of \$181,040 be awarded to 11 applicants.

The total project value of each grant project is capped at \$80,000, with a maximum contribution of \$30,000 from Council.

Summary of recommended applications and funds awarded:

Club	Project	Grant Recommended	Total Project Cost
Belgrave Heights Tennis Club	Outdoor Seating Area Repair and Accessibility Enhancement Project	\$1,300.00	\$2,600.00
Yarra Glen Bowls Club	Retractable Shade Blinds for Outdoor Seating Area	\$3,750.00	\$7,500.00
Mooroolbark & District Miniature Railway & Steam Club Inc.	Safety Fence	\$6,568.00	\$13,136.00
Monbulk Pony Club	Cross Country Course repair and upgrades	\$9,070.00	\$19,270.00

Doongala Pony Club	Cross country repair and water jump upgrade	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
Silvan Football Club Inc	Replacement of Coaches/Players Boxes at Silvan Recreational Reserve	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00
Mooroolbark Cricket Club	Cricket Nets Resurfacing	\$21,041.00	\$42,041.07
Mount Evelyn Football Club	Coaches Boxes Replacement	\$24,311.00	\$48,622.00
Montrose Tennis Club	Court and seating access pathway	\$30,000.00	\$79,980.00
Eastern Ranges	Kilsyth Centre of Excellence - Drainage Synthetic Turf Works	\$30,000.00	\$62,840.00
Chirnside Park Football Club	Digital Scoreboard at Kimberley Reserve	\$30,000.00	\$76,139.00

The 11 recommended applications equate to a total grant request of \$181,040 from the 2025/26 Program for projects that amount to a combined value of \$402,128.07.

\$221,088.07 is the combined contribution from the grant recipients.

Four applications are unable to be funded this round. The projects unable to be supported and the rationale are detailed in the table below.

Club	Project	Grant Request	Total Project Cost	Funding Outcome Rationale
Hoddles Creek Cricket Club	Upgrade Clubroom & Surrounding Area Lighting	\$951.50	\$1,903.00	Security lighting has been identified as a responsibility of Council and will be delivered by the Minor Works team.

1st Selby Scouts Group	Scouting for all - Stage 1 (DDA Ramp into building)	\$2,894.00	\$5,789.00	The project does not currently meet DDA compliance. Achieving full compliance would require significant additional works within the building. Discussions will be held to explore alternative ways Council can provide support.
Upwey South Tennis Club	Clubhouse Upgrade	\$15,840.00	\$31,680.00	The Sport team will work with Upwey South Tennis Club to develop a plan for completing the works from a previous Capital Development Grant and will support the club in preparing future applications to the Capital Development Grant Program.
Wesburn Junior Football Club	Kitchen Upgrades and Blinds.	\$8,991.00	\$17,695.00	Kitchen upgrades are not part of the capital grants process. The Rec team will follow up to offer support with identifying and assisting with funding opportunities. The request for blinds to be installed in the change room falls under Council's responsibility and will be delivered by the Minor Works team.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Funding for the recommended applications can be met through Council's 2025/2026 budget, which has allocated \$185,000 capital expenditure for this program.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

The projects delivered by the proposed successful applicants will significantly contribute to enhancing health outcomes, including decreasing obesity and improving mental health and wellbeing. By engaging and encouraging people to be physically active and creative we can protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing for all ages.

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 sets out directions for creating healthy and active environments and services in Yarra Ranges and provides a framework to guide future development and management of Council's recreation reserves, parks and community spaces.

RELEVANT LAW

Not Applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

This funding program supports volunteer/not for profit organisations, delivering important community infrastructure that ensures sustainability of the organisation delivering the project.

Social Implications

Sport and Recreation clubs across Yarra Ranges provide an opportunity for residents to participate physically in a structured sport or recreation activity however the social value of these clubs extends beyond immediate participants into the broader community.

The sense of belonging and community that clubs provide to the social fabric of our region contributes significantly to the health and wellbeing outcomes of all participants and their families.

Several of the projects submitted support recreation participation to the wider community, including female and disadvantaged community members.

Research by LaTrobe University's Centre for Sport and Social Impact (CSSI) reported that for every \$1 spent on a community sporting club (in this case Australian Rules), there is at least a \$4.40 return in social value.

The social return on investment in social value was in terms of increased social connectedness, wellbeing, mental health status; employment outcomes; personal development; physical health; civic pride, and support of other community groups.

Environmental Implications

Each project either has a positive or neutral effect on the surrounding environment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Advertising for submissions occurred via Council's website, the monthly Sport Newsletter and direct email notification to all sporting and recreation clubs and user groups across the municipality.

It was advised that applications were open from 9am, Monday 5th May 2025 and closed 11:59pm, Sunday 15th June 2025.

The sport team communicated this program to as many recreation and sporting clubs as reasonably possible and worked with the clubs and user groups that made direct contact regarding their application. This process led to the ultimate

outcome of 15 applications submitted.

All applications were assessed against the criteria by four Council officers ('assessors') from Council's Recreation and Sport team and one officer from Council's Property and Leasing team, who understood the assessment process and/or has knowledge of infrastructure development and maintenance.

The following process was followed by each of the assessors:

1. Applications assessed independently.
2. Allocated a project score using the criteria provided.
3. Met and discussed each project.
4. Agreed on a final score; and
5. Allocated funds based on the final outcomes of assessment and budget.

This process was overseen and coordinated by the Sport Team Project Officer.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Sport team will collaborate with the relevant internal departments that have an interest in specific projects. The team have well developed relationships with the Parks, Parks Assets, Sports field Management, Major Projects, Facilities and Property and Leasing teams whose input is sort through the delivery of the projects.

To support future applicants, the Sport team is investigating the potential of hosting a grant writing workshop to assist clubs in preparing more detailed and competitive proposals.

RISK ASSESSMENT

All successful applications are required to enter into a formal funding agreement with Council prior to project commencing. The delivery of all successful projects will be overseen by the Recreation and Sport team.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Recreation and Sport Capital Development Grant Program Guidelines

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