

ITEM 3 SPORTS GRANTS PROGRAM ASSESSMENT OUTCOME 2023-2024

Council's Sports Grants Program aims to provide local sporting clubs and associations with the opportunity to apply for financial assistance to improve their facilities. The 2023 Sports Grants Program opened on 1 July 2023. A total of 15 eligible applications were received, requesting a combined total of \$840,847 for works across the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA). All applications were assessed by representatives of the Sports and Facilities Reference Group (SFRG) and ranked to determine the priority of each project.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council endorse the allocated points, rankings, and recommendations of the Sports and Facilities Reference Group assessment panel.
- 2 A sum of \$400,000.00 from the Sports Reserve fund is allocated to fund 8 projects that have met the criteria as determined by Sports and Facilities Reference Group assessment panel.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Lucielle Power, Director Community Services (Acting)
Authorised by: Kerry Hunt, General Manager (Acting)

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 2023-2024 Sports Grants Assessment Overview and Recommendations

BACKGROUND

Wollongong City Council's Sports Grants Program seeks to provide financial assistance to sporting clubs and associations that utilise Council sportsgrounds. Council funds approved projects, with clubs and associations able to apply for a minimum of \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000 to improve their facilities.

The Sports Grants Program supports our Sportsgrounds and Sporting Facilities Strategy 2023-2027 by funding small and medium-sized projects that:

- Increase opportunities for people to participate in sport
- Increase sportsground capacity and allow sites to be used for multiple sports and groups
- Renew and enhance existing sporting infrastructure with a focus on gender equity, accessibility, and storage
- Invest in infrastructure to support and accommodate emerging sports and independent recreational pursuits.

The program is open to sporting clubs and associations that are:

- Incorporated
- Not for profit
- Based or operating within the Wollongong LGA on land categorised as 'sportsground' under Section 26 (4) of the Local Government Act (1993).

PROPOSAL

Representatives of the Sports Facility Reference Group (SFRG) met to discuss and score applications received through the Sports Grant Program. It is recommended Council endorse funding for the prioritised applications as follows:

Organisation	Project Summary	Grant Funding
Bulli Football Club (Soccer)	Installation of privacy screens to dressing rooms	\$17,930.00
Figtree Football Club	Referee Changing Rooms Upgrade	\$15,000.00
Coledale Waves Junior Football Club	Fencing, Irrigation & Storage	\$100,000.00
Illawarra Basketball Association	Upgrade Mezzanine Handrails and Grandstand Repair	\$80,000.00
Wollongong Vikings Rugby Union Club	Car park upgrades	\$80,000.00
Illawarra Basketball Association	Court Resurfacing	\$21,500.00
Wollongong Vikings Rugby Union Club	Security Fencing	\$45,541.00
Port Kembla JRLFC	Various Projects - Park Facilities Upgrade	\$40,029.00
Total		\$400,000.00

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Grant Assessment Process

The Sports Grants Program opened on 1 July 2023 and closed 31 July 2023. Details of the grants program were published on Council's website, social media, through the SFRG group and directly to Sporting clubs and associations. A self-service booking page was also set-up allowing sporting clubs to speak with staff from Council's Recreation Services team in relation to the funding program, process and projects.

Following the closure of applications, an internal review of applications was undertaken by staff from Council's Recreation Services, Open Space and Building and Facilities teams to review submissions for in-principal project support and/or alternative programming opportunities.

As part of the assessment process, expressions of interest were sought from members of Council's SFRG to participate in a sub-panel to review and assess grant submissions received. All applications were assessed by a sub-panel of Council's SFRG and ranked to determine the priority of each project. A further meeting occurred on 29 August 2023 to discuss the proposed projects for funding with the broader SFRG with the recommendations of the sub-panel unanimously supported by the group.

All successful applicants will be required to sign a funding agreement with Council and all successful projects must be completed in accordance with the funding agreement requirements including the need to be delivered within 12 months of the funding agreement being signed. At the conclusion and approval of this grant program, each applicant will be provided with an outcome and feedback will be provided to the clubs that were unsuccessful in funding within the 2023-2024 grant program.

Subject to the endorsement of Council, funding will be released to the clubs from November 2023 onwards.

Further Recommendations of SFRG

At its meeting of 29 August 2023, all grant submissions received under the 2023-2024 grants program were discussed by SFRG members present. In addition to the top 8 listed projects recommended for funding, several other submissions were deemed of merit for future capital funding consideration despite receiving a lower ranking and exceeding funding reserve allowance. The SFRG unanimously resolved to also include details of unfunded projects in the Council Report to highlight priority/need of projects, and to raise possibility of works being introduced as capital projects in next IDP allocations.

Organisation	Project Summary	Requested Funding
Russell Vale Junior Football Club	Lighting Upgrades	\$81,790
Helensburgh Netball Club	Construction of a dual netball/basketball court	\$100,000
Balgownie Junior Football Club	New portable goals*	\$27,000
Coniston Football Club Incorporated	Fence Replacement	\$21,450
Figtree Football Club	Water Refill Station	\$9,021
Wollongong Wolves Football Club	Field Improvements	\$38,065
Total		\$277,236

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 5. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
5.7 Provide an appropriate range of active and passive open spaces and facilities to cater for traditional and emerging recreational pursuits.	Parks and Sportsgrounds

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Sports Grants Program is funded via Council's Sports Reserve fund which has sufficient funds available to support these grants at a total of \$400,000.00.

CONCLUSION

This report proposes that \$400,000.00 is allocated from Council's Sports Reserve fund to a total of 8 projects as identified in this report.

SPORTS GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

This year a total of 22 applications were received.

- 15 were complete applications and eligible for funding through the Sports Priority Funding Program.
- 4 were incomplete/ineligible for funding and 2 were blank forms.
- Of the valid submissions a total \$840,847 in funding was sought to deliver approximately \$1.1m worth of works.

Eligible Assessed Applications

Club Name	Bulli Football Club (Soccer)
Location	Balls Paddock, Woonona
Project	Installation of privacy screens to dressing rooms
Project value	\$35,860
Funding sought	\$17,930
Ranking & Score	1st with a score of 119
Comments	<i>Total funding towards one project. Straight forward upgrade</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated and progress for funding consideration.

Club Name	Figtree Football Club
Location	Harry Graham Park, Figtree
Project	Referee Changing Rooms Upgrade
Project value	\$30,000
Funding sought	\$15,000
Ranking & Score	2nd with a score of 87
Comments	<i>Total funding towards one project. Straight forward upgrade</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated and progress for funding consideration.

Club Name	Coledale Waves Junior Football Club
Location	St James Park, Coledale
Project	Fencing, Irrigation & Storage
Project value	\$100,000*
Funding sought	\$100,000
Ranking & Score	3rd with a score of 78
Comments	<i>Club submitted application based on total project value of \$205k however this included a shed that has already been completed and as such was not assessed for co-contribution of this component. Funding towards Fencing, Irrigation & Storage Fence: \$61,138 Rainwater tanks supply: \$35,904 Storage: \$3750</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated and progress for funding consideration.

Club Name	Illawarra Basketball Association
Location	Snakepit Basketball Stadium, Gwynneville
Project	Upgrade Mezzanine Handrails and Grandstand Repair
Project value	\$98,000
Funding sought	\$80,000
Ranking & Score	4th with a score of 74
Comments	<i>Funding towards two projects: Mezzanine Handrails: \$48,000 Grandstand Repairs: \$50,000</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated and progress for funding consideration.

Club Name	Wollongong Vikings Rugby Union Club
Location	JJ Kelly Park, Wollongong
Project	Car park upgrades
Project value	\$89,879
Funding sought	\$80,000
Ranking & Score	5th with a score of 71
Comments	<i>Total funding towards one project.</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated and progress for funding consideration.

Club Name	Illawarra Basketball Association
Location	Snakepit Basketball Stadium, Gwynneville
Project	Court Resurfacing
Project value	\$30,000
Funding sought	\$21,500
Ranking & Score	Joint 6th with a score of 68
Comments	<i>Total funding towards Court Resurfacing</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated and progress for funding consideration.

Club Name	Wollongong Vikings Rugby Union Club
Location	JJ Kelly Park, Wollongong
Project	Security Fencing
Project value	\$49,541
Funding sought	\$45,541
Ranking & Score	Joint 6th with a score of 68
Comments	<i>Total funding towards fencing and access gates.</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated and progress for funding consideration.

Club Name	Port Kembla JRLFC
Location	Darcy Wentworth Park, Warrawong
Project	Various Projects - Park Facilities Upgrade
Project value	\$100,000
Funding sought	\$100,000
Ranking & Score	8th with a score of 66
Comments	<i>Funding towards multiple projects: Minor refurbishment of amenities / change rooms - \$12,875 Storage facilities - \$5,200 Seating and portable grandstands - \$9,000 Painting - \$8,000 Sportsfield light globe / luminaire replacement and upgrade to LED - \$34,925 Aeration, top-dressing and turf improvements - \$30,000</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated and progress for <u>partial</u> funding consideration.

Club Name	Russell Vale Junior Football Club
Location	Cawley Park, Russell Vale
Project	Lighting Upgrades
Project value	\$81,790
Funding sought	\$81,790
Ranking & Score	9th with a score of 65
Comments	<i>Total funding towards lighting project. It is noted this is a local/community level Sportsfield and that the proposed works are to provide <u>200lux lighting</u> which would require community consultation.</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated - <u>not to proceed</u>

Club Name	Helensburgh Netball Club
Location	Helensburgh
Project	Construction of a dual netball/basketball court
Project value	\$150,000
Funding sought	\$100,000
Ranking & Score	10th with a score of 64
Comments	<i>It was noted that the quotes provided were over 12 months old (2019 & 2021), requires re quoting to account for cost escalation and in line with Council's standards/specifications. High risk of failure due to insufficient funding and project maturity.</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated - <u>not to proceed</u> <i>To be considered through future capital programming or grant funding.</i>

Club Name	Balgownie Junior Football Club
Location	Judy Masters Oval, Balgownie
Project	New portable goals
Project value	\$37,155
Funding sought	\$27,000
Ranking & Score	11th with a score of 63
Comments	<i>Total funding towards purchase of 7 replacement goal posts</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated - <u>not to proceed</u>

Club Name	Coniston Football Club Incorporated
Location	JJ Kelly Park
Project	Fence Replacement
Project value	\$46,450
Funding sought	\$21,450
Ranking & Score	12th with a score of 61
Comments	<i>Total funding towards fence replacement</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated - <u>not to proceed</u>

Club Name	Figtree Football Club
Location	Harry Graham Park
Project	Water Refill Station
Project value	\$9,021
Funding sought	\$9,021
Ranking & Score	13th with a score of 59
Comments	<i>Total funding towards the installation of a water station</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated - <u>not to proceed</u> <i>Note: To be considered through future capital programming or grant funding.</i>

Club Name	Wollongong Wolves Football Club
Location	Thomas Dalton Park
Project	Field Improvements
Project value	\$38,065
Funding sought	\$38,065
Ranking & Score	14th with a score of 43
Comments	<i>Total funding towards the completion of field improvement works at the field.</i>
Recommendation	Support the Ranking and points allocated - <u>not to proceed</u>

Recommended Funding	Funding requested.	Recommend	Reserve balance
			\$400,000.00
Bulli Football Club (Soccer)	\$17,930.00	\$17,930.00	\$382,070.00
Figtree Football Club	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$367,070.00
Coledale Waves Junior Football Club	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$267,070.00
Illawarra Basketball Association	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$187,070.00
Wollongong Vikings Rugby Union Club	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$107,070.00
Illawarra Basketball Association	\$21,500.00	\$21,500.00	\$85,570.00
Wollongong Vikings Rugby Union Club	\$45,541.00	\$45,541.00	\$40,029.00
Port Kembla JRLFC	\$100,000.00	\$40,029.00	\$0.00

Eligible Assessed Application – To be progressed through other capital works.

Club Name	The Disability Trust – Cyclability
Location	Criterion Track, Lindsay Mayne’s Park
Project	Storage for Cyclability Program
Project value	\$100,000
Funding sought	\$100,000
Ranking & Score	Not assessed as works will be provided as part of new amenities project.
Comments	<i>As part of the preliminary review by Council staff, it was identified that this project can be incorporated into the already programmed new amenities build at Lindsay Mayne’s Park/Criterion Track. Council will consult with organisation regarding plans/designs.</i>

Ineligible /Non-assessed Application

Club Name	Illawarra Sports Stadium
Location	Fred Finch Park, Berkeley
Project	Drainage and Spectator Seating
Project value/Funding	\$55,000 Project - \$50,000 Application
Comments	<i>Club did not provide supporting documentation after follow up. Recreation staff to log a request with Council’s civil team to review drainage issues on Hooka Creek Rd.</i>

Club Name	Keira Cricket Club
Location	Keira Village Park
Project	New Cricket Nets
Project value/Funding	\$35,300 Project - \$30,000 Application
Comments	<i>Club did not provide supporting documentation with submission and after following up.</i>

Club Name	Illawarra Basketball Stadium
Location	Snakepit Basketball Stadium
Project	Walking Basketball Program
Project value/Funding	\$11,360 Project - \$7,360 Application
Comments	<i>Not an infrastructure related project. Funding in relation to a programmed activity. Council’s recreation staff to liaise with the club in relation to other funding opportunities</i>

Club Name	Woonona Pony Club
Location	Alice St, Woonona
Project	Seating/ portable grandstands, fencing improvements, aeration, top-dressing and turf improvements, such as fertilising, spraying etc.
Project value/Funding	<i>\$17,602 Project - \$12,000 Application</i>
Comments	<i>Grant application submitted after close of applications. Land where proposed works will take place is not categorised as a sportsground as per grant eligibility criteria.</i>

Club Name	Port Kembla Sailing Club Cooperative Limited
Location	Berkeley Harbour
Project	Minor refurbishment of amenities/ change rooms focusing on gender equity and accessibility.
Project value/Funding	<i>\$104,000 Project - \$97,000 Application</i>
Comments	<i>Land where proposed works will take place is not categorised as a sportsground as per grant eligibility criteria.</i>