



9.5 **NEW NETBALL COURTS AT ELDER SMITH RESERVE - PORT MELBOURNE NETBALL CLUB**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Update Council on the status of the \$2M Victorian Government 2018 Election Commitment to build new netball facilities
- 1.2 To request Council Officers to work with the Port Melbourne Netball Club to complete the design and obtain an independent cost plan for future budget build processes.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Council received an Election Commitment in November 2018 for \$2M towards new multi-purpose competition netball courts for Port Melbourne Netball Club.
- 2.2 The Port Melbourne Netball Club has 450 members, 95% female participation, and is currently based at RF Julier Reserve, Port Melbourne
- 2.3 Council has recently upgraded the two netball courts at RF Julier Reserve, including new lighting.
- 2.4 There are future Council funds allocated to upgrade the old RF Julier Reserve pavilion and public toilets, which services the netball courts and the playground.
- 2.5 The project announcement to deliver new netball facilities utilising the State funding began with the intention to deliver the courts at JL Murphy Reserve. However, upon further investigation this site was not deemed viable due to a number of constraints including potential impacts to Fisherman's Bend water retention, the limited passive open space at the reserve and the construction of the new neighbouring state secondary school.
- 2.6 Engagement with Councillors and State Ministers confirmed agreement to consider alternative locations in the Port Melbourne area that could appropriately support new netball facilities to service the Port Melbourne Netball Club.
- 2.7 RF Julier Reserve was subsequently assessed as the potential site due to it being the existing home for the Port Melbourne Netball Club. However, further investigations outlined constraints of this site including lack of available space for more courts and a larger pavilion, and potential impacts to neighbourhood character and amenity.
- 2.8 An alternative site in Port Melbourne, Elder Smith Reserve, was subsequently considered and assessed as an option for accommodating the new netball facilities.
- 2.9 Conceptual testing and site investigations began to ensure the space could support four new netball courts with lighting, a new pavilion and car parking, the minimum requirement for the PMNC.
- 2.10 The assessment has confirmed that this site could support the infrastructure required, albeit with some adjustments to underground services of utility companies.



- 2.11 Engagement with PMNC and Ministers has confirmed agreement that Elder Smith Reserve should be the new home of the PMNC and RF Julier would be a smaller satellite venue for the club
- 2.12 Council could utilise the \$2M from the Election Commitment to provide the new netball courts with lighting at Elder Smith Reserve, plus utilise Council budget to fund the supporting infrastructure including a pavilion, car park and ancillary infrastructure (Eg. Paths, seats, bins, drinking fountains).
- 2.13 Funding from Council is proposed to the utilise the current forecast allocation at RF Julier Reserve Pavilion, when the new budget is built at the completion of the concept design for the upcoming budget build process.
- 2.14 RF Julier Reserve pavilion would subsequently receive a minor upgrade to the existing facility rather than the construction of a new pavilion building.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the Council Plan has a Council indicator to grow female and gender diverse sporting participation outcomes.
- 3.2 Acknowledges the State Government Election Commitment funding of \$2M for new netball facilities.
- 3.3 Acknowledges that Elder Smith Reserve is the preferred location for the construction of new netball facilities utilising the Victorian Government election commitment funding.
- 3.4 Requests Council Officers enter into a funding agreement with Sport and Recreation Victoria for \$2,000,000, excluding GST, reflecting the election commitment, to construct four new netball courts and install lighting at Elder Smith Reserve.
- 3.5 Requests Officers to work with the Port Melbourne Netball Club to complete a concept design of Elder Smith Reserve, including the new courts, new pavilion, car park and improved greening with an independent cost estimate.
- 3.6 Notes the future allowance for a netball pavilion, previously earmarked for RF Julier Reserve prior to the State funding for new courts at Elder Smith, will be updated through the budget process at the conclusion of the concept design process.
- 3.7 Notes that the Port Melbourne Netball Club would continue to utilise RF Julier Reserve as a home base until Elder Smith netball courts are constructed.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 In November 2018, State Government announced Election Commitment funding for \$2M for new netball facilities, which would support the Port Melbourne Netball Club (PMNC)
- 4.2 PMNC has 450 members, 95% female participation, and currently based at RF Julier Reserve. There has been recent upgrades to the existing two netball courts at RF Julier Reserve, including new lighting
- 4.3 The Election Commitment project to deliver new netball facilities utilising the State funding began with the intention to deliver the courts at JL Murphy Reserve. This site was deemed unsuitable, subsequently Councillors and State Minister agreed to consider alternative locations that could service PMNC



- 4.4 RF Julier Reserve was subsequently assessed as the potential site due to it being the existing home of PMNC. There has also been plans and allocated Council budget to upgrade the old RF Julier Reserve pavilion and public toilets, which services the netball courts and the play ground.
- 4.5 Further investigations showed constraints of this site including lack of available space for more courts and a larger pavilion, and potential impacts to neighbourhood character and amenity.
- 4.6 Elder Smith Reserve was identified as a possible new location and further feasibility assessment commenced.
- 4.7 The Elder Smith Reserve feasibility study examined the following items:
 - Geotechnical investigation of the site, including recommendations for groundworks to support courts and carparking
 - Soil Contamination investigation of the site
 - Initial Service location and Feature Level Survey
 - Site investigations, including Heritage and Indigenous assessments, Planning Overlays
 - Traffic assessment of the preliminary carpark capacity and its effect on the existing road infrastructure
 - Assessment of underground infrastructure, including engagement with Utility companies
 - Preliminary mapping of netball courts, supporting infrastructure (pavilion and car park) and paths of travel to the courts.
- 4.8 The site has received the support by PMNC and State Minister as the preferred location to direct the Election Commitment funding and be the new home base for PMNC

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The Project team has completed the following engagement with key stakeholders:
 - Port Melbourne Netball Club – Officers have engaged with the PMNC Committee, including providing the concept plans for netball facilities at Elder Smith Reserve. The Club has subsequently provided a Letter of Support to Council acknowledging Elder Smith as their new home base if these facilities are delivered.
 - Engagement has occurred with our Local Member Minister Foley about the preferred location of the new netball facility and confirming there is support from PMNC for Elder Smith Reserve.
 - Sports and Recreation Victoria – Officers have been in regular conversation with the funding partner and confirmed the preferred location of the courts. A funding agreement will be executed to reflect this arrangement
 - Utility companies that have their infrastructure underground at Elder Smith Reserve. Approval has been provided by these companies to facilitate the project progressing.



6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is underground infrastructure at Elder Smith that is owned by Utility companies. Officers have been engaging with the Utility companies to understand the issues and processes.
- 6.2 The project will require Council to work with the utility companies and divert or install conduits to their assets

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The Victorian Government, via Sport and Recreation Victoria, will fund \$2M for the construction of four new netball courts with lighting at Elder Smith.
- 7.2 Utilise Council budget to fund the supporting infrastructure at Elder Smith Reserve including a pavilion, car park and ancillary infrastructure (Eg. paths, seats, bins, drinking fountains etc).
- 7.3 A concept design will be completed to obtain an independent cost estimate and set the budget.
- 7.4 There is already a future allowance for a netball pavilion, previously earmarked for RF Julier Reserve prior to the State funding for new courts at Elder Smith, which will be updated after concept design through the budget process

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Notes existing green space at Elder Smith Reserve will be converted to a hard surface netball court, a pavilion and car parking
- 8.2 Notes the netball court lighting to be compliant to Australian Standards
- 8.3 Works required to the underground CitiPower high voltage cable. This service proving exercise will determine the critical path the project will take.
- 8.4 Enhanced greening will be incorporated into the concept design.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 Support from the Port Melbourne Netball Club who has large female participant numbers.
- 9.2 Further community engagement for Elder Smith Reserve and RF Julier Reserve projects will be undertaken
- 9.3 Parking and Traffic assessments have been completed for Elder Smith Reserve with the proposal of the netball facility at this facility

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Council Plan 2021-2031 – Inclusive Port Phillip
 - 10.1.1 What we will work towards: Port Phillip is a place where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can access services and facilities that enhance health and wellbeing through universal and targeted programs that address inequities.
 - 10.1.2 We will provide: high-quality sport and recreation infrastructure designed for shared community use that enables people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to participate, including major projects such as JL Murphy, Lagoon Reserve, North Port Oval, RF Julier, Port Melbourne Netball Courts, Wattie



Watson Oval and other sports field lighting and minor recreation infrastructure renewals, subject to available budget funding

10.1.3 We will partner with: local sporting clubs, schools and recreation providers to facilitate participation in recreation and leisure activities to enable everyone in our community to be more active

10.1.4 We will partner with: sport and recreation providers to improve access and gender equity within their programs

10.2 Sports and Recreation Strategy 2015-25

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 Update Port Melbourne Netball Club and Ministers office of the status and next steps

11.2 Strike a Funding Agreement with SRV for the \$2M election commitment.

11.3 Complete designs for the netball courts and infrastructure at Elder Smith Reserve.

11.4 Undertake Community Engagement for Elder Smith and RF Julier Reserve projects.

11.5 Update the budget to align with independent cost estimate.

11.6 Undertake works to deliver netball courts and infrastructure at Elder Smith Reserve.

11.7 Undertake works to deliver improved facilities at RF Julier Reserve Pavilion.

12. COMMUNICATION

12.1 Community Engagement for Elder Smith and RF Julier Reserve projects

12.2 Council will continue to work with the Port Melbourne Netball Club to complete the design and then construction of the new facilities at Elder Smith and RF Julier Reserve

13. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil