



## **OFFICER PRESENTATION**

# **ITEM CD25/51 - REQUEST FROM MELVILLE PREMIER CRICKET CLUB - TURF AND MOWING REIMBURSEMENT**

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Mr D Burton, Manager Healthy Melville



City of  
**Melville**

# CD25/51 – Request from Melville Cricket Club – Turf & Mowing Reimbursement

## Purpose & Background

To consider the request from the Melville Cricket Club for the City to provide a contribution to the maintenance of Turf Wickets and Outfield Mowing at Tompkins Park.

- MCC established in 1957 and has been operating out of Tompkins Park since 1967
- 190-200 players
- WACA Premier Grade Competition
- Playing facilities need a higher level of service
- Current annual estimated cost ~\$125,000 per annum for curation, materials and equipment
- City in August 2024 agreed to contribute to additional mowing for 26 weeks of the year
- ~\$15,000 per annum for 2023-24, 2024/25 and 2025-26 was agreed to due to the City's inability to cover this service economically



Figure 1: Tompkins Park Cricket Playing Fields and Key Infrastructure

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## Details

The MCC has cited three reasons for their request for funding:

- 1) Previous support
  - It's understood in 1988 the City managed the turf wickets and mowing, however transferred the responsibility to the Club with a financial contribution up until 2004-05.
- 2) Other Local Government Authorities Level of Support
  - 10 of 16 Premier Grade Cricket Clubs are responsible for Turf Wicket Maintenance (and four of those are responsible for additional mowing) whereby financial support ranges from ~\$60,000 per annum to ~\$112,000 per annum (~\$80,000 average)
  - Of the other Premier Grade Clubs, the Local Government Authority is responsible and investment ranges from ~\$150,000 to \$280,000 per annum
- 3) MCC Business Model is restrictive including the variable dividend payments from Tompkins Park Recreation and Community Association (TPRCA)
  - MCC has received varied dividends over the years from TPRCA and a reduction in percentage of bar profit
  - MCC have limited revenue streams and opportunities to diversify their income

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## Details

### Key Considerations

#### 1) Other sports who require specialist surfaces

- Applecross Cricket Club (ACC) in the WA Suburban Turf Cricket competition require (natural) Turf Wicket and play matches at Bert Jeffery Park
- ACC manages their own curation through a volunteer under an honorarium arrangement
- Other Local Government Authorities with Premier Grade Cricket Clubs provide between ~\$15,000 to ~\$45,000 per annum
- BMX, Tennis, Lawn Bowls and Golf require specialist surfaces / higher level of maintenance to participate
- BMX – publicly accessible track, City provides track maintenance support
- Tennis, Lawn Bowls and Golf don't receive support from the City, however can generate a revenue from their surfaces (where BMX and Cricket cannot).

#### 2) Current Levels of Service (LoS) for Sporting Fields

- General LoS includes broadacre mowing, irrigation, fertilizing, weed & insect spraying, ground renovations
- Provision of synthetic cricket pitches and nets
- All clubs using City sporting reserves pay a per person fee as per the City's Annual Fees & Charges to cover the above
- WACA Premier Cricket and WA Suburban Turf require (natural) Turf Wickets and WACA Premier Cricket requires a lower mower height than the City's general LoS

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## Options Analysis and Financial Impact

No.	Option	Financial Impact
1.	MCC & ACC fund their own maintenance	Nil
2.	Continue with Status Quo	~\$15,000 per annum + CPI
3.	Subsidise MCC for mowing and turf wicket maintenance but not ACC	~\$50,000 <sup>1</sup> per annum + CPI
4.	Subsidise MCC for mowing and turf wicket maintenance and ACC for turf wicket maintenance	~\$60,000 per annum + CPI (\$50,000 <sup>1</sup> for MCC and \$10,000 for ACC)
5.	City to manage all turf wicket maintenance and mowing at Tompkins Park and Bert Jeffery Park	Additional ~\$240,000 per annum Operating Cost ~\$106,000 Capital expenditure (equipment)

<sup>1</sup> Sliding Scale Contribution based on TPRCA returning a dividend

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## Officer Recommendation

That the Council:

1. Support the request from the Melville Cricket Club Inc. for a financial contribution to maintain turf wickets and outfield mowing for an amount of \$50,000 (ex GST) per annum, plus CPI each year commencing 2025-26 on the basis of a sliding scale should Tompkins Park Recreation and Community Association provide a dividend as detailed in this report;
2. Support the Applecross Cricket Club Inc with a financial contribution to maintain turf wickets for an amount of \$10,000 (ex GST) per annum, plus CPI each year commencing 2025-26;
3. Approves the CEO to develop and execute a Funding Agreement that outlines the terms and conditions of the financial contribution to both clubs which includes appropriate recognition of the City of Melville; and
4. Reallocates \$45,000 (ex GST) in the 2025-26 operating budget as part of the mid-year budget review process from CW310.80046.7500 to GL310.29310.7935



# Agenda Briefing Forum

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**NOVEMBER 2025**



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