

Presented to	Ordinary Meeting of the Council 13 December 2022
Related to Item	Motion with Notice – Covers for Bowling Greens – Leeming Bowling Club
Submitted by	A/Director Community Development, Todd Cahoon
Attachments	Nil.

Proposed Motion:

“That the Council directs the CEO to consider the inclusion in the John Connell Reserve Master Plan a cover for two bowling greens at Leeming Bowling Club and provide a report to the April 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council, including options for funding.”

The John Connell Reserve Master Plan project has officially commenced with initial engagement and interviews with key stakeholders currently taking place along with the recruitment of community members for the John Connell Collective (JCC) community reference group who will be intrinsic to the master planning process along with engagement with First Nations elders.

The John Connell Reserve Master Plan will be a dynamic long-term strategic document that provides overarching guidance and coordination for the future of the area.

The master plan will establish a framework and key principles that align with good practice and outcomes for the site, in line with the shared values identified by the project team and stakeholders.

The master plan will ultimately guide the manner in which the John Connell Reserve area will evolve and be used as a basis for more detailed planning and funding decisions.

Regarding bowling green covers for the Leeming Bowling Club, their inclusion **will be considered** in the master plan following direct engagement with the club about their future objectives and goals. Therefore, the first part of the proposed motion has already been enacted by the City and the consultant team will consider this in the master plan. Officers acknowledge the benefit bowling green covers would bring to the club and its members.

At this early stage of the master planning process, it is not recommended to investigate one individual clubs’ funding options but instead wait until the completion of the master plan process.

There is also a risk that other clubs or user groups on site may ask for their future development objectives/goals to be treated in a similar manner which would impact on the master planning process and staff resourcing.

Options for Funding

It is not a function of the master planning process to investigate funding options for specific developments on site.

Following completion and Council endorsement of the John Connell Reserve Master Plan, further detailed planning will take place on the short-term recommendations / priority projects on site where the bowling green covers could also be considered in more detail.

Additionally, the City is currently working through a Community Lease and Licence Policy with Elected Members and will soon be commencing a review of the City's facilities grant funding support to clubs in support of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund program. The aim is for these two projects to provide a holistic and equitable approach to supporting sports clubs and provide the City with guidance from the Council in funding and leasing arrangements. Therefore, it is recommended that this work be completed prior to a report to the Council on funding options for cover to bowling greens.

Should the Council endorse the proposed motion with notice to have the funding options investigated and a report back to Council by April 2023, there will be cost and resource implications to carry out the necessary additional work and to meet the deadline.