ORDINARY MEETING
23 OCTOBER 2019

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS - SPORT AND RECREATION EOI FOR ROUND 1 OF THE ACTIVE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Matt Smith | 52/7/1 | #6186567

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves the submission of an expression of interest for funding under Round 1 of the Active Community Infrastructure Grant offered by Sport and Recreation Queensland for the Griffith Park Strategic Plan, closing 31 October 2019.

2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to finalise any and all matters relating to the above application.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report seeks Council approval to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Round 1 of the Active Community Infrastructure Grant opened 1 October 2019 (closing 31 October). The EOI is the first stage of the application process, but at this stage the States’ timeframes for the second stage are unknown. As successful projects will not be notified until 2020, and it’s anticipated they will have 24 months to be completed.

This grant provides funding of up to $1M for recreation and sporting infrastructure.

Griffith Park is a priority project due to the area meeting key benchmarks against the guiding principles of the EOI as well as being a priority project for Council as funding is contained in the 2020/21/22 Capital Works (CAPEX) budget.

It is recommended that Council apply for the full $1M which will be used in conjunction with existing CAPEX budget for the delivery of lighting, parking and traffic infrastructure and pathways. Should Council be successful with the grant application this will offset Council’s contribution to the project (ie no net increase in overall budget).

BACKGROUND:

The Active Community Infrastructure program is an infrastructure-funding stream offered for the development of sport and recreation infrastructure around Queensland. The funding stream is a part of the broader Our Active8: Queensland Sport and Recreation Strategy 2019-2022.
Active8!
The State Sport and Recreation Strategy known as Active8! 2019–2022 outlines a series of practical, whole-of-government actions for the next three years to:
- enrich the Queensland way of life through physical activity
- provide more opportunities for Queenslanders, of all ages and all abilities, to be physically active.

The Department of Housing and Public Works (Sport and Recreation) will lead collaboration across all levels of government, industry and key stakeholders. The action plan is outcomes-focused. It supports the achievement of Our Future State: Advancing Queensland’s Priorities through:
- conditioning investment to ensure equity and quality are paramount
- establishing a Sport and Recreation Partnerships Office to consult with all levels of government, industry and community to deliver physical activity priorities
- targeted support for those who need it most, especially families with limited financial resources and young people in the child protection and youth justice systems
- a focus on lifelong participation by improving physical literacy in the early years and promoting healthy lifestyles, leading to healthy weight and reducing the risk of suicide and depression
- place-based approaches that leverage local connections and capabilities
- ensuring a leading edge in high performance sport, positioning the state as a destination for sports science and technology that inspire the community to be active.

The Active Infrastructure Program forms a part of the strategy and the State has committed $44.5 Million over three years for community sporting infrastructure. Expressions of interest for applications for the first round of the fund opened on 1 October 2019.

There will be an additional round of funding open in March 2020, before the program becomes an ongoing concern with EOI’s accepted throughout the year.

The State Government identifies SA2 statistical areas and subsequently scores them accordingly through the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas Disadvantage Index; resultant rankings create a hierarchy based on the areas relative decile within the state. Community and sporting infrastructure projects coming from within highly ranked identified areas are considered a high priority and more likely to attract funding.

The following table outlines the ranking of the SA2 regions within the Cairns local government area according to the State Government formula.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical Area (SA) 2</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Rank within State or Territory - Decile</th>
<th>Rank within State or Territory - Percentile</th>
<th>Usual resident population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manoora</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manunda</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westcourt - Bungalow</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woree</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Rock</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4730</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Cairns Suburbs ranked according to SEIFA Index
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical Area (SA) 2</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Rank within State or Territory - Decile</th>
<th>Rank within State or Territory - Percentile</th>
<th>Usual resident population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairns City</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babinda</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkeys Knob - Machans Beach</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordonvale - Trinity</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>8664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bentley Park</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>8018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanimbla - Mooroobool</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>9888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earlville - Bayview Heights</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>8265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Sheridan</td>
<td>1025</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>8271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitfield - Edge Hill</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>8192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Beach - Smithfield</td>
<td>1037</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>13936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater - Stratford</td>
<td>1046</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>3566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifton Beach - Kewarra Beach</td>
<td>1038</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>10830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redlynch</td>
<td>1065</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>12808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brinsmead</td>
<td>1073</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>5362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The State Government has drilled down further including additional demographic data such as indigenous population and age and identified the priority areas of Manoora, Woree and Manunda as areas of interest during this initial roll out of the funding program.

In response to this information and in conjunction with the Capital Works Program, Council officers have identified the Griffith Park Strategic Plan for an EOI in the opening round.

**Griffith Park Strategic Plan**

The EOI will cover the lighting, traffic flow and parking components in the first stage of the Griffith Park Strategic Plan which was endorsed by Council at the April 2017 Ordinary Meeting.

Included in this first stage, and already completed, is the addition of court 5 to Cairns Basketball Inc. and the transfer of tenure on the southern field to Council to allow for subsequent investment.

Council officers have worked extensively with the relevant stakeholders to create a lighting design that will provide maximum benefit for all users of the facility. It was through this process that Council was able to obtain both philosophical and financial support from Cricket Australia.

The project will allow Griffith Park Field 1 to be able to host night cricket games up to a semi-professional level as well as allow night AFL. Cricket Australia has endorsed the plan and the resulting upgrades will elevate Griffith Park to a Class 2 field according to Cricket Australia guidelines.
Secondary to the advantages for cricket, the new lights will provide the Cairns Saints with additional evening training times. Of larger benefit to the entire sport of AFL is that a fourth ground capable of night fixtures in the Cairns catchment provides capacity to conduct the entire junior competition in the evenings.

Due to Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements, the lighting configuration will meet cricket standards for both lux and positioning of poles, but will only meet the lux guidelines attributed to AFL. This will limit the grounds capacity to hold senior level representative football (regional and above), but this is not considered an impediment to the project as Cazaly’s remains the premier field for AFL in the region.

**Figure 1: Griffith Park Strategic Plan**

The traffic and parking solutions will provide benefit to all of the facility’s resident sporting groups. The resultant extra parking will lessen impact on the residents during events at the facility, with particular emphasis on improved parking outcomes for basketball as there was a reduction of parking when the Aumuller/Gatton intersection was widened.

Improved connectivity and traffic flow when combined with extra utilisation of the grounds will create a safe place for recreation, particularly walking and jogging around the inside perimeter of the grounds. This safe place is to be activated by programming delivered by the clubs, personal trainers and if available, a possible expansion of the Active Living Suburbs program.

Additional stages of the plan includes the relocation of cricket nets, club amenities and the expansion of Cairns Basketball. The basketball expansion is to be the responsibility of the association with Council supporting them via land availability.
COMMENT:

The project aligns with the available information regarding the EOI process. Council officers believe that this project represents the best opportunity to receive funding as well as meet an identified community need.

In endorsing the Griffith Park strategic plan Council considered that major state infrastructure funding would form an important part of delivery. Accordingly, Council and Cricket QLD ensured that the project was prioritised in crickets’ state infrastructure strategy to ensure best alignment with state funding guidelines and multi partner approach.

It is noted that other projects in consideration did not have identified funding within the necessary timeframes or did not meet enough of the guidelines to be successful.

The addition of a second grant round in March provides time for further scoping work on other potential projects in preparation for the EOI process.

By applying for the lights, traffic and parking at the same time, the project meets more of the key outcomes identified by the EOI guidelines and has a higher chance of attracting funding.

The pivot in direction from the State Government, in terms of philosophy around sport and recreation, now features a heavy emphasis on community use and informal recreation. A project focusing on just lights would not fulfil the community section of the grant and this is why it is necessary to bring forward the entire project to meet the guidelines of the EOI.

OPTIONS:

Option 1 (recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves the submission of an expression of interest for funding under Round 1 of the Active Community Infrastructure Grant offered by Sport and Recreation Queensland for the Griffith Park Strategic Plan, closing 31 October 2019.
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 to finalise any and all matters relating to the above application.

Option 2

That Council does not support the submission of an EOI for the Active Community Infrastructure Grant.
CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

As with all projects, there is a risk that actual costs may differ from budgeted costs. These risks are mitigated/managed in accordance with Council’s normal project management processes.

Extensive consultation has taken place with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that the respective groups understand the deliverables of the project.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

Conceptual estimates indicate that this stage of the development plan (field lighting, access and car parking) could cost up to $3M. The subsequent design and tender process will inform the actual capital budget requirements.

Cricket Queensland has committed to contribute $100K (refer to attachment 1). Council Officer's recommend that Council apply for $1M funding, with Council contributing the remaining funds. The EOI is the first stage of the application process, but at this stage the States' timeframes for the second stage are unknown. As successful projects will not be notified until 2020, and it's anticipated they will have 24 months to be completed.

The following table sets out the allowances within Council’s 10-year CAPEX budget for the project, which should cover the delivery of the project without the grant. The grant will offset Council’s contribution to the project (ie no net increase in overall budget).

Table 3: Allowances within current (19/20) 10-year CAPEX budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>CAPEX Budget Allowance $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffith Park Fields/Precinct</td>
<td>74,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QS Reports commissioned as a part of the grant application and project will confirm the final costings of the project.

CONSULTATION:

The following community consultation activities were conducted in establishing the development plan:
- Council internal stakeholder meeting
- external stakeholder meetings
- sporting club design workshop
- Your Say online survey.
ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter to Queensland Cricket regarding financial contribution to Griffith Park.

Brett Spencer
Manager Community Development

Linda Kirchner
General Manager Community, Sport and Cultural Services
Attachment 1: letter to Queensland Cricket regarding financial contribution to Griffith Park

26 March 2018

Paul Leven
State Infrastructure Manager
Queensland Cricket
1 Greg Chappell Street
ALBION QLD 4010

via email: paul.leven@cricket.com.au

Dear Paul,

Griffiths Park

Griffiths Park is a highly strategic sporting precinct centrally located within the Cairns region. The park has been developed in an ad-hoc fashion over more than 00 years, leading to a lack of coordination between the different areas within the site, congestion, limited car parking spaces as well as inconsistent infrastructure and design.

In collaboration with precinct stakeholders and the community on 26 April 2017, Council endorsed a strategic plan for the site with the objectives of preserving its rich history and supporting improved management, functionality, development and investment.

In addition to resolving the land tenures over the site, Council is currently developing an overall precinct master plan and preliminary design to gain a greater understanding of the constraints, opportunities and priorities at Griffiths Park. This design work will be very beneficial for future grant funding applications and will provide a more accurate order of costs across a staged development.

Council has provided significant funding in its capital works program to contribute to the development of Griffiths Park. This funding is intended to be utilised to deliver agreed priorities and leverage major State and Federal infrastructure grant opportunities in the future.

The Queensland Cricket Infrastructure Strategy supports the vision for a staged upgrade of Griffiths Park, recommending it be elevated to “Tier 3” status. This largely has determined the priorities for Stage 1 which include lighting, access and spectator amenities. It is understood that Queensland Cricket will be contributing $100,000 to assist with this first stage of the project.

Should you have any further enquiries or require additional information, please contact Council’s Club Development Officer, Matt Smith, on the above phone number.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Brett Spencer
Manager Community Development