

6.2.3 2020-2021 Community Capital Works & Major Equipment Program Recommendations

File Reference: Nil.
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Recommendation(s)

That Council:

- Allocate the amount of \$213,857.59 to 22 clubs within Cardinia Shire Council, being for 18 Community Capital Works Grant and 4 Major Equipment Grant applications; and
- That applicants be advised of their success or unsuccess accordingly.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

Applications for Community Capital Works Grants and Major Equipment Grants 2020/2021 opened

on 28th January 2020 and closed on 2nd March 2020. A total of 39 applications were received, 32 Community Capital works Grants and 7 Major Equipment Grants.

Council Officers from the following Business Units were involved in the assessment of the applications:

- Governance
- Community and Family Services
- Environment & Heritage
- Buildings and Facilities
- Active Communities
- Engineering
- Municipal Building Surveyors, and
- Community Strengthening

All applications were considered in line with the community Capital Works Grant and the Major Equipment Grants Policies, and are summarised as follows:

Application Status	CCWG	MEG	Total
Fully Supported (Meets requirements)	16	4	20
Partially Supported (Round Table discussion)	4	2	6
Not Supported (Requirements not met)	12	1	13
TOTAL	32	7	39

(Table 1. Summary of 2020/21 CCWGs and MEG applications)

Twelve (12) CCWGs applications did not meet the requirements of the Grants policy and were, therefore, not put forward for discussion at the Round Table Panel Assessment. The reason(s) are listed below:

Ward	No of applications	Total Funds	Reason(s)
Port	6	\$119,931.26	Insufficient funds identified in application as per the policy
Central	6	\$70,022.47	\$5700.00 DET policy requirements not met and \$64,322.47 insufficient funds identified in application as per the policy, in addition not supported by Council Officers

(Table 2. Summary of CCWG applications that did not meet the Grants policy)

Councillors from the Central, Ranges and Port Wards attended the round Table Assessment Panel and contributed to the decision making. Officers from the respected teams were also present to add to the discussions. Following the Round Table Assessment Panel discussion the Applications can be summarised as follows: -

Application Status	CCWG	MEG	Total
Fully Supported (Recommended)	18	4	22
Not Supported (Requirements not met, not recommended)	14	3	17
TOTAL	32	7	39

(Table 3. Summary of 2020/21 CCWGs & MEGs following Round Table Assessment Panel discussion)

Supported applications can be further summarised as follows:-

Ward	Number of Grants	Total Grant funds requested	Percentage of grant funds allocated 2020/21
Ranges	7	\$81,934.27	49%
Port	5	\$28,171.60	17%
Central	6	\$57,676.72	34%
TOTAL	18	\$167,782.59	100%

(Table 4. 2019/20 Community Capital Works Grant applications supported by Council by Ward)

Activity	Number of applications	Supported Applications
Sports Clubs and recreation/passive reserves	19	9
Community Neighbourhood Houses and Halls/ Senior Citizens	4	2
Kindergartens/ preschool/ community childcare	8	6
Heritage Building	1	1
TOTAL	32	18

Background

Council staff from a broad range of departments, as listed previously in this report, contributed to an assessment process prior to participating in the Round Table Assessment Panel discussion.

Projects that did not meet the grant application requirements and/or the adopted policy were not taken forward for discussion at the Round Table Panel for Assessment.

At the conclusion of the assessment process, 18 Community Capital Works Grants projects are recommended to receive grants at a total grant allocation of \$167,782.59.

Four (4) Major Equipment Grant applications are recommended to receive grants at a total of \$46,075.

Policy Implications

Projects funded under the Community Capital Works and Major Equipment Grants are subject to arrangements under the following Council and Government Policies:

- Community Capital Works Grants Policy
- Major Equipment Grants Guidelines
- Access and Inclusion Policy
- Recreation Reserve Facility Standards Policy
- Recreation Reserve Management and Usage Policy
- Buildings and Facilities Maintenance Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Children's Services Regulations
- Playground safe standards
- Department of Education and Training Early Years Policy Guidelines
- OHS Policy
- Risk Management Policy

Relevance to Council Plan

1.1 Our People - Access to a variety of services for all.

Climate Emergency Consideration

Nil.

Consultation/Communication

An extensive internal and external communication process has occurred in relation to the Community Capital Works Grants program including:

- Promotion of the grants to the community in accordance with a well-developed Community Grants Communication Plan - both during, and in the lead-up to the grant rounds opening, promotion of the grants was undertaken through social media and targeted emails to eligible groups sent by Child and Family Services, Community Strengthening and Active Communities as well as Council's website;
- Workshops designed to support prospective applicants to appropriately plan for and scope their projects were undertaken prior to the grants round opening;
- Provision of support with the application process by relevant Council staff (i.e. staff from Governance, Community and Family Services, Environment & Heritage, Buildings and Facilities, Active Communities, Engineering, Municipal Building Surveyors and Community Strengthening). This involved staff encouraging and supporting eligible groups to apply in their usual interaction with organisations and groups;
- Extensive internal dialogue between relevant Council staff as part of the assessment process; and
- Liaison with applicants to confirm application details during the assessment process.

Financial and Resource Implications

All projects will be funded under the Community Capital Works Program budget allocation.

Conclusion

This year we have seen a consistent number of applicants as per previous years, however overall the applications continue to be incomplete or of poor quality with a large number not meeting the key requirements or having the match funding available as required.

It has been acknowledged that the current Community Capital Works Program is challenging for our community organisations to fulfil some of the requirements, a review of this program is underway, with a report to be submitted to Councillors within the next two month proposing significant changes to the current program.

It is also recognised that an underspend to the 20/21 grants budget of approximately \$185k exists. Council is committed to support our community groups/clubs and organisation, with Officers currently working on a strategy on how best this underspend can be distributed to the broader community into the future.

The grants supported under the 20/21 program have undergone a rigorous assessment process involving Council staff and Councillors. The below grants meet the adopted policy; have submitted the required information as per the guidelines and meet Councils strategic direction and risk profile.

It is recommended that Council approve the attached applications for the Community Capital Works Grants and Major Equipment Grants 2020/2021.