

6.2.4 Growing Suburbs Fund Grant Application 2020-21

File Reference: Nil.
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Recommendation(s)

That Council endorses the Princes Highway (southside) shared pathway application for funding under the 2020–21 Growing Suburbs fund.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

The Victorian Government 2020–21 Growing Suburb Fund (GSF) requires a Council resolution endorsing the recommended application. Council is requested to endorse the Princes Highway (southside) shared pathway application.

Background

The Victorian Government 2020–21 Growing Suburb Fund (GSF) requires a Council resolution endorsing the recommended application. Council is requested to endorse the Princes Highway (southside) shared pathway application.

\$25 Million in funding is available in this round of funding in 2020–21 for Melbourne's ten interface councils and as of this round of funding, there are also six peri-urban councils included.

Announcements of successful funding will be made from 17 August 2020 with funding agreements signed by 31 August 2020. Applications for funding need to be for projects which are 'shovel ready'. Projects need to start construction within six months of the funding agreements being signed and need to be completed within 12 months of the start of construction.

Council officers have met with DELWP officers to discuss the 2020–21 applications with a number of potential projects discussed.

The following feedback has been provided regarding GSF projects:

- Previously funded projects will unlikely receive additional funding to expand the scope, unless all funded works have been completed
- Projects not listed in future capital works budget, therefore don't have a financial commitment that can be brought forward
- Projects that are similar in scope, one should be chosen to be put forward as both unlikely to be funded

Based on the feedback provided by DELWP officers and the new guidelines for the 2020–21 GSF funding round, the application from Council for this round of funding will be the Princes Highway (southside) shared pathway, from Fairweather Parage to Heatherbrae Recreation Reserve and down to the railway line within Heatherbrae Recreation Reserve.

No other eligible or viable projects for the 2020–21 GSF funding round have been identified.

Policy Implications

The proposed 2020–21 GSF application is consistent with the Officer and Cardinia Road Precinct Structure Plan and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy.

Relevance to Council Plan

The application for funding through the Growing Suburbs Fund relates to the following sections of the Council Plan:

Our People

- Support children, young people, families, older adults and people with disabilities by providing a range of accessible facilities and services
- Provide active and passive recreational facilities to meet the needs of our residents; and
- Increase opportunities for participation in a range of sport and leisure activities.

Our Environment

- Provide accessible facilities to meet identified community needs
- Prioritise multi-use pathways, where practicable, to create networks that connect destinations.

Climate Emergency Consideration

Nil.

Consultation/Communication

Consultation with officers from DELWP has taken place to discuss and agree on the recommended 2020–21 GSF application. Internal consultation with community and family services, active communities, and building and facilities has also taken place to determine, shovel ready projects to be considered.

Financial and Resource Implications

The GSF aims for 1 for 1 funding for successful projects. It is proposed to apply for the following amounts of funding under the 2020–21 GSF:

Council's contribution will come from the Officer Development Contribution Plan (DCP) funding and supplemented by Councils Pedestrian & Bicycle Strategy budget. The additional funding from GSF will allow Council to fast track the delivery of this shared pathway connection, ahead of when it could be delivered under the Officer DCP.

Conclusion

Council is requested to endorse the Princes Highway (southside) shared pathway application to be submitted for The Victorian Government 2020–21 Growing Suburb Fund (GSF).