

6.1.2 Covid 19 Relief for Recreation Facilities, Community and Businesses

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Recommendation(s)

That Council approves relief programs to support the Cardinia Shire business, community and sporting clubs including:

- Credit for winter sport fees 2022 to those who have paid and a waiver for those who have not paid thus far for all Council owned and managed sporting facilities.
- Commitment to align our rent relief to the Victorian Government *Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme*
- Actively promote vaccination throughout our municipality to increase vaccination rates in the community.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

The outbreak of Coronavirus disease has created a global health crisis that has significantly impacted Cardinia Shire's local community groups and businesses.

Anticipating these impacts, in 2019 Cardinia Shire Council reached out to residents who needed extra support during this challenging time and undertook a range of activities and measures to support local communities and groups.

Now within our sixth lockdown, COVID19 is continuing to have a devastating impact on Cardinia Shire businesses and community, with further support timely to assist our community.

Background

In 2019, measures were implemented included financial relief for sporting clubs and community groups, rent reductions for council commercial tenants, extensions to community grants, rate reductions, deferrals or waivers of council charges (e.g. animal registration, health registration for businesses) and activation of a revised Financial Hardship Policy to assist residents with the payment of rates.

In June 2021, SLT considered a further report and implemented some additional Covid support measures for the commercial tenants in Emerald Lake Park as follows:

1. Café rental relief - 100% for October 2020 and 50% for November 2020
2. Café utilities - 100% April to October 2020
3. Model Railway rental relief - 100% for October 2020 and 50% for November 2020
4. Paddle Boats rental relief - 100% for October 2020.

Additional rental relief was also provided for the CCC catering contract operator of a further 50% discount on rent for the months October to December 2020 and June 2021, an additional 4 months.

In recent months with the reintroduction of State Government covid-19 restrictions, Council has been working with groups within our Shire to provide further assistance.

To provide further support, it is proposed to:

- Credit for winter sport fees 2022 to those who have paid and a waiver for those who have not paid thus far for all Council owned and managed sporting facilities - Estimate financial impact to council is \$20,689.
- Commitment to align our rent relief to the Victorian Government *Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme*.

It is also noted that Council has provide several support packages to our residents that have been implemented through BAU or grants.

Policy Implications

No relevant policy implications related to this report

Relevance to Council Plan

1.1 We empower our communities to be healthy, connected and resilient

1.1.5 Work closely with the community to deliver programs that build community resilience, relating to a pandemic or other disasters.

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Climate Emergency Consideration

No relevant Climate Emergency Consideration as part of this report.

Consultation/Communication

Consultation has occurred between departments and with external stakeholders.

Financial and Resource Implications

Credit for winter sport fees 2022 will have an estimate financial impact to council is \$20,689.

At this stage it is unknown what financial impact will be with the commitment to rent relief as set out above, although it is expected to be less than \$20,000.

Conclusion

That Council approves relief programs to support the Cardinia Shire business and community sporting groups as outlined in this report.