

# SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES GRANT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE



## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE

Reference Number	723321
Responsible Business Unit	Community Services
Responsible Officer	General Manager Sustainable Communities
Legislation	Local Government Act 1999
Relevant Delegations	N/A
Related Policies Management Guidelines Frameworks	RCMB Sport Recreation and Open Space Strategy
Link to Strategic Plan	Great People and Lifestyle 2.4 Healthy Active Communities
	Objective 3.2 - Ensure leisure, recreation and sporting activities and facilities are available for the community and visitors
Date Adopted	Council 9 October 2017, item 173.1 – ELT reviewed 8/11/21
Review Date	November 2023
Previous Revisions	Version 1 - 2 February 2015

## PURPOSE

To provide a context for the distribution of the Sport and Recreation Facilities Grant program.

To improve the quality and availability of sporting facilities by developing a holistic approach for the planned and staged development of suitable sport and recreation facilities in Murray Bridge.

## OBJECTIVES

The following are the objectives of the grant:

- To provide a consistency in the management of the sport and recreation facilities grant.
- To enable the development of quality sport and recreation facilities across the Rural City of Murray Bridge.
- To assist sport and recreation clubs develop facilities to support the needs of the sport using a user pays model.

## SCOPE

This management guideline is to:

- Apply to all incorporated sport and recreation groups within the Rural City of Murray Bridge.
- Be used to guide the distribution of sport and recreation facilities grant program.

## DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply in this Operating Policy:

Active Recreation is where:

- The primary purpose and primary focus of the activity undertaken is to engage in human physical activity for its own sake;
- The physical activity gained is not an indirect benefit of the primary activity; and

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- Organisations delivering these activities do so for the primary purpose of human physical activity.

## Sport is where:

- A human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill which, by its nature and organisation, is competitive and is generally accepted as being sport.

## REFERENCES

- Local Government Act 1999
- Rural City of Murray Bridge *Sport Recreation Open Space Strategy*
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## PROCEDURES

### 1. Introduction

Murray Bridge is a highly sport and recreation oriented city which has an active involvement from residents and visitors in a number of diverse sporting clubs and recreational pursuits. Sport and recreation provides vitality to the city and contributes to the social fabric of Murray Bridge for many residents. Murray Bridge is the regional centre of the Murraylands and as such provides regional sport and recreational opportunities to the district. The economic importance of sport and recreation is also relevant through tourism and event based activities.

The Council recognises that there are significant benefits to being physically active and enjoying sport and recreation pursuits. These include increased quality of life, community involvement, environmental and economic benefits. Volunteers are the champions of many sport and recreation activities, and without them many clubs and recreation infrastructure would not survive.

This guideline consists of a series of principle statements that outline the Council's position around sport and recreation provision and provides the foundation for decision making. There is also a funding model table that guides potential financial support.

*Principle Statement 1: The Sport and Recreation Facilities Grant Guideline focuses specifically on sport and active recreation.*

### 2. Councils Role

Local government is a key provider of sport and recreation infrastructure. The Council recognises its part in providing leadership and in planning, maintaining, developing and providing community sport and recreation infrastructure.

*Principle Statement 2: The Rural City of Murray Bridge will provide leadership in the planning, maintenance, development and provision of community sport and recreation infrastructure. Council will work in partnership with the community, sport and recreation clubs and organisations, and state and federal government in providing sport and recreation infrastructure.*

### 3. Funding

The Council plays a key role in funding the planning, maintenance, development and provision of sport and recreation infrastructure. Council funds are limited and the Council is accountable for their responsible use.

*Principle Statement 3: Council will adopt a funding model which encourages user pays and shared funding responsibility between Council, user groups, State and Federal governments.*

### 4. Community Owned Facilities

The Council recognises the long history associated with many community owned facilities. These are community grown with little or no assistance from the Council. Many hours and resources have been provided by these community groups to foster sport and recreation facilities across the

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region. Future improvements of these community owned facilities will be supported by the Council in a similar manner to Council owned facilities.

*Principle Statement 4: Council will support community owned facilities in a similar manner to council owned facilities as long as they are open for general community benefit and are in line with prioritised needs.*

## **5. Priorities – Sport and Recreation Infrastructure**

Communities' needs are changing. Traditional weekend activities are being replaced by week night and indoor pastimes. Clubs are finding it difficult to find volunteers, attract officials, players and coaches.

As larger clubs improve and the demand on those facilities increases there will be a need for more facilities and lighting to allow night use of existing facilities.

Communities' needs are heading toward more sophisticated multiuse facilities and all weather playing surfaces, lighting, car parking and social facilities will play an increasing role.

*Principle Statement 7: Council will classify sport and recreation facilities on a hierarchy, prioritising hub development, multiuse facilities and district level facilities whilst continuing to support local facilities.*

*Principle Statement 8: Council will maintain a network of smaller local sport and recreational facilities where there is a demonstrated community need or benefit.*

*Principle Statement 9: Council will support the installation of quality lighting at key prioritised sites for utilisation at night.*

## **6. Support for new clubs**

As the population grows there may be the formation of new clubs. These clubs will have higher initial support needs to get established. The Council will consider these applications on a case by case basis.

*Principle Statement 10: Council will support new organisations on a case by case basis.*

## **7. Sustainable and Vibrant Clubs**

The Council is passionate about assisting clubs develop sustainable practices and strategies to ensure the future of the clubs, increase participant numbers, develop volunteers and access available grants.

Volunteers are central to the success of sport and recreation clubs across the district. They pour many hours and resources into their clubs and spend a lot of time fund raising for the betterment of their clubs and the district.

The benefits of strong and sustainable clubs for Councils include:

- Less reliance on Councils for financial and other forms of support;
- A healthier community through increased participation in sport and active recreation;
- Local economic benefits through financially sustainable clubs; and
- Stronger and more resilient communities through the social networks and ties created through clubs.

The STARCLUB club development program is a partnership between the South Australian Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, and regional councils, and community organisations. The Council

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supports the STARCLUB program as a financial contributor to the STARCLUB field officer along with the other Murraylands councils and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

*Principal Statement 11: Council will support clubs that have engaged in a recognised club development program. Council acknowledges the STARCLUB club development program as a reputable club development program and will support clubs that have engaged with this program.*

## **8. Shared Use Facilities**

State Government land and related sport and recreation infrastructure is a valuable community resource. With mounting community demands on local government to improve infrastructure provision and quality, broader public access to this resource is becoming increasingly necessary. In addition, the financial impact of ageing sport and recreation infrastructure on local government is significant.

Historically there has been heavy reliance on local government capital to build and maintain community sport and recreation infrastructure and this is no longer sustainable. There is need for a more holistic model to providing community sport and recreation infrastructure, which should be underpinned by a commitment to the shared use of resources and joint planning between local and state government. This includes a coordinated approach to planning for new facilities and upgrading existing infrastructure. Such a model would deliver minimal duplication, higher quality and maximum use of community sport and recreation infrastructure.

### The Benefits of Sharing Facilities

There are many mutual benefits to sharing sport and recreation facilities for community use. Sport and Recreation Clubs already provide an important focus for communities which could be strengthened by extending their use to a wider range of community members.

Community use of facilities provides benefits through:

- More effective use of valuable facilities;
- Increased profile of the sport and recreation club within the community;
- Improved community ownership of the club;
- Cost sharing to achieve higher quality facilities that benefit members as well as the community;
- Creating opportunities to generate revenue that can contribute to facility improvements and maintenance;
- Potential for assistance and guidance in the management of facilities (from Local Government);
- Potential increased grant funding opportunities in partnership with Local and State Government; and
- Potential increase in participation in sport and recreation by increasing membership of clubs (through promotions and activities provided by user groups).

*Principle Statement 12: Council is interested in establishing partnerships with local sport and recreation clubs and other education bodies regarding the shared-use of sport and recreation facilities.*

## **9. Funding Guidelines**

The Council's funding guidelines for available funds are tabled below.

Where the funding guidelines do not specify a specific amount or there is a range of support, the funding committee will recommend a level of support based on the policy, community needs and benefits and the project merit. Other factors and eligibility criteria that will be taken into account include:

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- a) This RCMB grant fund applies to the provision of quality Sport and Recreation **facilities**
- b) Priority will be given to projects that maximise external funding opportunities and meet the Council's strategic priorities;
- c) Priority will be given to projects that encourage multiple users;
- d) Priority will be given to projects that principally cater to the elderly or young people, rather than those that cater for adults particularly which are supported by licenced club or facility;
- e) Priority will be given to clubs that are registered in a recognised club development program;
- f) The Council may provide limited funding support in cases where services/facilities that would ordinarily be supported Council are being provided by another organisation (e.g. if a school makes its sports fields available for a sporting group that cannot otherwise be located at a Council or community facility, then Council may provide assistance to develop the sporting facilities even though they are located within a school or similar facility). Each funding request will be determined on a case by case basis;
- g) Repeat applications for the same capital works will not be accepted;
- h) Only one successful grant application per annum will normally be accepted;
- i) Successful grant applicants will be required to acquit their grant before applying for any subsequent grant;
- j) Clubs which have a Gaming Licence will not be eligible for Sport and Recreation Facilities grants.
- k) To be eligible clubs will be based in the Rural City of Murray Bridge and complete the Sport and Recreation Facilities Grant application form in its entirety. Applications will be assessed based on the detail provided on the application questions.
- l) Applications will be assessed by the Sport and Recreation Advisory Group and recommendations will be made to Council for endorsement.
- m) All applications are encouraged to contact the grant coordinator prior to submitting the grant application. No responsibility will be taken by administration for non-compliant applications;
- n) Projects that have already begun will not be supported. Council will not fund retrospectively;
- o) Applicants must be a not for profit, Council will not fund commercial enterprises;
- p) Wherever possible all services, products, equipment and goods should be sourced or purchased locally;
- q) Funds must be used for the described intended purpose; and
- r) Where there is a discrepancy between these guidelines and a lease or license agreement the lease or license agreement takes precedence.

## 10. Other Grants

In cases where an external grant has been received for a particular capital works project (e.g. State and/or Federal Government funding), the percentage distributions apply to the balance of the costs (as agreed between the parties) for the particular facility (e.g. oval upgrading or court reconstruction) as 50% Grant + 25% User + 25% Council = 100% Total Cost.

## 11. Funding Timetable

There is no fixed funding program associated with this grant fund. Applications may be received at any time and will be processed by the Sport and Recreation Advisory Group and recommendations presented to the Community Advisory Committee. They will resolve the recommendations and forward to Council, who will make the formal decision on the matter. Following this, funding will be made to successful applicants.

## 12. Funding Formulae

Tables 1 to 6 on the following pages set out the Council's funding formulae in respect of applications for grant funding under this management guideline.

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**TABLE 1 – Council Owned Facilities/Facilities on Council Reserves**

Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
Cricket	Cricket pitch surface replacement - on an oval or practice wicket	50	50
	New cricket practice wickets (including fencing), provided that at least one remains readily accessible to the general community	40	60
Public Toilets	Defined as toilets required by Council to be accessible to the general public		
	Capital costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>base structure to Council design</li> <li>club requested additions (such as integrated change rooms, canteen, storage, verandas)</li> </ul>	100 50	Nil 50
	Maintenance & cleaning costs (toilet facility)	100	Nil
Club Toilets	Defined as toilets that are usually locked and only available for use during events		
	Capital costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>base structure to Council design</li> <li>club requested additions (such as integrated change rooms, canteen, storage, verandas)</li> </ul>	50 50	50 50
	Maintenance costs (toilet facility)	Nil	100
	Cleaning costs	Nil	100
Storage Sheds		Nil	100
Social Clubrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlicensed facilities – all types</li> <li>Licensed facilities – all types</li> <li>Maintenance costs</li> </ul>	Nil to 25 Nil Nil	100 to 75 100 100
Floodlights	Limited to ovals, tennis courts, netball courts. Council to agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need for lighting based on policy</li> <li>final design (including illumination levels)</li> </ul>		
	Initial installation or upgrading	50	50
	Maintenance	50	50
	Electricity Costs	0	100
Facility Upgrading &/or Improvements	Other facility upgrading &/or improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where work is required by Council in accord with Council strategy (Council to determine standards)</li> <li>Where requested by Club &amp; work meets Council's service &amp; design standards</li> <li>Where requested work is beyond what are appropriate standards for multipurpose facilities or where provision is to suit requirements of</li> </ul>	100 50 Nil	Nil 50 100

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Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
	particular organisations (e.g. turf wicket)		
Specialised Single Use Facilities	Such as equestrian	Nil to 25	100 to 75
Scout/Guide Halls on Council land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New buildings, extensions etc.</li> <li>Maintenance</li> </ul>	Nil to 30 Nil	100 to 70 100
New Courts	Construction costs (excluding lighting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>multi use</li> <li>single use</li> </ul>	50 25	50 75
Resurfacing/fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>multi use</li> <li>single use</li> </ul>	50 25	50 75



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**TABLE 2 – Community Owned Facilities**

Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
Cricket	Cricket pitch surface replacement - on an oval or practice wicket	50	50
	New cricket practice wickets (including fencing), provided that at least one remains readily accessible to the general community	50	50
Public Toilets	Toilets that are required by Council to be accessible to the general public		
	Capital costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>base structure to Council design</li> <li>club requested additions (such as integrated change rooms, canteen, storage, verandas)</li> </ul>	100 50	Nil 50
	Maintenance & cleaning costs (toilet facility)	Nil	100
Club Toilets	Defined as toilets that are usually locked and only available for use during events	Nil	100
	Capital costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>base structure to Council design</li> <li>club requested additions (such as integrated change rooms, canteen, storage, verandas)</li> </ul>	50 50	50 50
	Maintenance costs (toilet facility)		
	Cleaning costs		
Storage Sheds		Nil	100
Social Clubrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlicensed facilities – all types</li> <li>Licensed facilities – all types</li> <li>Maintenance costs</li> </ul>	Nil to 25 Nil Nil	100 to 75 100 100
Floodlights	Provided used for training and/or night competition in accord with Council's sport & recreation policy. Limited to ovals, tennis courts, netball courts. Council to agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>need for lighting based on policy</li> <li>final design (including illumination levels)</li> </ul>		
	Initial installation or upgrading	50	50
	Maintenance	50	50
	Electricity Costs	0	100
Access Roads	Provided endorsed by Council and to Council standards	25	75
Car Parking & Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial construction (to agreed standards)</li> <li>Major upgrading including sealing (to agreed standards)</li> <li>Car park &amp; drainage maintenance</li> </ul>	25 25 Nil	75 75 100
Facility Upgrading &/or Improvements	Where facility upgrading &/or improvements are determined by Council to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an appropriate standard for the facility and meets genuine community need</li> </ul>	50	50

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Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>beyond what are appropriate standards for multi-purpose facilities or where provision is to suit requirements of particular organisations (e.g. turf wicket)</li> </ul>	Nil	100
Specialised Single Use Facilities	Such as equestrian	Nil to 25	100 to 75
New Courts	Construction costs (excluding lighting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>multi use</li> <li>single use</li> </ul>	50 25	50 75
Resurfacing/fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>multi use</li> <li>single use</li> </ul>	50 25	50 75