

**Item No:** C1018(1) Item 2

**Subject:** SPORTING GROUNDS ALLOCATION POLICY

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### **SUMMARY**

This report is seeking Council's endorsement of the draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days, with the results presented to Council along with a final Policy for adoption.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **THAT:**

1. The draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days;
2. The 46 Clubs currently utilising sporting grounds in the Inner West be advised by email that the draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy is on public exhibition; and
3. The results of the public exhibition and community engagement process are presented to Council along with a final Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy for adoption.

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### **BACKGROUND**

At the Extraordinary Council meeting on the 21 August 2018 a Discussion Paper on the Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy was considered. Council resolved:

#### ***THAT:***

1. *The principles, transparent, equitable and consistent, for the Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy, as outlined in the Discussion Paper be adopted by Council;*
2. *Council draft a Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy taking into consideration the feedback received from the clubs on the Discussion Paper;*
3. *The draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy specify that staff will continue to make the allocation determinations;*
4. *The draft Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy be reported to Council prior to being placed on public exhibition;*
5. *The Sporting Grounds Allocation policy be amended to include the following:*
  - a) *A requirement for all sporting clubs being allocated Council grounds to have a documented plan to increase participation of girls and women, culturally and linguistically diverse and socially disadvantaged people;*

- b) Promotion of support for women's sporting clubs;*
  - c) The establishment of summer and winter season allocations review committees, made up of council officers and members of all relevant sporting associations, which can review and help to resolve allocation decisions which clubs object to; and*
  - d) Establish a process to be reported to Council for local sporting clubs to be supported by council staff to be the lead applicants in funding submissions to state and federal governments and peak sporting associations for infrastructure upgrades to council grounds.*
- 6. There is a short fall in recreation and open space in the Inner West and limited available land. This means that recreation and sporting facilities are part of our local neighbourhoods. Therefore consideration needs to also be given to the impact of sporting fixtures and other uses on neighbouring residents; and**
- 7. Local Clubs and Commercial Operators need to incorporate the use of public and active transport in their organisation of activities to minimise traffic and parking impacts.**

A copy of the earlier Council report is attached.

#### **Draft Policy**

The draft Sporting Ground Allocation Policy is attached. The purpose of this Policy is to contribute to a Healthier Inner West by encouraging active sports participation. The Policy will also establish eligibility and the selection criteria for the seasonal allocation of sporting grounds. The Policy has been developed based on the principles to be transparent, equitable and consistent.

The objectives of this Policy are as follows:

- To provide a transparent, equitable and consistent methodology for the seasonal allocation of sporting grounds and facilities to sports clubs, sports associations, schools and tertiary education providers within the Inner West Council area.
- To provide a diverse range of opportunities for participation in sport, recreation and physical activity for Inner West residents.
- To provide access to sporting grounds and facilities which contribute to a Healthy Inner West and promote participation in active sport, physical activity and social connectedness.
- To ensure the opportunity for participation of a broad mix of groups, including participation of girls; women; people from lower socio economic backgrounds; people with disabilities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- To ensure that Council managed sporting grounds and facilities are occupied by inclusive, viable and sustainable sporting clubs and sporting associations.
- To ensure that access to sporting grounds by all users has regard to the sustainability and maintenance requirements associated with good sporting ground management.

The draft Policy proposes a hierarchy of use when allocating the sporting grounds.

Where only one applicant is requesting access to a sporting ground, in general this will be made available to them. Council staff will attempt to resolve conflicting requests through mutual agreement between users.

Where Council cannot resolve the conflicting request through mutual agreement, when required, competing requests will be assessed against weighted criteria with the allocation given to the applicant with the highest weighted score. The criteria includes:

- Historical use of facilities
- Community based
- Membership numbers
- Tenancy record
- Access and equity
- Support for access and equity
- Leadership diversity
- Diversity of sports
- Traditional seasonal allocations
- History of Financial responsibility
- Club development

#### **Allocation Process and Determination**

The winter season Clubs have requested that the allocations process occur earlier. Currently the winter season allocation application forms are distributed in January. It is proposed that this will be brought forward to November. Further, it may be possible to bring this forward in the future pending the introduction of an online booking system which is currently being investigated.

As per the Council resolution on the 21 August 2018, the allocation determination will be made by staff. A review committee will be established to resolve club objections to decisions.

#### **Tenure and Capital Contributions**

Council aims to recognise and encourage recreation organisations who contribute to the development and/ or upgrade of a Council facility. The draft Policy proposes that in recognition of a capital contribution Council may at its absolute discretion provide increased tenure (up to a maximum of five years). Criteria for assessing this, including a proposed capital contribution calculation is outlined in the attached draft Policy.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Staff resources have been allocated to the administration of this Policy as part of their annual action plan.

#### **OTHER STAFF COMMENTS**

The draft Policy was considered by the Leadership Team. Their comments have been incorporated.

#### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy Discussion Paper was emailed to all sporting clubs currently utilising sporting grounds in the Inner West on the 14 May 2018. The clubs were requested to provide feedback on the Discussion Paper by the 25 June 2018.

A workshop was held with the clubs on the 18 June 2018. 19 sporting club representatives attended the workshop. In addition, six written submissions were received from the clubs. The results from this engagement were presented to Council on the 21 August 2018. This report is attached.

The following diagram illustrates the process to develop the Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy.



It is recommended that the draft Policy be placed on public exhibition. An email will be sent to the 46 Clubs who currently utilise sporting grounds in the Inner West to alert them to the draft Policy being on exhibition.

### CONCLUSION

The purpose of this Policy is to contribute to a Healthier Inner West by encouraging active sports participation. The Policy will also establish eligibility and the selection criteria for the seasonal allocation of sporting grounds.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. [Download](#) Council Report 21 August 2018
2. [Download](#) DRAFT Sporting Grounds Allocation Policy