



Mildura Rural City Council

Sport and Recreation Facilities Funding and Capital Contributions Policy

Policy – CP030

Prepared	Reviewed	Approved	Date	Council Minute No.
Recreation Development Coordinator	Manager Leisure & Cultural Services	Council	April 2023	2023/0050
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1. The purpose of this policy is

To establish and provide principles for prioritising external grant applications and internal capital work applications for sport and recreation projects across the municipality.

2. Policy Statement

The policy will guide the Recreation Planning and Development unit when making decisions regarding capital works programs and external funding submissions where Council is the applicant.

Recreation Planning and Development Unit will analyse each project objectively in alignment with desired principles. These principles will align with Investment Principles as defined in the Recreation Strategy 2021-2031.

3. Principles

The Mildura Rural City Council (Council) is aware of the importance to the community of recreation and sport facilities in enabling residents to enhance and improve their quality of life.

While there are many improvements to recreation and sporting infrastructure required across the municipality, the number of applications for external funding each year is limited. Each of these funding programs is a competitive process with no guarantee of funding.

To ensure each application has the best chance of success only those projects that are considered ready to commence, will be considered for an application.

This is demonstrated by the following:

1. Land Manager / owners Consent.
2. Detailed Plans suitable for tender documents developed.

3. Endorsement of plans by relevant peak body and other stakeholders.
4. Budget developed by Quantity Surveyor or relevant and written independent Contractor Quotes.
5. Written State Sporting Association (SSA) or Peak Body support.
6. Confirmed funding contributions from partner clubs/ organisations evidenced by bank statements.

Projects will then be assessed against the Recreation Investment Principles to identify priority projects.

Recreation Investment Principles and Criteria for Prioritising Capital Works

PRINCIPLES	CRITERIA FOR PRIORITISING CAPITAL WORKS	Weighting
1. Increasing participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will attract additional proportion of participants - Addresses an established gap in demand - Is in a growth area or growth phase - Contributes to a better pathway for the sport 	25%
2. Inclusion in the Community/Accessibility and Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports a social connection need, initiative, or non-player involvement in addition to physical activity (e.g. other community use) - SEIFA Index and remoteness – as an indication of additional need (i.e. lack of access to other facilities). - Will target or encourage a wider range of participants e.g. age group, ability or cultural group 	20%
3. Shared Use/Multi-Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development increases community use through the provision or provides for multiple users 	10%
4. Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is consistent with the hierarchy of the facility (if applicable) - Nature of development is consistent with the state bodies strategic plan, and hierarchy of the facility 	5%
5. Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project required due to condition of existing facilities, with suitable alternatives not available and is fundamental to the operation of the facility 	5%
6. Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports environmentally friendly outcomes (e.g. energy consumption reduction) - Supports climate change mitigation and adaptation - Meets water and energy use guidelines for infrastructure - Enhances long term sustainability of a club or asset 	10%
7. Strategic Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alignment with Recreation Strategy - Alignment with other Mildura Rural City Council strategic documents and plans - Alignment with adopted Master Plans - Project endorsement by Regional Associations, State/National Sporting Associations, through strategic planning 	15%
8. Financially Responsible/Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial viability and value for money from investment - Financial and In-kind contributions from community requirements being met 	5%
9. Economic Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to attract economic benefit to the region (e.g. Sporting Tourism) - Employment creation and growth 	5%

4. Financial Contribution

Where the applicant (Council) is required to make a financial contribution to the project and the project design meets the SSA or Peak Body Facility guidelines the following funding contribution breakdown will apply:

- Total Project Cost less the external funding contribution
- The remaining balance of the project will be funded on a 2:1 funding ratio (Council 2 : Community Group 1)

Where the Community Group requires a section of the facility to be larger than the SSA or Peak Body facility guidelines MRCC will not contribute ratepayer funds to that additional facility cost.

This additional cost will be determined by a Quantity Surveyor costing or relevant written itemised Contractor Quotes.

Depending on the project budget and scope of works, there may be instances where external funding is not suitable. In this instance alternative funding strategies will be developed at the discretion of the Recreation Development Coordinator subject to other relevant Council Policies and processes (e.g. Capital Works process).

5. Unspent Recreation Grant Reserve Fund

There may be instances whereby certain projects will require design work to be managed by Mildura Rural City Council. These projects will be considered to be of high complexity and of a high value, which will expose Council to significant risk if not designed and managed appropriately.

In these instances, a recommendation will be made to the Executive Leadership Team to access funds from the Unspent Recreation Grant Reserve Fund to complete relevant design work.

The projects must benefit local recreation groups and contribute towards the outcomes as defined within the Recreation Grants Policy and Guidelines. In these instances the recreation groups who will benefit from the project, must financially contribute to the design costs in accordance with the funding ratios set out within this policy.

6. Timelines

Any potential projects must demonstrate the project is considered ready to commence to Recreation Planning and Development Staff prior to 15 October each year.

Prior to 15 November all potential projects will be assessed against the above Recreation Investment Principles to determine priority projects to be submitted for funding.

Groups will be notified of the outcome of the assessment process by 31 November.

Recreation Planning and Development Staff will then prepare a submission to confirm the required financial contribution in accordance with relevant Council Policy and processes.

Funding applications will be prepared and submitted according to the funding body's timelines. These dates can vary from year to year and may impact on the timelines noted above.

Recreation Planning and Development will communicate regularly with project contacts leading up to the preparation of funding applications.

If the project is unsuccessful for external funding, there is no onus on Council to reapply. The project will be reviewed against other projects at the appropriate time as defined within the policy.

7. Who is responsible for implementing this policy?

Recreation Development Coordinator

8. Legislation and other references

8.1 Legislation

Disclosure of conflict of interest – section 130 of *Local Government Act 2020*

8.2 Documents

This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following documents:

8.3 Risk Assessment Reference

Risk Category	✓	Risk Category	✓
Asset Management	✓	Financial Sustainability	✓
Committees	✓	Human Resource Management	
Compliance – Legal & Regulatory	✓	Leadership & Organisational Culture	
Contract Management		Occupational Health & Safety	
Contract Tendering & Procurement		Organisational Risk Management	
Corporate Governance		Project Management	
Environmental Sustainability		Public Image and Reputation	✓