

30 June 2021



The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP  
Treasurer and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party  
Member for Kooyong

Dear Mr Frydenberg

### **Funding commitment - Boroondara Netball Association**

Council is appreciative of the Australian Government's investment into sporting infrastructure in the Boroondara municipality. This investment has encouraged many residents to start, and continue participating in a range of sports.

In response to the Federal Government's announcement of a \$1.2m grant to the Boroondara Netball Association (BNA) to support *'four additional courts and site upgrades which includes compliant lighting'*, Council has undertaken a thorough community engagement process, a detailed analysis of the impact an additional four courts on the Macleay Park would have on other sports and park users, the existing open space in the park and traffic and parking issues. Council has also undertaken an analysis of site upgrades which could deliver the same or greater hours of court time which the BNA are seeking without the need to construct four additional courts. This analysis has highlighted two opportunities which would deliver increased court time, being the lighting of the 5 unlit existing courts and an upgrade to the 3 currently lit courts. The second opportunity which Council has identified is for BNA to operate on a Sunday morning as these hours are already in their current lease. Site amenity upgrades in Macleay Park have been identified to support the impact of these additional hours.

The community engagement process was undertaken to ensure all stakeholders views were considered before a decision could be made on locating these four netball courts in the vicinity of the existing eight courts at Macleay Park, which is the strong desire of the BNA. There were over 800 responses to the community consultation. Council also sought feedback on the two opportunities to increase BNA court time as outlined above, which met with majority support.

A Council report was developed (accompanied with this letter) outlining the varying views from stakeholders and key factors to assist Council in determining an appropriate course of action with regard to BNA's request for the additional courts to be located at Macleay Park. Following the Services Delegated Committee Meeting on Monday 28 June 2021, Council has resolved to:

1. Not approve the Boroondara Netball Association's proposal to construct four additional courts in the Myrtle Macleay Park.
2. Request the BNA seek a variation from the Australian Government to reallocate grant funding to:
  - a. light the 5 existing unlit courts (200 LUX); and
  - b. upgrade the lighting (to 200 LUX) on the other 3 courts; and
  - c. deliver site amenity improvements in Macleay Park to support the additional netball participation resulting from lighting and other identified opportunities; and
  - d. Engage an external consultant to analyse netball demand to inform the development of the sport and recreation strategy to be undertaken in 2022/23.
3. Progress points 2 a-d pending approval from the Australian Government to reallocate grant funding.

4. Write to the Federal Member for Kooyong, Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, advising of the Services Delegated Committee decision and provide a copy of this report and resolution.
5. Recommend the BNA consider how they can program additional Sunday morning use, within their currently approved licenced hours.
6. Work with all MMP Stakeholders (including tenant sporting clubs and local residents) to develop a MMP Masterplan, pending the approval of funding in Council's 2022-23 budget.
7. Work with the BNA and Netball Victoria to consider opportunities to utilise additional satellite locations within Boroondara to support the long term strategic growth of netball.
8. Request officers provide a report to Council regarding traffic and parking improvement opportunities for the Myrtle and Macleay Park precinct.

The Council report has been attached to this letter for your information.

As a result of this Council resolution, it is respectfully requested the Australian Government supports a request from the BNA, should they wish to vary the terms of their grant to allow the following:

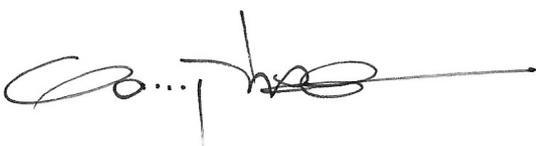
- light the 5 existing unlit courts (200 lux); and
- upgrade the lighting (to 200 lux) on the other 3 courts; and
- deliver site amenity improvements in Macleay Park to support the additional netball participation resulting from lighting and other identified opportunities; and
- Engage an external consultant to analyse netball demand to inform the development of the sport and recreation strategy to be undertaken in 2022/23.

Given the strong interest in the community consultation process and the balanced outcome Council has reached, I think this represents an effective and appropriate use of Federal Government funding to increase participation in netball.

Should your staff require further information, they can contact Andrew McHugh, Manager Health and Wellbeing Services on 9278 4610 or [andrew.mchugh@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrew.mchugh@boroondara.vic.gov.au).

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely



Garry Thompson  
**Mayor, Solway Ward**

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