CDGP1175 Community Gym Project Update

Reporting: **Growth & Strategy Manager, Helen Thomas**

SUMMARY:
Council has been provided with a quantity surveyor (QS) assessment of likely costs for the Community Gym project which totals more than the $1,000,000 of the grant funding. Approval is now sought to allocate the LRCI Round 4 funds to this project to enable Council to continue to deliver this important community facility.

DISCUSSION:
Since the last update provided to Council, the Councillor Parks & Recreation Working Group and staff have reviewed and confirmed the design brief for the community gym. This has informed the architect's development of some options on how the various functions within the gym will interact each other. These concept options were subsequently provided to a quantity surveyor to calculate likely construction costs.

Despite a modest project scope and tight design brief, the QS estimates received is significantly above the Community Development Grant Program funding of $1,000,000. The total estimated for each of the four options is very similar, ranging from $1,590,000 to $1,630,000.

It is possible that some savings can be achieved on these estimated costs. However, these will not be sufficient to bring the total cost within the CDGP funding of $1M.

As such, and with the support of the Councillor Parks & Recreation Working Group, it is suggested that Council commit to allocate the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure – Round 4 funds, totalling $414,531 to the Community Gym project, bringing the total potential grant funding for the project to $1,414,531.

At the time of writing, Council is yet to receive the guidelines for LRCI Rd 4. However, in discussion with Council's Manager – Finance, it was suggested that the community gym project is likely to be eligible for that program, based on the guidelines provided for LRCI rounds 1 – 3.

Allocating the LRCI funds to an existing Council project, rather than identifying additional projects to undertake, has the dual benefit of simplifying the reporting process for LRCI and reducing the need to find more project management and delivery resources within Council's staff.

Should Council determine not to allocate the LRCI Rd 4 funding to the community gym project, a discussion would then need to take place deciding whether or not to proceed with the project. Reducing the scope of the gym facility to fit within the $1,000,000 of the CDGP funding would not allow construction of a facility that meets the required outputs of this grant deed and so is not considered a viable option. If the project is to continue without the

allocation of the LRCI Rd 4 funding, the additional funds would need to be secured from within Council's own resources or through another grant or co-investment option.

Should Council determine to allocate the required funding and continue with the project, the next steps would be to develop a concept design that can be shared with community and key stakeholders for feedback before proceeding to Development Application, detailed design and tendering for suitable construction contractor/s to complete the works.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Allocating LRCI Rd 4 funding to this project will mean that funding is not available for other roads or community infrastructure investment.

Proceeding with the project could see Council needing to find up to an additional $215,469 of funding to complete delivery of the gym and improvements to the tennis and netball courts.

CONCLUSION:
The order of cost assessment provided to Council provides a reasonable assessment of the real cost of the Currie community gym project to a standard that meets the needs of our community and the requirements of the CDGP grant deed. Allocating the LRCI Rd 4 funding to this project will allow the project to be delivered in full with Council potentially needing to allocate up to $215,469 from its own resources, although it is anticipated that savings can be made which would reduce this amount.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the allocation of Local Roads and Community Infrastructure – Round 4 funding to this project and proceed as outlined above.

Moved Cr I Allan
Cr V Philbey

That Council approve the allocation of Local Roads and Community Infrastructure – Round 4 funding to this project and proceed as outlined above.

CARRIED

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For: Mayor M Blackie, Deputy Mayor Vernon Philbey, Cr Ian Allan, Cr David Bowden, Cr Anna Hely

Against: Cr G Green