

Purpose

To guide Council decisions in relation to proposals regarding the joint development of Victorian State School facilities.

Scope

This policy applies to all submissions from Victorian State Schools for partnership funding or support for the joint development of school/community facilities under the Victorian State Government's Education Department Community Facility Fund (CFF).

Background

In March 2004 the Victorian State Government announced a new funding program, the Community Facility Fund and invited Victorian State Schools to submit proposals for the joint development of school facilities.

The CFF provides opportunities for Victorian State Schools to form strategic partnerships with their local Council to build or modernise facilities within schools that can be accessed and used by the broader community.

Projects can include:

- (a) sporting facilities;
- (b) community halls;
- (c) playgrounds;
- (d) spaces to support school age holiday, before and after-school programs;
- (e) information technology centres;
- (f) libraries;
- (g) performing arts complexes; and
- (h) co-located child-care centers.

Council Policy

Council will use the following criteria to assist it in considering proposals for the joint development of local State School facilities.

The criteria recognises that Council will consider all applications from schools on a case by case basis.

Criteria for Community Facility Fund

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Council Funding Required

- (a) The proposal must be consistent with Council's strategic directions.
- (b) The school must provide a comprehensive business case including the following information:
 - (i) details of the community consultation that has been undertaken;
 - (ii) evidence of local community need;
 - (iii) a plan showing how the new facility will meet local community needs;
 - (iv) details of the community benefit that will be derived from the new/modernised facility;
 - (v) total costs of the facility; and
 - (vi) a plan showing how the operating and maintenance costs are to be met.
- (c) All designs must address issues identified within Yarra's Environmental Sustainable Design Notes.
- (d) The proposed facility must be available for use by the community for both daytime and evening access including weekends and school holidays.

Council will consider making an appropriate contribution towards operational and or ongoing maintenance costs only where the facility is used for either Council programs or Council auspiced programs.

Levels of funding

That following maximum grant sizes will apply to proposals under this policy:

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| Up to \$10,000 | <p>Projects that improve public access and opportunities for informal recreational pursuits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction of new informal ball sport areas; • upgrading of outdoor courts (for informal community use); • construction of children's playgrounds; |
| \$10,001 to \$25,000 | <p>Minor projects that expand the number, range and quality of recreation and community facilities that are available to the Yarra Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction of new outdoor netball/tennis courts with lights; • modernisation and upgrading of school premises used for Council After-School Programs; |

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\$50,000 or greater **Mayor projects that expand the number and range of recreation and quality of facilities that are available to the Yarra Community**

- construction of new or modernisation of Neighbourhood Houses or Community Centres;
- development of family and children service hobs (co-locating a range of children and families services on one site);

Council Funding Not Required

- (a) The proposal must be consistent with Council's strategic directions.
- (b) The facility must provide demonstrated community benefits that extend beyond school use.
- (c) The school must provide a business case detailing costs of the facility and ongoing maintenance and operation costs demonstrating its capacity to meet all funding requirements.
- (d) The school must be prepared to sign a funding agreement with Council that indicates that there will be no future requests for Council funding for the project.

All applications that meet the above criteria will be prioritised and considered for funding as part of Council annual capital works program.

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Consultation

This policy was developed with the input of from a number of Council Units and Departments including:

- (a) Assets;
- (b) Open Space;
- (c) Arts and Cultural Services;
- (d) Community Partnerships;
- (e) Environmental Services;
- (f) Family and Children's Services; and
- (g) Aged and Disability Services.

Related documents and attachments

- (a) Open Space Strategy;
- (b) Recreation Strategy Plan 2003-2008;
- (c) Neighbourhood House Review 2003;
- (d) Assets Plan;
- (e) Children's Services Plan.

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