



ST HELENS SPORT AND RECREATION GROUND

ISSUE:

This brief summarises the improvements to the St Helens Recreation Ground

BACKGROUND:

Council has identified through its strategic plan the need to plan and support access to quality services and facilities that meet the needs of all age groups and communities particularly youth, people with disabilities and our ageing population. Break O'Day Council has identified that community sport is an integral part of our lifestyle providing a wide range of personal and community benefits through both physical and social activity.

DISCUSSION:

The upgrade to the St Helens Sport and Recreation facility is a multi-staged project which includes:

- New indoor and outdoor netball and basketball courts;
- Indoor sports centre including a 6 land swimming pool, tennis courts, gymnasium, cricket, soccer, volleyball and badminton;
- Athletics and cycling infrastructure upgrade;
- Sports pavilion including change rooms, public amenities, storage and kiosk;
- New equestrian enclosure over existing area and upgraded clubrooms; and
- Upgrade to roads and car parking.

The upgrade of this facility provides opportunity for all population groups to be engaged. With an ageing community population the need for more accessible facilities that are flexible in their use and can provide rehabilitation and other specialised programs becomes more significant. Current facilities do not have the capacity to meet social and health and wellbeing expectations of the older demographic in the region, a population which is growing.

The opportunity for realisation of benefits also extends to young people in the Break O'Day region as well as our neighbouring Council areas. In addition to participation through community sporting associations, enhanced facilities encourage inclusion, participation and access for schools around our municipality and neighbouring areas. A substantial evidence base exists identifying the links between young people participating in sport and recreational activities, both structured and unstructured, and reducing incidences of anti-social behaviours in the community.

As part of Council's Municipal Management Process, the draft Master Plan for the St Helens Sport and Recreation Ground was advertised and displayed for comment. The feedback the Council received from the community has been overwhelmingly supportive of the general concept as a whole.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council supports the improvement to the St Helens Sport and Recreation ground at an estimated cost of \$18,844,981.00.