



## COUNCIL REPORT

<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	15.8
<b>Report Title:</b>	Humpty Doo Bowls Club Request for Grant Funding
<b>Author:</b>	Jessica Watts, Community Development Officer
<b>Recommending Officer:</b>	Silke Maynard, Director Community and Corporate Services
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	16/09/2020
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

### Executive Summary

The report presents for Council's consideration, a one-off funding request from the Humpty Doo Bowls Club via the Humpty Doo Village Green Management Board.

### Recommendation

THAT Council:

1. support the Humpty Doo Bowls Club to apply for a minor Community Benefit Fund grant from the Department of the Attorney General and Justice to the value of \$15,000;
2. request the Humpty Doo Village Green Management Board ensure the area is safe until such time that repairs have been undertaken;
3. acknowledge that due to the lack of existing written agreements Council is restricted in providing financial assistance; and
4. write to the Humpty Doo Bowls Club and Humpty Doo Village Green Management Board to inform them of Council's resolutions.

### Background

On 13 August 2020, Council was notified by the Humpty Doo Bowls Club of power failures at their Club. These power failures are restricting the Club's use of the bowling green and significantly reducing the Club's income as the bar has been forced to cease trade.

The power failures are caused by the underground electrical cabling, which is required to be replaced from the shed at the front of the property to the switchboard in the clubhouse. Currently electrical contractors have installed above ground cable at the Bowls Club, providing a temporary solution.

Since this time, Council has supported the Humpty Doo Bowls Club to apply for three grants to cover the costs associated with the emergency works. One grant was rejected based on the Club not meeting eligibility criteria. However, notification for the other two grant applications is not expected until late October.

On 7 September 2020, Council received a request for funding from the Humpty Doo Bowls Club via the Humpty Doo Village Green Management Board to cover the costs of these emergency works. Quotes received by the Bowls Club quote the works to be to the value of \$20,788.51.

Council is providing the Humpty Doo Village Green Management Board with \$85,761.00 in operational and repairs and maintenance funding in the 2020/21 year. This said, the Management Board's August 2020 Treasurers Report shows a monthly deficit of \$6,344.55, leaving the association with a bank balance of \$8,137.69 (noting Council's quarterly payment was not received during that reporting period). Further to this, the Bowls Club's summary of finances as of August 2020 shows an operational bank account balance of \$14,958.57 plus a term deposit of \$60,939.19, which is reserved for the replacement of the bowling green. Overall, the Bowls Club had a reduced capacity to generate an income due to COVID-19 with their interim audit showing a deficit of \$8,500 for the year.

It appears that neither of the two associations have funds to be able to cover the extensive works required to re-establish safe and reliable power supply to the site. The Humpty Doo Bowls Club provides recreational opportunities to the Litchfield community. Should Council not support this funding request, it is likely that there will be further interruptions to the service and safety concerns with the temporary cable due to the wet season approaching.

The Humpty Doo Village Green Management Board currently has no written agreement in place with Council about the responsibilities for the premises and funding by Council. The current arrangement is based on a historical lease that was executed in 1989 by both parties and that includes the responsibility of the Lessee (Humpty Doo Village Green Management Board) to keep the premises in good repair. As far as Council is aware there is no written agreement between the Humpty Doo Bowls Club and the Humpty Doo Village Green regarding the responsibilities for the part of the premises they occupy.

Council does not hold funds beyond the operational and maintenance funding paid to the management boards for the support of capital projects. The only funds available to Council in the 2020-21 budget is an allocation of \$30,000 for building certification works (which was reserved this year to initiate certification for the Humpty Doo Scouts building) and an allocation of \$20,000 for building renewals work on the recreation reserves.

It is recommended to support the Bowls Club in a minor CBF grant application to fund parts of the project, as the purpose of these grants are to provide community groups with a timely response for immediate works.

### **Links with Strategic Plan**

A Great Place to Live - Recreation

### **Legislative and Policy Implications**

The provision of a grant to the Humpty Doo Bowls Club is not regulated in the FIN07 Community Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Policy. This policy refers to annual community grants, community initiatives and youth development grants only, which are not suitable for the nature of this request.

## Risks



### Service Delivery

The Humpty Doo Bowls Club is providing a recreational service on Council's behalf. Currently there is a reduced service level due to a temporary power supply.

### Financial

As this request is a non-budgeted item in the 2020-21 Budget, Council would need to consider the funding in its Budget Review process.

### Governance:

There is a risk with providing additional funding to a community organisation outside of Council's set policy (FIN07 Community Grants, Donations and Sponsorships Policy), as this could trigger further requests from community groups that will require individual assessment by Council.

Furthermore, Council currently does not have a lease or funding agreement in place with the Humpty Doo Village Green Management Board. Neither does the board hold a formal agreement with the Humpty Doo Bowls Club. Council has initiated discussions for a new lease agreement in 2018 but has been unable to reach agreement with the Management board to date.

## Community Engagement

N/A