

Discussion Paper

ALLOCATION + USE OF SPORTING FACILITIES, GROUNDS AND PAVILION POLICY REVIEW



Merri-bek
City Council

WHY?

Annual and seasonal (Winter) allocations generally open in January, close in February, and are reported to the March Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) for endorsement in any given year.

At the 9 March 2022 OCM it was resolved that Council endorses the proposed allocations and requested that a review of the policy is undertaken for Council consideration in 2022.

In August 2022, the Victorian State Government released the 'Fair Access Policy Roadmap' which includes specific

requirements for all Councils to adhere to in order to be eligible to receive funding.

At the 14 September 2022 OCM Council resolved to review its policies regarding trans and gender diverse inclusion, anti-discrimination, and diversity and inclusion.

Considering the above recent occurrences, this Discussion Paper seeks to begin a review of the Allocation of Sporting Grounds and Pavilions Policy and provide key points of consideration to ensure Council continues to meet obligations across various policy drivers.

HOW?



Desktop Review

August 2022

Review Council strategy/
policy
Assess State strategy/ policy
Benchmark policies of other
Councils



Policy Formulation

September 2022

Document inconsistencies
Identify alignment
opportunities
Develop revised policy criteria



Council Report

October 2022

Ordinary Council Meeting
Discussion Paper
Draft Policy Criteria



Consultation

October 2022

Public exhibition
Conversations Moreland
Stakeholder feedback



Impact Evaluation

November 2022

Review club data/ reporting
Document impact of
revised policy on users
Undertake Gender Impact
Assessment



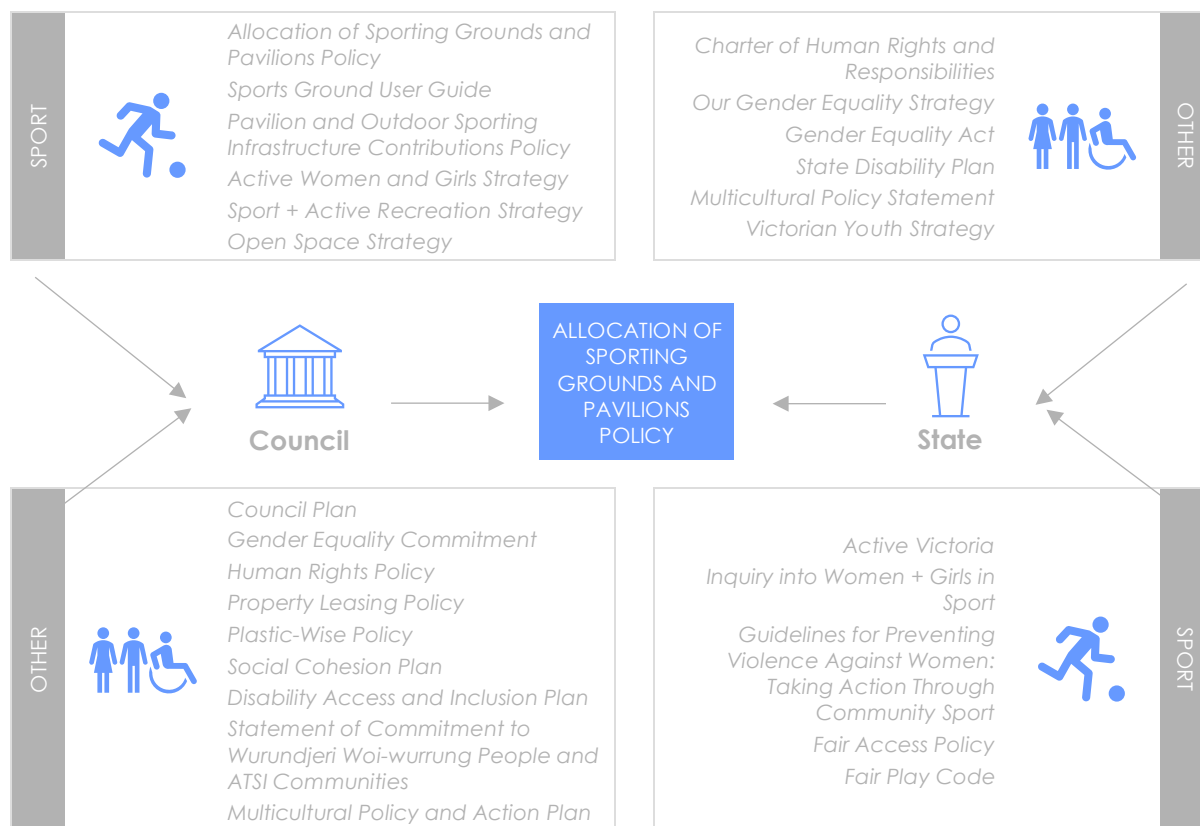
Endorsement

December 2022

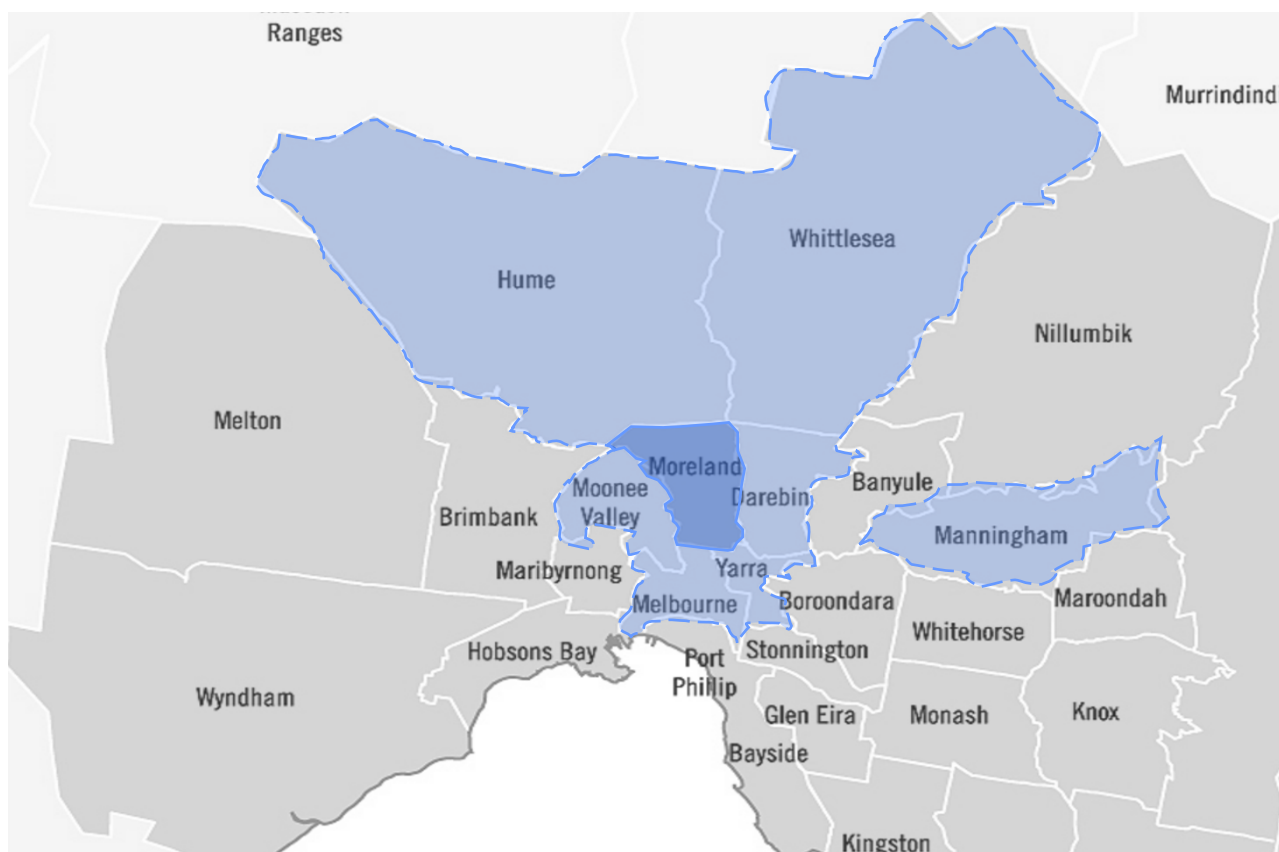
Ordinary Council Meeting
Council Report
Revised Policy

WHERE?

We reviewed Council and State government policy to see what should impact the policy.



A review of the allocations policy of each of the six (6) Council's immediately surrounding Merri-Bek was undertaken to determine the collective approach regionally. Manningham was also included as it is the most recently updated allocations policy known.



WHAT?

This led to us considering following policy criteria for inclusion in a reviewed policy:

CRITERIA	AREA
Eligibility	
Be a registered legal entity e.g., incorporated association	Policy
Maintain Public Liability insurance (minimum \$20m)	Policy
Have no outstanding debt to Council and/or SSA. If in arrears, have a debt repayment plan in place.	Policy
Be a member of a recognised State Sporting Association or other relevant governing body	Policy
Provide latest Annual Report, Financial Statement, AGM minutes and current Strategic Plan	Policy
Participation offerings provide for Junior teams/sides, Female teams/sides, and Registered sports association development programs (e.g., AusKick)	People
Acknowledge, sign and adhere to Child Safe Standards, Fair Play Code, and Guidelines for Preventing Violence Against Women: Taking Action Through Community Sport	People
Evidence of women, girls or gender diverse person elected to office-bearer position (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary)	Programs
Evidence of equitable scheduling for all participants	Programs
Attendance at all Council run club development initiatives	Programs
Committee and/or Board has diverse gender representation including up to or above 50% representation of members being women, girls or gender diverse people	Programs
Club name is representative of Merri-bek and does not reference towns, suburbs, municipalities, cities, countries or other landmarks outside of the Council area, and does not reference any ethnicity, religion, brand, sponsor or business	Places
Conformance with relevant government legislation, including provision of Liquor Licence, Food Registration Certificate, and VCGLR certification (as required)	Places
Acknowledge, sign and adhere to Council's Gambling Policy, including no advertising or promoting gambling-related activity at Council's venues, or online	Places
Does not directly operate, own or benefit from the proceeds of Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs)	Places
Acknowledge, sign and adhere to Tobacco Act 1987 and Council designated Smoke Free Zones	Places
Participation in Good Sports program	Places
Acknowledge, sign and adhere to Council's Plastic Wise Policy	Places
Priority	
Current and historical membership trends (i.e. increase/decrease in participation and demand)	People
Percentage of membership that are Merri-bek residents	People
Percentage of membership that are priority groups as defined by Council's Human Rights Policy (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, People with Disability, LGBTIQ+ Communities, Migrant, Refugee and Faith Communities, Women, Girls and Gender Diverse Communities)	People
History of cleanliness, maintenance, payment, and general adherence to Council terms + conditions	Policy
Evidence of equitable and financially appropriate membership fees and charges	People
Delivery of community partnerships and other initiatives (e.g., Pride Round, Pink Ribbon, charity etc.)	Programs
Suitability of facility to support requested allocation	Places
Historical usage and length of tenure	Places
Evidence of capital investment (including in-kind) and completion of past capital works projects to the satisfaction of Council	Places
Incentive	
History of club participation in external club development initiatives (e.g., Sport Integrity Australia's e-learning hub, VicSport education seminars, SSA forums, Proud 2 Play and Pride in Sport training etc.)	Programs
Evidence of completion of Sport Australia Director Education courses in past 24 months (including 'The Start Line' and 'The Defence')	Policy
Participation offerings provided for Masters/ older adults	People
Participation offerings provided for priority groups as defined by Council's Human Rights Policy	People
Implementation of sustainability and waste management initiatives	Places
Implement and promote State government Healthy Choices program and initiatives	Places

WHEN?

It is recognised that a reviewed and updated policy may have significant impacts on existing users. To ensure a complete understanding of the potential effects of the proposed changes Council will undertake an impact evaluation process inclusive of:

1. Reviewing club data regarding participation numbers, affiliation, junior development, governance etc. that Council used to inform 2022 allocations (~31 applicants)
2. Source additional club information/data as required
3. Review stakeholder feedback received
4. Document impact of revised Policy conditions/criteria on existing tenants

Under the Gender Equality Act 2020 local councils and public sporting bodies are obliged to apply a gender lens and conduct gender impact assessments (GIA) to understand how policies, programs and services can impact people of different genders in different ways, and ensure inequalities aren't being reinforced.

A GIA will be completed prior to a reviewed policy proceeding to Council for adoption.

WHO?

We want to hear from you!

We are aiming to engage with all sports clubs, state sporting associations, the Victorian government, and our residents, business owners and visitors.

It is also acknowledged that policy and operational change can at times be difficult, particularly for predominantly not-for-profit, volunteer run organisations like sporting clubs.

As part of the proposed stakeholder engagement process, understanding the potential for implementation of new policy initiatives will be a priority. Where significant change is proposed, a **'step change'** model will be considered whereby incremental changes are introduced over time.

For example, the requirement to provide evidence of equitable scheduling may be achieved by the respective SSA documenting intent to cooperate with scheduling of competition times for year 1. In subsequent years, the onus would be placed on clubs to show similar commitments in training times etc.

Or perhaps achieving 50% women, girls or gender diverse person representation on committees and/or boards will be too difficult for clubs to attain before the first allocations process in 2023. We could consider this a longer term criteria that wouldn't come into effect until 2025 for example to give clubs time to recruit and retain volunteers.

We will establish a Conversations Merri-bek webpage that contains this overview, the full discussion Paper Report, and FAQs.

There will be opportunities for you to provide your feedback online, via a survey, and directly to Council.

Join the conversation

Get online at Conversations Merri-bek: www.conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au

If you prefer, you can call us on 9240 1111 to talk with our Customer Service team or email info@moreland.vic.gov.au



Merri-bek
City Council