## CPP69 Spring Valley Park (Torquay) Basketball Pad Proposal – FEASIBLE Proposal Local residents proposed the addition of a basketball activity area at Spring Valley Description Park (84A Spring Valley Drive). **Background** Key drivers for this community proposal at this site: Information o Increasing interest in basketball, limited local facilities for casual practice o Safety issues with numerous basketball rings in the streets (driveways and road edges) surrounding Spring Valley Park - often balls and kids running onto road Urge to get more kids active and support an increasing participation and interest o Opportunity to add to / complement the activities available at Spring Valley Park (playground, bike park, grass kickabout area) with an activity suitable for all ages and that encourages family and social connection Spring Valley Park is a popular site for local families, many of which ride or walk to the park. Connecting pathways to the park are to be improved via a new bridge to come in the near future over Spring Creek just below the park. The community working group asked Council to investigate 2 options for the basketball activity space: Option 1 - Basketball pad that included 3 point line area Option 2 - Basketball half-court area also with a netball ring A landscape architect was engaged to develop preliminary draft concept designs (for both options) that considered resident amenity, safety, accessibility, site drainage, overland water flows and minimising site impact and site excavation. Engagement • A community working group (residents living locally in the area) met with Council officers on site to provide their ideas on incorporating a basketball activity space at the Spring Valley site and also highlighting the importance of this type of space to support an increasing community wide interest in basketball and to address risks associated with so many portable basketball rings being used on road edges. Due to previous resident / community opposition to proposals for outdoor basketball facilities in public open spaces, this investigation facilitated a broad community engagement process and program to enable an understanding of the level of community interest and support (for a basketball activity space at this site) with feedback determining the proposal's feasibility. Community engagement (held over a 2 week period with feedback closing 20 November) used a number of tools (listed below) to direct people to a Your Say survey page and provided other proposal information:

o community information flyer to 300 surrounding / nearby residents

- o advertisement in Surf Coast Times and coverage in Mayor's Column
- o weekly social media posts
- o a sign on the site
- Initial advice obtained from Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) and a Cultural Heritage advisor on required consents and permits.
- Council officers across all relevant service areas consulted about proposal.

### Key Findings

- Council officers (with expertise in stormwater infrastructure engineering, design, open space planning and open space operations) assessed the two options with consensus that Option 1 only (the basketball pad <u>not</u> the half-court option) should progress to a consultation phase due to initial project and lifecycle costing, the smaller pad providing better site flow, smaller site impact, it still offers great play value and there is likely to be greater community tolerance of this option.
- Option 2 (half-court basketball space) rejected due to significant impact on the site (its placement and scale), the impact on overland water flows (trying to rectify this would be very costly and have a large site impact) and the resulting cost estimate to attract funding to build this larger scale space would deem it to be not feasible.
- A review of half-court basketball areas within Council open space areas (and also within our neighbouring Councils) found that these spaces are more suited to larger reserves (district or regional classification).
- A draft concept design was developed to assist with clear communications with the broader community and the design considered:
  - residential amenity softening views into the proposed activity area and limiting potential noise impacts to be considered by;
    - acoustically located at the foot of the slope (helps to reduce noise)
    - strategic planting of shade trees may help to soften viewlines
    - noise deadening backboard material could help to reduce activity noise
  - o creating a safe and accessible environment:
    - good access to the proposed activity area
    - sight lines from existing activity areas and from the street
- Given the site is within a cultural heritage sensitivity area, a cultural heritage master
  plan would be required, with the findings to educate the final design layout and advise
  on any other project and conditions or constraints.
- CCMA have been informed of the proposal and early advice is that consent would be issued, yet this would be formally requested and provided at a project delivery stage when detailed design is available.

# Potential funding partners

- Funding the space and determining potential project partners is a challenging first step for this community initiated project proposal (estimated at close to \$69,000).
- There has been preliminary interest from Torquay Community Enterprise and this would require the community directly advocating for financial support.
- The community are aware of the opportunity for Council to be a funding partner but would require a submission to a future budget process and when eligible grant opportunities arise, seeking a Council letter of support for any application.

### Officer Summary

- 1. Total project cost estimate \$69,000 excl GST (including base cost for design and construction and allowances for cultural heritage management plan, cost escalations, project management and contingency).
- 2. Opportunity to refer proposal to Council's future project prioritisation and budget processes including consideration for grant opportunities alongside other eligible projects.
- 3. Opportunity to consider other suitable sites to meet community demand (as expressed by 25% of survey responders) for a larger basketball activity space (half court or full court).

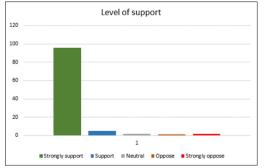
### Spring Valley Park Basketball Space 'Your Say' survey analysis (107 responses)

Good response rate and of those families with children, there was a majority in the 4-12 years age bracket.

**Level of support:** noting that the facility has been strongly supported and that those in opposition to the facility at this site felt that this area of open space should be left natural, the area is a critical ecological corridor

and that the park is already too busy.

107	100%	107	100%	TOTAL
2	2%			Strongly oppose
1	1%	3	3%	Oppose
2	2%	2	2%	Neutral
5	5%			Support
96	90%	101	95%	Strongly support



Response themes: many unique individual comments were grouped into key response themes

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31	Great to help kids get more active outdoors	
28	Complements existing activity spaces at the park	
15	Meets a gap as no other basketball facilities in the estate	
15	Much safer option than kids playing on the road edge	
2	Leave this area of open space natural / critical ecological corridor	
1	Park is already too busy	
15	Blank	

**Scale / Design related suggestions:** 25% of responders seeking a larger outdoor basketball activity space (half court or full court) - other sites may be considered for suitability at this scale.

19	Half court basketball area
5	Full court basketball area
4	Add a netball ring
3	2 ring heights or adjustable height for range of ages
3	Shade (including for spectators)
2	2 basketball rings
1	Net on basketball ring
1	Need a barrier between the basketball area and the road
1	Include down ball linemarking
1	No lighting of the area
1	Put a roof on the space

Additional infrastructure requested for this site: bridge project to happen soon, drink fountain to be added to picnic shelter area and some natural shade added in basketball pad design

7	Bridge over Spring Creek / pathways connecting to north
7	Drink fountain
4	More shelter shade in the park
1	Nature trails
1	Goal posts
1	Fitness park
1	Outdoor table tennis table
1	Skate park
1	Rubbish bins
1	Dog water bowl

Alternative locations suggested: another reserve that could be considered for a larger facility is Deep Creek reserve (converting 1 outdoor tennis court into a multi-purpose court with basketball and netball.

3	Spring Creek Recreation Reserve	
1	Great Ocean Views Reserve	
1	Zeally Sands / Apple Myrtle Reserve	
1	On north side of the creek in new estate	