



Sport and Recreation Reserves, Facilities and Halls Operational Funding Policy

Date Adopted:	13 March 2024
Adopted By:	Council
Review Due:	13 March 2028
Responsible Officer:	
RM8 No:	

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Grampians Shire Council is committed to supporting the management and operation of community facilities across the Shire, including recreation reserves, community halls and other facilities that support community members. The principles and rationale for the development of the Sport and Recreation Reserves, Facilities and Halls Operational Funding Policy is derived from the *Southern Grampians Shire Council Plan 2021-2025*, *Recreation & Leisure Strategy 2019-2029*, and the *Recreation Reserves Management Framework 2023*.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Policy is to provide Council, and community organisations with clarity regarding the operational funding to support the management and maintenance of use of some community facilities within the Shire.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Council	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Crown Land	Land controlled by the State Government for the benefit of the Victorian community. Council operates as the Committee of Management under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 (Vic) for the leasing and licencing of some Crown Land.

APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This Policy applies directly to all Sporting, Recreational and Community Facilities receiving operational facility funding from Southern Grampians Shire Council.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Support the management of community facilities,
- Ensure that community facilities are maintained appropriately to meet community needs,
- Support Committees of Management to manage facilities,
- Improve community facilities,
- Allocate operational funding to support achievement of desired service level for key activities.

STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

Council recognises the value of community facilities within the Shire and how community facilities provide opportunities for recreation, community activities, heritage recognition and support for the community and local residents. This policy acknowledges the invaluable contribution that volunteers have provided to Council in managing and maintaining community facilities and encourages this support to continue where volunteer capacity exists.

- Funding for community facilities is determined/allocated according to 'defined' service standards and levels required to maintain a facility in a safe condition appropriate to meet its demand for use (usage hours)
- Funding for recreation reserves that maintain significant public facilities for passive community use will be considered as part of the operational funding model.
- Council financial contributions, in line with this policy, are made based on the provision of an annual report to Council with financial statements outlining how the contribution has been expended, and compliance with legislative requirements.
- Council acknowledges that the funding levels required for future management and maintenance of facilities may need to be increased during the life of this policy. All operational contributions will be reviewed annually and referred to the annual budget process for consideration of an increase consistent with Council Fees and Charges. Initial allocations are set at \$12,240 for Recreation Reserves.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE ANNUAL OPERATIONAL FUNDING

Recreation Reserves

Council is committed to financially contributing toward the essential management and maintenance requirements for sport and recreation facilities to ensure facilities are accessible for all within the community. Recreation Reserves identified in Schedule 1 will receive operational funding to the value of \$12,240 to assist with these requirements, including:

- Sportsground maintenance including but not limited to mowing, aeration, top dressing, scarifying, spraying, maintenance of core infrastructure such as irrigation systems, over sowing of different turf species for each winter and summer season.
- Annual court maintenance
- General park (passive) maintenance
- Public utilities and lighting
- Fencing, furniture and signage
- Tree maintenance
- Public toilet cleaning and maintenance
- Irrigation costs

- Public litter bin clearances
- Playground inspections and maintenance
- Building maintenance

Community Hall and Buildings

Community buildings identified in Schedule 2 will be provided with an operational grant annually of \$2,220 to assist with the following expenses:

- Utilities (electricity, water, gas)
- Cleaning
- Consumables
- Committee expenses
- Minor breakages and equipment replacement
- Minor maintenance expenses

COUNCIL PLAN REFERENCE

Key priority

1: Support our Community

Objective

2: A Healthy and vibrant community

Strategies

- 1.2.2 Support and encourage participation in quality arts and cultural, Education, leisure, recreation and sporting opportunities
- 1.2.3 Partner with services and agencies to increase the health and wellbeing of our community
- 1.2.4 Provide, promote and support appropriate and accessible services, facilities and activities for the community.

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

It is considered that this policy is compatible with the relevant human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*.

GENDER EQUALITY COMPLIANCE

It is considered that this policy is compatible with the relevant gender equality principles identified in the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Is a Gender Impact Assessment required?

- Yes (legally required for all policies that have a direct and significant impact on the public)
- No (please provide an explanation why a Gender Impact Assessment is not required)

REVIEW

The Sport and Recreation Reserve and Facilities User Fees and Charges Policy will be reviewed in conjunction with the Recreation Reserve Management Framework. The policy will be reviewed every four years.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule 1: Recreation Reserves

Town / Location	Facility
Balmoral	Balmoral Recreation Reserve
Branxholme	Branxholme Recreation Reserve
Byaduk	Byaduk Recreation Reserve
Cavendish	Cavendish Recreation Reserve
Dunkeld	Dunkeld Recreation Reserve
Glenthompson	Glenthompson Recreation Reserve
Hamilton	Hamilton Recreation Reserve
Hamilton	Kennedy Oval Reserve
Penshurst	Penshurst Recreation Reserve
Pigeon Ponds	Pigeon Ponds Recreation Reserve
Tarrington	Tarrington Recreation Reserve

Schedule 2: Community Hall and Buildings

Town / Location	Facility
Balmoral	Balmoral Mechanics Hall
Branxholme	Carapook Community Hall
Byaduk	Byaduk Mechanics Institute Hall
Carapook	Carapook Hall
Cavendish	Cavendish Soldiers Memorial Hall
Coleraine	Coleraine Mechanics Hall
Dunkeld	Dunkeld Community Centre
Glenthompson	Glenthompson War Memorial Hall
Konongwootong	Konongwootong Hall
Nareen	Nareen Hall
Penshurst	Penshurst Memorial Hall
Woodhouse	Woodhouse Nareeb Reserve

END