

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

7.28 pm Councillor Newton declared a general conflict of interest in the following item on the basis that she owns a property in the subject area of the Northcote Golf Course and whilst the ownership is an interest she holds in common with hundreds of property owners and it is arguable that her interest does not exceed that of the interests held by other residents, ratepayers and electors, she had determined that she will remove herself from any debate and decision making on the issue as a precaution against any general conflict of interest she may have or may be perceived to have.

Councillor Newton left the meeting at 7.28 pm.

7.29 pm Councillor Laurence declared an indirect (general) conflict of interest in the following item created by a close association, as he had relatives who have moved to this area and have a residential amenity issue in this matter.

Councillor Laurence left the meeting at 7.29 pm.

Submissions

The following persons made submissions in relation to item 8.2 – Northcote Golf Course Shared Use Recommendation.

- *Ruth Liston*
- *A representative of Leesa Marie Spencer*
- *A representative of Bill Jennings*
- *Melanie Del Monaco*
- *Tim Holdsworth (on behalf of Northcote Community and Golf Hub)*
- *Libby Smith*
- *Geoffrey Love*
- *Luke*

8.2 NORTHCOTE GOLF COURSE SHARED USE RECOMMENDATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community engagement on the future shared use of the Northcote Public Golf Course site took place between November 2021 and February 2022 in response to a previous Council resolution. This included the opportunity for public feedback via a survey that was open for 5 weeks between 4 November and 2 December 2021, and two public hearing sessions on 14 and 16 February 2022.

There was significant public interest in the future use of the site, and responses were varied and from a wide-reaching audience. The key themes that emerged were that both golf and other park uses were important to our community, as were issues of equity and inclusivity.

This report presents several options and recommends an option for shared use of the site that would increase open space and retain a 9-hole golf course. After Council's decision, the next steps would be to tender for a golf course management operator and to commence design for any physical works at the site. Tendering may establish an initial 2 or 3 year contract, with the contract option for Council to extend beyond that. Council would make a future decision about a contractor in late 2022.

Officer Recommendation

That Council

- 1) Endorses 'Option A' for shared use of the Northcote Golf Course site including decommissioning the southern most hole, retaining a 9-hole golf course, developing a new northern park, delivering a new eastern boundary path and unlocking approximately 5.72 hectares of park land for broader community shared use (**Appendix B**).
- 2) Seeks briefings from officers on:
 - a. terms and conditions of a new golf course management contract for the course including options that might further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf and non-golf pastimes.
 - b. the condition of the buildings on the site and how these buildings could be used to activate the space and encourage further shared use.
- 3) Calls for a review of fencing of the site to determine how access and security can best be managed for shared use.
- 4) Writes to The Hon. Ros Spence MP to thank the State Government for its contribution towards this project, continues negotiation on grant terms and conditions and seeks a further State Government funding contribution to the capital development of the site as endorsed by Council.
- 5) Incorporates necessary funding into the proposed 2022-23 Budget which will be considered by Council at a meeting in June 2022.
- 6) Commences work related to the recommended option including the reconfiguration of one fairway, changes to tees and greens and other capital improvements for delivery of shared use of the space in the 2022/2023 financial year.
- 7) Thanks the community for their valuable and considered input made during the community engagement and publishes the Northcote Golf Course Community Engagement Report (**Appendix A**) on the Your Say page.

Motion

MOVED: Cr. G Greco

SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

That Council:

- 1) Endorses 'Option A' for shared use of the Northcote Golf Course site including decommissioning the southern most hole, retaining a 9-hole golf course, developing a new northern park, delivering a new eastern boundary path and unlocking approximately 5.72 hectares of park land for broader community shared use (**Appendix B**).
- 2) Seeks briefings from officers on:
 - a. terms and conditions of a new golf course management contract for the course including options that might further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf and non-golf pastimes.
- 3) Commissions a report to examine
 - a. the condition of the buildings on the site and how these buildings could be used to activate the space and encourage further shared use; and,
 - b. Opportunities for private investment or a public/private partnership to develop a commercial and/or social enterprise venture for the site including hospitality and events;
- 4) Calls for a review of fencing of the site to determine how access and security can best be managed for shared use.
- 5) Writes to The Hon. Ros Spence MP to thank the State Government for its contribution towards this project, continues negotiation on grant terms and conditions and seeks a further State Government funding contribution to the capital development of the site as endorsed by Council.
- 6) Incorporates necessary funding into the proposed 2022-23 budget (\$100,000 for the buildings' business case plus costs associated with option A) which will be considered by Council at a meeting in June 2022.
- 7) Commences work related to the recommended option including the reconfiguration of one fairway, changes to tees and greens and other capital improvements for delivery of shared use of the space in the 2022/2023 financial year.
- 8) Thanks the community for their valuable and considered input made during the community engagement and publishes the Northcote Golf Course Community Engagement Report (**Appendix A**) on the Your Say page.

Amendment

MOVED: Cr. S Rennie
SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy

That point 2 of the motion be amended as follows:

2) Seeks briefings from officers on:

- a. Terms and conditions of a new golf course management contract for the course including options that might activate the course for golf prior to 3pm with non golf options after 3pm.

The mover and seconder of the motion did not consent to the amendment.

The amendment was put and carried.

CARRIED

For: Cr's. Hannan, McCarthy, Messina and Rennie (4)

Against: Cr's. Dimitriadis, Greco and Williams (3)

Amendment was incorporated into the motion which became the substantive motion before the Council.

Further Amendment

MOVED: Cr. T McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. T Hannan

That point 1 of the substantive motion be amended as follows

- 1) Endorses 'Option B' for shared use of the Northcote Golf Course site including decommissioning golf infrastructure south of the Bracken Creek; reconfiguring holes to the north of the Bracken Creek to retain a 6-hole golf course, developing an open space south of the Bracken Creek; delivering a new eastern path and unlocking approximately 9.11 hectares of park land for broader community shared use (Appendix C).

The mover and seconder of the motion did not consent to the amendment.

The amendment was put and lost.

LOST

For: Cr's. Hannan, McCarthy and Rennie (3)

Against: Cr's. Dimitriadis, Greco, Messina and Williams (4)

Further Amendment

MOVED: Cr. J Williams

That Council:

- 1) Endorses 'Option A' for shared use of the Northcote Golf Course site including decommissioning the southern most hole, retaining a 9-hole golf course, developing a new northern park, delivering a new eastern boundary path and unlocking approximately 5.72 hectares of park land for broader community shared use (*Appendix B*).
- 2) Seeks briefings from officers on:
 - a. Terms and conditions of a new golf course management contract for the course, including options that might activate the course.
- 3) Commissions a report to examine
 - a. the condition of the buildings on the site and how these buildings could be used to activate the space and encourage further shared use; and,
 - b. Opportunities for private investment or a public/private partnership to develop a commercial and/or social enterprise venture for the site including hospitality and events;
- 4) Calls for a review of fencing of the site to determine how access and security can best be managed for shared use.
- 5) Writes to The Hon. Ros Spence MP to thank the State Government for its contribution towards this project, continues negotiation on grant terms and conditions and seeks a further State Government funding contribution to the capital development of the site as endorsed by Council.
- 6) Incorporates necessary funding into the proposed 2022-23 budget (\$100,000 for the buildings' business case plus costs associated with option A) which will be considered by Council at a meeting in June **2022**.
- 7) Commences work related to the recommended option including the reconfiguration of one fairway, changes to tees and greens and other capital improvements for delivery of shared use of the space in the 2022/2023 financial year.
- 8) Thanks the community for their valuable and considered input made during the community engagement and publishes the Northcote Golf Course Community Engagement Report (*Appendix A*) on the Your Say page.

Amendment lapsed for want of seconder.

The substantive motion before the Council viz.

That Council:

- 1) Endorses 'Option A' for shared use of the Northcote Golf Course site including decommissioning the southern most hole, retaining a 9-hole golf course, developing a new northern park, delivering a new eastern boundary path and unlocking approximately 5.72 hectares of park land for broader community shared use (**Appendix B**).
- 2) Seeks briefings from officers on:
 - a. terms and conditions of a new golf course management contract for the course including options that might activate the course for golf prior to 3pm with non golf options after 3pm.
- 3) Commissions a report to examine
 - a. the condition of the buildings on the site and how these buildings could be used to activate the space and encourage further shared use; and,
 - b. Opportunities for private investment or a public/private partnership to develop a commercial and/or social enterprise venture for the site including hospitality and events;
- 4) Calls for a review of fencing of the site to determine how access and security can best be managed for shared use.
- 5) Writes to The Hon. Ros Spence MP to thank the State Government for its contribution towards this project, continues negotiation on grant terms and conditions and seeks a further State Government funding contribution to the capital development of the site as endorsed by Council.
- 6) Incorporates necessary funding into the proposed 2022-23 budget (\$100,000 for the buildings' business case plus costs associated with option A) which will be considered by Council at a meeting in June 2022.
- 7) Commences work related to the recommended option including the reconfiguration of one fairway, changes to tees and greens and other capital improvements for delivery of shared use of the space in the 2022/2023 financial year.
- 8) Thanks the community for their valuable and considered input made during the community engagement and publishes the Northcote Golf Course Community Engagement Report (**Appendix A**) on the Your Say page.

was put and carried.

Council Resolution**MINUTE NO. 22-100**

MOVED: Cr. G Greco
SECONDED: Cr. E Dimitriadis

That Council:

- 1) Endorses 'Option A' for shared use of the Northcote Golf Course site including decommissioning the southern most hole, retaining a 9-hole golf course, developing a new northern park, delivering a new eastern boundary path and unlocking approximately 5.72 hectares of park land for broader community shared use (**Appendix B**).
- 2) Seeks briefings from officers on:
 - a. terms and conditions of a new golf course management contract for the course including options that might activate the course for golf prior to 3pm with non golf options after 3pm.
- 3) Commissions a report to examine
 - a. the condition of the buildings on the site and how these buildings could be used to activate the space and encourage further shared use; and,
 - b. Opportunities for private investment or a public/private partnership to develop a commercial and/or social enterprise venture for the site including hospitality and events;
- 4) Calls for a review of fencing of the site to determine how access and security can best be managed for shared use.
- 5) Writes to The Hon. Ros Spence MP to thank the State Government for its contribution towards this project, continues negotiation on grant terms and conditions and seeks a further State Government funding contribution to the capital development of the site as endorsed by Council.
- 6) Incorporates necessary funding into the proposed 2022-23 budget (\$100,000 for the buildings' business case plus costs associated with option A) which will be considered by Council at a meeting in June 2022.
- 7) Commences work related to the recommended option including the reconfiguration of one fairway, changes to tees and greens and other capital improvements for delivery of shared use of the space in the 2022/2023 financial year.
- 8) Thanks the community for their valuable and considered input made during the community engagement and publishes the Northcote Golf Course Community Engagement Report (**Appendix A**) on the Your Say page.

CARRIED

For: Cr's. Dimitriadis, Hannan, McCarthy and Messina (4)

Against: Cr's. Greco and Williams (2)

Abstained : Cr Rennie (1)

8.45 pm The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a brief break

8.57 pm The meeting resumed