

**George Town Council  
2024 04 23 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda**

---

**9.2 BUDGET ALLOCATION - GEORGE TOWN CRICKET GROUND**

<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Director Infrastructure & Development - Mr A. McCarthy
<b>REPORT DATE:</b>	22 April 2024
<b>FILE NO:</b>	55.1
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	Nil

---

**SUMMARY**

This report seeks approval of the Council to transfer \$49,500 from the Public Open Space Reserve for the removal and replacement of the existing clay centre wicket at the George Town Cricket Ground.

**BACKGROUND**

The George Town Cricket Ground was redeveloped in 2023, however the clay centre wicket was retained. This requires entirely different watering, nutrition and maintenance requirements compared to the sand based outfield. The grounds team have been working hard to balance these competing requirements, however, on occasions it has led to water logging of the clay wicket and fixtures being cancelled.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

**Future Direction Three - Progressive Well-Resourced Communities**

1. Recreational opportunities for all
  - i. Developing well-designed and maintained recreational facilities – shared pathways, tracks, trails, exercise stations – all ages, all abilities.

**Future Direction Four - Leadership and Accountable Governance**

6. Difficult issues are managed in an open manner without conflict
  - i. Building capacity in change management, understanding and responding to complexity.

**STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS & RELATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS**

Section 82 of the *Local Government Act 1993* provides:

**George Town Council**  
**2024 04 23 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda**

---

- (1) The general manager must prepare estimates of the council's revenue and expenditure for each financial year.
- (2) Estimates are to contain details of the following:
  - (a) the estimated revenue of the council;
  - (b) the estimated expenditure of the council;
  - (c) the estimated borrowings by the council;
  - (d) the estimated capital works of the council;
  - (e) any other detail required by the Minister.
- (3) Estimates for a financial year must –
  - (a) be adopted by the council, with or without alteration, by absolute majority; and
  - (b) be adopted before 31 August in that financial year; and
  - (c) not be adopted more than one month before the start of that financial year.
- (4) A council may alter by absolute majority any estimate referred to in [subsection \(2\)](#) during the financial year.
- (5) A council may make adjustments to individual items within any estimate referred to in [subsection \(2\)](#) by a simple majority so long as the total amount of the estimate is not altered.
- (6) A council, by absolute majority, may authorise the general manager to make minor adjustments up to specified amounts to individual items within any estimate referred to in [subsection \(2\)](#) so long as the total amount of the estimate is not altered.
- (7) The general manager is to report any adjustment and an explanation of the adjustment at the first ordinary meeting of the council following the adjustment.

The process for procurement of goods and services is outlined within Council's Code for Tenders and Contracts Policy.

### **RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

There is a risk that if the work is not undertaken, further problems relating to water logging will lead to cancellation of fixtures.

This creates a reputational risk to Council and also the George Town Cricket Club.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Market tested estimates indicate the completion of the removal of the old clay wicket and replacement with sand and associated drainage will cost in the vicinity of \$45,000.

Council currently has \$301,400 available in its Public Open Space Reserve from which funds can be transferred.

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE ACCESS AND INCLUSION CONSIDERATIONS**

The Diversity, Equitable Access and Inclusion Policy aligns with the following goals and objectives of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030.

George Town Council is committed to maximising access and inclusion to services, facilities, features and activities for all within the community, regardless of ability, literacy, numeracy

**George Town Council**  
**2024 04 23 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda**

---

and language limitations, age, race, religion or other, within all aspects of Council. The aims are as follows:

**CONSULTATION**

Council has been briefed on this late item at a Council Workshop.

Officers have spoken to members of the George Town Cricket Club regarding the proposal to replace the clay wicket with a sand based medium.

**OPTIONS**

Council may choose to:

1. Authorise the transfer of \$49,500 from the Public Open Space fund to remove the old clay wicket at the George Town Cricket Ground and replace with sand based medium and associated drainage.
2. Defer the project and consider funding it in next year's Capital Works Program.

**OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The management of sports turf is highly specialised. George Town Cricket Ground boasts a clay centre wicket, while its outfield is sand-based. This unique combination necessitates distinct approaches to watering, nutrition, and maintenance. The grounds team has been striving to strike a delicate balance between these competing demands. Unfortunately, there have been occasions where water logging of the wicket has caused disruption and cancellation of fixtures.

Replacing the clay wicket with sand and making it uniform with the remainder of the ground will alleviate the current issues of trying to manage two different surfaces.

The next cricket season starts in September 2024. Due to winter approaching and the need to seed the centre wicket and have it ready in time, it is critical the work is carried out in the next two weeks.

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Authorises the transfer of \$49,500 from the Public Open Space Reserve to remove the old clay wicket at the George Town Cricket Ground and replace with sand based medium and associated drainage.

**DECISION**

Moved:

Seconded:

**George Town Council  
2024 04 23 Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda**

---

**VOTING**

For:

Against: