

**Agenda Item: 15.2**

**Agenda Item: Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds  
Masterplan**

**Sponsor: General Manager, Assets and Presentation**

**Council Plan Objective: Improve the liveability and connectedness of Latrobe  
City.**

**Status: For Decision**

**MOTION**

**Moved:** Cr Howe

**Seconded:** Cr Harriman

**That Council:**

- 1. Releases the Draft Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds Masterplan for public exhibition for a period of four weeks; and**
- 2. Is provided a future report detailing submissions received during this period.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Executive Summary:**

- The Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds Masterplan has undergone a number of variations since it was initially drafted and exhibited in 2014.
- The Draft Masterplan has also undertaken community consultation on a number of occasions since 2014, with the most recent activities being in early 2020.
- Each version of the Draft Masterplan has raised a number conflicting views from the many groups who use the Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds.
- Following community consultation in early 2020, further changes have been made to the masterplan to address some of the issues raised.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, community consultation on the most recent revised version of the Draft Masterplan has been delayed until now, however

informal direct consultation with the user groups has been undertaken which has again identified conflicting views with a number of changes being requested.

- Officers are now seeking Council authorisation to commence formal community consultation with the wider community to inform a further report that will be provided to Council presenting all submissions received to the current Draft Masterplan.
- Latrobe City Council will publically exhibit the Draft Masterplan for a period of four weeks, commencing early March 2021.

### **Background:**

This report presents Councillors with the most recent Draft of the Traralgon Recreation Reserve & Showgrounds Master Plan and seeks Council's authorisation to release the Masterplan for further public exhibition.

This master plan was initially developed following extensive community and stakeholder engagement activities in 2014 and 2015, before undertaking further community consultation in March 2020.

The primary objective of the master plan is to establish a clear direction for the future planning, provision, enhancement and improvements for infrastructure at the Traralgon Recreation Reserve & Showgrounds.

Some of the key initiatives identified in the Master Plan include:

- Replacing redundant and functionally obsolete buildings and amenities with facilities that meet current standards as well as the shared sport, community and education needs;
- Provide and enhance a diverse range of accessible recreational facilities and open space areas across the reserve to meet the needs of not only the user groups but that of the entire community;
- Facilitate an increased passive recreational use of the reserve by providing informal recreation facilities such as paths, seats, playgrounds and picnic areas;
- Develop best practice reserve and supporting facilities/amenities that provide for the existing and emerging demand for sports; and
- Strengthen the capacity of sporting clubs and user groups seeking to improve the quality of reserve facilities.

In developing the draft master plan, extensive consultation occurred with all stakeholders of the reserve and the wider Traralgon community. The initial Draft of Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds master plan was not adopted in June 2014 due to a lack of consensus in relation to a number of key draft master plan recommendations.

Further consultation took place in 2015 and whilst this also did not achieve a majority consensus on the draft master plan recommendations, changes were made to the plan to reflect the feedback provided and where regulatory planning constraints of the Traralgon Recreation Reserve & Showgrounds allowed.

The 2015 version of the Draft Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds master plan was also not adopted due to a lack of consensus in relation to a number of key draft master plan recommendations identified.

Some years passed before in March 2020, further community consultation was undertaken and further changes have been made to the master plan to reflect some of the feedback provided.

See Attachment 1 for the current version of the Draft Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds Master Plan.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, community consultation with the wider Traralgon community on the current revised version of the Draft Masterplan has been delayed until now.

It is however noted that informal direct consultation with the user groups was undertaken in late 2020, which has again identified conflicting views between user groups with a number of changes already being requested. See Attachment 2 for the submissions already received from some of the user groups.

Although feedback from some of the user groups has already been provided, it is considered that further consultation with the wider Traralgon community is required to attempt a heightened level of consensus and to ensure Councillors are fully informed when the plan is next presented to Council for adoption.

A master plan being endorsed by Council is important in ensuring for the Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds and it's many user groups are provided with development opportunities and the site is developed in a well-planned manner.

Additionally, an endorsed master plan is a key criterion for a number of external and internal funding opportunities. Without an endorsed master plan this reserve will continue to be disadvantaged in the consideration of funding applications.

**Issues:**

*Strategy Implications*

Objective of the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 include, to *'provide a connected, engaged and safe community environment, which is improving the well-being of all Latrobe City citizens'* and to *'Improve the liveability and connectedness of Latrobe City'*.

The Draft Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds Master Plan identifies the most equitable and necessary future direction for the site, ensuring the reserve will support Latrobe City and particularly the users of the reserve into the future.

### *Communication*

As mentioned previously in this report, the Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showground Master Plan have been subject to a number of consultation activities since 2014.

The last consultation activities in March 2020 have assisted the development of the current Draft Master Plans.

It is proposed that the current version of the Draft Master Plan undergo a further four weeks of community engagement with the wider Traralgon community.

### *Financial Implications*

A Master Plan is an aspirational document, not a detailed design or plan and does not commit Council to fund the opportunities identified within a set timeframe.

It is noted that no projects identified within the Master Plan are currently proposed or require any Council budget allocation.

The Master Plan does however provide a clear direction for Council and the community should internal or external funds become available for particular types of projects identified within the plan.

Financial implications will result if and when funding opportunities become available requiring Council contributions or when funding is sought through Council's budget processes.

At this stage, there are no financial implications of this report.

### *Risk Analysis*

<b>Identified risk</b>	<b>Risk likelihood*</b>	<b>Controls to manage risk</b>
<p><b>Service Delivery Risk</b></p> <p>Funding availability from Council or external funding partners for implementation.</p>	3 (Possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear and strong advocacy to external funding bodies; and</li> <li>- Clear and constant communication with user groups about funding and budget processes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reputational Risk</b></p> <p>Community expectations that the entire master plan will be funded and delivered by Council</p>	4 (Likely)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicate clearly with the community and user groups about the master plan</li> </ul>

immediately.		actions; and - Ensure each project delivers a beneficial outcome for the community and the user groups.
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\* Inherent likelihood ratings: 1 (Rare); 2 (Unlikely); 3 (Possible); 4 (Likely); 5 (Almost Certain)

### *Legal and Compliance*

There are no legal or compliance matters arising from this report or the master plan.

### *Community Implications*

Following informal consultation of the current version of the Draft Master Plan with the user groups of the Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds late in 2020, it is highly likely that a consensus on the current Draft Master Plan will not be achieved and further changes will be requested.

This will likely see some of the user groups responding negatively to the plan.

### *Environmental Implications*

There are no known environmental implications of the Draft Master Plan.

### *Consultation*

As mentioned previously in this report, there have been numerous consultation activities undertaken for this site over the past 7 years.

This round of community consultation is planned to include the following:

- Letters to be sent to all land owners and occupiers adjoin the reserve;
- Posts on Council's Facebook Page;
- Promotion of Council's Website and 'Have Your Say' page;
- Feature in the Council Noticeboard of the Latrobe Valley Express; and
- One on One meetings with interested stakeholders and community members where requested.

The consultation period will be for four weeks during March 2021 and formal submissions will be accepted in writing or via email.



### **Declaration of Interests:**

Officers preparing this report have declared they do not have a conflict of interest in this matter under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**Supporting Documents:**

Nil

**Attachments**

1.   Draft - Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds Master Plan
2. Submissions - Usergroups (Published Separately)

This attachment is designated as confidential under subsection (f) of the definition of confidential information contained in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, as it relates to personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs. The submissions contain personal information.

## **15.2**

### **Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds Masterplan**

- 1 Draft - Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds  
Master Plan..... 169**