

6.4. MM04: Federal Government Serves Up an Ace for Primrose Park Tennis Courts

Councillors will recall that at our meeting of 28 September 2020 we considered a Mayoral Minute about the uneven playing surface at Primrose Park Tennis Courts and the displacement and deflection of the tennis court slab. As a result of the settlement issues, one of the four courts now has limited use and the community approached Council about undertaking repairs.

At the meeting Council resolved:

- 1. THAT a report on the settlement issues and cost of renewing the Primrose Park Tennis Courts be provided to Council.*
- 2. THAT the report explores options for providing tennis facilities at Primrose Park as well as other sports that can use a multipurpose facility.*
- 3. THAT Council staff apply for external grant funding from both State and Federal funding programs.*

So I was delighted to receive a letter from the Federal Member for North Sydney, Mr Trent Zimmerman, last week advising me that North Sydney Council is to receive an additional grant of \$2,175,138 under the Australian Government's Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program - Round 2.

I feel there is serendipity in the timing of this letter, for the \$2.8 million price tag to repair the Primrose Park Tennis Courts was well beyond Council's budget in the immediate future. I am sure Councillors will join me in thanking the Federal Member for his lobbying for a share of the additional grant funding on our community's behalf. While we have not yet received the detailed terms of the funding, I understand that we will be able to access the money from 1 January 2021 and that it needs to be spent by the end of the calendar year.

There are many reasons why Council should earmark this funding for the tennis courts. Our community has consistently identified sporting facilities as a key priority. Tennis is a broad interest sport that can be played by men and women of all ages, from young children through to people in their eighties.

Without funding to undertake the essential repairs needed, the future of the Primrose Park Tennis Courts will become increasingly uncertain. Allocating the grant funding to a major project such as this is an investment in community facilities for the decades to come.

In earmarking the funding for the tennis facilities, Council will not have time to fully explore the options for multipurpose courts and consult with the community. However, the major part of this project is the structural engineering required to underpin the courts which would be well covered by the funding. Council can review adapting the courts for multi-use at a later date should that be required.

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** Council write to the Federal Member for North Sydney, Mr Trent Zimmerman MP, thanking him for his support of the North Sydney community.
- 2. THAT** Council give in principle support to allocating the grant funding to the Primrose Park Tennis Courts upgrade subject to the project meeting the criteria for the funding program.
- 3. THAT** Council staff prepare a report for the November Council Meeting on whether the specifications of the project could be adjusted to meet the level of funding available.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**