

# Agenda



**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**26 FEBRUARY 2020**

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## 12. COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PROSPERITY REPORTS

### 12.5 Request for Financial Assistance - Ropehill Community Sports Centre

**Date:** 20 February 2020  
**Author:** Trent Nibbs, Sports, Recreation & Community Grants Officer  
**Responsible Officer:** David Lewis, Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity

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#### Summary:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's consideration of a request from the Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. to reimburse the cost to clear debris following the heavy rain event that occurred on 17 January 2020.

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

**THAT Council approve a one-off payment of \$1,897.50 to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. as reimbursement of the costs incurred to clear debris following the heavy rain event that occurred on 17 January 2020.**

#### Report

##### 1. Introduction

Council has received a request for financial assistance from the Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. for the reimbursement of costs to clear debris following a recent heavy rain event.

This report aligns with Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2022, Outcome 1.2, '*Council optimises the use of its open spaces and facilities by improving access to and the quality of the facilities for individuals and groups for cultural, recreational and community activities.*'

##### 2. Background

A storm on 17 January 2020 resulted in the inundation of the sporting grounds from stormwater run-off, which left a significant amount of debris around the grounds (see Figure 1 and 2). Members from the Ropehill Community Sports Centre cleared the debris away from around the club house, however machinery was required to clear the debris from the field.

On 29 January 1992, the former Gatton Shire Council and the Centre entered into a lease agreement with Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. for 30 years from 1 March 1990 to 29 February 2020.

Under the terms of this lease, the Centre is required to:

- maintain the demised premises and all fixtures, fittings and chattels installed or to be installed thereon in good and tenantable repair and condition fair wear and tear and damage by storm, flood, fire, tempest, act of God, riots or the Queen's enemies excepted and will replace any such fixtures, fittings and chattels or any part thereof which may during the said term become missing, broken, worn out, lost, destroyed or otherwise unfit for use.

Currently, Council pays an annual contribution of \$15,000.00 towards the maintenance of the sporting grounds. This contribution assists funding of labour costs, fuel, fertiliser, herbicides, machinery repairs etc. associated with the operation of the facility. Outside of this contribution, Council provides no regular assistance to the maintenance of this facility.



*Figure 1. Stormwater run-off, 17 January 2020*



*Figure 2. Debris on sporting field following storm event 17 January 2020.*

### **3. Report**

Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. receives an annual contribution of \$15,000.00 from Council for the maintenance of the sporting grounds at Lot 1 RP206206 and Lot 2 RP214734.

Following a heavy rain event on 17 January 2020, members of the Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. cleared the debris away from around the club house caused by the event. Due to the volume of debris on the sporting fields, heavy machinery was required to complete the clean-up works at a cost of \$1,897.50. Council has received a request from Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. for financial assistance to meet the costs associated to complete these works.

The request from Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. is considered reasonable as the facility is owned by Council and these unforeseen additional costs are an unforeseen financial burden for the Club. In line with the terms of the lease and in previous events at other Council owned and managed facilities where Council staff have cleaned up the facility impacted at no cost to the Club/s that utilise the grounds. This has been evidenced in events in 2011, 2013 and 2015 which affected Laidley Recreation Reserve, Springbrook Park and Forest Hill Recreation Reserve.

The annual contribution of \$15,000.00 provided to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. is to assist with the costs associated with maintaining this facility, however it does not cover unexpected events such as this. Further work will be undertaken to identify what is needed in relation to a drainage design to mitigate this problem in the future.

**4. Policy and Legal Implications**

The terms of the lease agreement with Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. and Council state that the Centre is required to maintain the premises and all fixtures, fittings and chattels except for a range of circumstances which includes damage due to storm.

**5. Financial and Resource Implications**

The reimbursement costs of \$1,897.50 will be funded from Council's Sport and Recreation Budget.

**6. Delegations/Authorisations**

No further delegations are required to manage the issues raised in this report. The Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity will manage any further requirements in line with existing delegations.

**7. Communication and Engagement**

Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. will be formally advised of Council's resolution in relation to this matter.

**8. Conclusion**

In line with the terms of the lease and Council previously providing assistance to clean up Council owned, and managed facilities impacted by weather events, it is recommended that Council provide financial assistance to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. to meet the costs associated with cleaning up the grounds after the heavy rain event which occurred on 17 January 2020.

**9. Action/s**

1. Write to Ropehill Community Sports Centre Inc. to advise them of Council's decision.
2. Arrange reimbursement of the costs.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.