



# **AGENDA**

**Late Reports**

**Ordinary Council Meeting**

**Thursday, 31 October 2024**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mal Osborne', is positioned above the printed name.

**Mal Osborne**

**Acting Chief executive Officer**

**Date: 31 October 2024**

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**ITEM 0 CEO'S OFFICE****L.1 Budget Amendment - Allocate new grant funds****File Ref****Responsible Officer** Mal Osborne, Acting Chief executive Officer**Reporting Officer** Morgan Gillham, Principal Project Manager**Attachments** Nil**Voting Requirements** Simple Majority**Disclosure of Interest** Reporting Officer:  
Responsible Officer:

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/S**

1. That Council Receive the following grant monies from the 'Community Water Supplies Partnership Program with Local Government' as administered by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)
  - (a) \$86,501 for the supply of two (2) 13,000 litre slip-on water carts; and'
  - (b) \$99,946 for the supply and installation of a 275kL water tank and associated infrastructure at the Greenbushes Sports Ground Precinct.

And,

2. Allocate \$86,501 to General Ledger 1400040 - PL30 Road Plant Purchases
3. Allocate \$99,946 to General Ledger 1340260 - PJ78 Greenbushes Recreation Precinct Dumpling Gully Area.

**IN BRIEF**

Shire Officers have been successful in being awarded Grant money for 2 x projects as described above and below in more detail, and therefore require budgetary allocation of these moneys.

**MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

To accept Grant monies for projects 1 and 2 as above.

**BACKGROUND**

In May 2024, the DWER announced the 'Community Water Supplies Partnership Program with Local Government' to support initiatives that will benefit communities during poor seasonal rainfall and drought events, whilst also considering reductions in potable scheme water. This program is a 1/3 LGA contribution to 2/3 State Contribution.

This scheme was previously only available to Local Government areas where average rainfall was below 600mm per annum, however it has now been expanded to support other Local Government Areas where rainfall has been declining but may exceed 600mm per annum, including the Shire of Bridgetown – Greenbushes.

Shire officers have currently lodged three (3) separate grant applications with their status as follows:

1. Two (2) 13,000 litre slip-on water carts, supply (GRANTED).
2. Supply and installation of a 275kL water tank (to be filled from the Dumping Gulley Dams under a new Water Take Agreement between the Shire and the Water Corporation), electrical supply, irrigation pump and state of the art control equipment, connection to the existing soccer pitch irrigation as well as fire and community tanker fill point at the Greenbushes Sports Ground Precinct (GRANTED).
3. Three (3) new water tanks at three Volunteer Bush Fire Stations. (PENDING).

## **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

*Local Government Act 1995*

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

FM 4-Procurement, Budget Management and Supporting Local Business Policy

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

These Grant monies require a budget amendment to be recognised.

Officers anticipated the award of these grant monies and made budget allocation in the 24/25FY budget for the Shires 1/3 contribution.

## **STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN**

- 3 A safe community for people and animals.
- 2 Good health and community wellbeing.

## **CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN**

Item 2.2 - Provide quality sport, leisure and recreation services.

Item 2.2.3 - Provide the implementation of the "Greenbushes Sportsground & Recreation Precinct Redevelopment Project"

## **LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

NA

## **ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS**

All assets will be placed on the Shires asset registry on completion.

## **WORKFORCE PLAN**

NA

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The receipt and expenditure of these grant money is LOW RISK.

Measures of Likelihood			
Rating	Description	Frequency	Probability
<b>Almost Certain</b>	The event is expected to occur in most circumstances	More than once per year	> 90% chance of occurring
<b>Likely</b>	The event will probably occur in most circumstances	At least once per year	60% - 90% chance of occurring
<b>Possible</b>	The event should occur at some time	At least once in 3 years	40% - 60% chance of occurring
<b>Unlikely</b>	The event could occur at some time	At least once in 10 years	10% - 40% chance of occurring
<b>Rare</b>	The event may only occur in exceptional circumstances	Less than once in 15 years	< 10% chance of occurring

Risk Matrix					
Consequence Likelihood	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
<b>Almost Certain</b>	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
<b>Likely</b>	Low	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
<b>Possible</b>	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
<b>Unlikely</b>	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
<b>Rare</b>	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate

**COMMENT**

Receiving these grant moneys will provide the community with not only better sporting facilities but will also provide accessible water for both firefighting purposes and community drought water.

**ITEM 17 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****17.1 Amendment to Fees and Charges - Proposed In-Term Swimming Pool Entry Fee****File Ref****Responsible Officer** Mal Osborne, Acting Chief executive Officer**Reporting Officer** Megan Richards, Executive Manager, Community & Economic Development**Attachments** Nil**Voting Requirements** Absolute Majority**Disclosure of Interest** Reporting Officer:  
Responsible Officer:

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**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

1. Approves the proposed in-term swimming entry fee of \$10 per block in-term swimming lessons (10 lessons over 2 weeks) to be reflected in the current Fees and Charges 2024-25.
2. Subject to the approval of recommendation 1, reduce the income in account 1343530 Swimming Pool Entry Fees from \$100,000 to \$90,154 to reflect the reduction in income.
3. Subject to the approval of recommendation 1, direct the CEO to advertise the new Fee and Charge for a period of 2 weeks.

**IN BRIEF**

This motion seeks to support water safety in our community by providing a new fee specifically for in-term swimming lessons which are facilitated by the Education Department through each of the Primary Schools located within the Shire boundary, recognising that each attendance is brief. The lifeguard to patron ratio requirement remains the same during in-term swimming lessons.

**MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

This motion has been proposed by Cr Redman for Council consideration. Cr Redman proposed this motion to ensure that in-term swimming is accessible to all children by reducing pool entry fees for in-term swimming lessons so that lessons are not cost prohibitive for families. Many families have two or three children attending in-term swimming and entry fees and transport costs will be due at the same time. The school charges bus fees per child of \$25 and, with the current pool entry fee of \$4.50 per child (school doesn't pass on GST), the total cost for a two-week block of lessons is \$70 per student for Bridgetown Primary School Students. These costs can pose a significant financial burden on some families.

	Current fees \$4.90 per student per entry	Option 1 \$20 per student for 2 weeks	Option 2 \$10 per student for 2 weeks
Cost per student for 2 weeks	\$49.00	\$20.00	\$10.00
<b>Total projected income per annum</b>	<b>\$12,656 (2023-24 figures)</b>	<b>\$5,620</b>	<b>\$2,810</b>
Impact to Shire income based on current fees		-\$7,036	-\$9,846

If Council supports the officers recommendation and the new fee of \$10 per student for the two-week block of lessons is introduced, the estimated reduction to Shire income would be:

Option 2 - \$9,846 loss

The 2023-24 total income received for pool entry fees was \$95,918 (as listed in the 2024-25 budget). The projected income for 2024-25 is \$100,000.

Each school manages the cost of pool entry fees and transport for in-term swimming differently, and Council may wish to consider these factors prior to deciding to reduce fees for this season (2024-25) of in-term swimming.

~~St Brigid's include the cost of pool entry fees for in-term swimming and transport (for younger children) in their annual school fee structure, which is charged at the beginning of each year. Because of this, the parents of the students at St Brigid's have already paid/or agreed to pay full price for their entry fees.~~

After further information became available regarding the method used by St Brigids to cover the cost of the pool entry fees, clarification was sought from the Principal at St Brigid's Primary School. The Principal explained that the school covers the cost of in-term swimming lesson pool entry fees and transport. The costs of the lessons are not passed onto the parents. St Brigids covers the cost with the income provided by student fees and Federal funding. The Principal also stated that the cost of pool entry fees are becoming difficult to cost and comes at the expense of funding other possible activities.

The Shire invoices Greenbushes and Bridgetown Primary retrospectively for the total pool entry fees for all students that attended lessons that did not have a season pass to the pool. The schools then recover the cost per student from the parents/guardians minus GST. Greenbushes cover the costs associated with transporting students to and from the pool, Bridgetown Primary pass on the costs of transport per child and St Brigid's provide a bus for the younger grades and the older students walk to the pool.

Another complicating factor is that many students hold season swim passes that cover pool entry for the entire season. These students are not included when tallying numbers to invoice schools for in-term swimming lessons entry fees, as they have already paid prior to the introduction of the new fee introduced. This is of concern given that the in-term lessons start on the 4 November 2024. The season pass fees are;

Annual Family Pass - 2 adults & 2 children or 1 adult & 3 children renewal	\$391.50
Annual Family Pass - 2 adults & 2 children or 1 adult & 3 children	\$435.00
Annual Family Pass - Concession	\$282.75
Annual Family Pass - Extra Child 2-17 years	\$62.15

Annual Family Pass - Concession Extra Child 2-17 years	\$40.40
Annual Pass	\$248.50
Annual Pass - Concession & Youth	\$164.50

If Council are concerned with the potential cost disparity between schools that would occur if the new fee were included in the current Fees and Charges, but support the proposal, the new fee could still be adopted to be included in the 2025-26 Fees and Charges, rather than the 2024-25 Fees and Charges. This would allow each of the schools to manage the new fee in their fee structure modelling for the next school year and share the new fee with parents prior to the beginning of in-term swimming lessons 2025-26, and prior to the purchase of seasonal passes.

Bridgetown High School also hold in-term swimming lessons for their students. Although these lessons are not compulsory and are held over 5 and not 10 days, it may be important for Council to consider reducing the costs of entrance fees for the High School and provide equity across all schools within the Shire. If so, the reduction in their fees has not been included in the reduction of income outlined above. Reducing the High School pool entrance fees would reduce income by a further \$1255.80, (approx.) assuming that Council apply the same entry fees of \$1.00 per student per lesson, for 5 lessons, in line with the reduced entrance fee for the other schools.

## **BACKGROUND**

In-term swimming lessons are compulsory for students Pre-primary to Year 6. They form part of the Physical Education curriculum.

The Education Department covers the cost of swimming instructors. Pool entry, bus transport and teachers/EAs are costs covered by parents and/or the school. Council covers the cost of lane hire for all state government facilitated swimming lessons.

Swimming lessons generally last just 40 minutes and students return to school immediately afterwards, attending in either November/December or February/March.

Separate to in-term lessons, VacSwim lessons run during school holidays. The State Government has recently introduced a scheme that provides access to free VacSwim lessons during school holidays. Lessons are free for December and January, but registrations have already closed on 16 October 2024. Additionally, many children are unable to independently travel to and from the pool in the holidays, especially if they live outside the townsite and their parents are working. This factor highlights the need for children in this age group to participate in in-term swimming given that, for many children, in-term swimming is their only opportunity to have formal swimming lessons to ensure they are safe around water.

## **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

*Local Government Act 1995*

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If the officer recommendations are adopted the new fee for in-term swimming will reduce Aquatic Facility income by a projected \$9,846.

If the High School in-term swimming entry fee is also reduced the overall projected reduction in income would be \$11,101.



The projected income for in-term swimming for 2024-25 based on previous income plus 6.5% entry fee increase (as per the 2024-25 Fees and Charges) is \$13,478.

The projected income for the pool for the 2024-25 season is \$100,000.

**STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN**

2 Good health and community wellbeing.

**CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN**

Nil

**LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Nil

**ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Nil

**WORKFORCE PLAN**

Nil

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

The current recommendations address the following Risk Management Priority area identified according to Policy G 12 – Risk Management – Financial, and Reputational External.

Financial Risk – The financial risk of approving the new fee for in-term swimming lessons is high given the reduction in income will ‘almost certainly’ occur and is above \$5,000. (As outlined in the Risk Management Policy)

Reputation External – the reputational (external) risk is moderate, if the new fee is introduced this season, given the potential disparity between the parents at one primary school that have already paid full price for pool entry in their fees and the other schools that will receive the benefit of the reduced fee by paying after swimming lessons have finished.

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**COMMENT**