CRICKET IN MONASH DISCUSSION PAPER - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

The Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper was developed after consultation with Monash cricket clubs and Cricket Victoria at the Monash Cricket Forum held 8 September 2020. At the 27 April 2021 meeting, Council agreed to publicly exhibit the Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper and encourage community and club submissions to the questions posed in the paper.

Community consultation on the Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper included:

- **A community survey**, completed on Council's Shape Monash webpage, which was open from 6 May to 19 June 2021. The following survey link was circulated to all Monash cricket clubs. https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/cricket
- **Emails and phone calls** with cricket clubs that sought further information and clarification on questions posed in the paper.
- **May 2021 edition of the Monash Bulletin –** an article in the Monash Bulletin, distributed to all households in Monash, encouraging broader community responses on the questions posed in the paper.

At the completion of the consultation period, a total of 74 submissions were received in response to the Cricket In Monash Discussion Paper, but not every question was answered by all 74 respondents.

A summary of who responded is shown below:

Respondent User Type – What best describes you?

Answer choices	**Percent**	**Count**
- Club committee member	41.67%	30
- Cricket player	23.61%	17
- Parent of cricket player	11.11$	8
- Not involved in a club, but wanted to have a say	9.72%	7
- Cricket coach	6.94%	5
- Non-playing cricket club member (social member)	6.94%	5
- Other	0%	0
Total	**100%**	**72**

Respondent gender

Answer choices	**Percent**	**Count**
- Female	7.04%	5
- Male	88.73%	63
- Prefer not to say	4.23%	3
- Other	0%	0
Total	**100%**	**71**

A summary of responses to Issue 1 is shown below:

Q1. In the interest of growing junior skill development and training opportunities, is shared access of cricket training nets between clubs an opportunity that Council should further explore?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	61.64%	45
- No	38.36%	28
Total	**100%**	**73**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Better use of existing training assets
- Would increase participation opportunities for juniors, but only at sites that are underutilised and can accommodate additional training on nights that are currently not used
- Opportunities to develop better training facilities if there is broader benefit

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- This will not work at sites that are already at full capacity
- Belief that nets allocated to just 1 home club is a better model and creates a sense of ownership
- Concerns over wear and tear of nets from additional use
- Concerns about travel distances

Q2. Is shared access to designated junior cricket training and match venues, whereby several clubs will have access rights to the facility, something that Council should further explore?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	63.01%	46
- No	36.99%	27
Total	**100%**	**73**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Greater flexibility of match-day scheduling
- Better opportunities for player development
- Potential of greater access to better facilities that service multiple clubs
- Strong potential in sites that are not a designated home ground to one club

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- This will not work at sites that are already at full capacity
- Dilutes the vibes of playing at a home ground
- Concerns about junior players being poached
- Too much wear and tear to outfield

Q3. Council's current fees and charge policy does not recognise the additional resources and costs required for the preparation and maintenance of turf wickets.

a) Should this be amended so that relevant clubs are charged for the use of these exclusive use assets?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	35.14%	26
- No	64.86%	48
Total	**100%**	**74**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Yes, so long as charges are proportionate with usage levels and standard played
- Yes, so long as the charge was much less than that of a centre turf wicket
- User pays approach is fair if clubs wish to access exclusive use assets

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Council should be prepared to invest in the sport by providing these assets
- Local turf clubs will not have the financial capacity, especially through Covid
- Clubs would be better allocating their funds to equipment and programs
- Increasing costs will be too much of a burden to turf clubs

b) If yes, what do you feel is an appropriate percentage to recoup from clubs for the maintenance and preparation of these exclusive use assets?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- 0-10%	23.08%	6
- 11-20%	23.08%	6
- 21-50%	0%	Nil
- Greater than 50%	0%	Nil
- Did not answer	53.85%	14
Total	**100%**	**26**

Q4. There are already usage arrangements between some Monash cricket clubs and Council for the use of some government school ovals. Is this something that Council should explore further at additional school sites in Monash, with a focus on identifying suitable facilities that can accommodate junior participation?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	93.24%	69
- No	6.76%	5
Total	**100%**	**74**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Good opportunities for junior participation, so long as the venues are suitable and adequate
- More venues will alleviate pressures at existing sites that are at capacity
- Strong linkages between junior participation and school settings

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- School ovals are largely unsuitable

Q5. In the interest of greater participation opportunities through night cricket, do you support having a designated lit cricket venue in Monash that can host evening matches and training?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	93.24%	69
- No	6.76%	6
Total	**100%**	**74**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Meets a growing trend and would be a great spectacle for cricket in Monash
- Great for T20 cricket matches and marquee events
- Better use of existing ovals

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Daylight savings mean most cricket can be played in summer under natural light
- Belief held that only very few clubs/players would benefit

A summary of responses to Issue 2 is shown below:

Q1. What action can Council take to support cricket clubs who may be declining in numbers and/or are struggling to attract new volunteers?

Common responses include:

- Reduced and simplified admin expectations placed on clubs from Council
- Greater promotion and marketing opportunities for clubs
- Volunteer training opportunities
- Greater collaboration between clubs, Council and schools
- Council endorsed and supported events/tournaments
- Greater maintenance and development of cricket facilities

Q2. Given what we know about the condition of some turf wickets in Monash, as well as the resources required to maintain and prepare these assets, should Council introduce prioritisation and monitoring measures around the use of turf wickets?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	59.15%	42
- No	40.85%	29
Total	**100%**	**71**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Poor quality pitches are a blight on the game and measures should be in place
- Having a standard to work towards will be beneficial in terms of clarity and consistency
- If underprepared or poor quality due to overuse, pitches can be a safety issue
- Any measures to enhance the standard of turf pitches should be encouraged

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Belief that turf wicket usage should be maximised to reach as many participants as possible
- Belief that clubs should decide how to use their turf wickets and the above could be harmful to participation
- Every venue is different. Usage on turf wickets should be considered and allocated on a case-by-case basis

Q3. A draft Cricket Wicket Policy has been developed. Do you support the introduction of such a policy to manage practice and centre wickets consistently across Monash?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	67.61%	48
- No	32.39%	23
Total	**100%**	**71**

Q4. Please provide any other comments or feedback in relation to what is proposed in the draft Cricket Wicket Policy.

Common supportive responses include:

- Good to have a consistent approach across Monash turf wickets

Common unsupportive responses include:

- Grave concerns about the increase in fees that may be a result of introducing such a policy
- Worries about the impact of introducing an overs cap, especially for juniors who currently play on turf
- Belief that U/17s should not be considered in the overs cap at all, given that the lighter bodies have less impact on the pitch surface

Q5. At the forum, 'increased participation of juniors and senior females' was the most popular club response when clubs were asked what the sport will ideally look like in 10-15 years from now. Is it reasonable to expect that all cricket clubs in Monash commit to this at governance level and in their strategic plans?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	82.43%	61
- No	17.57%	13
Total	**100%**	**74**

If yes, what do clubs need to support this outcome? Common responses include:

- Give every member (including juniors and women) access to turf cricket, not just senior male teams
- Better coaching support and appoint a dedicated female coordinator
- Greater promotion of female cricket opportunities
- Quality facilities that cater to female participants, especially change rooms

Q6. Do you support the opportunity for more formal, possibly hierarchical partnerships between Monash cricket clubs whereby players can potentially progress from one club to another in the interest of player development? It is possible that partnerships can also include formal or informal relationships between a club and local schools.

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	68.49%	50
- No	31.51%	23
Total	**100%**	**73**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Mutually beneficial partnerships between clubs should be encouraged
- Support for more localised pathways and progression opportunities
- School affiliations would be highly beneficial
- Yes, but informal relationships would work better

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Concerns that only bigger clubs would benefit and poaching of players would increase
- This already occurs and Council has a limited role to play in implementing this
- Not Council's role

A summary of responses to Issue 3 is shown below:

Q1. 'Progression and retention of juniors' was identified by clubs at the forum as a key priority area over the next 10 years. What do you feel needs to occur for cricket clubs in Monash to achieve this?

Common responses include:

- Inclusive club cultures increase the likelihood of long-term participation
- More local cricket venues in Monash
- Good coaching and clear pathways for juniors
- Do not place a cap on turf wicket usage
- Closer collaboration between Council, clubs and Cricket Victoria

Q2. Cricket in Monash is currently below national rates for female participation. In your opinion, what are the primary barriers to female participation in cricket in Monash?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Gender neutral facilities	56.76%	42
- Lack of small-sided participation opportunities in the event that a club may not have enough girls/women to establish a full team of 11	55.41%	41
- Lack of marketing and promotion of female cricket opportunities	43.24%	32
- Lack of club resources and volunteer support	39.19%	29
- Lack of adequate coaching programs for girls	35.14%	26
- Club culture	32.43%	24
- Time constraints	28.38%	21
- Lack of progression opportunities for girls at Monash clubs	27.03%	20
- Other (please specify)	6.76%	5

Q3. Are cricket participation programs in primary schools, led by Cricket Victoria and supported by Council, something that you feel we should strive towards enhancing and increasing?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	100%	74
- No	0%	0
Total	**100%**	**74**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Schools can be a great starting point for developing a pathway
- Yes, so long as local clubs also play a role in these opportunities

Q4. To continue to grow participation opportunities in Monash, should Council seek to formally allocate cricket grounds to non-traditional and emerging formats of cricket, such as 'Social Sixes' or 'Last Man Stands'?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	60.81%	45
- No	24.32%	18
- Other	14.86%	11

Total	**100%**	**74**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- A great idea to link these new participation formats to existing clubs

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Grounds are already at capacity accommodating traditional forms of cricket
- More teams through these new formats would increase ground costs and burden on clubs

A summary of responses to Issue 4 is shown below:

Q1. Should Council establish a clear set of funding criteria to facility improvements and principles for future investment into cricket facilities?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	100%	74
- No	0%	Nil
Total	**100%**	**74**

For those who responded 'Yes', the most popular investment principles were:

- Investment that supports the growth of female cricket in Monash
- Investment that supports the growth of junior cricket in Monash
- Safe and high quality cricket facilities (training and match day)
- Invest in clubs who have strong memberships and a commitment to growing participation

Q2. With regard to investment into projects and/or initiatives that support the participation of cricket, where do you think Council should prioritise future investment into community cricket?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Cricket nets	83.78%	62
- Change rooms	78.38%	58
- Centre wickets (turf and synthetic)	63.51%	47
- Club development programs, such as volunteer mentoring, governance training or inclusivity training	45.95%	34
- Cricket outfields	43.24%	32
- Other	16.22%	12

Q3. Should Council prioritise investment into multi-use synthetic training facilities that more people can use and have a broader community benefit?

Answer choices	Percent	Count
- Yes	87.84%	65
- No	12.16%	9
Total	**100%**	**74**

Supportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Yes, can be used all throughout the year, even in wet weather
- Sharing with other sports can raise awareness for cricket
- Increased participation opportunities
- Broader community benefit for locals

Unsupportive reasons provided by respondents include:

- Too much congestion and not tailored enough to cricket
- Cricket should only be accommodated on grass
- Should not be a high priority