

Chairman's Blog – Richardson Reserve Update



Dear members,

As highlighted in my first Chairman's blog many of you would be aware of the discussions that have been occurring between council and the community about the future of Richardson Reserve due to the unsolicited offer from Kaufland Supermarkets who offered to purchase the land to construct a new supermarket. As a result of this unsolicited offer there was also the proposal to move Modbury Vista Soccer Club to a new 9-hectare site on Greenwith Road.

Last night was a critical moment in these discussions with elected council members voting on a number of proposals including whether to sell Richardson Reserve to Kaufland.

In an emotive council meeting, there was a clear and unanimous vote with all councillors electing NOT to sell Richardson Reserve to Kaufland.

As a result of this decision, Councillor Sandy Keane moved a motion to continue with the proposed master plan strategy for Richardson Reserve. This plan includes a two-staged construction with Stage 1 to be the installation of two full-size FFSA compliant synthetic pitches and Stage 2 to be the erection of a brand new three-storey clubroom. The initial plan did have a third stage which included a 100 seat grandstand, additional car parking, playground and warm up area. In a revised motion (in order for it to be passed) it was agreed by councillors to remove this third stage (which is something we can revisit at a later date if necessary).

An example of what is being proposed and was voted on is provided for your reference.



The motion by Councillor Sandy Keane was supported with a 10-1 vote for the proposal to go ahead.

So what does this mean for the club?

This is fantastic news for the club as we now have some certainty around our future. The council are committed to make these improvements for our club with stage 1 expected to commence in the 2018/19 financial year and stage 2 the following year. The council already have \$1.74m allocated towards stage 1.

As a club we will now be working with council around the finer details of the design and the construction dates. These discussions with council are expected to commence as early as this week. Once we have firm details on these we will continue to keep members informed.

I understand there have been some concerns and questions raised around why we didn't accept or push for the offer to move to a new location given we are at capacity at Richardson Reserve. As a committee we have had numerous discussions with council about the proposed move to the Greenwith Rd site and what I can say is that with the vote to not sell Richardson Reserve to Kaufland this option was never viable. Elected council members (apart from one) clearly indicated that they were not in support of moving Modbury Vista Soccer Club to the new proposed site without the proceeds of a sale to Kaufland due to the impacts it would have on residents, their rates and the financial impact to the council. Even if the sale to Kaufland went ahead there would have been so many risks and dependencies associated with such a move it would have been a really unsettling and difficult time with no guarantees as to how long we would have remained at Richardson Reserve or even if the move would have occurred.

As a club we now have certainty with the new master plan. As part of this master plan will be a new strategic relationship with the Wynn Vale primary school and Golden Grove Lutheran school to enable the use of their ovals. We will also be speaking with council about potential lighting options for those ovals to enable them to be used for training. We will also continue to look at all strategic relationships with partners such as Modbury Jets regarding usage of Smith Partners Stadium to ensure we continue to meet the demands and provide services for our members.

During the construction phases there will be disruptions and the committee will work with all affiliations to ensure we have alternate arrangements in place to see us through these periods.

As a committee we ask that members are understanding through this phase for the long-term benefit we are going to provide for our members.

I will continue to provide updates to members as we progress in my regular monthly blog, but I urge if any members have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact via email at chairman@mvsc.com.au

This decision has been a long time coming but now we can all be excited for the future!

Go Vista!

Stuart Carlisle
Chairman

PS I hope to make some further big announcements shortly regarding the future of our club so stay tuned!