

## 7. NOTICES OF MOTION

### 7.1. NOTICE OF MOTION - COOYA BEACH CRICKET PITCH

**COUNCILLOR** Cr Michael Kerr

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

I hereby give Notice of my intention to move the following Motion at the Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 29 August 2023:

**" That Council:**

#### **1. Commits to installing the practice cricket pitch nets at Cooya Beach "**

#### **BACKGROUND**

In March 2022 Mossman High School student Max Schwarzer presented in an online article advising that he had collected over 60 signatures on a petition to have a practice cricket net installed in Cooya Beach at Lou Prince Park.

The petition was presented to council with 170 signatures in April 2022.

Councillors were advised that the project to install cricket nets at Cooya Beach would be brought to Council as part of the upcoming budget considerations but further investigation would be undertaken before bringing the project to Council to ensure they understand the community's priorities regarding improvements to the park to ensure they have a better overall picture of the upgrades needed to the area, e.g. shade, seating etc.

It was envisioned that feedback would be sought from the residents of Cooya both on-site and through a post-box survey by April. The cost estimate of \$17,500 for the nets, plus Council site preparation and installation costs will be refined as part of this process. Budget for this project unfortunately could not be found.

Shortly after Mr Schwarzer was contacted by the federal member Warren Entsch's office advising him of the Stronger Communities Program. The Stronger Communities grants are only available to applicants who have been invited to apply by their local Federal MP. Max Schwarzer had been invited to apply for funding but was not an eligible applicant on his own. Council has not been invited to apply but would be eligible in partnership with Max. If successful, Council would receive 50% funding of the eligible project costs without having an approved budget for the other 50%, whereas a Not-for-profit club would receive 100% funding.

Councillors were advised that council officers had contacted the Muddies Cricket Club to ask if they would be interested in partnering with Mr Schwarzer in applying for the grant and they were happy to do so. Officers would continue to work with the Club and Mr Schwarzer to develop and submit their grant application. Officers have replied to Mr Schwarzer advising him of the Muddies interest.

This did not amount to a successful funding and still no cricket pitch nets are available for the youth of Cooya Beach.

In the recent budget councillors requested allocated funds be set aside for projects such as this one as it is a perfect community project for that region of Douglas.

## **OFFICER'S COMMENT**

Sport in the local community plays a critical role in promoting physical health, social connection, and mental wellbeing. The closest cricket training nets to Cooya are located within the Port Douglas Sports Complex. Providing the nets with assist the Cooya Beach community to participate in local cricket practice and therefore may enhance the level of athletic performance and skills, grow interest in cricket and increase club membership.

After being advised that the joint application between the Muddies Cricket Club and Mr Schwazer for the Stronger Communities Program was unsuccessful, Council Officers have continued to explore grant funding opportunities for this project.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil