

POSITION STATEMENT

(IN RELATION TO THE PURPOSE AND USE OF CITIZENS PARK)

9 June 2015

This Position Statement is provided by the representatives of the Richmond Junior Football Club (Andrew O'Halloran and Chris McNeill) and the Richmond Union Cricket Club (Jane Stevens and Ross Couper). For the purposes of this Position Statement the aforementioned persons are referred to as 'the Representatives'.

General Principles

The Representatives:

- regard Citizens Park as Richmond's premiere sporting ground for Australian Rules Football and cricket;
- regard Citizens Park as fulfilling an important role for several other sporting clubs;
- regard Citizens Park as fulfilling an important role as a local/neighbourhood park;
- emphasise that the use of Citizens Park by the Richmond Junior Football Club and Richmond Union Cricket Club is by way of formal agreement with Yarra City Council in which the terms and conditions of use are outlined and enforced;
- understand that the Yarra City Council propose to undertake a significant upgrade the sporting facilities including upgrade and/or replacement of the pavilion near the corner of Highett and Gleadell Streets;
- support the ongoing use of Citizens Park by recreational users including dog owners and their pets;
- support the ongoing status of Citizens Park as an off leash park, subject to the introduction of recommendations contained in this Position Statement and ongoing endeavours by all users of Citizens Park to ensure the uninterrupted enjoyment and use of sports oval for the purposes of football and cricket (in accordance with the sporting clubs' formal agreements with Yarra City Council);

The Representatives support the following recommendations:

- Introduction of improved signage outlining the use of Citizens Park, and in particular the sports oval, by dog owners;
- Increased and improved enforcement of the conditions of use of Citizens Park by all members of the public;

- Investigation of the potential to construct a dog run (enclosed or otherwise) in the northern third of Barkly Gardens for the purposes of providing an additional and enclosed facility for dog owners;
- Investigation of the potential for dog exercise infrastructure to be provided at Citizens Park in the area around the sports oval and generally consistent with the area shaded pale blue in Attachment A to this Position Statement.

The Representatives do not support the reinstatement of gates around the sports oval.

Notes on the growth of the Richmond Junior Football Club

Over the past five years, the Richmond Auskick program has grown from 40 participants to 120 participants.

The Club has this year introduced a second Under 8's team along with one Under 9's team and one under10 team. Three years ago, the club had just one Under 9's team to provide for the younger years cohort.

Numbers have increased in the last five years from approximately 115 participants to 165.

Notes on the growth of the Richmond Union Cricket Club

Since 2009 the RUCC has doubled the number of Junior teams (Under 10's to Under 16's) from four to eight along with the introduction in 2014 of the T20 Blast program catering for around 40 seven & eight year olds and the expansion of the Into-Cricket program to over 50 predominantly four to seven year olds kids. In total we had more than 180 children and their families involved across all three formats last season.

RUCC had 86 players involved in five senior sides in 2014/15 and are expecting this to increase to six senior sides in 2015/16 season.

A key part of the future of the club is to increase that participation of women & girls and to get dedicated senior and junior women's teams up and running across the next three seasons.

Acknowledgement

The Representatives of the Richmond Junior Football Club and Richmond Union Cricket Club would like to thank Yarra City Council for the opportunity to participate in the Citizens Park Users Group.

ATTACHMENT A

