

OPEN

MINUTE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinary meeting of the
Sports and Recreation Committee

Wednesday 6 March 2019
Commencing at 10.00a.m.
Council Chamber

Civic House

110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

| TABLE OF CONTENTS | PAGE |
|--|-------------|
| 6 Chairperson's report | |
| A. A2150869 - Chairperson's Report - tabled document | 2 |

Item 0: Chairperson's Report



Sports and Recreation Committee

6 March 2019

REPORT

Chairperson's Report

Reserves and hillsides still out of bounds due to continued extreme fire risk.

- 1.1 As this extremely dry period has continued, the fire risk is still extremely high.
- 1.2 I strongly reiterate and remind the Council message that all our reserves and hillsides are still closed to all activity, and will continue to be so till a decent amount of rain and greening of foliage.
- 1.3 And please keep a vigilance on any unusual activity, and informing people that may not be aware, from entering.
- 1.4 Apart from one's own safety risk, we don't want services delayed in attacking a potential fire by having to ensure people are not in the forest or reserve.
- 1.5 We still have our beaches and sports parks to relax and recreate on.
- 1.6 Remember to also look out for the wellbeing of your nearby neighbours, with the stresses of ongoing heat and anxiousness of events lately, some just need a friendly chat to know you are looking out for them.
- 1.7 And big thank-you to all the continuous hard work and selfless acts of generosity shown by so many people helping each other across the two regions in this time of great need and support.

Rationalising and rationing our stored water, and the potential effect on our reserves and sporting facilities.

- 1.8 Though we are somewhat blessed in Nelson to have a reservoir (Maitai Dam) to fall back on for a period, we still need to be cognizant of being prudent to ensure we still have water spare for further weeks or months of no rain scenario.
- 1.9 This unusual, seemingly endless period of no rain is now having a direct impact on the assets the Sport & Recreation Committee oversee, being our Parks, Reserves, and sportsfields.

Item 0: Chairperson's Report

- 1.10 Even without the effect of rationing and rationalising our cities water usage further on behalf of our residents with the stage 3 water restrictions kicking in last Friday, our grounds are getting extremely hard and grass cover suffering.
- 1.11 We work hard to maintain the condition of our parks and sportsfields to a high level of usability and standards, and as you know public and users are quick to point out if we don't deliver to these expectations.
- 1.12 Thus many of our tree plantings over last few years which have taken considerable cost and often extra voluntary input to establish, are taking a hit with growing losses of young plants to lack of rain.
- 1.13 Also many of our sportsfields, if not maintained with watering, there comes a point the grass dies and cannot recover adequately or at all. Thus meaning not just a loss of playing surface for the time being month, but in reality a pitch that is out of action for rest of the year as cannot be resown till next spring.
- 1.14 And for many playing fields this can mean up to several hundred thousand dollars ratepayers expense to re-level, resow and rejuvenate, and for some like golf greens two years of care before being playable on again, if not maintained over dry periods with regular watering.
- 1.15 Therefore a rationalising and balancing up of what grassed facilities and plantings we may have to let fallow and die, to save further on water. Versus what we decide to maintain with minimum watering to keep alive to prevent an even potentially higher ratepayer cost of having to rehabilitate or replant again later.
- 1.16 Thus we are continuing watering our high value premier surfaces, such as Trafalgar Park pitch 1 and pitch 2. Saxton pitch 1. Neale Park in the patches that we had already started remedial work and resowing prior to drought.
- 1.17 Our golf greens are being watered sparingly, but not the fairways or tees at all. Croquet lawns. The cricket wickets till season ends shortly.
- 1.18 And hand watering selected trees that are of importance and function.
- 1.19 To collaboratively work with and keep the affected sporting codes updated, Cr Dahlberg, NCC parks staff and I, have met with each of the sports codes representatives in Nelson.
- 1.20 This is also to inform of the current condition of the sports fields, and what best steps in further rationalising what we should water or not, and the potential longer term effect on the quality of these fields if we don't have rain in the coming weeks.
- 1.21 And to pass on the message to all teams and users how to best protect the field surface and grass coverage that we currently have to ensure its best recovery for the season transition ahead.

Item 0: Chairperson's Report

- 1.22 The sports code leaders have been very helpful and understanding, and in fact all have actually been well ahead of the game in front footing and planning, with restructuring their draws for games for the situation that may lie ahead.
- 1.23 Such as allocating away games for first number of weeks in Blenheim or Motueka etc, or other cases delaying start of season to preserve the dry fragile grass cover at present and help accommodate the potentially late grass growth and later field preparation.
- 1.24 Also some tough calls ahead being made by codes on what fields to use or not use, due to the extremely hard sun baked ground to look after player safety and wellbeing.
- 1.25 So a big thank-you to all the collaboration, wisdom and planning being put into rationalising our ground usage by both our staff and the various sports codes and understanding of the situation that may lie ahead.
- 1.26 And praying for rain soon for the whole of the region and wellbeing.

2. Recommendation

That the Sports and Recreation Committee

Receives the report Chairperson's Report

Author: Tim Skinner, Chairperson - Sports and Recreation Committee

Attachments

Nil