



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### FUTURE USE OF FRANK SMITH PARK PLAYING SURFACES (OVAL AND PITCHES)

#### Background

Frank Smith Park at Coromandel Valley is located within the City of Onkaparinga, forms part of the boundary with the City of Mitcham and is highly valued and well used by the local community.

The turf playing surface within Frank Smith Park is roughly the size of one oval or two soccer pitches. It is currently used for junior soccer on Saturday mornings in the winter months and, starting in 2022, this use has been extended to Sundays.

For some time, the Coromandel Ramblers Cricket Club have been advocating for formalisation of the turf playing field/oval at Frank Smith Park as this growing club has been finding it difficult to secure suitable oval space to support its junior, senior programs.

The Sturt Lions Football Club (based in the City of Mitcham) have also requested use of Frank Smith Park for the playing of junior female soccer and a license has been provided for six months for the winter 2022 season (Sunday mornings).

#### What is the history behind the oval at Frank Smith Park?

The current playing surface at Frank Smith Park is an unirrigated levelled open space, with a concrete cricket wicket and no formal drainage system.

The extent and nature of the playing surface largely reflects historical development when *'During the 1960s Frank developed a vision for a playing area for future generations and began work to create the oval. Work stopped in the late 1960s when excavation costs became too great.'*

#### Why are you asking about increasing sport now?

We are asking now in response to recent decision of the City of Onkaparinga.

On the 15 February 2022, the City of Onkaparinga gave in-principle support for Frank Smith Park to be used for organised sport, to allow stakeholders to seek external funding for playing surface upgrades.

As part of this decision, Council noted that the City of Onkaparinga staff will engage with the City of Mitcham and other stakeholders (including immediate residents) to confirm the level of demand for sport at Frank Smith Park, identify potential user groups and to understand the potential impacts of additional sport.

Council noted that the Sturt Lions will be granted a permit for use of Frank Smith Park for junior soccer for the 2022 season and that feedback on this use will be sought from the park users and adjacent residents to support decision making on possible extension of use.

The full report and the full decision can be viewed in the Your Say document library.



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### **Is this consultation considering the whole of Frank Smith Park or just the oval/playing fields?**

Whilst this consultation focusses on the future use of the oval/playing fields within Frank Smith Park for sport, we are welcoming all feedback.

The online survey asks questions about how, and how often, people currently use Frank Smith Park. It also asks a question about what we need to focus on for our future planning for a potential increase in organised sport.

We encourage you to complete the survey and provide all information you feel is important for us to know.

### **What is the proposal?**

There is no formal proposal at this stage other than to upgrade and irrigate the playing surface to support existing sport, a potential increase in sport and the amenity of the park for all users.

At those times when sport is not being played, and irrigated open space has a variety of uses for the community.

### **What works are planned or budgeted to support increased sport at Frank Smith Park?**

There is no formal project or project budget for upgrading of the playing surfaces. We are consulting on a potential future use, and the feedback received will inform future planning and budget bids.

We see it as important to consult on the potential future use of the park, before we start any planning for upgrades to the playing fields.

As noted by Council as part of the 15 February 2022 Council report, the prioritisation of capital funding for the delivery of playing surface improvements at Frank Smith Park needs to be considered in the context of other major sports infrastructure projects across the City of Onkaparinga.

### **Will the playing fields be extended/expanded?**

There is no proposal to build additional playing fields at Frank Smith Park. Our consultation focusses on the existing playing fields only.

### **Will there be a clubroom built at Frank Smith Park?**

There is currently no proposal to build sporting clubroom facilities at Frank Smith Park.

This consultation will help inform future planning and projects associated with sporting use and general community use at Frank Smith Park and to what extent supporting infrastructure needs to be considered.

The infrastructure required to support sport is the same as that desired by users of public open space e.g. toilets, shelter, seating, bbqs, access paths and the appropriate level of car parking.



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### **Will there be sports lighting installed at Frank Smith Park?**

Further to the response above, there has been no request to install lighting at Frank Smith Park.

### **Will there be an artificial playing surface?**

Further to the above comments, artificial playing surfaces are not proposed or envisaged at Frank Smith Park.

Will there be an impact on horse riders on the adjacent Tom Roberts Horse Trail?

The Tom Roberts Horse Trail runs along the southern and eastern edges of Frank Smith Park, with a nominated exercise area located in the south eastern corner of the park.

Council is aware of the current use of the park by horse riders as part of the Tom Roberts Horse Trail. Any future upgrades to the oval will consider the horse riding and trail network surrounding the park and user groups will be consulted. We are not aware of any conflicts between horses and the current sporting activities at the oval.

### **Why is there a question about sports other than soccer and cricket?**

The decision of the City of Onkaparinga requested that we confirm the level of demand for sport at Frank Smith Park and identify potential user groups. This question is designed to help us understand this.

This community consultation provides an opportunity to hear if there are other uses or users of Frank Smith Park Oval to consider. The oval is a highly valued community facility and an important part of the open space network and there may be users/uses outside of current utilisation of the oval which would have community benefit.

### **Who currently has an agreement with council to use the space?**

The Minister for Education has been granted a licence for use of the space for junior school soccer. This is coordinated/administered by the Southern Districts Junior Soccer Association and Frank Smith Park is used as a home field for three primary schools (Belair, Eden Hills and Coromandel Valley) on Saturday mornings during terms 2 and 3.

The Sturt Lions Football Club have been granted a permit for use of Frank Smith Park for junior soccer for the 2022 season. Feedback on this use will be sought from the park users and adjacent residents to support decision making on possible extension of use.

There are currently no agreements in play for use of the space in the summer months.

A licence gives a group the right to use a space at specific times, whereas a lease provides exclusive use.

No clubs have a lease over the space, and leasing of the space is not proposed given the importance of shared use with the community.

**At what times of the week would the Coromandel Ramblers ideally like to use the space if it were upgraded?**



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The Coromandel Ramblers Cricket Club do not currently have a licence to use Frank Smith Park.

The club has grown significantly in recent times and has no further capacity at Weymouth Oval, Coromandel Valley or Hawthorndene Oval.

The club would like to use the oval at Frank Smith Park during the cricket season (late Spring to early Autumn) on Saturday afternoons for senior games, and Sunday morning for junior cricket.

Given the size of the space, there would be room remaining for community use during these times.

### **What level of sport is proposed at Frank Smith Park?**

The extent and nature of the playing surface largely reflects historical development when *'During the 1960s Frank developed a vision for a playing area for future generations and began work to create the oval. Work stopped in the late 1960s when excavation costs became too great.'*

Understanding and balancing the needs of all users is an important consideration when planning for future use of our open space and sports facilities.

At this stage Frank Smith Park oval supports junior level sport. However, it has potential to further support organised sport and meet demand for turf playing space in Northern Onkaparinga and Mitcham Hills district.

Sports which have low to medium impact on other park users, the environment and general amenity warrant consideration.

We are considering whether planning for this use is appropriate and supported by the community. Whilst this consultation is focussing on the turf playing space, there are potential enhancements that could support both organised sport and local community use e.g. irrigation of oval, shelters/bbq area, improved access, traffic management etc.

### **How will the impacts of sport on the park be considered as part of the planning process?**

We are aware of the value that the community place on the natural and historic values of the park, and that it has a variety of uses and users.

We acknowledge that there are multiple considerations regarding planning the future of Frank Smith Park including environmental, heritage and conservation considerations.

The survey has been designed to build an understanding of community interest in the Frank Smith Park, including gauging perceptions about its potential increased use by organised sport.

At this stage we are asking community to help identify key considerations if the oval is made increasingly available for community sport and impact on the park. This will be factored into future planning accordingly.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the status of the Frank Smith Park master planning?**

Development of a draft master plan for Frank Smith Park, aimed at enhancing it for community use was, commenced in 2019. In mid-2021 the project was placed on hold following the adoption of council's Long-Term Financial Plan and the resultant impacts on council's financial capacity to deliver major projects.

The draft master plan was not formally considered by Council, remains in draft, and therefore it is not appropriate to release it to the public.

### **Is it proposed to recommence this master planning process?**

Not at this stage and it will be dependent on the outcomes of this consultation process and the resultant decision of Council.

Understanding and balancing the needs of all users is an important consideration when planning for future use of our open space and sports facilities.

### **What other planning is currently being undertaken to inform future planning for Frank Smith Park?**

We are also working closely with the City of Mitcham to consider the demand for ovals and turf playing space in the district. This involves engaging sporting clubs and associations in the district to inform us of current club participation levels and help us to better understand any pressures clubs are facing at existing ovals/fields in the catchment area.

### **What is the next step in the decision making and planning process for Frank Smith Park?**

The findings of the:

- playing surface demand/supply study (described above)
- a report detailing the outcomes on this community consultation on the potential increase in sport at Frank Smith Park

will be presented to the City of Onkaparinga Council for consideration in the coming months. We are targeting a report in September 2022.

There is no formal project or project budget for upgrading of the playing surfaces. We are consulting on a potential future use, and the feedback received will inform future planning and budget bids.

As noted by Council as part of the 15 February 2022 Council report, the prioritisation of capital funding for the delivery of playing surface improvements at Frank Smith Park needs to be considered in the context of other major sports infrastructure projects across the City of Onkaparinga.

### **How can I provide feedback?**

We are undertaking broad consultation and seeking feedback from the community and special interest groups, local residents, existing and potential users of the oval. The best way to provide feedback is by filling out a short questionnaire located on the City of Onkaparinga's Your Say website at [www.onkaparingacity.com/yoursay](http://www.onkaparingacity.com/yoursay)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A community drop-in information session will be held at Frank Smith Park on Saturday 28 May between 12:00pm and 3:00pm.

Hard copy surveys are available from Coromandel Valley Community Centre and Coromandel Valley National Trust (Watchman House).