

Fair Access Policy Fact Sheet

Swan Hill Rural City Council is committed to building a better municipality, for all.

This information sheet is designed to inform our community and community groups about the Fair Access Policy, why we have it and what it means for sporting clubs and future funding.

What is the Fair Access Roadmap?

The Victorian Government have introduced a Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure. The Roadmap acts as an implementation guide for councils, land management groups, and sport and recreation organisations, to work together to progress gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure.

The Fair Access Policy Roadmap and further details can be found on the Change Our Game website:

<https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/fair-access>

Council's Fair Access Policy

Swan Hill Rural City Council is required to develop and adopt a Fair Access Policy prior to October 2024, to be eligible for Victorian Government Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Funding. The policy aims to address and remove the known gender barriers around accessing and using community sports infrastructure. The Draft Policy details Council's requirements, roles, responsibilities, and expectations to encourage a level playing field in sport and active recreation, so that all people can fully participate in and enjoy the benefits of community sport, from early participation right through to leadership roles. To support the Draft Policy, Council has also developed a Draft Action Plan to outline what steps and strategies Council will take to support the inclusion of women, girls, and diverse groups in accessing and using community sports infrastructure.

What does this mean for local sporting clubs?

The implementation of the Fair Access Policy will see Council consider and prioritise gender equality in all current and future Swan Hill Rural City Council's planning, policy, service delivery and practice as they relate to community sports infrastructure. Council staff will complete a Gender Impact Assessment on all current community sports infrastructure assets and use policies and processes, to consider opportunities to strengthen gender equitable access and use of community sports facilities in alignment with the Fair Access Principles. These are:

- Inclusivity
- Full participation
- Equal representation
- Equitable access
- Encouraging and supporting user groups and;
- Prioritising user groups committed to equality.





Who does this apply to?

Individual Committees are not required to create their own policy, however it's recommended that Committees of Management adopt their council's policy, which is required for councils to remain eligible for community sports infrastructure funding from the Victorian Government.

Council further supports the adoption of this policy by sporting clubs operating or managing facilities owned by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DECCA).

What happens next?

The Draft Policy is now available on Council's website at *Lets Talk*. Feedback on the Draft Policy is being sought by Council from community sporting clubs.

The community engagement period for the Draft Policy is open until Sunday 4 August 2024. Feedback will be considered, with the Policy (and any necessary alterations) being adopted by Council on Tuesday 20 August 2024.

Once adopted, Committees of Management are encouraged to adopt/endorse Council's Fair Access Policy at a Committee Meeting at their earliest convenience as a statement of intent to support fair access to sporting infrastructure for all.

Council is required to submit evidence of progress towards gender equity and fair access in future sport and recreation funding applications from 1 July 2024. The Sporting Club's Committee adoption of Council's Fair Access Policy is one action that can assist this process.

Council's Development Officer—Sport & Recreation Grant Jones, and Community Development Coordinator Dione Heppell, are available to share information with Committees who wish to familiarise themselves with the Fair Access Policy in detail.

Important Dates

Draft Policy Open for Feedback: From Monday, 15 July 2024

Council Adoption of Policy: Tuesday, 20 August 2024