

Manningham: \$16.75m Mullum Mullum Reserve sports complex on agenda

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| 16:58:PM 23/06/2014

<http://www.theweeklyrevieweastern.com.au/story/1804774/manningham-16-75m-mullum-mullum-reserve-sports-complex-on-agenda/#>

Manningham Council has released plans for the long-awaited \$16.75 million Mullum Mullum Reserve sports complex.

Under the draft plans, voted on by the council this week, the indoor “highball sports” stadium would be operated by an independent management group, not by an individual club or sporting association. This would be similar to agreements the council has with Manningham YMCA, which operates a number of basketball courts throughout the municipality.

The council has also moved to allay fears of overdeveloping the leafy, bushland site by confirming that the stadium will house a maximum of five courts, not seven as earlier suggested. The main court will have 400 spectator seats, but will not be a “show court”.

Other facilities will include a multipurpose room and a café/foyer.

Manningham planning and environment director Teresa Dominik said the council would call on the state and federal governments to help pay for the complex. However, the project is not dependent on government grants, she said, with the council planning to set aside \$16.75 million over three years in its budget.

It is hoped the new facility will help solve the 15-court shortfall Manningham has identified on what it needs to meet increasing demand for sports such as basketball, netball, gymnastics, badminton and table tennis.

Earlier in the year, Warrandyte Basketball Association president Bruce De Lacy told *TWR* there were not enough indoor sporting facilities in Manningham.

The association has more than 1000 members, with participation increasing by an average of 10 per cent each year.

“Three of the facilities we use are in Maroondah, so it’s a bit of an anomaly when you’re trying to cater for people in Manningham,” Mr De Lacy said.

However, the facility is still at least three years away, with an 18-month construction period due to start in 2016 and wrap up at the end of 2017.

The project has not been without opposition; nearby residents have objected to its scale and cost.

If the draft plans are accepted by the council this week, they will be put on display for public consultation. The council will then vote to finalise the plans, taking into account public submissions, before moving to detailed design and construction.