

7. WAIMAIRI BEACH GOLF CLUB FUNDING REQUEST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
Officer responsible:	Acting Community and Recreation Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Board an application for Discretionary funding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Waimairi Beach Golf Club are seeking funding to the value of \$5,000 to assist with the cost of increasing the height of the fencing border on the north west side of the golf course. The fence will be built to increase the level of protection to houses bordering the golf club from stray golf balls.
3. In 1999 the land on the eastern side of Bower Avenue, south of Rothesay Road, was sold by the golf club. This land was sold to raise money to enable the club to purchase the land the golf course is situated on. Prior to the selling of the land this area was zoned Open Space 3B. This zone provided for the continued use of sites such as the Waimairi Beach Golf Course for recreational activities. The rules for the zone provided that any activity on this site other than those associated with golf would be subject to the rules for the Living 1 Zone.
4. The new owner of the land applied for consent to subdivide the land into residential lots and accordingly the zoning of this area changed to Living 1 Zone (low density residential housing).
5. The Living 1 Zone under which these dwellings were established have rules that control the siting of buildings on site. However, there are no specific requirements requiring greater setback areas when sites adjoin a golf course.
6. Stray golf balls are currently causing an array of damage to houses on the north west border ie smashed windows, damage to roofs and housing exteriors etc. Due to the number of damage claims being made by households in the area, the club's insurance company is starting to have second thoughts about holding the policy.
7. A number of the houses that adjoin the golf course are residential family properties. The club have serious concerns about the safety of the children from these houses as stray golf balls are landing in their backyards.
8. The club have taken a number of measures to try to limit and reduce the likelihood of damage to houses situated on the north west border. These measures include putting in a small fence, planting additional trees, shifting the driving tee, and having meetings with affected households to discuss additional measures that could be taken.
9. An outcome from the meetings with the affected householders is a proposal to increase the height of the fence on the north west border. The householders have requested that the height of the fence be increased, and both the club and the householders believe a higher fence will go a long way in reducing the amount of damage inflicted on houses in this area and the 'potential' risk of children getting hit by stray golf balls.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. Quotes for this project have been sighted and are in the range of \$4,300 to \$4,975 plus GST.
11. Waimairi Beach Golf Club currently has a membership base of approximately 800 people. In the last financial year they collected \$295,000 in subscription fees and an additional \$100,000 in green fees revenue.
12. The majority of the club's income goes towards the cost of maintaining the 140 hectare golf course property.
13. The club endeavour to keep their subscription rates as low as possible to ensure that this sport is 'affordable' for as many people in the local community as possible.

14. The club have a number of maintenance projects requiring financial input. Their current irrigation system was installed incorrectly and it is going to cost approximately \$55,000 to rectify the situation. The club have applied to the New Zealand Lotteries Board for assistance with this project
15. The club received \$500 funding from the Burwood/Pegasus Physical Sport and Recreation Fund towards cost of equipment purchases for school programmes.

OPTIONS

In relation to this application the Board could chose to:

- (a) Fully fund as requested.
- (b) Grant a portion of the amount requested.
- (c) Decline the application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board consider the tabled application, and agree to partially fund this project to the value of \$2,500, half of the requested amount.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.