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28 April 2026

Dear Community Members,

We are writing to share an update on upcoming improvements at McDonald Reserve.

Following earlier community engagement and Council endorsement, we are progressing with Stage 1 of the McDonald Reserve redevelopment. This stage focuses on building key infrastructure to support hockey at the reserve, while keeping the space available for broader community use.

Stage 1 works will include:

- Construction of a new hockey pitch and associated infrastructure including a PFAS-free surface
- Installation and upgrade of sports field lighting in McDonald Reserve and Coburg High to enable evening training and competition
- Drainage and new irrigation

Planning for Stage 2 is also underway and is expected to commence later in 2026. This stage will include a new multi-use pavilion and supporting amenities, including improved access and parking and better facilities for clubs and the broader community. More details will be shared as planning progresses.

We are also pleased to confirm that a Joint Use Agreement with Coburg High School is being finalised. This will allow community access to the school's oval and open space outside school hours, including after school and on weekends - helping increase access to quality open space for local clubs and residents.

The project is now moving toward tender. Subject to approvals, Council aims to appoint a contractor in **August – October 2026**, with construction to begin shortly after. During works, there may be temporary access changes or partial closures to ensure safety. We'll provide more information once the construction timeline is confirmed via another letter and continuous updates on our conversations Merri-bek page.

We will continue working closely with local sporting clubs and nearby stakeholders to minimise disruption during construction.

For more information about the project and previous consultations, scan the QR code or visit:

www.Conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/mcdonald-reserve

Regards,

Krishna Marineni,
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