

## **Proposal: Alithia Incorporated leasing Anderson Park, Valla (21 years).**

### **About Alithia:**

Alithia Inc. is a registered charity with the ACNC, entirely volunteer run, and was established in 2016 in Valla. Alithia's mission is to provide activities and opportunities for children aged 5 - 12 years old. These activities include sports, recreation, arts, culture, education and holistic development. We have been actively providing these opportunities in the community for at least two years through various events. We have brought the community together for many workshops with local mentors and are currently running a weekly Friday Full-day Program for children, including those with therapeutic and specialised learning needs. We have a waiting list of children and have recently been awarded a \$60,000 grant from FRRR to cover mentors and resources on an additional three days.

### **Alithia Proposal:**

Alithia Inc. is seeking a twenty-one year lease on a section of Anderson Park (see map) to build and manage a community facility for our activities and programs. In addition, it will support other community groups. We would like to commence the lease and the entire proposal as soon as possible. Alithia would use this space to run activities for 20 children, four full days per week, during working hours (9am-4pm, Tuesday - Friday). We acknowledge that this proposal involves an amendment to the Anderson Park plan of management 2006 and look forward to working with Council on those amendments.

### **The site plan and building**

The building will be located near the northern boundary of Anderson Park adjacent to the cricket nets. It will not impede on any future sporting opportunities (see map which shows the cricket field border). The building will be 7m by 12m in area (including verandah) and will not have internal walls. This building would not require plumbing at the initial stage. An amenities block is already provided at the site. No in-built kitchen is required. Alithia will include Solar PVC as part of the funding for the building. A rainwater tank would be placed between the cricket nets and the northern boundary for gardening.

Alithia plans to seek funding for a permanent gazebo/pergola to provide shade for the community, making the area more user-friendly (see site plan).

Alithia has been awarded a grant from FRRR to purchase a storage shed for resources. This storage shed would be placed near the trees and painted to blend in with the landscape. It would be behind the building and not easily seen in the landscape.

The building location is 21m from vegetation along the northern boundary which will meet the bush fire regulations. This advice is based on consultation with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and our consultant, Tim Mecham, who conducts Bushfire Assessment Reports.

### **Funding strategy and building maintenance plan**

Volunteers at Alithia will apply for State / National funding grants for a building to be placed on the edge of Anderson Park in Valla Beach. This building will be maintained by Alithia Inc. Alithia plans to lease the facility to sporting groups and community groups in evenings and on weekends. This building would double as the “club house” that is required to hold Junior Soccer on a sports field. It would provide shade and other facilities (such as a refrigerator), opening the unused field up to the community for use. The East side would have an opening that can be used as a canteen by the sporting clubs, and the building would have a fridge, microwave and large water dispensers.

Funding opportunities include:

- My Community Project (closing May 2019).
- The Alithia Sports and Recreation Sub-committee can apply for a Sports Club grant via the Office of Sport.
- Building Better Regions Fund

### **Community benefits**

Anderson Park is a community resource that is rarely utilised. Whilst there have been some improvements in the past and some significant steps made towards making the field user-friendly (such as an amenities block and drainage), the space is not reaching its full potential as a sporting field or community attraction.

A community building and shade on Anderson Park will leverage more community interest. It will result in the possibility of sports groups, such as Junior Soccer and cricket, as well as community events. Currently the children of Valla Beach attend various schools and sporting opportunities in neighbouring towns, rarely finding

opportunities for families to connect with their neighbours. This facility will bring the community together for a range of activities and events.

## **Community Support**

A vote was held at the Valla Beach Community meeting on 18 March 2019 with an unanimous support for this proposal (of a building, the storage shed and shade). The Valla Beach Community Association is preparing a formal a letter of support for the proposal

## **Special Request for Lease fees:**

Alithia would like to seek a discounted rate of rent for the lease arrangement. The committee feels that the proposal has significant benefits to the wider community and meets many of the objectives of the sports field. The proposal is consistent with the vision of the VBCA and supports council significantly in its efforts to provide suitable community infrastructure and facilities. The funding model for Alithia is based on specific grants which rarely allocate funds for ongoing lease costs. Alithia will be providing immense community benefits without burdening Council with a new asset to manage, maintain and account for, so would like to negotiate a nominal amount that fits within our fundraising budget. Our preference is less than \$20 per year.

While Alithia activities are in progress, we will need to place temporary signs at an additional 20m from our site, to ensure the safety of the children from the public. This won't impact the community as it still allows the public to use the South side of the field (including the bridge and amenities), as well as the playground and the Western field.

## **In-kind support from Council**

Alithia would like to explore some in-kind support from Council to make our vision a success. We acknowledge that whilst Council may not wish to grant any funds to the maintenance, insurance and operating costs of the facility, we may be able to negotiate some in-kind support. In the short-term, we would like to seek an agreement that council will continue to maintain the grounds (grass cutting etc) within the lease area.

We also require a Letter of Support from council to use in our funding application for this building.