



Hawkesbury City Council

supplementary
ordinary
meeting
business
paper

date of meeting: 03 February 2009
location: council chambers
time: 5:00 p.m.

ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary

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ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary

Meeting Date: 3 February 2009

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

Item: 20 IS - Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program - (95494)

Previous Item: 262, Ordinary (9 December 2008)

REPORT:

This matter was reported to Council at its meeting of 9 December 2008, where it was resolved in part that:

- “1. (a) *The program of works outlined in the report in relation to the \$834,000 offered under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure program, as amended in part 1(b) of this resolution, be submitted to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development and Local Government for approval.*

2. *Council make application on behalf of the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association in relation to the completion of the grandstand complex at the Hawkesbury Showground under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects.”*

Both applications in relation to the program have been submitted to the Department and receipt of their submission acknowledged.

When the matter was reported to Council, the projects recommended were in accordance with what was interpreted to be eligible projects from the guidelines, which had been recently issued at that time. The projects had to be submitted by 30 January 2009. Since the matter was reported to Council there has been a series of 'Frequently Asked Questions' posted on the Department's website which indicate that toilet blocks are not eligible projects unless part of an integrated development involving an eligible project.

It is of some concern that within the guidelines and also the frequently asked questions, it was indicated that 'Councils will be given an opportunity to revise their information to include an eligible project' should a project submitted be deemed to be ineligible, however when the application was about to be confirmed, there was a statement that indicated that any project that is not consistent with the guidelines will be rejected and this may result in your Council receiving less funding than the approved allocation. It was also noted that applications would not be able to be amended once submitted. It was suggested within the FAQ's that a list of prioritised projects that goes over their allocation be submitted to assist in approving sufficient eligible projects for Councils allocation.

As the submission had to be confirmed electronically by 11pm, 30 January 2009, it was not possible to provide a further report to Council recommending additional projects prior to the next Council meeting and before the deadline. As such, after discussion with the Mayor, General Manager and Director of Infrastructure Services, additional projects were submitted for consideration should any of Councils original projects be deemed not eligible by the department. The additional projects are:

Wilberforce Pre-School Kindergarten Improvements - \$88,000

The Wilberforce Pre-School Kindergarten was constructed in 1994 and in today's terms has inadequate kitchen facilities and lack of storage. The current foyer area is utilised for ad-hoc storage for children's belongings and constitutes an Occupational Health and Safety issue for staff and children.

This project will provide an extension to the existing building of 28m², consisting of a kitchen, storage area and modifications to the existing foyer to allow improved and safer access to the building.

Richmond Park Improvements - \$88,000

A Conservation Management Plan was undertaken in 2003, which identified conservation treatments and landscape works for the park. These works are a staged implementation, being carried out as funds become available.

This project will provide pathways and associated lighting, and park furniture which will maintain and/or reinstate basic elements of the known late 19th/early 20th Century landscape design, which include the layout of the paths and tree plantings as identified within the Conservation Management Plan.

St Albans Park Landscaping Improvements - \$55,000

Council is currently working with the MacDonald Valley Association (local community based group) on a project called Rescue the Future. The Association have commissioned a sandstone sculpture to be placed within St Albans Park, which will include engravings and tiled inserts of native plants and animals of the MacDonald Valley. The sculpture will be of a size, which will enable children to climb and explore these engravings.

To compliment this project a Landscape Plan for the park has been developed and it is proposed to undertake landscaping works to include pathway construction, tree replacement, fencings to exclude vehicles, replace seating and upgrade the existing timber fuelled barbeques with electric types, as part of this Plan.

Whilst it is still anticipated that the original projects submitted as part of the program will be approved it is recommended that Council endorse the additional projects outlined within the report should any of those original projects be deemed to be ineligible.

Conformance to Strategic Plan

The proposal is deemed to conform with the objectives set out in Council's Strategic Plan i.e:

"Objective: A network of towns, villages and rural localities connected by well-maintained public and private infrastructure, which supports the social and economic development of the City."

Funding

Nil impact on current budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the additional projects outlined within the report relating to the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program be endorsed should any of the projects originally submitted be deemed to be ineligible by the Department.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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