



Hawkesbury City Council

supplementary
ordinary
meeting
business
paper

date of meeting: 08 December 2009
location: council chambers
time: 6:30 p.m.

ORDINARY MEETING - SUPPLEMENTARY

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SECTION 4 - Reports for Determination

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Item: 286 **IS - Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program - Strategic Projects, Round 2 - (95494)**

REPORT:

The Australian Government has recently announced a second offer of one-off funding to Councils under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) – Round 2, to support local jobs whilst building and modernising infrastructure in communities across Australia. Similar to the Round 1 Funding Offer, there are two components to this funding program: one being a fixed amount granted to Councils for which they can nominate community infrastructure projects and the second being for strategic projects seeking a commonwealth contribution of \$1M from a funding source of up to \$120M.

Within the second component of the program the Australian Government is making up to \$120M available in 2009/10 to Local Government, available for a limited number of large strategic projects seeking a minimum Commonwealth contribution of \$1M.

Under the previous funding offer – Strategic Projects, Round 1, Council at its meeting of 9 December 2008 resolved to make application on behalf of the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association (Association) in relation to the completion of the grandstand complex at the Hawkesbury Showground.

Advice was received in May 2009 that Round 1 received more than 480 applications, which sought in excess of \$2 billion in funding from the Australian Government. Given that the funding allocation available was \$550 million, the program was significantly oversubscribed and as a result the application for Hawkesbury Showground Grandstand Complex was unsuccessful.

The Round 2 Funding Guidelines are consistent with the Round 1 offer, in that projects will be allocated funding on a nationally competitive basis and will be assessed by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government on a tight timetable. Councils or groups of Councils are eligible to apply and Local Councils may also make applications on behalf of not-for-profit organisations. There is a limit of one application per Council or group of Councils.

Eligible projects must be additional and “ready-to-proceed” (the project must be ready to commence construction within six months of signing the Funding Agreement), or be additional stages of projects that are currently underway.

A final and complete application form, including all supporting documentation must be received by the department by 4pm on 15 January 2009.

It is felt that the grandstand project is worth resubmitting for this current round of applications and it has been confirmed with the Secretary of the Association, that the previous application is still current in design and cost schedules and assuring the Association’s commitment to provide financial support towards the project. The Association is a not-for-profit organisation and Council is trustee for the land that is owned by the Crown.

To review the proposed project, there is currently a basic grandstand existing on the showground site, however, at this stage it only provides concrete bench seating and a roof structure. The ultimate, stage 3

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proposal, will see an enclosed, air conditioned ground level trade and exhibition centre with kitchen and toilets, a first floor air conditioned dining and convention area again with kitchen and toilets and the provision of adequate seating and access to the grandstand.

The estimated cost to complete the grandstand project is \$2,613,000 (incl. GST) and the Agricultural Association has indicated that they can contribute \$35,000 in cash towards that cost.

Funding

Funding to be provided as outlined within the report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That 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, Round 2.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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