



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Friday, 30 August 2019

Held at Swan Hill Town Hall
Meeting Room 1 (Chambers)
Commenced at 4:00 PM

COUNCIL:
Cr A Young – Mayor

Cr LT McPhee
Cr J Benham
Cr C Jeffery
Cr L Johnson
Cr B Moar
Cr N McKay

Confirmed 17 September 2019

Chairperson.....

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SECTION A – PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- **Open**

Mayor, Councillor Ann Young assumed the chair and declared the meeting open at 4pm.

- **Acknowledgement of Country**

Mayor, Councillor Ann Young read the Acknowledgement of Country.

- **Prayer**

Cr Lea Johnson read the prayer.

- **Apologies**

Cr Les McPhee

Recommendations

That the apologies be accepted.

- **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

Nil

SECTION B – REPORTS

B.19.91 DRAG STRIP URGENT MAINTENANCE WORKS

Responsible Officer: Director Infrastructure
File Number: S15-06-10 & AST-BU-42021-05
Attachments: Nil

Declarations of Interest:

Svetla Petkova - as the responsible officer, I declare that I have no disclosable interests in this matter.

Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement to proceed with urgent repairs to the Drag Strip track to enable the Jamboree Race in November and private tests organised by the club.

Discussion

The Drag Strip was constructed over 3 years with official completion in October 2015. The total cost of the project was \$2,541,052, of which \$2M were grant money, \$450,000 Council contribution and \$219,800 in kind contribution by the Swan Hill Drag Racing Club (the Club).

The strip is constructed as a quarter Mile Drag Racing Track with a total width of 18.5m and a length of 1033m, of which 300 linear meters are concrete slab with 220mm thickness and 579 linear meters are asphalt. Additionally, there are 54 meters of 7/10 seal and 20 meters of sand trap.

In March of 2016 asphalt work and grinding of lipping at expansion joints was undertaken by Council, with additional grinding done by the Club in October 2016.

In 2017 Council undertook diamond grinding of the complete concrete surface, profiling and laying of new asphalt, sealing of joints and, where required, shoulders at a total cost of \$436,500. Council also undertook significant works to improve the drainage around the Drag Strip.

Head to Head International Consulting undertook a review and a site inspection, taking into consideration climatic conditions at the site, the pavement design and surface data, and the construction specification and practices.

Their findings suggest issues with drainage due to the flat grade, the high plasticity of the clay material being prone to swelling and cracking during wet and dry conditions amongst others were areas where further work and investigation would be required.

The section where the concrete meets the asphalt is the current area of concern. A 20m section within chainage between the 200-300m section of concrete pavement has in the past and now shown areas requiring further grinding. The asphalt section immediately following this section up to where the new asphalt meets the old one for around 23 linear meters will also require work due to heaving and depressions to enable racing in November.

Additionally, sealing of joints, where required, will need to be undertaken on the full length of the track to prevent water seeping under the pavement.

To enable racing during this calendar year and assess the long term works required, the following steps are proposed:

1. Diamond grinding of approximately 20 linear meters of concrete and asphalt work over the 23 linear meters immediately adjacent to this section of concrete. If approved, these works will be carried out by mid September 2019 at Council's cost.
2. Negotiate funding arrangements with the Racing Club in relation to future works.
3. In 2020 engage a consultant to undertake detailed sub-soil investigation, rebuild a portion of the track if required and prepare report with recommendation of future works.
4. Develop an ongoing maintenance program for the track.

The diamond grinding plant and equipment is only available for one week in September 2019 and not available until April 2020 after that. Given the short window of opportunity to engage a specialist contractor from Sydney an urgent decision is required from Council.

Officers have attempted to identify alternative contractors without success.

Consultation

During the past few years, Council officers met with representatives from the Club and attended to numerous defects. The timing of works will be negotiated with the Club and will depend on the condition of the track, the funding model negotiated, availability of suitably qualified contractors with specialised equipment and budget allocation.

Financial Implications

The cost of the immediate works consisting of diamond grinding, asphalt repairs and sealing of joints is estimated, including 15% contingency, at \$162,223. If existing materials and Council labour is used, the shortfall may reduce to an estimated \$124,513. It is proposed to use money from better than forecasted end of 2018/19 financial year to fund this work. Future works will be subject to negotiations and co-funding from the Club.

Social Implications

If the works do not proceed the Jamboree Race in November will not be able to be held in Swan Hill.

Economic Implications

The Jamboree race brings visitors to town, which has a flow-on effect of revenue raised by local businesses for food, accommodation and entertainment.

Environmental Implications

Nil

Risk Management Implications

There is a risk that once the immediate works are done the Club may not agree to contribute to future works. Council would then have to reconsider the future of the facility.

Council Plan Strategy Addressed

Infrastructure - Infrastructure that appropriately services community needs.

Options

- 1. Council approves the unbudgeted expenditure to enable racing in November 2019.**
- 2. Council does not approve the expenditure as it is unbudgeted, and advises the club that the race in November 2019 will need to be cancelled.**

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Council approves unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$170,000 to complete the urgent repairs, funded from the better than forecast 2018/19 financial result.**
- 2. Negotiates with the Swan Hill Drag Racing Club for funding of future and ongoing maintenance of the Drag Strip**
- 3. Subject to the agreement of the Swan Hill Drag Racing Club to fund the works, engage a consultant to investigate the condition and prepare a plan of future works during 2020.**

115/19 Motion

MOVED Cr Benham

That Council:

- 1. Council approves unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$170,000 to complete the urgent repairs, funded from the better than forecast 2018/19 financial result.**
- 2. Negotiates with the Swan Hill Drag Racing Club for funding of future and ongoing maintenance of the Drag Strip**
- 3. Subject to the agreement of the Swan Hill Drag Racing Club to fund the works, engage a consultant to investigate the condition and prepare a plan of future works during 2020.**
- 4. That Council seriously consider the viability of the Drag strip in its current condition and the hand-over of the drag strip to the Swan Hill Drag Racing Club after the 2019/20 racing season.**

SECONDED Cr Moar

Cr Johnson moved an amendment to the motion. That in addition to the 4 points above that the following point be added:

- 5. That Council request an up to date report on the debt level of the club and a full financial report.**

SECONDED Cr McKay

The Amendment was put and CARRIED

116/19 Amendment

Cr McKay moved an amendment to the motion. That in addition to the 5 points above that the following point be added:

- 6. That Council quantify the economic benefit of the upcoming Jamboree event and report this to Council.**

SECONDED Cr Jeffery

**The Amendment was put and CARRIED
The Motion was put and CARRIED**

Call for a division

For: Crs McKay, Benham, Johnson, Moar and Young

Against: Cr Jeffery

There being no further business the Mayor, Councillor Ann Young closed the meeting at 4.40pm.