
MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Horsham Rural City Council held in the Municipal Chamber, Civic Centre, Horsham at 5.30pm on 9 December 2019.**PRESENT**

Cr Mark Radford, Mayor, Cr Pam Clarke, Cr David Grimble, Cr Josh Koenig, Cr Les Power, Cr John Robinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sunil Bhalla, Chief Executive Officer; Graeme Harrison, Director Corporate Services; John Martin, Director Infrastructure Services; Angela Murphy, Director Development Services; Sue Frankham, Governance Officer; Diana McDonald, Co-ordinator Governance

Andrea Cross

Zach Currie

Alex Darling

James McCreddin

Leanne McCreddin

1. PRAYER

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford recited the following pledge on behalf of all Councillors:

Almighty God, we pledge ourselves to work in harmony for, the social, cultural and economic well-being of our Rural City. Help us to be wise in our deliberations and fair in our actions, so that prosperity and happiness shall be the lot of our people. AMEN

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY STATEMENT

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford read the following Acknowledgement of Country Statement:

The Horsham Rural City Council acknowledges the five Traditional Owner groups of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Wergaia, Jupagalk, Jaadwa and Jadawadjali people. We recognise the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in our community.

We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and commit to working together in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect for the benefit of the broader community and future generations.

3. OPENING AND WELCOME

Chairman, Cr Mark Radford formally welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. The Mayor advised the public that the Council meeting will be recorded to maintain an audio archive.

4. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Cr Alethea Gulvin.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That the apology be accepted.

CARRIED

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS

Nil

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

7. OFFICERS REPORTS

7.1 HORSHAM AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATION

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations & Advocacy	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F20/A10/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Nil

Purpose

To consider support for the Horsham Agricultural Society's funding application to the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program.

Summary

This report provides details of the following two projects that the Horsham Agricultural Society (Ag Society) have sought funding support to enable applications to the Federal Government for the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program:

1. Large Project – New Multi-Purpose Community Facility.
2. Small Project – Enhanced Lighting and Power to the Ag Society Site.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Note that further detailed planning and engagement with relevant community user groups is required to fully scope the Horsham Agricultural Society's New Multi-Purpose Community Facility to ensure that the new venue meets the requirements of key community user groups, and accordingly, not commit funding of \$1.1million to this project.
2. Subject to the success of Horsham Agricultural Society's application to the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grant for the Enhanced Lighting and Power to the site, provide an interest-free loan of \$30,000 over a ten-year period, and for it to be executed with a formal loan agreement.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council:

1. Note that further detailed planning and engagement with relevant community user groups is required to fully scope the Horsham Agricultural Society's New Multi-Purpose Community Facility to ensure that the new venue meets the requirements of key community user groups, and accordingly, not commit funding of \$1.1million to this project.
2. Subject to the success of Horsham Agricultural Society's application to the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grant for the Enhanced Lighting and Power to the site, provide an interest-free loan of \$30,000 over a ten-year period, and for it to be executed with a formal loan agreement.

CARRIED

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr David Grimble, Seconded Cr Pam Clarke

That Council write a letter to Dr Anne Webster MP, Member for Mallee, acknowledging the Federal Government for the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program funding and highlight some of the challenges in meeting the funding criteria.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The Ag Society have requested funding support to enable grant applications to the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program.

The Ag Society is seeking Council support for two potential funding applications to the Federal Government:

1. Co-contribution to support a \$500,000 large grant application for a new community venue at the Showgrounds site.
2. An interest free loan of \$30,000 to support a small grant application to enhance lighting and power supply to support the Annual Show and other events at the Ag Society site.

In order for an application to proceed, co-contribution must be confirmed by the due date of 13 December 2019.

Initial background information was provided to Councillors on 11 November 2019. The Ag Society presented these projects to the Councillor Briefing on 11 November 2019, and further cost estimates and scoping details were obtained for the large project and presented at the Councillor Briefing on 2 December 2019.

Discussion

1. Large Project – New Multi-Purpose Community Facility

The Ag Society would like to replace the ageing Ladies Pavilion on the western side of the showgrounds with a new exhibition space located to the south of Maydale Pavilion to support the Annual Show. This pavilion could be used by community groups throughout the year.

The concept design of this building includes:

- 277m² exhibition space/open function room
- Meeting room
- Kitchen
- Storeroom
- Amenities (which could provide public toilets for the site).

Project budget details:

- Total Project Budget - \$1,624,700 (as costed by Council's Projects Office in conjunction with the Ag Society)
- Maximum Federal Grant Allocation - \$500,000
- Ag Society Contribution - \$10,000 cash, \$40,000 in-kind project management and \$50,000 external paving and landscaping works
- Required Council Contribution - \$1,114,700.

Community Use

In return for a significant Council investment in excess of \$1.1million, there needs to be a clear broad community benefit derived from the new building. The Ag Society have indicated that they only require use of the facility for the show each year, but could also use it to host functions/events if available.

Due to the ad hoc nature of this Federal Funding opportunity and request for Council funding support, Council has not been able to run this process through the standard Project Management Framework, which includes the following aspects:

- Undertake detailed planning work with community groups to determine their facility and scheduling requirements
- Develop an operational model and business case to support the proposed investment
- Complete detailed schematic design including Quantity Surveyor cost estimates
- The site is subject to inundation overlay
- Review Planning Permit requirements.

Development of the Social Infrastructure Plan is currently only in very early draft phase. Early findings provided by the Social Infrastructure Plan consultant support the concept of a multi-use community building (hub) in central Horsham, indicating “a community need for provision of new community meeting spaces that are purpose built with accessibility, flexibility and adaptability in mind. These facilities should be shared by a range of groups, rather than being utilised only by one group. These community meeting spaces should be located in hub arrangements where multiple users share one facility that is co-located with other related facilities.”

The completion of this planning work when endorsed by Council in 2020 will provide clear direction on development of future projects that can be factored into Council’s forward capital works budget and grant applications.

Land Ownership

The parcel of land for the proposed venue is owned by the Ag Society. Council would need long-term security of tenure to invest over \$1million on private land. The best option, which is supported by the Ag Society, would be a 100-year lease (peppercorn) with the Society retaining ownership of the land.

Operational Model

With a long-term lease, Council would need to operate a community venue at the Showgrounds on an ongoing basis in the same way that we currently manage the Town Hall and Kalkee Road Children’s hub. There has been no operational model or business plan developed for the ongoing operations of a new facility at this stage.

2. Small Project – Enhanced lighting and Power to Horsham Agricultural Society Site

The Ag Society have an opportunity to apply for a small grant up to \$125,000 from the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program with matching funds of 25% (or \$31,250) providing a total project budget of \$156,250.

Scope of Works:

- Lighting upgrade for existing Ag Society buildings to provide safer venues for community events
- Placement of additional power outlets on the Ag Society site used to host the Annual Show and other community events.

Project Budget Details:

- Project Budget - \$156,250
- Maximum Grant Allocation - \$125,000
- Ag Society Contribution - \$1,250 + contingency
- Required Council Loan Contribution - \$30,000.

This funding request can be supported by the provision of an interest free loan of \$30,000 over a period of up to 10 years, in recognition of the Ag Society's limited cash flow and ability to make repayments.

This is a vital smaller project that will enhance the events that the Ag Society hosts at their site and in particular provide additional power outlets for the operation of the Annual Show on the eastern side of the Showgrounds.

Financial Implications

The recommendation, if endorsed, will require the provision of an interest free loan of \$30,000 to be provided to the Ag Society. The terms and conditions of this loan will be similar to other community loans provided by Council in the past.

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Four-Year Priority 1.2.02 – Encourage redevelopment of community facilities at the Horsham Showgrounds

Consultation/Communication

The Ag Society have consulted with Council regarding development of the project scope, plans and budget estimates. The project was further discussed in a meeting between the Ag Society and Council's Chief Executive Officer, Director Development Services and Director Community Wellbeing. Representatives of the Ag Society gave a presentation at a Council Briefing session on 11 November 2019 and further information was provided at the Council Briefing on 2 December 2019.

Risk Implications

There is significant risk relating to support of the large project, which requires more detailed planning and scoping before Council makes an investment into a new community facility.

There is no significant risk to Council of supporting a funding request of \$30,000 for the small lighting and power upgrade project.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Conclusion

This report recommends funding support through a no-interest 10 year loan, of \$30,000 to allow the Ag Society to take advantage of the Federal funding program to enhance facilities for local agricultural shows.

Further planning work is required before Council can make a funding commitment to the construction of a new community facility.

7.2 NATIMUK A&P SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATION

Author's Name:	Susan Surridge	Director:	Kevin O'Brien
Author's Title:	Co-ordinator Community Relations & Advocacy	Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Department:	Governance & Information	File Number:	F20/A10/000001

Officer Direct or indirect Conflict of Interest

In accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 80C:

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Status

Information classified confidential in accordance with *Local Government Act 1989* – Section 77(2)(c):

Yes No

Reason: Nil

Appendix

Natimuk A&P Society Letter – short-term loan request (**Appendix "7.2A"**)

Purpose

To consider support for the Natimuk A&P Society's funding application to the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program.

Summary

This report provides details of a request from the Natimuk A&P Society (A&P Society) for funding support to enable a Large Application to the Federal Government's Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program to refurbish the pavilion at the Natimuk Showground.

Recommendation

That Council provide an interest-free loan of up to \$80,000 for a period of up to 5 years, to be executed with a formal agreement, to support an application by the Natimuk A&P Society for a grant of \$500,000 to refurbish the pavilion at the Natimuk Showground, noting that the provision of this loan is dependent upon a successful grant application to the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program.

Council Resolution

MOVED Cr Pam Clarke, Seconded Cr Josh Koenig

That Council provide an interest-free loan of up to \$80,000 for a period of up to 5 years, to be executed with a formal agreement, to support an application by the Natimuk A&P Society for a grant of \$500,000 to refurbish the pavilion at the Natimuk Showground, noting that the provision of this loan is dependent upon a successful grant application to the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

The A&P Society have requested funding support from Council to enable a grant application to the Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program as follows:

- An interest-free loan of up \$80,000 for a period of 3-5 years to support a large grant application to refurbish the pavilion at the Natimuk Showground.

In order for an application to proceed, co-contribution must be confirmed by the due date of 13 December 2019.

Discussion

The Federal Department of Agriculture has released a new funding program "Regional Agricultural Show Development Grants Program". Key features of this funding program include:

- Purpose
 - provide funding to maintain, upgrade or construct infrastructure relating to the running of an agricultural show on regional showgrounds
- Outcomes
 - improved amenity of showground infrastructure to improve visitor experience i.e. enhanced exhibition space, improved seating and accessibility, upgrading of access roads
 - improve flexibility of use of showground infrastructure to support other community events
 - upgrades that reduce future maintenance costs
 - greater variety of attractions.

The Natimuk Show is classed as a "small show" for the purposes of the grants program. The A&P Society plan to apply for a large grant of \$500,000, which requires a local contribution of \$125,000, making a total project budget of \$625,000.

The A&P Society can contribute an initial cash component of \$45,000, and are requesting a short-term loan from Council of up to \$80,000 to be repaid over 3-5 years (**Appendix "7.2A"**).

Project Details:

- Total Project Budget \$625,000
- Maximum Grant allocation \$500,000
- Ag Society Contribution -\$45,000
- Required Council Interest free loan \$80,000

Scope of Works:

- Natimuk Pavilion Refurbishment
 - Kitchen upgrade including new cool room
 - New roof
 - Internal ceiling lining
 - Carpet upgrade
 - New air-conditioning

The A&P Society is still finalising the scope of works through quotations

- Development of a digital attraction to showcase local farming and Natimuk attractions.

The Natimuk Showground pavilion is an important social hub for the Natimuk community and is used regularly by a range of community groups i.e. Natimuk Football Netball Club, Natimuk Tennis Club, Natimuk Primary School, Natimuk Pre-School, Arapiles Historical Society and the Natimuk Men's Shed. The upgrade of this facility will benefit the broader community.

Financial Implications

The recommendation, if endorsed, requires the provision of an interest-free loan of up to \$80,000 to be provided to the A&P Society. The terms and conditions of this loan will be similar to a previous loan provided to the A&P Society for the construction of new amenities at the Showground (this loan was repaid in full).

Links To Council Plans, Strategies, Policies

2019-2023 Council Plan

Goal 1 – Community and Cultural Development

Consultation/Communication

The A&P Society initially discussed the grant opportunity with Council's Grants Officer and then forwarded a letter of request to the Chief Executive Officer (**Appendix "7.2A"**). A follow-up meeting was held with A&P Society representatives and Council's Director Community Wellbeing and Grants Officer to discuss details of possible Council support. Details of the request were provided to a Council Briefing on 2 December 2019.

Risk Implications

There is minimal risk to Council of supporting a funding request of \$80,000 in the form of an interest free loan. The A&P Society have an established record of repaying Council loans in a full and timely manner.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Human Rights Implications

This report complies with the rights listed in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Conclusion

The report recommends funding support of \$80,000, by way of an interest free loan, to allow the A&P Society to take advantage of the Federal funding program to enhance facilities for local agricultural shows.

CLOSE

The meeting closed at 5.45pm.



The Mayor, Cr Mark Radford
Chairperson