



Alpine Shire

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**SPM12 – 3 December 2019
Bright Council Chambers
5:00pm**



The **Special Meeting** of the **Alpine Shire Council** was held in the Council Chambers, Great Alpine Road, Bright on **3 December 2019** and commenced at **5:00pm**.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Cr Peter Roper - Mayor
Cr Sarah Nicholas - Deputy Mayor
Cr Ron Janas - Councillor
Cr Kitty Knappstein - Councillor
Cr Daryl Pearce - Councillor
Cr John Forsyth – Councillor
Cr Tony Keeble – Councillor

OFFICERS

Mr Charlie Bird - Chief Executive Officer
Mr Michael Buckley – Acting Director Assets

APOLOGIES

Ms Nathalie Cooke - Director Corporate
Mr William Jeremy - Director Assets



AGENDA

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1 RECORDING AND LIVESTREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The CEO read the following statement:

All council meetings are filmed with both video and audio being recorded.

Video is focused on a specific area however audio from the entire room is captured.

By speaking during question time, or at any time during the meeting, you consent to your voice and any comments you make being recorded.

In common with all narrative during council meetings verbal responses to congratulations, obituaries and question time will not be recorded in the written minutes.

The reasoning behind recording council meetings is of course to hold us more accountable and improve transparency of council's decision making to our community.

The full meeting is being streamed live on Council's YouTube channel which is "Alpine Shire Council" and will also be available on the YouTube channel shortly after this meeting.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS, AND RECOGNITION OF ALL PEOPLE

The CEO read the following statement:

The Alpine Shire Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land we are now on.

We also acknowledge those people who have contributed to the rich fabric of our community and strive to make wise decisions that will improve the quality of life for all.

3 APOLOGIES

Will Jeremy – Director Assets

Nathalie Cooke – Director Corporate

4 DECLARATIONS BY COUNCILLORS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil



5 PRESENTATION OF REPORTS BY OFFICERS

5.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – CHARLIE BIRD

5.1.1 Regional Airports Program - Mount Beauty Airport

File Number: 1500.02

INTRODUCTION

There is an opportunity for Council to seek considerable funding to upgrade the Mount Beauty Airport. The upgrade will ensure that Air Ambulance Victoria aircraft can access the airport into the future and open access opportunities for fire service aircraft to address emergency situations. The upgrade will effectively future-proof emergency service access to the airport for decades to come. This report outlines the project and details of the proposed funding application and seeks Council's financial commitment to the project.

Cr Pearce

Cr Keeble

That Council:

- 1. Authorises the submission of a grant application to upgrade the Mount Beauty Airport with a Council commitment of no more than \$1,600,000 (GST exclusive);*
- 2. Accepts responsibility to complete the project; and*
- 3. Meets the costs of the project not covered by funding.*

Carried.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Government recently opened round one of the Regional Airports Program, which provides grants to enhance the safety and accessibility of aerodromes in regional areas of Australia. It will support critical air infrastructure that will:

- improve the safety of aircraft, operators and passengers using regional airports or aerodromes
- facilitate improved delivery of essential goods and services such as food supplies, health care and passenger air services
- improve the connectivity of Australia's regions to domestic and global market opportunities
- meet the operational requirements of aeromedical and other emergency services in the region.

There is a total of \$45 million available for this grant round. Grants will be from \$20,000 to \$5 million, and up to 50% of eligible project costs. The closing date for applications is 12 December 2019.



Council adopted the Mount Beauty Aerodrome Master Plan in March 2011. This included extending the sealed runway length by approximately 700m to a total length of 1,540m, and increasing sealed runway width to 18m. There have been several revisions to the Master Plan since and the current Master Plan is associated with the Planning Scheme Amendment C38 - Mount Beauty Airpark Aerodrome. Council adopted Planning Scheme Amendment C38 on 6 December 2016 and it was gazetted 2 March 2017. This amendment resulted in the rezoning of the Mount Beauty aerodrome and surrounding land to facilitate an airpark development and included a runway extension of 400m.

This funding application seeks to future-proof emergency service access to the Mount Beauty Airport for decades to come and more specifically achieve the following upgrades to the airport:

- Extending the usable runway length from 648m to 1,100m (N.B. the physical runway length is greater than the usable runway length and would be increased by 740m, from 847m to 1,587m).
- Increasing the width of sealed runway to 18m
- Installation of PAALC lights on runway
- Installation of obstacles lights on towers/hills
- Installation of drainage
- Pavement of Apron area for helicopter and aircraft visiting.

ISSUES

Emergency services access

The current airport can be accessed by Air Ambulance Victoria aircraft during the daytime only. There is an expectation that when the Air Ambulance Victoria aircraft fleet is upgraded the current runway would be inadequate and the Air Ambulance Victoria aircraft would not be able to access the Mount Beauty Airport. The proposed airport upgrade would effectively future proof Air Ambulance Victoria aircraft access for many decades to come.

Forest Fire Management has indicated that current airport infrastructure is inadequate for their current fixed wing aircraft needs and they would use other nearby airstrips such as Corryong, Mansfield and Benambra. An upgrade to the Mount Beauty Airport would provide greater flexibility for fire management services to manage local fires.

Land tenure

Council is landowner of the current Mount Beauty Airport (PS705744U) and owns the parcel of land that the runway would be extended onto (PS810065E). There is an unused road reserve that is 20m wide that intersects these two parcels of land. Council is part way through the process of acquiring this land and has received a letter of support from the Department Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to extend the runway on this land.





Airport management and operation

The Mount Beauty Airport is managed by the Mount Beauty Airport Management Association Inc. (the Association). The Association is responsible for the operation and day to day maintenance of the Airport. Council is responsible for asset renewal. Other works are assessed on a case by case basis.

Aerodrome certification rating

The proposed upgrade would shift the Mount Beauty Airport into the Registered Aerodrome certification rating (like Wangaratta Aerodrome), which would increase the obligations of the Airport manager (the Association). Examples of additional obligations include:

- Monitoring obstacles
- Maintaining windsocks
- Periodic geotechnical assessment of runway strength
- Periodic inspection of pilot activated lighting
- Making non-precision instrument approach procedures available

The cost of these additional obligations is expected to be minor.

Airpark development

Council adopted Planning Scheme Amendment C38 - Mount Beauty Aerodrome on 6 December 2016 and it was gazetted 2 March 2017. This amendment resulted in the rezoning of the Mount Beauty aerodrome and surrounding land to facilitate an airpark development. The proposed airport upgrade would enable larger aircraft to access the Mount Beauty Airport, which would complement the adjacent airpark development.

Obstacle lights on towers/hills

The Mount Beauty Airport upgrade includes the installation of obstacle lights on the towers and hills around the Mount Beauty township. The obstacle lights improve the safety for aircraft and is a requirement under the funding guidelines because Pilot Actuated Airport Lighting Control (PAALC) lights must be provided and terrain lights are a mandatory part of this to allow Air Ambulance Victoria to use both runways and have 24 hour Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) capacity. It is expected that lights will impact the amenity and it is anticipated that there will be some community dissatisfaction associated with the new obstacle lights. It is important that the community is effectively engaged to communicate the need for the obstacle lights and benefits of upgrading the runway.

Native vegetation removal

It is understood that several native trees will need to be removed and a number of trees heavily pruned to maintain an obstacle free approach. It is understood that these trees are in crown land at the end of the proposed runway extension, adjacent to the Kiewa River West Branch. Council will need to negotiate with DELWP to remove and prune native vegetation and pay for associated native vegetation



offsets. This has been allowed for in the project budget. There are no exemptions for this type of vegetation removal therefore a planning permit will be required for their removal.

Cultural Heritage

A previous Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) was completed by Jo Bell Heritage Services in 2012 (CHMP No. 11447) and subsequently approved. Its activity area covers the entire area subject land area proposed to be disturbed for this development. No artefacts were identified in the activity as part of this assessment. The procedure outlined in the report will need to be followed during construction. Given this already completed work no additional Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be required.

Flood zone

The proposed runway extension is in the floodplain and the 1% Average Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood extent, commonly referred to as the 1 in 100-year flood extent. During the Planning Scheme Amendment C38 process, the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) provided consent for a 400m runway extension but objected to a 700m extension due to the impact on flooding and the Kiewa River.

More recent engagement with NECMA indicates that the:

- Impact on the riparian zone is not a major concern if vegetation removal is limited to the removal of two trees and the heavy pruning of four other trees.
- Impacts on flooding on the Kiewa West Branch may be manageable if the runway grades down with natural surface level, however impact on levels in the Kiewa River East Branch is likely.

NECMA will be commencing a flood study for the Kiewa River in early 2020 and this presents an opportunity to undertake a detailed hydraulic assessment of the impact of runway extension. This has been allowed for in the project budget. This would provide greater confidence about the flooding impacts and associated risks.

Planning Permit

The Mount Beauty runway area (current and proposed) is zoned Special Use Zone 5 (SUZ5). Airport land use is permitted under this zone; however, a planning permit is required for proposed works (i.e. runway extension).

The runway area is also covered by the Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 1 (SLO1) and proposed works under this overlay will trigger a planning permit and therefore an application will need to consider these requirements.

There is a proposed Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) covering a small portion of the northern end. The application would need to consider this constraint and NECMA engaged.

In terms of Council lodging the permit for the works on land that it owns the application pursuant to Section 96 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* must be lodged with the minister.



A planning permit would be required for native vegetation removal.

Open drain

There is an open drain that runs parallel to the north eastern side of the runway. The proposed upgrade works would not include piping this open drain.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This recommendation is consistent with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2017-2021:

- Incredible places for our community and visitors.

The proposed works associated with the Mount Beauty Airport upgrade funding application are generally consistent with the Mount Beauty Aerodrome Master Plan adopted by Council in March 2011 and updated in 2016 as part of the Planning Scheme Amendment C38 development and adoption process.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The capital cost to upgrade the Mount Beauty Airport is estimated to be \$3.2 million, with \$1.6 million to be sought from grant funding and Council responsible to meet the remaining project costs. The impact of delivering this project with external funding has been modelled in Council's Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and shown not to have a material impact on Council's forecast working capital ratio and it will remain above 3. The LTFP considers the asset renewal cost, which Council will be responsible for.

Committing to this project would reduce Council's ability to commit to further discretionary spend on new and upgrade capital projects during the period of this project's delivery (up to 2021). In effect, the delivery of priority projects identified in Council's capital works Project Pipeline will be deferred by up to two years.

It is estimated that the proposed upgrade would increase the annual operating cost by \$5,000 p.a. due to:

- Aerodrome certification costs
- Increased electricity costs from lighting
- Increased insurance costs.

It is anticipated that Council would be responsible for covering these costs and could explore cost recovery avenues.

AGL Energy and Falls Creek Resort Management Board have indicated an interest in making in-kind contributions to this project.

CONSULTATION

There was significant consultation undertaken with affected stakeholders through the development of the Mount Beauty Aerodrome Master Plan and Planning Scheme Amendment C38 development and adoption process. To provide some context, the proposed Amendment C38 was exhibited to landowners and occupiers, referral



authorities and prescribed ministers between 11 September and 13 October 2014. Ten submissions were received by Council.

Following the recent announcement of the Regional Airports Program Council has re-engaged directly with the representatives from following directly affected stakeholders and agencies:

- Mount Beauty Airport Management Association Inc.
- Mount Beauty Hang Gliding Club
- Mount Beauty Airpark development (neighbouring the runway)
- NECMA
- DELWP
- Air Ambulance Victoria
- Forest Fire Management
- Civil and Aviation Authority (CASA).

CONCLUSION

Upgrading the Mount Beauty Airport will ensure that Air Ambulance Victoria aircraft can access the airport into the future and open access opportunities for fire service aircraft to address emergency situations. The upgrade will effectively future-proof emergency service access to the airport for decades to come.

The Regional Airports Program presents a significant opportunity to secure grant funding for a project identified in the Mount Beauty Aerodrome Masterplan. The proposed Mount Beauty Airport upgrade aligns with the funding requirements, and if a grant funding application was successful, Council has the financial capacity to commit the balance of funds needed to deliver the project.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Nil



5.2 ACTING DIRECTOR ASSETS – MICHAEL BUCKLEY

5.2.1 Guardrail Upgrades

File Number: CT19070

INTRODUCTION

This report relates to the award of a contract for guardrail upgrades at various locations throughout the Alpine Shire.

Cr Janas

Cr Knappstein

That Council awards Contract No. 1907001 for "Guardrail Upgrades" to Waratah Bridge Constructions for the lump sum price of \$263,292.20 + GST.

Carried.

BACKGROUND

In May 2019, Council was successful in obtaining State Government funding under the Fixing Country Roads Program for the upgrading of aging non-compliant guardrail installations. These works will improve the safety and reduce the long term maintenance requirements of the bridge guardrail barriers and end terminals.

The Tender was advertised in the Herald Sun on 11 September 2019, as well as on tenders.net and Alpine Shire Council websites.

The Tender documents were downloaded 24 times and 12 responses were received by the closing date.

EVALUATION

The evaluation panel consisted of the Project Manager, Manager Asset Development Director Assets.

The Tenders were evaluated according to the key selection criteria listed in the Invitation to Tender:

- Price
- Qualifications and Previous Performance
- Delivery
- Social
- Environmental

During the evaluation period, changes were made to several bridges to ensure compliance with the standards. Due to the resulting change in quantities across the scope, all tenderers were invited to provide a revised pricing schedule. Through this evaluation process it was determined that the tender from Waratah Bridge Constructions best met the selection criteria.



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The tender was advertised and evaluated in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

This recommendation is consistent with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan 2017-2021:

- A well planned and safe community

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council has received \$200,000 funding from the State Government's Fixed Fixing Country Roads program for this project, Council will meet the remaining project costs.

There is sufficient budget allocation to deliver the guardrail upgrade works through award of this Contract.

CONCLUSION

Following a comprehensive assessment, the Tender from Waratah Bridge Constructions is considered to present the best value option for Council.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Director Assets
- Manager Asset Development
- Project Manager

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Nil



5.2.2 Mount Beauty Skate Park Upgrade

File Number: CT19072

INTRODUCTION

The report relates to the award of the contract for the upgrade of the Mount Beauty Skate Park.

Cr Nicholas

Cr Keeble

That Council awards Contract Number 1907201 - 'Mount Beauty Skate Park Upgrade' to Haley Constructions for the lump sum tender price of \$250,000+GST.

Carried.

BACKGROUND

The Mount Beauty Skate Park Upgrade project involves the detailed design and construction of an upgrade to the skate park facilities at the Mount Beauty Recreation Reserve.

A concept design for the upgrade was prepared by Enlocus in 2017 after extensive consultation with the Mount Beauty community. The concept design is based on two stages:

Stage 1 – Upgrade to the skate park; and

Stage 2 – Upgrade to the skate park precinct including car parking and landscaping.

This contract is for the Stage 1 works only and will deliver the detailed design and construction of the upgraded skate park. The new skate park elements include an enclosed skate bowl, a plaza style street course and flat ground connection through the existing skate park.

The Invitation to Tender was advertised on Tenders.net and The Alpine Shire Council website from the 18 October until 8 November 2019 and was also advertised in the Herald Sun on the 23 October 2019.

Tenders closed on 8 November 2019. The tender documents were downloaded 20 times and five tender submissions were received.

EVALUATION

The key selection criteria listed in the Invitation to Tender are:

- Price
- Qualifications and previous performance
- Delivery
- Design
- Social
- Environmental Sustainability



The evaluation panel consisted of the Acting Director Assets, Manager Asset Development and the Project Officer.

Through the evaluation process it was determined that the tender from Haley Constructions best met the selection criteria.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The tender was advertised and evaluated according to Council's Procurement Policy.

This recommendation is in accordance with the following Strategic Objective of the Council Plan:

- Incredible places for our community and visitors.

The Mount Beauty Skate Park Upgrade is a major initiative of the Council Plan 2017-21 (Review 2019).

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Mount Beauty Skate Park Upgrade project is jointly funded by the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (\$150,000), The Friends of the Mount Beauty Skate Park (\$15,000) and Alpine Shire Council.

There is sufficient budget allocation to award this contract and deliver this project.

CONSULTATION

Enlocus landscape architects were engaged in 2017, and in consultation with the Mount Beauty community, prepared concept designs for the Mount Beauty Skate Park upgrade.

Consultation with the local community and the Friends of the Mount Beauty Skate Park will continue throughout the detailed design and construction phases of the project.

CONCLUSION

Following a comprehensive tender evaluation assessment and reference checks the tender received from Haley Constructions was considered to present the best value option for Council.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following officers declare that they have no interests to disclose in providing this report.

- Acting Director Assets
- Manager Asset Development
- Project Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

- Nil



There being no further business the chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.18 p.m

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Chairperson