



Media release

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Authorised by: DENNIS WELLINGTON, MAYOR

Clipper negotiations to go ahead

The City of Albany advises that an item considered at the July 22 Ordinary Council Meeting regarding the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race Event 2015 was in fact passed by Council.

After some debate, Council voted 6-5 in favour of a recommendation to endorse the City of Albany entering into final contract negotiations with Clipper for the 2015 event host port rights, and authorise the CEO to seek grant funding from potential local and regional partners to reduce the total cost.

The motion was declared lost for failing to gain an absolute majority.

Following an enquiry, City officers sought clarification from the Department of Local Government as to whether the item did in fact require an absolute majority.

Advice from the Department suggested the item only required simple majority due to the fact it did not have budget implications in the current financial year.

This means the motion was carried 6-5 via simple majority.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the unfortunate error occurred due to a minor misinterpretation of the Local Government Act.

“This was a regrettable situation, but thankfully it has now been rectified,” he said.

“On behalf of City of Albany staff and Councillors I apologise to the Albany community.”

Mr Wellington said the City looked forward to working with the organisers of the Clipper Race with a view to bringing the event back to Albany in 2015.

Mr Wellington also clarified the reasons two Councillors were absent during the council meeting.

“Two Councillors, Sarah Bowles and Janelle Price, were absent for serious personal reasons,” he said.

“They are both committed Councillors and would under normal circumstances have attended the meeting.”

END