

2.7: GREAT SOUTHERN MOTORPLEX GROUP INC. - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Land description : Lot 8122 on Plan 26510 and being whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume LR3124 Folio 121

Proponents : Great Southern Motorplex Group Inc.

Owner : Crown

Appendices : Location maps

Responsible Officer : Executive Director, Corporate and Community Services (WP Madigan)

IN BRIEF

- Consider request from **Great Southern Motorplex Group Inc.** for funding assistance to complete a Fauna Assessment and Environmental Management Plan of Parker Brook Reserve.

ITEM 2.7: RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council AGREE to provide \$4,730 to the Great Southern Motorplex Group for the preparation of the Fauna Assessment and Site Environmental Management Plan of the Parker Brook reserve (Reserve 1947).

ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

BACKGROUND

1. The Great Southern Motorplex Inc. (Motorplex Group) is a body consisting of four motorsport entities. These include:
 - a. Albany City Kart Club Inc.
 - b. Albany Motorsport Group Inc.
 - c. Great Southern Street Machine Association Inc.
 - d. Albany Motorcycle Club Inc.
2. The Motorplex Group has requested Council to:
 - Update its in-principle approval of the co-located facility, based on the updated Concept Plan; and
 - Allocate funding of \$4730 for the preparation of:
 - a) Fauna Assessment of Parker Brook Reserve; and
 - b) Site Environment Management Plan.

CEO:

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:

3. This request was considered through the February 2011 OCM (Item 2.6) which Council resolved, inter alia, as follows:
- (i) *THAT Council affirms its previous support for the attached concept plan for the development of Reserve 1947 Parker Brook Road, Albany subject to achievement of and Council's satisfaction with the following:*
- a. *'Environmental Noise Impact Assessment' demonstrating the design and management/ operational measures required and the ability of the concept to meet:*
 - *Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Environmental Impact Assessment Requirements;*
 - *Requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1986; and*
 - *Requirements of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997.*
 - b. *Site Design and Full 'Environmental Management Plan' of sufficient detail to be submitted to the EPA for Environmental Impact Assessment Approval.*
 - c. *Approval of the Site Design and 'Environmental Management Plan' by the EPA.*
 - d. *A facility/ operational management plan specifying and demonstrating the sustainable operation of the facility including but not limited to:*
 - *operation and functionality of the site management group*
 - *responsibilities and entitlements of co-located tenants*
 - *driver education and training facilities*
 - *noise management*
 - *waste management*
 - *water management*
 - *facility access and security management*
 - *asset maintenance and management*
 - *reserve flora and fauna management*
 - *principles for major event management at the site*
 - e. *The availability of sufficient external funding by the Great Southern Motorplex Group to undertake each stage of the proposal.*
 - f. *A new/ amended lease over the site containing provisions that the facility is constructed and operated in accordance with EPA approval, council determinations in relation to the items above and any other relevant council strategies, policies, procedures and determinations.*
 - g. *Community consultation occurring and Council considering that feedback.*
- (ii) *The feasibility study is handed over to the 'Great Southern Motorplex Group' consisting of City of Albany, Albany Motorcycle Club, Great Southern Street Machine Association and Albany City Kart Club who will:*
- *lead and undertake responsibility for the development of the project (including but not limited to the items in recommendation (i)).*
 - *undertake responsibility for the lease and management of the site.*

4. The request for funding by the Great Southern Motorplex Group to complete a Fauna Assessment and Site Environmental Management Plan of the Parker Brook Reserve was laid on the table for a period of one month to allow further investigation by Council of funding options.

DISCUSSION

5. The group maintains it needs to determine whether the site is suitable for its use prior to committing funds to the project, and is therefore seeking Council's financial assistance in the preparation of the necessary reports.
6. While the Motorplex Group have requested funding of **\$4,730** to complete a Fauna Assessment and Site Environmental Management Plan of Parker Brook Reserve Council has previously resolved that:

"The achievement of sufficient external funding to undertake each stage of the proposal" and "Council funding, if any, towards the project being directed towards the components of the driver training and education." Extracts from Ordinary Council Meeting 17th February 2011.

7. Furthermore, Council has a moratorium on funding through Community Financial Assistance program for which this funding would normally be made available.
8. This request relates to the provision of funding to undertake Fauna Assessment and Environmental Management Plan of Parker Brook Reserve, and no public consultation has been undertaken.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

9. Were Council agree to the request and provide funding, Section 6.8 of the Local Government Act requires:
 - (i) *"A local government is not to incur expenditure from its municipal fund for an additional purpose except where the expenditure –*
 - a. *is incurred in a financial year before the adoption of the annual budget by the local government;*
 - b. *is authorised in advance by resolution*;* or
 - c. *is authorised in advance by the mayor or president in an emergency."*

**Absolute majority required.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Council has no budget allocation for these matters and Council resolved on the 20 April 2010 to imposed a moratorium on such funding for two years, being:

"THAT Council INTRODUCES a moratorium on the grant category allocations under the Financial Assistance Program to the years 2010/11 and 2011/12 with the exclusion of rate rebates and Events".
11. Request is not in accordance with Council budget.

REFER DISCLAIMER

12. Were Council to agree to the request, funding could be provided from within current budget surplus.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13. Council adopted the Albany Motorsport Complex Feasibility Study 17/02/2009.
14. Council adopted the Recreation Planning Strategy, which specifically states:

“Incorporated community organisations shall be responsible for undertaking the feasibility, design, funding and construction of facilities such as clubrooms and specialised surfaces such as tennis courts and motorsport tracks, in accordance with relevant actions within this strategy and other council strategies, policies, conditions, procedures and guidelines. (Organisations may be eligible to apply for financial assistance under the community financial assistance fund)”

15. Council adopted on 20/04/2010:

“THAT Council INTRODUCES a moratorium on the grant category allocations under the Financial Assistance Program to the years 2010/11 and 2011/12 with the exclusion of rate rebates and Events”.

16. On 15/02/2011 Council affirmed its support for the concept plan for the development of Reserve 1947 Parker Brook Road.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS & LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

17. Council has three options in relation to the request from Great Southern Motorplex Group for funding to assist in a Fauna Assessment of Parker Brook Reserve and Environmental Management Plan. These are:
 - a. **Option One.** Provide funding of **\$4,730**.
 - b. **Option Two.** Provide part funding up to a specific amount.
 - c. **Option Three.** Provide NO funding.

Consulted References	Residential Design Codes (R-Codes) Little Grove Structure Plan Town Planning Scheme No. 3
File Number (Name of Ward)	PRO170, PRO176 (West Ward)
Previous Reference	OCM 01/07/1992 OCM 17/09/2002 Item 12.2.5 OCM 17/02/2009 Item 12.8.2 OCM 16/06/2009 Item 18.2 OCM 16/02/2010 Item 13.6.1 OCM 20/04/2010 Item 19.5 OCM 15/02/2011 Item 2.6