



LATE ITEMS ORDINARY MEETING

AGENDA

11 NOVEMBER 2014

Your attendance is required at an Ordinary meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton on 11 November 2014 commencing at 9.00am for transaction of the enclosed business.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. R.", written in a cursive style.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
6 November 2014

Next Meeting Date: 09.12.14

Please note:

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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11 OFFICERS' REPORTS

11.4 NATIONAL STRONGER REGIONS FUND ROUND 1

File No:	7322
Attachments:	Nil
Authorising Officer:	Robert Holmes - General Manager Regional Services Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Angus Russell - Coordinator Strategic Infrastructure

SUMMARY

The report provides background on the National Stronger Regions Fund and recommends Council endorsement of the project to be submitted to Round One of the National Stronger Regions Fund programme.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse submission of the Quay Street and Victoria Parade Streetscape/Esplanade Project to Round One of the National Stronger Regions Fund program.

COMMENTARY

Workshops with Council were conducted on 20 October and 4 November 2014 to consider possible projects to submit to Round One of the National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) program. During those workshops the Quay Street and Victoria Parade Esplanade Project was identified as the preferred project and this report seeks formal endorsement of that priority and subsequent completion and submission of the funding application.

The proposed scope of the Quay Street and Victoria Parade Esplanade Project includes streetscape improvements along Quay Street and Victoria Parade between North Street and Derby Street to improve the amenity of the area and provide a pedestrian friendly "esplanade" environment that will enable the community to enjoy the recreational activities on offer along the southern bank of the Fitzroy River.

The project involves road reconstruction in part, re-sealing, line marking, introduction of pedestrian facilities, pathway and public lighting improvements and replacement or renewal of street furniture and landscaping elements in order to create an "esplanade" feel and reconnect the CBD and developing high density riverside land uses with the Fitzroy River recreational areas. Emphasis will be placed on reducing the speed environment, provision of pedestrian facilities and provision of adequate pathway lighting in order to provide a safe environment in which to enjoy the recreational parklands and contribute to the overall liveability of the City.

Costs include nominal allowances of \$75,000 for demolition of the Denham Street rotunda and toilets, \$250,000 for construction of a new public toilet facility and \$425,000 for the reopening and streetscaping of Denham Street between East Street and Quay Street. A decision on whether this part of Denham Street is made road again will need to be made in consultation with key stakeholders. Alternately, a covered or partially covered alfresco area might be desirable to frame views and access to the riverfront.

Project Benefits: The Fitzroy River and associated riverbank parklands are a valuable civic resource that are currently underutilised. Inactivity within adjacent land uses and a car dominant street environment are contributors to the failure of the riverbank and CBD precincts to meet their potential. In recent years, Council and the development community have come to realise the river's potential with approximately \$168 Million in commercial and residential development being undertaken along Victoria Parade in the last 10 years.

Council has taken steps through significant development incentives to promote the continued reactivation of these areas. With the influx of people through the adjacent high

density residential uses, utilisation of the recreational areas is increasing however willingness to participate in the recreational activities along the riverbank is hampered by the existing road and pedestrian condition. Overall, the project will improve the liveability and amenity of Rockhampton City and support continued private sector investment along the southern bank of the Fitzroy River.

Current Status: Streetscape concept plans were prepared for Victoria Parade in 2012 and concepts and preliminary designs have been prepared for Quay Street. Detail design will need to be completed; however, the project can be staged over a period of time allowing some later stage design work to be undertaken concurrently with earlier stages of construction. Overall, the project could be made investment ready within 3 to 6 months. As the project is largely located on road reserve, no significant regulatory approvals are envisaged.

While not yet commenced, this and related projects have been identified as a priority and foreshadowed in Council's current and forward budgets.

Project Risks: The current costing is based upon Council's desire to utilise more cost effective road reconstruction and resurfacing treatments. If significant changes are to be made to road cross-sections then additional budget will be required. If demolished, the public toilets will need to be replaced with a suitable alternative. The reintroduction of a road into Denham Street will need to be considered. There is also an existing sub-lease of the rotunda building and Ergon sub-station in the building and the land tenure of rotunda is Land Lease (LL). Delivery by contract may be challenging from a community liaison and property / business access viewpoint.

Project Delivery: To meet the NSRF guidelines the project could be delivered as construction contract with an external contractor but additional lead time will be required to produce tender and contract documentation. Timing of this project should provide a competitive price in the current market. As noted above, the project could be staged.

NSRF Criteria: The project will facilitate increased investment in the CBD and in particular the riverfront area. It will improve road and pedestrian safety. It also has the support of the Rockhampton Region Road and Transport Group and the local development community.

BACKGROUND

The National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) Round 1 has opened and applications close on 28 November 2014. Announcement of successful projects is expected in May 2015. Projects need to be completed by 31 December 2019.

Grants of between \$20,000 and \$10 million are available but must be matched with cash contributions on at least dollar-for-dollar basis. Confirmation has been sought and received that only one application can be submitted per applicant per round.

Clarification was also sought on the possible use of Council's workforce and internal plant hire for construction. Council has been advised this would only be considered as an in-kind contribution and as such could not be used as matching cash funding. This suggests a focus on employment of contractors.

Given the timing of announcement of successful projects and the time it takes to get funding agreements in place, works on NSRF projects would be unlikely to commence until the 2015-16 financial year.

The selection criteria for the NSRF include:

- the extent to which the project contributes to economic growth in the region (50% weighting);
- the extent to which the project supports or addresses disadvantage in the region;
- the extent to which the project increases investment and builds partnerships in the region; and,
- the extent to which the project and proponent are viable and sustainable.

The final criteria above includes consideration of whether the project "investment ready", that is will be able to commence within 12 months of signing the funding agreement.

The RDA Committees can assist applicants in identifying and developing projects and are not involved in the appraisal or prioritisation of projects.

NRSF Round 2 applications will open on 1 May 2015 and close on 31 July 2015. Announcement of successful projects is expected is in December 2015.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

There are no previous decisions in relation to the NSRF programme.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The NSRF requires at least dollar for dollar cash contributions toward the project and, as a consequence, will have a direct impact on Council's budget.

There is approximately \$4.6M in Council's current and forward budget for Victoria Parade and Quay Street works in 2014-15 to 2016-17. A further \$2.3M is indicated as future works in the forward works program out to 2020-21. This provides sufficient scope for a fifty percent contribution from Council's to the proposed \$7.25 million NSRF project.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Officers will be required to prepare the NSRF funding application.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Council has also sought funding for a similarly scoped project under Round 4 of the Queensland Government's Royalties for the Regions initiative. The results of this application will not be known until December 2014. In the event that both applications are successful, a joint funding arrangement between the three tiers of Government may be possible.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The proposed NSRF project contributes to a range of corporate goals including the following:

- Safe, secure and reliable infrastructure serving current and future community needs
- A healthy and liveable environment for everyone to enjoy
- A safe, caring and healthy community that we all belong to
- Grow a strong, resilient and diversified economy
- Liveable and distinctive communities that we are proud to be part of

CONCLUSION

The proposed submission of the Quay Street and Victoria Parade Streetscape/Esplanade project to Round One of the National Stronger Regions Fund programme reflects Council's current priorities and planning for revitalisation of the Rockhampton CBD. It recognises the south bank of the Fitzroy River as a significant but underutilised asset; supports significant private investment along Victoria Parade over the past ten years; and, complements Council's current Infrastructure Charges Incentives Policy.

13 NOTICES OF MOTION**13.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR ELLEN SMITH - LOWERING OF SPEED LIMIT - TOWNSHIP OF BAJOOL**

File No: 7127 / 8246
Attachments: 1. Notice of Motion
Responsible Officer: Evan Pardon - Chief Executive Officer

SUMMARY

Councillor Ellen Smith has indicated her intention to move a Notice of Motion at the Council meeting on 11 November 2014 regarding the lowering of the speed limit past the township of Bajool.

COUNCILLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

That Rockhampton Regional Council provide a submission to Department of Transport and Main Roads to reduce the speed limit past the town of Bajool that would commence on the northern side of the Explosives Facility and end a distance past the Port Alma Turnoff.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Ellen Smith has submitted a Notice of Motion (attached) regarding the lowering of the speed limit past the township of Bajool and requesting Council officers compile a submission to Department of Transport and Main Roads to reduce the speed limit past the town of Bajool, with the lowered speed zone to commence on the northern side of the Explosives Facility and end a distance past the Port Alma Turnoff.

**NOTICE OF MOTION -
COUNCILLOR ELLEN SMITH -
LOWERING OF SPEED LIMIT -
TOWNSHIP OF BAJOOL**

Notice of Motion

Meeting Date: 11 November 2014

Attachment No: 1



Councillor Ellen Smith

Division 4

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6 November 2014

Chief Executive Officer
Rockhampton Regional Council
PO Box 1860
Rockhampton Q 4700

NOTICE OF MOTION: RE LOWERING THE SPEED LIMIT PAST THE TOWNSHIP OF BAJOOL

I hereby give notice that at the Council Meeting on Tuesday 11th November 2014, I intend to move the following motion:

That Rockhampton Regional Council provide a submission to DTMR to reduce the speed limit past the town of Bajool that would commence on the northern side of the Explosives Facility and end a distance past the Port Alma Turnoff.

The reasons for this are:

- With the present 100K speed limit, traffic coming from South Ulam Road have limited visibility to turn B Doubles coming from the Omya quarry at the end of South Ulam Road onto the busy Bruce Highway.
- B Doubles and trucks carting livestock from the many properties along South Ulam Road, Mt. Hopeful Road and other roads in the area have limited visibility to turn safely from South Ulam Road onto the Bruce Highway.
- There was an unfortunate fatality at the corner of the Bruce Highway and Port Alma Road recently. There was also a near fatality at that corner a few years ago.
- Heavy traffic to and from the Explosives Facility and the Port Alma facility, add to the proliferation of heavy vehicles in the vicinity of the township.

Members of the Marmor and Bajool Ratepayer Group are concerned for the safety of Bajool residents, due to the speed and the amount of trucks in the vicinity of the turnoff into the town. I have also had complaints from graziers who cart their own livestock and are concerned at the poor visibility and the 100KPH speed at the crossroads into the township. An inspection of the corner of South Ulam Road and the highway highlighted the limited visibility from the South. Members of the Marmor and Bajool Ratepayer Group have repeatedly, over the years, requested the speed limit be lowered. Members have requested that Rockhampton Regional Council officers liaise with the DTMR and present a strong case to have the speed limit lowered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Smith".

Cr Ellen Smith
Division 4
Rockhampton Regional Council

