



general
purpose
committee

2
section

infrastructure

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - INFRASTRUCTURE

Table of Contents

Meeting Date: 24 June 1997

Page 2

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE
-------------	----------------	-------------

SECTION 2 - INFRASTRUCTURE.

32:	Lower Portland Ferry GT240/010 PT02/GMA/INF24NAX.G02	3
33:	Windsor Downs Nature Reserve 0606/R PT2 & PK257 PT2/ENG/INF24NBX.E03	5

oooO END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS Oooo

ITEM: 32 Lower Portland Ferry**FILE NUMBER:** GT240/010 PT02/GMA/INF24NAX.G02

REPORT:

There have been recent discussions with staff from Baulkham Hills Shire Council regarding the ongoing operational and maintenance costs of the Lower Portland Ferry. On the current operating basis and known requirements, expenditure over a five year basis is now exceeding \$1 million.

The vessel has a timber hull and increasing requirements of public safety now require an overhaul every two years and this is likely to increase. The only option if the ferry service is to continue to purchase a new or, if available (and it is unknown that there is at this stage) another vessel. This would take some lead time and given that the current contract runs until 13 July 1998, it is suggested that a joint working party between the two Councils be established to look into the issues, options and costs.

These include, but are not limited to :

- * the life of the current vessel given its age and likely future maintenance costs
- * the need for and cost of a new vessel
- * likely replacement of the service singularly or the Lower Portland and Sackville services with a bridge
- * the need and justification for the service and any alternatives
- * for the funds expended, are these best utilised in a ferry service or other services in this and other locations
- * the importance of the community of interest developed by the ferry service
- * likely future of the locality and need for, or not, the ferry service in that context.

The financial cost of operating the service on a per vehicle basis is considerably more than that of the other ferry services at Sackville, Webbs Creek and Wisemans Ferry. These services operate on the basis of \$0.94, \$1.33 and \$0.83 per vehicle respectively, whereas at Lower Portland the cost is \$4.15 per vehicle. This has risen during recent times with a change in traffic undoubtedly due to the closure of the school. It is also noted that there is significant weekend traffic that would not involve local residents but where local residents pay as ratepayers and may receive no direct or indirect advantage.

Financial Impact

An amount of \$127,550 has been included in the 1997/98 Budget as Council's contribution towards

the operation of this ferry.

RECOMMENDATION:

A working party be established comprising 4 (four) Councillors with appropriate staff to work with representatives of Baulkham Hills Council to :-

1. consider the options, issues and costs as identified in this report,
2. consider any other options or alternatives,
3. report back to Council not later than 31 October 1997.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 32 Oooo

ITEM: 33 Windsor Downs Nature Reserve**FILE NUMBER:** 0606/R PT2 & PK257 PT2/ENG/INF24NBX.E03**REPORT:**

As part of the consideration for the closure of the unformed section of Fairey Road, it was resolved that an application be made to have the area of Crown Land adjacent to the South Windsor Treatment Works site and generally between the road reservation which was formally the link road between Bligh Park and Windsor Downs and Fairey Road be incorporated into the Treatment Works area.

The Windsor Downs Homeowners Association have advised that an application has been forwarded to the Hon P D Allen MP, Minister for the Environment to have the Windsor Downs Nature Reserve extended to and including the road reservation and also the small areas of land to the south of the Treatment Works site. A plan will be exhibited at the Meeting.

The road is a dedicated road under the care and control of Council and as such would need to approval of Council to be closed and included in the Nature Reserve.

No objection can be seen to extending the Nature Reserve to the south-western boundary of the road reserve, however, if the road reserve was included in the Nature Reserve it would remove any flexibility which Council currently has to construct the link road, or any access including cycle/ pedestrian path, fire fighting, etc., in the future should that action be desired. It should also be noted that there currently exists electricity, water, telephone and gas infrastructure within the road reserve and it would be assumed that the providers of these facilities would require easements for access to this area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minister for the Environment be advised that the Council supports the extension of the Windsor Downs Nature Reserve to the south-western boundary of the current road reserve between Windsor Downs and Bligh Park, however, request that the road reserve and the area adjacent to the treatment plant be excluded from this proposal.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 33 Oooo