



**general
purpose
committee**

2
section

infrastructure

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - INFRASTRUCTURE

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ITEM: 33 **Request for Support from Council as Adjoining Land Owner for Application to Use Hawkesbury River****FILE NUMBER:** GR030/020 PK/205/ENG/INB29LBX.E07**PREVIOUS ITEM:** 122, Ordinary (08.02.2000)

REPORT:

At the Ordinary meeting of Council held on 8 February, 2000, it was resolved that this matter be deferred to the General Purpose Committee to allow the applicant to address Council. The report is reproduced in full for Council's consideration.

"Correspondence has been received from the NSW Water Ski Show Division requesting support from Council as an adjoining land owner for an application to the Waterways Authority.

The division have applied to Waterways for use of the Hawkesbury River for the purpose of training for waterski shows. The division have outlined two location options with the preferred location being the stretch of river between Rickabys Creek and the Windsor Bridge, namely between Howe and Macquarie Parks. The second option is between South Creek and the Windsor Bridge, adjacent to Governor Phillip Reserve.

The team needs a safe environment to train as they human construct pyramids and learn harness acts, and can have up to 12 skiers behind the boat at any one time. They currently use one boat, however are proposing to utilise three (3) boats, two for towing skiers and a third for collecting fallen skiers and skis.

Skiers would use a combination of beach starts, deep water starts and, if approved by the Waterways, also start from and land on a removable floating pontoon. The boats will be travelling between speeds of 15-40 miles per hour depending on the activity. The boat that they would be used has not been tested for noise emmision.

Contact has been made with the Waterways Authority regarding the application and it appears unlikely that the preferred option will be approved due to safety concerns. Macquarie Park has a very high rate of informal recreation usage and therefore would be unsuitable for the activities proposed. This section of river is used extensively on weekends and weekday afternoons for swimming, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, remote control boating and other activities. There is an extremely high likelihood of serious conflict occuring between the different water users in this section of the river.

The second location option, namely between South Creek and the Windsor Bridge would appear to be a much safer and more appropriate location. The usage of this section of river is almost exclusively boats, with swimmers and canoeists for the most part staying upstream of the bridge. There is also very minimal chance of conflict occuring between park users of Governor Phillip Reserve and the skiers as there are no points of easy water access from Governor Phillip Reserve.

The Hawkesbury River is already used extensively for boating activities and events, with groups like the Upper Hawkesbury Power Boat Club having a long history of organising and running boating events. The main users of Governor Phillip Reserve have been meeting regularly to discuss the needs of each group and their yearly calendars in advance of applying to Council in order to reduce the chance of conflict and overuse of the reserve and the river. It is suggested that the division should attend the next meeting to discuss these issues with the existing users."

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The application by the NSW Water Ski Show Division for use of the Hawkesbury River between Rickabys Creek and the Windsor Bridge not be supported.
2. Support be given for the application by the NSW Water Ski Show Division for use of the Hawkesbury River between South Creek and the Windsor Bridge subject to the following conditions.
 - i. The applicant obtaining appropriate licences from the Waterways Authority regarding the conduct of this event.
 - ii. A letterdrop be undertaken to all affected residents in proximity to the activity advising full details of the activity.
 - iii. The applicant attending the Governor Phillip Park User Group Meeting on Tuesday 7 March 2000 at 7.30pm. This Meeting is held at the UHPBC club house at Governor Phillip Reserve.
 - iv. Co-operation and compliance with other users of the park with regard to the dates that the activity is undertaken.
 - v. The Applicant submitting to Council a public liability policy for \$10,000,000 (ten million dollars) with the interest of Hawkesbury City Council noted on the policy.
 - vi. The reserve being left clean and tidy with the applicant being responsible for collection and disposal of all waste. The applicant is required to pay to Council a refundable bond of \$750.00 less any cost incurred by Council to clean or restore the area.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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