



H a w k e s b u r y C i t y C o u n c i l

**ordinary
meeting
business
paper
supplementary**

date of meeting: 13 June 2000

location: Council Chambers

time: 7.30pm

ORDINARY MEETING

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reports
for determination

ITEM: 211 Development of Former Hawkesbury Hospital Site**FILE NUMBER:** P731/3005/GMA/ORF13LAX.G28

REPORT:

The Council acquired the former Hawkesbury Hospital site with a view for its redevelopment as follows:

- Redevelopment of the building known as the Bateman Block to house the district's home and community care services. For this a grant of \$551,000.00 was received with the Council contributing the remainder of the funds from its building capital program. The works are nearly complete and the building should be ready for occupation towards the end of next month.
- Restoration of the main two-storey building, together with the single-storey kitchen area to the rear and the Matron's Cottage as Museum/Art Gallery. A conservation plan for these works has been completed, with other works to date involving demolition of the administrative extension to the Macquarie Street frontage, demolition of the connection between the historical building and the Johnson Wing that fronts Christie Street, drainage and stabilisation works. For these works, the State has provided a Heritage Grant of \$300,000.00 over three years (that is \$100,000.00 per year) on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
- Development of a new central library for the district on the vacant land to the north of the site, fronting Macquarie Street, with commercial floor space for rent as part of this building.
- Refurbishment of the Johnson Wing for commercial occupation. Refurbishment works have now been completed and the building is being marketed.

In addition there would be a substantial underground car park with access from George Street for the site's facilities, together with landscaping.

A model of the site's redevelopment was prepared and has been subject to display at last year's Hawkesbury Show and since then, in the Library. There have been many encouraging comments about the project being one of the most positive initiatives of the Council in recent times.

The Council authorised a brief to be prepared for the new library which has now been received, with conceptual plans for the building currently in hand. These should be available for the Council's consideration to continue further in the near future.

The current central library does not meet the floor space standards for the current and projected population with a number of investigations to extend the current building resulting in expensive and unsympathetic extensions. It is therefore not possible to provide those additional facilities, particularly in terms of computing laboratories and study rooms that would be very beneficial to the Hawkesbury community.

Council has also had approved a grant of \$30,000.00 from the Ministry for the Arts under the 2000 Museum's Program to provide advice on development of the Hawkesbury Museum and Art Gallery.

The completed project would provide a significant cultural set of facilities for the community that would be beneficial in social, cultural and economic development terms. In fact, the economic development focus is likely to see other facilities attracted to the district, with subsequent service and employment.

There have been a number of discussions with local groups and individuals in the cultural area and it is seen desirable for the project to proceed and that a committee be established to advise the Council on development aspects of the facilities, keeping in mind the design briefs and concepts that have been developed to date. Such a committee could draw on the cultural expertise within the local community and provide a positive incentive to the site's ongoing development. It would also assist in providing advice on ongoing management and costs of which the Council needs to be fully cognisant to ensure a satisfactory ongoing financial position. For substantial facilities as those proposed it would not be responsible to rely on volunteer community groups to undertake all of the work involved in management and maintenance. There is also the need to ensure that to drive maximum community and economic development from the site that the various activities operate at the same time, similar to those in shopping centres.

It is suggested that the committee comprise two to three Councillors, a similar number of persons from the cultural community with expertise in that field and appropriate staff with advisors as necessary from time to time, ie architect, curator, cultural facilities manager etc. The committee would report its minutes to the Council

At this time it is recommended that the Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Collection and the Museum Committee be invited to provide two representatives. It may be that other groups will become involved during the progress.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council establish an advisory committee for the former Hawkesbury Hospital site development.
2. The committee comprise Councillors, representatives of cultural groups and staff.
3. The Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Collection and the Hawkesbury Museum be invited to provide two representatives.
4. The Councillor representatives be elected.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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ITEM: 212 **National Active Australia Day Pilot Event**

FILE NUMBER: GC070/005/ENG/ORF13LBX.E27

PREVIOUS ITEM: 187, Ordinary (11.05.1999)

REPORT:

Leisure Australia are inviting Local Councils to be involved in a National Active Australia Day on 29 October 2000.

Active Australia is a national participation framework based on physical activity. It is a strategic and cooperative approach to encouraging participation in physical activity by all Australians. It was launched in December 1996 as a joint portfolio strategy, with Commonwealth endorsement from both the Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government and the Minister for Health and Family Services.

The event will form part of the wider Active Australia strategy to target the 64% of the Hawkesbury population who are currently inactive, with a view to improving Australia's overall participation rate in ongoing physical activity.

This year, it is proposed that 70 Councils and 35 indigenous people communities be involved throughout Australia, targeting mass community participation and exposing the Active Australia message nationally to 6 - 8 million people.

The group of 70 councils will be resourced to coordinate the event from a local level, working with sporting associations, clubs and schools who will open up their programs for those members of the public who wish to participate in an activity.

A typical Active Australia Day festival at a local level will comprise one or more mass participation activities such as parade or mass bike ride, along with a trade show or open day at which local activity providers promote their offerings to the community. The day will offer much more than a 'come and try' programme - the focus will be on providing ways to attract participants into follow-up and regular activity.

Contribution Required from Participating Councils

1. Provide a coordinator (using existing resources) for 5 - 10hrs/week leading up to the event.
2. Establish an Active Australia Day Committee made up of a Council Officer, one or two Councillors (optional) and representatives from interested clubs, associations and schools.
3. Conduct a National Active Australia Day information session inviting local clubs, associations and schools, which is launched by the Mayor, Shire president or Councillor.
4. Enlist clubs, associations and schools to participate in your local Active Australia Day.

5. To target a minimum involvement of 25% of local clubs and associations in your Municipality.
6. Conduct a Mayoral Walk on the Morning of Active Australia Day
7. Prominently display the Active Australia Day posters at a municipal office.
8. Assist with the promotion of Active Australia Day through letters to clubs, newsletters, displays etc
9. Assist where possible with the provision of facilities for the event. This may include a local showground, oval, leisure centre, pool etc
10. Using the proforma report supplied within the Local Government Kit, report on the outcomes of the Active Australia Day.

Leisure Australia Offers

1. A comprehensive local government resource kit detailing how to operate your event at the local level including proforma press releases, invitations for clubs and associations to attend your local launch and ideas kit. Resource kit for Councils will not be prescriptive in nature, rather the kits offer a number of options for participation. For example, some Councils may prefer to operate a centralised model offering activities at a range of locations.
2. Information for your Council to provide to local clubs and schools who wish to participate.
3. Active Australia Day posters.
4. An Active Australia Day banner.
5. As part of this package, participating councils will be invited to a workshop to be conducted in each state to discuss and further develop the implementation of the event.
6. Promotional support in the form of media, information on upcoming events and newspaper advertisements will be provided to councils.

To register an interest to become one of the 70 participating councils, it was necessary to submit an application by 9 June, 2000 and as such the application has been forwarded.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the action taken to submit an expression of interest to be involved in the Active Australia Day on an ongoing basis be endorsed.

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ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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