



general
purpose
committee

3
section

organisation
and
resources

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - ORGANISATION & RESOURCES

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ITEM: 98 **Re-allocation of Funding for Economic Development Projects - Hawkesbury Harvest**

FILE NUMBER: GF008/001, GM001/020 Pt15/CSV/OGJ22LBX.C10

REPORT:

A letter has been received from Hawkesbury Harvest regarding the additional funding of \$11,745.00 (eleven thousand seven hundred and forty five dollars) provided to them by Council during 2001/2002 for the purpose of the production of Seasonal Maps and a Farmgate Trail Directory, plus workshops to explore the potential for growing sustainable produce on small acreage within the Hawkesbury.

As the funds remain unspent as at 30 June 2002, Hawkesbury Harvest has requested approval to utilise the total funds to allow it to provide flexibility to meet the challenge of managing the dynamic nature of Hawkesbury Harvest's development, without in any way diminishing the outcomes for which the funds were provided.

The letter received from Hawkesbury Harvest and signed by its Chairperson, Mr David Mason, sets out the following:

"The purpose of this correspondence is to seek Council approval to utilise the total additional allocated funds of \$11,745.00 (eleven thousand seven hundred and forty five dollars) to provide flexibility to meet the challenge of managing the dynamic nature of Hawkesbury Harvest's development without in any way diminishing the outcomes for which the funds were provided. The reasons to support this request are as follows:

- Hawkesbury Harvest (HH) has grown to the extent it now requires a restructure. HH initially employed Ms Kate Faithorn as Project Director to take an entrepreneurial approach to developing a strategic alliance between agriculture and tourism essentially around the Farm Gate Trail (FGT) concept. The role of the Project Director was to work with HH members to optimise HH's objectives as determined by its strategic plan. Both the Project Director and HH's members were operating within a community development process, which I as Chair have facilitated. This process is organic by nature and for that reason the ball game is constantly changing to meet the ever-increasing interest, enthusiasm, involvement, commitment to and demands on HH by many people, groups and organisations.*
- The restructure is necessary to relieve the Project Director of the demands that have built up. The Project Director was employed to work four days a week to the end of June 2002 after which she was to work 3.5 days a week. Because of the dynamic growth of HH Ms Faithorn has been working up to 60 hours a week. This is clearly not sustainable.*

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- *The form of the restructure will be:*
 - *Promotions, Public Relations and Marketing Manager - Kate Faithorn (2 days a week)*
 - *Business Development Manager - Sue Salvin (outcomes based contract)*
 - *Operations Manager - Alan Eagle (1.5 days a week)*
 - *Financial Controller - Karen Goldie (8 hours a week)*

Casual staff will be employed on a specific needs basis.

- *The purpose of the Operations manager is to set up the processes, structures and networks amongst members and other people, groups and organisations in the community to deal with matters related to such things as signage, communication systems, membership, funding, education, standards, signs, newsletters etc.*
- *As stated above the purposes for which the funding was provided will in no way be compromised. HH has received an allocation of \$20,000 from the Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board for purposes of conducting workshops. HH is currently negotiation with the Western Sydney Institute of TAFE to provide courses for HH members and other community members for purposes of ensuring the sustainability of agriculture and associated tourism in the Hawkesbury region.*
- *The maps and directory for which the additional funding was provided was to be on a seasonal basis at the time the request was made. This was replaced by the idea of a single map that indicated the seasonality of the Hawkesbury produce and products. The funding needed to do this can be met from within existing funding including the funding that HH is beginning to generate on its own behalf.*
- *The overriding principle to the above request is that the monies provided by Council will be of benefit to the constituents of the Hawkesbury City Council. HH has taken the position that other Councils who want to embrace HH will have to provide appropriate funding to enable HH to meet needs of prospective level three members in those Council areas. Any involvement of HH with people in other Council areas will be met with from funding from those Councils (pending), Stage II funding and HH itself."*

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the revised program put forward by Hawkesbury Harvest to utilise the total additional allocated funds of \$11,745.00 (eleven thousand seven hundred and forty five dollars) from the 2001/2002 financial year to allow Hawkesbury Harvest the flexibility to meet the challenge of managing the dynamic nature of its development.

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ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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ITEM: 99 **Topoclimate Pilot Scheme Funding**

FILE NUMBER: GM001/021 Pt15, GP070/028 Pt2/CSV/OGJ22LBX.C11

PREVIOUS ITEM: 77, GPC Section 3 - Organisation & Resources (24.09.2002)

REPORT:

Council, at its General Purpose Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2002, had a presentation conducted by the Managing Director of Topoclimate Services, Mr Gary Hutchinson, which explained the details of Topoclimate and how the benefits of Topoclimate can be applied to the agricultural industry of the Hawkesbury and its surrounding regions.

Subsequently, Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2002 resolved:

“That:

Council support the concept of Topoclimate within the Hawkesbury and surrounding regions.

This matter be further reported to the next General Purpose Committee Meeting relative to the allocation of \$30,000.00 (thirty thousand dollars) for the proposed Topoclimate pilot scheme.”

Discussions are continuing with representatives from GROW, The Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board and New South Wales Agriculture regarding the project and it is likely that the finalisation of these can be reported to the Ordinary Meeting with a recommendation for funding. It will be proposed that the Council be the proponent of the project to GROW and that a steering committee will be established with representatives from the funding organisations and land owners.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 99 Oooo