



Hawkesbury City Council

ordinary
meeting
business
paper
supplementary

date of meeting: 12 August 2003

location: Council Chambers

time: 7.00pm

ORDINARY MEETING

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1. Future of RAAF Base Richmond

Comments by Mr Simon Crean on the Future of RAAF Base Richmond

The Leader of the Federal Opposition Simon Crean has recently announced that a Labor Government would scrap plans for Badgery's Creek Airport and would consider with the Department of Defence and the local community options to introduce civilian general aviation at Richmond post-2010.

Council has a long standing policy of supporting the retention of Air Lift Group at RAAF Base Richmond on social and economic grounds. There is no alternative that comes close to providing the same level of positive impact on the local and regional communities.

The Significance of RAAF Base Richmond

RAAF Richmond was established as an operational base in 1925. It is Australia's second oldest RAAF Base and its largest. Over 2,500 (two thousand, five hundred) personnel (military and civilian) are employed at the Base, which generates between \$15,000,000 (fifteen million) and \$20,000,000 (twenty million) annually in retail sales alone in Windsor and Richmond alone. The Base injects \$100,000,000 (one hundred million) annually into the economy of northwestern Sydney and \$209,000,000 (two hundred and nine million) annually into the economy of New South Wales.

Studies indicated that the closure of BHP at Newcastle would result in the loss of 2,500 (two thousand, five hundred) jobs, a 1.3% (one point three) reduction in jobs currently available in the Hunter. Loss of 3,000 (three thousand) jobs at RAAF Richmond would mean a 19.4% (nineteen point four) reduction, 15 (fifteen) times greater than Newcastle, in currently available jobs in the Hawkesbury. That estimate takes into account the newly-created jobs at Richmond Marketplace. It would mean 2.1% (two point one) reduced employment in outer western Sydney and is equivalent to 1% (one) of jobs available in northwestern Sydney as a whole. Unemployment in Hawkesbury would rise from 6% (six) to 9% (nine). The impact of closure of the Base would be socially and economically devastating, on a scale unprecedented in recent Australian history.

RAAF Richmond has become an integral part of the local community, with widespread acceptance of its benefit in the area. Personnel from the base have assisted the local community in times of flood and bushfire, with the base becoming the major staging point for air based activities during the bushfires of January 1994. Personnel from the Base were also of great assistance in the bushfires of 2001-02 and 2002-03.

There is no significant local pressure to close or downsize the base. Closure of the base would rip the social and economic heart from the Hawkesbury.

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Experience overseas has shown that 9 (nine) years advanced notice is required to establish sufficient infrastructure to minimise the social and economic impact of closure of a major military base. It is totally unacceptable for any government to contemplate giving any less notice.

The Aerospace Industry Cluster Project Report commissioned by the Hawkesbury Economic Development Advisory Committee, and tabled in March 2001, indicated that it is very doubtful that such a clustering could be achieved and, in any event, would not replace the economic loss - without even considering the very significant social impact.

The Economic and Social Impacts of the Royal Australian Air Force Base Richmond on the Hawkesbury and Surrounding region Study commissioned by the Department of Defence and also undertaken by PriceWaterhouse Coopers (2002) found that the Base generates \$106,000,000 (one hundred and six million) of value added (6.6% (six point six) of the Hawkesbury total) and jobs for around 6.5% (six point five) of the Hawkesbury workforce. Restructuring would result in an average reduction in turnover of around 4% (four) to 5% (five) for many Hawkesbury businesses at a time when retailers are under strong competition from the increasing number of large retail centres in the region.

Recommendation

That Mr Crean be advised on the Hawkesbury community's strong support for the retention of Air Lift Group at RAAF Base Richmond and of the social and economic impacts of Base restructuring.

2. New Poker Machine Tax

Representations have been received from the Hawkesbury Sports Council requesting that Council support on the issue of the new poker machine tax.

The Sports Council have stated that:

"Following discussions at the Delegates Meeting on Friday, 18 July 2003 on the disastrous implications for not only local sport, but all community groups if the proposed tax is implemented, the members unanimously resolved as follows:

Moved R Eilbeck seconded A Daniel

"That Hawkesbury Sports Council fully support the Richmond Club on this issue and request that Hawkesbury City Council do likewise".

Correspondence has also been received from the Richmond Club on the likely effects of the proposed tax increases from September 2001, a copy of which is attached.

The Richmond Club has been a strong supporter of local community organisations, including sporting bodies, schools and Rural Fire Service brigades, providing well in excess of its statutory requirements. The effect of the proposed tax increase will be to divert funds away from the local community towards the public health system. Whilst there is no doubt that the public hospitals are in desperate need of additional funding, many community organisations will find it extremely

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difficult to continue operating in the face of reduced assistance from licensed clubs. Sporting organisations, in particular, will find the going difficult resulting in a reduced level of fitness within the community.

Those clubs which have committed themselves to building programs in recent years will face significant difficulty in meeting their business plans. The Richmond club have, for example, indicated "The club starts to make a loss in 2009 and cannot continue much past 2011".

Recommendation

That Council support the representations of the Hawkesbury Sports Council and advise the State Government of the full implications of the proposed poker machine tax increase on the local community.

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Meeting Date: 12 August, 2003

Item: **143**

ITEM: 143 **Truck Tenders**

FILE NUMBER: 79338/ENG/ORH12LAX.E16

REPORT:

Council at its Ordinary meeting of 8 July 2003 considered tenders for the purchase of trucks. Since this meeting, the successful tenderer for the supply of the 2 (two) cab chassis for the refuse collection vehicles has made a clarification in relation to the amount offered for the trade-in vehicle.

The trade price quoted in the report for the trade vehicle was \$23,700 (twenty three thousand, seven hundred dollars), however, the tenderer has clarified that this amount was for 1 (one) of the vehicles offered with the second unit to be traded at \$13,550 (thirty thousand, five hundred and fifty dollars). As a result the trade-in offered by the successful supplier is less than that offered by another tenderer for the purchase of the trade vehicle. The offer from Key Commercials Pty Ltd in the amount of \$18,555 (eighteen thousand, five hundred and fifty five dollars) was also received as part of the tender process and it is suggested that Key Commercials be awarded this vehicle in accordance with their offer. The tenderer for the supply of the cab chassis has no objection to this alteration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution of Council in relation to the tender for 2 (two) refuse collection vehicles be amended such that Best Hino supply 2 (two) Hino Ranger-Pro 5 Medium Cab/Chassis at a cost of \$54,050 (fifty four thousand and fifty dollars) each and the offer to purchase the Mitsubishi Canter with compactor body, registration number, QSG782 by Key Commercials Pty Ltd for \$18,555 (eighteen thousand, five hundred and fifty five dollars) be accepted. All other items in relation to the truck tender remain unchanged.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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Hawkesbury Agricultural Retention through Diversification and Clustering Steering Committee Meeting - 3 July 2003

**Meeting commenced at 9:00am at Council's Committee Rooms,
Council Chambers, Hawkesbury City Council.**

Present: Mr Geoff Banting (Chairperson, Hawkesbury City Council)
Mr David Tuxford (HEDAC/Hawkesbury City Council)
Councillor Christine Paine (Hawkesbury City Council)
Mr David Mason (NSW Agriculture)
John Macguire (Hawkesbury Harvest)
Ms Narelle Wheatland (GROW Employment Council)
Ms Suellen Manyweathers (Department of Transport and Regional Services)
Ms Louise Saarinen (Bilpin Farmers Group)
Ms Suzanne Davies (GWSEDB)

Apologies: Mr Martin Bullock (GWSEDB)

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 30 May 2003 were confirmed.

Moved by Mr John Maguire, seconded by Councillor Christine Paine.

2. Correspondence

No correspondence received.

3. Reaffirm the role of the Steering Committee

Due to the absence of a Steering Committee member at the meeting held on 30 May 2003, Ms Narelle Wheatland again outlined the role of the Steering Committee. A question was asked as to the basis of how decisions would be made if not all Steering Committee members could agree on a decision. It was confirmed that a consensus of opinion (majority) would be adopted as a way to decide the outcome. It was stressed, however, that it was hoped that most decisions would be made with all Steering Committee members agreeing to that decision. Ms Suellen Manyweathers also reaffirmed the role of DOTARS in the project.

4. Selection of Scientific Consultant for the Hawkesbury Agricultural Retention through Diversification and Clustering Project

The recommendation from the Independent Evaluation Panel was tabled at the meeting for the selection of the Scientific Consultant for the HARTDaC Project. Discussion on the selection of the Scientific Consultant was quite intense with a recommendation being made that a selection panel

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from the Steering Committee be instructed to further discuss the recommendation put forward by the Independent Evaluation Panel with the members of that Panel via a phone conference hook-up on the Monday, 7 July 2003. It was recommended that Mr David Tuxford, Ms Louise Saarinen, Mr John Maguire and Ms Narelle Wheatland be involved in that phone conference. It was further recommended that from that phone conference a report be presented to Council at its Ordinary Meeting of Council, which was to be held on Tuesday, 8 July 2003.

Recommendation

That:

1. Mr David Tuxford, Ms Louise Saarinen, Mr John Maguire and Ms Narelle Wheatland conduct a phone hook-up conference with the Independent Evaluation Panel to further discuss their recommendation for the appointment of the Scientific Consultant for the HArtdaC Project.
2. The recommendation from the Independent Evaluation Panel be accepted subject to concerns raised by the Steering Committee members are addressed through the process of the phone hook-up conference.
3. If a clear decision cannot be made from the phone conference hook-up on Monday, 7 July 2003 the matter be brought back to the Steering Committee for further discussion.

Moved by Councillor Christine Paine, seconded by Mr John Maguire.

Comment: Meeting went ahead but unfortunately Ms. Wheatland could not attend due to a prior engagement.

5. Draft Expressions of Interest Advertisement from interested farmers wanting to be part of the HArtdaC Project

Presented to the Steering Committee was a draft Expressions of Interest Advertisement directed towards the interested farmers who would like to be part of the HArtdaC Project. The Expressions of Interest will be advertised in the local newspaper and will also invite all interested farmers to a public meeting, where further information will be given to those farmers interested in participating in the project. The project will require the involvement of up to 20 (twenty) farms representing a good cross-section of the Hawkesbury LGA.

Whilst the draft Expressions of Interest advertisement was well received, it was recognised as being very "wordy" and needed to be refined. Before the advertisement is placed in the local newspaper, the decision on the appointment of the Scientific Consultant for the project will need to be made.

Recommendation

That the draft Expressions of Interest advertisement be further refined and be placed in the local newspaper once a decision on the appointment of the Scientific Consultant for the HArtdaC Project has been resolved by Council.

Moved by Ms Narelle Wheatland, seconded by Ms Suellen Manyweathers.

6. Draft flyer promoting Project to interested farmers

It was discussed at the previous Steering Committee meeting that a flyer (pamphlet) promoting the Project to farmers should be developed and given to farm supply businesses for distribution. It was also suggested that the NSW Department of Agriculture could also distribute the flyers to local agricultural networks and Council could become involved via a mailout to property owners who are rated under the category of rural residential and farmland.

It was also discussed that a number of farmers within the Hawkesbury LGA, are from a non-English speaking background, and the flyer should be also translated into other languages.

Recommendation

That:

1. The promotional flyer be distributed to farm suppliers, NSW Department of Agriculture as well as Council who would conduct a mailout to properties within the Hawkesbury LGA who are rated under the farmland and rural residential category.
2. The flyer be translated into other languages to ensure that people from non-English speaking backgrounds are fully aware of the project and have every opportunity to be part of the project.

Moved by Councillor Christine Paine, seconded by Ms Louise Saarinen.

7. Launch of the Project

A date to launch the Project will be further discussed after the Scientific Consultant for the HARTDaC Project was resolved and the farmers who are to be involved in the Project are selected. The Federal Minister for Local Government would be invited to attend as well as other dignitaries. Ms Suellen Manyweathers, from DOTARS and Ms Narelle Wheatland, from GROW Employment Services, would provide the appropriate list of who should to be invited to the launch.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

Moved by Mr John Maguire, seconded by Mr David Mason.

Other General Business

There was no other general business to be discussed.

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The next HARTDaC Steering Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, 31 July 2003 commencing at 9:30am at Hawkesbury City Council.

Comment: As a decision on the appointment of the Scientific Consultant for the HARTDaC Project needs to be further discussed by the Steering Committee, a meeting will be convened for Thursday 24 July 2003, commencing at 9.30am. This will allow the recommendation for appointment of the Scientific Consultant to be presented to Council's General Purpose Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 29 July 2003.

Meeting closed at 11:00am.

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