



general
purpose
committee

2
section

infrastructure

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - INFRASTRUCTURE

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ITEM: 1 Prohibiting Consumption of Alcohol in Public Parks**FILE NUMBER:** 87514, 79354/ENG/INA27NBX.E06**REPORT:**

There have been a number of requests by the community to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in the park adjacent to the Wilberforce Depot, bordered by Old Sackville and Copeland Road, and Wilberforce Cemetery.

There are 2 (two) methods of prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in a public place, namely:

- declaring an alcohol-free zone;
- prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public places such as parks and reserves.

Council may, in accordance with Section 632 of the Act, prohibit the consumption of alcohol in these areas. A sign indicating that the activity is prohibited, must be placed on the subject area, however, public consultation is not required. The restriction can be enforced by an authorised Council Officer.

These 2 (two) areas have a history of people drinking till late at night. This has led to a range of behaviour that is inappropriate within these parks such as loud noise, broken glass, vandalism and cars doing “burnouts”. Residents have complained that they feel unsafe walking through these parks due to the gatherings and that the police have indicated that there is little they can do as these parks are a public place.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The consumption of alcohol be prohibited at both the park adjacent to the Wilberforce Depot, bordered by Old Sackville and Copeland Road, and Wilberforce Cemetery, in accordance with Section 632 of the Local Government Act.
2. Appropriate signage be placed at the locations affected.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 1 Oooo

ITEM: 2 **Thompson Square - Application Under Section 60 of the NSW Heritage Act**

FILE NUMBER: 79346, 74141/ENG/INA27NBX.E02

PREVIOUS ITEM: 68, GPC Section 2 - Infrastructure (09.09.2003)
25, GPC Section 2 - Infrastructure (12.08.2003)

REPORT:

At its meeting held on 12 August 2003 Council resolved that:

1. *The raised threshold and transitional ramp be referred to the Heritage Council for approval.*
2. *The matter be further reported in relation to funding sources following determination by the Heritage Council.*
3. *A further report be provided outlining the feasibility of widening the footpath outside the Macquarie Arms Hotel in Thompson Square with a view to providing Alfresco Dining.*

A further report in relation to part 3 (three) of the resolution was presented to the General Purpose Committee meeting of 29 July 2003 and subsequently at its meeting held on 9 September 2003 Council resolved that:

1. *The footpath widening and associated works be referred to the Heritage Council for approval.*
2. *The matter be further reported in relation to funding sources following determination by the Heritage Council.*

Correspondence has been received from the NSW Heritage Council regarding the widening of the footpath, adjacent to the Macquarie Arms Hotel, in the Thompson Square precinct. It states, in part:

“The Heritage Office, in light of this proposal and existing temporary alfresco dining, requests that a policy be developed to facilitate an appropriate and consistent response to the issues arising from such proposals.

We believe that such a policy should be inclusive of issues relating to:

Significant fabric *Identification of significant fabric, and standard palate materials for future street scape works. This should be inclusive of but not limited to street furniture, colours and hard and soft landscaping*

Signage and corporate branding *Policy relating to an appropriate extent of signage inclusive of business and corporate (such as branding on movable furniture)*

Zoning Controls on the number and positioning of landscaping extents which would accommodate alfresco dining, and associated activities. Zoning could also identify future parking policies

Archaeology any report should be developed with acknowledgement of the high archaeological potential of Thompson Square.

... We urge Hawkesbury City Council to engage an appropriately qualified heritage advisor, possibly with planning experience, to develop a policy which will secure and compliment (sic) the recognised significance of Thompson Square ...”

In light of the Heritage Council’s requests it is recommended that a Heritage Advisor be employed to develop a policy for the Thompson Square Precinct.

Correspondence received regarding the raised threshold and ramp for disabled/wheelchair access in Thompson Square states, in part:

“... The construction of a raised threshold and ramp to facilitate wheel chair access in Thompson Square is not supported by the Heritage Office as it will compromise the significance of the Thompson Square an item listed on the State Heritage Register.

The Heritage Office believes that disabled persons can better access the proposed new Hawkesbury Museum via the main entrance of the proposed new building in Baker Street. This is because the new Museum building has been oriented to Baker Street and specifically designed to provide for disabled access. Furthermore the section of Baker Street between George Street and the Fitzgerald House car park is less steep than the western alignment of the open space in Thompson Square ...”

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Funding for a Heritage Advisor to develop a policy which will secure and complement the recognised significance of Thompson Square be considered as part of the budget process, and until such time the widening of the footpath outside the Macquarie Arms Hotel in Thompson Square, to provide Alfresco Dining, not proceed.
2. The proposed raised threshold to be constructed in Thompson Square not proceed due to the Heritage Council’s refusal.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 2 Oooo

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ITEM: 3 **Bligh Park Community Centre Sirius Road**

FILE NUMBER: 33175, 73532/ENG/INA27NBX.E09

REPORT:

A request has been received from Bligh Park Community Services that funding of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) allocated in the Community Buildings Maintenance and Capital Works Program for 2002/2003 for a storeroom be reallocated towards office space and a bin storage area.

The store room was required to store chairs, which were being stored in an emergency exit passage. The committee has since reorganised the chair storage away from the emergency exit.

It is proposed to provide an additional office in the foyer with a half glass and timber wall for the administration worker who at this time shares an office with the bookkeeper and counsellor, and also provide a brick enclosure to house the recycle and garbage bins.

RECOMMENDATION:

That funding of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) in the 2002/2003 Community Building and Capital Works Program be reallocated to provide for the additional office, and bin storage area enclosure.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 3 Oooo

ITEM: 4 Environmental Trust Grants - Bellbird Hill Reserve**FILE NUMBER:** 79354/ENG/INA27NBX.E08

REPORT:

A joint application by Hawkesbury Rainforest Network and Council staff, for an Environmental Trust Grant at Bellbird Hill Reserve, was recently successful. The grant will partially fund a project aimed to restore the bushland, to educate the community on bush land values and increase community ownership, implement a weed control programme, a study of flora and fauna, design of the look out and design and construction of interpretive trails. The grants are based on a dollar for dollar basis.

Brief History

Bellbird Hill Reserve is an important part of the Hawkesbury City Council reserve network. It is a high profile tourist site with an area of 14 (fourteen) hectare at the western gateway to the Hawkesbury area on Bells Line of Road. The reserve sits on the escarpment with extensive views from a lookout, over the plains to Sydney. Vegetation on the site is a high quality example of 2 (two) main communities: Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, and Turpentine-Ironbark Forest, both listed as endangered. There is a diverse range of fauna using the site, including bandicoots, wombats, swamp wallabies, and a large number of bird species. The site drains into Little Wheeny Creek, flowing eventually into the Colo River. Connectivity with other bushland includes Wollemi National Park, and many large rural properties along the escarpment.

The site has had a long history of local concern, with vandalism, inappropriate tracks, road widening, weed encroachment and drainage issues. The lookout creates some of these problems. Littering, soil movement, mowing, illegal removal of firewood, pressure for fire hazard reduction, all need to be addressed through a plan of management, which is in the process of preparation.

A Bushcare group operates every month in the Reserve. Several groups of TAFE students have extensively worked with this group, being trained in weed removal, documentation and the designing of a trail system.

The grant is for \$46,130 (forty six thousand, one hundred and thirty dollars). Council's contribution to the project is based on the \$31,000 (thirty one thousand) funding already allocated to the development of the lookout, Council staff's time, as well as inkind contribution for volunteer bush regeneration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the grant funding of \$46,130 (forty six thousand, one hundred and thirty dollars) for environmental work on Bellbird Hill Reserve be accepted from the Environmental Trust.

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ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 4 Oooo

ITEM: 5 Community Partnership Grants**FILE NUMBER:** 85649, 79354, 81409/ENG/INA27NBX.E07

REPORT:

The Local Government Advisory Group is promoting the Community Partnership Grant program for the 2003/04 financial year. As part of this project the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) has committed \$50,000 (fifty thousand dollars) in funding.

Each Council within the Lower Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment is invited to participate in this program by contributing \$2,500 (two thousand and five hundred dollars) each, which will be matched by the DIPNR funds. A total of \$5,000 (five thousand dollars) would then be available for the Hawkesbury LGA.

Environmental projects initiated by the community or involving partnerships between Council and community organisations will be eligible for funding.

Due to the shortness of time to reply to this invitation and that Council has participated previously, a letter was forwarded indicating an interest in participating in this program. It is proposed that funding be made available from the People for Parks Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The Expression of Interest forwarded to the Local Government Advisory Group in relation to the Community Partnership Grant Program be endorsed.
2. The Council contribution of \$2,500 (two thousand and five hundred dollars) towards this Grant Program, be allocated from the People for Parks Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 5 Oooo

**ITEM: 6 Lower MacDonald River Flood Study - Additional Funding Offer
2003/2004 - Floodplain Management Program****FILE NUMBER:** 85649, 85829/ENG/INA27NBX.E03**REPORT:**

Notification has been received from the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources advising of additional funding assistance under the NSW Government's 2003/2004 Floodplain Management Program to carry out additional works related to the current flood study over the Lower MacDonald Valley (Wisemans Ferry to St Albans).

Under the terms of the offer, State funding assistance to a value of \$8,000 (eight thousand dollars) will be provided under a 2 (two) to 1 (one) funding ratio thus allowing for a combined program of works of \$12,000 (twelve thousand dollars). This funding is in addition to the grant offer as part of the 2002/2003 Program to the value of \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) for a combined program of \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars). This matter was reported to Council at its meeting of 10 December 2002.

In total funding from the State Government for this project will be \$28,000 (twenty eight thousand dollars) for a combined total budget (2:1) equal to \$42,000 (forty two thousand dollars).

Funding for Council's one third contribution to the project is available within the current budget.

The additional funding was sought due to the scope of works changing since the original estimate was prepared. The extra funding is required to cover the costs for additional land survey works and the inclusion of a flood frequency analysis.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the offer of \$8,000 (eight thousand dollars) State funding assistance to fund two thirds of the additional works on the current Lower MacDonald River Flood Study be accepted.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 6 Oooo

ITEM: 7 **North Richmond Main Street Committee - Public Toilets**

FILE NUMBER: 82907/ENG/INA27NBX.E10

PREVIOUS ITEM: Item 37, North Richmond Main Street Committee - Public Toilets,
Ordinary (14.10.2003)

REPORT:

Council at its meeting of 14 October 2003 in relation to the public toilets in the North Richmond Shopping Centre resolved that:

“Subject to satisfactory negotiations with the owner/managing agent of the property regarding agreement to access and individual responsibilities of the parties concerned, Council agree to undertake the cleaning of the toilets adjacent to Bi-Lo on a once per day basis.”

Following Council’s resolution discussions were held with the managing agent of the property and further discussions with the North Richmond Main Street Committee, and it appears that in terms of cleaning, satisfactory arrangements are currently in place. The intent of the request from North Richmond Main Street and that of the owner of the property is concern regarding the level of vandalism within the facility. The owner has indicated that if Council were prepared to take responsibility for ongoing damage by vandals, the toilets would be upgraded to a satisfactory standard at their cost.

It is proposed that the toilets would be locked overnight, being opened around 7.30am, and closed around 8.00pm. Council’s involvement would be a daily inspection by staff to ensure that any graffiti is removed quickly and damage to the facility repaired. The cleaning of the facility would be undertaken in accordance with current practise.

Whilst a specific cost cannot be estimated to undertake this request, it is anticipated that it would be cheaper than providing the capital cost to build a new toilet facility in the area, and undertake the ongoing cleaning and maintenance of that facility. It is suggested that a 6 (six) month trial period may be appropriate to determine Council’s ongoing commitment.

RECOMMENDATION:

Subject to the toilets adjacent to Bi-Lo Supermarket, North Richmond being brought up to a satisfactory standard and agreement to access, Council undertake responsibility for the ongoing repairs to the facility for a six month trial period.

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ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 7 Oooo

ITEM: 8 Waterways Grant**FILE NUMBER:** 84796/ENG/INA27NBX.E04

REPORT:

Hawkesbury City Council staff have over the last 6 (six) months, been in discussions with NSW Agriculture and Waterways NSW, regarding the suitability and feasibility of the provision of a wash down facility for boats at Governor Phillip Park in Windsor.

The aims of such a facility are:

1. To filter out pollutants in wash down water from boats and trailers. This will prevent oil, fuels, sediment, and litter from entering the drainage system at the site. The wash down facility will also prevent the spread of aquatic weeds (particularly Alligator Weed and Salvinia) from the site into the Hawkesbury River.
2. To raise awareness of environmental issues particularly aquatic weeds spread through associated signage.
3. To provide a public amenity.

It is considered that such a facility will provide a valuable and practical asset to the users of the Park. The benefits will include improved realisation of environmental concerns regarding river use, improve quality of discharge from the stormwater system, raise the awareness amongst the community of the impact of their activities on the waterway, and improve park cleanliness and amenity.

An application was lodged with Waterways for a dollar for dollar grant based on the estimated project cost of \$60,000 (sixty thousand dollars). The application was successful with a Grant of \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) being received. It is proposed that Council's contribution of \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) be made available through the Environmental Stormwater Levy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. That the grant of \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) from Waterways, for the provision of a wash down facility and signs at Governor Phillip Park at Windsor be accepted.
2. That Council's contribution of \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars), and ongoing maintenance, be made available through the Environmental Stormwater Levy.

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Item: **8**

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 8 Oooo