



Hawkesbury City Council

supplementary ordinary meeting business paper

date of meeting: 12 September 2006

location: council chambers

time: 5:00 p.m.

ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary

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Meeting Date: 5 September 2006

SECTION 2 - Mayoral Minutes

MM - World Heritage Centre - (79353)

REPORT:

Around five years ago the Federal Government allocated \$1M to the State Government to construct a World Heritage Centre. A number of locations were investigated including the community hall and the truck stop at Bilpin, Shaw's Farm within the Wollemi National Park and the Bellbird Hill lookout at Kurrajong Heights.

To date, \$267,000 has been expended by NPWS on investigation, concepts and a final design for the building to be located at the truck stop at Bilpin. Due to the estimated cost of construction at the site, including the building, associated car parking, access, waste removal and service provision, a feasibility study was carried out which determined that the project could not be undertaken at that site due to both the capital cost and the ongoing operational costs.

It appears that the centre will now be located at the Mount Tomah Botanical Gardens, located just outside the Hawkesbury local government area. This site has been chosen due largely to the fact the site already has necessary infrastructure available in terms of parking and services, is already staffed and has an existing customer base. The existing centre would be expanded to provide the additional space required for the World Heritage Centre at a cost of around \$1M, of which \$500,000 is to be provided by the State Government.

The decision to locate the Centre at Mt. Tomah will be a loss to the Hawkesbury both in terms of recognition and economic flow on. As there will be around \$233,000 from the originally identified \$1M Federal funds allocated to the project, it would seem appropriate that representations be made to the Federal Government to allocate those funds to enable an expansion of the existing Tourist Centre at Clarendon to give a "World Heritage" presence in the Hawkesbury, jointly promote the World Heritage Centre at Mt Tomah and the recently completed Botanists Way project as tourist destinations to further encourage tourist visitation to the Hawkesbury.

It is estimated that the existing Tourist Centre could be expanded by an additional area of approximately 90 sqm on the eastern end (towards the regional playground) and appropriately fitted out for \$233,000 and I would recommend that Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell Minister for the Environment and Heritage and Senator for Western Australia, be requested to reallocate funding previously provided for the construction of the World Heritage Centre at Bilpin, to the expansion of the Hawkesbury Tourist Centre, which will allow a World Heritage presence within the Hawkesbury as well as strengthening tourism benefits to Mt Tomah and Lithgow along the Botanists Way.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell Minister for the Environment and Heritage and Senator for Western Australia, be requested to reallocate funding previously provided for the construction of the World Heritage Centre at Bilpin, to the expansion of the Hawkesbury Tourist Centre, which will allow a World Heritage presence within the Hawkesbury as well as strengthening tourism benefits to Mt Tomah and Lithgow along the Botanists Way

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ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF MAYORAL MINUTE Oooo



ordinary
meeting

end of
supplementary
business
paper

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