



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**GENERAL MEETING NOTICE
AND AGENDA**

**TO BE HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CIVIC CENTRE
101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE**

On Tuesday 5 October 2021

Commencing at 9.00am

**Leisa Dowling
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES

G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Council Meeting Date: 21 September 2021

File Ref: CM7.2

Purpose:

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 21 September 2021.

Officer's Recommendation:

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 21 September 2021 be confirmed.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 21 September 2021

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Executive Secretary

G/3. OFFICERS' REPORTS

G/3.1. BOYNE ISLAND TANNUM SANDS (BITS) GOLF AND SPORTS PRECINCT IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Responsible Officer: General Manager Strategic Asset Performance

Council Meeting Date: 5 October 2021

File Ref: PR4.1 CP8.2

Purpose:

To allow Council to consider the replacement of the BITS Golf Irrigation System.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Proceed with the detailed design and construction of the replacement irrigation system servicing Boyne Island Tannum Sands Golf Club Inc ("BITS Golf") (for the existing 13 holes) within Lot 1 on SP150256 substantially in accordance with the concept design prepared by Hydro-Plan on the basis that BITS Golf enters into a new lease for a term of XX years which includes the following conditions:
 - (a) BITS Golf, at its sole cost and expense, will be responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Irrigation System including all capital costs;
 - (b) Council will not be responsible for any costs associated with the ongoing operation, maintenance or replacement of the irrigation system during the lease term; and
 - (c) BITS Golf enters into an Effluent Supply Agreement with Council and takes all necessary steps to ensure that the effluent does not cause environmental harm including the regular testing and remediation of the soil.
2. Proceed with the detailed design of the replacement irrigation system for the BITS sports fields and Dennis Park rugby league fields but does not progress with construction until sufficient funding can be obtained.

Background:

Boyne Island Tannum Sands Golf Club Inc ("BITS Golf") operate a 13-hole golf course on land leased from Gladstone Regional Council at BITS Sports Precinct, Jacaranda Drive, Boyne Island. The Lease between BITS Golf and Council is due to expire on 31 December 2022.

The irrigation system within the lease area "BITS Golf Irrigation" has effectively reached end of life and officers have been investigating the costs and issues associated with the replacement of the irrigation system.

Council has considered officer reports on the replacement of the BITS Golf Irrigation on several occasions:

- 24 May 2016
- 20 December 2016
- 16 April 2019
- 18 February 2020; and
- 21 July 2020.

Council's resolutions are summarised in Attachment 1 – BITS Golf Irrigation System Past Resolutions. Two current resolutions relate to the replacement of the BITS Golf Irrigation:

18 February 2020 G/20/4097: That Council re-offer the 20 December 2016 resolution (G/16/2943) to the club for reconsideration.

21 July 2020 G/20/4270: That Council provide the Boyne Island Tannum Sands Golf Club Inc (BITS Golf) with a copy of the Irrigation and Soil Assessment Detailed Report for Boyne Island Tannum Sands Golf Club and that officers seek feedback from the BITS Golf Club Executive.

Subsequent to the General Meeting of 21 July 2020 the following actions have taken place:

- The Irrigation and Soil Assessment Detailed Report for Boyne Island Tannum Sands Golf Club was made available to BITS Golf.
- Irrigation and Soil Condition Assessments for BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park were reviewed.
- Irrigation design was expanded to incorporate the entire BITS Sports Precinct and neighbouring rugby league fields at Dennis Park who are all recipients of Council's treated effluent.
- Council collaborated¹ with the BITS Sport Clubs and Dennis Parks Rugby League clubs from November 2020 to January 2021, to ensure the scope of works for the concept design of the irrigation system reflected the clubs' irrigation preferences and priorities. Engagement opportunities included direct mailing of the draft scope, a virtual Q&A session with the clubs, a face to face workshop with representatives of each club hosted in Boyne Tannum, and a Private page on the Conversations Platform with project overview, timeline, brief survey, frequently asked questions, shared documents, such as the scope of works.
- Consultants (Hydro-Plan) were engaged to prepare a detailed design for the replacement of the BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park rugby league fields. Detailed design was necessary to validate the estimates provided in Aqueduct's irrigation and soil assessment reports and to ascertain the necessary information to allow Councillors to make an informed decision on the replacement of the irrigation system.
- Council officers continued to collaborate with the lessees of BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park alongside the consultant Hydro-Plan to ensure stakeholders' priorities and preferences were reflected in the concept design.
- In mid-May Council organised site visits to the sports clubs as well as meetings that enabled the consultant and staff to get a better understanding of priorities raised by the clubs. This resulted in the inclusion of additional fields and sprinkler lines to the concept design, inclusion of a potable water alternative for the BITS Golf and Sports Precinct clubs, metering deliberations for other inclusions.
- A Concept Design report has been received and the stakeholders have been briefed on the draft concept designs and given the opportunity to provide further feedback.
- At the time of writing this report, discussions with BITS Golf indicate that they are agreeable to accepting the ongoing operation and maintenance of the BITS Golf Irrigation.

A summary of the concept design components is attached as Attachment 2 with the *BITS Clubs & Dennis Park Sports Complex Detailed Design Irrigation System Concept Design Report - Key Criteria* and Design Plans are attached as Attachment 3 and Attachments 5 to 9 respectively.

The Concept designs were developed in collaboration with the lessees of BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park:

- Boyne Island Tannum Sands Golf Club Inc ("BITS Golf");
- BITS Sharks Football Club Inc ("BITS Soccer");
- BITS Saints Australian Rules Football Club Inc ("BITS AFL");

¹ On the IAP2 Spectrum of Public participation – Collaboration means 'To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of a preferred solution.'

- Boyne Tannum Cricket Club Inc (“BITS Cricket”);
- Tannum Sands Rugby League Inc (seniors) (“BITS Rugby League”); and
- Tannum/Boyne Seagulls Junior Rugby League Football Club Inc (“BITS Rugby League”),
(herein collectively referred to as “the Clubs”).

Each of the Clubs are generally supportive of concept designs and have expressed an interest to have further input throughout the detailed design phase. All but BITS Golf have expressed concern in taking on the operational costs of the irrigation system as well as responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the system due to limited financial capacity and volunteer capability. BITS Golf’s membership structure and operating model places BITS Golf in a better position to be able to raise funds and levy members to cover the costs of the operation of the irrigation system.

Options, Risk and Opportunity Analysis:

Council’s Environmental Authority and Soil Condition/chemistry at BITS Sports Precinct/Dennis Park

Council’s Environmental Authority EPPR00959913 (“the EA”) allows for the dispersal of treated effluent at BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park and imposes a number of conditions on Council including that the irrigation of effluent must be carried out in a manner such that:

- (a) Vegetation is not damaged;
- (b) Soil erosion and soil structure damage is avoided;
- (c) There is no surface ponding of effluent;
- (d) Percolation of effluent beyond the plant root zone is minimized;
- (e) The capacity of the land to assimilate nitrogen, phosphorus, salts, organic matter as measured by the oxygen demand and water is not exceeded; and
- (f) The quality of ground water is not adversely affected.

Further, the EA provides that where Council gives or transfers ownership of the treated sewerage effluent to another person the following must occur:

- (a) Prior to giving or transferring ownership of the effluent, Council must obtain details of how the recipient intends to comply with the general environmental duty provided for the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (“EPA”) in respect to the use and disposal of such effluent, particularly in relation to environmental sustainability of any effluent disposal, protection of public health and protection of environmental values of water; and
- (b) Council must only give or transfer ownership of the effluent in accordance with a written agreement between Council and the recipient; and
- (c) Upon becoming aware that the person is not in compliance, or is not likely to comply with the general environmental duty provided for in the EPA, cease the giving and transferring ownership of the effluent.

Condition assessments undertaken by Aqueduct Consultancy (“Aqueduct”) on the soil across the BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park have found that across the BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park the soil requires remediation.

Aqueduct recommend reconstruction of the golf course and playing fields by amending the soil and establishing a suitable couch cultivar from sprigs and the following cost estimates have been provided for the reconstruction:

- Golf course \$1,320,000
- AFL / Cricket field \$ 205,000
- Soccer fields \$ 275,000
- Rugby League \$ 600,000 (5ha @ \$120,000 per hectare)

While reconstruction is the ideal solution and will rapidly address the risk of Council breaching its EA conditions, the consultant has also suggested a number of actions that can be taken to improve the condition of the soil without full reconstruction. Such actions include the management of trees and weeds, reducing compaction, application of chemicals and nutrients and developing suitable operating procedures. A new irrigation system will also assist with the remediation of the soil by providing even distribution of the effluent.

The reports indicate that the issues with soil chemistry is a result of the combination of the use of effluent, application of fertilizers and the use of the course/fields. At both the BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park, Council's activities are limited to the operation of the irrigation system. The clubs are solely responsible for the application fertilizers, controlling usage and maintenance of the turf which is consistent with lease conditions for sporting fields across the region.

While Council bears the liability for breaches of it's EA, the responsibility to remediate the soil condition is not Council's alone. Council currently has \$1.87m allocated in the 21/22 budget to assist the clubs with the remediation of the soil however this is a complex issue and the lessees at BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park must be part of the solution. Without full reconstruction, the remediation of the soil will be a long-term approach.

While action needs to be taken to address the impacts of the effluent on the soil, the full reconstruction of the course and playing surface is not recommended given the condition of the irrigation system as a reliable irrigation system is necessary to cultivate and manage the playing surfaces. It is also essential that if Council makes an investment in the reconstruction of the course and playing surface, that systems and controls are in place to ensure that the soil condition and turf will be managed post reconstruction.

It is also notable that while BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park are the only two Council owned sporting facilities that irrigate with treated effluent, there are many other sporting fields managed by clubs on Council owned/managed land. Council has not undertaken any condition assessments on these fields however it is likely that at least some of these sporting fields would be found to require some level of remediation.

Irrigation Costs incurred to date

To date, the following costs* have been incurred with regards to investigations into the replacement of the irrigation system:

- Irrigation and Soil condition assessments: \$30,100
- Spend to date on design: \$43,230
- Remaining commitment on detailed design: \$56,595

*Costs are external costs only and does not include costs for internal resources

Current operating costs

Under current arrangements, Council manages and maintains the existing treated effluent irrigation system. This includes regular on-site monitoring and maintenance activities. It is estimated that this costs Council in excess of \$114,000 each year. It is estimated that this cost will continue to increase as the system's condition deteriorates to failure.

If Council were to replace all of the irrigation systems at BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park, Council's ongoing operational expenditure will depend on who manages and maintains the irrigation system post construction. Regardless of the operator of the system, Council will have ongoing operational expenditure associated with administrative, monitoring and compliance activities. Council also has to maintain the effluent supply between the Tannum Sands Waste Water Treatment Plant and the site.

Does Council have an obligation to replace the irrigation system?

Lease

The obligation under the lease between Council and BITS Golf “BITS Golf Lease” has been a matter of contention. The BITS Golf Lease provides that BITS Golf is generally responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Premises however, Council is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the irrigation system.

BITS Golf assert that Council has an obligation to replace the irrigation system however officers do not agree that the obligation to repair and maintain extends to replacing an asset at the end of its life.

BITS Golf’s lease is due to expire on 31 December 2022. There are no further options remaining.

Environmental Authority

If Council wishes to continue to irrigate effluent at BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park, Council must do so in compliance with its obligations under the EA. It is clear that the current condition of the irrigation system (together with the current soil chemistry) is impacting the soil condition and causing minor ponding of water, at least in the Golf Club.

Under the present arrangements with BITS Golf, given that Council is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system, there is no transfer of ownership of the effluent (or the risk associated with same) to the Clubs.

Regardless of the conditions of the Lease, if Council cannot (or cannot ensure that the Clubs do) reverse the condition of the soil or otherwise run the operate the irrigation system without breaching the conditions of the EA, Council must either replace the irrigation system with a fit for purpose system or cease the irrigation of effluent to the site.

Options

Three options have been developed for Council’s consideration with each option outlined in more detail below:

1. Officer’s Recommendation – Full Replacement of the BITS Golf Irrigation system at Council’s cost – Ongoing Operation and maintenance of the BITS Golf irrigation system to be the responsibility of BITS Golf. Detailed design only for the balance of the BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park.
2. Council proceed with the detailed design only for the irrigation systems for BITS Golf, the BITS Sports Precinct sporting fields and Dennis Park rugby league fields but does not fund the construction.
3. Council proceed with the full replacement of the treated effluent irrigation system at BITS Sports Precinct (including Golf, Soccer, AFL and Cricket) and Dennis Park.

Option 1 – Officer’s Recommendation – Full Replacement of the BITS Golf Irrigation at Council’s Cost – ongoing operation and maintenance of the system to be the responsibility of BITS Golf.	
What to replace	<p>(a) Detailed design and the construction of the replacement BITS Golf Irrigation system for the existing 13-hole Golf Course and Backup potable water supply (to be used when effluent cannot be supplied e.g. during algal blooms) but excluding irrigation of the additional 5 holes proposed by BITS Golf.</p> <p>(b) Detailed design only for the balance of the BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park.</p> <p>The design life of the irrigation system is variable depending on a number of factors such as annual hours used, maintenance, water quality and site conditions. The forecast design life for key components is:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipework (HDPE PN12.5) • Controls & ELV Cables • Rotors • Pumps & Filters 	<p>40-60 years 15-25 years 15-25 years 10-20 years</p>
<p>Costs to implement the option</p>	<p>GRC CAPEX</p>	<p>Cost of construction of Irrigation System - \$1,123,900* *Refer to Attachments 2 & 9 – There is potential for savings by utilising some of the existing infrastructure. This will be explored through detailed design.</p>
	<p>GRC OPEX</p>	<p>Cost of completing detailed design - \$56,595* *Represents the current commitment under the Hydro-Plan Contract for detailed design</p>
<p>Responsibility for operation and maintenance of the system</p>	<p>It is proposed that BITS Golf would take full responsibility for the maintenance (including capital) and operation of the BITS Golf Irrigation within their lease area. In order to facilitate this arrangement the following must occur:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing BITS Golf Lease must be terminated and a new lease entered into that includes conditions to the effect that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) BITS Golf, at its sole cost and expense, will be responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Irrigation System including all capital costs; (b) Council will not be responsible for any costs associated with the ongoing operation, maintenance or replacement of the irrigation system during the lease term; (c) BITS Golf agrees to comply with any directions given by Council with regards to the operation of the irrigation system including complying with any Effluent Supply Agreement or Irrigation Management Plan developed by Council. <p>Council may also consider gifting the irrigation system to BITS Golf.</p> 2. BITS Golf enters into an Effluent Supply Agreement with Council and accepts transfer of ownership of the effluent at the point it enters the Lease Area. <p>BITS Golf have advised officers that they are prepared to accept responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the irrigation system.</p> <p>Council’s current policy <i>P-2017-35 Leasing of Land for Sport and Recreation Purposes</i> provides for a maximum term of 10 years for leases for sporting and recreation. However in this instance, it is recommended that Council consider a lease term of 20 years for BITS Golf for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is not in the business of operating golf courses; • The significance of the investment by Council in a purpose built irrigation system; • The design life of the irrigation system; • Provides certainty of tenure for BITS Golf who will need to contribute to the operation and maintenance of the system over coming years. • Security for Council in that BITS Golf will have a commitment to operate and maintain a system for at least the next 20 years. <p>Council would continue to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system for the balance of BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park.</p> <p>The Clubs (excluding BITS Golf) have advised that they are not prepared to take on the maintenance and operation of the irrigation system at this point in time.</p>	

Ongoing costs	GRC OPEX	Soil/water monitoring and lease administration	\$ 10,000
		Operating /Monitoring	\$ 14,400
		Maintenance# (years 1 -5)	\$ 10,240
		Electricity (can be passed on to clubs under lease)	\$ 3,578
		Soil Remediation**	\$100,000
		Depreciation (over 30 years across all sites)	\$ 65,966
		TOTAL GRC OPEX	\$204,184
		<i># Maintenance excludes depreciation</i>	
		<i>**nominal figure for long term annual soil treatment – does not include initial remediation costs</i>	
	BITS GOLF OPEX	Operating/Monitoring (BITS Golf)	\$ 9,600
		Maintenance (Years 1 – 5 BITS Golf)	\$ 7,680
		Electricity (BITS Golf)	\$ 5,071
		Soil Remediation**	\$ 50,000
		Total Irrigation OPEX for BITS Golf	\$ 72,351
		<i>**nominal figure for long term annual soil treatment – does not include initial remediation costs. Appropriate treatment would be for BITS Golf to determine as part of their management of the playing surface.</i>	
Additional considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option is aligned with Council’s resolutions from 20 December 2016 (G/16/2943) and 18 February 2020 (G/20/4097) although Council’s contribution to the cost of the replacement is significantly more than the originally anticipated \$460,000). • A summary of risks and opportunities are provided in Attachment 4. • Council may also consider gifting the irrigation system to BITS Golf. • A new Irrigation Management Plan will need to be developed for the lease areas to assist to address the soil quality issues at the AFL/Soccer/Cricket and Rugby League fields. • Council will have to work closely with the Clubs to ensure that there are no breaches of the EA. • If any breaches of the EA occur, Council may have to cease the irrigation of effluent at the site. 		

Option 2 - Council proceeds with the detailed design only for the irrigation systems for BITS Golf, the BITS Sports Precinct sporting fields and Dennis Park rugby league fields but does not fund the construction.			
What to replace	Under this option no replacement of the irrigation system will be undertaken. Detailed design for the replacement irrigation systems will be completed for the BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park. The detailed designs can be held as shovel-ready projects should either Council or the Clubs seek to take advantage of funding opportunities.		
Cost to implement the option	GRC CAPEX	\$0	
	GRC OPEX	Cost of completing detailed design	\$56,595*
		*Represents the current commitment under the Hydro-Plan Contract for detailed design	
Responsibility for operation and maintenance of the system	It is proposed that under Option 2, Council will continue to operate and maintain the Irrigation System. As an alternative, Council may elect to transfer responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system to the Clubs as the leases expire however this is not recommended given the current condition of the Irrigation System and the potential for Council to breach the conditions under the EA.		

Ongoing costs	GRC OPEX	Soil/water monitoring and lease administration	\$ 15,000
		Operation and Maintenance#	\$114,000*
		Soil Remediation**	\$200,000
		TOTAL GRC OPEX	\$329,000
		<i># Maintenance costs is expected to increase each year as the system continues to deteriorate.</i>	
		<i>* As a minimum</i>	
		<i>**it is anticipated that with the current condition of the irrigation system that there will a significant amount of treatment required to address the soil condition.</i>	
Additional considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Irrigation Management Plan will need to be developed for the lease areas to assist to address the soil quality issues. • Council will have to work closely with the Clubs and increase site monitoring to ensure that there are no breaches of the EA. • If any breaches of the EA occur, Council may have to cease the irrigation of effluent at the site. 		

Option 3 – Council proceeds with the full replacement of treated effluent irrigation system at BITS Golf, BITS Sports Fields and Dennis Park			
What to replace	Detailed design and construction of the irrigation systems for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) BITS Golf (b) BITS Soccer (c) BITS AFL/Cricket (d) Dennis Park – Rugby League <p>As part of detailed design, staging would be developed in consultation with the Clubs to minimise the impact of construction on the Clubs.</p>		
Cost to implement the option	GRC CAPEX	Completion of detailed design	\$ 56,595
		BITS Golf	\$1,123,900
		BITS Soccer/AFL/Cricket	\$ 403,525
		Dennis Park – Rugby League	<u>\$ 426,800</u>
		TOTAL GRC CAPEX	\$1,954,225
	GRC OPEX	N/A	
Responsibility for operation and maintenance of the system	Following construction, the operation of the BITS Golf irrigation would transfer to BITS Golf and the following must occur: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing BITS Golf Lease must be terminated and a new lease entered into that includes conditions to the effect that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) BITS Golf, at its sole cost and expense, will be responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Irrigation System including all capital costs; (b) Council will not be responsible for any costs associated with the ongoing operation, maintenance or replacement of the irrigation system during the lease term; (c) BITS Golf agrees to comply with any directions given by Council with regards to the operation of the irrigation system including complying with any Effluent Supply Agreement or Irrigation Management Plan developed by Council. 2. BITS Golf enters into an Effluent Supply Agreement with Council and accepts transfer of ownership of the effluent at the point it enters the 		

	<p style="text-align: center;">Lease Area.</p> <p>With the exception of BITS Golf, the Clubs have advised that they do not have the skills, volunteers or financial resources to take on the operation and ongoing maintenance of the replacement irrigation system. If the Clubs are unwilling to take on the operation and maintenance of the replacement irrigation system, Council will be required to continue to operate and maintain the system. Notwithstanding Council’s ongoing role in the management and maintenance of the irrigation system it is anticipated that the costs will be significantly reduced. New leases will be negotiated to reflect the requirements of the new irrigation system and to address playing surface management to ensure that it does not cause Council to breach the EA.</p>		
Ongoing costs	GRC OPEX	Soil/water monitoring and lease administration	\$ 10,000
		Operating /Monitoring	\$ 14,400
		Maintenance# (years 1 -5)	\$ 10,240
		Electricity (can be passed on to clubs under lease)	\$ 3,578
		Soil Remediation**	\$ 75,000
		Depreciation (over 30 years across all sites)	<u>\$ 65,966</u>
		TOTAL GRC OPEX	\$204,184
		<i># Maintenance excludes depreciation</i>	
		<i>**nominal figure for long term annual soil treatment – does not include reconstruction – reduced by 25% from option 1 due to the benefit of the new irrigation systems.</i>	
	BITS GOLF OPEX	Operating/Monitoring (BITS Golf)	\$ 9,600
		Maintenance (Years 1 – 5 BITS Golf)	\$ 7,680
		Electricity (BITS Golf)	\$ 5,071
		Soil Remediation**	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
		Total Irrigation OPEX for BITS Golf	\$ 72,351
		<i>**nominal figure for long term annual soil treatment – does not include initial remediation costs. Appropriate treatment would be for BITS Golf to determine as part of their management of the playing surface.</i>	
Additional considerations	<p>This option together with the annual soil treatments provide Council with the best opportunity to comply with the conditions of the EA and long term operational cost savings as well as benefitting the community through improved sporting facilities.</p>		

Communication and Consultation:

The following internal stakeholders have contributed to this report:

- Manager Asset Performance and Monitoring
- Property Acquisition and Disposal Specialist
- Community Engagement Specialist

Subsequent to the engagement throughout the concept design, the impacted lessees have been provided with copies of the concept plans and estimated costs as well as having been informed of this report being presented to Council.

Legal Strategy and Policy Implications:

Council’s leases with the Clubs govern Council’s obligation to repair and maintain the irrigation system. Council has in the past obtained advice regarding Council’s obligations and on the basis of that advice, while Council is required to repair and maintain the irrigation system, the conditions of the lease do not impose an obligation on Council to replace the irrigation system.

The Officer's Recommendation includes a grant of a lease to BITS Golf for a term of 20 years which is inconsistent with Council's policy *P-2017-35 Leasing of Land for Sport and Recreation Purposes* which provides for a maximum lease term of 10 years for sporting and recreation leases. Council may wish to consider granting the lease outside of policy if Council considers that there are valid reasons to do so.

Should Council fail to comply with the conditions of Council's Environmental Authority with regards to the irrigation of effluent and cause unlawful environmental harm the Department of Environment and Science (DES) may take compliance action against Council which might include:

- Requiring an environmental evaluation
- Issue an environment protection order
- Issue a penalty infringement notice; or
- Commence a court proceeding.

Any compliance action commenced by DES would impact Council's reputation and could have significant implications for Council

The initial consideration of the replacement of the irrigation system predates the adoption of the Investment Decision Framework (IDF), however the irrigation replacement could be considered to be at the SELECT gate. If Council were to adopt the Officer's Recommendation, the Irrigation System replacement would progress to the DEFINE phase.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The 2021/22 budget includes the following allocations:

BITS Golf Club – Soil Remediation	\$1,870,000
BITS Irrigation Replacement	\$ 870,000

The financial implications of each option are described in the Options above.

Summary:

- Council has previously resolved to contribute \$460,000 to the replacement of the BITS Golf Irrigation on the condition that BITS Golf enters into specified arrangements for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the irrigation system
- Estimates developed by Council's consultants Hydro-Plan during condition assessment and concept design has estimated that the cost to replace BITS Golf Irrigation is in the vicinity of \$1,123,000. Further expenditure is required to complete remediation of the soil so that the site is capable of continuing to receive treated effluent.
- Concept designs have also been developed for the balance of the BITS Sports Precinct and Dennis Park.
- Council is asked to decide whether to proceed with the detailed design and construction of the replacement irrigation systems.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

It is estimated that detailed design will be complete by 31 December 2021 with a construction plan to be developed during detailed design. Leases and Irrigation Supply Agreements must be agreed prior to the commencement of construction.

Attachments:

1. BITS Golf Irrigation System Past Resolutions
2. Concept Design Components Summary
3. BITS Clubs & Dennis Park Sports Complex Detailed Design Irrigation System Concept Design Report – Key Criteria.
4. Option 1 – Risks and Opportunities
5. BITS Golf Concept Design Plans
6. BITS Soccer Cricket AFL Concept Design Plans
7. Dennis Park Concept Design Plans
8. Concept Design OPEX Budget
9. Concept Design CAPEX Budget

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Property Acquisition and Disposal Specialist

G/3.2. REQUEST TO RENEW LEASE - 111 MURPHY ROAD, CAPTAIN CREEK - CAPTAIN CREEK COMMUNITY SPORTS & RECREATION ASSOCIATION INC

Responsible Officer: General Manager Strategic Asset Performance

Council Meeting Date: 5 October 2021

File Ref: CP8.2

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider leasing land located at 111 Murphy Road, Captain Creek (Lot 162 RP 618282) to Captain Creek Community Sports & Recreation Association Inc.

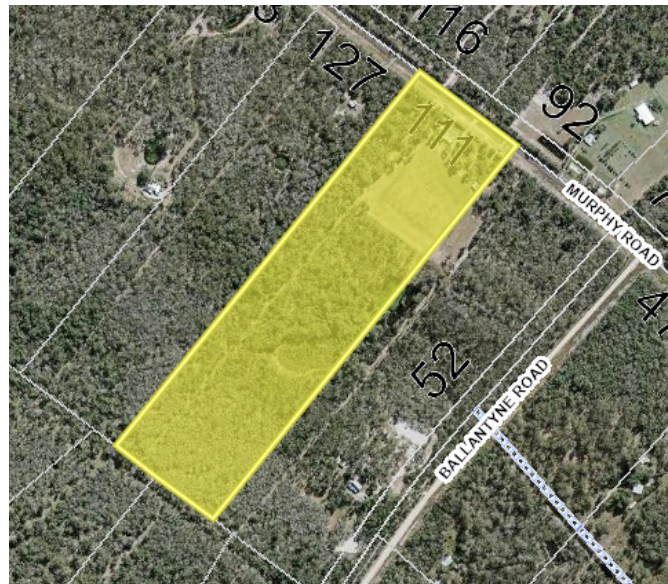
Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Apply section 236(1)(c)(iii) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to lease 111 Murphy Road, Captain Creek (Lot 162 RP 618282) to Captain Creek Community Sports & Recreation Association Inc.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a ten year lease with Captain Creek Community Sports & Recreation Association Inc for 111 Murphy Road, Captain Creek (Lot 162 RP 618282).

Background:

111 Murphy Road, Captain Creek (Lot 162 RP 618282) ("the Land") is freehold land owned by Council.



The Land is currently leased to Captain Creek Community Sports & Recreation Association Inc ("the Association"). The lease expired on 31 March 2020 (the Association is currently holding over as a monthly tenancy), and the Association has expressed interest in entering into another lease with Council.

The Association's membership sits at approximately 200 and continually growing due to new people relocating to the area.

The Association currently uses the Land as a community social/recreational hub and carries out the following activities:

- Fortnightly gatherings;
- Monthly pool competitions;
- Produce swap;
- Seniors meetings/activities;
- Playgroup;
- Dog training;
- Tai chi;
- Festivals (Small Halls festival is scheduled for 24 November 2021 and an end of year family fun day festival to celebrate the strong community focus);
- Ride4Lives suicide awareness event early 2022; and
- War veterans will be hosting quarterly workshops and other meetings on an adhoc basis.

Captain Creek Pony Club also operates from the Land and supports the Association entering into another lease with Council.

The Association has recently elected a committee that will be focused on working towards the Association's 10 year strategic plan, which includes introducing more activities and sport.

Options, Risk and Opportunity Analysis:

Council Officers have considered two (2) options:-

1. Enter into a lease agreement with the Association; or
2. Undertake an expression of interest to determine if other groups are interested in leasing the Land.

Option 1 – Officer's Recommendation - Enter into a lease agreement with the Association

This option is consistent with the existing leasing arrangement.

Opportunities

- Allows the Association to continue operating on the Land.
- Meets the requirements of Council's Leasing of Land for Sport and Recreation Purposes Policy.
- Meets the exception under section 236 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (236(1)(c)(iii)) should Council resolve to lease the Land to the Association.

Risks

- There may be other groups wanting to lease land within the Captain Creek area.

Option 2 – Undertake an expression of interest to determine if other groups are interested in leasing the Land

Land that is owned or controlled by Council is limited in the Captain Creek area. For this reason, there may be other groups that are interested in leasing this Land.

Opportunities

- Provides other groups an opportunity to express interest in leasing the Land.

Risks

- The Association is already well established on the Land.
- The Association may be required to compete with other groups.

- If the Association was unsuccessful during the tender process, they may need to relocate, and may not continue operating.
- Not consistent with current leasing approach of renewing leases to existing Lessee's.

Communication and Consultation:

External Communication

- Captain Creek Community Sports & Recreation Association Inc
- Captain Creek Pony Club

Internal Communication

- Planning section.

Legal Strategy and Policy Implications:

111 Murphy Road, Captain Creek is freehold land and is considered a valuable non-current asset.

Under Section 227 (S227) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* ("LGR"), Council cannot enter into a valuable non-current asset contract unless it first invites written tenders or offers the non-current asset for sale by auction. However, exceptions to S227 include the ability to dispose of the property other than by tender or auction if Council in a general meeting resolves to transfer the property to a community organisation, or the disposal is for the purpose of renewing the lease of land to the existing tenant.

The Association is a community organisation and are existing tenants that lease the Land.

Council's existing Leasing of Land for Sport and Recreation Purposes Policy allows a maximum lease term of ten (10) years.

Financial and Resource Implications:

Option 1 – Peppercorn rent, with outgoings being the responsibility of the Lessee.

Option 2 – depending on who leases the land will depend on what rent is charged. Generally for not for profit community organisations rent is charged at peppercorn rent, with outgoings being the responsibility of the Lessee.

This option will also require staff resources to undertake the tender process.

Summary:

Nil

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

31 December 2021

Attachments:

Nil

Tabled Items:

Nil

Report Prepared by: Property Acquisition & Disposal Officer

G/3.3. CONTESTABLE ENERGY - LARGE SITES

Responsible Officer: General Manager Operations

Council Meeting Date: 5 October 2021

File Ref: PE1.1

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to allow Council to consider providing the Chief Executive Officer with the authorisation to enter into a contestable energy supply agreement prior to endorsement by Council.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to accept the best value price for contestable electricity supply, within 1 week of a price being submitted.

Background:

The Queensland Government introduced full retail contestability on 1 July 2007. This allows all Queensland customers connected to the national electricity grid to enter into an electricity supply contract with any electricity retailer. Typically, contestable electricity agreements are only favourable for large electricity users with consistent demands, i.e. connections with demands greater than 100 MW/annum. For lower electricity users, or users with fluctuating demands, tariff-based agreements are more cost effective. The annual savings between contestable energy and retail electricity supply (via Ergon) is approximately 11%, translating to approximately \$38,000 per annum.

The contestable electricity market is a fast-moving market with spot pricing adjusting half hourly to real time supply and demand conditions. The electricity market therefore does not align with Council's Contracting and Procurement Policy. Council Policy requires contracts above \$200,000 to be publicly advertised, however Electricity Retailers will not typically respond to advertised tenders and will only hold their tendered prices for up to one week, which does not allow for Council evaluation and standard approval processes.

At the 27 November 2018 Councillor Information Session, Council was briefed on the outcome of a Joint Council Contract (for large sites across the region), that was entered into by the Chief Executive Officer for Contestable Energy Supply, using authorisation granted by Council Resolution G/18/3554 on 16 October 2018. This contract with ERM Power Retail Pty Ltd was established for fifteen (15) Queensland Local Councils and expires on 31 December 2021. Council has benefited from savings of approximately \$15,000 ex GST per month under the current contract vs retail tariffs.

Options, Risk and Opportunity Analysis:

Gladstone Regional Council, along with 15 other Queensland Councils and LGAQ House, have agreed for Local Buy Network to tender for these services on their behalf.

Currently the load for the large sites with the sixteen (16) councils is approximately 179GWh annually and Gladstone Regional Council's portion is 11.3 GWh annually or 6.3%.

The timing between the receipt of offers, evaluation and contract execution will be very short and there is a risk if Council endorsement is required during this process that Council may miss out.

Communication and Consultation:

Nil.

Legal Strategy and Policy Implications:

Utilising the services of Local Buy to negotiate a new electricity supply agreement is within the bounds of the Procurement Policy. Council would obtain competitive pricing for electricity as Local Buy Pty Ltd tender for this service on Council's behalf.

The Chief Executive Officer requires authorisation to enter into an electricity supply agreement on behalf of Council within 1 week of the prices being obtained above current financial delegation.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The estimated annual cost of the intended contract over the 3-year term is approximately \$2,975,000 excluding GST or \$991,666 excluding GST annually based on the current spend profile. Savings are expected from this tender, due to decreases in the retail market prices.

Utilising Local Buy Pty Ltd will increase the purchasing power of Council to obtain more favorable pricing.

Summary:

Nil.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

The contract will be executed by 31 October 2021.

Attachments:

Nil.

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Manager Contracts and Procurement

G/3.4. REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Council Meeting Date: 5 October 2021

File Ref: CM28.2

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present a revised Environment Policy which proposes to repeal the existing Corporate Environment Policy.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Repeal existing P-2015/28 Corporate Environment Policy
2. Adopt P-2021-14 Environment Policy tabled as Attachment 1 to this report.

Background:

The Corporate Environment Policy is due for its scheduled review. The most significant change officers are proposing is the change from a policy with all content within the body of the document, to a policy with the commitment statement as an attachment.

This is consistent with the approach taken for several other policies including Work Health and Safety Policy, Code of Conduct Policy, and People and Culture Policy. This approach seeks to provide the governing principles and strategic intent of Council's environmental practice. The 'how' and 'why' is provided for in supporting systems and documents such as the Environmental Management System.

Officers are also proposing the inclusion of new principles in relation to the management of trees to clearly identify the position of Council. It is the intent that a new (draft) Urban Forest and Tree Management Corporate Standard be adopted by the CEO to provide our people with the 'how'. The Corporate Standard will provide guidance on managing trees by balancing risks and opportunities, provide a consistent approach and assessment criterion, and provide guidance on the balancing of competing interests (trees versus hard infrastructure).

Other proposed changes include:

- change of name;
- consolidation of like principles and wording into a single statement; and
- alignment with related documents and activities such as the Corporate Plan and participation in the Reef Guardian Council program.

With the exception of the tree management statements, there are no new commitments proposed to our environmental practice. The balance of the proposed policy provides statements reconfirming existing commitments, documents, and activities which may not be identified in the existing policy. These commitments, adopted documents, and activities include:

- Corporate Plan 2021-2026;
- Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019;

- Our Coast. Our Future. Strategic Plan;
- Reef Guardian Council member; and
- Queensland Climate Resilient Council member.

Options, Risk and Opportunity Analysis:

Option 1- Adopt the revised policy

This option would result in adopting the proposed revised policy which has been reviewed in line with existing organisational plans and commitments. The proposed policy simplifies the existing policy into a one page commitment statement and provides clarity to the community and the business on Council's environmental commitments. The proposed policy includes a new commitment to strive to meet best practice with replanting trees to provide the strategic direction on our commitment to maintain our urban forest network.

Option 2 – Adopt the revised policy with changes

This option would result in adopting the proposed revised policy but with any changes Council may wish to propose. An alternative resolution may be:

“That Council:

1. *Repeal existing P-2015/28 – Corporate Environment Policy; and*
2. *Adopt P-2021-14 - Environment Policy, subject to the following amendments:*
 - a) *Insert change;*
 - b) *Insert change.”*

Option 3 – Retain existing policy without any changes

There is an option for Council to retain the existing policy in its current format and terminology. However, this option is not recommended as this will not streamline the existing policy and align it with the commitment statement policy approach being undertaken in the business. Retaining the existing policy will also not provide any strategic direction to the management of trees and replanting trees when removed.

Communication and Consultation:

The Governance Team has worked with the Environment and Conservation Team to develop the draft policy. Wider internal consultation has also been undertaken and considered in the development of the draft including feedback from the Executive team and Councillors.

Legal Strategy and Policy Implications:

The Corporate Environmental Policy has undergone a periodic scheduled review.

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* states “A person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm”.

The Environment Policy provides Council's commitment to preventing and minimising harm to the environment from Council's activities.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The draft policy may attract some financial commitments in future years as Council strives to meet best practice for the replacement of trees. However, the policy provides the commitment to strive to meet best practice and will be subject to budgets adopted each year.

Summary:

Nil.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

Within one month of decision.

Attachments:

1. Proposed P-2021-14 Environment Policy
2. Existing P-2015/28 Corporate Environmental Policy

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Manager Governance and Risk

G/3.5. FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE CULTURAL PROTOCOL FOR EVENTS POLICY

Responsible Officer: General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

Council Meeting Date: 5 October 2021

File Ref: CM28.2

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present a revised First Nations People Cultural Protocol for Events Policy which proposes to repeal the existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Cultural Protocol – Events Policy.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Repeal existing P-2017-13 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocol – Events Policy
2. Adopt P-2021-19 First Nations People Cultural Protocol for Events Policy tabled as Attachment 1 to this report.

Background:

Council's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) January 2021/23 outlines the actions Council will undertake during 2021 to 2023 to support lasting and meaningful relationships and to encourage respect and promote opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our region.

One of the actions in the RAP under the plan's Respect initiative is for Council to review its cultural protocol for events policy during August 2021. This review has been facilitated by Council's RAP Officer and Governance Team in consultation with the RAP Reference Group, RAP Champions, and those involved in delivering Council events in the business.

The major changes proposed to the policy are shown as tracked changes in Attachment 3 and are summarised below:

- The references to 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' and 'First Australians' have been replaced with the term 'First Nations People' which is the more accepted contemporary term that recognises the many nations of indigenous people as historical custodians and owners of country.
- The definitions for Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country have also been updated to use more contemporary language.
- The definition of Event has been amended to better reflect the scope of commercially engaged performances.
- The examples of events suitable for a Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country have been refined and broadened in consultation with the RAP Reference Group and RAP champions. Councillors will note that Council Meetings have been included in the example events for an Acknowledgement of Country which initially is proposed to take the form of a livestream written message displayed in advance of the formal commencement of Council meetings.

- An additional paragraph has been included under the example scripts for the Acknowledgement of Country to recognise that some individuals may personalise the acknowledgement to reflect their individual connection to the traditional owners and reconciliation.
- Currently Council does not maintain a register of contacts for organising cultural activities, therefore this provision is proposed to be removed. Council's RAP Officer is considered the best source of current information and assistance with cultural liaison and protocol matters.

Options, Risk and Opportunity Analysis:

There was some feedback during consultation with RAP Champions suggesting that the policy be broader than just events. However, the Community Development and Events business unit are considering the development of a broader First Nations Cultural Protocol, with this policy being subordinate to the broader strategy. This proposal will be subject to further consultation with the RAP Reference Group prior to any proposal being brought back to Council for consideration.

Option 1 – Adopt the recommendation

The risks associated with this option are considered minimal and may be limited to any perceived issues associated with the scope of the policy (ie. events only).

The review of the policy is a great opportunity to continue to grow community awareness and meaningful and respectful relationships that Council is committed to developing with our First Nations people.

Option 2 – Adopt the recommendation with some amendments

The risks and opportunities of this option are similar to those outlined in Option 1. The resolution to give this option effect would be:

“That Council:

1. *Repeal existing P-2017-13 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocol – Events Policy*
2. *Adopt P-2021-19 First Nations People Cultural Protocol for Events Policy tabled as Attachment 1 to this report subject to the following amendments:*
 - *Insert amendment/s.”*

Communication and Consultation:

Consultation has occurred with the Reconciliation Action Plan Reference Group to review the existing protocol policy. Changes recommended by the RAP Officer and RAP Reference Group have been included in the revised policy and largely center around the use of more contemporary language/references in relation to indigenous culture and people.

The proposed revised policy was then referred to Council's Reconciliation Action Plan Cultural Champions within the business, with consultation led by Council's Reconciliation Action Plan Officer. The feedback from this forum was primarily centered on the broader inclusion of Acknowledgement of Country within the business's operations.

The policy was referred to the Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust (PCCC) with no feedback received.

All changes included in the policy have been reviewed by the Manager Governance and General Manager Community Development and Events.

The revised policy was also circulated for consultation with those in the business who deliver events. The feedback was very positive with most commenting that the policy is easy to understand and apply within their area of operations.

Legal Strategy and Policy Implications:

The adoption of this policy will guide Council and its people on observing acceptable cultural protocols related to First Nations people in the staging of Council facilitated events.

This Policy is consistent with the intent of clauses 3 and 66(b)(vii) of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement between Gladstone Regional Council (and others) and the Port Curtis Coral Coast People, in:

- Recognising that the Port Curtis Coral Coast People are the traditional owners of land within the Gladstone Regional Council local government area;
- Acknowledging the value and unique cultural, spiritual and historical associations of the Port Curtis Coral Coast People with the land; and
- Acknowledging the contribution of the Port Curtis Coral Coast People to the history and character of the local community.

Financial and Resource Implications:

There are no financial or resource implications associated with the revised Policy other than those used in the policy review process and any resources required to facilitate Welcome to Country and cultural performances as required.

Summary:

The revision on this policy provides an opportunity for Council to update its event protocols and further develop and promote positive and respectful relationships with First Nations People as committed to in Council's RAP.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

Within 7 days of Council adopting a revised Policy.

Attachments:

1. Proposed P-2021-19 First Nations People Cultural Protocol for Events Policy
2. Existing P-2017-13 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocol – Events Policy
3. Existing P-2017-13 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Protocol – Events Policy (tracked changes)

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Governance Advisor and Reconciliation Action Plan Officer

G/3.6. RADF ASSESSMENT ROUND TWO 2020-21 AND AGM**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Community Development and Events**Council Meeting Date:** 5 October 2021**File Ref:** CC 7.16**Purpose:**

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee reporting on recommendations following assessment of Round Two 2020-21 and 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Officer's Recommendation:

That:

1. Council accept the recommendations of its RADF Committee and approve funding the following applications for Round Two 2020-21:

Applicant	Project Title	Project description	Category	Artform	Total project cost	Requested amount	RADF investment (Committee meeting held 15/9/21)
William Debois	<i>Sacrifice: Touring exhibition development</i>	Development of touring exhibition plan	Concept Development	Visual arts	\$22,832.50	\$16,484.50	\$16,484.50
Paulette Flint	<i>History of Cafeterias Gladstone</i>	Create index and edit history book	Cultural Tourism	Writing	\$3,133.80	\$2,657.80	\$2,657.80
Captain Creek Community Sport & Recreation Club	<i>Festival of Small Halls at Captain Creek</i>	Folk music festival and community workshop	Building Community Cultural Capacity	Festivals	\$14,300.00	\$9,050.00	\$9,050.00
Beryl Wood & Jo Williams	<i>Scape/Coates: 3-day workshop</i>	Three-day workshop with two tutors	Regional Partnerships	Visual arts	\$9,651.00	\$5,257.00	\$5,257.00
Gwenth (Terri) Lewis	<i>Road to Recovery: educate about heart disease through art</i>	Develop visual arts exhibition about heart disease	Concept Development	Visual arts	\$6,700.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,629.00
Catherine Spence Potter	<i>Heart Seeds: Stories and Rites of Passage creative writing program</i>	Writing and development community program	Concept Development	Writing	\$36,250.00	\$15,000.00	\$0
Kellie Edwards	<i>Travelling with a Purpose: creative touring program</i>	Research community needs project	Concept Development	Multi-arts	\$9,266.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

Melissa Peacock	<i>Art-Port's Christmas Tree Project</i>	Community workshops and exhibition	Regional Partnerships	Comm. arts & cultural develop.	\$10,300.00	\$6,379.76	\$6,379.76
Agnes Blues Roots & Rock Festival	<i>Agnes Blues Collaboration Incubator</i>	Local artists collaborative exhibition	Cultural Tourism	Festivals	\$12,133.80	\$9,216.74	\$9,216.74
TOTAL					\$151,770.10	\$86,767.60	\$58,674.80

2. Council note the acceptance of Outcome Reports for the following RADF projects from earlier rounds:

Applicant	Project Title
Katherine Apel	<i>Celebrating Our Stories</i>
Crow Street Creative	<i>Curtis Island Discs Podcast Series</i>
Discovery Coast Tourism & Commerce (DCTC) - 1770 Festival	<i>1770 Festival Workshops</i>
Discovery Coast Tourism & Commerce (DCTC) - Agnes Blues Roots & Rock Festival	<i>2021 #Agnes Blues Fest Art Installation</i>
William Debois	<i>Sacrifice: photographic road trip to PHOTO2021</i>
Gladstone Independent Schools Music Assoc.	<i>GISMA music workshops 2021</i>
Qld County Womens Assoc. - Tannum Sands Branch	<i>Country Women meet Art: Artist in Residence</i>
Bettina Van Haeften	<i>Mentoring sessions</i>
Jennifer Ryan	<i>STUDIO AGNES - Virtual Reality Gallery (VRG)</i>
Rosedale State School	<i>Turraburra First Nations Cultural Camp</i>
Creative Gladstone Region Inc.	<i>Port City Carnival of Arts</i>

3. Council note the acceptance of nine (9) nominations, received during the 2021 Annual General Meeting. The nominated members, including current sitting and new members, are accepted as a group of informed representatives who reflect the diverse arts, culture and geography of the Council area.
- a. Belynda (Bindi) Waugh
 - b. Lorna McGrath
 - c. Wendy Barker
 - d. Sharon Hare
 - e. Jack Viljoen
 - f. Wezley Pitt
 - g. Wesley Walker
 - h. Melissa Peacock
 - i. Mark McLachlan

Background:

RADF COMMITTEE:

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a Queensland Government and Gladstone Regional Council partnership to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland. Each year, a public invitation is advertised seeking committee members to become involved in the administration of RADF.

Council reappointed Cr Glenn Churchill as chair of RADF, 28 April 2020, and also provides a secretariat service to the committee through the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum.

Nine (9) applications were received, and representatives were selected representing a large geographical area across the region and bring a wealth of cultural experience and knowledge to the Committee.

OUTCOME REPORTS:

As part of the requirements of RADF funding, recipients are required to acquit their funding through an Outcome Report.

Eleven (11) Outcome Reports were received from previous applicants outlining the successes of the implementation of the projects.

RADF ROUND 2 FUNDING:

Ten (10) applications were received requesting funding for Round 2 of the RADF program, a partnership between Council and the Queensland Government.

The Committee assessed the applications and recommended that eight (8) be put forward for funding from the Round 2 funding.

Applicant	Project Title	Project description	Category	Artform	Total project cost	Requested amount	RADF investment (Committee meeting held 15/9/21)
William Debois	<i>Sacrifice: Touring exhibition development</i>	Development of touring exhibition plan	Concept Development	Visual arts	\$22,832.50	\$16,484.50	\$16,484.50
Paulette Flint	<i>History of Cafeterias Gladstone</i>	Create index and edit history book	Cultural Tourism	Writing	\$3,133.80	\$2,657.80	\$2,657.80
Captain Creek Community Sport & Recreation Club	<i>Festival of Small Halls at Captain Creek</i>	Folk music festival and community workshop	Building Community Cultural Capacity	Festivals	\$14,300.00	\$9,050.00	\$9,050.00
Beryl Wood & Jo Williams	<i>Scape/Coates: 3-day workshop</i>	Three-day workshop with two tutors	Regional Partnerships	Visual arts	\$9,651.00	\$5,257.00	\$5,257.00
Gweneth (Terri) Lewis	<i>Road to Recovery: educate about heart disease through art</i>	Develop visual arts exhibition about heart disease	Concept Development	Visual arts	\$6,700.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,629.00
Kellie Edwards	<i>Travelling with a Purpose: creative touring program</i>	Research community needs project	Concept Development	Multi-arts	\$9,266.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Melissa Peacock	<i>Art-Port's Christmas Tree Project</i>	Community workshops and exhibition	Regional Partnerships	Comm. arts & cultural develop.	\$10,300.00	\$6,379.76	\$6,379.76
Agnes Blues Roots & Rock Festival	<i>Agnes Blues Collaboration Incubator</i>	Local artists collaborative exhibition	Cultural Tourism	Festivals	\$12,133.80	\$9,216.74	\$9,216.74
TOTAL					\$151,770.10	\$86,767.60	\$58,674.80

The remaining applications was not recommended for funding; however, Committee members will mentor the applicant to refine the application and its outcomes.

Options, Risk and Opportunity Analysis:

The RADF Committee will work with the unsuccessful candidates for future funding rounds.

There are opportunities to promote the successful RADF projects and promote the artists contributing to our region's rich cultural fabric.

Communication and Consultation:

The RADF Committee considered ten (10) applications requesting \$86,767.60 and eight (8) were recommended for approval, total \$58,674.80

Following endorsement by Council, successful applicants will be advised of their application status.

The Cultural Projects Specialist delivered several initiatives to raise the profile of the RADF Program and to support the committee to undertake their roles.

Council initiated Strategic Projects include:

- a. *Take pART Act III – Gladstone Region* and
- b. Community & Committee Training

Round 2 2020-21 Funding Celebration event details are to be advised.

Legal Strategy and Policy Implications:

RADF is a financial partnership between the Queensland Government (Arts Queensland) and Gladstone Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

RADF is informed by Council's Arts & Culture Policy

<https://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/462/arts-and-cultural-development-policy> developed in conjunction with the advisory committee and the community, adopted 18 June 2019.

Financial and Resource Implications:

No additional financial implications.

Council has budgeted \$154,310 (gross) for the RADF 2020-21 program, which includes \$19,810 surplus from RADF 2019-20 and \$54,500 from the Queensland Government.

Summary:

There were 10 applications for consideration this round seeking \$86,797.60, and 8 recommended for approval totalling \$58,674.80.

Submissions were of a very high quality, with eight (8) applicants having participated in the Expression of Interest process, working with a committee member mentor.

Anticipated Resolution Completion Date:

Letters of Offer will be prepared 5 October 2021 and successful applicants will have 30 days to respond with their Letter of Acceptance.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of Meeting RADF R2 2020-21, 15 September 2021
2. Minutes of the RADF AGM 2021

Tabled Items:

Nil.

Report Prepared by: Cultural Projects Specialist

G/4. DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT

Nil.

G/6. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil.

G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil.