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BUSINESS PAPER

Additional Items

Ordinary Council Meeting

2 August 2022

Aaron Johansson
Chief Executive Officer

We hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on:
Tuesday, 2 August 2022 at 6pm
in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre
184 - 194 Bourke Street, Goulburn

Order Of Business

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Cr Peter Walker
Mayor

Aaron Johansson
Chief Executive Officer

12 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)**12.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - WAKEFIELD PARK****Author: Mayor Peter Walker****Attachments: Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That:

1. The Mayor Minute from Mayor Peter Walker regarding Wakefield Park be received and noted.
2. Council continue to work with the Benalla Auto Club and the State Government in order to secure the long-term future of Wakefield Park Raceway Goulburn that balances the needs of the facility and the community.

REPORT

On 13 July 2022, the NSW Land and Environment Court (LEC) handed down judgement in a Class 1 Appeal brought against Goulburn Mulwaree Council by Benalla Auto Club, the owners of Wakefield Park Raceway. The appeal was lodged as a result of consent conditions imposed against the facility, which were regarded by the owner of the facility as being unfavourable. Whilst BAC's appeal was upheld, unfortunately, the Court has now imposed much stricter operating conditions, primarily in relation to noise management.

The severity of the judgement has come as a shock to both Council and the owner, and as such, the facility is now considered unviable under the consequent conditions of consent. Whilst this is typically a commercial decision for the owner to consider, Council and the wider Goulburn district business community are grappling with the potential impacts, as many businesses in and around the city benefit from the presence of Wakefield Park.

Council and the Benalla Auto Club recognise that the ongoing economic benefit to the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA derived from motor sports is at a critical juncture, and that timely actions are required in order to mitigate the effects of the LEC's judgement. Council and the Benalla Auto Club have met almost daily since the Court handed down their findings in an attempt to find a suitable way forward.

On the 21 July 2022 I wrote to the following State Members (and sent carbon copies of the letters to their Shadow Ministers) in the hope that an outcome can be found that ensures the retention of jobs and economic benefit to Goulburn and its surrounding region, and importantly balances the needs of local residents. A short summary of the actions following the receipt of these letters by the Government Ministers is included below:

1. The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP, NSW Premier
Staff from the Premiers Office will speak to Minister Tuckerman's Office to get an update on the matter.
2. The Hon. Paul Toole MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW
Staff from Deputy Premiers Office confirmed receipt of our correspondence. Staff advised that it will take a little bit for a response to be received.

3. The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister of Local Government & Member for Goulburn
Council Staff spoke with Minister Tuckerman's staff from the Ministerial Office who acknowledged receipt of the letter. Council also spoke with Minister Tuckerman's staff from the Ministers electoral office who advised that this matter will be dealt with by the Minister in her capacity as Member for Goulburn. The Minister can't overturn a Court decision however will assist Council on this matter.

Minister Tuckerman has requested that all interaction with the State Government need to go through her electorate office.

On Thursday 28 July 2022 Council formally requested a meet with the NSW Premier and Deputy Premier for the week ending the 5 August 2022 in Sydney. Minister Tuckerman will facilitate requested this meeting through her Electorate Office.

The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP has requested a meeting with myself and Chief Executive Officer Aaron Johansson. This meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 2 August 2022.
4. The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans
The Office have confirm receipt of our correspondence. We have been advised that the correspondence is currently going through the formal review processes.
5. The Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning
Council spoke with staff from the Minister's Office who acknowledged receipt of the Council correspondence. Staff advised that the correspondence will be looked at that day.
6. The Hon. Alister Henskens MP, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology and Minister for Skills and Training
Response received advising that the correspondence will be reassigned to Minister Ayres and Minister Tuckerman.
7. The Hon. James Griffin MP, Minister for the Environment and Heritage
Council staff spoke with staff from Minister Griffins Office who advised that the letter has been received however would likely be referred to Minister Tuckerman.

Council has received positive responses from Ms Julia Finn MP, Shadow Minister for Sport & The Hon Mick Veitch MLC, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW who have both locked in meetings for Monday 1 August 2022 and Friday 12 August 2022 respectively.

My intention with putting this Mayoral Minute forward is to ensure that the community are made aware that Council is proactive in its approach to continue to work with the Benalla Auto Club and the State Government in order to secure the long-term future of Wakefield Park Raceway Goulburn that balances the needs of the facility and the community. I would like to see a vital piece of local infrastructure is not lost, but also use this as an opportunity to relaunch Goulburn as a centre for motor sport and its ancillary industries in regional NSW.

Mayor Peter Walker

13 NOTICE OF MOTION(S)**13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - GOULBURN TO CROOKWELL RAIL TRAIL****Attachments: Nil**

I, Councillor Bob Kirk, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 2 August 2022, I intend to move the following motion:-

MOTION

That:

- a) the report on the Goulburn-Crookwell Rail Trail be received,
- b) the Goulburn-Crookwell Rail Trail Steering Committee be established, in terms of the NSW Rail Trails Framework (June 2022), to investigate all options and opportunities for rail trail development between Goulburn and Crookwell,
- c) the Chief Executive Officer prepare appropriate terms of reference for acceptance by Council,
- d) Council seeks expressions of interest from interested persons to serve on this committee, with nominations to close on 23rd August 2022,
- e) Councillor Bob Kirk and Councillor X be appointed as Council delegates
- f) An application for funding (up to \$150,000), for development of a new business case be sought under the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy development Fund.

RATIONALE

On the 19th of April, Goulburn Mulwaree Council unanimously resolved to re-affirm its commitment to the Goulburn- Crookwell Rail Trail; to continue to liaise with Upper Lachlan Shire Council, and to allocate funds to update costs and feasibility of the proposal, in the knowledge that the NSW State Government Rail Trail Evaluation report was soon to be released.

On the 21st of June, Upper Lachlan Shire Council resolved to withdraw support for the GCRT in their Local Government Area, but to provide non-monetary support for the project within the Goulburn Mulwaree Council LGA.

Two days later, on the 23rd of June, the NSW State Government released its long-awaited NSW Rail Trails Evaluation Summary. The report strongly supported the establishment of rail trails in NSW, and a Framework document, based on transparency, processes, and consultation in determining the viability of the Rail Trails across the state was also released.

The Goulburn-Crookwell Rail Trail Incorporated committee, established in 2014, has worked to progressively develop the project to its current level. To date, several applications for approval and funding have been unsuccessful, mainly due to the absence of any appropriate pathways or funding streams for rail trails in NSW. The recent release of these NSW Government reports presents the opportunity and direction required to now progress such projects. To do so requires Council/s to establish a steering committee, and for the supporting documentation to be reviewed and updated. The current committee could then be wound up and their work effectively taken up by

the new steering committee.

Over the last 12 months, a separate support group of community volunteers, the Friends of The Goulburn-Crookwell Rail Trail have also been promoting the GCRT project. That broad promotion to the Goulburn and Crookwell communities included flyers, posters, market and show stalls and yellow bikes around the district - all with the purpose of raising awareness and answering question about the proposal. This group proposes to continue to provide this supporting role.

The result of this recent decision by ULSC, has been a significant increase in support for the proposal through face-to-face interaction with the community, in the press and on social media. However, as expected, there has been a small, but vocal increase in opposition to the proposal.

The NSW Government's Framework requires that any proposal involving more than one LGA, be led and endorsed by all Councils involved. Since 2006, when a delegation from ULSC and GMC visited Victorian rail trails, investigation of the project has had the support of successive Upper Lachlan Shire Councils.

The GCRT project has been identified in many of the strategic planning documents covering this area:

- The Southern Tablelands Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-22 which was developed jointly with the Upper Lachlan, Yass Valley and Goulburn Mulwaree Councils, specifically includes the project as a tourism infrastructure priority under the strategy "Enhance the liveability of the Region and grow it's visitor numbers"
- The Upper Lachlan Destination Action Plan 2020-25 identifies the Goulburn Crookwell Rail Trail as "a Game changing opportunity for the area that will help to increase visitation and attract new business investment" and includes it as one of the immediate strategic priorities for action.
- The Goulburn Mulwaree Destination Action Plan 2020-25 states "the Goulburn Crookwell Rail Trail has the potential to be a catalyst project to stimulate new visitation and investment to the area", and again, lists this project as an immediate priority for action under Destination Infrastructure Development.

The project also fits within the broader goals and objectives for tourism and economic growth within the;

- South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036
- Canberra Region Joint Organisation Regional Community Strategic Plan
- Draft Upper Lachlan and Goulburn Mulwaree Community Strategic Plans 2042

The success of the shared pathways within GMC has demonstrated the popularity and benefits associated with our local smaller shared pathway offerings. The NSW Government has also recently announced the \$24M Regional NSW- Business Case and Strategic Development Fund, which is to support development of regionally significant projects and initiatives.

The opportunity now exists to expand our local network by connecting the Wollondilly and Mulwaree Walking Tracks to sections of the disused rail corridor; to extend our active transport and recreational facilities within the GMC area, and to potentially deliver the rail trail facility all the way to Crookwell, should the project win the support of ULSC in the future.

There have been a number of other changes affecting the original Rail Trail proposal since that project commenced in 2014 eg. inclusion of a sealed trail surface; recent removal of sections of the rail infrastructure; depreciation impacts, and increased construction costs).

A new proposal, incorporating an expanded shared pathway network around Goulburn, in conjunction with a GCRT, meets the eligibility requirements of this fund. It is proposed that Council seeks funding for the development of a business case for a new expanded rail and community trail project. Previous studies and reports will help inform this new work.

Applications to this fund close on 24th August 2022.

The project remains a potentially significant tourism driver and an economic opportunity for this region, which warrants thorough investigation

I submit this report and recommendation for Councils favourable consideration.

RJ (Bob) Kirk
Councillor
27th July 2022