Late and Urgent Report from Chief Executive Officer to Council Meeting of 26 March 2019

SUBJECT:

Mandurah Water Tower Project

CONTACT OFFICER:

Mark Newman

AUTHOR: FILE NO:

Mark Newman F0000136606

Summary

In May 2018 Council resolved to support the proposed Mandurah Water Tower Art Project. Council resolved to:

- 1 Notes the inclusion of \$100,000 in the draft 2019/20 budget towards the project.
- 1 Requests Peel Harvey Catchment council to make a formal presentation to Council on the project and its merits.

Subsequently funding (\$100,000) was included in the 2018/19 budget as a contribution towards the project.

In January Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) wrote to Council on the necessity to scale back the project but were still hoping that Council would commit \$100,000 towards the project.

Council is asked to consider the various options.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Previous Relevant Documentation

G.22/5/18

22 May 2018

Support project and include provision in 2019/20 budget.

Background

PHCC initially presented to a briefing of Council in May 2018 and \$100,000 was included in the 2018/19 budget. At that stage Council and PHCC were working towards a public art project on five water towers in Mandurah, themed on the regions Ramsar protected wetlands, at a cost of approximately \$300,000. PHCC was to project manage, in conjunction with a not for profit organisation – FORM. Considerable negotiations with Water Corporation and funding agencies was needed.

PHCC has subsequently written to Council on 7 January, 2019 to advise that the Water Corporation have advised that the proposal to paint five towers cannot proceed, as safety concerns exist with three of the towers in relation to telecommunication antennae. A copy of the PHCC's correspondence is noted as Attachment 1

PHCC still wishes to proceed with the project in a scaled back form at a cost of \$121,600 and hope that Council will still commit its \$100,000 towards the project. The two towers are the Caddadup Reserve (Dawesville) water tower and the Allan Place Halls Head water tower.

Comment

The Mandurah Water Tower Art Project was planned to be a large scale public art initiative that highlighted the region's Ramsar protected wetlands, which are internationally significant for a broad range of plants, marine life and migratory bird species they support. The initial proposal was for five identified towers with a cost in the vicinity of \$300,000.

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PHCC have been liaising to receive approval for the towers, but due to safety concerns Water Corporation have only been prepared to give approvals for two of the five towers, Caddadup and Halls Head. At present Water Corporation would not approve the other sites because of the proximity of antennae to the artists.

Council has previously strongly supported the artworks and the significant message that they could provide. Options for Council are:

- 1. Advise PHCC that it believes that the project should be deferred until such time as other methodologies have been investigated for applying artworks to the other three towers. The City could preserve the funding by transferring \$100,000 to a "Public Art Reserve Fund".
- 2. Agree to the PHCC's most recent request and advise our preparedness to contribute \$100,000 towards the two approved towers at Caddadup and Allan Place Halls Head. This would allow these artworks to proceed, attract and grow enthusiasm from potential parties for the other towers. The cost of the two towers is estimated to be \$121,600.
- 3. Agree to fund one of the two towers and place the remaining funds into a "Public Art Reserve Fund". Estimates for the towers are:

Allan Place, Halls Head \$78,700 Caddadup \$71.200

Of the two, Allan Place Halls Head is the more obvious choice because of its visibility and the potential to attract an international artist.

PHCC recently presented to Council on the proposal on 19 March, 2019. Their clear preference is for Council to contribute to the two towers to enable completion before the summer of 2019. A copy of PHCC's presentation is as per Attachment 2.

Consultation

PHCC have consulted extensively with Council, Water Corporation and FORM.

Statutory Environment

Nil.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Economic Implications

The project is designed to capitalise on the visibility of the water towers with art works that reflect upon our Ramsar listed waterways. Council is requested to contribute \$100,000 towards the project. The cost of the two towers if done as one project is \$121,600. If separated the Halls Head Tower is estimated to cost \$78,700, with the Caddadup Tower estimated at \$71,200. Council has \$100,000 allocated for the project in its 2018/19 budget.

Risk Analysis

Council would be merely a funding partner. Risks would be borne by PHCC, FORM and the Water Corporation.

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Strategic Implications

The following strategies from the *City of Mandurah Strategic Community Plan 2017 – 2037* are relevant to this report:

Environment:

- Protect and ensure the health of our natural environment and waterways.
- Increase our scientific understanding and knowledge of the marine and estuarine environment.
- Encourage and enable our community to take ownership of our natural assets, and to adopt behaviours that assist in achieving our environmental targets.

Economic:

Develop a strong and sustainable tourism industry.

Identity:

- Encourage active community participation and engagement.
- Promote Mandurah's identity as a unique regional city, based on its waterways, history and future vision
- Become known as a city and destination for events, arts, heritage and culture.

Conclusion

Council strongly supported the original proposal based on five towers. The current proposal requests funding towards only two of the five towers previously recommended. PHCC will continue to work with Council, FORM and the Water Corporation to identify opportunities for the artworks to be pursued on the other towers.

Officers believe Council should continue to support the project by contributing to either one or both of the artworks proposed.

NOTE:

Refer Attachment 1 PHCC correspondence 7 January 2019
Attachment 2 PHCC Presentation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council advise Peel Harvey Catchment Council that it is prepared to allocate \$100,000 towards the Water Tower Artwork Project for the Caddadup and Allan Place, Halls Head towers.

PHCC Working Together

Peel-Harvey Catchment Council

Enquiries:

Jane O'Malley 002_2019_01_07

Our Ref: File No.:

BU_A_304

7 January 2019

Mr Mark Newman Chief Executive Officer City of Mandurah PO Box 201 MANDURAH WA 6210

Dear Mark

Mandurah Water Towers Project – City of Mandurah Funding Commitment

Thank you for your support to date on the Mandurah Water Towers Project. Subsequent to Council's endorsement of \$100,000 funding (May 2018), and the presentation to Council on 31 July, work has continued with Water Corporation and FORM to determine the ability to undertake the project.

After a detailed investigation Peel Harvey Catchment Council has been advised its proposal to paint five water towers in Mandurah cannot fully go ahead due to safety reasons.

Water Corporation, FORM and the PHCC jointly investigated the feasibility of painting the water towers.

While 'in principle' support was given by the Water Corporation to the art project in March 2017, further investigations into the safety and logistics of the project have demonstrated that the telecommunications antennas fixed on three of the five proposed towers would pose a safety risk.

Artists would not be able to use an elevated platform required to paint the towers, which are over 30 metres high, as this would place them within the exclusion zones immediately around the antennas, as defined by the Australian Electromagnetic Energy (EME) Standard.

Given their operational importance to the local mobile phone network, radios and televisions, it is not feasible to switch off the antennas to allow for the project to be completed, which is anticipated by FORM to take up to three weeks.

It is important to note the telecommunications companies that use the Mandurah water towers deploy their network in compliance with the relevant Federal Government mandated standards for exposure to electromagnetic energy emissions. The exclusion zone is directly around the antennas at the top of the towers, at a height of over 30 metres.



PHCC, FORM and Water Corporation are still keen to progress with the two remaining water towers that are unconstrained by EME – located on Old Coast Road in Dawesville (Caddadup Reserve) and Allan Place in Mandurah.

PHCC together with FORM are preparing relevant risk assessments and safe work planning documentation to support the approval process for working on the two Water Corporation assets. This approval will be required before the project can proceed. On 20 December, we were advised that both relevant Water Corporation teams (OSH and PRA) were happy with the OHS documentation provided. This means that obtaining Clearance to Works for access should be relatively straight forward.

Water Corporation have also met with their legal and property teams to discuss the type of contract/agreement they need for the project and it appears that a licensing agreement for the exterior of the tower is required. Water Corporation are meeting in January with their lawyers to draft the process.

While we are obviously disappointing that not all five towers could be considered, the safety of artists who would be working at close range to the antennas must take priority.

Therefore, it would be appreciated it you could confirm the City is comfortable to continue to fund the Water Towers project, for 2 towers, for the reasons described above. Please note that the total project cost is being recalculated, and is expected to be approximately \$140,000. The PHCC will pursue other funding sources to meet the balance of the funds, and will continue to provide project management/facilitation costs as an in-kind contribution to the project.

It would be appreciated if we could receive advice at your earliest convenience, so that we can keep things moving towards our planned instalment date.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on (08) 6369 8800 or email jane.omalley@peel-harvey.org.au.

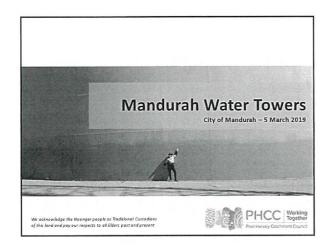
Yours sincerely

Jane O'Malley

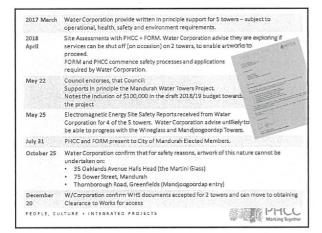
Chief Executive Officer



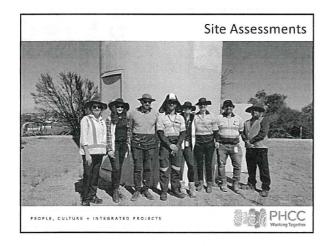
ATTACHMENT 2

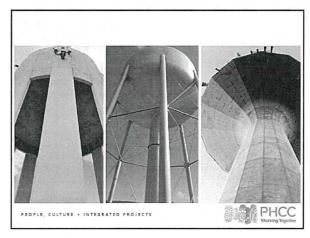


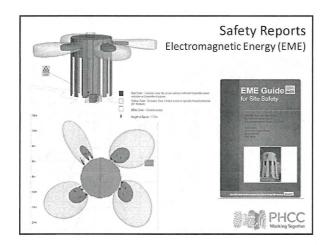


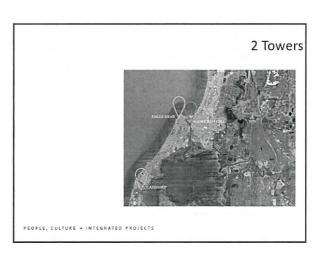


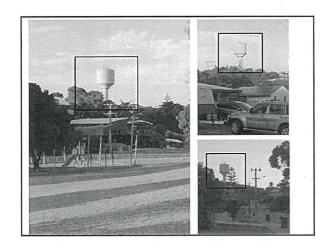


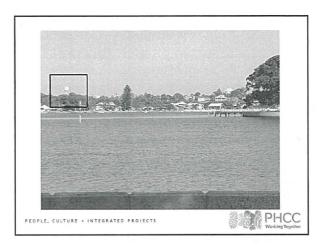


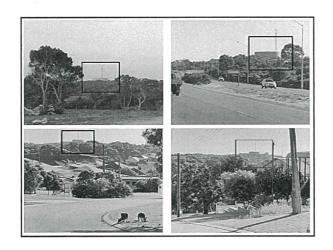


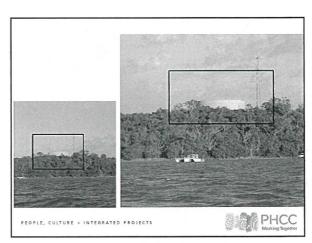


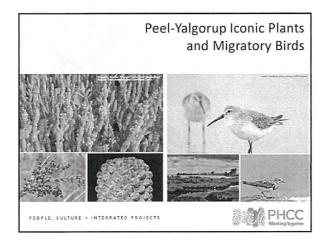


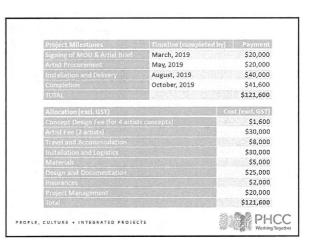


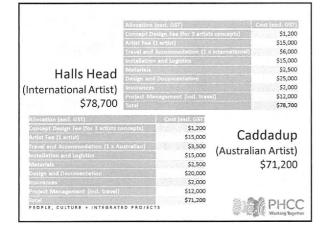












Recommendation:

That Council support the previously endorsed Mandurah Water Tower Project, noting the inclusion of \$100,000 in the 2018/19 budget, entering into an agreement with the PHCC before the end of March 2019, to enable:

- Engagement of FORM via formal contract to project manage the installation of the artworks on the 2 towers
- Artist Brief to be finalized and advertised
- Water Corporation Legal Team to finalise licensing agreements
- Proceed with confidence the approach for the balance of \$21,600 (via philanthropic or other means)
- Completion of the Water Tower project before summer 2019.

PEOPLE, CULTURE + INTEGRATED PROJECTS



