

### 3. OFFICERS REPORTS

#### 3.1. 6194 REX SMEAL PLAYGROUND

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

- **Award Contract 6194/01 – Rex Smeal Playground to AAA Playscapes (ABN 64 010 927 741) for \$500,000 (GST exclusive)**
- **Delegates authority under s 257 of the Local Government Act 2009 to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate any and all matters in relation to this contract.**

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council recognises the importance of providing recreational opportunities for both residents and tourists. The playground will promote physical activity, social interaction, and tourism, thereby contributing to the economic growth of Port Douglas.

Council released a Tender to the Open Market for the Rex Smeal Playground new equipment installation. The Tender closed on Wednesday 11 October 2023. All submissions were accepted and evaluated by Douglas Shire Council officers. After evaluation, AAA Playscapes was the highest scoring tenderer. The tender price of \$500,000.00 (GST exclusive) submitted for the installation of a new Playground equipment scored above average across all the assessment criteria. AAA Playground has been operating as a Principal Contractor successfully delivering similar projects for Council as well as other Councils in the region.

The evaluation and recommendations were workshopped with the Councillors on 14 November 2023.

This report recommends that Council resolve to enter a contract to deliver a modern and aesthetically constructed playground equipment in Rex Smeal Park.

#### BACKGROUND

The Rex Smeal Playground provides an area for all the community to enjoy. The original playground was removed in 2022 due to safety reasons and currently has minimal play equipment for children to use.

The council consulted with the community in late 2022 to discuss a way forward for a new adventure playground. There were numerous opinions re the use of this area, but the general view was to ensure the removed playground equipment be replaced with something for both local and tourist children to enjoy.

## COMMENT

Council recently went out to market requesting concept designs in line with the following criteria:

- Nominate the location of the playground and the footprint for the equipment. The location was not to include the large fig tree as part of the play equipment.
- Provide equipment that has color schemes that blend in with the existing landscape and complement the surroundings.
- Provide the council with a concept pictorial of the play equipment and any equipment that would allow inclusivity for all children.

The council received two conforming submissions. One contractor provided four different bespoke designs, while the other provided a design from off the shelf components.

**Table 1 – Received conforming submissions**

Contract 6194/01	Status	Tender Price (excl GST)
1. AAA Playscapes	Conforming	\$500,000
2. Proposal #2	Conforming	\$549,760
3. Proposal #3	Conforming	\$496,275
4. Proposal #4	Conforming	\$497,020
5. Proposal #5	Conforming	\$642,434

All submissions were assessed by the evaluation committee. Specific criteria were weighted according to their importance in delivering this playground.

In accordance with the evaluation methodology, the panel evaluated each tender/concept design using the assessment criteria and applied the following weightings:

**Table 2 – Evaluation Criteria**

Criteria	Weighting
Price	30%
Technical Capacity	15%
Business Profile	20%
Concept Design	20%
Program	15%

The evaluation panel selected the ranked one (1) contractor, AAA Playscapes as the preferred contractor to deliver Contract 6194/01 at Rex Smeal Park for the following reasons:

- Highest ranked contractor
- Good value for money
- Experience in delivering quality playgrounds.

## PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Council adopts to accept the evaluation panel's award recommendation.

That Council resolves to:

- Award Contract 6194/01 to AAA Playscapes (ABN 64 010 927 741) for \$500,000 (GST exclusive).
- Delegates authority under s 257 of the Local Government Act 2009 to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute all matters in relation to this contract.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Council has allocated fundings in the 2023-24 Capital Budget of \$500,000 for the construction of a playground at Rex Smeal Park.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Council will enter a contract with AAA Playscapes using FNQROC (Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils) service standards conditions.

This ensures an industry standard and a contemporary contract between Council and the Contractor.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** It is envisaged that the playground will increase tourism to this location due to an attractive recreational space. This will have a flow on effect to local businesses.
- Environmental:** The playground adds substantially to the park's ambiance and aesthetics. The playground equipment and landscaping will enhance this area of the park.
- Social:** The development of this playground in Rex Smeal Park represents an excellent opportunity to enhance community well-being, stimulate and nurture healthy brain function, motor skill development, enhance communication skills, foster a deep sense of community, and increases inter-personal connections in the community for both parents, carers and children.

## **CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### **Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:**

#### **Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities**

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future.

We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

***Goal 1 - We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.***

***Goal 2 - We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the liveability of our beautiful Shire.***

***Goal 3 - We will develop programs that promote health, well-being and safety in the community.***

#### **Theme 2 - Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth**

A robust economy is at the heart of a thriving community and enables investment in environmental protection. While our remoteness is a key attribute, it also presents challenges for attracting new business and investment. We must also meet the challenges of fierce competition in the tourism sector. Council will partner with industry to build, diversify and promote the Douglas economy. Council will design and deliver infrastructure, strategies and services that support the local economy and businesses.

***Goal 1 - We will build appropriate infrastructure and deliver services that connect and support businesses.***

#### **Theme 4 - Inclusive Engagement, Planning and Partnerships**

In delivering for our communities, economy and environment, Douglas Shire will ensure open and transparent engagement and communication. We will develop robust strategic plans and we will partner with our community and key stakeholders.

***Goal 1 - We will implement transparent decision making through inclusive community engagement and communication.***

### **Operational Plan 2023-2024 Actions:**

Nil

## COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances, and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

<b>Builder/Owner</b>	Council makes a significant investment every year in the infrastructure that underpins the Shire through its capital works program. Council will manage its assets with appropriate frameworks and deliver its projects through robust project management.
<b>Custodian</b>	Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.
<b>Service Provider</b>	Council provides many services to the community from roads and waste services to libraries and recreational facilities. Services evolve over time and it is the Council's mission to ensure that these services are appropriate, delivered efficiently, and designed with the customer at the centre.

## CONSULTATION

**Internal:** Infrastructure Department  
Councillor briefing workshop on 31 October and 14 November 2023

**External:** Previous consultation with the community in 2022

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Previous consultation with the community has taken place re the Green Ant proposal.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil