

6.12. WO5836 ALEXANDRA RANGE SAFETY UPGRADES

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DEPARTMENT	Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

- Award Contract 2023-5386-5840-6098 Alexandra Range Safety Upgrade to Geo Construct Pty Ltd (ABN 42 640 635 445) for \$963,920.99 (GST exclusive).**
- Delegates authority under s 257(1) b of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with the contract.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Douglas Shire Council (Council) requires professional construction services to undertake pavement upgrades and slope stabilisation on Alexandra Range. Sections of the Alexandra Range feature steep embankments that undermine in heavy wet weather events and poses continual maintenance and disaster related issues. To address these concerns, Council requires earthworks, crossroad stormwater drainage and stabilisation improvements on two sections of Alexandra Range.

Table 1 displays the submissions received from an open tender invitation via Vendor Panel. The evaluation and recommendations were workshopped with the Councillors on 21 November 2023. A section of asphalt surfacing scope was tendered as an option and has not been included in the proposed award as all offers exceeded the available budget. However, since the project will not commence immediately, Council will review budgets of other infrastructure projects with the view of rearranging available funds so a variation can be issued for the excluded asphalt scope (possibly to be awarded once authorized in January 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting).

Officers recommend that the project be awarded to Geo Construct Pty Ltd for \$963,920.99 excluding GST. Failure to adopt this recommendation will result in works being delayed until next financial year and the unstable bank on Cape Tribulation Road could further deteriorate creating extended periods under traffic control, vehicle size limits and possible long term road closures.

The project will be delivered within the available budget.

BACKGROUND

The Cape Tribulation Road is a critical transport link providing access to the Daintree Rainforest World Heritage area north of the Daintree River.

This road is the only route north from the Daintree River Ferry to Cooktown via the Bloomfield Track. Reliable road infrastructure supports commercial entities and access for communities

north of the Daintree River. Tourism market research suggests Cape Tribulation and the Daintree Rainforest play a significant role in why people travel to the Douglas Shire.

Cape Tribulation Road crosses Alexandra Range, this steep and windy section of the road is surrounded by rainforest with very steep side slopes. Council staff completed designs to improve safety at two sections on the Alexandra Range. Works include bank stabilisation at one site and widening of a narrow section on Fern Gully.

COMMENTS

Council issued an open tender invitation through Vendor Panel for 2023-5386-5840-6098 Alexandra Range Slope Stabilisation and Fern Tree Gully Widening. The Vendor Panel reference number is VP383146. Table 1 displays the submissions received. Note, the pricing in Table 1 includes the cost for optional asphalt surfacing, which has been removed for budget compliance.

An initial compliance check was conducted on the received submission to determine the compliance with the contractual requirements and provision of requested information.

Table 1: Received Submissions (includes asphalt surfacing)

Tenderer	Price (exc. GST)	Offer	Status
Geo Construct Pty Ltd	\$1,564,420.99	Comparative	Alternate
Submission 2	\$1,680,162.05	Comparative	Conforming
Submission 3	\$2,446,296.62	Comparative	Conforming
Submission 4	\$2,493,091.08	Comparative	Conforming
Submission 5	\$4,169,294.23	Comparative	Conforming

During the evaluation process, the submission was assessed against the evaluation criteria detailed in the request for tender (RFT) documentation.

Specific criteria were weighted according to their importance in delivering the project successfully and providing the best overall value for money solution in accordance with Council's procurement policies. The weighting attributed to each criterion is outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Technical Capacity of Tenderer	15%
Business Profile (Local, Social & Sustainability)	20%
Program of Works	10%
Work Procedures and Methodology	15%
Value for Money (Price)	40%
	100%

Geo Construct Pty Ltd was the highest ranked tenderer. They have extensive experience in the completion of slope stabilisation works like those required in the current tender including

design, construct and certify services on a number of slope stabilisation and civil construction works for DSC.

Their submission was detailed, had the most competitive price, and indicated they can complete the works within the desired timeframe. The tender evaluation panel recommends Geo Construct Pty Ltd as the preferred supplier. **Note:** A section of asphalt surfacing scope was tendered as an option and included in the tendered price of \$1,564,420.99. However, to remain within budget, the optional asphalt scope was excluded from the proposed contract award, bringing the revised contract total to \$963,920.99. Since the project will not commence immediately, Council Officers will review budgets and progress of other infrastructure projects to determine if funds can be reallocated to this project and a variation can be issued for the excluded asphalt scope. (If funds are available this will be presented to the January 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting for approval).

PROPOSAL

That Council resolves to:

1. Award Contract 2023-5386-5840-6098 Alexandra Range Safety Upgrade to Geo Construct Pty Ltd (ABN 42 640 635 445) for \$963,920.99 (GST exclusive).
2. Delegates authority under s 257(1) b of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, finalise and execute any and all matters associated with the contract.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council received funding through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) funding scheme and also committed funding in the capital works budget for the Alexandra range safety upgrade works.

This tender combines several projects into one larger project. The available budget of Council and the TIDS funding scheme totals \$1,239,028.00.

However, all tender submissions received exceeded the available budget. To remain within budget the optional asphalt scope was excluded, bringing the revised contract total to \$963,920.99.

The asphalt works intended for this project, currently excluded, may be completed under a variation.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Failure to adopt this recommendation will result in works being delayed until next financial year and the unstable bank on Cape Tribulation Road could further collapse creating extended periods under traffic control, vehicle size limits and possible long term road closures. Furthermore, the TIDS funding contribution is only available until the 30 June 2024.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** Reliable road infrastructure supports commercial entities and the communities located north of the Daintree River. Tourism market research suggests that Cape Tribulation and the Daintree play a significant role in the reason why people travel to the Douglas Shire.
- Environmental:** The contractor will be required to fulfill all environmental obligations during construction of this project
- Social:** Reliable road infrastructure north of the Daintree Ferry will positively impact the communities north of the Daintree River by providing an important transport link. It also provides important access to emergency service vehicles.

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

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 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

Goal 1 - We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.

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:

Service Provider 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
Procurement Department
Councillor workshop 21 November 2023, 5 December 2023

External: Consulting engineering firms
Wet Tropics Management Authority

ATTACHMENTS

Nil