

6.8. TOURISM PORT DOUGLAS DAINTREE – ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE

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RECOMMENDATION

Council agrees to a 1-year extension of the current Resource and Performance Agreement with Tourism Port Douglas Daintree at the current year's funding commitment of \$500,000 (ex GST).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tourism Port Douglas Daintree (TPDD) is seeking a 1-year extension of their current Resource and Performance Agreement with Council to 2024-25 with current funding of \$500,000 (ex GST). With Council elections imminent, and a new CEO for Tourism Port Douglas Daintree to be appointed, the extension will provide continuity in TPDD's operations and afford time to all new parties to become familiar with the tourism organisation, its strategic direction and its relationship with Council.

BACKGROUND

Council has a current Resource and Performance Agreement with TPDD over a 3-year term which expires as of 30 June 2024. The Agreement commenced on 1 July 2021, with Council funding \$400,000 for the first year. Funding increased in annual increments of \$50,000 over the duration of the term. TPDD request that the extension of the contract is maintained at the current year's funding commitment of \$500,000.

COMMENTS

As part of the Resource and Performance Agreement, TPDD provides regular updates to Council staff and Councillors. TPDD's work has been key in increasing visitation to the Douglas Shire after Covid, with 2022 seeing a record number of people visiting the region.

PROPOSAL

Council agrees to a one-year extension of the current Resource and Performance Agreement with Tourism Port Douglas Daintree at the current year's funding commitment of \$500,000 (ex GST).

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council would fund TPDD through an extended Resources and Performance Agreement for:

- \$500,000 (ex GST) year 2024-2025

The funding allocation in the current agreement is as follows:

- \$400,000 (ex GST) year 2021-2022
- \$450,000 (ex GST) year 2022-2023
- \$500,000 (ex GST) year 2023-2024

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with the extended Resource and Performance Agreement, Council's funding contribution will be acquitted through the provision of TPDD's Annual Report, and through the provision of strategic plans and quarterly reporting.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Supports economic development in the Douglas region through promoting tourism

Environmental: Promotes and markets our natural assets, sustainability, and eco-tourism.

Social: Supports and promotes tourism, arts and cultural industries.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

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 2 - We will work with partners to promote the Shire as the World's leading sustainable tropical destination and encourage business investment.

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 3 - We will recognise the critical role that our partners play in planning and delivering vital programs and services.

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:

Funder Council often partly funds services, events or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies and in-kind support. Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair and appropriate.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Council's CEO is on the TPDD Board and attends Board meetings, which are held approx. every 6 weeks.
The matter was discussed with Councillors at a briefing on 19 September 2023.

External: Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil