

5.5. CYCLE NETWORK LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS PROGRAM - JUNCTION BRIDGE AND MOSSMAN TO NEWELL PROJECTS

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

- 1. Enter into a funding agreement with the State of Queensland (represented by the Department of Transport and Main Roads) under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program for the Junction Creek Pedestrian Bridge Construction and North Mossman to Newell Beach Design;**
- 2. Contribute 50% towards the total project cost for each project, to be allocated in the 2020/2021 Budget; and**
- 3. Delegate authority under Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to administer the above matters.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program (CNLGGP) the Queensland Government and Councils work together to deliver and improve principal cycle networks across the State to achieve the Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 vision of 'more cycling, more often.'

The CNLGGP provides funding for Councils to deliver cycling infrastructure projects that meet the program's objectives.

In December 2018, Council submitted funding applications for two projects:

- Junction Creek Pedestrian Bridge construction; and
- Mossman to Newell cycleway design.

Council has been offered funding for both projects.

This report seeks Council's acceptance of the funding offers and approval of the required 50% contribution.

BACKGROUND

At the 18 December 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to support a submission to the State Government's 'Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program 2019/2020 for \$400,000 for the Junction Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project and contribute \$400,000 in 2019/2020 towards the project, if the grant was successful.

Council also resolved to support a submission to the State Government's Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program 2019/2020 for the detailed design of the North Mossman to Newell Beach principal cycleway.

The application for this project sought 100% funding towards the project's costs. As the offer of funding is for half the project's costs, Council is required to approve the required 50% contribution in the 2020/2021 Budget.

Both projects will begin in the 2019/2020 financial year however the majority of costs will be incurred in the 2020/2021 financial year.

COMMENT

Before a funding agreement can be executed by the Chief Executive Officer the required 50% contribution must be approved by Council.

Both projects will commence in quarter 3 of the 2019/2020 financial year with the tender development and procurement phase being undertaken for the Junction Creek Pedestrian bridge. Officers will also begin the design of the Mossman – Newell Beach by undertaking a feasibility study in preparation for the detailed design phase.

PROPOSAL

That Council resolves to:

1. Enter into a funding agreement with the State of Queensland (represented by the Department of Transport and Main Roads) under the Cycle Network Local Government Grants Program for the Junction Creek Pedestrian Bridge Construction and North Mossman to Newell Beach Design;
2. Contribute 50% towards the total project cost for each project, to be allocated in the 2020/2021 Budget; and
3. Delegate authority under Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to administer the above matters.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Estimated construction costs for the Junction Creek Pedestrian Bridge are \$620,000 and \$180,000 for the approach connections. Grant funding offered will offset the total project budget of \$800,000 by 50%. If Council supports the finalisation of this grant, Council will need to allocate \$400,000 in the 2020/2021 budget.

Detailed design costs for the North Mossman to Newell route are estimated to be \$150,000. The original grant application sought 100% of eligible costs however the funding offer is for 50%. Council will be required to contribute \$75,000 towards the design project. If Council supports the finalisation of this grant, Council will need to allocate \$75,000 in the 2020/2021 budget.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Project risks will be mitigated through the systematic application of internal project management systems. Project management will be the responsibility of a Council Officer, supported by officers from finance, procurement and corporate communications. The project manager will be responsible for ensuring all conditions of the funding agreement are met.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** Benefits of cycling outlined in the Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 include reducing the risk of serious illnesses and improving mental wellbeing which potentially reduce impact on health care systems and associated costs. Increased cycling contributes to economic savings through reduced running costs of motorised transport.
- Environmental:** Providing infrastructure for cycling enables more people to ride bikes to work, school, socialise rather than using cars or buses; reducing traffic and emissions while incorporating regular exercise.
- Social:** Riding is a fun, social activity for people of all ages and the project aligns with the Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 by encouraging high levels of cycling, contributing to the vitality of the Shire, helping encourage a sense of community and connectedness.

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

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

Theme 3 - Leading Environmental Stewardship

Goal 2 - We will implement programs that reduce and offset our environmental footprint.

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:

- Builder/Owner** 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.

CONSULTATION

Internal:

In developing the project and funding application, the following internal stakeholders were consulted:

- Chief Executive Officer;
- Acting General Manager Operations;
- General Manager Corporate Services;
- Project Engineer;
- Coordinator Civil Operations,
- Planning Officer;
- Grants Officer.

At the Council Workshop, Councillors were presented with information relating to the funding applications, including Principal Cycle Network Plans and Priority Route Maps and detailed sketch of Junction Bridge shared Cycle Way-Pedestrian Bridge.

External:

In developing the project and funding applications the following were consulted:

- Department of Transport and Main Roads,
- Mossman Multi Purpose Health Service and
- Members of the Community Agency Network (CAN Meeting 18 October 2018)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In developing the Queensland Cycling Strategy 2017-2027 the State Government consulted Queenslanders.

Consultation carried out during the development of the Regional Cycling & Walking Strategy 2010-2030 identified Junction Bridge as an important link in the Douglas Shire. One of the public submissions in creating this Strategy was a petition from Cooya Beach residents, with over 400 signatures, requesting a bikeway from Mossman to Cooya Beach be completed.

In developing the original funding applications, a Council Officer consulted members of the local Community Agency Network comprising various community organisations and government agencies. Council staff also consulted staff at Mossman Multipurpose Health Service, which followed with a letter of support.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil