

Agenda



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

17 FEBRUARY 2021

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12. COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PROSPERITY REPORTS

12.3 Application under Building Better Regions Fund - Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Trail

Author: Trent Nibbs, Community Activation Officer

Responsible Officer: Amanda Pugh, Group Manager Community & Regional Prosperity

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to provide Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) with a letter of support for an application to the Building Better Regions Fund for funding to complete works associated with the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Trail, and also Council's commitment to consider funding in 2023/34 Annual Budget for works associated with the Withcott Hub.

Officer's Recommendation:

THAT Council provides a letter of support to Toowoomba Regional Council for an application under Round 5 of the Building Better Regions Fund for completion of works associated the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Trail as detailed in the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan 2019-26;

And further;

THAT Council agrees to consider funding of up to \$450,000 in 2023/24 Annual Budget towards the completion of works at Withcott associated with the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Trail.

Executive Summary

Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) is proposing to make an application under Round 5 of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) to complete all works associated with the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Trail. A letter of support from Council is required to support the application and, as the works include the Withcott Hub, Council is being asked to provide funding of up to \$450,000 in 2023/24 for this section of the Mountain Bike Trail.

Proposal

In February 2020 Council endorsed the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan 2019-26. The Mountain Bike Trail includes a major access node at Withcott, providing potential economic benefits to the town. At the time the Master Plan was prepared, the costs of works associated with the Withcott Hub were estimated to be approximately \$815,000.

On 5 February 2021, Cr Holstein and Council officers met with TRC Councillors, Cr O'Shea and Cr McMahon, and TRC officers to discuss a joint application under Round 5 of the BBRF to fund 50% of the costs associated with completing all works under the Master Plan. For this project BBRF funding will only provide for 50% of eligible project costs. The total cost of works is estimated to be \$7 million. Once constructed, the estimated economic impact of the facility is \$20 million annually.

As 95% of the facility is within the Toowoomba Region, TRC will be the lead for the grant application. TRC has requested a letter of support from Council and indicating Council's commitment to fund 50% of the costs

associated with construction of the Withcott Hub. Council is being asked to provide funding of up to \$450,000 in 2023/24.

Previous Council Resolutions

Resolution 16-20/1669, 26 February 2020

THAT Council endorse the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan 2019-26 attached to these minutes.

Critical Dates

Applications for funding under Round 5 of the BBRF close on 5 March 2021.

Strategic Implications

Corporate Plan

Lockyer Community 1.2 - Council optimises the use of its open spaces and facilities by improving access to and the quality of the facilities for individuals and groups for cultural, recreation and community activities

Lockyer Planned 4.4 - Regional collaboration and targeted advocacy that drives external funding, for timely delivery of key infrastructure and enhanced community outcomes

Finance and Resource

Budget of up to \$450,000 will be needed for the 2023/24 financial year. This will form 50% of the total cost of the project to be implemented for Withcott Hub. Council will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the Hub.

Legislation and Policy

No policy or legal implications arise from this report.

Consultation

Portfolio Councillor Consultation

Cr Holstein and Cr Qualischefski are members of the working group with TRC. While Cr Qualischefski was an apology to the last meeting, he has been briefed on the project.

Internal Consultation

Grants Officer, January 2021

Acting Coordinator Community Activation, January 2021

Coordinator Special Project, January 2021

Senior Advisor Advocacy, January 2021

Manager Community Activation, January 2021

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.