

# CITY OF ARMADALE

## AGENDA

**OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 7 ORCHARD AVENUE, ARMADALE ON TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 7.00 PM**

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*A meal will be served at 6:15 p.m.*

**PRESENT:**

**APOLOGIES:**

**OBSERVERS:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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Community Development

**DISCLAIMER**

The Disclaimer for protecting Councillors and staff from liability of information and advice given at Committee meetings to be read by the Chairman.

**DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

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**QUESTION TIME**

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**DEPUTATION**

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

**Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 24 January 2006 be confirmed.**

**Moved Cr  
MOTION CARRIED ( )**

**ITEMS REFERRED FROM INFORMATION BULLETIN – ISSUE NO. 4/2006**

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The following matters were included for information in the Community Services section:

- **Outstanding Matters**  
Report on Outstanding Matters – Community Services Committee
- **Monthly / Quarterly Departmental Reports**  
Library & Heritage Services General Monthly Report – January 2006  
Manager Ranger & Emergency Services Monthly Report – January 2006
- **Minutes from Occasional Advisory Committees**  
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Advisory Cttee – 28 November 2005  
Disability Advisory Committee – 4 October 2005  
Disability Advisory Committee – 6 December 2005  
Minnawarra Festival Committee – 6 December 2005  
Seniors' Interests Advisory Committee – 17 November 2005  
Seniors' Interests Advisory Committee – 15 December 2005  
Youth Advisory Committee – 23 January 2006

*If any of the items listed above require clarification or a report for a decision of Council, this item to be raised for discussion at this juncture.*

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**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

28 February 2006

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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Community Development

**\*\*ABORIGINAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE TRANSITION TO INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME**

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WARD ALL  
FILE REF: CDP22  
DATE 17 Feb 2006  
REF YC  
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director  
MANAGER Community  
Services

**In Brief:**

The Aboriginal Family Support Service (AFSS) has been funded through the Federal Government's Indigenous Parenting and Wellbeing Programme for the last three years. A review of this Programme late in 2005 saw a significant change of objectives for the AFSS and a combining of two funding programmes. This item outlines the impact of those changes and recommends that Council accept funding to redevelop and transition the AFSS into a new service to meet the new objectives.

**Tabled Items**

Nil

**Officer Interest Declaration**

Nil

**Strategic Implications**

Building our Community

- facilitate a wide range of social and cultural experiences
- encourage community participation and responsibility
- foster a supportive and caring community
- have in place a range of services to meet community needs

**Legislation Implications**

Nil

**Council Policy/Local Law Implications**

Nil

**Budget/Financial Implications**

The City currently receives a grant from the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs of \$100,000 per annum for the provision of the Armadale Aboriginal Family Support Service (AFSS). In addition, Council carried forward from 2004/05 \$3,000, and allocated \$33,000 for the 2005/06 year to supplement the Service. There is provision of \$33,000 in the City's 15 Financial Year Plan in anticipation of a further 3 year funding agreement with the Federal Government.

Expenditure to date on the AFSS is approximately \$60,000 and it is intended that any balance owing to FaCS will be transferred as part of the funding of the new service. The cost of delivering the new service (Koorlungah Mia) is \$97,000 per annum and will be funded by

### Community Development

FaCS for the 2006 calendar year. *(Note: Revenue and Expenditure amounts within the recommendation were correct as at the preparation of this report however final figures may vary depending upon the date of signing of the new agreement.)*

### Consultation

ATSIAC

Technical Services

## **BACKGROUND**

The City has been receiving funding the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCS) for an amount of \$100,000 per annum to provide the Aboriginal Family Support Service (AFSS) which has been operating from Orchard House. The current funding agreement with FaCS was due to expire in June 2006, however in late 2005 FaCS completed a review of the Programme under which the AFSS has been funded and the result has been a change in objectives. In October 2005, FaCS made a presentation to all funding recipients regarding the changes and advised that it was the intention to extend funding agreements to December 2006. The 2006 year was to be a 'transitional year' for programmes to rework their Service provision to meet the new objectives. Each programme would be re-evaluated at the end of the year and those successful in meeting the new objectives would be considered for further funding. It was also noted at the presentation that the new funding agreements stipulating the new objectives would be negotiated prior to December 2005.

FaCS made contact with Council officers in early January 2006 to negotiate a revised funding agreement for the AFSS. In those discussions it was clear that there were minimal activities that the AFSS was currently undertaking that would meet the new objectives. The new funding programme entitled Indigenous Children's Programme (ICP), primarily has its focus on children, whereas the AFSS had developed into an advocacy and supported referral service for Aboriginal individuals and families in crisis.

Whilst FaCS acknowledges that the AFSS has been providing a Service that met a community need, it could not continue to fund it according to the new Funding Programme objectives.

The matter was discussed at the ATSIAC meeting on 7 February 2006 and again on 13 February 2006. Whilst the final recommendation is to be ratified by the ATSIAC meeting scheduled for 7 March 2006, it was agreed that the recommendation to Council would be to accept the new funding agreement for the Indigenous Children's Programme for the 2006 Calendar year and to express its dissatisfaction for not only the loss of funding for a needed community service but also the timing and process that had occurred in advising the City and the community of the changes.

The transition will require a complete new approach to the provision of activities and support for Aboriginal children and their families. In effect, the AFSS will cease to exist and a new service entitled Koorlangah Mia (Children's Place) will be developed.

### Community Development

ATSIAC was also of the view that there needed to be a co-ordinated approach by key State Agencies such as Department of Housing, Department of Indigenous Affairs and Department for Community Development to address the issue of local Aboriginal people in crisis since the AFSS would no longer be able to assist those people to access the appropriate agency. Council should note that City officers had previously entered into discussions with State Government Departments towards achieving a partnership arrangement for a co-ordinated and complementary approach to service delivery aimed at the Indigenous community of Armadale. These discussions stalled mainly to do with State Government staff changes.

Council will also be aware that Orchard House will be demolished to enable the Westzone Shopping Centre development to occur and since the initial announcement in 2005 there has been an adverse affect on the AFSS, which experienced a drop in Aboriginal people accessing its services, primarily due to the uncertainties of its continuity. Alternative venues had previously been investigated for the AFSS, however with its required change in focus and primary activities being for children, the type of venue required has also changed.

The Neerigen Kindergarten in West Armadale has been identified as a possible short term venue. The facility was originally leased by the City to the Education Department who relinquished it in 2005. It is currently vacant, however it has no operational or maintenance budget provision.

Discussions and negotiations are continuing between the Department for Community Development (Orchard House) and Minnowarra House in relation to replacement venues (including Council's offer of land at Lot 144, Railway Avenue) and there is a possibility that the Koorlangah Mia Indigenous Children's Service may be able to be accommodated at those new venues in the future.

### **DETAILS OF PROPOSAL**

The City has been given the opportunity to transition the activities of the AFSS over the 2006 year to an Indigenous Children's Programme. If the Service is able to successfully transition to meet the new objectives, there is a possibility of it being offered further funding to continue.

The transition will require a complete new approach to the provision of activities and support for Aboriginal children and their families. In effect, the AFSS will cease to exist and a new service entitled Koorlangah Mia (Children's Place) will be developed.

A proposed budget for the new service has been developed and it is achievable within the funding provision, without the need for the City to supplement the amount as was the case with the AFSS. There are staffing costs and implications from the transition and these are outlined in a confidential attachment. **(Refer to Confidential Attachment "B-1" – Summary of Attachments – buff page.)**

In devising the budget for Koorlangah Mia, the venue costs of the Neerigen Kindergarten have been taken into account. Using estimated costings from Technical Services, a provision has been made for cleaning, utilities, insurance, building and grounds maintenance from the grant funds. It is intended that the Service be sustainable within the grant funds and that the

### Community Development

City's contribution will be 'in kind' through provision of a facility, management and supervision of the Service and the accountability requirements of its funding agreement.

The purpose of containing the service within its grant limits is that it is intended to investigate, with the assistance of FaCS, the possibility of another community agency assuming the responsibility of Koorlangah Mia if it is recognised for ongoing funding beyond 2006. If this is to eventuate then the assuming agency will be able to acknowledge that the Service is viable within its FaCS funding. It is intended that there will be no expectation that Council will provide a venue, including outgoing costs such as maintenance etc. to support the delivery of the service.

However, in establishing the service at the Neerigen Kindergarten there will be an initial cost to Council in bringing the facility to a standard suitable for occupancy. The facility has been vacant for a considerable period of time and has fallen into a state of minor disrepair. Council has provided \$33,000 towards the AFSS for the current financial year and it is proposed that part of these funds be used to undertake the works required at Neerigen Kindergarten.

In addition to developing the new service, officers will resume discussions with appropriate State Government agencies to develop a partnership in regard to co-ordination and delivery of other services to the local Aboriginal community. The balance of monies allocated by Council to the AFSS could be used to contribute and/or facilitate that partnership.

### **COMMENT**

#### Analysis

The AFSS was an innovative and effective model for social service delivery to the Indigenous community. Its unique ability to network and work in partnership with local agencies and service providers supported increased access by the indigenous community in areas of housing, health, children's services, employment, family support and domestic violence. It played an influential part in the development of cultural awareness and had a key role in building leadership and capacity within the local indigenous community.

The last six months has been unsettling for the AFSS in regard to uncertainties surrounding ongoing funding and the identification of a suitable venue from which to operate in replacement of Orchard House. This has had a flow on effect to the Aboriginal community and has resulted in a drop in numbers accessing the Service. It is acknowledged that the AFSS has played an instrumental role in being a focus for Aboriginal people in crisis to seek support, advice and referral to appropriate services and its loss will create a "gap" in community service.

ATSIAC has identified this as an issue and it will be City officers' intention to continue to discuss with Council's Advisory Committee and key agencies the best strategy for meeting that gap.

#### Options

Council has the following options:

Community Development

1. Not accept the funding from FaCS to provide an Indigenous Children's Programme and close the AFSS as soon as practicable.
2. Not accept the funding from FaCS to provide an Indigenous Children's Programme, but continue to work with other agencies on developing strategies to meet identified Aboriginal community needs.
3. Accept the funding from FaCS to provide an Indigenous Children's Programme and utilise allocated municipal funds to supplement establishment costs associated with Neerigen Kindergarten.
4. Accept the funding from FaCS to provide an Indigenous Children's Programme, utilise allocated municipal funds to supplement establishment costs associated with Neerigen Kindergarten and continue to work with agencies to develop strategies to meet other identified Aboriginal community needs.

Option 4 is recommended.

Conclusion

The City of Armadale has a reputation for having a strong, positive and practical relationship with its Aboriginal community. The AFSS has been a significant and recognized indication of the City's commitment to supporting and working with the Aboriginal community.

The loss of the AFSS will provide a gap in community service, however resuming discussions with key agencies will focus on addressing this issue and allow for a more holistic and strategic approach to co-ordination and delivery of community services to the Aboriginal community as a whole.

The accepting of the funding for an Indigenous Children's Programme will demonstrate to the Aboriginal Community that Council has a commitment to attracting and sourcing services to the Armadale area to meet their needs.

**RECOMMEND**

**That Council:**

- 1. Accept the funding from the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for an Indigenous Children's Programme for the 2006 calendar year.**
- 2. Authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal the funding agreement the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs for an Indigenous Children's Programme for 2006.**

Community Development

3. Approve the use of Council funds allocated to the Aboriginal Family Support Service for the purpose of establishing the new service at Neerigen Kindergarten facility and pursuant to Section 6.8 of the Local Government Act 1995, authorise the following expenditure:

**Indigenous Children's Programme (Koorlangah Mia) \$97,000**

Amend the 2005/06 Annual Budget for the purposes of finalising the Aboriginal Family Support Service (AFSS) and commencing the Koorlangah Mia Indigenous Children's Programme, as follows:

**Revenue**

Aboriginal Family Support Service – decrease by \$76,000.

Koorlangah Mia Indigenous Children's Programme – increase by \$97,000.

**Expenditure**

Aboriginal Family Support Service – decrease by \$76,000.

Koorlangah Mia Indigenous Children's Programme – increase by \$97,000.

4. Support the recommendation from ATSIAC for the City to express disappointment with the decision by the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs not to continue with the AFSS, including the timing and process that has occurred in advising both the City and community of the changes to the programme and continue to work with agencies to develop strategies to meet other identified Aboriginal community needs.

**\*\*ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED (PART 3)**

Moved

MOTION CARRIED/LOST ( )

Ranger & Emergency Services

***ANNUAL FIREBREAK INSPECTION PROGRAMME AND STRATEGIC FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES REPORT***

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WARD All  
FILE REF: FIR/7  
DATE February 2006  
REF BLW  
RESPONSIBLE Manager Fire &  
MANAGER Emergency  
Services

**In Brief:**

Report on Ranger Services activities in regard to the Annual Firebreak Inspection Programme and Strategic Fire Prevention and Educational initiatives.

**Tabled Items**

Nil

**Officer Interest Declaration**

Nil

**Strategic Implications**

To encourage community participation and responsibility.

To foster ownership, pride and a supportive and caring community.

To have in place the range of services to enhance the well being and safety of the community.

**Legislation Implications**

Section 33 Bush Fires Act 1954

**Council Policy/Local Law Implications**

1.3.4 Firebreaks Policy

**Budget/Financial Implications**

Nil

**Consultation**

Nil

**BACKGROUND**

Property specific fire controls are the primary basis for fire management in the community and represent the “lowest common denominator” approach. Fire preparedness is a critical aspect in reducing risk and enabling effective fire response. It is the responsibility of each and every landowner and land manager to ensure that their landholdings meet statutory fire regulations and that they have implemented adequate fire preparedness measures.

The costs of installation of firebreaks are borne by all landowners, which is reasonable given that the landowners (or land managers) are responsible for fire management on their property.

### Ranger & Emergency Services

It is relevant to note that annually, Local Government and State Government agencies direct significant resources toward community level fire management. This shared approach ensures that the risk to the community in terms of fire management is minimised and enables the formation of effective partnerships and working relationships for fire response, education and advice.

### **COMMENT**

Individual landholders are responsible for ensuring the risk of fire is minimized on each property. By undertaking this property-specific approach to fire prevention, should one segment fail, the whole community is not put at risk. By relying on each of the individual property owners to ensure fire preparedness, the City has needed to be flexible in the type of firebreak that it considers acceptable.

The City also needs to ensure that, within this flexibility, the minimum provisions of the Bush Fires Act are adhered to. The application of the Bush Fires Act in this context is not a simple task, because this legislation is principally design for rural and agricultural areas, not the fringes of the Metropolitan area. Individuals seeking to preserve vegetation on their land (which is also an aim of the City) are not required to have mineral earth firebreaks, provided other alternative measures are undertaken. For alternatives to be utilized, landholders must apply for firebreaks “of an alternative nature or in an alternative location” by the 1st of November each year. This allows evaluation of the alternatives in sufficient time for enhancement of the arrangements by the “Firebreak Notice” gazetted time, should the original proposal not be sufficient.

For instance, allowances may be made for residential properties based on the following:

- ❖ Property is less than 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> ;
- ❖ Substantially cleared of native vegetation;
- ❖ Grass is maintained on the property at 5 cm or less in lieu of a firebreak.

Other circumstances and/or methods of control that may be considered as an alternative to perimeter earthen firebreaks on larger lots (> 3,000m<sup>2</sup>) include:

- ❖ Controlled burns;
- ❖ Appropriate chemical control of vegetation using herbicides;
- ❖ Grazing;
- ❖ Physical removal of fire hazard (fuel loads) and regular maintenance;
- ❖ Use of natural features (rock outcrops, low heath areas);
- ❖ Discreet zoning of vegetation type and cover; and
- ❖ The installation of irrigation systems.

For all properties in the City, other alternatives may also be considered, depending upon local factors and circumstances.

## Ranger & Emergency Services

### **Compliance**

Rangers assess individual properties for compliance with the legislation and provide advice of appropriate actions required. Assessing properties is a resource intensive activity, which highlights the importance of liaison, training and educational components of fire preparedness in the regional approach.

Several months prior to the beginning of the fire season Ranger Services evaluate areas throughout the City for the purpose of identifying and formulating a firebreak inspection strategy for that particular year. Rangers also issue Notices, in accordance with the provisions of the Bush Fires Act, to landowners where it is identified that a potential fire hazard is developing and requires additional work prior to the firebreak period.

Firebreak inspections are initially carried out by a helicopter aerial survey of the district which is then followed up by on ground inspections. Furthermore Rangers respond to information received from the community in regard to properties that are considered to be a particular fire hazard.

Throughout the fire break inspection period (1 December to 14 March, the year following) two (2) Rangers are dedicated to inspections, however other Rangers are cognizant of fire safety issues as they drive through the City in response to requests for service or as they are performing other duties. Within this context compliance action is taken as appropriate.

Statutory advice of the requirements in regard to firebreaks is included with the annual rates notices sent to all landowners. In addition to this, notices are placed in "The West Australian" and local newspapers advising residents and landowners of the requirements of the "Firebreak Notice".

In the City of Armadale, some interesting statistics have arisen as a result of compliance activities as indicated below:

- ❖ The are approximately 21,000 rated properties in the City of Armadale;
- ❖ Inspections are undertaken between December 1st and March 14th each year to
- ❖ determine compliance with fire regulations;
- ❖ In total, approximately 2,700 properties (almost 1 in 9) have been inspected from December 1st 2005 up until February 1st 2006
- ❖ A further 125 properties have been re-inspected to check if recommended actions to comply with officer advice has been undertaken;
- ❖ 47 (1.7%) infringements have been issued for non compliance

These figures indicate a high level of fire regulation compliance in the City of Armadale.

### **Strategic Fire Awareness Initiatives**

Activities to increase awareness of fire safety practices in the community are multi-faceted. For example, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) develop a wide range of prevention and awareness programs and services in partnership with Local Government and the community on natural and man-made hazards.

### Ranger & Emergency Services

These programs can take many forms: curriculum-based programs for schools, media campaigns promoting safety messages on cyclones, storms and fires, special visits by our volunteers and staff to schools and community groups and accredited training in procedures to deal with a range of emergencies.

These and other programmes are identified in a number of publications such as:

- ❖ City of Armadale Firebreak Notice (updated annually);
- ❖ FESA Bush Fire – Are You Prepared? Information Pamphlet.
- ❖ FESA Bush Fire Survival Manual
- ❖ Bushfire Ready Summer Safe
- ❖ The Homeowner's Bush Fire Survival Manual
- ❖ Farm Fire Safety
- ❖ Managing Smoke from Planned Burning
- ❖ Sprinkler Systems for Bush Fire Protection
- ❖ Is your property FIRE SAFE?
- ❖ Making the Decision: Should I Stay or Should I Go
- ❖ Prepare : Stay and Defend
- ❖ Prepare: Go early

The abovementioned publications may be obtained from the following:

- ❖ City of Armadale Administration Centre.
- ❖ Local Libraries.
- ❖ City of Armadale Website (Link to FESA)

In addition to the available publications, FESA, in conjunction with local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (VBFB), has a programme called Bushfire Ready Action Group (BRAG). Based loosely on the Community Fire Guard concept, it is an information and support service through which each member of the community can become involved in understanding the fire risk of their neighbourhood and the range of options available to deal with this risk. The groups may consist of just a few families living in the same street or area who face a common bushfire threat.

In these groups people learn how fires behave and how they destroy lives and homes. With this understanding, they are able to develop survival strategies for themselves and their local community. These strategies are successful because they have community ownership and support.

Local Volunteer Firefighters are trained as facilitators to work with interested community groups to raise awareness of bushfire hazards and to reduce fire risks around the homes, streets and immediate surrounding bush land in their area. Groups are encouraged to maintain firebreaks and nature strips, and develop strategies such as phone networks; for dealing with bush fires should they occur.

Strategies for BRAG groups include:

### Ranger & Emergency Services

- ❖ Making plans to care for the elderly, disabled or other less able-bodied people in the event of a bush fire.
- ❖ Nominating a safer house in the street for others to shelter in.
- ❖ Developing phone trees to improve the chances of receiving adequate warning in time.
- ❖ Organising street working bees to reduce the amount of fuel on adjacent firebreaks and nature strips.
- ❖ Organising street walks so that neighbours become more familiar with each others fire fighting equipment and how to use it.

Once residents have been informed and strategies have been finalised many groups may become less active however, the community networks developed during the information and planning stages remain and these can prove vital during a bushfire.

Ranger Services have also undertaken to consult and work with the community to encourage participation in preventing and being better prepared for fire emergencies, and to assist in the provision and maintenance of plans and programs in preparation for fire emergencies.

The approach currently being taken is to encourage every resident to accept responsibility for his or her own fire safety. This is achieved generally by way of local newspaper articles, information brochures and the distribution of a "Firebreak Notice".

This notice carries additional information for residents to understand how bush fires may affect them. It should be noted that bush fire preparedness has at this point been applied at the lowest level, that is, the individual property. It could also be argued that this is the appropriate level for the application of such principles.

This approach is called Community-Centered Emergency Management and its primary objective is to minimise the impact of bush fire emergencies on the community. It has four principal components – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

An informal comparison of the firebreak inspection process adopted by other Local Government Authorities (LGA's) with similar demographics to the City of Armadale has been completed. It was identified that a similar process of fire prevention activities is undertaken throughout the metropolitan area and that the City of Armadale inspection process is comparable.

### **SUMMARY**

The primary focus of Ranger Services is managing the response to the community for requests for service. This has increased over the last 5 years commensurate with the population growth and the general requirement for Ranger Services to enforce a number of Acts of Parliament and other Local Laws relating to Local Government operations and jurisdiction.

It is estimated that approximately 70% of Rangers time is deployed in these activities. The remaining 30% is allocated to matters of a more administrative nature. These include Parking Patrols (primarily CBD), School Education, School Parking, Pound Duties, Courier

Ranger & Emergency Services

Deliveries to Councillors and Court Actions. The latter is an increasing area of resource allocation. As part of a general trend towards increased litigation in our society there are an increasing number of issues being referred to the courts for determination. This becomes resource hungry with the individual Ranger being required to be fully conversant with the issues and associated legalities of the case being contended.

Given that there is a high level of compliance with the provisions of the firebreak notice it is reasonable to assume that the current firebreak inspection process, and Ranger Services participation in other strategic prevention/awareness programmes, is evidence that the City of Armadale is committed to serving the interest of the community in regard to fire hazard control within the district.

**RECOMMEND**

**That Council receive the report related to the Annual Firebreak Inspection Programme and Strategic Fire Prevention & Educational Initiatives and support the continuation of current practices employed by Ranger Services in relation to firebreak inspections and strategic fire prevention/awareness programmes.**

**Moved**

**MOTION CARRIED/LOST ( )**

Recreation

**ARMADALE SOCCER CLUB DEBT**

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WARD All  
FILE REF: FIN/1; A15786  
DATE 20 February 2006  
REF PGQ  
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director  
MANAGER Community  
Services

**In Brief:**

This report presents a proposal for the Armadale Soccer Club to clear its debt to Council and recommends that Council accept the proposal.

**Tabled Items**

Nil

**Officer Interest Declaration**

Nil

**Strategic Implications**

Relates to Council's aim to maintain and upgrade physical infrastructure for the economic and physical well being of the local community.

**Legislation Implications**

Nil

**Council Policy/Local Law Implications**

Nil

**Budget/Financial Implications**

The report has no direct budget or financial implications other than putting forward a debt repayment proposal that would allow the Armadale Soccer Club to clear its debt to Council.

**Consultation**

Armadale Soccer Club

**BACKGROUND**

Following consideration of a report presented to the November 2005 Community Services Committee Meeting, Council Resolved (C109/11/05) in part as follows:

- b. Formally require the Armadale Soccer Club to address its debt to Council, require the Club to provide audited financial statements for 2004/05 and a Business Plan for 2005/06 which includes budget forecasts and a debt repayment plan and advise that in the absence of satisfactory progress, Council will withdraw access to the grounds for the 2006 season.*

Recreation

- c. *Representatives urgently meet with Armadale Soccer Club to discuss the Club's debt and report back to the Community Services Committee.*

A brief update on the status of this matter is provided as follows:

- The Armadale Soccer Club has been advised both verbally and in writing of the above Resolution, and Council's position has been made very clear to Club representatives.
- Meetings and various discussions have been held with Club representatives and assistance provided by Council officers to help resolve the current situation.
- The Club has produced documentation to support a partial write off of its debt (\$6,000) as per Council's earlier Resolution (C42/4/05), and a further payment of \$500 was received on 12 December 2005 towards the debt. The current debt that is owed to the City by the Club is **\$11,530**.
- The Club has prepared a draft Business Plan that outlines key objectives and strategies for the 2006 year, including budget forecasts.
- Un-audited financial statements for 2005 have been provided and the Club is in the process of having its books audited.
- The Club has presented two options for clearance of its debt to Council.

This report presents the two options put forward by the Club for clearance of its debt, plus two alternative options that would allow a more satisfactory resolution to this matter from Council's perspective.

**DETAILS OF PROPOSAL**

The two options put forward by the Club are presented as options 1 & 2, and the two alternative options are presented as options 3 & 4.

Option 1

The Club to make one payment of \$7,500 within seven days and Council write off the balance of the debt i.e. \$4,030

Option 2

The Club to pay off its debt in monthly installments of \$333 over a three year period i.e. \$4,000 in years 1 & 2, and the balance in year 3.

Recreation

Option 3

The Club to make an up front payment of \$4,000 to be paid by 31 March 2006, with the balance of the debt to be paid in monthly installments of approximately \$360, and fully paid off by 31 December 2007.

Option 4

The Club to make an up front payment of \$6,000 to be paid by 31 March 2006, with the balance of the debt to be paid in monthly installments of approximately \$370, and fully paid off by 30 June 2007.

**COMMENT**

Analysis

In the meetings and discussions held with the Club since this matter was last reported to Council, it has been made very clear to the Club that its lack of action in addressing its debt is unacceptable to Council. It is pleasing to report however, that the new President and Committee appear to be genuinely committed to resolving the matter to allow the Club to move forward.

The Club has prepared a draft Business Plan which contains income and expenditure forecasts for 2006. The City's Recreation Officer is currently providing assistance to the Club to improve and refine the draft Business Plan, which will provide a sound framework for the Club to operate within during 2006. It is still a concern however, that the Club has not yet had its book of accounts audited for 2005, which is a legal requirement under the *Associations Incorporation Act*.

In terms of the two options (Options 1 & 2) put forward by the Club to clear its debt, the Club has been verbally advised that neither of these options are likely to be acceptable to Council.

Option 1 proposes a single payment of \$7,500 with Council to write off the balance of the debt (4,030). Given that Council has already agreed to write off approx. \$7,000 of the Club's total debt of \$19,000, there would appear to be no justification for any further write off. This option is not recommended.

Option 2 proposes that the debt be repaid in monthly instalments over a three year period. From Council's perspective, it could well be argued that if the Club can afford a single up front payment of \$7,500 as per option 1, then as a demonstration of its commitment to resolve this matter, the Club should be prepared to make a reasonable up front payment with the balance to be repaid in instalments.

Option 3 proposes an up front payment of \$4,000 with the balance of the debt to be cleared by 31 December 2007 via monthly instalments of approximately \$360. The Club is known to have sufficient cash reserves to make an up front payment of \$4,000 without causing problems in terms of meeting start up costs for the new soccer season. Monthly instalments

Recreation

of \$360 to clear the balance of the debt also appear to be realistic and within the Club's means.

Option 4 requires a larger up front payment of \$6,000 with the balance of the debt to be cleared by 30 June 2007. Although the Club has sufficient cash reserves to make an up front payment of \$6,000, it would leave it with virtually no start up funds to meet costs leading into the new soccer season.

Of the options presented in this report, option 3 would be a reasonable and realistic outcome for both Council and the Club. This option has been discussed with the Club President who has indicated that the Club would support and adhere to this arrangement. It is therefore recommended that Council support this option.

Options

As outlined above.

Conclusion

Although disappointing that it has taken so long for the Armadale Soccer Club to respond to previous requests to address its debt, there has been sound progress in recent times and Council now has the opportunity to agree on a debt repayment plan that is both reasonable and achievable. It is recommended that Council support the proposal as outlined under option 3 of this report.

**RECOMMEND**

**That Council advise the Armadale Soccer Club that:**

- a. It does not support either of the two options put forward by the Club to clear its debt to the City.**
- b. In order for the Club to retain access to the facilities at Alfred Skeet Reserve, the Club needs to confirm in writing by 31 March 2006 its acceptance of the following repayment plan to clear its debt to Council:**

<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>Initial payment by 31 March 2006</b>
<b>\$360</b>	<b>20 monthly instalments commencing 30 April 2006 and concluding on 30 November 2007.</b>
<b><u>\$330</u></b>	<b>Final payment by 31 December 2007</b>
<b>\$11,530</b>	<b>Total</b>

Recreation

- c. **If for any reason the Club is unable to make its payment(s) by the required date, then contact must be made with Council officers to make alternative arrangements.**
- d. **The Club risks losing access to the facilities at Alfred Skeet Reserve if it does not make a concerted effort to clear its debt to Council in accordance with the debt repayment plan as outlined in part b) above.**

**Moved**

**MOTION CARRIED/LOST ( )**

Recreation

**NAMING OF FORMER KELMSCOTT POOL SITE & FORESHORE AREA**

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WARD River  
FILE REF: A178691  
DATE 21 February 2006  
REF PGQ  
RESPONSIBLE Executive Director  
MANAGER Community  
Services

**In Brief:**

This report presents a proposal to rename the former Kelmscott Pool site and foreshore area at Rushton Park and recommends that Council choose an appropriate name for this part of the park.

**Tabled Items**

Nil

**Officer Interest Declaration**

Nil

**Strategic Implications**

Relates to Council's aim to maintain and upgrade physical infrastructure for the economic and physical well being of the local community.

**Legislation Implications**

Nil

**Council Policy/Local Law Implications**

Nil

**Budget/Financial Implications**

Nil

**Consultation**

Elected Members  
Community Services staff

**BACKGROUND**

The redevelopment of the former Kelmscott Pool site is progressing with the majority of works scheduled for completion by April 2006. The issue of naming the redeveloped area of Rushton Park was raised under Councillors' Items at the March 2005 Community Services Committee Meeting and was briefly canvassed in a report to the July 2005 Committee Meeting. Up until this point, the project has generally been referred to as the redevelopment of the former Kelmscott Pool site.

A Memorandum was subsequently circulated to all Councillors inviting their comments and suggestions on possible new names for the site, and two responses have been received to

### Recreation

date. With the completion of the project drawing closer, there is a need to progress this matter.

### **DETAILS OF PROPOSAL**

Two suggestions put forward by an Elected Member involve the name of one of the first European founders of the Kelmscott area, Ensign Robert Dale, and the proposed names for the area could include:

- *Ensign Entertainment Park/Music Zone*
- *Dale Family Area/Arena*

Another suggestion put forward by an Elected Member, is to simply call the area:

- *The Venue.*

Given the strong affinity that the Noongar people have had with the River over many years, and in particular, the Rushton Park foreshore area, Council may wish to consider a name that reflects this involvement. The Noongar word for Kelmscott is *Goolamrup*, and the Canning River is known as *Dyarlgaroo*. (Councillors will be aware of the recent naming of the culvert on Champion Drive at the Tonkin Highway using the Noongar word “Goolamrup”). Some possible names using these words might include:

- *Goolamrup Park*
- *Goolamrup Family Place or Park*
- *Goolamrup Peoples’ Park*
- *Dyarlgaroo River Park*
- *Dyarlgaroo Playground*
- *Dyarlgaroo Place*
- *Cooliabra Park*

In addition to the above names, Councillors will recall that in 2003 whilst considering a new name for the Armadale Recreation Centre that the Aboriginal words Koolak and Walbrining were suggested. Council may wish to consider a name that includes either of these words.

- *Koolark Park*

The name means “home and warmth” in Noongar.

### Recreation

- *Walbrining Park*

The name means place of “healing and togetherness” in Noongar.

In view of the area being within an existing park, other possibilities that contain reference to its location and/or function might include:

- *Kelmscott Park*
- *Orlando Street Park*
- *Park Foreshore*
- *Rushton Park Amphitheatre*
- *Rushton Park Adventure Playground*
- *Rushton Park Family Picnic Area*
- *Rushton on Canning*
- *The Rushton Revel*
- *The Rushton Air*
- *Rushton Flats*
- *Riverside at Rushton*
- *Riverview at Rushton*
- *The Riverbank at Rushton*
- *Arena at Rushton*

### **COMMENT**

#### Analysis

The naming of any public facility is often a difficult task and the subject of much debate. In broad terms, the options are for the facility or park:

- To be named after a prominent local identity or family
- To have a name that reflects its location and/or function
- To have a name that reflects historical, cultural or environmental significance

*(Note: If it is decided to select a name related to a prominent local identity or family it is recommended that contact be made with that family to ascertain if they would be supportive of such a suggestion before recommending to Council.)*

Recreation

Another issue for consideration is whether Council would prefer a single name for the former pool site plus the foreshore area, or separate names for each area given their different functions.

Options

The three basic options are:

1. Not to have a separate name for the former Kelmscott Pool site and foreshore area.
2. Choose a name from one of those identified in the report.
3. Choose an alternative name.

Conclusion

The idea of naming the redeveloped area of Rushton Park has merit and it is recommended that Council determine an appropriate name for this part of the park.

**RECOMMEND**

**That Council name the former Kelmscott Pool site and foreshore area at Rushton Park as:**

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**Moved**

**MOTION CARRIED/LOST ( )**

***EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT***

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***COUNCILLORS' ITEMS***

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