

Title	FRANKLIN FORESHORE REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Agenda Number	19.006/20*
Strategic Plan Reference	1,2,3 and 4
File Reference	22/248
Author	Director Community Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Recreation Services
Reporting Brief	The Director Community Services presenting a report on the Franklin Foreshore Rehabilitation and Development Project.
Attachments	A. Franklin Foreshore Rehabilitation and Development Project Plan

Background

The Huon Valley Council State Election Strategy identifies key areas in which the Council can work together with the State Government to achieve key priorities for the prosperity and amenity of the Huon Valley Region.

In 2018, Huon Valley Council were successful in securing a \$750,000 State election commitment for the rehabilitation and development of Franklin Foreshore.

The project outcome as detailed in the Election Strategy was to:

- Create pedestrian linkages between the existing walking trails (to the south and north) and the marina area
- Create a new public jetty area, following the demolition of the former wharf in front of the Evaporators site
- Create a marina area providing areas for commercial vessels and tourist cruises to dock.

The total project was estimated to cost \$3million.

The Council entered into a grant deed with the Department of Communities Tasmania on 22 August 2019 for the approved purpose of

To assist the Recipient (Huon Valley Council) to undertake the Franklin Foreshore Rehabilitation and Development Project on the bank of the Huon River that aims to assist remediation and reduce erosion by:

- *Constructing a new walkway to link with pre-existing walking paths; and*
- *Establishing a platform for possible future linkage to the proposed Huonville to Franklin shared walkway.*

The purpose of this report is to seek a Council resolution to request a variation from the funding body to the grant deed's approved purpose.

Council Policy

The Council does not have a formal policy or process on the variation of funding agreements.

Legislative Requirements

There are no legislative requirements in relation to this matter.

Risk Implications

The Council were successful in obtaining this funding in 2018 following the State Election. There has been a considerable amount of time and funds spent on determining the feasibility of developing the foreshore in accordance with the grant deed approved purpose.

If a variation to the approved purpose is not obtained, the current funds held are not sufficient to deliver the outcomes expected of the project, and therefore raising risk of being required to return the funds to the funding body.

Through a request to vary the grant deed approval process, the Council will be able to deliver a project that has been developed in consultation with the key stakeholders of the area and therefore reduce the risk of having to return to the funds to the funding body.

Engagement

Engagement was undertaken with the key stakeholders of the project at Consult Level in accordance with the Council's *Community Engagement Framework*.

Engagement with the broader community at Consult level will not be recommended as in accordance with Engagement Framework engagement needs to be genuine. As an extensive engagement process has been undertaken with the key stakeholders, and the area in question consists of multiple independent crown land licences, there are limited benefits or opportunity to amend the concept plan based on feedback received.

Therefore, it will be recommended that Engagement associated with this decision will be undertaken at Inform Level by inclusion within the Council meeting Minutes that will be available to the public, on the Council's Have Your Say website and at the Customer Service Centre.

Human Resource and Financial Implications

The Huon Valley Council were successful in obtaining \$750,000 for the project. The proposed works associated with the Plan included in the Attachments to the reports have been costed to be in accordance with the funding available.

The delivery of the project will be in accordance with the current human resource allocations.

Discussion

The Funding Deed entered into by the Council in 2019 is broken up into a number of milestones as follows

- Site investigations
- Consultation with key stakeholders
- Conceptual Plans

- Detailed Plans
- Approvals
- Construction

Site Investigations

In accordance with Milestone one, the Huon Valley Council engaged Pitt and Sherry Engineers to undertake geotechnical site assessment of the Foreshore area to assess an acceptable engineering solution to minimise erosion and stabilise the area.

The report noted the east southeast facing foreshore comprises of man-made ground, a sandy beach which is often submerged at the toe of the filled batter and the remnant deteriorated timber retaining wall. Localised erosion is evident along the existing foreshore.

The foreshore is also exposed to riverine flooding entering the estuary, tidal effects, tidal currents, winds and locally generated wind waves.

The report provided a recommendation on the structural form of the stabilisation, the concept design and estimated cost. The funding available is well short of the cost estimated at \$1.5-2 million to stabilise the area and remove the remnant retaining walls.

A site inspection was carried out by Council Officers to develop an alternative concept plan.

It was identified at this point in the project, a variation to the project outcomes may be required due to the budget implications.

Community Engagement

Milestone 2 involved consultation with key stakeholders, this included the funding body. A face to face meeting was arranged to discuss the project, findings of the geotechnical site assessment and to discuss an alternative concept plan.

It was agreed one on one site meetings would be arranged with each of the key stakeholders to discuss their individual priorities for their lease areas.

Site meetings were held in late February to discuss the priority of each of the key stakeholders. These priorities were captured and included on the Draft Plan as included in the Attachments to the Reports. It is noted the plan captures the majority of the stakeholder priorities, however not all requests could be captured due to differences in priorities, needs and costs.

The funding body has provided advice on the purpose of the election commitments, and the Government's preference for election commitments to be visible.

Options

There are three options available when considering how Council can progress this project further:

1. Request for a variation of the grant deed project outcomes
2. Seek additional funding to stabilise the foreshore area in accordance with the original grant deed
3. Return the grant funds to the State Government.

Following a Workshop with Councillors where the options available were Workshopped, it has been determined option 2 and 3 are not viable options and would not be recommended for resolution by Council.

It will be recommended to Council to seek a variation of the grant deed project outcomes to deliver the following outcomes:

- Creation of pedestrian linkages between the existing walking trails to the north and south of the marina area
- Beautification of the Marina area

These outcomes would be reached through the following deliverables which are included in the Site Plan as included in the Attachments to the Reports:

- Construction of a formal pathway linking the north and southern existing walking trails
- Installation of seating, shade and landscaping of the marina area
- Removal of discarded concrete from the riverbed and timber structures in the Council lease area
- Construction of anchor points for pontoon access
- Shore up the riverbank to allow public use in the future
- Refurbishment of the sand landing ramp to increase river access
- Installation of entry and interpretation signage
- Installation of a timber footbridge to the northern walking track.
- Construction of a public accessible toilet

Estimates have determined the above can be constructed in accordance with the funding available. Locations identified in the Attachments are proposed and subject to site investigations.

It is noted that construction of the following outcomes would be a consideration for future funding:

- Creation a new public jetty area, following the demolition of the former wharf in front of the Evaporators site
- Creation of a marina area providing areas for commercial vessels and tourist cruises to dock.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Following an extensive engagement process with key stakeholders and the development of a plan for the area that meets the majority of the stakeholder requests, it will be recommended to Council that the Franklin Foreshore Redevelopment Plan as included in the Attachments to the Reports be adopted, and a formal request to vary the Funding Agreement be made to the Department of Communities.

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RECOMMENDATION

That:

- a) The report on Franklin Foreshore Rehabilitation and Development Project be received and noted.
- b) A formal Deed of variation be requested from the Department of Communities Tasmania for the Franklin Foreshore Rehabilitation and Development Project to amend the approved purpose for which the grant is provided from:
 - Constructing a new walkway to link with pre-existing walking paths; and
 - Establishing a platform for possible future linkage to the proposed Huonville to Franklin shared walkway.

And replace with

- Creation of pedestrian linkages between the existing walking trails to the north and south of the marina area
- Beautification of the Marina area

AMENDED RECOMMENDATION

19.006/20*

RESOLVED

CR DOYLE

CR WILSON

That:

- a) The report on Franklin Foreshore Rehabilitation and Development Project be received and noted.
- b) A formal Deed of variation be requested from the Department of Communities Tasmania for the Franklin Foreshore Rehabilitation and Development Project to amend the approved purpose for which the grant is provided from:
 - Constructing a new walkway to link with pre-existing walking paths; and
 - Establishing a platform for possible future linkage to the proposed Huonville to Franklin shared walkway.

And replace with:

- Creation of pedestrian linkages between the existing walking trails to the north and south of the marina area
 - Construction of two pontoons
 - Beautification of the Marina area
- c) The Franklin Foreshore Rehabilitation and Development Project Plan as included in the Attachments to the Reports be amended to include a pontoon

at the southern end of the Living Boat Trust Lease Area and a Pontoon at the northern end of the Wooden Boat Centre lease area.

- d) **Community Engagement be undertaken on the proposed Plan at the Consult level.**

Councillors Enders, Doyle, Newell, Campbell, Wilson, Gibson, Bird and O'May voted for the motion and no Councillors voted against the motion.