



City of **HOBART**

Memorandum: **Acting Lord Mayor**
 Elected Members

Response to Question Without Notice

HALLS SADDLE PROJECT

Meeting: Finance and Governance Committee **Meeting date:** 16 June 2020

Raised by: Councillor Coats

Question:

Could the General Manager please advise why the Halls Saddle project is appearing on the Capital Works program considering the project is yet to be endorsed by the Council and is listed for consideration at its meeting of 22 June 2020?

Response:

The Council, at its meeting held on 25 May 2020, approved the City's revised 2020/21 Capital Works, listing those projects that are to be funded by the City.

Whilst the Halls Saddle proposal was not listed as part of this Council decision, accompanied to the report was a table listing those projects that the City had submitted to various funding bodies or potential state and federal government stimulus initiatives (Refer Attachment F to item 10 of the Council agenda of 25 May 2020).

The Council did resolve at its 25 May 2020 meeting to note the additional projects which could be progressed subject to securing external grants (Part 7 of item 10 on the 25 May 2020 Council agenda) which included Halls Saddle.

Many of the funding initiatives do not have detailed criteria for funding fully developed. The listing also included some potential funding opportunities raised by either Federal Ministers or federal and state parliamentary representatives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted numerous potential funding opportunities to emerge, as the State and Federal governments seek to identify mechanisms to stimulate economies and generate employment, especially in those sectors significantly impacted by the pandemic.

The Council originally considered the Halls Saddle proposal on 23 September 2019 when it was resolved that a comprehensive assessment of the City-owned land at Ridgeway be undertaken.

At that time, the Council resolved as follows:

- That:*
1. *The Springs Visitor Centre Concept as developed to date, not be progressed.*
 2. *Comprehensive assessment and feasibility assessment be undertaken into the Halls Saddle site to establish its potential role as the primary road-based gateway entrance facility for servicing visitor access to the mountain.*
 3. *This work to involve:*
 - (i) *Concept development – including confirming required site functions and feasibility assessment.*
 - (ii) *Site master planning to ensure any required functions can fit within the site.*
 - (iii) *A transport / access analysis – including the site’s potential role in providing for a regular mountain bus service.*
 - (iv) *Determination of infrastructure and services requirements at the site.*
 - (v) *Compliance with planning scheme, including bushfire risk requirements.*
 - (vi) *Preparation of a high level assessment of the financial investment required to develop the Halls Saddle site as proposed.*
 - (vii) *The identification of potential grant funding and other external funding opportunities that could provide the investment required to develop the Halls Saddle site.*
 4. *The costs associated with the work to investigate the Halls Saddle concept, estimated to be in the order of \$100,000 be allocated from the 2019-2020 Bushland Capital Works budget.*
 5. *A report be provided on the findings of the above for the Council’s consideration by February 2020.*

It is noted that item 3(vii) above specifically authorises the potential for external grant funding to be identified.

Given the Council's decision of September 2019 and the various stimulus funding opportunities on offer, it was considered appropriate that Halls Saddle be included.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Glenn Doyle
DIRECTOR CITY AMENITY

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