



City of **HOBART**

Memorandum: Lord Mayor
Deputy Lord Mayor
Elected Members

Response to Question Without Notice

GRANT FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Meeting: Finance and Governance Committee Meeting date: 18 August 2020

Raised by: Alderman Briscoe

Question:

Due to some feedback (and some confusion that may have the potential to derail funding projects) in the community and from some politicians to me who are unsure what the priorities of the city in seeking major grant funds for infrastructure projects particularly in the COVID era where the State and Federal Government are providing funds for stimulation of the economy;

1. (a) What are the current Hobart City Council projects seeking grant funds and their order of priority?
(b) If there is, who decided the priorities?
2. Is there a coordinated effort by the elected leadership and the executive team to push the same projects (for example, the aquatic centre upgrade)?

Response:

Requests for assistance and formal applications have been lodged with a number of potential funding sources in attempts to secure external funding for the City to help progress the numerous projects originally planned for implementation in the 2020/21 financial year, but deferred due to the financial impacts of COVID-19.

A list of the projects identified as requiring external funding was tabled at the Council meeting held 25 May 2020. The schedule (refer to copy marked as **Attachment A** to this response) listed the numerous projects, along with the potential funding sources. Some projects have been the subject of multiple applications and some may receive a mix of funding from various sources.

Care has been taken to try and avoid prioritisation of the numerous projects. There has been a focus on aligning projects with relevant funding sources. That said, a key long standing corporate priority is the refurbishment of the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre.

Planning associated with the refurbishment of the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre has been underway for many years and external funding assistance is required given the expected costs of the project. The estimated cost for the full redevelopment sits at \$26M.

To date, the Council has spent \$4.1M and has allocated a further \$2.5M this financial year and next, principally for the leisure pool, the 25 metre pool and minor works for the change rooms.

The State Government previously offered a \$3M grant plus a \$3.5M interest free loan to assist in the warm water pool component of the redevelopment. The State Government has recently reconfirmed its commitment to the grant of \$3M. It is unlikely that the offer of the loan will be taken up due to the Council's ability to service it.

A planning permit has been secured for the substantive redevelopment that is programmed to be staged given the funding demands of the entire project and the City continues to seek opportunities for state and federal funding through economic stimulus for the remaining \$16M required to complete the full refurbishment.

The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre Project is ideally placed as many of the potential funding sources require projects to be 'shovel ready' in order that they help provide stimulus to the economy following the impacts of the pandemic.

As indicated at the 25 May Council meeting, there are numerous other projects identified as suitable for the allocation of stimulus funding and every effort is being made to secure grants accordingly.

Discussion with the Australian Government by the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) has been ongoing for a number of months. The City is hopeful that assistance to undertake works on a number of road related projects might be announced soon, whilst consideration for the provision of funding for other projects (the DKHAC upgrade chief amongst them) is underway.

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.



Geoff Lang
(ACTING) DIRECTOR CITY AMENITY



Tim Short
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 10 September 2020
File Reference: F20/92758; 13-1-10

Attachment A: Council Meeting - 25 May 2020 - Capital Works Program Grant Requests

