

13. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORTS

13.1 Rotary Fire Tower Restoration Project - Reserve 30555 Coombes Street, Collie

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| Reporting Department: | Development Services |
| Reporting Officer: | Matt Young – Acting Chief Executive Officer |
| Accountable Manager: | Matt Young – Acting Chief Executive Officer |
| Legislation: | <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i> |
| File Number: | N/A |
| Appendices: | Nil |
| Voting Requirement: | Simple Majority |

Report Purpose

For Council to provide in principle support for a project to relocate a fire tower to a site in the Shire of Collie, for the purpose of heritage and tourism

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council authorise officers to enter into a facility user agreement with Collie Rotary over portion of Reserve 30555 Coombes Street, Collie for a period not exceeding 4 years, unless otherwise extended by Council.

Council Decision:

Resolution: 9472

Moved: Cr Italiano

Seconded: Cr Faries

That Council defer this request until further clarification can be sought around the expectations of both the Collie Rotary and the Shire regarding the fire tower project.

Carried:8/0

For: Cr Miffing, Cr Italiano, Cr Hill-Power, Cr Moyses, Cr Faries, Cr Kearney, Cr Hansen, Cr Scoffern.

Against: Nil

Background:

At the Council Forum session held 3 August 2021 the Rotary Club of Collie made a presentation to the Shire's Elected Members introducing a project to relocate the Munro fire tower (Appendix 9) to the Shire of Collie, for the purpose of heritage and tourism.

The Munro fire tower was built in 1962, located 3km southeast of Grimwade. The tower is not currently in use, however, is still standing and in good condition. The hut associated with the tower has been destroyed by the elements. There is currently a similar hut from the Collie tower, which was previously located on Mungalup Hill, stored at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Depot in Collie.

On 1 July the Shire was approached by Rotary Club of Collie to discuss an opportunity to relocate a disused fire tower into Collie. After a series of meetings a report was considered by Council on 14 September 2021 (MOTION 8809 Rotary Fire Tower Relocation Project-Preliminary Site Analysis)

That Council resolve to:

1. Provide in-principle support for the Rotary Fire Tower Relocation Project, for the Munro Fire Tower to be relocated to Collie;
2. Authorise Officers to continue working with the Collie Rotary Club to identify and analyse site selections for the fire tower; and
3. require the final preferred location(s) for the fire tower to be referred to Council for determination.

After some delays Collie Rotary has established a Collie Fire Tower Planning Committee to progress their project. Rotary has recently secured approval from Wellington DBCA for the removal of the Mungalup hut and timbers from its Collie depot.

The Shire's previous CEO agreed to Collie Rotary using portion of the old depot site to relocate and restore the Mungalup hut and fire tower adjacent to the storage shed on the western side of the Roche Park carpark (portion of Reserve 30555) in the form of a MOU or Facility User Agreement.

Collie Rotary has advised that it would need to carry out the preliminary work of fence repair and extension, with the possibility of some minor ground levelling.

The old Shire depot land is presently being used by the operations team to store or transfer materials and machinery.

Statutory and Policy Implications:

Nil

Budget Implications:

Nil

Communications Requirements:

Nil

Strategic Community Plan/Corporate Business Plan Implications:

| STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN – ADOPTED DECEMBER 2022 | | |
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| GOAL: | 1 | Our Community |
| Objective: | 1.1 | Community health, safety and wellbeing |
| Objective | 1.2 | Community connection, engagement and participation |
| GOAL: | 2 | Our Economy |
| Objective: | 2.1 | Economic Development |
| Objective | 2.2 | Tourism promotion and attractions |

Comment:

Whilst the final location of the fire tower is yet to be resolved the Collie Rotary community group need a location in Collie to restore the hut and fire tower. The old depot land is sufficiently large to allow this restoration project to be completed and secured. Additional presence at the site will also provide passive surveillance to the area as well as a site that is open to the public to view the restoration taking place over time.

It is recommended that the Council authorise officers to prepare and endorse a facility user agreement with Collie Rotary for 4 years. This will allow some flexibility for the Shire in considering future expansion of Roche Park, but sufficient time for Collie Rotary to complete the restoration.