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Shire of Plantagenet

P.O. Box 48
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Attention: Donna Fawcett

Monday, 21 January 2019

Dear Donna,

Thank you for the Lease Agreement – Reserve 16271.

Mount Barker Speedway Club Inc. has been active in the Shire of Plantagenet for fifty years with the exception of a short recess. Our club takes pride on surviving entirely with volunteer labour and fundraising. With just under 100 members we provide a class 1 facility as rated by the WA Speedway Commission that brings visitors and competitors from outside our region every meeting.

Mount Barker Speedway Club Inc. would like to request that as per Clause 4.3 (page 4), that the rates be waived for the term of the lease. Rates have not been required/paid in the long history of this speedway site and we request this precedent to continue.

Mount Barker Speedway Club Inc. also requests that a Tip Pass be allocated annually as at the moment the Tip Passes being used have been donated by a member of the public which may not be always available. We keep our lease property clean and tidy with one 6x4 trailer load of general waste for the eight meetings per annum. Council's consideration in this small request would be greatly appreciated by our volunteers.

Please present this request to the next ordinary council meeting on the 29th January 2019 and will look forward to a positive outcome for all stakeholders.

Also please accept our apology in the late signing of the Lease Agreement by the due date as the final draft will need to be endorsed at the next General Meeting on the 4th February 2019).

Yours sincerely

Dean Trotter, Club President.

COUNCIL PRESENTATION

WASTE MANAGEMENT CONCEPT

Mount Barker Hire believes the way forward in trying to find a waste management solution is to include the community to help identify long term sustainable methods of dealing with the waste that they create. It gives the community and ratepayers focus and inclusivity when it comes to the direction of waste management.

This can be achieved through the establishment of an incorporated not-for-profit body that is made up of community, businesses and council members or employees. The old saying "One's person trash is another person's treasure" can be applied to waste management. The formation of an incorporated body will assist with the reduction of landfill through various methods of recycling creating other sources of income, even if at cost to help the Waste Management facilities become cost-neutral. Through the minimisation of waste into landfill, the budget for Ground Maintenance for the Waste Management Facilities of \$425,000 could be reduced significantly as there would not be the need for the use of so much tip cover or the tip cover can be sourced from the recycled products, for example glass sand, compost or mulch. This will also eliminate the current ideology that is cheaper to bury and burn than recycle.

With the recent release of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030, an incorporated body will assist with greater recycling within the Great Southern. The main aim of this strategy is that by 2025, all councils within the Perth and Peel regions are to move to a 3-bin system – a Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) bin, a general recycling bin and a general waste bin. This could easily be incorporated here sooner rather than later. No longer should we have to wait for regulations be put in place in regional Western Australia. This is a prime opportunity for this Shire to be leaders in the regional district especially with the engagement of embracing a community solution. Bunbury is a prime example of recycling food and garden waste by composting all possible products.

When discussing the concept with Mr Andrew Fraser of Mount Barker Community College, I was astounded to learn that a school is classed as commercial and therefore could not have free recycling bins. What are we teaching our future generations when the school has no outlet to recycle its biggest item - paper? Lockyer Primary School even have Plastic Free Wednesday and appears to be much more advanced on educating children on recycling than our own. Not only that Mount Barker Hire can't even offer recycling bins as there is no facilities for commercial recycling, despite there being an applicable charge for commercial cardboard recycling. So where does this go? Furthermore, if there was this outlet, the Shire of Plantagenet could potentially get charged a \$30 per tonne sorting fee, if the co-mingled bin is

placed in the same compactor truck as the cardboard. It must also be noted that there is no possible way of getting true recycling figures when domestic recycling goes into landfill once the bins provided at the waste management facilities are full. Nor, is there any true records of quantities available for commercial recycling as this does not exist.

When looking at the possibilities of reducing landfill through recycling and taking control of the Shire of Plantagenet's waste, there is great potential for increasing employment prospects, becoming known as a progressive Shire that can be used as a model elsewhere but most importantly it will create an unmeasurable social value within the community. If this concept is adopted, then no longer can the general public say nothing ever changes or complain that there is very little recycling happening, especially if the long-term goal is to reduce or maintain the current charges for waste disposal.

According to Access Economics, 2009 and sited in the Waste Avoidance and Recovery Strategy 2030 for every 10,000 tonnes of waste that is recycled, the creation of 9.2 full time jobs can be achieved. Therefore, this would mean that there is a large scope to offer more employment opportunities within our community. Working on the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 document they claim that in 2014/15 - 1,358kgs per person per year of waste was put into landfill. Multiplying this by the population of the Shire of Plantagenet as sited in the 2018 Annual Report this equates to 7,018 tonnes of rubbish per year. This excludes recyclable materials that residents already sort into co-mingled bins or the bins placed at the waste management facilities. This figure is in line with the O'Neill Road Waste Management Facility Licence amendment L7026/1997/14, granted on 11 May 2018, which increased the annual tonnage rate from 5,000 to 10,000 tonnes.

It would be hoped that overtime, the incorporated body would be able to reduce the Shire's direct costs and overheads as it would move to a self-sustainable "organisation". The reduction in costs to the Shire can be achieved through employment of staff and all running costs of the waste management facilities eventually being taken over by the incorporated entity as well as the purchasing of recycled materials such as compost for parks and gardens, materials for roading, etc. As a not-for-profit organisation any "profits" could then be shared back to community groups and/or Shire projects.

Currently, there has been no changes to the way the Shire has dealt with waste and still adopt a it is cheaper to bury and burn attitude. But ask yourselves, as representatives of the people, is this really the case? The expense budget for the domestic refuse and waste management facilities combined is in excess of \$900,000 of which only approximately \$160,000 is attributed employee costs. These expenses along with the fact that it has been indicated a new cell will cost millions of dollars in the next 6 to 10 years emphasises the urgent need for change. Make

employee costs. These expenses along with the fact that it has been indicated a new cell will cost millions of dollars in the next 6 to 10 years emphasises the urgent need for change. Make no mistake, recycling is the way of the future not just transporting it from A to B and pretending you are doing your bit which is effectively what the current situation is. So, therefore, DO NOT inflict on the community what can be deemed as poor management because of the lack of willingness to change and using the continual excuse we do not have the quantities or population in order to avoid change. So, we implore you to take charge of the situation now before the costs become so out of control and the budget expense of waste exceeds \$1,000,000.

We believe that an incorporated body is required to assist in the development of recycling within our Shire and ensure that the objectives and end goals are met. Effectively this will reduce the current situation of one or two companies having a monopoly over the waste and effectively being able to charge onerous fees. Potentially there are grants available from Lotterywest, Waste Authority and Commonwealth Government, to name a few which could assist in the purchase of equipment.

Furthermore, it should be noted that this concept aligns with many of the desired outcomes of the Plantagenet 2026 Building Success Through Opportunity and Participation, the Shire of Plantagenet Corporate Business Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21, The Long Term Financial Plan 2013/14 – 2022/23 as well as the Waste Avoidance and Recovery Strategy 2030.

Initially using this concept only for waste management for the Shire of Plantagenet, it could later be offered to other Shires/council's further afield, generating more income, once the processes, machines, etc are all in order. This would give the incorporated body a chance to gauge what the possible volumes would be per capita and ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place. At this point, it may mean an upgrade of equipment and facilities under a regional grant.

If the Councillors were to adopt this concept, then the pathways forward would be:

1. Advertising to find representatives for the incorporated body.
2. Brainstorming session to determine priorities:
 - a. What is to be recycled?
 - b. Obtain what sort of quantities are out there?
 - c. How it is to be recycled?
 - d. How do provide power to the site?
 - i. Is waste energy a possibility? (Would this eliminate the need for landfill?)
 - e. When do we start this product being recycled?

3. Identify potential markets (why we are recycling this).
 - a. E.g. Compost could be sold to the school and Shire at cost.
4. Identify running and maintenance costs, employment opportunities, licencing costs, costs of machinery required, etc.
5. Identify available grants and other income (i.e. Shire rates for domestic refuse, tip fees, etc)
6. Complete a feasibility study
 - a. Do we continue?
7. Register the incorporated body and apply for grants.

Both Doug and I, would like to thank you, the councillors, for your time this afternoon to hear this concept but most importantly we would like to thank the community who have stood by us since taking over Mount Barker Hire and stuck by us after the excessively large increase in tipping fees. They are the ones that have given us the inspiration to try and find a financially beneficial solution for everyone.