

27 July 2016

His Worship the Mayor & Councillors

**Notice of Ordinary Meeting of Bathurst Regional Council - Wednesday, 3 August 2016**

I have to advise that an **Ordinary Meeting** of Bathurst Regional Council will be held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, 3 August 2016 commencing at approximately 6.15 pm (or immediately following the conclusion of the Policy Committee).



D J Sherley  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL FOLLOWING POLICY COMMITTEE**

**TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 3 AUGUST 2016**

**1. 6:00 PM - MEETING COMMENCES**

**2. APOLOGIES**

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

To assist the Councillors and committee members in their correct consideration of business before them at the meeting, please give consideration to Section 451 of the Local Government Act, in relation to Declaration of Interest at meetings.

**4. RECEIVE AND DEAL WITH DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

- \* DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE'S REPORT
- \* DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES' REPORT
- \* DIRECTOR CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES' REPORT

**5. MEETING CLOSE**

## **DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE'S REPORT**

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL FOLLOWING POLICY COMMITTEE

3 AUGUST 2016

## **1 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BATHURST CITY COMMUNITY CLUB (13.00080)**

**Recommendation:** That Council act in accordance with the recommendation of the report.

**Report:** Council met with representatives from the Bathurst City Community Club on Wednesday, 13 July 2016 to discuss the operations of the Club.

During discussions, the Community Club advised that, as part of the upgrade of works at the William Street site, they found historic brick foundations which require preservation. Council has inspected the site and, in discussions with Council's Planning Department, has agreed to make available a grant of \$6,000 from the Conservation and Interpretation Fund.

Council has also been advised, in a letter from the Bathurst City Community Club dated 14 July 2016, see **attachment 1**, that the total cost of the project is \$20,932. As these ruins are of substantial heritage value to the City, Council has an option of assisting the Community Club with the preservation of these historic brick foundations. Council has already provided \$6,000 and could make available a loan of a further \$10,000 to assist with the preservation work. The balance of funds of \$4,932 would need to be met from the Bathurst City Community Club's own funds.

Under separate cover are copies of the Community Club's financial reports for the last three years which show the financial position of this organisation.

It is recommended that Council make available a loan of \$10,000 to the Bathurst City Community Club, at an interest rate of 7.74% repayable over a 10 year period. This is based on current interest rates plus 1% as per Council's normal practice.

**Financial Implications:** Council has funded a \$6,000 grant from its Conservation and Interpretation Fund and the \$10,000 funding will be repaid through Council's loan scheme.

### **Bathurst 2036 Community Strategic Plan - Objectives and Strategies**

- Objective 21: To support the provision of community services and facilities to meet the needs of specific community sectors and the community as a whole. Strategy 21.4
- Objective 23: To encourage a supportive and inclusive community. Strategy 23.1

Yours faithfully



R Roach  
**DIRECTOR**  
**CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE**

## **DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES' REPORT**

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL FOLLOWING POLICY COMMITTEE

3 AUGUST 2016

## **1 ELM LEAF BEETLE - BATHURST (13.00019)**

**Recommendation:** That Council:

- (a) commence an annual Elm Leaf Beetle control program within Bathurst, and
- (b) allocate \$40,000 this year and subsequent Management Plans for the implementation of annual Elm Leaf Beetle control works.

**Report:** Council may be aware that during the end of this summer and leading into Autumn, a significant infestation of Elm Leaf Beetle attack was observed on many of Bathurst's mature elm trees. The level of infestation (beetle numbers) was such that large mature elm trees in Bathurst were significantly affected. This infestation completely defoliated many of the elm trees throughout the City, sending the trees into an early dormancy period.

It is believed that the Elm Leaf Beetle was first discovered in Victoria in 1989 and is now well established within cities and towns where large numbers of elm trees are prevalent. In 2012 this beetle was detected in Tasmania. Over recent years the NSW Department of Primary Industries has noticed elm beetle populations spreading into NSW and due to numbers and spread of these pests, eradication options have not been possible.

Elm Leaf Beetles (*Xanthogaleruca luteola*) are around 6mm long and yellowish to olive green with black stripes. The beetles hibernate in sheltered places during winter and emerge in spring to feed on the young leaves. The beetles lay tiny lemon-coloured eggs in clumps on the underside of leaves in spring, which hatch in 7-10 days.

The larvae (grubs) start off very small and almost black. The larvae increase in size through summer reaching a length of 12mm, when they are black and yellow and 'caterpillar-like'. Damage is caused to elm trees by the eating of leaves, with both the larvae and adult beetle stage of the pest's life cycle causing damage. Adult beetles eat holes in the leaves, the larvae skeletonise the leaves. With large infestations of beetles, it is not unusual for a tree to be entirely stripped of leaves. Photos showing the elm beetle adult, larvae, eggs and the damage caused to elm leaves are shown at **attachment 1.**

Adults and larvae together can cause severe defoliation of elms, which can weaken mature trees and reduce their aesthetic and amenity value. Elms suffering from repeated elm leaf beetle attack are also more susceptible to other pests and disease. A full life cycle of the elm leaf beetle (one generation) can reoccur up to three times in one summer period. Continued and sustained damage to elm trees will eventually result in the depletion of the necessary food stores that a tree needs to grow and survive.

Council first noticed the presence of Elm Leaf Beetle in Machattie Park in Autumn 2015, just prior to the start of the elm tree's natural leaf fall period. However their presence was very minor and damage to the trees was negligible. However, as a result of the beetle population explosion that occurred this autumn, and the effect they had on the City's elms, it is anticipated that a continued large scale outbreak of elm beetles will occur again this year as soon as new leaves start to emerge this Spring. Without any control program being implemented, there is a high probability that the City will experience ongoing sustained attacks throughout the Spring / Summer season, which will result in continued defoliation of leaves. If elm leaves continue to be eaten and damaged by continued attack, there is a high possibility that many elm trees could end up dying.

Research into the elm beetle has been undertaken to determine the best control options

available in order to combat this newly introduced pest. Discussions have also been held with pest control experts in cities in Victoria that have been living with the effects of elm leaf beetle for many years.

As a result of the research, it is believed that the most effective and efficient method at this stage to control and manage this pest would be to undertake stem injection treatments, utilising a specific systemic insecticide approved for use for beetle control. Stem injection process itself can cause damage to elm trees, via the simple fact that the process involves drilling into healthy tissue exposing the possibility of pathogen infection. However due to the damage that has already been observed to trees within Bathurst, it is considered that the lack of any treatment is likely to create a higher risk to tree health.

Council will also continue to explore other suitable options for the safe and effective management of Elm Leaf Beetles. Currently in Australia biological control options are being trialled in Victoria and Council will continue to monitor this progress and investigate whether these options would be suitable for Bathurst in the future.

As these beetles have now established within the region, it is considered necessary that ongoing annual control programs start to be implemented within Council's general maintenance practices to ensure the protection of the City's mature and significant elm trees.

Due to the large number of elm trees that exist within the City, it is believed that Council would not be able to afford the resources required in order to provide control treatments each year for all trees that are under Council's care and control. However, due to the way in which the chemical control treatments work, it is believed that a single control treatment will provide up to three year's protection to a tree before further treatment is required.

As such, it is proposed that Council undertake an annual rolling works program, commencing first with the most significant and mature elm trees located within the Heritage Conservation Areas of the City and selected major parks and reserves. In the following years, it would be proposed that Council attend to other areas where it is observed that damage is being caused on elm trees within the City. It is proposed that such control programs be undertaken by experienced arborists or pest control specialists who have the required knowledge and equipment to conduct the proposed control works.

For the information of Council, the English Elm, which is most susceptible to elm leaf beetle attack, has for the last several years not been selected for street tree or park plantings within Bathurst due to the problems these trees have in regards to disease, longicorn beetle attack, rot and environmental invasive issues. However, Golden Elm trees have been utilised in many streets over recent years and have been identified as species that Elm Leaf Beetles attack.

It is recommended that Council make funding available to commence a Spring stem injection control treatment program to approximately 400 identified large significant elm street trees within the Heritage Conservation Area of Bathurst and selected major parks including Machattie Park, Macquarie River Bicentennial Park and Victoria Park, amongst other locations. The cost for this inaugural treatment is anticipated to be \$40,000. It is also recommended that Council provide ongoing funding of \$40,000 within future Management Plans to undertake regular yearly Elm Beetle control works within Bathurst, in order to best protect the City's elm trees from the effects of this beetle.

**Financial Implications:** Council will need to provide \$40,000, to be funded from general reserves to commence the first Elm Leaf Beetle control program in Spring 2016.

It is also proposed that \$40,000 indexed to CPI be provided annually within future Management Plans to provide ongoing elm beetle management programs within Bathurst.

**Bathurst 2036 Community Strategic Plan - Objectives and Strategies**

- Objective 10: To protect and enhance the region's biodiversity. Strategy 10.6

Yours faithfully



Doug Patterson  
**DIRECTOR**  
**ENGINEERING SERVICES**



## **DIRECTOR CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES' REPORT**

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL FOLLOWING POLICY COMMITTEE

3 AUGUST 2016

## **1 BATHURST RAIL MUSEUM - IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE, PURCHASE OF RAIL CARRIAGE (21.00120)**

**Recommendation:** That Council approve the purchase of a fully restored and renovated CBA 547 passenger car, as outlined in the report, to be used as an integral feature of the Bathurst Rail Museum.

**Report:** Following the report tabled at Council Meeting 20 July 2016 (Director Cultural & Community Services Report #1) providing an update on the development of the Bathurst Rail Museum approval is sought to purchase a suitable heritage carriage.

A fully restored and renovated CBA 547 passenger car is currently on the market for sale and would be one of the first components of the museum.

The CBA 547 was one of a group of passenger carriages built in hundreds initially for service in the pre-electrified Sydney suburban network. With the electrification of the suburban network this carriage was converted for longer-distance working along the Sydney to Newcastle, Wollongong and Blue Mountains lines. In the 1970's it was withdrawn from Government service and was then used as part of the emerging heritage tour program where it was passed onto the Lachlan Valley Railway, based at Cowra and visited Bathurst on numerous occasions.

In 2007 the carriage was acquired by the Dr D film animation studio (a partnership between Kennedy Miller Mitchell producers of Mad Max, Babe and Happy Feet movies) renovated and installed at the studio's office at the old Carriage Works site, Redfern, Sydney. In 2013 the production company vacated the site with the carriage placed in storage until today.

A report was undertaken by AG Transport Heritage to investigate the condition and provenance of the carriage and its suitability for purpose. The report found that the carriage has proven connection to the Bathurst area with the restoration work 'carried out to a high standard.' It goes further to state that the carriage is currently 'in good condition and able to cope with external display' as part of the museum.

The Bathurst Rail Museum will be located in the historic Railway Institute Building incorporating a carriage as part of its overall design. The carriage will act as a historic object that will aid in the branding of the museum providing an impressive street frontage as well as an additional physical space from which exhibitions and functions will be provided.

Initially the carriage will be located on the old tennis court adjacent to the building while renovations are taking place. During this time the carriage will act as a focal point for the collection of stories and objects for inclusion in the museum. It will also provide information regarding the museum and how individuals and groups can support its development.

The purchase price of the CBA 547 carriage is \$85,000 (excluding GST), funding for this item is contained within the Railway Museum Capital Expenditure budget allocation 2016/2017.

**Financial Implications:** Funding for this item is contained within existing budgets.

### **Bathurst 2036 Community Strategic Plan - Objectives and Strategies**

- Objective 4: To market Bathurst as a great place to live, work, study, invest and play. Strategy 4.1, 4.6

- Objective 6: To support infrastructure development necessary to enhance Bathurst's life-style and industry development. Strategy 6.3
- Objective 11: To protect the region's unique heritage and history. To protect a unique identity. Strategy 11.6, 11.8, 11.9
- Objective 20: To provide a range of cultural facilities, programs, activities and events and to support and enhance cultural and social activities across the community. Strategy 20.4
- Objective 28: To plan for the growth of the region and the protection of the region's environmental, economic, social and cultural assets. Strategy 28.2

Yours faithfully



Alan Cattermole  
**DIRECTOR**  
**CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES**