

CT 7747 YARRA VALLEY TRAIL STAGE 1B.2

Report Author: Project Manager – Yarra Valley Trail
Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
Ward(s) affected: Ryrie;

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidential information is contained in Attachment 1. This information relates to contractual matters and contains commercially sensitive information including, but not limited to, the name of tendering parties, the evaluation panel members, and the evaluation of the tenders received against the published evaluation criteria.

Any disclosure of the information included within the confidential attachment to this report could be prejudicial to the interests of the Council or other parties. If a discussion of any of this confidential information is required, the Council is recommended to resolve that item by deferring it to the confidential section of the agenda when the meeting is closed to members of the public in accordance with Section 3(1), g(i)g(ii) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUMMARY

This report summarises the evaluation process taken and seeks Council approval for the construction of a new 1.5 km long shared path trail along the alignment of the former Healesville Railway Line, starting at the end of the existing path 1.2 kilometres north of MacIntyre Lane, Yering and finishing at the end of the existing earth railway viaduct 50 metres from the Yarra River, Yering. This construction constitutes stage 1B.2 of the Yarra Valley Trail project.

An advertisement calling for tenders was placed in The Age newspaper on Saturday 2 November 2024. Tenders closed on Wednesday 4 December 2024 and two (2) tenders were received.

This item has been included in the public agenda to facilitate the openness and transparency in Council's decision making. A confidential attachment has been included with the report which contain commercially sensitive information that is not to be disclosed while the meeting is open to the public

The recommendation in this report has been formally endorsed by the tender evaluation panel.

RECOMMENDATION

That

- 1. Council awards the tender from Cope Ag Pty Ltd for a total lump sum price of \$2,654,990.65 Inclusive of Provisional Items and Exclusive of GST (\$2,920,489.71 inclusive of GST and Provisional Items) for contract CT7747 Yarra Valley Trail Stage 1B.2.**
- 2. The Director Built Environment and Infrastructure be delegated authority to sign the contract documents.**
- 3. The confidential attachment to this report remain confidential indefinitely as it relates to matters specified under section 3(1)(g)(i)(g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020.**

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

There are no related Council decisions relevant to this item.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to enter into a contract for the design and construction of Yarra Valley Trail Stage 1B.2 under contract CT7747.

This tender includes the design and construction of 1.53 kilometres of shared use path, including the re-purposing of one existing timber trestle bridge, construction of three new bridges, and associated works for the Yarra Valley Trail Section 1B.2 from the existing trail end to the Yarra River, Yering. All of the new trail will be centred along the former railway line including earth viaducts, cuttings and bridges. The contract will include the following:

- Project management and authority approvals.
- Demolition and removal of remaining railway sleepers, railway line and fixtures including stockpiling of steel for future heritage railway reuse.
- Detailed design certified by a structural engineer including demolition, testing, strengthening and re-construction methodology for the one (1) existing timber trestle bridge.
- Detailed design by a certified structural engineer for three (3) replacement bridges.
- Repair, strengthening and reconstruction of one historic timber trestle railway bridge.

- Replacement of three former railway bridges destroyed in the 2009 bushfires with new 3.2-metre-wide bridges.
- Construction of approximately 1.35 kilometres of 3.0 metres wide crushed rock path, with crushed rock shoulders.
- Installation of approximately 2.7 kilometres of partial barrier timber and wire fencing on either side of the crushed rock path along the earth viaduct.
- Fencing to include stock evacuation gates.

Background

This project was identified in various Council adopted strategies including the Hike and Bike Plan 2005 and the Eastern Regional Trails Strategy 2018. The Stage 1 was described in the Yarra Valley Trail Feasibility Study Report and the Yarra Valley Trail Impact Assessment.

The 7.5km long Stage 1A was completed in December 2019. Following a VCAT hearing, the Planning Permit for Stage 1B was issued in February 2023. A separate tender for the construction of the 1.2km long Stage 1B.1 (north of MacIntyre Lane) was endorsed by Yarra Ranges Council on 12th December 2023.

Options considered

The procurement method for this tender was a single-stage, competitive open tender. An advertisement calling for tenders was published on Council's online e-tendering portal and placed in The Age newspaper on Saturday 2 November 2024. Tenders closed on Wednesday 4 December 2024 and two (2) tenders were received.

The tender process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of Council's Procurement Policy and the endorsed evaluation plan. Tenders were assessed for conformity with the tender documents. A summary of these tender submissions is contained within the confidential attachment to this report. The evaluation panel scored the tenders against the pre-established evaluation criteria, as published in the tender document.

A summary of the evaluation criteria follows:

- Tendered Price - 45%
- Capability & Capacity to Undertake Work - 20%
- Commitment to Quality & Sustainability - 10%
- Timeframes - 20%
- Community Benefit – 5%

Recommended option and justification

Following an extensive evaluation process as detailed in the Confidential attachment, the tender evaluation panel are unanimous in their decision to recommend the tender from Cope Ag Pty Ltd.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

This tender is part of a larger Yarra Valley Trail Stage 1 project. Overall, Stage 1 has committed funding (exclusive of GST) as follows:

- \$2.5M Council;
- \$2.5M Growing Suburbs Fund (DELWP);
- \$1.26M Regional Growth Fund;
- \$1.0M Eastern Metropolitan Partnership (DELWP). The Eastern Metropolitan (for Stage 1A only).

The tender price is within the project budget and Quantity Surveyor estimate.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

- **Connected and Healthy Communities:** Communities are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially well connected. Quality services are accessible to everyone.
- **Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places:** Quality facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Places are well planned and are hubs of activity that foster wellbeing, creativity and innovation.
- **Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism:** Our tourism, agriculture, health, manufacturing and other industries are leading and dynamic. Strong investment and attraction underpins sustainable economic growth and job creation.

A Yarra Ranges Council Major Initiative for 2021-2025 is to become a world class trails and eco-tourism destination through project development, delivery, advocacy and partnerships, including the delivery of the Ridges and Rivers projects. The desired community outcome is a trail network that provides locals with improved connections and recreation options to improve health outcomes and active transport alternatives. Additionally, it will create a tourism destination to support economic growth. Council will achieve this by delivering projects including the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination, Yarra Valley Trail, and ngurrak barring-RidgeWalk.

RELEVANT LAW

This report seeks Council approval to award a contract that complies with Section 108 and 109 of the *Local Government Act 2020*

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Local and social sustainability was considered as part of the evaluation process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An overview of the Yarra Valley Trail project, background reports, project updates and frequently asked questions are publicly available on the Ride Yarra Ranges / Yarra Valley Trail web site.

The tender requires the successful contractor to prepare a Communications Plan, as per the Planning Permit Condition, between the Contractor, Council, VicTrack, and the Adjoining Landowner covering the conduct of construction, including:

- Sequencing of the works to allow underpass access for the Adjoining Landowner's stock between the eastern and western parcels of land comprising the Adjoining Land.
- Consultation with and ongoing notice of works as they progress, with the Adjoining Landowner to the satisfaction of Council.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Yarra Valley Trail project is guided by a Project Reference Group including all relevant State agencies. The contractor is also responsible to obtaining approvals of the detailed designs from VicTrack and Melbourne Water.

The contractor shall prepare and have approved a Construction and Environmental Management Plan that will cover site assessment, and management to avoid impacts on the environment and waterways. Site inductions will be undertaken for Cultural Heritage and Environment.

RISK ASSESSMENT

An overall Yarra Valley Trail Risk Register has been kept updated since the beginning of the project.

The CT7747 tender documents included:

- An OH&S Hazard Identification Report (Identified risks including demolition of railway infrastructure, underground services, traffic management, working at heights, restricted construction access, working over water, uneven ground conditions, hazardous substances, and stock management).

- Environmental Management Plan (VicTrack Guideline).
- Draft Flood Response Plan (Melbourne Water requirement to be finalised on completion of project).

The successful tenderer is required to complete a Construction & Environmental Management Plan, to be approved by Council, Melbourne Water and VicTrack prior to commencing any on-site works.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Tender Evaluation (Confidential)