

WARBURTON MOUNTAIN BIKE DESTINATION – STAGE 1B-1D BRIDGES (CT7760)

Report Author: Scott Chancellor and Phil Murton
Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
Ward(s) affected: O'Shannassy;

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 having it deferred 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 award of the contract to construct 17 mountain bike bridges and boardwalks associated with Stage 1B-1D of the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (WMBD). An advertisement calling for tenders was placed in *The Age* newspaper on Saturday, 23rd November 2024.

Tenders closed on Wednesday 15th January and five (5) tenders were received. This item has been included in the public agenda to facilitate openness and transparency in Council's decision-making. Confidential attachments have been included with the report which contain commercially sensitive information that is not to be disclosed while the meeting is open to the public.

This tender is part of the larger Warburton Mountain Bike Destination project which commenced construction in July 2024. The tender price is within cost estimates and the committed project budget, which includes approximately \$7.6 million of grant income.

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

RECOMMENDATION

That

- 1. Council awards the tender from Brunton Engineering and Construction Pty Ltd for a total lump sum price of \$1,218,761.31 inclusive of provisional items and exclusive of GST (\$1,340,637.44 inclusive of GST and Provisional Items) for contract CT7760.***
- 2. The Director Built Environment and Infrastructure be delegated authority to sign the contract documents.***
- 3. The confidential attachment to this report remains confidential indefinitely as it relates to matters specified under section (1)(g)(i)(g)(ii) of the Local Government Act.***

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 award CT7760 Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Stage 1B-1D Trail Network Bridges.

This tender includes the construction of 17 mountain bike bridges and boardwalks associated with the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Stage 1B-1D. The contract will include the following:

- Project management
- Geotechnical Investigations
- Transport of materials and equipment into remote areas
- Construction of 17 steel bridges and boardwalks

Background

Stage 1A-1D of the WMBD project involves the construction of approximately 100km of mountain bike trails throughout the Yarra State Forest to the south of Warburton Highway.

Construction works commenced on the WMBD project in July 2024, and approximately 20km of trails have been constructed out of 100km in the Stage 1B-1D. The mountain bike trails are being constructed by a specialist trail builder as part of a separate contract.

This report seeks approval to enter a contract to construct 17 steel bridges and boardwalks required throughout the trail network. The bridges and boardwalks span over existing gullies and boardwalks at the locations agreed with Melbourne Water and will link mountain bike trails on either side.

The overall WMBD project has gone through an Environment Effect Statement (EES), the most rigorous environmental approval process in Victoria. Following the EES, a Planning Scheme Amendment and Incorporated document was obtained for the Southern Network to permit the use and development of the land for the WMBD project. The Incorporated Document stipulated several secondary approvals which were required prior to the commencement of the development. All relevant secondary approvals for the bridge and boardwalk construction have been obtained including approval by Melbourne Water, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Department of Transport and Planning.

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, 23rd November 2024. Tenders closed on Wednesday, 15th January 2025 and five (5) 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 - 40%
- Capability & Capacity - 30%
- Commitment to Quality & Sustainability - 10%
- Community Benefit - 5%
- Local content - 5%
- Timeframes / Methodology - 10%

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 submission from Brunton Engineering and Construction Pty Ltd.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The tender value is for a total lump sum price of \$1,218,761.31 inclusive of provisional items and exclusive of GST. This is the capital cost for the construction of 17 bridges and boardwalks throughout the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination.

This tender is part of the larger Warburton Mountain Bike Destination project. The tender price is within both the cost estimates and committed project budget, which includes approximately \$7.6 million of grants. Expenditure for this tender will commence in April and be completed in early 2026.

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 meets 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.

Major Initiatives 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 Rivers and Ridges projects. The desired community outcome is a trail network that provides locals with improved connections and recreation options to help improve health outcomes and active transport alternatives. 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

Significant community engagement has taken place throughout the development of the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination project. An overview of the WMBD project, background reports, project updates and frequently asked questions are publicly available on the Ride Yarra Ranges website.

As the delivery phase approaches, more targeted consultation is occurring with local residents and communities that are more directly impacted by the current aspect of the project. Recent community engagement includes:

- Ongoing community updates provided through 'Ride Yarra Ranges'
- Formation of an Emergency Planning Committee (EMP requirement).

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The project requires significant collaboration with external government agencies, including Wurundjeri, Melbourne Water, DEECA, DTP, Ambulance Victoria, SES, CFA and VicPOL. These agencies are represented on individual Project Working Groups and Emergency Planning Committees to ensure effective collaboration and coordination.

Furthermore, the specific bridge and boardwalk designs have been reviewed and approved by Melbourne Water, DEECA and DTP.

RISK ASSESSMENT

An overall WMBD Risk Register has been kept updated since the beginning of the project. The CT7760 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).

The successful tenderer is required to work in accordance with the approved WMBD Construction & Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and shall undertake a project induction delivered by Council and technical specialists 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 Report (Confidential)