

OLD Warburton Road Bridge Tender Report

Report Author: Manager Recreation Parks & Facilities
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 undertaken and seeks Council approval for awarding the contract to construct the Old Warburton Road Bridge, a key component of the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (WMBD) project. An advertisement calling for tenders was issued on Saturday, 1st February 2025 and closed on Wednesday, 12th March, with six (6) tenders received.

This item has been included in the public agenda to ensure openness and transparency in Council's decision-making. Confidential attachments containing commercially sensitive information have been included with the report and are not to be disclosed during the public meeting.

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

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

RECOMMENDATION

That

- 1. Council awards the tender from Road & Bridge Pty Ltd a total lump sum price of \$1,140,778.00 inclusive of provisional items and exclusive of GST (\$1,254,855.80 inclusive of GST and Provisional Items) for contract CT7785.**
- 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 CT7785 Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Trail - Old Warburton Road Bridge.

This contract includes the construction of a major steel bridge over Old Warburton Road, forming a critical link within the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (WMBD) project. The contract scope includes:

- Project management
- Traffic Management
- Tree Protection
- Geotechnical Investigations
- Bridge Construction

Background

Stages 1A–1D of the WMBD project involve the construction of approximately 100 km of mountain bike trails throughout the Yarra State Forest, located south of the Warburton Highway.

Construction commenced in July 2024, with approximately 30 km of trails delivered to date. Trail construction is being carried out under a separate contract by a specialist trail-building contractor.

This report seeks approval to enter into a contract to construct a major bridge across Old Warburton Road. This bridge provides a key connection between the Mt Tugwell and Mt Little Joe trail networks and will be constructed at a location approved by Department of Transport and Planning and Melbourne Water.

The broader WMBD project has undergone an Environment Effects Statement (EES) process—the most rigorous environmental assessment framework in Victoria. As a result of the EES, a Planning Scheme Amendment and Incorporated Document were obtained to facilitate the use and development of land for the WMBD Southern Network. The Incorporated Document required a series of secondary approvals to be obtained prior to the commencement of development.

All relevant secondary approvals for the bridge and connecting ramps have now been obtained. These include:

- Public consultation on the bridge design (7 August – 8 September 2024)
- Approval from Melbourne Water
- Approval from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Approval from the Department of Transport and Planning

Options considered

A single-stage, open competitive tender process was undertaken for this contract. The tender was advertised on Council's e-Tendering portal and in The Age newspaper on Saturday, 1 February 2025. Tenders closed on Wednesday, 12 March 2025, and a total of six (6) submissions were received.

The tender process was conducted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and the approved evaluation plan. Tenders were assessed for compliance with the tender requirements. A summary of submissions is provided in the confidential attachment to this report. The evaluation panel assessed each tender against the criteria outlined in the tender documents. A summary of the evaluation criteria follows:

- Tendered Price - 40%
- Capability & Capacity - 30%
- Commitment to Quality & Sustainability - 10%
- Local content - 5%
- Community Benefit - 5%
- Timeframes / Methodology - 10%

Recommended option and justification

Following a comprehensive evaluation process, as outlined in the confidential attachment, the Tender Evaluation Panel unanimously recommends the appointment of Road & Bridge Pty Ltd as the preferred contractor for this project.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The recommended tender submission is for a lump sum of \$ 1,140,778.00 (inclusive of provisional items and exclusive of GST). This represents the capital cost of constructing the Old Warburton Road Bridge as part of the WMBD project.

The tender price is within the committed project budget, which includes approximately \$7.6 million in grant funding. Expenditure associated with this contract will commence in June 2025 and is scheduled for completion in late 2025.

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 underpin sustainable economic growth and job creation.

A 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 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

Extensive community engagement has supported the development of the Old Warburton Road Bridge as part of the broader Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (WMBD) project. Information about the project—including background reports, updates, and frequently asked questions—is publicly available on the Ride Yarra Ranges website.

Recent engagement activities included a one-month ‘Have Your Say’ survey conducted between 7 August and 8 September 2024. This survey invited community members to contribute to the final bridge design, receiving 150 submissions.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The project requires substantial collaboration with a range of external government agencies, including Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Melbourne Water, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Ambulance Victoria, the State Emergency Service (SES), Country Fire Authority (CFA), and Victoria Police (VicPol). These stakeholders participate through dedicated Project Working Groups and Emergency Planning Committees to ensure effective coordination and integration of requirements.

The bridge design has been reviewed and formally approved by Melbourne Water, DEECA, and DTP, demonstrating strong cross-agency collaboration.

RISK ASSESSMENT

A comprehensive WMBD Risk Register has been maintained and regularly updated since the commencement of the project.

The CT7785 tender documentation included an Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Hazard Identification Report. Key identified risks include:

- Presence of underground services
- Traffic management
- Working at heights
- Limited construction access
- Uneven terrain
- Hazardous substances

The successful tenderer is required to operate in accordance with the approved WMBD Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Prior to the commencement of on-site works, the contractor will undergo a mandatory project induction, delivered by Council and relevant technical specialists. Additionally, the contractor must develop and implement a detailed traffic management plan for the duration of the bridge construction phase.

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. CT7785 Tender Evaluation Panel Assessment (Confidential)