



5 September 2017

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA:

(1) MAYORAL MINUTES

MM13/2017 Potential Relocation of Harness Racing to Cessnock City
Local Government Area.....2

Mayoral Minute

Report No. MM13/2017

Planning and Environment



MAYORAL MINUTE No. MM13/2017

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF HARNESS RACING TO CESSNOCK CITY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council write to Newcastle Harness Racing Club, Harness Racing NSW, Venues NSW and the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to thank them for meeting with Council and their positive views regarding the potential relocation of the Newcastle Harness Racing Club into the Cessnock City local government area.
2. That Council continue to strongly advocate and lobby for the relocation of the Newcastle Harness Racing Club to the Cessnock City local government area
3. That the General Manager continue to progress Council's position and work together with all relevant agencies to help facilitate the potential relocation of the Newcastle Harness Racing Club into the Cessnock City local government area.
4. That the General Manager prepare a submission for Council's consideration in response to the current exhibition documents "*A Vision for the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct*" with a view to supporting the relocation of harness racing into the Cessnock City Local Government Area

REPORT/PROPOSAL

At its meeting on the 7 June 2017 Council considered a Notice of Motion from Councillor Suvaal "Opening a Discussion on the possible relocation of harness racing in the Hunter region" and resolved, inter alia:

That Council write to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Scot Macdonald, MLC and the Newcastle Harness Racing Club with a copy sent to the State Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP requesting a meeting to discuss the possible need to relocate the Newcastle Paceway and outlining how Council could assist with finding a new location for it in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

Letters were sent as required by the above resolution, and on Friday 1 September 2017, the Mayor, General Manager, Director of Planning and Environment and Councillor Jay Suvaal attended a meeting with representatives from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Venues NSW, Harness Racing NSW and Newcastle Harness Racing Club.

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The meeting was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the parties that Cessnock City Council is strongly supportive of the relocation of the Newcastle Harness Racing Club into the Cessnock City Local Government area (LGA).

Council's position was very well received with comments from the agencies in attendance being summarised as "positive".

It is critical that Council leverage the positive momentum in this matter and continue to progress our position, both in terms of advocacy and lobbying as well as working together with the relevant agencies and racing bodies to ensure Cessnock City LGA is seen as an attractive, viable and logical area for relocation of the Newcastle Harness Racing Club from the current constrained site at Broadmeadow.

Venues NSW is currently consulting with the community on *"A Vision for the Hunter Sports and Entertainment Precinct – A Discussion Document for Community Consultation"*.

The vision document indicates that Newcastle International Paceway is *'outgrowing their existing facilities'* and *'needs space for training and other uses, but does not have the room to expand the International Paceway'*. It appears the concept plan outlined in the vision document shows the existing paceway site may, in future, become multi-purpose fields and a consolidated sports facility.

In this regard, Council should also prepare a submission to the current exhibition documents to reinforce our current position to encourage relocation of the Newcastle Harness Racing Club to the Cessnock City LGA.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report