



Honourable Mark McGowan MLA  
Premier; Minister for Public Sector Management;  
State Development, Jobs and Trade; Federal-State Relations  
5th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Premier

#### SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK BALINGUP - COVID RECOVERY PROJECT

Via the South West Zone of WALGA, the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup moved a motion, inter alia, (carried) in early May 2020 to “*Congratulate the State Government on their response to the COVID-19 pandemic*”. Correspondence outlining such has been forwarded to your office and we take the opportunity to again acknowledge the efforts and outcomes achieved by the State in managing the response to this pandemic. Recognising the role of local government in the pandemic response and recovery phases, this Shire developed a comprehensive suite of recovery actions and programs, including (amongst many other initiatives) the freezing of rate increases and other charges for the 2020-21 financial year.

Although the focus is (rightly so) predominantly trained on managing the present health, economic and other risks of the pandemic, it is the Shire’s understanding that the State is commencing deliberation on opportunities for regional projects which can aid in the economic recovery process for regional communities. **In close liaison and collaboration with the DLGSCI** and this Shire’s Local Member, the Hon. **Mick Murray MLA** (Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation), the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup has progressed a **Business Case** for a **multi-purpose sports, recreation and events precinct** in **central** Donnybrook. **The objective of the precinct project is to co-locate several** (presently disparate) sporting and recreation activities and clubs into a **shared-use, sustainable hub model** that enables broader community interaction and the attraction and hosting of a variety of cultural, entertainment and other significant events.

Key information on the proposed project includes:

- Multi-purpose sporting, recreation and events precinct in central Donnybrook (VC Mitchell Park sporting grounds)
- 'Shovel ready' - Stage 1 (\$7.8M), Stage 2 (\$4.9M)
- In principle Shire contribution of up to \$3M own source funding (on a one-third contribution model, resolved by Council 18 December 2019), noting that this was a decision of the Council before the COVID pandemic
- Business Case prepared by Shire (via DLGSCI), being considered for approval by Council on 27 May 2020
- No land assembly/purchase, environmental approvals, Commonwealth approvals or contentious planning approvals required
- Low risk (planning and implementation)
- Key outputs are 'labour/jobs intensive' works including - civil works, building construction and fit out, sporting ground/s construction, infrastructure works (servicing), landscaping and ancillary/minor works.
- Broad stakeholder and community consultation already undertaken
- The majority of the project can be delivered utilising local south-west procurement, managed by the Shire.

This project, including significant funding consideration from the Shire, is a cornerstone project for the Donnybrook Balingup community and is a key pillar in the Shire's strategy to build the economy and attract a new wave of population growth of the district, leveraging the opportunities flowing from the south-west 'lithium boom'. Respectfully, we request the State's consideration of funding for the shovel-ready project as part of its economic recovery planning. A full version of the completed Business Case can be provided on request, as well as the Council's resolution on the matter (due for consideration 27 May 2020).

Noting the significant support on the project from the Hon. Mick Murray MLA (Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation), we would encourage you to make contact with the Minister on this matter. In addition, the Shire has lodged this project as a priority project with the South West Development Commission.

If you have any questions relating to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Cr. Brian H. Piesse  
Shire President



Benjamin (Ben) Rose  
Chief Executive Officer

19 May 2020

cc Hon. Mick Murray MLA  
Mr Troy Jones, DLGSCI

