

Section: MOTION ON NOTICE 24 February 2009

Item: 10.012/09 CREMATORIUM FOR CLARENCE VALLEY

SUMMARY

I propose that the following report and notice of motion be adopted by Council.

PROPOSED MOTION

1. That Council receive a report as soon as possible so that it may determine an appropriate site for location of a crematorium facility in the Clarence Valley, such report to also include other relevant matters for consideration by Council.
2. That when the site is determined Council advertise for expressions of interest to build and operate a crematorium facility in the Clarence Valley.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION - 10.012/09

(CrS Tiley/McKenna)

That:

1. Council receive a report as soon as possible so that it may determine an appropriate site for location of a crematorium facility in the Clarence Valley, such report to also include other relevant matters for consideration by Council.
2. If a site is determined Council advertise for expressions of interest to build and operate a crematorium facility in the Clarence Valley.

Voting recorded as follows:

For: Councillors Williamson, Comben, Dinham, Howe, Hughes, McKenna, Simmons, Tiley, Toms

Against: Nil

BACKGROUND

With \$10,000 provided by the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board, a business

plan assessing the feasibility of a crematorium in the Clarence Valley was completed in

March 2005 by Stratos Consulting. Thereafter an Information Memorandum was completed by St Lawrence Consulting in December 2006, which indicated that a positive

return on investment would require 7-8 years to realise.

My recollection is that a report in this vein was then presented to Council indicating such

a facility would be economically marginal. I also recollect that with a remaining balance of

Regional Development Board funds (about \$2000) Council decided that it should prepare

a prospectus for a crematorium. The preferred site at that time was on land east of the

existing Maclean Lawn Cemetery. However, a formal determination on a preferred site

was I believe not made.

ISSUES

Over my years as a councillor, many residents have made approaches for a crematorium

to be located in Clarence Valley to obviate the need to use distant services outside the Valley. In recent years one funeral director has indicated to me a preparedness to investigate a consortium of local funeral directors to provide a cremation service. On

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June 2008 former Mayor of Grafton City, Mr Bob Liddiard, promoted the need for such a

facility in a newspaper article. At that time the General Manager advised me that his view

was that there was insufficient volume to make a crematorium an attractive investment

proposition. At that time he also advised that expressions of interest would be invited from parties interested in developing such a facility in the Valley.

The proposed motion suggests that it is appropriate, assuming the prospectus has been

prepared, to now test the market to ascertain whether the private sector may be willing to

build and operate a crematorium on Council dedicated cemetery lands. The motion does

not envisage any contribution from Council other than provision of raw land at an existing

cemetery site.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Advertising costs

Councillor Ian Tiley.

Date: 2 January 2009