

## AMENDED ITEM

**Item No:** 5.1  
**Title:** Questions with Notice  
**Department:** Governance

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28 September 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14174158



### Questions with Notice

The following questions were submitted by Councillor MacGregor at the Ordinary Meeting 27 July 2020:

#### Tree removal over the last four years

*In the last 4 years, since amalgamation, how many trees in parks and reserves have been removed due to 'poor health' or 'poor condition'? What is the cost to the council for removing these trees? How many '2 for 1' trees have been planted and are 'like for like' trees planted when natives are removed and is there a record kept by council?*

The response was provided by the Director, Environment and Planning:

The requested tree data tracking the number of trees that have been removed due to 'poor health' or 'poor condition' from parks and reserves is not available in its entirety. Available data is limited going back to the point of amalgamation and what data that has been collected has not been collected in a consistent manner across the business in order to allow better data interrogation for accurate response to the request being made.

In lieu of this, there is a significant sample of data that has been considered in order to provide for some reasonable estimates in response to the question that are based on a number of assumptions.

From analysis of this data, since amalgamation in 2016, it is estimated that 1,509 trees (average of 377 trees per annum) have been removed from within parks and reserves including ovals and natural areas across the Central Coast. Works on these trees typically occur following issues raised by members of the public or storm events. These trees are typically removed following assessment by Council arborists who determine that the condition and location of the tree presents an unacceptable risk to public safety.

Based on advice from Council arborists the estimated cost to remove trees can vary significantly. An analysis of contract tree works for 2020 has identified that the average cost for removal is in the order of \$1,200 per tree. Applying this average tree removal cost to the approximate 1,509 trees removed since amalgamation, the estimated cost for tree removal works within reserves and parks over the 4 years since amalgamation is therefore in the order of \$1,810,800.

Data for tree replacement planting within reserves and parks is also limited. Analysis of available data from 2018 onwards, shows that a total of 1,345 trees have been planted into parks and reserves. In addition to this there have been an additional 1,133 grasses and ground covers planted in these locations. On average staff have planted 673 trees per annum into parks and reserves based on data collected since 2018.

Applying the approximate 377 trees removed from parks and reserves per annum and comparing with the approximate 673 trees planted within parks and reserves per annum, the current estimated replacement ratio in parks and reserves is 1.8:1 (not including grasses and ground covers). There are no records of whether like for like trees have been planted for when natives are removed.

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The following questions were submitted by Councillor MacGregor at the Ordinary Meeting 14 September 2020:

**Adherence to Council's budgeted operational plan in the previous 12 months:**

*Can Council staff please provide an update on the following,*

- 1 a list of total projects by directorate that were included in the previous years operational plan,*
- 2 how many of these projects by directorate came in either over or under budget,*
- 3 a table or appropriate format to clearly identify this information in the business paper?*

Response provided by the Executive Manager, Innovation and Futures:

This is a complex question requiring research and resources to provide an appropriate response. As a result, it is not possible to provide a response for this Council meeting and it is proposed to provide the response for inclusion in the Business paper for the second Council Meeting in February, 2021. This timing allows for the completion of Financial Statements and ensures accuracy in the information provided in response to this question.

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The following questions were submitted by Councillor Hogan for the Ordinary Meeting of 28 September 2020:

**San Remo BMX park**

*San Remo BMX park is a state of the art track which attracts riders from across the Coast, neighbouring Councils and interstate. It is a real credit to Council and the community in having the confidence to drive the development of this project and to witness the*

## 5.1 Questions with Notice (contd)

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*successes. Due to the size of the park land, there is also the potential to further develop the park for other sporting codes or activities.*

- 1 *What is the status of grant funding for the 'Pump Track'?*
- 2 *Could staff please investigate the feasibility of other sporting activities utilising the site within any future design? For example, radio control cars or Mountain Biking practice training?*

The response provided by the Director Environment and Planning:

In previous consultation with the community it had been identified that the site where San Remo BMX track operates has potential to support more active infrastructure to compliment the competition standard BMX track and the skate park.

Discussions with the BMX club that operates out of the facility has identified that a Pump Track would be an appropriate and complementary addition to the recreation precinct. It has been agreed that both the club and Council would look to source grant funding to facilitate this addition, to date no suitable grant funding opportunity has been identified for this project by either party.

San Remo District Contribution plan (s7:11) identified embellishment of the facility formerly known as San Remo Extreme Sports Facility. An extract from the relevant plan states, "The remaining stages of the facility will include the development of office space, kiosk, equipment rental space, a storeroom and the development of adjoining land for archery, beach volleyball, obstacles course and rock climbing".

Since this contribution plan was developed, grant funding has allowed the development of office space, kiosk, and a storeroom. The other activities identified as being developed for the land are not all complimentary to the current site usage. Council are currently reviewing all s7.11 plans, including San Remo District Contributions Plan. As part of this process, future additions for San Remo Sports Park will be included for consideration for future funding.

The s7.11 review is anticipated to be completed December 2021.

Staff are in discussions with radio controlled car users to understand their needs and to see if we have current facilities that can be made available to them. If not, it may be an option to include them as a future user on this site.

### **Attachments**

Nil