CM13.3. Wagirra Trail Pedestrian Bridges at Wonga Wetlands Contract No. 19/04547

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CONFIDENTIAL	No		
FURTHER ENQUIRIES	Andrew Lawson City Projects	**PHONE**	6023 8111
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Purpose of Report

To recommend a preferred contractor for the design and construction of the Wagirra Trail Pedestrian Bridges at Wonga Wetlands.

Background

The Wagirra Trail is one of the signature projects identified in the Murray River Experience Master Plan – a long-term plan endorsed by Council in 2007 which aims to enhance and create opportunities for Albury residents and visitors to enjoy the Murray River.

The Wagirra Trail project connects Albury and its community both physically and metaphorically with the Murray River. It centres on the construction, by an all-Aboriginal crew, of more than 70kms of walking trail along the Murray River which will ultimately extend from Wonga Wetlands to the Hume Weir. Approximately 8.5kms of trail has been completed and is open to the public, linking the Union Bridge to Wonga Wetlands.

A further 12km section of trail has been the more recent focus and traverses through and around Wonga Wetlands. This section of trail construction at Wonga Wetlands is now largely completed, with the last remaining works requiring the design and construction of pedestrian bridges in order to connect and complete the trail as it negotiates water courses.

This project forms part of the $10.1M Regional Growth, Environment and Tourism Fund (RGETF) suite of projects ($5M Grant funded) that enhances riverside infrastructure to enable the community to connect with the river.

Council's budget allocation for the bridge project initially comprised an allocation of $242K including GST as part of the 2019/20 capital works program, with the intent of installing two new pedestrian bridges, and minor refurbishing of a third pre-existing bridge. Further assessment of the bridge proposed for refurbishment identified structural deficiencies and resulted in the requirement to alter the scope of the project to include an additional new bridge rather than refurbishing the existing bridge. Additionally, there were further challenges identified with the proposed trail alignment due to the discovery of Aboriginal artefacts, which required adjusting the trail alignment and the establishment of a fourth pedestrian bridge crossing.

Due to the increase in scope of the project and to ensure connectivity of the trail network, it is proposed that a component of the $550K (including GST) Wagirra Trail budget identified within the draft 2020/21 capital works budget be reallocated to fund the two additional bridge crossings.

The scope of the works can be summarised as the design and construction of four (4) pedestrian bridges, between 20 and 30 metres in length, and includes:

- Design and construct four pedestrian bridges including approaches connecting into the existing shared path;
- Design and construct bridge abutments and supporting structures;
- Installation and commissioning of bridges;
- Undertake any topographic engineering surveying or additional geotechnical investigations as necessary;
- Acquire any necessary permits in order to undertake the works;
- Provide necessary environmental control measures and planning in accordance with environmental planning laws and site-specific requirements; and
- Adhere to the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects if artefacts are discovered.

Tenders were invited for Contract No. 19/04547 - Wagirra Trail Pedestrian Bridges at Wonga Wetlands and were advertised in the Border Mail, Sydney Morning Herald and on Tenderlink. Tenders closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 10 March 2020.

The revised budget for the project is $495K, including GST, with $242K included in the 2019/2020 year, with and the balance to be sought from the 2020/21 Wagirra Trail budget.

The contract duration is estimated at 22 weeks and will be completed in the 2020/21 financial year.

A location plan is attached for information (attachment 1).

Tender Assessment

At the close of tenders, seven submissions were received from the following companies:

- Ace Infrastructure Pty Ltd (Nunawading, VIC);
- Cable Bridge Constructions (Porepunkah, VIC);
- Global Factory Maintenance (Wodonga, VIC);
- Landmark Products Pty Ltd (Caboolture, QLD);
- North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd (Bright, VIC);
- OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia (Mordialloc, VIC); and
- Teleo Design Pty Ltd (Pymble, NSW).

All tenders were evaluated in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and Guidelines. The assessment panel for the tender comprised Coordinator Procurement and Contract Management – Gerard Coyle, Team Leader Wagirra – Steven Onley, and Design Engineer – Alex Carroll.

Conformity Check

A conformity assessment was undertaken to ensure all submissions received were in accordance with the contract documentation and specification.

Company	Pricing Details	Supporting Information	WHS Documentation	Comment
Ace Infrastructure Pty Ltd	✓	✓	✓	Complies
Cable Bridge Constructions	✓	✓	✓	Complies
Global Factory Maintenance	✓	✓	✓	Complies
Landmark Products Pty Ltd	✓	✓	✓	Complies
North East Civil Construction P/L	✓	✓	✓	Complies
OpenSpace Infrastructure Aust.	✓	✓	✓	Complies
Teleo Design Pty Ltd	✓	✓	✓	Complies

As indicated above, all submissions were assessed as conforming tenders, and all companies have provided the required information or have provided sufficient information to indicate that they would be capable of meeting Council's WHS requirements.

Quantitative Assessment (100%)

The lump sum tender prices and ratings relative to the lowest price are tabulated below.

Company	Tendered Price (including GST)	Rating (100)
Cable Bridge Constructions	$464,430.00	100
OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia	$540,210.00	86
North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd	$637,912.00	73
Landmark Products Pty Ltd	$830,907.00	56
Teleo Design Pty Ltd	$997,684.20	46
Global Factory Maintenance	$1,696,103.53	27
Ace Infrastructure Pty Ltd	$3,286,202.00	14

The budget allocation for the project is $495K including GST, with one submission being within the allocated budget.

As detailed above, the submission from Cable Bridge Constructions was the most favourable from a cost perspective, being $76K (16%) more favourable than OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia, $173K (37%) more favourable than North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd, and between $366K (79%) and $2.8M (608%) more favourable than the other submissions.

Whilst all submissions received were of a very high standard and reviewed in their entirety by the panel for completeness, the submissions received from Landmark Products Pty Ltd, Teleo Design Pty Ltd, Global Factory Maintenance and Ace Infrastructure Pty Ltd were all significantly outside Council's

budget allocation (between $270K and $2.7M higher) and are therefore not considered any further in this report.

Although the submissions from Open Space Infrastructure Australia and North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd were $45K (9%) and $143K (29%) higher than the budget amount respectively, to ensure value for money and an appropriate pool of tenders were considered in the award of the contract they were progressed in the assessment process for further consideration.

Qualitative Assessment

A qualitative assessment considered a range of issues including:

- Past performance – including referee checks, relevant experience and expertise in performing same or similar projects;
- Methodology and program – project methodology and proposed program;
- Capacity – current and future commitments and workload;
- Capability – including availability of resources, equipment and contract management capabilities; and
- Benefit to local region – social and community benefit to the Albury/Wodonga region.

Company	Past Performance (35%)	Methodology & Program (25%)	Capacity (20%)	Capability (10%)	Local Benefit (10%)	Total (100%)
OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia	33	18	13	6	1	71
Cable Bridge Constructions	30	18	13	7	1	69
North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd	28	13	10	6	6	63

OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia is based in Mordialloc, Victoria. The company has recently undertaken similar projects including construction of a footbridge for City of Greater Bendigo and construction of a pedestrian bridge and concrete paths for Surf Coast Shire Council.

Their current work commitments include two pedestrian bridges for Cardinia Shire Council (expected to be completed May 2020), one pedestrian bridge for City of Greater Bendigo (expected to be completed April 2020) and one pedestrian bridge for Hobsons Bay City Council which is currently unscheduled.

Referee information indicated that the company delivers works to a high standard, with significant experience in environmental planning and solving design problems creatively. Furthermore, it was highlighted that OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia utilise an integrated management system to deliver projects.

The methodology of works provided was brief but logically sequenced outlined all key steps in the design and construction of the pedestrian bridges. The works program indicated a contract delivery period of 17 weeks. OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia provided sample Quality Assurance, Site Environment and WHS management plans indicating a high quality of project documentation.

OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia has indicated that should they be awarded this tender 15% of the materials, plant and labour will be sourced from the local region. The company does not support or sponsor local sporting or community groups.

Cable Bridge Constructions is based in Porepunkah, Victoria. The company has undertaken similar projects including Paradise Lagoon Bridge for Rockhampton City Council and Derby Suspension Bridge for Dorset Shire Council.

The company has not listed any current work commitments as part of their submission, however, has indicated that they are currently awaiting the outcome of several tenders.

Referee information indicated that the company is a specialist in the area of suspension bridges with significant experience, and whilst a smaller team can deliver projects quickly.

The bridge types and work methodology proposed is considered a practical approach that would deliver the three suspension bridges and one shorter truss bridge in a timeframe of 22 weeks, as indicated by the works program.

Cable Bridge Constructions has indicated that should they be awarded this tender that the earthworks component, premixed concrete and galvanised steel will be sourced from the local region. The company did not indicate that they support or sponsor local sporting or community groups.

North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd is based in Bright, Victoria. They have recently undertaken bridge construction and bridge renewals for North East Water and Indigo Shire Council. Whilst the experience identified in the submission predominately relates to larger scale civil and road construction and bridges, North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd is certainly deemed capable and does undertake design and construction of pedestrian bridges.

Their current work commitments include the following:

- Design and Construct for Bridges and boardwalks on the Beechworth to Yackandandah rail trail (expected to be completed November 2020);
- Bridge Renewals for Indigo Shire Council, Williams Road Upgrade for Benalla Rural City and Bridge Deck Overlay in Porepunkah for Alpine Shire Council (all expected completion April 2020);
- Victoria Street Subdivision in Beechworth (expected to be completed March 2020);
- Bridge deck overlay and approaches work for Campaspe Shire Council (expected to be completed June 2020);
- Murray Valley Highway Rest areas for Rural Roads Victoria (expected to be completed July 2020); and

- Mt Buller Road Pavement Rehabilitation for Rural Roads Victoria (expected to be completed June 2020).

Referee information indicated that North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd provided a good standard of project delivery incorporating appropriate management systems. They were able to provide practical solutions to problems during construction, are proactive in community engagement and responsive to feedback.

The methodology of work is brief but does identify key tasks in a logical and sequenced approach. The works program submitted is also brief however does identify key milestones. The works program submitted indicated a contract period of 34 weeks.

North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd has indicated that should they be awarded this tender that 75% of labour and 90% of materials, plant and equipment will be sourced from the local region. The company also sponsors various local sporting groups.

From the information provided, all companies demonstrate the required management systems, experience, construction plant, resources and availability to provide AlburyCity with a quality product.

Risk

- **Business Risk** – Financial risks are possible if latent/unknown construction issues are encountered. Environmental and preliminary geotechnical investigations have been undertaken to reduce this risk.
- **Corporate Risk** – This project is located within the Albury region and as such, will be visible to the community, however, the risk area is considered low. The project will have a positive impact on Council's image in that it will assist connecting a prominent shared path network for the benefit of the community and visitors to the region.
- **WHS and Public Risk** – WHS risks due to the construction works will be controlled in accordance with AlburyCity procedures. The contractor will be WHS registered by AlburyCity and will be required to implement relevant Safe Work Method Statements and safety inspections.
- **Environmental Risk** – Environmental risks due to the construction works will be controlled in accordance with AlburyCity procedures. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be required to be implemented to manage environmental risks. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) indicated that the bridge locations were not in culturally significant areas and were deemed by the Aboriginal Focus Group (AFG) to be of low risk. Additionally, a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and a Flora and Fauna Assessment (FFA) for the whole of the Wagirra Trail has been undertaken. Any cultural artefacts discovered during bridge construction will be handled in accordance with Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects.
- **Delivery Program Risk** – Standard risks associated with construction are possible, including delays due to inclement weather and changes due to latent/unknown construction issues. The Wagirra Trail is to be delivered in whole by June 2021 as part of the Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund (RGETF) program. As such, this risk is considered low.

Community Engagement

Community engagement and consultation has been undertaken throughout the development continuum of the Wagirra Trail project. The project is also identified in the following strategic plans which have undergone significant community and stakeholder engagement:

- AlburyCity 2030 Community Strategic Plan;
- Murrary River Experience Masterplan;
- Wonga Wetlands Tourism Masterplan; and
- Tourism Product Development Masterplan.

Furthermore, due to the culturally sensitive nature of the area, an Aboriginal Focus Group (AFG) was formed and provided guidance regarding the trail alignment and bridge locations.

Summary

The scoring for the qualitative and quantitative assessment is summarised in the following table:

Company	Quantitative	Qualitative
Cable Bridge Constructions	100	69
OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia	86	71
North East Civil Construction	73	63

From the qualitative assessment, all companies have the required management systems, experience, resources and availability to successfully undertake this project.

From a quantitative perspective the submission from Cable Bridge Constructions was assessed as being the most advantageous. The submission was between $76K (16%) more favourable than the submission from OpenSpace Infrastructure Australia and $173K (37%) more favourable than the submission from North East Civil Construction Pty Ltd.

Therefore, based on the qualitative and quantitative assessments, it is deemed that the submission from Cable Bridge Constructions provides the best value for Council to deliver this project.

Conclusion

Council invited tenders for the design and construction of the Wagirra Trail Pedestrian Bridges at Wonga Wetlands and received seven submissions.

The Wagirra Trail is one of the signature projects identified in the Murray River Experience Masterplan - a long-term plan endorsed by Council in 2007 which aims to enhance and create opportunities for Albury residents and visitors to enjoy the Murray River.

The Wagirra Trail project connects Albury and its community both physically and metaphorically with the Murray River. It centres on the construction of more than 70kms of walking trail along the Murray River which will ultimately extending from Wonga Wetlands to the Hume Weir. At present

approximately 20kms of trail has been completed between the Union Bridge and Wonga Wetlands and also within Wonga Wetlands.

The construction of the four pedestrian bridges within Wonga Wetlands will connect and complete this section of the trail as it traverses water courses in this area.

Therefore the design and construction of four pedestrian bridges, each between 20 and 30 metres in length and including all associated works is required and included in the scope of this contract.

A quantitative and qualitative assessment indicated that Cable Bridge Constructions was the most favourable submission. Their tendered price of $464,430.00 including GST is within the budget allocation of $495K including GST.

Recommendation

That Council accepts the tender from Cable Bridge Constructions for Contract No. 19/04547 - Wagirra Trail Pedestrian Bridges for the lump sum amount of $464,430.00 including GST.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 – Bridge Locality Plan (DOC20/17303).