

**ITEM-36: CCL 28/03/17 - SUPERCARS ALTERNATE TRACK CONSULTATION**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE SERVICES**  
**CONTACT: DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES / MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

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**PURPOSE**

To provide Council with a report in response to Part A (1) of the Council Resolution 14 March 2017 - Former Confidential Report Item 3 - Significant Civil Works Renewal Opportunity.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 The report be received.

**KEY ISSUES**

- 2 Part A (1) of the Council Resolution 14 March 2017 requested the following:

*Council co-ordinate with Supercars and Destination NSW (DNSW) and consult with the community on the route selection and the potential to use the Shortland Esplanade route to maximise the view and natural advantage, and minimise heritage and residential concerns in the East End and report back to Council at the next Ordinary Council meeting on the outcome.*

- 3 To complete the consultation referenced in 2 above, Council commissioned a telephone poll of randomly selected residents in the Newcastle Local Government (LGA) area to canvass community opinion regarding the location of the circuit. This was considered the only viable method to complete consultation with a large cross-section of the community in a short timeframe.
- 4 The survey (**Attachment A**) was conducted by ReachTEL, a large independent polling organisation that has extensive experience conducting polls at the local, State and national government levels. ReachTEL sources telephone numbers (including mobile numbers) from various public directories using methods that comply with the Privacy Act 2002. The random sample comprised 697 Newcastle residents.
- 5 The survey was based on following question:

*Supercars Newcastle 500 is going to be held in Newcastle's east end in late November 2017.*

*The current circuit for the Newcastle 500 travels along Zaara and Scott Streets and Nobbys Road. However, an alternative could be along Shortland Esplanade between Newcastle Ocean Baths and Nobbys Beach.*

*The alternative route would avoid the race running in close proximity to residences, however there are implications with the alternative in that the recently completed works on Shortland Esplanade would need to be redone, access to beaches and the Baths would be restricted and Supercars have indicated that there are yet to be resolved safety and engineering issues with the alternate route.*

**Question 1:**

*Would you prefer the track to stay in its current location, change to the alternative route along Shortland Esplanade or do you think either track is fine?*

	Total	Female	Male	18 – 34	35 - 50	51 – 65+	65+
<i>Current location</i>	60.7%	59.8%	61.7%	58.9%	63.1%	61.2%	60.2%
<i>Alternative route</i>	17.4%	17.3%	17.4%	15.6%	16.0%	19.1%	20.3%
<i>Either track is fine</i>	22.0%	22.9%	20.9%	25.5%	20.9%	19.7%	19.5%

- 6 The sample size of 697 residents has a statistical accuracy of  $\pm 3.8\%$  for a prevalence of 50% at a confidence level of 95% for a sample size of 700. For example, if 50% of respondents said yes to a question that required a yes/no response, the true proportion of people in the Newcastle LGA who would give the same answer (if all were interviewed) would be between 46.2% and 53.8%, 95 times out of 100.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7 Receiving the report does not commit Council to any expenditure.

**COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

- 8 This report aligns to the Community Strategic Plan under the strategic direction of 'open and collaborative leadership'.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 9 Council is working in collaboration with Destination NSW and Supercars Australia to deliver a community engagement program around the Newcastle 500 Event.

**RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

- 10 There was a risk that the community, both supporters and objectors, would see the results as biased if the poll was completed through internal engagement channels, for example an online survey using Council's community reference panel Newcastle Voice. To mitigate this risk, Council engaged an external independent organisation with the capacity to undertake a large random sample across the community. .

## **RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

11 In July 2016 Newcastle City Council resolved to support a bid to bring the finale of the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship to Newcastle. Newcastle was announced as the host city for the Newcastle 500 Event in October 2016.

12 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 March 2017 Council resolved to:

*Part A to be completed concurrently with the implementation of Part B.*

### **PART A**

- 1 *Council co-ordinate with Supercars and Destination NSW (DNSW) and consult with the community on the route selection and the potential to use the Shortland Esplanade route to maximise the view and natural advantage, and minimise heritage and residential concerns in the East End and report back to Council at the next Ordinary Council meeting on the outcome.*
- 2 *The MOU that was to be enacted as a result of Council's resolution of July 2016 be executed prior the signing and execution of any contracts for reported works with DNSW.*
- 3 *The Foreshore Park POM and Works are presented to Council to ensure the protection and provision of public amenity.*
- 4 *Officers engage in legacy item discussions to ensure local benefit is achieved through legacy projects like the expansion of the playground at Foreshore Park, the expedition of the Bathers Way and Coastal Revitalisation Projects like skate facilities at South Newcastle Beach, that the canopy cover is significantly expanded in the East End, and public facilities are upgraded.*

### **PART B**

- 1 *Council approves the commercial in confidence agreement with DNSW to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the procurement and undertaking of renewal civil works within the City of Newcastle Local Government Area.*
- 2 *Council authorises the Interim Chief Executive Officer, or his delegate, to execute the agreement with DNSW in respect of the making of the financial contribution together with any associated documentation for, and on behalf of, Council.*
- 3 *Council approves the financial contribution of \$8.8 million and the allocation of the funding from Council's Major Asset Preservation Program with the majority of the costs being attributable to the 2017/18 financial year.*

- 4 *Council share the costs of relocating the track to Shortland Esplanade with DNSW and Supercars.*
- 5 *These works form part of the 2017/18 Council budgetary process and Council's surplus operating position is maintained.*
- 6 *That if engagement and consultation results in track relocation that Council pursues the advice of the Acting Interim Chief Executive Officer regarding works program to allow the race to occur in 2017.*

## **CONSULTATION**

- 13 The community consultation on the route selection was coordinated with Destination NSW and Supercars Australia.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Option 1**

- 14 The recommendation as at Paragraph 1. This is the recommended option.

### **Option 2**

- 15 Council resolves to vary the recommendation in respect of the receipt of the report. This is not the recommended option.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 16 In July 2016 Newcastle City Council resolved to support a bid to bring the finale of the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship to Newcastle from December 2017. Newcastle was announced the host city for the Newcastle 500 in October 2016.
- 17 Following the announcement, Supercars Australia and Newcastle City Council in consultation with Destination NSW commenced a community engagement program.
- 18 The program has involved a series of face to face opportunities, detailed correspondence, a web based information resource on the Newcastle City Council website and the establishing of a Major Event Residents Working Group (MERWG).
- 19 The MERWG, comprising 12 east end residents and business owners, was established by Council on 17 March 2017. It will meet monthly to discuss issues and offer input and suggestions for consideration.
- 20 Supercars Australia has committed to establishing and managing a wider community engagement committee to highlight opportunities for local businesses and associations and to provide a forum in which event organisers and agencies can share key information.

- 21 Community engagement will continue throughout 2017 on civil works, changes to traffic arrangements and other event specific issues.

## **REFERENCES**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A - ReachTEL Survey Question and Results**

## Attachment A



17<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### FINAL RESULTS

ReachTEL conducted a survey of 697 residents across Newcastle City Council. The survey was conducted during the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

#### Introduction

*Supercars Newcastle 500 is going to be held in Newcastle's east end in late November 2017.*

*The current circuit for the Newcastle 500 travels along Zaara and Scott Streets and Nobby's Road. However, an alternative could be along Shortland Esplanade between Newcastle Ocean Baths and Nobby's Beach.*

*The alternative route would avoid the race running in close proximity to residences, however there are implications with the alternative in that the recently completed works on Shortland Esplanade would need to be redone, access to beaches and the Baths would be restricted and Supercars have indicated that there are yet to be resolved safety and engineering issues with the alternate route.*

#### Question 1:

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This survey was conducted using an automated telephone based survey system among 697 voters. The data has been weighted to reflect the population age and gender distribution as provided by the ABS. Telephone numbers and the person within the household were selected at random. Copyright ReachTEL Pty Ltd.

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