

GOV - CAMPING IN SHOWGROUNDS

Responsible Officer: Bob Savage – Director of Development & Environment

Report prepared by: Bob Savage – Director of Development & Environment

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

Is to seek Council's determination on a course of action in regards to permitting camping at showgrounds under its control and in particular the Gayndah Showgorunds.

2 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

At its General Meeting held on 20 November 2012 the following was carried:

Cr PW Francis moved and Cr FO Whelan seconded:

*1) That Council review the camping activities at Gayndah Showgrounds to ensure that they, are consistent with the purpose of the Reserve, are in accordance with its lease to Gayndah Show Society and do not compete directly against the private caravan parks in Gayndah; and
2) That Council review the activity in consideration of the Local Government (Beneficial Enterprises and Business Activities) Regulation 2010 (and the Code of Competitive Conduct) in view of the potential impact the activity may have on private businesses in Gayndah.*

To date no action has been taken on this resolution other than to forward a copy of the relevant report to the Ombudsman and discuss the position as of two weeks ago.

3 CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

Outcome 3 – Organisational Capability

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NA

5 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Lands Act 1994

Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008

Sustainable Planning Act 2009

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unlikely to be any financial impact on Council.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT

No risks considered at this stage.

8 CONSULTATION

DODE discussed the current situation with a local caravan park operator on 2 April.

9 OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

- a. Approach the State Government for approval through appropriate means such as a Temporary Local Planning Instrument, to allow camping on showgrounds reserves. Council would need to consider what conditions, if any, should attach to such a move.
- b. Continue to proceed with enacting the resolution of 20 November 2012
- c. Enforce the conditions of the Lands Act 1994 and the provisions of the lease from Council to the Gayndah Show Society.

10 OFFICER'S COMMENTS/CONCLUSION

Council will recall that in our report presented at the General Meeting held on 20 November 2012 the Gayndah Showgrounds reported that they generally accept people that the established caravan parks cannot take, e.g. big rigs, 5th wheelers etc. During this fruit season there have been incidences of itinerant workers being accepted. This resulted in further complaint from a local operator.

We understand that the Deputy Premier has indicated his support for any approach from Council to allow camping on showgrounds reserves.

11 ATTACHMENTS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that: