

## GENERAL REPORTS

### 2 **CONTRACT 2015-2017 (RFT 15/11) - SEASONAL ROADSIDE AND FIRE PREVENTION SLASHING**

FILE REFERENCE INT1745481

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#### RECOMMENDATION

Council exercise the option for the two year extension to the existing Seasonal Roadside and Fire Prevention Slashing Contract 2015-2017 (RFT 15/11) provided by Citywide Service Solutions.

#### Attachments

*Nil.*

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2015 Council accepted the tender submitted by Citywide Service Solutions for Contract 15/11 the seasonal roadside slashing Contract 2015-2017 (RFT 15/11)

A review of the contract found that;

- When the contract price was benchmarked against competitor rates, the option to extend the contract provided the best financial outcome.
- All works were completed with acceptable timelines.

Council is obligated to undertake fire prevention works in accordance the Country Fire Authority Act 1958.

\$290,000 is allocated in the annual operational budget for roadside slashing works.

#### BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting on 21st September 2015 Council accepted the tender submitted by Citywide Service Solutions for Contract 15/11 the seasonal roadside slashing over the period 2015 to 2017.

During the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 financial years Council budgeted \$290,000 each year respectively towards contracted roadside grass slashing services for the peak grass growing period of November to January to reduce the risk of fire and improve visibility at rural intersections.

This contracted service was delivered via the Seasonal Roadside and Fire Prevention Slashing Contract 2015-2017 (RFT 15/11).

A review of the current contract was conducted and found that:

- The payment method changed from hourly rates to lump sum and per kilometre rate for potential variations providing better value for money within the allocated budget.
- Benchmarking of the costs associated with providing the service demonstrated that the original tender rates via Citywide are very competitive.

- Programs were completed on time and achieved an acceptable standard.
- There was an increased number of customer request due to extended growing season and all were met within accepted time lines.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Council is obligated to undertake fire prevention works in accordance with its Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and the requirements of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958. Additional contracted resources as proposed under these contracts should enable Council to meet those obligations.

### **RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN**

1.7.2. Implement effective plans and procedures that minimise the impact of emergencies in the Shire.

1.7.3. Protect against risk through effective bushfire and flood preparation.

### **CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION**

The contract extension was considered and endorsed by the Senior Leadership Team.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

\$290,000 is allocated in the annual operational budget for roadside slashing works. The extent of slashing undertaken is managed to meet the need to achieve fire prevention and roadside safety objectives within the available budget

### **CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council approve the 2-year contract extension (Contract 2015-2017 - RFT 15/11) for Citywide to provide Seasonal Roadside and Fire Prevention Slashing. The contract extension expiry date will align with the renewal of the Open Space Contract in 2019.