

AUSTRALIAN EQUINE & LIVESTOCK CENTRE



| DATE | ACTIVITY | DATE | ADDITIONAL NOTES |
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| | | 23 Dec 99 | Letter from Tamworth P&A requesting assistance from NENWACC |
| May 00 | Letter forwarded to the Tamworth P&A from the NENWACC offering assistance for funding through the Regional Assistance Programme | | |
| Jun 00 | Letters from the Tamworth P&A to the NENWACC regarding the first meeting with the consultants engaged by the Tamworth P&A regarding the project. | | |
| Jul 00 | Letter received from Mr Tony Windsor to the NENWACC inviting them to a public meeting. | | |
| Aug 00 | Letter to Mr Windsor from the NENWACC offering assistance under the Regional Assistance Programme | 8 Aug 00 | NENWACC writes to Tony Windsor after a public meeting advising his RAP has funding available for a feasibility/business plan and marketing plan |
| | | 1 Sep 00 | Copy of letter from Tony Windsor supporting the application from TCC for the feasibility study |
| Oct 00 | Application for assistance from the Regional Partnerships endorsed by the Board of the NENWACC | 11 Oct 00 | Meeting of the AELC Working Group, RAP application lodged, site specification working group established, Tamworth Showground redevelopment options 3 allotments 18.53 hectares |
| Nov 00 | Minutes of the Working Group meeting reported an application for funding was forwarded to Canberra and is under assessment | 23 Nov 00 | Account established, consideration of land areas (3 options) |
| Dec 00 | Funding from the Regional Assistance Programme of \$33,000 announced by Stuart St Clair | 12 Dec 00 | Stuart St Clair announces RAP funding for planning into the AELC |
| | | 19 Dec 00 | AELC Working Group meeting to discuss site selection, EOI for the consultancy |
| Jan 01 | Minutes of the Working Group meeting of 24 January 2001 reported the funding had been approved and the project was being developed | 24 Jan 00 | AELC Working Group meeting, Land being considered, consultancy had been released, discussion re further land options, Tamworth P&A opposes land acquisition because it has not been consulted, draft plans developed, draft list of requirements drafted |
| | Expressions of Interest for the feasibility study closed | | |
| Feb 01 | Consultants engaged | Feb 01 | RAP Contract for feasibility study into the AELC signed by DOTARS & TCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a project development office ▪ Identify a legal entity ▪ Determine functional requirements including site and |

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| | | | <p>access as well as community consultation and stakeholder interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of detailed business plan, including financial and management structures ▪ Identification of investment plans and fundraising ▪ Preparation of concept plans including detailed architectural drawings |
| | | 23 Feb 01 | Memo from P Botfield regarding issues to address needs for the Business Plan. Discounting rumours of a second group developing an equine centre, land swap being negotiated, plans have been leaked to the public before being approved by Council |
| Mar 01 | Application for assistance from Regional Assistance Program for a feasibility into a Horseman's Hall of Fame | Mar 01 | |
| Apr 01 | Working Group endorsed reports prepared by consultants | | |
| Jun 01 | Public meeting held to discuss the findings of the consultants | 14 Jun 01 | Minutes of the first public meeting for the AELC |
| | | November 01 | <p>NENWACC receives a copy of a letter to TCC from AusIndustry acknowledging receipt of an application for the Regional Tourism Program. Application is for the construction of an Indoor Arena on a 50 hectare site, 600 stalls, 800-1000 car parks and includes a commitment from business to raise \$4m (unconfirmed), TCC looking to purchase the site for \$550,000, private enterprise ownership with shareholders.</p> <p>Contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TCC provided \$33K for feasibility study (?) and committed \$60K toward the project management ▪ In-kind contributions to project management & support, \$25K spent to date ▪ Anticipated \$6m will be raised through community/industry contributions expected the project to be registered on the ASF ▪ No formal application have been submitted, discussions with Senior Advisors conducted ▪ Total project \$13.5m Stage 1 |
| | | 18 Dec 01 | Letter from TCC announcing NSW Govt had committed \$3.35m conditional on Aust Govt pledging support. |
| Jan 02 | 2002-2003 budget submissions for funding for the Australian Equine & Livestock Centre forwarded to | 24 Jan 02 | Apparently the submission on the AELC is received by the Australian Government. |

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| | Treasury with copies to Mr Windsor, Mr Cull, Tamworth City Council and the NENWACC | | TCC submits a document similar to the Regional Tourism Program application to the 2002-2003 annual budget submissions. |
| Feb 02 | Letter received from Senator Macdonald regarding a meeting Minister Anderson in Gunnedah to discuss the proposal | | |
| Feb 02 | Statement about processes and NENWACC involvement provided to the local media | 13 Feb 02 | Statement detailing the number of assessments conducted into the AELC, acknowledging the Working Group is using the media rather than appropriate channels for accessing funding. |
| Mar 02 | Minutes of the working group meeting 8 March 2002 | 8 Mar 02 | AELC Working Group meeting held; letter from Senator Macdonald re meeting with Minister Anderson, application for Regional Tourism Program unsuccessful, copy of 2002-2003 pre-budget submission received by the Budget Policy Division of Treasury. Working Group to pursue three areas of assistance; Treasury submission/Chudleigh and RSP/ re-submit Regional Tourism application Letter received from Tony Windsor confirming the NSW Govt had provided \$3.35m, an application had been made to the Aust Govt and suggesting other contributors have been found. Confident that the review to be conducted by Chudleigh will have the same outcomes as that conducted by NSW Treasury |
| | | 4 Apr 02 | Joint media release TCC and NENWACC re Chudleigh's visit and the agreed to process |
| 16 Apr 02 | Visit by Professor Chudleigh | 14 May 02 | Prof John Chudleigh writes to Minister Anderson with his analysis of the AELC, comments also provided by RSP team. His main findings were that the project was too high risk, unable to support itself and a poor investment proposal and become a drain on rate payers. He adds he does believe Tamworth needs better Equine facilities and consideration should be given to upgrading the current site. Proposal was for grant funding of \$5m is needed to enable the community to raise \$8.7m being the balance, request to the Aust Govt for \$3.5m. Based on total project funding for stage 1 of \$13.7m (suggested to be at the lower end of the scale total project plan of \$21m to \$24m. His main findings were; |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The feasibility study by SKM on a green field site would not be commercially viable ▪ Cost estimates are conservative and indicates there could be a shortfall even in stage 1 ▪ The proposal is based on servicing an investment, to achieve this the facility would have to be used 240 days a year, on the current useage of 132 days – the expectation of 240 was unrealistic and therefore the potential ▪ Current acceptable rates of services do not support a debt ratio ▪ No funds were committed to the project, unconditionally except the land by any of the partners – there was a noticeable lack of funds from the industry ▪ If the benefits were so great to business and the community why hadn't they committed to the project ▪ Even though the plan indicated the centre would make a considerable contribution the size of the infrastructure investment doesn't seem to be justified. ▪ The level of debt would require the community to continue to support the project, the support for such ongoing commitment did not seem to be there ▪ Operational budgets for the centre were not provided ▪ Tamworth P&A must be a player in the proposal ▪ Many other regions are endeavouring to attract significant amounts of funding for equine activities, unless local overall community benefits are significant and most of the funding is provided by local beneficiaries – Govt should not invest |
| May 02 | Professor Chudleigh reports to Minister Anderson | 31 May 02 | Minister Anderson announces decision not to fund the AELC \$3m proposal project saying the project is not financially sustainable |
| Aug 02 | NENWACC writes to Tamworth City Council expressing the need to address the concerns raised in Chudleigh's report | | |
| Dec 02 | Supplementary report by original consultants to the Australian Equine & Livestock Project released to the NENWACC | | |
| | | Feb 03 | TCC completes a review of the proposed site, in accordance |

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| | | | with recommendations made by Professor Chudleigh. The report confirms the current showground site is unsuitable for further development. |
| Mar 03 | NENWACC made approaches to the Tamworth City Council to assist with developing funding opportunities from the Federal Government | 12 Mar 03 | Email to TCC regarding Tony Windsor politicising the project, advising TCC the only way the project will be achieved is through strong business, local and regional partnerships. If Tony can deliver – good luck, there still needs to be a lot of work done with all the groups. Bob Carr has failed the Namoi on WSP, how can they commit to AELC funding. Offers have been made to Tony to assist and he has declined the support of the ACC |
| | Kevin Humphries discusses lack of commitment from industry groups and other elements of the Australian Equine & Livestock Centre project | | |
| 29 Aug 03 | Letter from Tony Windsor informing the make up of the working group and meetings with the NSW Government regarding funding | | |
| Sep 03 | Email Kevin Humphries to Tony Windsor regarding the letter and the need to develop partners with community and industry and involve the ACC in discussions and project development | | |
| Dec 03 | Meeting with the Tamworth P&A to discuss issues and progress regarding facilities and the proposal for a National Centre | | |
| | Emails to Tony Windsor asking for the ACC to be involved to assist with funding and partnerships | | |
| 6 Apr 04 | Letter to Tamworth Regional Council to assist with developing assistance from the Australian Government | | |
| 27 Apr 04 | Letter from Tony Windsor providing the names of the Committee members and advising Greg Maguire is the new Chairman | | |
| Jun/Jul 04 | Meetings with Working Group for the Australian Equine & Livestock Working Group to discuss project assessment processes, application development and to review the business plans and feasibility | 8 Jul 04 | Letter to Chair of the AELC requesting they make a presentation to the full Board meeting. |
| 12 Aug 04 | Presentation to the Sub-Committee of the New England North West ACC | | Application includes; Updated Feasibility Studies and Business Plans including marketing Plans, presentation to the Board of the ACC, full application and meeting with the sub-committee. |
| | | | 2001 PROPOSAL |
| | | | 2004 PROPOSAL |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staged development (1) \$13.7m (2) \$24m, costings were unclear at times the above, TCC est. \$11.89m in Aug 02, application for Regional Tourism etc different again | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposals to develop Indoor Arena 100m x 40m, 600 stalls, parking, greenfields site |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Portion of project was to be funded by debt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TRC agreed the proposal couldn't be funded by a debt ratio |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No written commitment or firm indications from partners ▪ No commitment from the Tamworth P&A to the project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Written commitment from industry in MOUs, TRC written commitments in budgets, NSW Govt commitment included ▪ Written commitment from Tamworth P&A to participate and move |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservative and exaggerated financials ▪ Assumptions to increase useage could not be substantiated ▪ Project not sustainable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequate and detailed operational budgets ▪ Adequate and detailed capital budgets ▪ 5 year projections on operational cash-flows indicating a break even and profitable scenario ▪ Operational days and income is based on current usage and costings |
| 16 Aug 04 | NENWACC encouraged proponents to lodge the application for the project with DOTARS to commence assessment | | | |
| 27 Aug 04 | Project endorsed with a priority rating of 4 and comments forwarded to DOTARS for assessment | | | |
| 27 Aug 04 | Meeting with Tamworth P&A regarding the partnership and encouraged them to support as provision made for later entry into the project. The project plan had included contingencies to include the P&A at anytime. | | | |
| 16 Sep 04 | Written commitment from the Tamworth P&A to support the processes and project development | 9 Sep 04 | Written confirmation received from Tamworth P&A of their commitment to the project | |

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| 21 Sep 04 | Election Commitment to fund the Australian Equine & Livestock Centre announced | | Election commitment referred to the annual budget process – new money was being sought for Icon projects that would be administered by DOTARS |
| | | 1 Nov 04 | Letter forwarded to TRC re NENWACC position on the AELC Working Group |
| | | 14 Dec 04 | TRC on the workings of the AELC |