

## **13 BUNYIP BUSHFIRE ARBORIST AND TREE CLEARING CONTRACTS**

FILE REFERENCE INT1941135

RESPONSIBLE GENERAL MANAGER Tom McQualter

AUTHOR Doug Evans

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. retrospectively approves entering into a contract with Total Tree Contracting for arborist works to 'make safe', dangerous trees on private property affected by the Bunyip Bushfires for an amount of \$316,424 (includes 15% contingency for unknown costs);
2. retrospectively approves entering into a contract with Kent Excavations for tree works on Council road reserves as a result of the Bunyip Bushfires for an amount of \$598,727
3. retrospectively approves entering into a contract with Accurate Group (Aust) P/L for emergency tree works as a result of the Bunyip Bushfires for an amount of \$197,961
4. resolves that in accordance with the provisions of Section 186 (5)(a) of the Local Government Act that these contracts must be entered into because of an emergency without giving public notice of the contract and inviting tenders.

### **Attachments**

*Nil.*

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To approve entering into contracts for various tree clearing services as an emergency situation post the Bunyip Bushfires. All works undertaken are claimable costs under the National Disaster Fund Arrangements.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Bunyip bushfire commenced on March 1st 2019 and spread across the communities of Tynong Nth, Garfield Nth, Bunyip Nth and Tonimbuk. Emergency works were required to allow people to return to their properties safely. This included the inspection of trees on private properties to identify dangerous trees and make them safe and to clear roadsides of fallen or dangerous trees to allow people to return to their properties.

Finding arborists and tree clearing service companies that had the necessary qualifications, appropriate insurances and the correct equipment was challenging, especially when faced with the urgency of the requests.

To formalise this matter it is recommended that Council retrospectively approves entering into these contract because of the emergency situation caused by the bushfire.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN**

To minimise the impact of emergencies

## **CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION**

Due to the emergency situation caused by the bushfires it was not possible, or feasible, to undertake a community consultation exercise or public tender for these works.

## **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The total cost involved in these contracts is \$1,113,112 and this is an eligible activity under the National Disaster Fund Arrangements and it is likely that we will receive the full amount once claimed.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is appropriate for the Council to retrospectively endorse the entering into these contracts due to the emergency caused by the Bunyip bushfire.