

GERALDTON TENNIS CLUB (Inc)



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The Councillors
City of Greater Geraldton
By Email only: council@cgg.wa.net.au
19 March 2015

Dear Sir,

According to the Agenda Forum report of 17 March 2015, City Officers decided not to support our application to resurface our 2 existing hard courts with a cost to the city (one third contribution) to a maximum of \$5,407. The decision was based on the fact that new lease conditions will likely have a significant impact on the club's financial situation and that more information and financial planning was needed from the club to show that we have capacity to continue to maintain the existing 23 grass courts and the 2 planned hard courts.

We would ask that Council approve the application, at its meeting in Mullewa on Tuesday, 24 March 2015, despite the decision of City Officers. We make the following points:

1. 3 members of our club attended a meeting at council with 5 City Officers and our understanding was that this application and the negotiations for the lease were separate issues. At the end of the long meeting at Council Offices we were invited to prepare and present a submission in relation to the renewal of the lease. At no time were we told that the 2 issues of the lease and the resurfacing of the hard courts were linked in any way. If we had been told this we would have been at the Agenda Forum on Saturday, March 2015.
2. The contribution from the club of \$5,407 is not a large enough amount for the city to be worried about our ability to fund this and to reject our application because of a requirement of proof of affordability.
3. This is especially so given our demonstrated ability in the past to fund improvements including clubhouse extensions, installation of hard courts (using a \$10,000 self-supporting loan from the Council which was repaid and \$5000 of club funds in 1986), resurfacing of the courts at a cost of \$18,000 from club funds, doubling the number of grass courts (at the sole cost of the club – including fencing and reticulation and supply and laying of turf) lighting of hard courts, building of limestone wall and entrance statement, installation of RCD's in 2013 at a cost to the club only of \$7,117 and building of the outdoor pavilion with brick paving in 2013/14.

4. The City Officers, with great respect, are pre-empting the decision of Council in relation to the financial impact to the club of negotiations and final lease to be agreed.
5. Council can be assured that whatever agreement is finalised in relation to the lease it will not impact at all on our ability to raise the \$5,407 contribution.
6. We are in the process of finalising our submission to Council in relation to the renewal of the lease and whatever decision or agreement is made the tennis club will continue and there is no doubt at all that it will be able to fund the \$5,407 which would be its contribution to the resurfacing of the courts.
7. The hard courts are in need of resurfacing because of wear and tear and any delay will detrimentally financially impact on the club. On the one hand the City Officers appear to have concerns about our ability to raise \$5,407 and, at the same time, on the other hand, are taking a decision which will cost everyone a lot more money because of delay resulting in accelerating damage to the court because of resultant lack of maintenance, an increase in the costs of resurfacing and reduction in income to the club.
8. The resurfacing of the courts and the intended painting of them in “Tennis Australia blue” will be a magnificent improvement to this city facility and an attraction to more members, junior coaching participants and a further enhancement of our partnership with Tennis Australia as a Regional Centre.
9. The Geraldton tennis club was established in 1872 and Council can rely on and obtain confidence and comfort in 143 years of history and financial viability and 143 years of a successful partnership with the municipality of Geraldton over the whole of that time.

We thank you for taking the time to consider these arguments and look forward to the continuation of a long and successful relationship.

Yours sincerely

GEORGE GIUDICE
President.

