



Geraldton Junior & Senior Motocross Club
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18/01/2023

City of Greater Geraldton Councillors
C/- Phil Melling

Dear Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of the Geraldton Junior & Senior Motocross Club in regards to the current lease we hold with the City of Greater Geraldton. Our lease is due to end in 2024 with no renewal however after correspondence with Phil Melling I would like to put forward for council consideration that our lease be renewed in 2024 for a minimum of 10 years to the term of 2034 and preferably beyond this.

The Geraldton Motocross Club was established in the 1980s, has moved around a number of times but has been able to call our current location home for the past 15 or so years. Like all sporting clubs there have been ups and downs however the club has been steadily building both a larger membership base & spectator following over the last few years with a number of community supported events. We have local riders travelling the state for motocross competitions, state riders travelling to Geraldton to ride at our track and events, local & state competitions and a very large number of spectators who come to watch almost every race round or competition we hold. We are proud to provide a safe and well maintained environment for anyone who enjoys either competition riding or free riding and are always looking for opportunities to support both our local riders & community wherever possible.

In my history with the club over the past 6 years not only have we focused on our members racing events but we have grown from community events such as display riding at the Caravan & Camping Shows and events with the Geraldton Speedway. We have collaborated with other state clubs to create a 3 event series for riders all over the state of WA which is now entering the 4th year and we were proud to create a campaign in 2021 called "Motorbikes 4 Mental Health" with which we now hold an open competition event/fun day to promote mental health awareness and have teamed up with a number of supporting organisations. We also hold an annual twilight racing event which draws not only a large number of competitors but a massive amount of spectators as well.

Over the past few years myself, the committee and club members have all worked tirelessly to refresh/maintain the clubs grounds and structures. We have installed hundreds of meters of reticulation & sprinklers, used countless machines for track preparation & maintenance, repainted/renewed facilities, kept our grounds extremely clean & tidy and we were stoked to be listed 4th place in the top 5 motocross clubs in WA for track, facilities & atmosphere which is something we strive to maintain.

Currently the club has over 90 racing & riding members, many of these members compete both locally and in state competition racing however a number of these members simply have a membership so they have a place to ride that is a safe & controlled environment. If the motocross club was no longer here many of our members would be utilising unsafe local areas such as beaches/sand dunes, bush tracks and residential areas, we are very happy that our club & track keeps our riders safely off public land and in an environment where they have both a responsibility to our club & community but also have clear guidelines to follow set out by the club.

For the future of the club we would like the opportunity to apply for larger grants available within the state to enrich the grounds and facilities we currently have which would allow the club to grow further and be more of an asset to the Geraldton community. Our wish list from such grants covers things like building sun smart structures for our members to pit under, a lockable bar area, renewed shower/toilet facilities and spectator viewing platforms just to name a few. We would also have to be one of the only sporting clubs in this community that does not have power and relies solely on generators to run our club, Power is definitely at the top of our wish list. All these things and more would not only benefit the club and its members but create an even better environment for the Geraldton community.

Currently we have a lot of uncertainty around the future of the club and the direction in which it could be headed which is why we are requesting the new lease terms, without a guaranteed home we are stuck in limbo and are unable to propel the club forward into the bright future we can see ahead for both our riders and the wider community. As requested above a lease term until 2034 would give us the opportunity for the potential growth we see and as the times change the possibility of a longer term would be greatly appreciated.

Both I and the committee are aware there would be additional fees/requirements associated with the new lease term, we are happy to comply with any requests and cover this.

I sincerely appreciate the time in which the councillors will take to consider this request and look forward to an outcome.

Kind regards,

Steve Harrison, president, & Committee of the Geraldton Junior & Senior Motocross Club.