

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Motor Sports Facilities Working Group  
**FROM:** Manager Community Services  
**DATE:** 29 August 2005  
**SUBJECT:** Motor Sports Questionnaire / Meeting

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## PURPOSE

To update the Committee of the responses received to the questionnaire that went to all motor sports organisations and to report on the meeting held with representatives of the various motor sports groups.

## BACKGROUND

Attached is an updated summary of the results of the motor sport questionnaire. This now covers 18 different organisations with a total of over 1200 active members in the Nelson/Tasman area.

As can be seen, most supported the idea of a meeting of representatives of the various organisations to discuss future requirements in the Nelson/Tasman area.

At the June Community Services meeting it was agreed to hold such a meeting and this took place on 16 August.

## DISCUSSION

A total of 50 people attended the meeting made up of 40 representatives of 24 different motor sports, six Councillors, two community board members and two staff.

As Cr Norriss is involved in a motor sport and knew a number of those attending, I asked him to chair the meeting.

After the introduction, each organisation present was given the opportunity to provide the following details:

- Number of members.
- Number and type of events.
- Where their events are held.
- What issues they have.

- Would there be benefits of combining facilities with other groups.
- Any other information they wished to share.

Some of the comments made at the meeting were:

- Appreciative of Council taking the initiative by getting all the groups together for the first time.
- Like to see an umbrella organisation for motor sports.
- A shared facility would require both sealed and unsealed surfaces, flat areas, hilly areas and grass areas for gymkhanas.
- Many of the groups travel large distances to events around New Zealand.
- A Motor Sports Event Centre in the Nelson area would draw large numbers from around New Zealand to events.
- Many of the groups would hold more meetings if they had a purpose built venue.
- Any new centre would need to be well away from houses.
- Some groups have clubrooms and/or some facilities.
- Many of the groups hold events/lessons for youth.

During a general discussion after each group had provided their details the new facility at Taupo was considered a good model. Areas around Tapawera were mentioned as possible sites.

There was a general feeling that if a new facility is built that it needs to be the best, not just another facility. This would then ensure its financial success.

The meeting agreed to set up a Working Group to work with Council in investigating this proposal further and 12 people put their names forward.

The meeting concluded with Council being thanked for taking the initiative. It was also stated that Council's attitude towards the idea of a combined facility was most important.

A meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for Monday 5 September and this will be reported on at the meeting.

Depending on the outcome of the Working Group's meeting on 5 September, Council will need to consider what their role is to be in any joint venture of motor sports groups.

## **OPTIONS**

The following options will need to be considered:

- 1 Now that a Working Group has been formed of representatives of the various motor sports groups, Council could back away and leave it to them.

- 2 That Council continue to work with this Working Group with their investigations into a joint Motor Sports Centre and further, that this matter be referred to the Joint Regional Funding Forum for consideration as a regional facility.

Note: There is a general feeling amongst the representatives of the various motor sports groups that for a joint venture to succeed it is essential that Council are actively supporting the idea.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council continue to investigate a joint motor sports venue with the Working Group and further that this proposal be referred to the Joint Regional Funding Forum for consideration as a regional facility should it become a reality.

L L Kennedy  
Manager Community Services

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