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**Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club
Application to support World Fireball Championships**

The City of Mandurah is delighted to support the application of the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club for assistance in staging the World Fireball Sailing Championships.

The City will be working closely with the club in a number of ways. The club will be eligible for regular support through the Community Events Support Grants, which is likely to be in the region of \$1,500. This will go towards event operations and logistics and could include paid promotions, safety, security and amenity related support. In addition, given the nature of the event, it is envisaged that the City of Mandurah will provide in kind support, potentially including a civic reception, marina access and assistance with communicating with local tourism operators. We will also be involved with cross promoting by participation at other events, such as the Channel 7 Crabfest and use of the City of Mandurah media and marketing staff and networks to promote the World Fireball Championship events.

The City is very keen that this event come to the City. We see that there will be a number of benefits. Economically there will be an impact that will be derived from a combination of tourist dollars by spectators and competitors, and the spending on local marine services by those competitors over a two week period. In the tourism area the event is very desirable from a destination branding perspective because it is such a spectacular event, as a water based activity.

This event is also important to us in strategic industry development, an area that we are working extensively on at present. We would predict that approximately 60 percent of services, repairs and equipment needs of the many boats competing, can be sourced locally from existing capabilities.

The efforts of the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club to increase the number and frequency of such championships certainly fits with the City of Mandurah's intention to support growth of the local marine sector, by simultaneously encouraging increased demand and addressing capability gap.

This event will also have important implications and benefits for the community. A wide range of studies and data shows that sport and recreation have significant positive effects on the development of individuals and community and the environment. The benefits relate to good health, skill development, social interaction and community integration – very important for a rapidly growing community like ours.

The City of Mandurah also acknowledges that this social dividend will be most effectively assisted through the provision of high quality sport and recreation experiences. This will happen through continuous improvement in the planning and delivery of facilities and activities. This is where the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club has developed enormously over the years in their capability and their skill in delivering such an event.

The City also believes that effectively engaging with other complimentary providers to form partnerships in the provision of improved sport and recreation facilities, programs and events, such as this World Fireball Championships, bring many added benefits to the City.

We have recently conducted a youth survey across 12 to 24 year olds in Mandurah, which found that one of the top five issues was young people are seeking more events and festivals in Mandurah to participate in.

The City of Mandurah has always been a strong supporter of the efforts of the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club. They have a very proud record of ensuring access by many disadvantaged young people to their facilities and introducing them to boating and sailing and life skills. The work that they do in the community, particularly for those groups who sometimes miss out on these events, will also be enhanced by staging this championship.

I have worked with the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club now over a number of events and regattas. They have always demonstrated a great ability to work in partnership to seek and take advice, to continually improve their logistical and administrative operations and they build on an enormous foundation of community spirit and volunteer effort. Their contribution to the Mandurah Boat Show over many years is widely known and the club has a remarkable "can do" attitude.

The City understands how important a world event such as this could be to this region and to Western Australia. We therefore fully support their application to Event Corp for assistance in staging this important event. We would like to see it really be something that not only this region, but all of Western Australia, could be proud of.

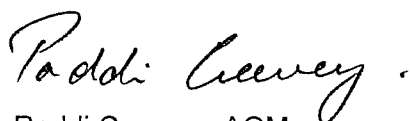
In summary, the City is very keen to see the Club get the maximum support to host this very important event. We have watched the development from their first attempts at junior sailing State titles and seen that capability grow to hosting National events. Feedback we have received from the Olympic Sailing coach and Yachting Australia indicate that we have all the ingredients to hold very successful events – the waters of Comet Bay, an excellent facility, a strong club, significant volunteer involvement and a driving passion to bring the best of sailing to this community.

The club has a proud history of working closely with the community and in partnership with the City. For all the reasons detailed above, we are strongly in support of this application and will work closely with the club to ensure that this event will be something that, not only the City, but Australia can be proud of.

Should you require any further information please feel free to contact me or through my Personal Assistant, Lena Houghton on 9550 3714.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely



Paddi Creevey AOM
Mayor