

To Carnamah Shire Council

I am writing to request support for the Carnamah Big Tractor Committee and our project of getting a five times replica of the first Chamberlain tractor, 40k, built and placed near the Southern entrance to town. The committee is in the process of becoming an incorporated body. The proposed site is in front of Hal Waltons Chamberlain/John Deere museum. We feel there is so many tourist attractions and points of interest in our town and the entire district, that are being underutilised and one big attraction like this will attract a lot more travellers to town and make Carnamah the central point for their stay. The committee envisages there will be employment created and obvious economic benefits to the community.

The cost of the tractor build is high. 1.13 million for the build and 10 thousand for concrete footings, plus landscaping and signage. The cost comes from the 36 ton of steel and the intricate detail of each piece of the tractor. The manufacturer has advised it will be a 12 month build. Top quality Cameleon paint will be used, which in itself will be over 200k. There is not expected to be any maintenance for 12 to 15 years, apart from a possible touchup on weld points where the four pieces are joined on site, which will be covered by the manufacturer. Cleaning of the tractor will be carried out by a group of local volunteers. We are aiming to raise 300k from private and corporate donations, of which we are just over 20%. This will enable us to apply for a Federal Government BBRF grant of 900000 to complete the build on site. This round of funding in the BBRF scheme is tailored towards regional tourism Australia wide so we believe if we can raise our contribution we will have a good chance of being successful. I have also been advised by the BBRF scheme that they can not guarantee that there will be another round of this funding in the future. The grant applications close on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March so time is of the essence.

The committee received the final quote for the build in late January and has been focussed on getting site plans and funding in place. Hence there has been some oversight in consultation with the shire and following due process, which I apologise for. I have received majority support verbally from the community with around 30 in favour, and 10 to date pledging financial support. I have received two comments from people that are unsure/negative based on the high cost of the project and unsure how it will bring more people to town.

As the best way to apply for the grant is through a local government organisation a 10 year lease agreement between the shire and Hal has been drawn up. The committee may request in kind support from the shire council and also assistance in completing the grant application. As the tractor will be on shire leased land insurance will need to be covered by the shire at \$1680 per year with an upfront \$602 in the first year.

This is a huge project, in more ways than one, but we see the benefits will be massive and ongoing for the town and the entire district and help secure the vibrancy of our community for the following 100 plus years. If you break it down and look at a 300k investment from our community members and partners, it is a cheap investment in our future. If we don't apply for 900k from the Federal Government, another community will.

I look forward to your timely response.

Regards

Brendon Haeusler

Big Tractor Committee Chairperson