

## **Exemption from Tender and Contract Extension - Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting**

**File No:** S119487

**Tender No:** 1417

### **Summary**

This report provides details of a variation to extend the existing option of the current Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting contract (No. 1417) with GHD Pty Ltd for 12 months.

The variation to the existing option of the current contract will include:

- (a) an increase in monitoring frequency and preparation of a Sampling Analysis and Quality Plan (SAQP) for landfill gas surface emissions at Sydney Park; and
- (b) continuation of water quality monitoring of groundwater, lake and wetland surface water, and harvested stormwater.

Sydney Park covers an areas of approximately 44 hectares bounded by Sydney Park Road, Euston Road, Campbell Road, Barwon Park Road and the Princess Highway. Prior to being established as a park, the area was used as a quarry and landfill.

The City has prepared a Voluntary Management Proposal for the Environmental Protection Authority. The Voluntary Management Proposal requires the City of Sydney to monitor landfill gas surface emissions at Sydney Park monthly, and to complete additional landfill gas investigations, a landfill gas risk assessment, a landfill gas remedial action plan, and a landfill gas site management plan, to define any required landfill gas mitigation and ongoing monitoring.

This variation is required to address select requirements of the City's Voluntary Management Proposal within the required timeframes. It will also allow for ongoing monitoring to effectively manage environmental risks while data is collected to inform future environmental management requirements.

## Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that because of extenuating circumstances a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders for the services currently provided under the existing Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting contract that expires on 31 July 2019;
- (B) Council note the reasons why a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders for the services referred to in (A) above are:
  - (i) it would result in a gap in landfill gas monitoring at Sydney Park; and
  - (ii) the City would be unable to gather data and meet the timeframes set out in the Voluntary Management Plan submitted to the EPA;
- (C) Council approve a variation to extend the option of the current Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting contract to 31 July 2020 and increase the frequency of monitoring being conducted at the price outlined in Confidential Attachment A to the subject report;
- (D) Council approve the GHD Amended Schedule of Rates outlined in Confidential Attachment B to the subject report; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the variation to the contract under clause (C).

## Attachments

- Attachment A.** City of Sydney Parks and Reserves - Summary of Proposed Variation (Confidential)
- Attachment B.** Amended Schedule of Rates as of 14 June 2019 (Confidential)

## Background

1. The City of Sydney entered into a consultancy agreement with GHD Pty Ltd in July 2014 to provide environmental monitoring and analysis services. This agreement was to expire on 31 July 2019, with an option to extend which expires on 31 July 2019. The option to extend for the further term was exercised on 31 July 2017.
2. Services that the contract delivers include:
  - (a) annual ground water (bore) monitoring across the City;
  - (b) quarterly landfill gas (LFG) emissions monitoring at Sydney Park ;
  - (c) quarterly lakes and wetland water quality monitoring across the City;
  - (d) annual harvested storm water monitoring and inspections across the City; and,
  - (e) from time to time, the City may request quotations from the consultant to carry out maintenance works to ensure the accurate reading of water quality and gas emissions.
3. Sydney Park covers an areas of approximately 44 hectares bounded by Sydney Park Road, Euston Road, Campbell Road, Barwon Park Road and the Princess Highway. Prior to being established as a park, the area was used as a quarry and landfill.
4. The City detected elevated methane levels in monitoring bores on, and adjacent to, Sydney Park in July 2016 and reported it to the Environment Protection Authority. The main components of landfill gas are methane and carbon dioxide.
5. In 2018, an independent accredited contaminated site auditor was appointed by the City to conduct a non-statutory site audit of Sydney Park. The auditor recommended further investigation of landfill gas emissions, an assessment of the risk related to potential landfill gas emissions, and ongoing monitoring and mitigation of landfill gas emissions.
6. On 25 February 2019, the Environmental Protection Authority declared Sydney Park as 'significantly contaminated land' under Section 11 of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997, because of the 'potential for offsite migration of methane and carbon dioxide via preferential pathways due to the geology of the site'.
7. The City used the site audit report to prepare a Voluntary Management Proposal for the Environmental Protection Authority. The Voluntary Management Proposal requires the City of Sydney to monitor landfill gas surface emissions at Sydney Park monthly, and to complete additional landfill gas investigations, a landfill gas risk assessment, a landfill gas remedial action plan, and a landfill gas site management plan, to define any required landfill gas mitigation and ongoing monitoring.
8. Under the contract, GHD conducts routine monitoring of levels of landfill gas at Sydney Park. Through the proposed variation extension, GHD is best placed to undertake monthly monitoring of landfill gas surface emissions at Sydney Park for the next 12 months.

9. The Voluntary Management Plan for Sydney Park submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority requires continued monitoring of landfill gas surface emissions at Sydney Park. The results of the landfill gas surface emissions monitoring will determine the location of landfill gas monitoring wells and bores that will monitor any landfill gas production and migration.
10. Extending the existing contract ensures there is no gap in testing and that this task is completed in a timely manner in line with the Voluntary Management Plan timeframes and to inform future procurement activities. During the current contract period, GHD have acquired extensive knowledge of the site and have provided good service with regards to landfill gas monitoring.
11. Other Voluntary Management Plan requirements (additional landfill gas investigations, and a landfill gas risk assessment, remedial action plan and site management plan) will be subject to a separate procurement process which is currently being prepared. Findings from this will inform the future environmental management approach of Sydney Park.
12. GHD also monitors water quality of groundwater from abstraction bores, surface water in lakes and wetlands, and harvested stormwater, at Sydney Park and other parks. GHD is best placed to continue water quality monitoring for the next 12 months as they have knowledge and have been performing well under the contract. The independent site auditor was also engaged to audit the methods and results of water quality monitoring in wetlands and of water used to irrigate City Parks. As a result of the audit, the site auditor recommended the frequency of water quality monitoring of groundwater and harvested stormwater used for irrigation increase from annual to quarterly to manage risks.

### **Financial Implications**

13. The cost to extend the current Environmental Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting contract (No. 1417) with GHD consultants for 12 months is included in Confidential Attachment A.
14. The original tender for contract 1417 was conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and the City's Contracts Policy.
15. There are sufficient funds allocated for this project within the current financial year's operating budget and future year forward estimates.

### **Critical Dates / Time Frames**

16. The option for the existing contract with GHD expires on 31 July 2019.
17. It is proposed to extend the existing option for a further 12 months, until 31 July 2020.

## Options

18. If the variation is not approved, the City would fail to meet the requirements of the Voluntary Management Plan. It would also lead to a gap in monitoring while procurement activities take place, potentially increasing risks to the City.

### **DAVID RIORDAN**

Director City Services

Rob Dobinson, Parks Environmental Engineer

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