



Hawkesbury City Council

ordinary
meeting
business
paper

date of meeting: 12 September 2017

location: council chambers

time: 6:30 p.m.



mission statement

***Hawkesbury City Council
leading and working
with our community
to create a healthy
and resilient future.***

How Council Operates

Hawkesbury City Council supports and encourages the involvement and participation of local residents in issues that affect the City.

The 12 Councillors who represent Hawkesbury City Council are elected at Local Government elections, held every four years. Voting at these elections is compulsory for residents who are aged 18 years and over and who reside permanently in the City.

Ordinary Meetings of Council are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month (except January), and the last Tuesday of each month (except December), meeting dates are listed on Council's website. The meetings start at 6:30pm and are scheduled to conclude by 11pm. These meetings are open to the public.

When an Extraordinary Meeting of Council is held, it will usually also be held on a Tuesday and start at 6:30pm. These meetings are also open to the public.

Meeting Procedure

The Mayor is Chairperson of the meeting.

The business paper contains the agenda and information on the items to be dealt with at the meeting. Matters before the Council will be dealt with by an exception process. This involves Councillors advising the General Manager by 3pm on the day of the meeting, of those items they wish to discuss. A list of items for discussion will be displayed at the meeting for the public to view.

At the appropriate stage of the meeting, the Chairperson will move for all those items which have not been listed for discussion (or have registered speakers from the public) to be adopted on block. The meeting then will proceed to deal with each item listed for discussion and decision.

Public Participation

Members of the public may address Council on any items in the business paper other than the Confirmation of Minutes; Responses to Questions from Previous Meeting; Mayoral Elections; Deputy Mayoral Elections and Committee Elections.

To register, please lodge an application form with Council prior to 3pm on the day of the meeting. The application form is available on Council's website, from the Customer Service Branch or by contacting the Corporate Services and Governance Manager on (02) 4560 4444 or by email at council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

The Chairperson will invite registered persons to address Council when the relevant item is being considered. Speakers have a maximum of five minutes to present their views. The Code of Meeting Practice allows for three speakers 'for' a recommendation (i.e. in support), and three speakers 'against' a recommendation (i.e. in opposition).

All speakers must state their name, organisation if applicable (after producing written authorisation from that organisation) and their interest in the matter before speaking.

Voting

The motion for each item listed for discussion will be displayed for Councillors and public viewing, if it is different to the recommendation in the business paper. The Chairperson will then ask the Councillors to vote, generally by a show of hands or voices. Depending on the vote, a motion will be 'Carried' (passed) or 'Lost'.

Planning Decision

Under Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993, voting for all Planning Decisions must be recorded individually. Hence, the Chairperson will ask Councillors to vote with their electronic controls on planning items and the result will be displayed on a board located above the Minute Secretary.

This will enable the names of those Councillors voting 'for' or 'against' the motion to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and subsequently included in the required register.

Business Papers

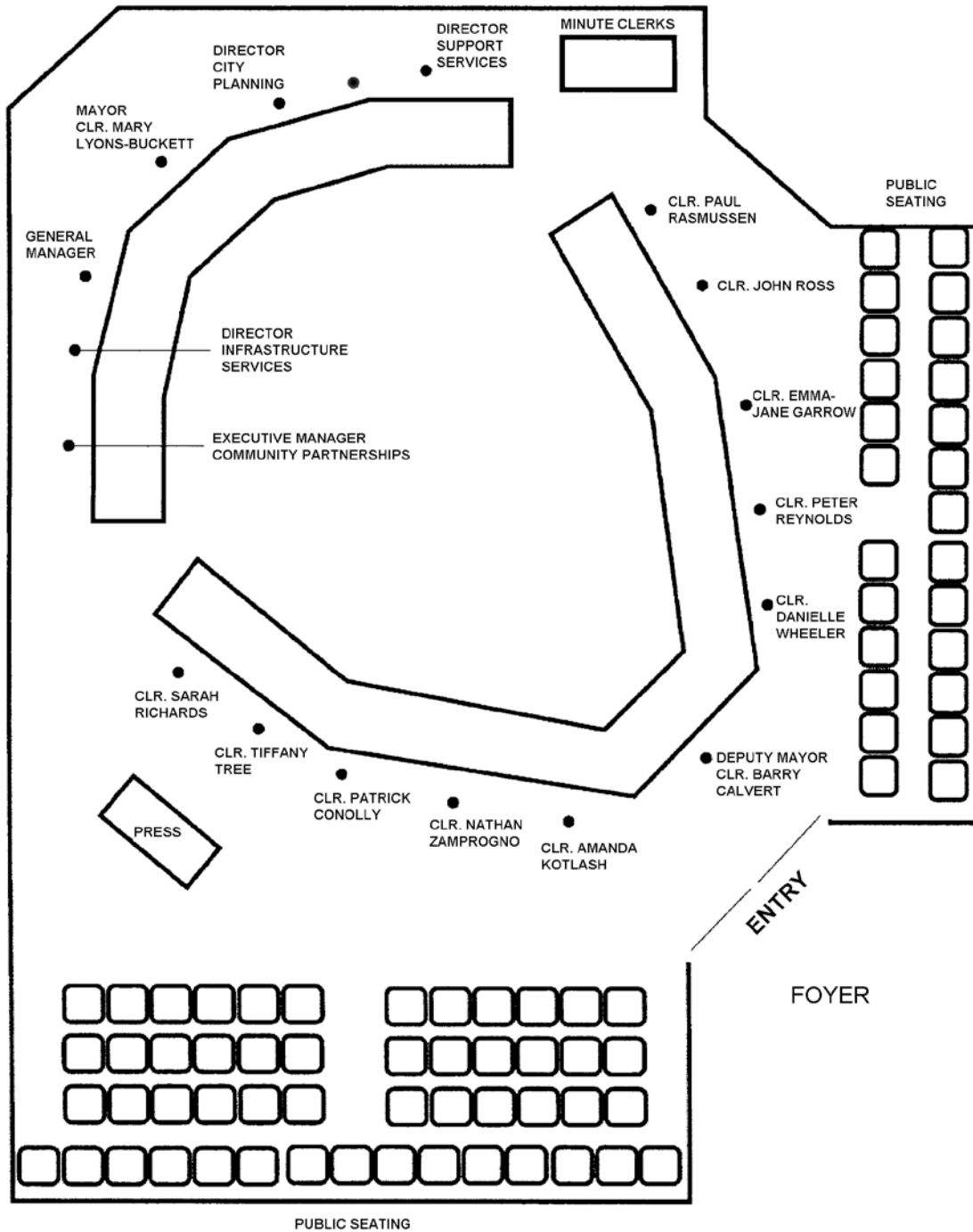
Business papers can be viewed online from 12pm on the Friday before the meeting on Council's website <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au>

Hard copies of the business paper can be viewed at Council's Administration Building and Libraries after 12pm on the Friday before the meeting. The business paper can also be viewed on the public computers in the foyer of Council's Administration Building.

Further Information

A guide to Council Meetings is available on the Council's website. If you require further information about meetings of Council, please contact the Corporate Services and Governance Manager on (02) 4560 4444.

Hawkesbury City Council



ORDINARY MEETING

Table of Contents

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

AGENDA

- **WELCOME**
 - Acknowledgement of Indigenous Heritage**
- **APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- **SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes**
- **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFICIAL VISITORS TO THE COUNCIL**
- **AGENDA ITEMS SUBJECT TO PUBLIC ADDRESS**
- **SECTION 2 - Mayoral Minutes**
- **EXCEPTION REPORT - Adoption of Items Not Identified for Discussion and Decision**
- **SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination**
 - Planning Decisions**
 - General Manager**
 - City Planning**
 - Infrastructure Services**
 - Support Services**
- **SECTION 4 - Reports of Committees**
- **SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion**
- **QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**
- **REPORTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

ORDINARY MEETING

Table of Contents

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

ORDINARY MEETING**Table of Contents****Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE
SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes		3
SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination		7
GENERAL MANAGER		7
Item: 158	GM - Hawkesbury Gazette - Request for Sponsorship - (79351, 79356)	7
Item: 159	GM - Outcome of 'Investing in Your Future' Community Consultation - (79351, 95496, 96328)	10
SUPPORT SERVICES		40
Item: 160	SS - Implementation of Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Recommendations - (95496, 96328)	40
Item: 161	SS - Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan - (95496, 96328)	48
Item: 162	SS - Proposal to Construct Accessible Footpath - Wilberforce Shopping Centre - (95496, 96328)	51
SECTION 4 - Reports of Committees		57
ROC	Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes - 22 June 2017 - 124569, 96328)	57
SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion		69
NM	Secondary Dwellings in Oakville and Maraylya - (79351, 105109, 138880)	69
QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING		71
Councillor Questions from Previous Meetings and Responses - (79351)		71
CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS		73
Item: 163	CP - Community Representation on the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter Working Group - (95498, 39906) CONFIDENTIAL	73
Item: 164	IS - Drainage Update - Price Lane, Agnes Banks - (95495) CONFIDENTIAL	74
Item: 165	SS - Property Matter - Lease to Blefari Holdings Pty Ltd - Shop 6, Glossodia Shopping Village - (95496, 96333, 112106, 126147) CONFIDENTIAL	75

ORDINARY MEETING

Table of Contents

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

ordinary

section 1

confirmation of minutes

ORDINARY MEETING
Confirmation of Minutes

ORDINARY MEETING
Confirmation of Minutes

SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes

ORDINARY MEETING
Confirmation of Minutes

ordinary

section

3

reports
for determination

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination

GENERAL MANAGER

Item: 158

GM - Hawkesbury Gazette - Request for Sponsorship - (79351, 79356)

REPORT:

Executive Summary

The Hawkesbury Gazette approached Council in July 2017 with a proposal for Council to sponsor three 'We Are Hawkesbury' joint projects to be held over the next six months. The projects include:

- 'We Are Hawkesbury – 25 Places Photographic Competition'
- 'We Are Hawkesbury – One Voice'
- 'We Are Hawkesbury – Street Sign Selfies'.

These three projects have been developed in response to the success of the recent 'We Are Hawkesbury – 100 Faces Photographic Exhibition' held in June 2017.

This report outlines details of the three 'We Are Hawkesbury' projects and the actions Council can take to sponsor these events.

This report recommends providing financial and in-kind sponsorship support.

Consultation

The issues raised in this report concern matters which do not require community consultation under the Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Background

The Hawkesbury Gazette developed the inaugural 'We Are Hawkesbury – 100 Faces Photographic Exhibition' in June 2017. As part of the exhibition, Jeff Jones photographed 100 Hawkesbury residents aged from one to 100. The portraits were displayed for four days at the Richmond School of Arts. Over the week more than 600 people came and viewed the exhibition. The exhibition was considered to have been a great success inspiring a sense of pride in being part of the Hawkesbury community.

Building on the success of the 'We Are Hawkesbury - 100 Faces Photographic Exhibition', the Gazette has proposed three further 'We Are Hawkesbury' projects over the next six months:

- 'We Are Hawkesbury – 25 Places Photographic Competition'
- 'We Are Hawkesbury – One Voice'
- 'We Are Hawkesbury – Street Sign Selfies'.

'We Are Hawkesbury - 25 Places Photographic Competition' is about residents taking photos of their favourite places from 25 nominated locations across the Hawkesbury. An interactive map of Hawkesbury residents' favourite places will be produced. The project will commence in mid-September 2017 and be run over six weeks. The Mayor will be invited to be one of the competition judges.

'We Are Hawkesbury – One Voice' is a seven week singing competition beginning in November 2017. Singers will be asked to submit an audition piece that will be voted on. Over four weeks, a pool of singers will be identified and the community will vote on the final winner. The winner of the competition may be invited to sing at Council's Australia Day event on 26 January 2018.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

'We Are Hawkesbury – Street Sign Selfies' will be a six week program where residents will be encouraged to take photos in their street, with the best street in the Hawkesbury being identified.

The Gazette approached Council and invited it to partner with a number of other local businesses to support these events. A proposal was put to Council and the terms of the sponsorship agreement were negotiated.

Council advised the Gazette that they currently have \$10,000 available for sponsorship. At this stage it is proposed that Council will only provide sponsorship of \$10,000 for the first two projects 'We Are Hawkesbury – 25 Places Photographic Competition' and 'We Are Hawkesbury – One Voice' with sponsorship of the third project, 'We Are Hawkesbury – Street Sign Selfies' to be discussed in early 2018.

As part of the Sponsorship Agreement for \$10,000, Council will receive logo recognition on all promotional material, name mention in all relevant editorial coverage (both online and in print) and logo placement on the official gloss map.

In kind support will be offered by Council including judging of the 'We Are Hawkesbury – 25 Places Photographic Competition' by the Mayor, award presentation for the 'We Are Hawkesbury – One Voice' competition and a singing opportunity for the 'We Are Hawkesbury – One Voice' winner at Council's Australia Day event.

Conformance to the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036

The proposal is consistent with the following Focus Area, Directions and Strategies within the CSP.

Our Future

5.5 Reinforcing our dynamic places

5.5.2 Create active partnerships to develop a network of vibrant centres, creating opportunities for business growth and community connection.

5.6 Instigating Place Making Programs

5.6.1 Foster and promote an annual program of events, festivals, sporting and cultural activities that allows our communities to connect and celebrate with one another.

5.7 Tourism and Economic Development

5.7.1 Working in partnership we will actively market our City and our capabilities to existing and potential businesses, visitors and investors.

Financial Implications

Funding of \$10,000 has been provided for in Component 168 – Corporate Communication of the 2017/2018 Adopted Operational Plan to support events such as the 'We Are Hawkesbury' projects.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approve sponsorship funding to the Hawkesbury Gazette for the 'We Are Hawkesbury – 25 Places Photographic Competition' and 'We Are Hawkesbury – One Voice', to the total value of \$10,000 financial assistance and in kind services including judging and presentation of awards by the Mayor and a singing opportunity at the Australia Day event for the 'We Are Hawkesbury – One Voice' winner.
2. Enter into the standard Sponsorship Agreement with the Hawkesbury Gazette for the 'We Are Hawkesbury' projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Item: 159 **GM - Outcome of 'Investing in Your Future' Community Consultation - (79351, 95496, 96328)**

Previous Item: 60, Ordinary (28 March 2018)
 273, Ordinary (13 December 2016)
 241, Ordinary (8 November 2016)
 211, Ordinary (11 October 2016)
 146, Ordinary (26 July 2016)
 138, Ordinary (12 July 2016)
 4, Ordinary (2 February 2016)
 85, Extraordinary (23 June 2015)
 RM, Ordinary (30 June 2015)
 MM, Ordinary (27 October 2015)

REPORT:

Executive Summary

This report has been prepared to advise Council of the 'Investing in Your Future' community consultation outcomes. It briefly outlines the three stage Fit For The Future community engagement process that Council commenced in July 2016 to gather information from residents about service levels (Stage 1) and the future directions of the Hawkesbury (Stage 2). The outcomes of these consultations informed the preparation of the three Investing in Your Future resourcing options presented to the community (Stage 3) as outlined below:

- Option 1 - Annual rate increases in line with assumed rate peg over three years
- Option 2 - Special rate increase of 14.5% above rate peg over three years
- Option 3 - Special rate increase of 22.5% above rate peg over three years.

Based on the outcomes of the consultations undertaken over the past twelve months the report recommends that Council identify Option 3 as its preferred investment vehicle. This option will provide Council with the capacity to:

- respond in a meaningful way to the community investment priorities identified by residents during the Fit For The Future consultations
- delivering on the key activity areas within Council's Delivery Program
- progressively realise the community's long term vision for the Hawkesbury as set out in the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036.

The report proposes that Council prepare additional documentation for public exhibition with the outcomes and submissions of the public exhibition to be further reported to Council prior to Council determining its final position on proceeding with a Special Rate Variation application.

Consultation

The issues raised in this report concern matters which required community consultation under Council's Community Engagement Policy. As Council has been previously advised, Council's Fit For the Future Improvement Plan included provision for a comprehensive three-stage Fit For the Future community engagement strategy. The outcomes of Stages 1 and 2 of this strategy have been previously reported to Council. This report outlines the outcomes of Stage 3 of the community engagement strategy and proposes the preparation of additional material for public exhibition.

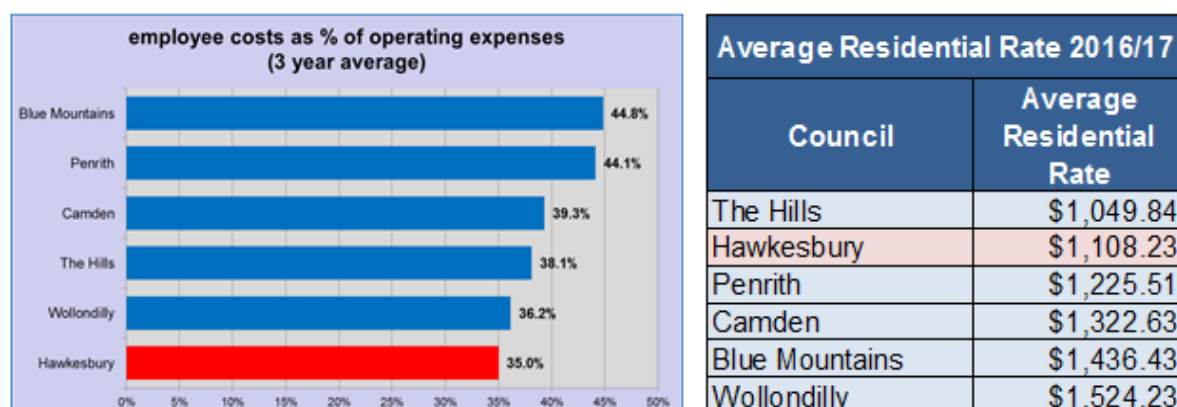
Background

The development and implementation of Council's Fit For the Future Improvement Plan has been part of an ongoing process of review. Since 2007, Council has been implementing measures to improve its long-term financial sustainability with a particular focus on addressing the legacy of past decades of under-investment in asset renewal.

As a result of these measures Council has been able to increase its spending on asset renewal and maintenance by an average of \$7.4M a year. The release of the NSW Government's Local Government Reform Program in September 2014 required Council to accelerate its progress in achieving financial sustainability.

The measures that have been implemented to date as part of the financial sustainability journey have focused on ensuring that Council retains a lean staffing operation and a diversified revenue base to keep rates as low as possible. Council has completed extensive financial modelling of its financial position including a comparative assessment of key expenditure and revenue data which indicates that as a result of the measures taken to date, Hawkesbury Council compares favourably with neighbouring councils and those councils in the same local government grouping as the Hawkesbury (Camden and Wollondilly Councils) in relation to employee costs and average residential rates. Figure 1 highlights some of this comparative data. It shows employee costs as a proportion of total expenditure averaged out over the three financial years ending in 2016 and average ordinary residential rates (excluding waste management charges).

Figure 1: Comparative financial data, employee costs and average residential rates



The comparative data, indicates that Council's staffing costs are proportionally lower than neighbouring councils, while residential rates in the Hawkesbury are significantly lower than the average across neighbouring councils.

As required under the NSW Government's Local Government Reform Program, Council lodged its original Fit For The Future Proposal on 30 June 2015. On 20 October 2015, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) assessed Council's Fit For The Future Proposal as 'not fit' as it did not meet the required Fit For the Future benchmarks in relation to its Operating Performance Ratio.

Following the NSW Government's decision not to proceed with the proposed merger of Hawkesbury City Council with part of The Hills Shire Council in May 2016, Council was advised by the Office of Local Government that it was required to revise its original Fit For The Future proposal and resubmit it for reassessment. A revised Fit For The Future Reassessment Proposal was subsequently approved by Council on 8 November 2016 and submitted to the Office of Local Government on 24 November 2016.

As Council is aware, an external consultant has been commissioned to review Council's Fit For The Future Improvement Plan to identify other possible measures which Council could pursue. The outcomes of this review are to be reported to Council at the next Ordinary Meeting on 26 September, 2017.

ORDINARY MEETING

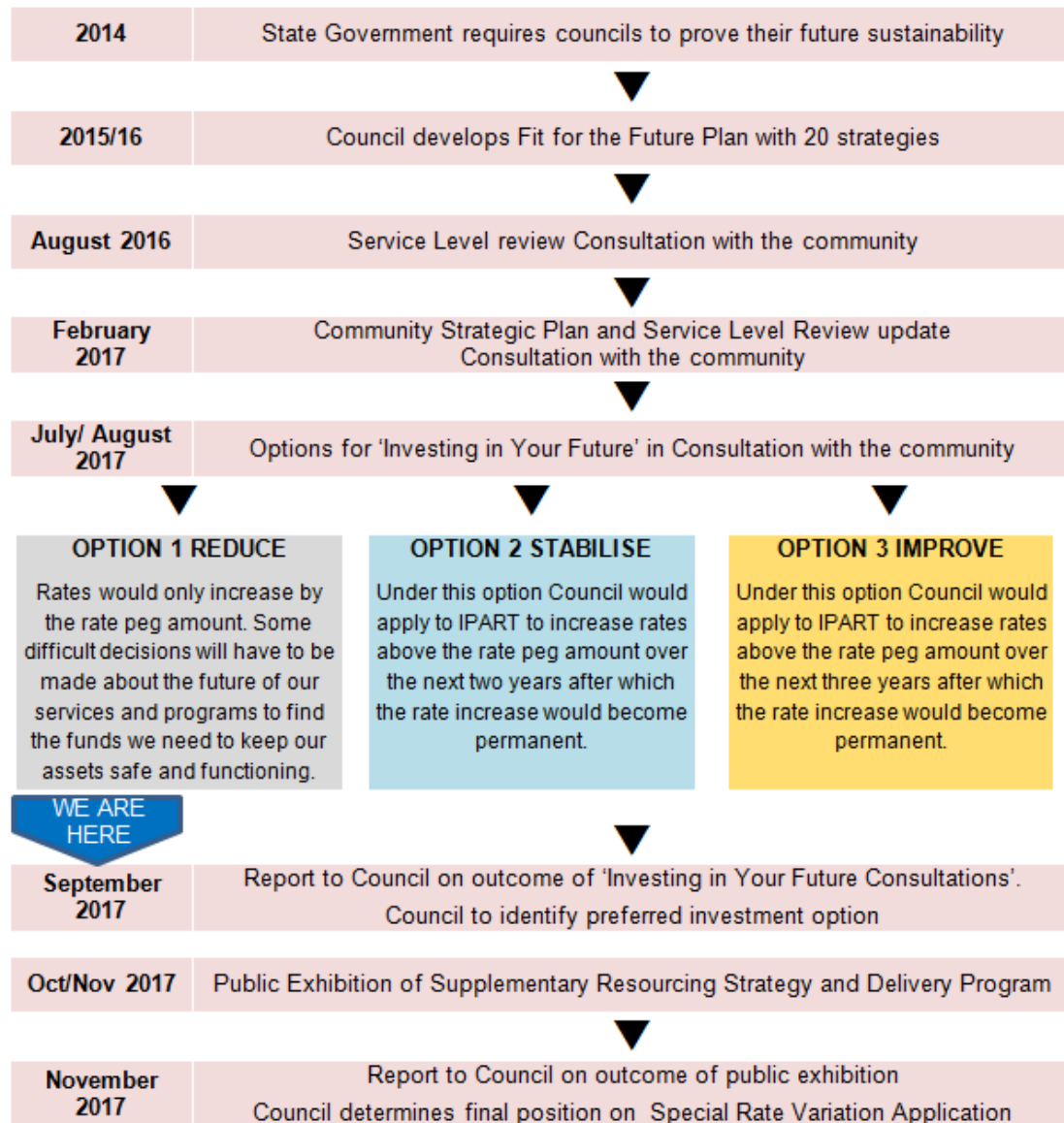
Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

On 23 August 2017, Council received advice from the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP that Council has been declared found to be "Fit".

Current Situation

As documented in Figure 2 Council's Fit For The Future journey commenced in 2014. In June 2015, Council adopted its Fit For the Future Improvement Plan and commenced its implementation.

Figure 2: Fit for the Future timeline



Two of the measures in the Fit For The Future Improvement Plan required Council to engage with the community to gather information from residents on their satisfaction and expectations for Council's services and facilities, their priorities for future investment as well as their preferred resourcing options for investing in the future. At the same time, Council was required to review and update its Community Strategic Plan and engage with residents as part of this process.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

The outcomes of the August 2016 and February 2017 consultations have been previously reported to Council. The most recent Investing in Your Future Consultations are now being reported to Council to enable Council to determine its preferred investment option to facilitate the preparation of additional documents for public exhibition prior to Council determining its final position on a Special Rate Variation application.

The inter-connected Fit For The Future community engagement elements are summarised below in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Summary of Three Stage Fit for the Future Community Engagement Process

<p>Stage 1: <i>'Listening to Our Community'</i></p> 	<p>Consultations where Council went out to hear what residents had to say about their satisfaction and expectations for Council's services and facilities and their priorities for future investment.</p> <p>These consultations took place between 22 July and 24 of August 2016.</p>
<p>Stage 2: <i>'The Hawkesbury 2036 . . . It's Our Future'</i></p> 	<p>Consultations where Council spoke with residents on the things they valued about living in the Hawkesbury and steps to deliver the future that residents wanted to see – a vibrant city with a rural feel.</p> <p>These consultations took place between the 23 January and the 12 March 2017.</p>
<p>Stage 3: <i>'Investing in Your Future'</i></p> 	<p>Consultations where Council briefed residents on its financial position and presented three investment options for residents to consider and asked them to identify their preferred option for investing in the future.</p> <p>These consultations took place between the 10th of July and the 12th of August 2017.</p>

Summary of Community Engagement Activities

This comprehensive consultation program included the following engagement activities:

- 26 town meetings attended by over 923 residents
- 25 information kiosks at shopping centres, markets and Council events where Council staff and Councillors engaged with over 1,500 residents
- two telephone surveys run on Council's behalf by Micromex Research
- a mail out information brochure and postal ballots to all ratepayers
- public exhibition of key documents and calls for submissions
- two online surveys and information up-dates on Council's online engagement portal
- media releases and community newsletters
- targeted engagement with particular community groups.

Stage 3: Investing in Your Future Community Engagement - The Three Investment Options

The focus of the Investing in Your Future consultations was to present information to residents to enable them to come to an informed decision about investing in the future of their communities. As part of this process, information about the three investment options circulated to residents in a number of ways, including:

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

- information and notices on Council's website
- notices in local newspapers alerting residents to upcoming consultations and the opportunities available to advise Council of their views about the investment options
- emails to residents on Council mailing lists
- discussions with residents at information kiosks at shopping centres and community events
- a telephone survey
- a postal ballot distributed to all ratepayers as part of an information package with the 2017/2018 Rates Notice.

The information brochure outlined the impacts of each of the three investment options on Council facilities and services and how each option would affect average rates. Figure 4 is an extract from the Information Brochure which summarised this information.

Figure 4: Outline of three Investing in Your Future Resourcing Options

1 REDUCE	WHAT THIS OPTION MEANS	IMPACT ON EXISTING FACILITIES & ASSETS	NEW FACILITIES TO BE BUILT	IMPACT ON COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
	<p>Under this option rates would increase in-line with the rate peg* amount only. Your rates would increase by 7.69% over 3 years.</p> <p>By 2020 the average residential rate would have increased by \$1.66 a week or \$86.22 a year.</p> <p>This increase would be permanent.</p>	<p>We will not have enough revenue to repair and renew our roads, buildings and parklands to keep them in a good condition. The condition of these assets will continue to deteriorate and access to them may need to be restricted. Some assets may need to be closed to the public.</p> <p>Service levels will be reduced and we may need to redirect resources from other Council services to keep assets safe and functional.</p>	<p>There would be very limited to no capacity to fund new works such as pathways, community facilities or the sealing of gravel roads.</p> <p>Council would have to rely on government grants or developer contributions (linked to major residential developments) to fund new works, but may not have the revenue needed to repair these new works in future years.</p>	<p>There would be no capacity to fund new programs or services.</p> <p>We may need to review current service levels in our community, cultural, civic, and recreation programs and make some difficult decisions about their future if we are to find the funds we need to keep our key assets safe and functioning.</p>
2 STABILISE	WHAT THIS OPTION MEANS	IMPACT ON EXISTING FACILITIES & ASSETS	NEW FACILITIES TO BE BUILT	IMPACT ON COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
	<p>Under this option Council would apply to IPART increase your rates by 14.5% above the allowable rate peg* amount. Your rates would increase by 22.9% over 3 years.</p> <p>By 2020 the average residential rate would have increased by \$4.94 a week or \$256.78 a year.</p> <p>This increase would be permanent.</p>	<p>We will be able to invest (on average) an additional \$4.9 million a year on repairing and renewing our roads, community buildings parks and public spaces.</p> <p>Over time, this increased spending will stabilise the condition of our roads, community buildings, parks and public spaces and keep them in a fair to good condition.</p> <p>Current levels of service will be able to be maintained.</p>	<p>This option will fund a limited program of new capital works to 2027 with a focus on the sealing of gravel roads and upgrades to community buildings.</p> <p>This option would also provide Council with the funds it would need to maintain these new facilities into the future.</p>	<p>Under this option there may be some limited capacity to fund new programs or services.</p> <p>This option may provide the opportunity to reconfigure some existing resources to begin to respond to community priorities.</p>
3 IMPROVE	WHAT THIS OPTION MEANS	IMPACT ON EXISTING FACILITIES & ASSETS	NEW FACILITIES TO BE BUILT	IMPACT ON COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
	<p>Under this option Council would apply to IPART increase your rates by 22.5% above the allowable rate peg* amount. Your rates would increase by 31.3% over 3 years.</p> <p>By 2020 the average residential rate would have increased by \$6.75 a week or \$350.89 a year.</p> <p>This increase would be permanent.</p>	<p>We will be able to invest (on average) an additional \$7.7 million a year on repairing and renewing our roads, community buildings parks and public spaces.</p> <p>Over time, this increased spending will stabilise and then improve the condition of our roads, community buildings parks and public spaces and keep them in a good to very good condition.</p> <p>Current levels of service will be able to be increased.</p>	<p>This option will fund a rolling program of new capital works including an ongoing program of gravel road sealing, kerb and gutter construction, a pathway linking both sides of the Hawkesbury River; improvements to parks public spaces and river foreshores and upgrades to community buildings. This option would also provide Council with the funds it would need to maintain these new facilities into the future.</p>	<p>Under this option Council could fund new programs including increased support for volunteers and community organisations, water quality monitoring of waterways, a dynamic program of community events, an accessible heritage program, and programs to revitalise our town centres and villages.</p>

Based on the information provided to them, residents were asked to assess the benefits of each option to determine their preferred investment option.

Outcome of Stage 3 Investing in Your Future Consultations

Figure 3 summarises the outcomes of the Investing In Your Future Consultations. It found that there was majority community support for a special rate variation:

- 57% of the 401 telephone survey respondents supported a special rate option
- 61% of the 156 on-line survey respondents supported a special rate option
- 68% of the 756 postal ballots received from residents supported a special rate option
- 84% of the 194 residents who voted at town meetings supported a special rate option.

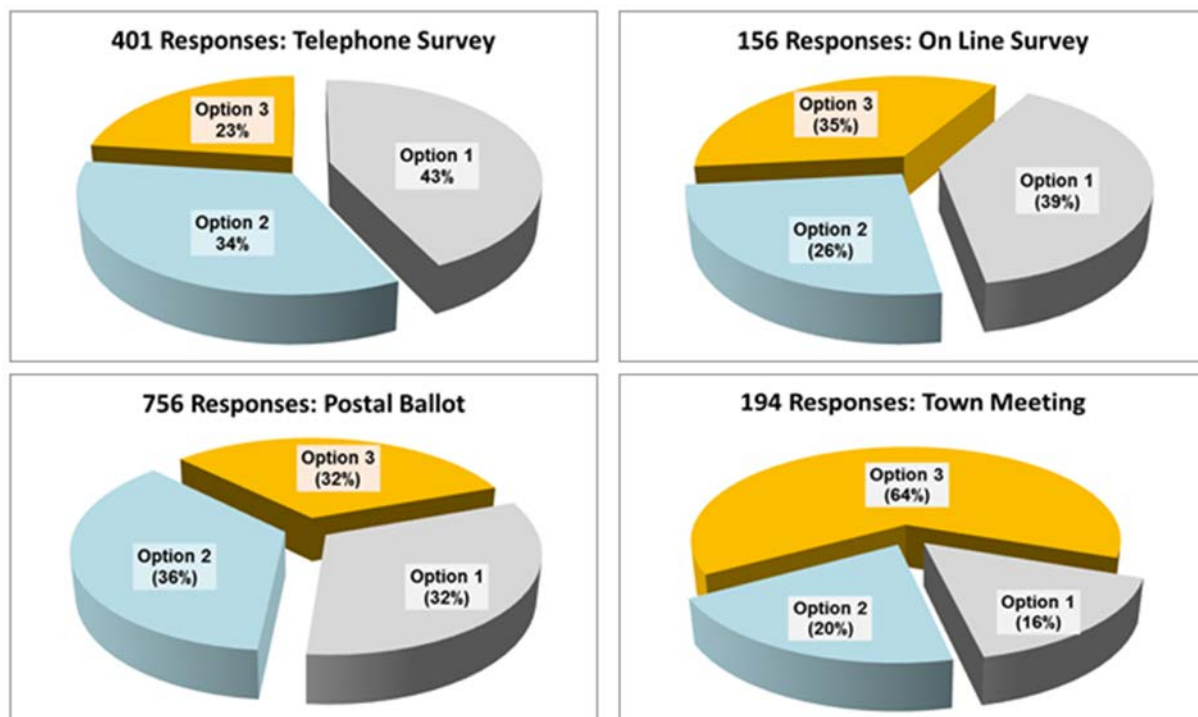


Figure 3: Summary of Preferred Investment Option by Engagement Activity

Overall the level of support for the two special rate options were roughly equal with slightly more support for Option 3, although responses varied according to the engagement activity:

- telephone survey: 34% of respondents supported Option 2, and 23% supported Option 3
- online survey: 26% of respondents supported Option 2, and 35% supported Option 3
- postal ballot: 36% of respondents supported Option 2, and 32% supported Option 3
- town meeting straw poll: 20% of respondents supported Option 2, and 64% supported Option 3.

Town Meeting Responses

During the 'Investing in Your Future' Consultations Community Engagement, Council held 10 town meetings at which Council staff presented detailed information to residents about Council's financial position, the steps that have been taken or were to be taken to address Council's asset renewal funding shortfall, how Council compared with neighbouring councils in relation to its rates, expenditures and revenues, and the other options considered by Council to address its financial position.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

The three investment options were then presented to residents together with a detailed works program which outlined the scope of the works that could be delivered under each option.

Residents were also asked to participate in a straw poll to indicate their preferred investment option. While overall there was strong support for Option 3, there were some significant variations across the different localities as highlighted in Table 1. In particular the response from the Maraylya Town Meeting is worthy of note and is an indication of the concern of residents from localities bordering the North West Growth Sector regarding the impact of the most recent Valuer-General property revaluations on their rates.

Table 1: Preferred Investment Option by Town Meeting

Town Meeting	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	TOTAL
Glossodia	1	5	4	10
Bligh Park	2	3	11	16
Colo Heights	0	2	8	10
Windsor	3	1	21	25
North Richmond	1	3	13	17
Pitt Town	1	12	11	24
Maraylya	21	0	4	25
Kurrajong	2	5	13	20
Richmond	0	4	16	20
St Albans	0	4	23	27
Total	31	39	124	194

The town meetings also included a Question and Answer session. While residents' questions were answered at the town meetings, residents were advised that the questions would be recorded together with a written response from Council. These questions and responses are documented in Attachment 1 to this report – they also include matters raised by residents at information kiosks and/or emailed to Council. The information contained in Attachment 1 has been emailed to residents who attended the town meetings.

Summary of Community's Preferred Investment Options

As outlined in Table 2, the key community message from the 'Investing in Your Future' consultations was that overall two-thirds of residents (66%) who participated or were surveyed did not want service levels to reduce and were willing to pay additional rates to maintain or improve service levels.

Table 2: Summary of Preferred Investment Option – Community Responses

Community Engagement Platform	Support for No SRV Option	Support for SRV Options		
		Support for SRV Options	Option 2	Option 3
Telephone Survey	43%	57%	34%	23%
On Line Survey	39%	61%	26%	35%
Postal Ballot	32%	68%	36%	32%
Town Meeting Poll	16%	84%	20%	64%
All Platforms	33.6%	66.4%	32.3%	34.1%

In relation to the special rate options, there was slightly higher support for Option 3 than Option 2. While majority community support for a special rate variation occurred across all the community engagement platforms, the outcomes achieved across the different platforms suggested that the more informed residents were about Council's financial position and the purpose of the proposed special rates, the greater their level of support for Option 3.

Identification of Council's Preferred Investment Option

To finalise the completion of the Fit For The Future Community Engagement process that commenced in July 2016, Council now needs to commence the process of identifying its preferred investment option. In this regard, the outcomes of the Investing in Your Future Consultations are a relevant consideration.

The process of identifying Council's preferred investment option essentially commenced in August 2016 when the community was consulted regarding Council's services and facilities. In early 2017, the community was further consulted regarding its aspiration for the future culminating in the adoption of the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036 on 28 March 2017. The feedback from these consultations confirmed that:

- the community was not satisfied with current levels of service for a range of Council services, facilities, and activities
- residents would like Council to improve service levels by increasing investment in Council services, facilities and activities
- priorities for future investment should centre on roads, public spaces and town centres
- it was important for Council to invest in programs to support the community and volunteers to look after the Hawkesbury – its heritage, waterways, its future and its people.

Following the adoption of the Community Strategic Plan, Council has adopted a suite of documents to deliver on the directions and strategies in the Plan. These documents included:

- its 2017-2027 Resourcing Strategy which sets out a 10 year plan for translating the objectives of the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036 into actions. This document outlined three different financial scenarios which would determine Council's capacity to implement the directions and strategies within the Community Strategic Plan. The document advised that Council would be consulting with residents about the investment options that shaped these financial scenarios.
- the 2017-2021 Delivery Program 2017-2021 which sets out in greater detail the activities to be undertaken by Council over the next four years to begin the staged implementation of the key directions and strategies within the Community Strategic Plan. The Delivery Program placed particular emphasis on achieving the following key activity areas:
 - town centre revitalisation
 - community building
 - financial sustainability
 - connecting with the community
 - building strong and collaborative relationships
 - protecting Hawkesbury's unique environment
 - establishing identity
 - moving towards becoming a carbon neutral local government area
 - reducing our ecological footprint
 - improving transport connections
 - planning for and developing better places and spaces
 - placemaking
 - recognition of heritage and action to reflect that recognition.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

By adopting its preferred option Council will be communicating to the community which of the three following options best meets its objectives in relation to the future direction of the Council:

- Option 1 The Reduce Option.** This Option will require Council to reduce service levels by \$14.7M over the next three years on top of the \$4M in efficiency savings built into Council's Fit For The Future Plan if it is to meet the Fit for the Future financial benchmarks and maintain the condition of community assets. Under this option, Council would be required to reduce services by \$5.9M each year over the next three years. There would be no capacity to resource new programs or services to respond to community priorities identified during the Community Strategic Plan consultations.
- Option 2 The Stabilise Option.** This option will provide the minimum additional revenue required to stabilise the condition of assets over the medium term and will enable Council to meet the Fit for the Future benchmarks. It will fund on average an additional \$3.4M a year in enhanced asset maintenance and renewal, and a \$22.5M program of new works over the next ten years. This option may provide some limited capacity to fund new programs and services to respond to community priorities through the reconfiguration of existing resources
- Option 3 The Improve Option.** This option will provide a longer-term revenue solution which would enable Council to respond in a meaningful way to the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan and the community investment priorities identified by residents. It will fund on average an additional \$5.9M a year in enhanced asset maintenance and renewal, and a \$29.5M program of new works over the next ten years. In contrast to Option 2, Option 3 will enable Council to invest an additional \$1.9M each year after 2027 in responding to community priorities.

Once Council has identified its preferred investment option, staff will prepare a Draft Supplementary Resourcing Strategy and Draft Supplementary Delivery Program to:

- formally advise residents of the results of the 'Investing in Your Future' community consultations
- provide further information to residents on the projected service level outcomes of Council's preferred investment option relative to the other options
- seek further community feedback.

The identification of a preferred investment option will confirm Council's ongoing commitment to building a successful future for the Hawkesbury, and delivering, within available funding, the best possible service outcomes including the continuous review of service provision in line with Council's Fit For The Future Improvement Plan.

The preparation of the draft supplementary documents will highlight relative outcomes on long-term service provision, the capacity to maintain, renew and upgrade community assets, and the resourcing of the key activity areas in the Delivery Program (as identified above). The supplementary documents would also include Council's assessment of the affordability and rating impacts of its preferred resourcing option.

In particular, the financial, workforce and asset management modeling contained in the adopted Resourcing Strategy can be updated in line with the available resources under each of the three Investing In Your Future resourcing options including the identification of adjustments to the funding and provision of operational activities should service level reductions be required to direct additional resources to the critical task of asset renewal (as would be the case under Option 1).

It is proposed that the Draft Supplementary Resourcing Strategy and Draft Supplementary Delivery Program be prepared for Council approval for public exhibition and for Council to seek submissions on these documents. The outcomes of the public exhibition would then be reported to Council prior to Council determining its final position on a Special Rate Variation application which would need to be finalised by the end of November 2017.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Comments by Council Management

As noted in this report, Council has implemented a program of cost containment and non-rating revenue measures which has substantially improved its financial sustainability, and additional efficiency measures will continue to be pursued in conjunction with the implementation of Council's Fit For The Future Plan. In comparison with neighbouring Councils, Council has a lean staffing establishment and relatively lower rates.

Council has also resolved to engage the services of Morrison Low to review Council's Fit For The Future program. This review will involve an analysis of Council's actions to date and proposed actions in the context of similar local government initiatives across the State. The review will be reported to Council on 26 September 2017.

The outcomes of consultations to date indicate that there is majority community support for a special rate variation. The service level consultations undertaken by Council in July and August 2016 clearly indicated that residents did not want service levels to be reduced with a substantial majority favouring increased investment in services and facilities. The recently completed Investing in Your Future Consultations have confirmed that the majority of residents are willing to pay additional rates to fund this increased investment.

Within this context, Council's decision on a preferred investment option on behalf of the community, would seemingly involve a choice between the two Special Rate Variation options as these options do not call for a reduction in service levels and will provide the additional revenue required to increase Council's investment in services and facilities. Option 1, by contrast, would require Council to undertake a substantial round of additional service level reductions over the next three years.

From an operational and organisational perspective, Council management would propose that Option 3, in conjunction with the other measures in Council's Fit For The Future Plan, as the investment vehicle that will best deliver on Council's commitment to build a successful future for the Hawkesbury. In arriving at this conclusion the following factors were considered:

a) Capacity to achieve the community vision for the City of Hawkesbury

While Option 2 will provide the minimum additional revenue required to stabilise the condition of assets over the medium term, Option 3 provides for a longer-term revenue solution which would enable Council to respond in a meaningful way to the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan and the community investment priorities identified by residents. The additional investment that each of the two special rate options can deliver against the community investment priorities over the next ten years is highlighted in Table 3.

Table 3: Additional Investment for community priorities 2018 to 2027, Special Rate Options

Community Investment Priorities		Additional Investment	
		Option 2	Option 3
Roads	Road Maintenance	\$4.1M	\$5.2M
	Road Rehabilitation - Sealed Roads	\$12.8M	\$16.2M
	Sealing Gravel Roads	\$13.2M	\$14.4M
Town Centres, Villages and Public Spaces	Park and Public Space Maintenance	\$2.2M	\$4.4M
	Public Space Revitalisation	\$0.2M	\$7.2M
	Activating River and Waterway Foreshores	\$0.6M	\$1.1M
	Sporting and Recreation Facilities	\$0	\$3.5M
Shared Pathways	Building new pathways	\$1.9M	\$6.9M
Community Buildings	Community and Cultural Facilities	\$2.5M	\$3.4M
	Emergency Services (RFS, SES)	\$0.2M	\$0.5M
Community Programs	Community Programs	\$0	\$4.7M

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Compared with Option 2, Option 3 provides for a more extensive program of works and will also provide additional staffing and financial resources to enable Council to positively respond to the programs that residents have asked Council to pursue to deliver the future that residents want to see: a vibrant city with a rural feel that values its heritage, waterways, landscapes, public spaces and its community spirit. Option 3 will also generate funds of \$1.9M a year after 2027 which will give Council the capacity to resource an ongoing program of new works and activities beyond 2027.

In summary, Option 3 will:

- improve service levels to meet community expectations
- direct ongoing resources to the community investment priorities identified by residents
- place Council in the best financial position to maintain, renew and replace community assets
- increase Council's capacity to achieve the Delivery Program objectives
- accelerate the realisation of the community's long term vision for the Hawkesbury.

b) Community Preference

The outcomes of Council's comprehensive Fit For The Future conversation with residents points to a clear preference by residents for Council to deliver improved services and facilities. Residents also recognised that achieving this outcome would require increased investment in these services and facilities by residents through rating increases to supplement the other cost containment, efficiency and non-rating revenue measures that have been achieved to date and will be continued under Council's Fit For The Future Improvement Plan.

c) Affordability

Council Management is conscious of the financial impact of Option 3 on ratepayers, particularly on low income households. For the average residential ratepayer, Option 3 requires an additional annual investment of \$94 a year (the equivalent of \$1.80 a week) above Option 2.

Preliminary modeling has been undertaken on the affordability of a special rate increase. Table 4 calculates 'rating burdens' based on the proportion of the median annual household income required to pay the average residential rate across our neighbouring councils and those councils in the same local government grouping as the Hawkesbury (Camden and Wollondilly). It also tracks the change in this 'rating burden' over the past five years.

Table 4: Average residential rate as % of average household income

Council Area	2011/2012			2016/2017			% Change In Rates	% Change household income	% Change in rating burden
	Avg. residential rate	Median annual household income	% of income spent on rates	Avg. residential rate	Median annual household income	% of income spent on rates			
Blue Mountains	\$1,131.13	\$66,218	1.71%	\$1,436.43	\$76,542	1.88%	26.99%	15.59%	0.17%
Camden	\$1,151.02	\$90,046	1.28%	\$1,322.63	\$106,731	1.24%	14.91%	18.53%	-0.04%
Hawkesbury	\$958.63	\$72,214	1.33%	\$1,108.23	\$86,970	1.27%	15.61%	20.43%	-0.05%
Penrith	\$963.33	\$72,892	1.32%	\$1,225.51	\$86,448	1.42%	27.22%	18.60%	0.10%
The Hills	\$937.88	\$106,574	0.88%	\$1,049.84	\$123,207	0.85%	11.94%	15.61%	-0.03%
Wingecarribee	\$1,009.59	\$57,041	1.77%	\$1,337.56	\$69,607	1.92%	32.49%	22.03%	0.15%
Wollondilly	\$1,053.25	\$77,063	1.37%	\$1,524.23	\$97,554	1.56%	44.72%	26.59%	0.20%

Table 4 shows that the Hawkesbury has one of the lower 'rating burdens' compared with similar councils, that in contrast to most councils the rating burden has decreased in proportional terms over the past five years, and that median household incomes in the Hawkesbury have increased at a faster rate relative to rating increases.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

The preliminary affordability modeling also shows that the relative impact of a special rate increase will be proportionally smaller for low income households in those localities where the proportion of low income households is greater than average for the Sydney Metropolitan Region (Bilpin, Colo Heights, Hobartville, Lower Macdonald, North Richmond, Richmond, South Windsor, St Albans, and Wisemans Ferry). The average residential rate in these localities is \$236 (or 21%) lower than the average residential rate across the Hawkesbury. The revised rating structure which took effect from 1 July 2017 has seen an average reduction of \$97.99 (or 10%) in the average residential rate in these localities which will further lessen the overall impact of rating increases on low income households. Overall, the revised rating structure resulted in a rates reduction to 19,045 properties (75% of rateable properties), with 11,245 properties experiencing a reduction in rates of more than \$100.

Council is aware that the recent property revaluations undertaken by the NSW Valuer-General has resulted in significant rating increases for some ratepayers in localities bordering the North West Growth Sector. In view of these concerns Council has resolved to discuss the rating structure at a workshop prior to the determination of the rating structure for the 2018/2019 financial year.

Council staff are also currently preparing a draft Hardship Policy for Council's consideration, based on the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, to identify mechanisms to assist ratepayers who may be experiencing substantial financial hardship which may prevent them from meeting their financial obligations. The draft Hardship Policy is scheduled to be reported to Council at the Ordinary Meeting to be held on 26 September 2017.

The proposal to prepare supplementary documents for public exhibition will enable Council to more fully assess and report on the impact and affordability of rating increases on the community.

d) Commitment to ongoing productivity and efficiency

Since 2007, Council has been implementing a rolling program of cost containment, efficiency and non-rating revenue measures to address its operating and asset renewal funding gap. Council's staffing costs (as a proportion of total expenditures) are substantially lower than adjoining councils, while the proportion of total revenues derived from non-rating sources has been increasing over the last three years and at 68.9% are higher than the average for our adjoining councils. As a result of these efficiencies and revenue gains Council has been able to increase its spending on asset renewal and maintenance by an average of \$7.4M a year.

These cost containment, efficiency and non-rating revenue measures will continue to be pursued under Council's Fit For The Future Improvement Plan. Council recognises that rating increases are never welcome, which is why these measures have been aggressively pursued prior to the formal consideration of a special rate increase to raise the balance of the revenue that is required to complete the task of budget repair and to fully fund the required level of maintenance, renewal, and replacement of the assets that Council manages on behalf of the community.

Conformance to the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036

The proposal is consistent with the following Focus Area, Direction and Strategies within the CSP.

Our Leadership

1.3 Financial Sustainability - Build strong financial sustainability for now and future generations.

- 1.3.1 In all of Council's strategies, plans and decision making there will be a strong focus on financial sustainability.
- 1.3.2 Meet the needs of the community now and into the future by managing Council's assets with a long-term focus.
- 1.3.3 Decisions relating to determining priorities will be made in the long term interests of the community.

Financial Implications

The report proposes that Council identify its preferred investment option for resourcing the future. The investment option chosen will therefore have a direct bearing on the resources available, in revenue, people and assets to achieve the priorities and aspirations of the community for the City of Hawkesbury as set out in the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council receive and acknowledge the substantial community responses to the community engagement and public exhibition on options for Investing In Your Future and notes the results of this engagement.
2. Council confirm ongoing commitment to building a successful future for the Hawkesbury, and delivering, within available funding, the best possible service outcomes including the continuous review of service provision in line with Council's Fit For The Future Improvement Plan.
3. Based on the outcomes of the Investing in Your Future consultations, and the information presented in this report, Council confirm Option 3 as its preferred Investing in Your Future investment option.
4. Council staff prepare a Draft Supplementary Resourcing Strategy 2017-2037 and a Draft Supplementary Delivery Program 2017-2021 to advise the community of the outcomes of the Investing in Your Future consultations and Council's preferred investment option for further community engagement. These documents to provide further details to residents on the impact of the three investment options on long-term service provision, the capacity to maintain, renew and upgrade community assets, and the resourcing of the key activity areas in the Delivery Program including an assessment of the affordability and rating impacts of its preferred resourcing option.
5. The Draft Supplementary Resourcing Strategy 2017-2037 and a Draft Supplementary Delivery Program 2017-2021 be reported to Council prior to their public exhibition.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Investing in Your Future Consultations: Summary of Resident Questions and Feedback

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017**AT - 1 Investing in Your Future Consultations:****Summary of Resident Questions and Feedback****Council's Financial Position and Fit for the Future Plan**

Question/Comment	Response
Why does Council need a rate rise if the 2017/2018 budget is balanced?	<p>While Council achieves a balanced cash budget to fund its day-to-day operations, it attains this result at the expense of not funding the true cost of maintaining and renewing community assets. The gap between Council's available funding and the investment required to maintain and renew assets has contributed to an infrastructure backlog, which without positive intervention, will continue to grow.</p> <p>As a result, while a balanced cash budget is delivered each year for operational activities, Council's annual operating result is in deficit. The operating result for 2015/2016 (which includes depreciation and excludes capital grants and contributions) was a deficit of -\$10.9 million. This result highlights the financial challenge that Council faces in generating sufficient revenue, to fund on an annual basis, the required level of maintenance, renewal and replacement of assets it manages on behalf of the community.</p>
Why did it take five years for this trend to occur or be recognised?	<p>It is assumed this question refers to the deterioration of Council's Operating Result from 2010/2011 as a result of changes to the valuation of assets under the local government accounting code in 2006.</p> <p>The impact of the changes to the accounting treatment of assets were recognised by Council when they took effect. From 2007, Council began implementing a program of cost containment and non-rating revenue measures to address the asset renewal funding shortfall. In 2007 Council applied to the NSW Government for a Special Rate Variation, which in conjunction with these measures, would have substantially funded its asset renewal shortfall and improved its Operating Result. The NSW Government approved a smaller rating increase than that proposed by Council which was insufficient to cover the projected shortfall with the result that Council's Operating Result deteriorated.</p>
Is the SRV one of the strategies in the 20 point 'Fit For The Future' Plan?	<p>Yes, Council's 'Fit For The Future' Plan included a community engagement strategy to present three resourcing options to residents to raise the balance of the revenue required to increase investment in asset maintenance, renewal and replacement, and address the infrastructure backlog. Two of the three options would involve Council applying to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation.</p>
Will Council be 'Fit For The Future' if we don't get an SRV?	<p>Council is confident that it can meet the criteria set down by IPART for a successful SRV application should this be the resourcing option that Council chooses to proceed with following consultation with the community. In the event that IPART does not approve an SRV, or approves a lesser SRV, Council would need to review its services to identify options for possible service level reductions to redirect resources to fund the asset renewal shortfall and meet the 'Fit For The Future' financial benchmarks.</p>
What happens if Council doesn't meet the 'Fit For The Future' strategies?	<p>Should Council not achieve the implementation of the strategies within its Fit for the Future Plan to meet the 'Fit For The Future' financial benchmarks it may be subject to intervention by the Office of Local Government.</p>
Is the projection of interest the best guess?	<p>It is assumed that this question/comment refers to the proposed \$25M to \$40M loan which will be taken out to deliver an accelerated infrastructure renewal program with principal and interest payments funded by additional SRV revenue. The projected interest rate for the proposed loan is based on discussions with NSW Treasury Corporation.</p>

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
Is the loan borrowed from the State Government?	A low interest loan facility will be entered into with NSW Treasury Corporation.
How much revenue does Council need to meet basic financial commitments? How much more revenue does Council need? Is revenue greater than expenses?	In 2006, Council calculated that its annual operating and asset funding shortfall stood at \$12.5M. The expenditure and revenue measures implemented by Council since 2007, together with the measures identified in Council's 'Fit For The Future' Plan (excluding any special rate variation) will have reduced the average annual funding shortfall to \$5.1M. This amount represents the remainder of the revenue that Council needs to achieve a balanced operating result – where it can fully fund the required level of maintenance, renewal, and replacement of the assets it manages on behalf of the community.
Who is Hawkesbury City Council's Auditor?	Council's external auditors were previously PricewaterhouseCoopers. Recent changes to the Local Government Act has seen this function transferred to the NSW Auditor General.

Cost Containment and Revenue Measures

Question/Comment	Response
What are developer contributions? Is there a feasible option which would include property developers helping offset the expenditure?	Developer contributions are monetary payments made to Council to upgrade infrastructure and facilities to cater for demand generated by development. Larger scale developments may also need to dedicate land to Council for the provision of open space and/or other facilities. Council currently collects contributions from developers under Section 94 and 94A Developer Contribution Plans, or enters into Voluntary Planning Agreements with developers, to fund or provide the infrastructure required to support new residential development. These funds are earmarked for specific capital works and cannot be used for other operational purposes.
Have you factored in population growth over the next 10 years into the calculations? As there is increased development in the Hawkesbury and therefore more rateable properties, why isn't this solving the problem? With more development and more land opened up does that affect me as a ratepayer?	Yes, Council has projected the likely rating revenue and additional expenses arising from population growth for both new and infill residential development within its Fit For The Future Plan and long term financial scenarios. Residential development in the Hawkesbury is limited by a combination of topography, flooding, evacuation constraints, bushfire risk, airport noise, agricultural land and environmental values. Some increased development is occurring in Pitt Town and North Richmond and is planned to occur in Glossodia and in the Vineyard Precinct of the North West Growth Sector. While residential development does generate additional rating revenue it will also generate additional costs, particularly over the longer term when the new infrastructure provided as part of these developments progressively requires increased maintenance, renewal and replacement. As noted above the net revenue from residential development over the next 10 years has been factored into Council's financial scenarios.
Rates are going up by 30% under Option 3, will grants increase by 30%?	The proposed SRV options are not tied to other revenue sources. Council does vigorously pursue grant opportunities but the success of grant applications are competitively determined by funding bodies based on the applicable assessment criteria rather than changes to Councils rating income. The increase in revenue and works program which can be delivered under Option 3 may provide Council with the additional capacity to apply for grants where 'matching funding' is required.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
How much does the Federal and State Government give Hawkesbury City Council in grants each year?	Grant contributions vary from year to year. In the year ending 30 June 2016 Council received \$6.32M in operating grants and subsidies and \$3.96M in capital grants – a total of \$10.28M. The figure for the 2014/2015 financial year was \$8.23M.
31% of Council's revenue is from rates, will other fees and charges be increased or just rates.	Since 2007 Council has been implementing fairer service charging so that people not using fee paying Council services were not subsidising the people who were. Council has increased its revenue from service charges by \$800,000 since 2007, and by 2021 will achieve a further \$700,000 from the continued application of fairer service charging.
Are there profitable assets? How is Council increasing their profit?	Council has a commercial property portfolio which generates close to \$2M in investment income per annum, which Council uses to fund its operations. In managing this portfolio, Council undertake regular independent market appraisals to ensure that it is receiving a market rate of return for these properties. This process ensures that revenue from the portfolio is increased in line with market trends to maintain the profitability of the portfolio.
How are decisions made on which properties/assets are sold? Are the community notified?	Council's property sales has mostly involved properties within its commercial portfolio. These properties are classified as 'Operational' under the Local Government Act and Council is not required to notify or consult with the community on their proposed sale. The decision to sell these properties is one made by Council based on commercial considerations or where a property has been identified as surplus to requirements.
What process do Council use to sell off their properties?	For the proposed sale of properties on 'Community' land, Council is required to undertake a public enquiry to reclassify the land to 'Operational' prior to any proposed sale. The public enquiry process that Council is required to follow is set down in the Local Government Act and involves public notification and community consultation. The majority of Council's properties – community centres, parks and reserves are classified as Community Land and cannot be sold unless they are reclassified as Operational Land following a public enquiry process. Council's disposes of its properties by auction and seeks quotations from real estate agents before appointing an agent to conduct the auction. This process is in line with Council's adopted policy for the sale of properties.
Will you be selling off \$1.5M in assets annually to stay afloat?	Council's 'Fit For The Future' Plan includes provision for the sale of under-utilised community assets and/or under-performing commercial assets to raise projected revenue of \$1.5M over the next three years. The net revenue from these sales will be used to establish a strategic investment fund to enable Council invest in income producing assets or activities.
Which shopping centres does Council own? Are there any plans to sell off Council shopping centres?	Council own shopping centres in Wilberforce, Glossodia and McGraths Hill. There are currently no plans to sell of these centres but as outlined in a response to a previous question, the rental returns of these properties is monitored and subject to regular review to assess their profitability.
Are there a number of assets that Council is aiming to sell off in the next five years or so?	A small number of 'Operational' properties have been identified by Council for sale and negotiations with prospective buyers are currently underway. Council staff are also reviewing Council's property portfolio to identify additional properties for possible sale where rate of returns of return are low, where no income is being received, or where properties are not required for community purposes. The sale of these properties will be subject to Council approval and a public enquiry process where the property is required to be reclassified from Community to Operational land.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
Which assets did Council sell in the past?	Council has realised \$9.2M from the sale of 29 properties – major property sales included the Hobartville Shopping Centre; 1A Greenway Crescent, Windsor; 20-22 Fitzgerald Street, Windsor; 24-38 Stewarts Lane Wilberforce; Toxana House Richmond; and Loder House, Windsor.
Where did the \$9.2M go from the selling off of assets?	The majority of the funds raised from the sale of properties were used to contribute to the cost of constructing the Hawkesbury Cultural Precinct.
What investments does Council have?	As at 31 July 2017, Council held \$43.4M in investments in term deposits and on call accounts. Most of these funds are made up of externally and internally restricted reserves which are either subject to legislative restrictions, kept aside for specific purposes or to meet future known expenses and cannot be used for other purposes. The balance of cash investments are required to fund operational and capital expenditure in line with Council's adopted Operational Plan.
Have Council investigated other avenues for additional income?	Over the last three financial years ending in June 2016, an average of 69% of Council's revenues were derived from non-rating income sources – annual charges, user fees, interest on investments, rental income from investment properties, dividends, developer contributions, and grants. In the financial year ending June 2016, Council's total operating and capital revenues from these sources amounted to \$56.6M. The figure for the 2014/2015 financial year was \$78.6M.
Are there ways that Council can charge additional income?	Council reviews its fees and charges on an annual basis and wherever possible adjusts them to cover the full cost of services or to increase commercial revenues, some fees are determined by legislation and cannot be increased, while other fees are subsidised for the public good.
What are some examples of the different incomes Council receives?	There are also limitations in the kinds of business enterprises and private/public partnerships which Council can enter into to generate additional income.
What are Council's other sources of income besides rates?	Council does invest in energy-savings and other technologies which generates a return on this investment through reduced operating costs and utility savings.
During the period when costs were decreased were they a result of forced redundancies?	The cost containment measures implemented since 2007 included voluntary redundancies.
Could the community lobby the state government for more money?	Representations from the residents to State and Federal parliamentarians can be a very powerful advocacy tool.
Is it legal for community members to raise funds for Council?	Council has adopted a <i>Sponsorship Policy</i> which sets out the criteria and process for Council receiving sponsorship from third parties to support its operations.
Does Council conduct efficiency and financial audits?	Council does resource an internal audit function and conducts programmed audits of its processes and operations. Council has recently reviewed this function and has established an audit partnership with Blue Mountains Council to strengthen and broaden corporate capacity to identify and achieve operational efficiencies and business improvements.
Have your efficiency audits identified opportunities to reduce costs?	

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017**Council Operations**

Question/Comment	Response
Will there be increase in staffing costs as part of Option 3?	Should Council proceed with Option 3, and subject to IPART approval, Council will have to invest in additional staffing resources to deliver an expanded works program funded through any approved SRV increase. Option 3 also provides for enhancements to community programs to enable Council to deliver on the key activity areas within its Delivery Program, these key activity areas were identified as priorities by residents during community consultations held in February 2017.
What services does council provide to the community?	Council's primary responsibilities involve the management of community assets and facilities (roads, community buildings, parks, stormwater), waste management services, town planning, public order, health and safety, emergency services, and the provision of cultural, recreation, civic and community programs. These functions require the provision of a diverse range of services to the community which are documented in Council's annual Operational Plan.
How much does Council spend on employment costs?	Councils 2017/2018 Operational Plan includes provision for \$25.2M in employee related costs. In the 2015/2016 financial year, employee costs accounted for 33.2% of Councils operating expenses.
What costs are included in the 4% administration costs identified in the Community Snapshot?	Administration and governance costs include employee, material and contract costs across the following Council functions: Information Services, Records, Risk Management and Insurance, Rating Services, Administration Services, Word Processing, Procurement, Fleet Management, Finance and Accounting, Internal Audit, Legal Services, City Planning, Printing, Personnel, Executive Management, Elected Members and Customer Services.
Does Council have any systems in place to stop wastage by staff of Council resources?	Council has comprehensive procurement, tendering and contractor procedures and systems in place as well as rigorous financial reporting and monitoring systems to ensure best value provision of services and the optimal use of resources.
How frequently does Council reassess the tender process?	Tenders for the provision of services and material are awarded for varying periods generally between one and three years. Council regularly tests the market to ensure best value procurement. Council is required to call for tenders for any proposed purchase of over \$150,000 in value.
What functions have been transferred to local government from the state government?	Council is required to meet the cost of implementing legislation, functions and responsibilities devolved to local government by the federal and state governments. The transfer of responsibilities from other levels of government to local councils, without adequate funding, is generally known as 'cost shifting'. In 2015/2016, cost shifting accounted for \$7.1M of Council's expenditures. Over the seven years to 2015/2016, the impact of cost shifting was estimated to total \$34.7M (an average of \$4.96M each year)

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
What are some examples of the State Government charges that Council pays?	Other examples of cost shifting include licence fees paid to the State Government; remittance of revenue from Council managed crown land, shortfalls in the subsidies provided to Council for public library operations; mandatory pensioner rebates; and the withdrawal of funding for community services which were established by state governments. NSW Government contributions include a waste levy (currently at \$138.30 per tonne) levied on every tonne of material deposited at Council's landfill operation and paid to the Environmental Planning Authority; emergency service contributions paid to the Rural Fire Service (RFS), Fire and Rescue NSW, and the State Emergency Services (SES) which have increased substantially in recent years; and a levy on development applications which is collected and forwarded to the Department of Planning.
Does the income collected from the Emergency Service Levy go to the State Government or Council?	All income collected by Council through the Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) was to be remitted to the NSW Government.

Special Rate Variation: Process and Timetable for SRV application

Question/Comment	Response
What is the IPART process for assessing Council's submission? What is the timeframe for this process? Will it be implemented gradually?	Should Council determine to proceed with an SRV application, this would need to be submitted to IPART by February 2018, with IPART advising Council of its determination in May 2018. If approved any SRV would take effect from 1 July 2018. In its application, Council would be required to address the five part assessment criteria set down by IPART. The criteria requires Council to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate the need for the SRV • provide evidence that the community was aware of the need for, and the extent of, the proposed SRV • demonstrate that it has assessed and considered the affordability and impact of the proposed SRV on ratepayers • have adopted the relevant Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) documents required by Local Government Act and Regulation • provide details of the productivity and cost containment strategies that it has implemented and which are proposed to be implemented.
What happens if IPART rejects Council's SRV Application?	Council is confident that it can meet the criteria set down by IPART for a successful SRV application. In the event that IPART does not approve Council's application, Council would carefully consider the reasons for IPART's decision to determine if it should lodge a further application in a subsequent year which would address IPART's concerns. In the event of an unsuccessful SRV application Council would need to review services to identify options for possible service level reductions to redirect resources to fund its asset renewal shortfall and meet FFTF financial benchmarks.

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
At the end of the process will we be back in this position again? Are rates going to continue to rise or will this request for additional rates be enough?	While Council's finances can be impacted by external factors beyond its control, it has calibrated the two SRV options presented to residents to address the asset renewal funding shortfall and achieve the FFTF benchmarks. The difference between Options 2 and 3 relate to the capacity for Council to fund improvements to services and the investment priorities identified by residents. Option 2 provides the minimum additional revenue required to stabilise the condition of assets over the medium term. Option 3 provides for a longer-term revenue solution which would also enable Council to better resource the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan and the priorities identified by residents.
After three years what will happen to rates? Do they come back to current levels? Are the rate increases for 3 years or 10 years?	There are two resourcing options which propose SRV increases. Option 2 proposes to SRV increase of 7% above the rate peg for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. The resulting increases in rates would be permanent and in subsequent years indexed by the rate peg amount (meaning that they would be increased in line with the rate peg). Option 3 proposes SRV increase of 7% above the rate peg for 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Similar to Option 2 the resulting increases in rates would be permanent and in subsequent years indexed by the rate peg amount.
Is the 27% rate rise on the total or just the rate section?	Any proposed SRV rating increase would only apply to ordinary rates as identified on rates notice issued to ratepayers. It would not apply to waste manages or other non-rating charges or levies listed on the rates notice.

Investing in Your Future: Provisional Works Program

Question/Comment	Response
How did Council work out the costings in the work programs.	The costings in the 'Investing in Your Future' work programs were based on the scope of the works which Council's Asset Management System has projected are required to be undertaken over the next ten years to maintain assets in a satisfactory condition. Current unit costs were applied by Council's Asset Managers to derive an estimate for the cost of these works.
How much Control do Councillors have over the dollars that are spent? Could Council re-elections change priorities and the way money is spent?	The (elected) Council considers and approves Council's Operational Plan including the annual budget and Long Term Financial Plan. As part of this process Councillors take into account identified community priorities, the financial and human resources required to maintain current service levels, and the funds required to undertake asset maintenance and renewal based on the technical condition data within Council's Asset Management System. These core requirements generally account for a substantial proportion of Council's expenditures. In relation to the 'Investing in Your Future' work programs which have been presented to residents (which it is assumed is what this question refers to), should an SRV increase be approved by IPART, Council is required as part of its annual budget and reporting cycle, to demonstrate that SRV funds have been expended in accordance with their intended purpose. This SRV expenditure is required to be separately accounted for in Council's works program with outcomes publicly reported in Council's Annual Report. Council's budget processes do however provide the opportunity to review work programs to take into account changing circumstances and other factors which may necessitate adjustments to programmed works.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
Will residents have the opportunity to contribute to priorities for spending in the area if they vote for Option 3?	<p>Council has prepared a provisional works program to outline the scope of works to be delivered over the next ten years under the three 'Investing in Your Future' resourcing options. The works program reflect Council's understanding of the community investment priorities identified by residents during community consultations held in July 2016 and February 2017 as well as the outcomes of the community surveys undertaken by Council every two years since 2007.</p> <p>This information has been used to inform the preparation of the 'Investing in Your Future' district work programs and Council is confident that they have captured the spending priorities identified by residents. As identified in the response to the previous question, Council's budget processes enable the ongoing review of work programs to respond to changing circumstances and other factors where adjustments to programmed works are required.</p>
Is Council confident that the dollars made available will be used?	Council has prepared 10 year work programs to identify how any additional revenue from a SRV rating increase will be expended. As part of its future workforce planning, Council has recognised that it will have to invest in additional project management resources to scale up its existing capacity to ensure that it is in the position to deliver an expanded works program funded through any approved SRV increase.
Does the spending in the works program increase the backlog?	The provisional works program under each option has been primarily targeted at undertaking asset renewal works to address the infrastructure backlog. The revenue raised under each option will have a different impact on Council's capacity to maintain, renew and upgrade community assets, and address the infrastructure backlog.
If the community secures funding from the state government for road sealing would Council be able to fund the maintenance costs for the sealed roads?	Without service level reductions to redirect resources to asset renewal, Option 1 is likely to see the continued deterioration in the condition of community assets, and where new assets are constructed Council may not have the revenue required to maintain these assets into the future which will grow the asset renewal shortfall (infrastructure backlog). Options 2 and 3 will stabilise the condition of assets and gradually address the infrastructure backlog over time and provide the additional revenue required to meet the maintenance and renewal costs of new assets.
Will the new plan allow for roads to be properly fixed up for the long term?	The primary focus of Option 2 will be to maintain the condition of community rather than providing funds to upgrade these assets while Option 3 provides funds for an ongoing program of asset upgrades and new works.
What is the current infrastructure backlog?	As at 30 June 2016 the estimated cost of bringing all assets to a satisfactory standard was \$15.2M.
Why did the backlog go from \$68M to \$17.6M?	<p>In 2015, Council engaged an external consultant to undertake an infrastructure assessment report. The purpose of the report was to review Council's methodology for assessing its asset maintenance and asset renewal requirements, and its infrastructure backlog calculations. The consultant recommended that Council adopt a risk based asset management approach to more accurately assess and verify infrastructure backlog values.</p> <p>As a result of this revised approach, the high risk infrastructure backlog component within the total required asset renewal works was identified. Consequently, while the quantum of asset renewal requirement has remained the same, the high risk infrastructure backlog value component of this requirement was revised downwards.</p>
Why is the majority of the SRV income being used for roadworks?	Council's consultation with the community indicated that residents identified roads as the priority for future investment. Roads also make up more than half of the value of council assets and represent the bulk of the current infrastructure backlog.

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017**Community Consultation**

Question/Comment	Response
How does Council decide which will be their preferred option? Will every resident be given an opportunity to vote? If the community says it doesn't want an SRV will that make a difference and will Council still go ahead with an SRV?	The purpose of Council's community engagement program is to consult with residents about resourcing options for the future and to collect information from residents about their preferred resourcing option. Information is being gathered in a variety of ways (postal ballot, on-line and telephone surveys, 'straw polls' at town meetings) to collect and record the views of residents about their preferred resourcing option. Every resident has been given the opportunity to vote through a postal ballot sent to all ratepayers and the option of participating on an on-line survey. This information will be collated and reported to Council to inform its deliberations. It will be one of the factors considered by Council in coming to a decision about which resourcing option to proceed with.
How many people were consulted at the town meetings?	Since July 2016 Council has held 26 town meetings attended by over 923 residents
What telephone numbers are used for the telephone surveys?	The telephone survey is conducted on Council's behalf by Micromex Research who have advised that 367 of the 401 of respondents were selected by means of a computer based random selection process using the electronic White Pages. 34 respondents were recruited face-to-face - this was conducted at a number of locations including Richmond Market Place, Riverview Shopping Centre, Windsor and Richmond Train Stations.

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
<p>What methods have you used to consult with the community?</p> <p>Can you think of better ways to consult with the community?</p>	<p>Council's community engagement program commenced in July 2016 and is ongoing. Over this period, a range of activities have been used to engage with residents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a mail out information brochure and reply paid survey • facts sheets • community newsletters • media releases • on-line surveys • telephone surveys • town meetings • listening and information kiosks • targeted engagement with particular community groups • web-site updates on Council's online engagement portal. <p>Council has also conducted regular community surveys (every two years since 2007) and has held focus groups with residents to collect information and knowledge from the community about their understanding of service levels and key assets, suggested options for increasing the funding of services and assets, and current performance gaps. This information has been used to inform the preparation of community engagement materials.</p> <p>Council is currently investigating and will be rolling out an enhanced digital communication strategy including the establishment of a Facebook presence to provide for real time commentary and response to issues raised by residents.</p> <p>Council also undertakes population-specific consultation through a variety of mechanisms. For example, since 2009 Council staff have worked with young people to plan and stage a Youth Summit every two years to capture and record the views of young people and their recommendations for what Council could do to improve quality of life outcomes for young people.</p> <p>Council has adopted a Community Engagement Policy, based on good practice guidelines developed by the International Association for Public Participation. The policy identifies a range of consultation tools and techniques, which can be applied to different circumstances as required.</p>
<p>How do we make sure people are aware of the proposed SRV?</p>	<p>As outlined in the response to a previous question, Council has implemented a comprehensive community engagement strategy using a variety of engagement activities to inform residents of the proposed resourcing options. This has included a mail out to all ratepayers.</p>
<p>How does Council decide which will be their preferred option? Will every resident be given an opportunity to vote?</p>	<p>As outlined in the response to a previous question, information is being gathered in a variety of ways (postal ballot, on-line and telephone surveys, 'straw polls' at town meetings) to collect and record the views of residents about their preferred resourcing option. This information will be collated and reported to Council to inform its deliberations and will be one of the factors considered by Council in coming to a decision about which resourcing option to proceed with.</p> <p>Every resident has been given the opportunity to vote through a postal ballot sent to all ratepayers and the option of participating on an on-line survey.</p>

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017**Impact on Ratepayers**

Question/Comment	Response
<p>Is there a provision in this plan for pensioners and low income groups?</p> <p>What can pensioners do about the increase in rates?</p> <p>Rates are due on the 31 August 2017, what do residents do if they cannot pay?</p>	<p>Council's Debt Recovery Policy, includes provisions for payment arrangements where ratepayers are experiencing financial difficulties. The Policy also includes specific provisions for eligible pensioners. Council staff are currently preparing a draft Hardship Policy to further address issues of hardship.</p>
<p>Have you considered that the SRV may not be affordable to low income earners?</p> <p>Did any properties receive a decrease in rates in 2017/2018?</p>	<p>As part of any SRV application to IPART Council is required to consider the affordability of proposed rating increases and their impact on ratepayers. In 2017, in consideration of the possible impact of future rating increases, Council reviewed and amended its rating structure. The revised rating structure which took effect from 1 July 2017 delivered a reduction in rates for residential properties with an median land valuation of less than \$324,000 (i.e. generally properties with relatively lower levels of household income) as well as small business owners and farmland properties. These rating changes resulted in an overall decrease in rates for 19,045 properties (74% of all rateable properties) in the Hawkesbury. These rating reductions will substantially lessen the impact of any proposed rating increases for lower income households.</p>

The Calculation of Rates, Rating Classifications and Rating Structure

Question/Comment	Response
<p>How are rates calculated?</p> <p>Why can't the rates be a user pays system?</p> <p>What percentage of the rates is based on the valuation by the NSW Valuer General?</p> <p>Who sets the rate peg?</p> <p>Is the rate peg adjusted to take into account the large land area and the small number of residents?</p>	<p>Council calculates annual rate charges based on the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1993. In simple terms rates are made up of a base amount which is applied equally across all rateable properties and an ad-valorem amount which is based on land-values as determined by the NSW Valuer-General.</p> <p>The rate peg amount set by the NSW Government determines the total amount of rates that can be collected by Council which in 2017/2018 was \$30.5M. In 2017/2018 the base amount was set at \$340 for every rateable property which when applied to the 25,667 rateable properties accounted for \$8.7M of the \$30.5M.</p> <p>The balance of rating income (\$21.8M or roughly 70%) is then divided by the total land value of all properties in the Hawkesbury to derive a 'rate in the dollar' amount which is then applied to the assessed land value of each property to calculate an ad-valorem component for each property. The rate in the dollar may vary across rating categories – residential, farmland, mining and business.</p> <p>The rate peg is based on the Local Government Cost Index which measures price changes over the previous year for the goods and labour an average council will use and may include a productivity component. It is applied to equally to all councils.</p>
<p>Are granny flats paying rates?</p>	<p>No. Council can only levy a single rating charge on each rateable property.</p>

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
Do strata properties pay rates as well as residents?	Yes.
Does the rate in the dollar differ depending on land classification?	The rate in the dollar may vary across rating categories.
How does the rating structure impact on rates?	<p>The rating structure determines both the base amount and the rate in the dollar (ad-valorem) amount to be applied to each of the three rating categories - residential, farmland, mining and business.</p> <p>In general terms councils align the rating yield to be derived from each rating category based on the proportional land value of each category – for example if residential properties account for 70% of the total land value of properties in a local government area, then a council would seek to raise 70% of rating income from residential properties. Council may determine to collect a proportionally lesser amount from a particular rating category to support a strategic objective – for example to support agriculture by reducing the proportional rating yield to be collected from the farmland category.</p>
<p>What properties can be categorised as Rural Residential?</p> <p>Why did properties previously categorised as Rural Residential become Residential?</p> <p>Why was the Rural Residential category removed?</p>	<p>Rural Residential is a rating sub-category of the Residential rating category. The criteria for a rural residential property is set down in the Local Government Act 1993. The key definitional criteria relate to the size of a property (between 2 and 40 hectares) and the presence of a dwelling.</p> <p>The previous rural residential sub-category is not defined by the location of a property i.e. whether it is urban or rural – for example there are rural residential properties in Windsor and South Windsor and residential properties in St. Albans, Bilpin and Bowen Mountain. Residential and rural residential properties can exist side-by-side in the one location.</p> <p>Residential and rural residential properties fall under the same rating category and are treated the same for rating purposes (as was the case prior to 2013/2014)</p>
<p>What qualifies you for Farmland rates?</p> <p>Are Farmland rates cheaper than Residential rates?</p> <p>Can I have my property changed back to Farmland?</p>	<p>The categorisation of land as farmland is defined by the Local Government Act 1993. The dominant use of the land must be for farming (the Act defines the types of enterprises that constitute farming), that has a 'significant and substantial commercial purpose and is engaged in for the purpose of profit on a continuous basis'</p> <p>The rate in the dollar which is used to calculate the ad-valorem component of annual rates is set at 90% of the residential rate in the dollar. However farmland properties generally have a higher land valuation than residential properties (due to their relative size) and as a result the average farmland rate is substantially higher than the average residential rate.</p> <p>Ratepayers can apply to have their properties categorised as farmland, and their application will be assessed against the criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1993.</p>

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
<p>Why did Council change the rating structure?</p> <p>Why did the change to rural residential rates happen?</p>	<p>It is assumed that this question relates to the changes to the rating structure which commenced in 2017/2018.</p> <p>The current Council changed the rating structure to reverse the changes to the rating structure that took place in 2013/2014 which saw the base amount increased and rural residential properties rated at a different rate in the dollar amount to residential properties. Prior to 2013/2014 residential and rural residential properties were treated the same for rating purposes.</p> <p>The 2013/2014 rating changes had the unintended effect of creating some rating anomalies where properties in the one location, with the same notional access to Council services and facilities, were rated differently. As a result, the rates for residential properties in Bilpin, Kurrajong, St Albans, Bowen Mountain and other outlying areas increased, while the rates for rural residential properties in the same locations decreased.</p> <p>The 2013/2014 rating changes resulted in increased rates for the majority of properties within the Hawkesbury. These rating increases primarily affected properties with relatively lower land valuations and rating decreases primarily benefited properties with higher land valuations. As a result of these impacts Council determined that realigning the rating structure back to the pre 2013/2014 situation would deliver a more equitable rating outcome.</p>
<p>Who voted for the rating restructure?</p> <p>Why can't Council go back and change the rates.</p> <p>Can Council change the base amount to make it fairer for everyone?</p>	<p>The majority of Councillors voted to change the rating structure.</p> <p>Council can review its rating structure including the base rate and has resolved to do so in the coming months. However, for the reasons outlined in the response to the previous question, the current Council has determined that the recent changes to the rating structure deliver a more equitable rating outcome and simply returns the rating structure to situation that existed prior to 2013/2014.</p>
<p>Why were properties impacted by the change to Rural Residential rates?</p>	<p>The changes to the rating structure as outlined in the previous question (which saw residential and rural residential properties treated the same for rating purposes as had been the case prior to 2013/2014), did result in rates increasing for properties in the rural residential sub-category. These increase partly, but not entirely, cancelled out the rating decreases that occurred for these properties in 2013/2014 and the following three years.</p> <p>However, the 2017/2018 changes to the rating structure only accounted for a small proportion of the rating increases experienced by some rural residential properties, the major impact on rates occurred as a result of the increase in land valuations for these properties.</p>

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
<p>Why do we pay the same rates as people in Bligh Park or Windsor and not get the same services?</p> <p>Are rural areas like St Albans and Colo Heights subsidising other parts of the LGA.</p> <p>Why don't the residents of Oakville get any services but they have to pay new higher rates?</p> <p>If the categorisation has changed to Residential why don't these properties receive the same services as the residential areas?</p>	<p>As outlined in a response to a previous question, the rating sub-category of rural residential is not determined by location, or distance from town centres or proximity to Council services and facilities. Many residential properties are located in rural areas and rural residential properties adjoin urban areas.</p> <p>While Council services are available to all residents irrespective of where they live, distances from these services can impact on the day to day access that residents enjoy to these services. Council provides the same network of services and facilities to all areas within the Hawkesbury – it maintains local roads, bridges, local parks, and community facilities across the Hawkesbury, it provides town planning, compliance and enforcements, companion animal services, community services, event sponsorship, graffiti removal, stormwater management and other services to all areas in the Hawkesbury, though the frequency of service provision may vary between areas.</p> <p>Some facilities, such as the Library, Gallery and Museum, Regional Parks and District Sporting Fields are centrally located in town centres as their catchment populations are regional rather than local, however they are used by all residents which is reflected in the membership of these services and the sporting organisations that use these facilities (for example 43% of library members live in rural localities). Some civic infrastructure such as street lighting, kerb & guttering and footpaths are generally associated with urban areas, while other essential services such as sewer, are provided on a fee for service basis and are not funded through ordinary rates. Other infrastructure such as rural fire service sheds, standpipes, vehicular ferries (Lower Portland) are predominantly located in rural areas.</p> <p>It is generally the case that the per unit cost of service provision to rural areas is higher than the cost of service provision to urban areas. The per-capita cross subsidisation of service provision from urban areas to regional areas (where revenue collected from people in urban areas is used to subsidise the cost of providing basic universal services to rural areas) is a characteristic of most public service provision.</p>
Is the state government responsible for setting the land value of property through the Valuer General?	Yes.
What has made property values increase so much?	The NSW Valuer General has advised that " <i>the rise in valuations were as a result of nearby land sales and that those areas experiencing some of the strongest increase in land values are a result of the demand for land with potential for future residential development and well located lifestyle properties</i> ".

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
<p>Do land revaluations increase the income for Council?</p> <p>Why doesn't Council get more revenue from the property revaluation by the Valuer General?</p> <p>Where is the additional money from rates going?</p> <p>Last year Council received \$30M from rates and this year \$31M, why has there been an increase?</p>	<p>Increases to land values do not by themselves generate any additional rating revenue for Council. The total revenue collected from ratepayers from year to year is determined by a rate peg amount set by the NSW Government (through IPART).</p> <p>The rate peg limits the amount by which councils can increase the revenue they generate from rates from year to year. While individual property rates may vary across a council area, either above or below the rate peg amount due to differences in assessed land values, the overall <u>total</u> amount collected from ratepayers cannot exceed the rate peg amount.</p> <p>In 2017/2018 the rate peg amount was set at 1.5% which generated approximately \$460,000 in additional rating income. This revenue will be used to offset Council's increased operating costs.</p>
What is the process if residents don't agree with their land valuations.	Residents can request a review of the valuation of their property. The NSW Valuer General website outlines the process and time frames for lodging an objection.
What month/year was the rating structure endorsed by council, no notification was provided?	It is assumed that this question relates to the recent change to rating structure which took effect from 1 July 2017. The amended rating structure was approved by Council in June 2017, and was preceded by the required consultation and public exhibition period as set down in the Local Government Act 1993.
Why have the averages used in Council's calculations been based on the average Residential category and not the Rural Residential category.	The Residential category incorporates the previous Rural Residential sub-category. As noted in a response to a previous question, Residential and rural residential properties fall under the same rating category and are treated the same for rating purposes (as was the case prior to 2013/2014).

Assets

Question/Comment	Response
Do you assess the use of Council's assets?	Council does have mechanisms in place to assess the use of community assets. These include traffic counts on roads, bookings and utilisation of playing fields and parks, visitation to cultural facilities and camping grounds, an annual survey on community hall utilisation, and the regular condition assessment of assets.
<p>Are roads inspected regularly?</p> <p>Can someone supervise roads and assess them regularly?</p>	A physical assessment of the condition of Council's entire sealed road network is conducted at regular interval (2002, 2008, 2013 and 2015). The condition of roads is also monitored informally on an ongoing basis by staff supplemented by customer request and report trends.

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
Are some of our roads run by the State Government?	Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) are responsible for the management and repair of main roads within the Hawkesbury that fall within the state road network (e.g. Windsor Road, Bells Line of Road, Wisemans Ferry Road, Castlereagh Road, Richmond Road, as well as the streets that connect these roads such as Macquarie Street, George Street and March Street.
When traffic is diverted from State to Local or Regional roads does Hawkesbury City Council receive any money?	State Roads are managed and financed by Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and Regional and Local Roads are managed and financed by councils. Due to the network significance of Regional Roads, RMS provides financial assistance to councils for their management. In practice, while Council does receive financial assistance from RMS for the maintenance of regional roads in the Hawkesbury, this amount provided does not cover the cost to Council of maintaining these roads.

Planning Controls & Subdivision

Question/Comment	Response
Can our land be subdivided if it is categorised as Residential?	Whether or not a residential property can be subdivided is primarily determined by the minimum allotment size pertaining to that property as contained within the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Any proposed subdivision must also satisfy the development controls within the Hawkesbury Development Control Plan (DCP).
Do Council want to kick out the little landowners by increasing the rates?	Council calculates annual rate charges based on the relevant provisions of the NSW Local Government Act 1993. As noted in response to a previous question, council rates are made up of a base amount which is applied equally across all rateable properties and an add-valorem amount which is based on land-values as determined by the NSW Valuer-General. The rating increases experienced by some property owners in areas bordering the North West Growth Sector were primarily the result of the increase in land valuations for these properties as assessed by the NSW Valuer General.
What can you tell us about the potential for redevelopment of residential areas in the future? Could we redevelop like other areas? Why don't you release some more land for redevelopment?	Council has adopted a Residential Land Strategy which identifies locations in the Hawkesbury which are most suitable for additional residential development. However, residential development in the Hawkesbury is limited by a combination of topography, flooding, evacuation constraints, bushfire risk, airport noise, agricultural land and environmental values. Residential development is currently occurring in Pitt Town and North Richmond and is planned to occur in Glossodia and in the Vineyard Precinct of the North West Growth Sector.
Why is the development of rural land not permitted in the Hawkesbury? Why does Blacktown Council redevelop their agricultural land and Hawkesbury doesn't?	Rural lands are being developed in the Hawkesbury in accordance with the provisions of the Hawkesbury Local Environment Plan and in particular minimum lot sizes. Due to the urban expansions of the Sydney Metropolitan Region, recent residential expansion in areas like Blacktown and The Hills have involved the wholesale resumption and subdivision of large tracts of rural lands to create small lot housing as well as medium and high density residential precincts. By contrast development within the Hawkesbury has been marked by the limited and smaller scale expansion of rural villages and town centres into predominantly large lot and rural residential developments.

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017

Question/Comment	Response
Why can't properties have a second dwelling?	Council has prepared and submitted planning proposals to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) on two occasions to amend the Hawkesbury Local Environment Plan (HLEP) to permit detached dual occupancy in rural zones. The proposed amendments were not supported by the DPE due to flood evacuation concerns. The DPE indicated that further consideration of the proposed HLEP amendments would be deferred until the release of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Risk Management Study. Council is seeking to expedite the release of the Study by the NSW Government.

Council Amalgamations

Question/Comment	Response
What did the attempted amalgamation cost the Council?	The major cost involved in responding to the proposed merger of Hawkesbury with part of The Hills Shire was in the staff hours required to assess the merger proposal, prepare Council's submission in response to the merger proposal, prepare information for the delegate appointed by the NSW Government to conduct the public inquiry into the merger proposal and staff participation in merger discussions with The Hills Shire.
Who was the independent delegate for the Council? Did Garry West adjudicate for other councils	The NSW Government appointed Mr Garry West to conduct the public inquiry into the proposed merger of Hawkesbury with part of The Hills Shire, as well as the proposed merger of Hornsby and Kuringai Councils.
What was the reason for Council objecting to amalgamating with The Hills?	Council's objection to the proposed merger was outlined in Council's submission to the independent delegate. Council's assessment was that while there were some financial benefits which may have flowed from the merger proposal, these benefits were outweighed by the adverse impacts to the local economy and the community. The relatively modest merger savings projected by the merger proposal could be achieved more effectively and efficiently through the implementation of Council existing 'Fit For The Future' proposal and in particular through its Regional Strategic Alliance with the Blue Mountains and Penrith Councils. Council argued that the merger proposal was an inferior alternative to Council remaining as is and pursuing its 'Fit For The Future' Plan which would deliver a more advantageous outcome for residents without the adverse impacts of a forced amalgamation.
After the amalgamation debate it was inferred that Hawkesbury City Council would be financially secure but you are now telling us that this is not the case. Why is Hawkesbury City Council not financially secure?	In 2016, Council adopted a Fit for the Future Plan which set out a mix of expenditure and revenue measures to enable Council to meet the required 'Fit For The Future' financial sustainability benchmarks by 2021. In December 2016, the NSW Government proposed a merger of the Hawkesbury and part of The Hills Shire. Council deferred the implementation of its 'Fit For The Future' Plan pending the outcome of the merger proposal. The information provided to residents both pre and post the public inquiry into the merger proposal was the same, residents were advised that Council's financial sustainability was contingent on implementing the 'Fit For The Future' Plan.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

SUPPORT SERVICES

Item: 160 **SS - Implementation of Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Recommendations - (95496, 96328)**

Previous Item: 92, Ordinary (30 May 2017)
 55, Ordinary (29 March 2011)
 30, Ordinary (23 February 2010)
 233, Ordinary (10 November 2009)
 212, Ordinary (21 October 2008)
 NM1, Ordinary (8 April 2008)

REPORT:

Executive Summary

This report has been prepared in response to a Council Resolution, requesting that actions and outcomes be developed to measure the implementation of the recommendations of the Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report. The report details the process undertaken to develop actions, a strategy for measuring outcomes and a plan for implementing the adopted Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report.

It proposes that Council develop, in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency, a young people's Well-Being Online Survey Tool to measure and track progress against the issues identified by young people through the youth summit proceedings.

Consultation

The issues raised in this report concern matters which do not require community consultation under Council's Community Engagement Policy. The actions outlined in the report were developed pursuant to a consultation process undertaken at Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017.

Background

In 2008, the 'Young People – Community Participation and Civic Leadership Report' (the Report) was commissioned in response to a request from Council. The objectives of the Report were to identify options for supporting youth services and young people to plan and deliver events, programs and activities for young people, and to increase the involvement of young people in Council's policy-making processes.

Three of the eight recommendations in the 'Young People – Community Participation and Civic Leadership Report' related to the staging and funding of a biennial Youth Summit. In response to these recommendations, the inaugural Hawkesbury Youth Summit was held on 24 November 2009, and subsequent Summits held on 29 March 2012, 31 March 2015 and 5 April 2017.

The Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 was attended by 118 young people from across the Hawkesbury. Following the Summit, Council's Youth Participation Officer worked with the Youth Summit Planning Group and Hawkesbury Youth Interagency to prepare a report documenting the outcomes of the Summit. The 'Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report: Get involved, be heard, and make a difference.' outlined the consultation process involved in the 2017 Youth Summit and a list of recommendations in response to the needs of young people.

The 'Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report' was reported to Council's Ordinary Meeting on 30 May 2017, with Council resolving to receive the report and to adopt the eight recommendations within the report for implementation. In receiving the report and adopting its recommendations, Council requested that additional information on 'actions and measurable outcomes' to measure the implementation of the recommendations be developed and further reported to Council.

Development of Actions and Measurable Outcomes

In response to Council's resolution, Council's Youth Participation Officer reengaged with the Hawkesbury Youth Summit Planning Group and Hawkesbury Youth Interagency to identify and develop appropriate actions and outcome measures for each of the eight recommendations. This approach was undertaken as the recommendations within the Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report were the outcome of a collaborative process involving young people and youth service providers. Their involvement in developing actions and outcome measures would therefore be critical in ensuring that the actions and measures to be reported to Council accurately captured their understanding of the issues raised by young people and their expectations of how responses to these issues should be constructed.

The Youth Participation Officer consulted with the two stakeholder groups to develop a Report Implementation Plan (which is appended to this report in Attachment 1). While it was a relatively straight forward undertaking to identify actions and output measures for these actions, it was more difficult to identify outcome measures. This was due in part to, the lack of existing baseline indicators covering the major issues which successive youth summits have focused on, as outlined below:

- bullying
- employment opportunities
- access to transport
- mental health
- lack of youth services
- mental health
- alcohol and drug use.

In practice, Council's approach to the measurement of community well-being indicators is to align these measures with the data collected by Council's biennial Community Survey and through the community indicators adopted by Council to measure progress in implementing the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan. Utilising the existing data sets minimises the requirement for additional staffing and financial resources and ensures that baseline measures have been established and that indicators are aligned with the Strategies and Directions within the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan as this data is already being collected and baseline measures have been established.

A review of these existing measures suggested that they were too broad to measure outcomes against the issues identified within the Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report (as highlighted above). Accordingly, it is proposed that Council work with the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency to develop an on-line survey tool covering these particular issues. The survey tool would be made up of a series of questions to seek responses from young people about their perception/ assessment of their well-being and access to relevant services. Data collected from the survey would be supplemented with ABS and other agency data to paint a picture of the well-being of young people in the Hawkesbury.

It is proposed that the survey would be conducted every two years and would establish baseline measures which can be tracked over time. The proposed 'young people's well-being survey' would augment the data currently being collected through Council's biennial Community Survey and Community Indicators Report.

This is the fourth Youth Summit Report containing recommendations for implementation by Council and the role that Council will play varies for each of these actions. Although implementation of the Report is being facilitated by Council, recommendations are not just focused on activities internal to Council. Council has a custodial role in initiating and implementing Report actions, and Council will continue to work with and engage or advocate to service partners, such as State agencies and community groups to deliver Report actions.

It is intended that Council apply the same method of actioning the Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report as previous Youth Summit reports, being that Council's Youth Participation Officer is tasked responsibility of initiating actions and Hawkesbury Youth Interagency will oversee and monitor implementation of Report actions.

Conformance to the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036

The proposal is consistent with the following Focus Area, Directions and Strategies within the CSP.

Our Community

2.1 Community safety is improved

2.1.1 Meet the needs of our community through effective flood, fire and other natural disaster management plans that promote the protection of life, property and infrastructure.

2.2 Participation in recreational and lifestyle activities is increased

2.2.2 Encourage active participation in a range of sporting and recreational pursuits.

2.3 Community partnerships continue to evolve

2.3.1 Encourage and facilitate community partnerships.

2.3.3 Advocate and facilitate constructive and productive partnerships with residents, community groups and institutions.

2.4 Community wellbeing and local services

2.4.1 Work in partnership with government and community organisations to improve services and facilities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and to build stronger and more cohesive communities.

2.4.2 Provide flexible services that can adapt to changing community needs and service demands.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. Implementation of the Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report requires the allocation of staff hours and resources which will be negotiated in conjunction with the normal development of Council work plans and within Council's budget planning processes. Should a need for additional financial resources be identified through implementation of the Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report, a report detailing costings and associated outcomes will be prepared for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council adopt the Hawkesbury Youth Summit 2017 Outcomes Report Implementation Plan as appended in Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Council extend its appreciation to the Hawkesbury Youth Summit Planning Group and Hawkesbury Youth Interagency in the work undertaken in developing the Implementation Plan.
3. The Youth Participation Officer engage with the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency to develop a young people's Well-Being Online Survey Tool to measure and track progress against the youth summit issues identified in this report.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Hawkesbury Youth Summit Recommendation Strategies

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017**AT - 1 Hawkesbury Youth Summit Recommendation Strategies**

1. As a lack of access to youth services was identified as an ongoing issue, Council to work with Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and Schools Partnership Group to promote, enhance, and improve access to youth services.

Outcome	1.1 – Improved access to Youth services		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Youth Participation Officer to continue to work with local inter-agencies to facilitate collaborative planning and increase the capacity of the Youth Sector to deliver quality Youth Services within the Hawkesbury LGA	Hawkesbury Youth Interagency, Schools Partnership Group, Links To Learning (with Western Sydney Training and Education Centre)	Long term	Number of inter-agencies facilitated
Continue to participate in Local Government Youth networks to advocate for improved Youth Services within the Hawkesbury LGA	Local Government Youth Development Network, Western Sydney Youth Sector Network, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network and Forum of Youth Development Officers	Long term	Number of networks participated in
Youth Participation Officer to continue to work in partnership to plan for Youth Week 2018; and build strategies to improve representation from Youth Service providers; and young people	Family and Community Services, North Richmond Community Centre, NSW Family and Community Services and Hawkesbury Youth Interagency	Medium term	Number of services and young people attended Youth Week

2. As a lack of public transport and youth transport options were identified as ongoing issues, Council to continue to work with Peppercorn Services Inc. to support existing youth transport initiatives.

Outcome	2.1 – Improved access to Youth transport options		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Youth Participation Officer to investigate options to support and enhance existing youth transport initiatives	Peppercorn Community Services Inc.	Medium term	Number of new transport initiatives
Youth Participation Officer to work in partnership with Council's Community Safety Coordinator to promote road safety, awareness, and training with suitable organisations	Youthsafe and Blue Datto Foundation	Medium term	Number of workshops delivered

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017

Outcome	2.1 – Improved access to Youth transport options		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Youth Participation Officer to participate in Peak Youth Networks that advocate for increased public transport in the Hawkesbury LGA	Youth Action	Long term	Number of representations made by Peak

3. As bullying was identified as an ongoing issue, Council to resource anti-bullying programs for all Hawkesbury high schools and non-mainstream education providers and for Youth Participation Officer to work with the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency to investigate ways of enhancing the scope of the current program.

Outcome	3.1 – Improved access to anti-bullying services		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Consult with high school community around individual school needs for anti-bullying programs	Schools Partnership Group, high schools and non-mainstream providers	Short term	Number of schools liaised with
Work in partnership to resource anti-bullying programs for high schools/non-mainstream providers	Ability Links, The Human Sound Project, Bligh Park Community Services high schools and non-mainstream education providers	Medium term	Number of workshops resourced
Youth Participation Officer to plan activities around the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (17 March); and White Ribbon Day (25 November)	Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and Schools Partnership Group	Short term	Number of events held
Gather, promote, and provide anti-bullying resources and tools for teachers, parents and students	'Bullying. No Way!' website (bullyingnoway.gov.au) and other suitable resources including existing Anti-Bullying Toolkit	Short term	Number of schools/providers received anti-bullying toolkit

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017

4. As youth employment was identified as an ongoing issue, Council to continue to work with in partnership with agencies to determine measures to support young people in accessing employment services or events.

Outcome	4.1 – Improved access to Youth employment options		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Youth Participation Officer continue to work in partnership to determine measures to enhance access to Youth Employment Services	MAX Solutions, Ability Options and Schools Industry Partnership	Medium term	Number of planning meetings facilitated
Youth Participation Officer to work in partnership to plan and promote Youth Employment Skills Workshops	MAX Solutions, Ability Options, Schools Industry Partnership, Schools Partnership Group, Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and Council's Cultural Services	Medium term	Number of workshops provided

5. As youth mental health was identified as an ongoing issue, Council to continue to resource a Youth Mental Health Forum based in the Hawkesbury, and to continue to work with headspace to create a Youth Mental Health Pop-Up during Mental Health Month.

Outcome	5.1 – Improved access to Youth Mental Health services		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Work in partnership to resource Youth mental health forums - for Consumers and Service Providers	Community Services Branch, Headspace, Susan Templeman's Office, Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and Schools Partnership Group	Medium term	Number of forums resourced
Investigate funding opportunities and partnerships for Mental Health Month activities	Headspace, WayAhead Mental Health Association	Short term	Number of events held

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017

6. As a lack of youth activities was identified as an ongoing issue, Youth Participation Officer to work with Council's Cultural Services Branch and Hawkesbury Youth Interagency to investigate how new cultural and artistic events for young people can be created that showcase local talent.

Outcome	6.1 – Improved access to cultural and artistic events and activities		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Youth Participation Officer to support the promotion of Council HSC revision programs, and other educational workshops	Cultural Services, Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and Schools Partnership Group	Medium term	Number of programs promoted
Youth Participation Officer to develop project in partnership to provide opportunities for young people to take part in live music performance programs	Young Warriors	Medium term	Number of workshops resourced
Youth Participation Officer to investigate opportunities to obtain funding to develop local arts and cultural activities	Cultural Services, Western Sydney Live and Local Strategic Initiative	Long term	Number of planning funding applications made
Youth Participation Officer support partnerships to deliver the NSW Skate Park League Competition	YMCA and Hawkesbury Youth Interagency	Short term	Funding resourced to support Hawkesbury Skate Park League competition

7. As the protection of the Hawkesbury's natural and cultural heritage was raised as an issue, Hawkesbury City Council to support and promote natural heritage initiatives and events for young people.

Outcome	7.1 – Improved access to natural heritage initiatives and events		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Youth Participation Officer to continue to advocate for environmental heritage projects and promote existing cultural heritage programs to young people	Hawkesbury Environmental Educations Network, Hawkesbury Youth Interagency, Schools Partnership Group, Bush Trackers, Hawkesbury Environmental Advocacy Group	Long term	Number of meetings facilitated
Youth Participation Officer to work in partnership with Bushcare Officer and Waste Education Officer to increase opportunities for young people to access programs and to increase the participation of Bushcare Officer and Waste Education Officer in Youth Week activities	Bushcare Officer and Waste Education Officer	Medium term	Bushcare Officer and Waste Education Officer supported to participate in Youth Week

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Outcome	7.1 – Improved access to natural heritage initiatives and events		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Youth Participation Officer to foster relationships between Cultural Heritage program providers and Environmental Education providers	Buschare Officer, Waste Education Officer, Cultural Services, Hawkesbury Youth Interagency, Schools Partnership Group , Hawkesbury Environmental Education Network, Hawkesbury Environmental Advocacy Group and Bush Trackers	Long term	Number of planning meetings held

8. Contact to be maintained with young people to provide opportunities for young people to be involved in civic leadership and Council process. Youth Participation Officer to support Council staff by promoting opportunities for young people to have ongoing involvement with Council projects.

Outcome	8.1 – Improved access to civic leadership programs 8.2 – Improved access to Council process		
Action	Key Agencies	Timeframe (Short, Medium, or Long term)	Output
Youth Participation Officer to promote opportunities for young people to engage in Youth Leadership Programs	YMCA, Youth Action, & Hills to Hawkesbury Leadership Program and What's Up West (Youth Action)	Long term	Number of planning meetings held Funding support provided
Youth Participation Officer to continue to support Council staff to conduct Youth Consultations as suitable as part of community consultation processes	Strategic Planning	Long term	Youth focus provided for Strategic Plans and community consultations
Youth Participation Officer to investigate ways of increasing Council Branch representation (as suitable) at Youth Week (Youthfest 2018)	Across Council	Medium term	Number of Council staff participated in Youth Week
Youth Participation Officer to hold biennial Youth Summit	Hawkesbury Youth Interagency, Schools Partnership Group and Council	Long term	2019 Youth Summit Planned

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Date: 12 September 2017

Item: 161 **SS - Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan - (95496, 96328)**

Previous Item: 115, Ordinary (27 June 2017)
 18, Ordinary (31 January 2017)
 NM1, Ordinary (26 May 2015)

REPORT:

Executive Summary

This report has been prepared to advise Council of the outcome of the public exhibition of the Draft Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan. The report provides a summary of submissions received, the response provided to submissions and pursuant amendments made to the Draft Plan. The report recommends that Council adopt the Plan and the proposed framework outlined for implementation of the Plan.

Consultation

The Report advises Council of the outcome of the exhibition of a draft planning document which was placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with the requirements of Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The Draft Plan was placed on public exhibition between 19 July 2017 and 16 August 2017. The Draft Plan was placed on Council's website, made available in hard copy at Council office and libraries and promoted through community service networks and forums. Hawkesbury Local Area Command promoted the public exhibition of the Draft Plan through the Local Area Command Facebook Page.

Background

Council, at its meeting on 26 May 2015 gave consideration to a Notice of Motion regarding family and domestic violence. Council resolved, in part, to work in partnership with the Hawkesbury Action Network Against Domestic Violence to facilitate and develop a 'community led response plan to Family and Domestic Violence in the Hawkesbury'.

Draft Action Plan

To develop a community led response plan to Family and Domestic Violence, Council engaged a consultant to conduct a series of facilitated focus groups and co-hosted the Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Forum on 10 November 2016. The Forum was attended by 56 people. This consultation informed the content of the Draft Hawkesbury and Domestic Violence Action Plan.

The Draft Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan was reported to the Council Meeting on 27 June 2017. At that meeting, Council resolved to place the Draft Plan on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. The Draft Plan was also reviewed by the Hawkesbury Area Network Against Domestic Violence on 22 June 2017.

Council received 14 submissions in response to the public exhibition of the Draft Plan. Summarised comments with Council responses are tabled in Attachment 1 to this report along with complete copies of the 14 submissions received. Amendments made in response to submissions to the Plan are tabled as Attachment 2 to this report. These amendments are primarily administrative and typographical in nature.

The Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan has been amended to include the amendments outlined in Attachment 2 to this report and the amended Plan is appended as Attachment 3 to this report for adoption by Council.

Implementation of the Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan

Consistent with the roles outlined in the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan, Council will be a critical partner in implementing the Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan. As achieving a reduction of Family and Domestic Violence within the Hawkesbury is a complex and challenging undertaking, a range of local and regional agencies are listed as service partners within the Plan. This approach is integral to achieving the actions and objectives within the Plan. To this end it is proposed that Council work with the Hawkesbury Action Network Against Domestic Violence, the peak interagency for domestic violence specialist services in the Hawkesbury, to oversee implementation of the Plan. Under this framework, Council's Community Safety Coordinator will liaise and consult with the Hawkesbury Area Network Against Domestic Violence about each of the actions within the Plan and how they can best be achieved. the Hawkesbury Area Network Against Domestic Violence will assist in the preparation of an annual progress report on implementation of the Plan to Council.

Conformance to the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036

The proposal is consistent with the following Focus Area, Directions and Strategies within the CSP.

Our Community**2.1 Community safety is improved**

2.1.2 Make the Hawkesbury a friendly place where people feel safe.

2.3 Community partnerships continue to evolve

2.3.1 Encourage and facilitate community partnerships.

2.3.3 Advocate and facilitate constructive and productive partnerships with residents, community groups and institutions.

2.4 Community wellbeing and local services

2.4.1 Work in partnership with government and community organisations to improve services and facilities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and to build stronger and more cohesive communities.

2.4.2 Provide flexible services that can adapt to changing community needs and service demands.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. If adopted, the Plan may require the allocation of staff hours and resources which will be negotiated in conjunction with the normal development of Council work plans and within Council's budget planning processes. Should a need for additional financial resources be identified through implementation of the Plan a report with costings and associated outcomes will be prepared for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan attached as Attachment 3 to the report.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Summary and Submissions from the Public Exhibition (*Distributed under separate cover*)

AT - 2 Table of Amendments for the Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Plan

AT - 3 Amended Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Plan (*Distributed under separate cover*)

ORDINARY MEETING**Meeting Date:** 12 September 2017**AT - 2 Table of Amendments for the Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Plan**

Location	Change
Cover and back page	Replaced "Draft" with "Hawkesbury"
Page 1 (2 Guiding Principles, first sentence)	Replaced "Draft HFDVAP" with "Hawkesbury Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan (HFDVAP)"
Column Headings	Replaced "Measure" with "Output"
3.3.5 Work in partnership to support roll-out of in-school education programs through Council sponsorship, joint funding applications and/or advocacy (e.g. Healthy Relationship, Anger Management, Well-being, White Ribbon, etc.)	Removed "Anger Management"
3.3.5 Output	Replaced "Increased FDV education programs within schools" with "Number of FDV education programs investigated. Number of funding applications submitted."
3.3.6 Output	Replaced "Increased education programs within community settings" with "Number of community education programs investigated. Number of funding applications submitted."
3.4.1 Output	Removed extra text "number of"
3.4.2 Output	Added "Number of new"
3.4.3 Output	Added "Number of new"
3.6.1 Output	Added "Number of new"
3.6.2 Output	Added "Number of new"
3.6.3 Output	Added "Number of new"
3.6.3 Output	Replaced "solution provided" with "solutions developed"
3.6.4 Output	Replaced "solution provided" with "solutions developed"

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

Item: 162**SS - Proposal to Construct Accessible Footpath - Wilberforce Shopping Centre - (95496, 96328)**

REPORT:**Executive Summary**

This report has been prepared following a resolution of the Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee to report to Council a proposal to undertake works to construct an accessible footpath at the Wilberforce Shopping Centre. The report details the scope of works and requests that Council place the works on a future Works Program.

Consultation

The issues raised in this report concern matters which do not require community consultation under Council's Community Engagement Policy. The report outlines a proposed response to representations made by Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee in relation to this issue and contains information of consultation already undertaken in the preparation of the report.

Background

The Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee undertake access audits of Council facilities, streetscape and buildings to ensure access improvements are identified and can be budgeted for in Council Works budgets. In response to a request made by a member of the Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, an audit of the Wilberforce Shopping Centre was undertaken, which identified that the footpaths leading from the carpark to the shops are not compliant with relevant access standards.

A site visit was undertaken by Council's Manager Design and Mapping and Council's Acting Manager Community Services to investigate options to address access issues in this precinct. Council then undertook a site survey and drafted a design solution for the site.

The draft design details two new footpaths which will lead pedestrians from the accessible car parking spaces to the shopping precinct on a choice of two ramps, both of which are compliant with the standards governing footpaths in the Building Code of Australia and Access to Premises Standards (1:10 layback and 1:14 footpath).

The draft design was presented to the Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting on 24 August 2017 where the Committee resolved that the design as outlined in Attachment 1 to this report would address current access issues. An aerial photograph of the Wilberforce Shopping Centre is attached as Attachment 2 to this report.

The construction of footpaths and associated works will require an allocation of funding from Council's Capital Works budget. Council's Manager Construction and Maintenance has estimated the total cost of works at \$41,000.

Conformance to the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036

The proposal is consistent with the following Focus Area, Direction and Strategies within the CSP.

Our Community

2.4 Community wellbeing and local services

2.4.1 Work in partnership with government and community organisations to improve services and facilities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and to build stronger and more cohesive communities.

2.4.2 Provide flexible services that can adapt to changing community needs and service demands.

Financial Implications

There are financial implications arising from this report. These works, if adopted, will be placed on a future works program and determined in conjunction with corporate priorities and available resources.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The information be received.
- 2 Council place the construction footpaths at the Wilberforce Shopping Centre as outlined in Attachment 1 to this report on a future works program.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Design – Footpaths Wilberforce Shopping Centre

AT - 2 Aerial Photograph - Wilberforce Shopping Centre

AT - 1 Design – Footpaths Wilberforce Shopping Centre



ordinary

section 4

reports
of committees

ORDINARY MEETING
Reports of Committees

ORDINARY MEETING
Reports of Committees

SECTION 4 - Reports of Committees

ROC **Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Minutes - 22 June 2017 - 124569, 96328)**

The meeting commenced at 5.10pm.

Present: Councillor John Ross, Hawkesbury City Council
 Ms Jessica Brunskill, Community Representative
 Ms Kristy Carpenter, Community Representative
 Mr Desmond Crane, Community Representative
 Ms Melanie Lawson, Community Representative
 Ms Jennifer Moses, Community Representative
 Ms Terri Mottram, Community Representative

Apologies: Councillor Barry Calvert, (Chair) Hawkesbury City Council
 Mr David Briggs, Community Representative
 Mr David Gearin, (Deputy Chair) Community Representative
 Ms Karen Kobier, Community Representative
 Mr Joseph Litwin, Hawkesbury City Council

In Attendance: Mr Craig Johnson, Parks Project Officer
 Mr Richard Vaby, Manager Construction and Maintenance
 Ms Meagan Ang, Hawkesbury City Council
 Ms Jan Readford - Minute Secretary, Hawkesbury City Council

REPORT:

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Desmond Crane and seconded by Ms Jennifer Moses that the apologies be accepted.

Attendance Register of Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Member	27/02/2017	4/5/2017	22/6/2017
Councillor Barry Calvert	✓	✓	A
Councillor John Ross	x	A	✓
Mr David Briggs	✓	✓	A
Ms Jessica Brunskill	✓	✓	✓
Ms Kirsty Carpenter	✓	A	✓
Mr Desmond Crane	✓	✓	✓
Mr David Gearin	✓	✓	A
Ms Karen Kobier	A	A	A
Ms Melanie Lawson	✓	✓	✓
Ms Jennifer Moses	A	✓	✓
Mr Terri Mottram	✓	A	✓

Key: A = Formal Apology ✓ = Present x = Absent - no apology

Councillor John Ross assumed the Chair in the absence of the Chair, Councillor Barry Calvert and the Deputy Chair, David Gearin.

Mr Crane left the meeting at 6.05pm.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Desmond Crane and seconded by Ms Jessica Brunskill that the Minutes of the Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee held on the 4 May 2017, be confirmed.

SECTION 2 - Presentations to the Committee

1. Capital Works Program 2017/2018 - Parks

Presentation: Mr Craig Johnson, Parks Project Officer

- Mr Johnson advised that he considers accessibility across all works. Inclusion has been considered during planning. Mr Johnson referred to the work identified works in Pound Paddock in the new financial year. Works include pathways and sensory gardens. Council is discussing access and use of the facilities with North-West Disability Services. Council is looking at September for commencement of the works.
- Councillor Ross enquired if the park will be enclosed.
 - Mr Johnson advised that Council will use tree planting to provide boundaries, not fences, but that the dog park will be enclosed with fencing.
- Mr Johnson indicated a preference for natural barriers rather than concrete or steel.
 - Ms Carpenter advised of her concern that this will not deter people with intellectual disability from absconding, including children – the trees will not stop them from getting out.
 - Ms Ang noted that the barrier intended for Pound Paddock will just be trees, and that the location has a busy intersection.
- Councillor Ross enquired if artificial lighting will be installed, referring to the cost associated to vandalim.
 - Mr Johnson advised that the cost is prohibitive and will not be installed.
 - Mr Johnson advised that if you light up the area it will attract vandals.
- Ms Mottram enquired if there will be a time limit to access the area.
 - Mr Johnson advised that the park will be open 24 hours a day.
- Mr Crane referred to the difficulties for people in wheelchairs when the park tables are not high enough as the chair cannot be pushed under the table.
 - Mr Johnson advised that Council has commenced moving the legs of tables further over to allow for the chairs to get underneath the table, and will ensure that this is done in Pound Paddock. Mr Johnson advised that he can also increase the size of the slab under the shelter.
- Mr Crane referred to surfaces around shelters and noted concern when it is not level.
 - Mr Johnson advised that Council has looked at that level to ensure it is the same so that the shelter is accessible.

ORDINARY MEETING
Reports of Committees

- Mr Crane referred to the width of the pathway and advised that the shortfall in its width results in the wheelchair being turned on the grass, often backwards, in order to change direction.
 - Mr Johnson said that this was being addressed by Council.
- Ms Carpenter referred to the recent park upgrade in South Windsor and advised that there is a gate provided at the location. There is also a walk in and around the shelter.
- Mr Crane noted that Hanna Park works well, and that Pugh's Lagoon is now looking good. Ms Moses agreed that the pathway is now very good.
- Mr Crane enquired about what is planned outside Windsor/Richmond.
 - Mr Johnson advised that Council is working on McMahon Park, where there is a circuit pathway, including one section where it's over 1:14 grade. The pathway will be zig-zagged on one place to assist with the rise.
- Mr Crane referred to the Breakaway and advised that you cannot access the toilets with the wheelchair. The additional issue is that the shelter is at one end, the toilet is at the other end, which means that you have to drive.
 - Mr Johnson advised Council has built a new shelter at the Breakaway in the last 12 months, however, does not have funding for the pathways at this time.
- Mr Crane enquired if there is anything planned for Glossodia or soccer fields. There is a waste truck area that creates an issue.
 - Mr Johnson indicated that the area being used as a carpark, should not have been a carpark, as there are a number of trees in that carpark, and you are better to stay away from it. The Sports Council close the gate to stop people getting in.
- Ms Ang noted that Mr Johnson is going to prioritise what needs to be done and requested that Mr Johnson the list to the Committee to review. Mr Johnson agreed that this will be provided.
- Ms Mottram referred to the bump in Kable Street, adjacent to Woolworths.
- Mr Vaby referred to discussions with Mr Aldrich and their investigations together of various locations, and advised that some of the concerns raised were able to be addressed immediately. Mr Vaby is happy to look at any concerns that the Committee would like addressed.

Mr Johnson left the meeting at 5.25pm.

2. Capital Works Program 2017/2018 - Construction and Maintenance

Presentation: Mr Richard Vaby - Manager Construction and Maintenance

Mr Vaby advised that Mr Amit was not able to attend this evening, and was attending on his behalf.

- Ms Mottram referred to Richmond Library and advised that she has had a fall at the location.
 - Mr Vaby noted that Richmond Library has an issue with a major tree and that Council is looking at the impact on the footpath and what works need to be addressed.
- Mr Vaby referred to East Market Street and the access problems for aged people and people who use a wheelchair. Council has talked to the RMS about flattening out the whole location.

ORDINARY MEETING
Reports of Committees

There are a number of utilities at that location i.e. Telstra, water etc. and these will need to be considered when looking at the whole situation.

- Ms Mottram referred to Thompson Square and problem with the high level of footpaths, causing her not to be able to step off the sidewalk. Ms Mottram wants to be able to go up the town along George Street.
 - Mr Vaby advised that Council is limited to do anything to impact on the site as it is an historical area, however, is happy to look at the location to see if something can be done.
- Mr Crane advised that couriers at that location have to walk on the road, and have to go further down to cross the road. There are also problems with accessing the shopping centre. Mr Crane is happy to go anytime to show the location to Mr Vaby.
 - Ms Ang will arrange for Council staff to visit various sites with Mr Crane.
- Mr Vaby advised that the Old Hospital is another area of concern where the sidewalk reaches the ground.
- Mr Carpenter referred to Drummond and Macquarie Streets and advised that the pathway is uneven.
 - Mr Vaby advised that he does need to investigate new routes so that people can get to the various locations.
 - Ms Carpenter advised it is difficult to get up and down the entire section.
- Councillor Ross enquired if Telstra are required to do remediation at a location where they are done work on their equipment.
 - Mr Vaby advised that Telstra pays a fee to Council to return the location back to the original state. If required work is identified, it's difficult to trace who is responsible, however, in most instances, Telstra agrees to fully reinstate Council for the works.
- Councillor Ross referred to work being conducted by Telstra in South Windsor shopping area in the last week, in particular where asphalt has been laid down.
 - Mr Vaby advised that work on gas had been done recently at the location and Council is working with Telstra to ensure the location is safe until works are finalised. Council has laid down the asphalt to ensure no one is injured.
- Ms Carpenter referred to Greenhills and its preschools across the road from the Bligh Park Tannery, and advised there is no pedestrian foot path.
- Ms Burnskill enquired how the work is being prioritised.
 - Mr Vaby advised the flow for a high volume of traffic and people accessing a location will dictate priority for the site. Schools, shopping centres, hospital, locations with access to an aged facility, and where you see there is a break that does not have paving, are listed as priorities.
- Mr Vaby advised that throughout the year he receives complaints. A register is kept. Submissions are added into the Footpath Program.
- Mr Vaby advised that if the Committee has any areas of concern, he will add them to the list and put them into the Works Program.

ORDINARY MEETING
Reports of Committees

- Ms Ang advised that the Committee conducts access audits at identified locations. Council receives funding from RMS, including for accessible works.
- Mr Crane referred to Kentucky Drive and the uneven footpath and advised that it needs to be levelled off.
 - Mr Vaby advised that when work is considered, we must see if that work is going to benefit the community.
- Ms Lawson advised that the Committee has discussed a number of works that it would like to see happen.
 - Mr Vaby advised if there is anything else, he is happy to go through it with the Committee.
- Ms Lawson referred to the discussion with Mr Vaby and advised that it is good to get the connectivity.
- Ms Mottram advised that she has to ask the bus driver to drop her on the road side. Ms Mottram referred to Rifle Range Road, and advised there is no path to the bus stop at the intersection at the top where there is round-a-bout, and where there is a childcare centre. It's not possible to access because of the traffic flow. There is a footpath on one side, but not the other, which makes it difficult to go to Richmond.
 - Mr Vaby advised that this is a State arterial road and it is difficult for Council to have any jurisdiction.
 - Ms Mottram indicated that it is hard to cross the road from Colless Avenue.
- Councillor Ross referred to a property aligning with Colless Avenue where people are taking a short cut, and advised that it is private property.
 - Mr Vaby noted that people are using the well-worn track and that it private property. Council cannot put in a path because it is private land.
- Ms Burnskill referred to the Kable Street carpark.
 - Ms Ang advised that works have been budgeted for 2017/2018.
- Ms Ang thanked Mr Vaby for his attendance. Mr Vaby advised that if the Committee has any other matters to raised, that Ms Ang can follow-up with him.
- Councillor Ross advised that he appreciates the work of the Committee.

Mr Vaby left the meeting at 6.20pm.

SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination

Item: 1 HAIAC - Distribution of Code of Conduct to Committee Members - (124569, 96328)

DISCUSSION:

- The Code of Conduct was distributed at the meeting to each Committee member present, who signed to confirm that they had received a copy.
- Ms Ang advised Committee members they were required to comply with the provisions outlined in the Code of Conduct, including those in Council's Gifts and Benefits Policy, which supplements those in the Code of Conduct.
- Ms Ang noted that those members not in attendance will receive a copy at the next Committee meeting to be held 24 August 2017.

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE:

That Committee members receive and acknowledge receipt of the Code of Conduct, by signing and dating the distribution list to be tabled at the meeting, and a copy of the Gifts and Benefits Policy.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Ms Melanie Lawson, seconded by Ms Jessica Brunskill.

That Committee members receive and acknowledge receipt of the Code of Conduct, by signing and dating the distribution list, and a copy of the Gifts and Benefits Policy.

Item: 2 HAIAC - Accessible Parking - North Richmond Shopping Village - (124569, 96328)

DISCUSSION:

- Ms Ang advised the Proposal for North Richmond Shopping Centre shows that one space will be lost at the top of the carpark, however, is increased with an additional space further down i.e. four spaces will increase to five spaces.
- Ms Ang advised that accessible carpark spaces have been reviewed over the last four years.
 - Ms Carpenter suggested that the carpark needs a traffic flow system.
 - Ms Ang agreed that the carpark does become narrow, and enquired if that was something that the Committee wants her to take on board. Ms Ang also noted that this has not been identified previously.
- Ms Ang indicated there is a requirement for hatched areas to have bollards. Sometimes there are side entry vehicles and this provides as much space as possible.
 - Ms Carpenter enquired if bollards could be raised to improve visibility. Ms Ang will check with Mr Amit who will know if bollards are included in the Standard.
 - Councillor Ross requested that the design rules be investigated.

ORDINARY MEETING
Reports of Committees

- Ms Ang advised that Centre management are prepared to take responsibility for the works, and as part of the process, have advised they will remove a tree to improve the foot path.
- Ms Ang recommended that the Proposal be endorsed by the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE:

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The Committee endorse a design for the installation of additional accessible car parking spaces at North Richmond Shopping Village.
3. The Committee report a design endorsement to Local Traffic Committee.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Ms Melanie Lawson, seconded by Ms Kristy Carpenter.

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The Committee endorse a design for the installation of additional accessible car parking spaces at North Richmond Shopping Village.
3. The Committee report a design endorsement to Local Traffic Committee.

Item: 3 HAIAC - Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 - (124569, 96328)

Previous Item: 5, HAIAC (7 April 2011)
 7, HAIAC (16 June 2011)
 11, HAIAC (6 October 2011)
 17, HAIAC (24 November 2011)
 23, HAIAC (28 June 2012)
 5, HAIAC (28 November 2013)
 1, HAIAC (26 June 2014)

DISCUSSION:

- Ms Brunskill advised that the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 was well laid out, clearly presented, and will ensure that actions are kept on track.
- Ms Carpenter noted that the way in which the statistics were presented, were as an Infographic.
- Ms Brunskill enquired if Council has gone any further with the Easy Read.
 - Ms Ang advised that Council will engage a consultant to assist with Easy Read. Provision will also be placed on Council's website for people to request documentation in Easy Read. Ms Ang has been quoted \$4,300 to convert the DIAP. At this time, Council does not hold any Infographics.

ORDINARY MEETING

Reports of Committees

- Ms Ang advised that in addition to the DIAP, the Complaints Handling Guide will also be converted as this is an important document.
- Ms Brunskill advised that her organisation has the expertise to provide a fascia friendly language and suggested obtaining a Consultation Accessibility Kit may be worth discussing with her organisation.
- Ms Ang advised that she intends to test Easy Read with individual groups. However, as this is not her area of expertise, the Committee was asked if they knew of anyone with experience in this area, to provide the details.
- Ms Brunskill advised there are some database that include images, however, Ms Moses enquired if copyright would be an issue. Ms Ang agreed that copyright would need to be considered. At this time, the acquisition of a database is not included in the 2017/2018 Budget.
- Ms Ang advised that Council will have a Town Meeting at Hawkesbury Learning Centre. Auslan interpreters have been engaged. It will be a learning experience for Council and interesting to see what the level of interest will be.
- Councillor Ross advised that it is likely that Council meetings will be podcast, which will be another element under the term 'inclusion'. Ms Mottram agreed that that would be good.
- Ms Mottram referred to the accessibility facilities provided at the Library i.e. zoom text (magnified) and 'Jaws' and advised that these provide excellent access and assistance.
- Ms Ang reminded the Committee that all submissions to the DIAP must be in by 28 June 2017.
- Ms Lawson acknowledged the meaningful effort that had been put into the DIAP and thanked Ms Ang for her contribution.

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE:

That the Committee review the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 and forward comments to Council within the public exhibition period, by 28 June 2017.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Ms Jessica Brunskill, seconded by Ms Melanie Lawson.

That the Committee review the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 and forward comments to Council within the public exhibition period, by 28 June 2017.

Item: 4 **HAIAC - Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Audits - (124569, 96328)**

DISCUSSION:

- Ms Ang advised that audits have been organised with two organisations that she is currently working with, one with staff and the other with members of the community, in this instance, St Mathews School. Currently, the audits are being done on request. Ms Ang advised that the next time she is going to do an access audit she will invite the Committee to be involved.

ORDINARY MEETING
Reports of Committees

- Ms Carpenter referred to the technology where text message can be received on your mobile phone from approximately 20 metres away as you pass by a tower/outlet. The service is free, however there is a cost associated with purchasing the equipment. Ms Carpenter enquired if Council has plans to provide an app to send messages around about what Council is doing.
 - Ms Ang advised that Council has a Facebook page, and suggested that Council's Manager Corporate Communication be invited to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss Council's media.
- Ms Carpenter suggested that if Council establishes an app it will be easier to get the message out about what Council is doing and will assist with accessibility.
- Ms Moses will send information on the app for 'Smart Sent' to Ms Ang.
- Councillor Ross noted that the General Manager spoke about this technology at the last Councillor Briefing Session, and will take the Committee's comments back to the General Manager.
- Ms Carpenter advised that she has been asked the question 'how am I, in my age group, going to know what Council does'. Ms Carpenter suggested that Council develop an app to get the message out to the community and improve access.
- Ms Moses advised that Penrith City Council has an app for sports grounds and will send more information to Ms Ang.
- Ms Brunskill advised that she wants to be involved in the local community and is looking at what Council is doing.

RECOMMENDATION TO COMMITTEE:

That matters raised by the Committee in relation to Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee audits, be noted.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Ms Jennifer Moses, seconded by Ms Jessica Brunskill.

That:

1. The matters raised by the Committee in relation to Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee audits, be noted.
2. An invitation be extended to Council's Manager Corporate Communication to attend the next Committee meeting.

SECTION 4 - General Business

1. Promoting Council via an App

- Ms Carpenter referred to the use of free Apps that pick up text messages within approximately 20 metres, and suggested that this could be a method for getting messages out about what Council is doing. Users would know the issues facing Council.
- Ms Ang advised that Council has a social media presence. Ms Carpenter, however suggested, that if you establish an App, it would be an easier platform for people to access.
- Ms Burnskill referred to another type of app - 'Snap Send Solve', which is free for iPhone or Android users, and can be used to report issues and provide feedback. Ms Burnskill will send information to Ms Ang on the App.
- Councillor Ross advised that the General Manager spoke about this concept at the last Councillor's Briefing Session, and will refer these comments back to the General Manager.
- Ms Carpenter advised that she can help with accessibility i.e. checking the formats.
- Ms Carpenter referred to young people in her age group would do not know about what Council does, and suggested that an App could be set up to enable the user to access messages on various topics under "What does Council do".
- Ms Moses advised that Penrith City Council has something similar for sports grounds and will send more information to Ms Ang.
- Ms Burnskill advised that she wants to be involved in the local community and is looking at what Council is doing.
- Ms Ang will request Council's Manager Corporate Communication, Ms Suzanne Stuart, to attend the next Committee meeting.

2. Small Business Awards

- Ms Ang advised that the Hawkesbury Small Business Awards are being advertised at the moment, and again this year, includes the Community Access and Inclusion Award. Entrants from the community will need to complete an application form to enter. The Committee can assist by getting the message out to their networks and the community to source suitable entrants.
- Ms Ang advised that inclusion in the Small Business Awards is a great awareness activity. Last year the organisers and recipients of the Community Access and Inclusion Award came to a Council Meeting to accept the Award.
- *Ms Ang will circulate the Application Form to the Committee.*

The meeting terminated at 6.58pm.

Submitted to and confirmed at the meeting of the Hawkesbury Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee held on Thursday, 24 August 2017.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

ordinary

section 5

notices of motion

ORDINARY MEETING

Notices of Motion

ORDINARY MEETING

Notices of Motion

SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion

NM **Secondary Dwellings in Oakville and Maraylya - (79351, 105109, 138880)**

Submitted by: Councillor Reynolds

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That:

1. As part of the review of the Residential Land Strategy, can staff consider options to allow detached dual occupancy and secondary dwellings in areas such as Oakville and Maraylya, that are located within the North-West growth section investigation area.
2. Matters to be considered by staff could include:
 - a) the minimum lot size to allow suitable Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems for the second dwelling
 - b) what obstacles may currently exist and the timeframe and process required to overcome them.

BACKGROUND:

The NSW Government has previously refused Council requests to allow detached dual occupancy across the LGA. However this proposal relates to a more restricted location in the North-West growth sector investigation area.

Furthermore, the Mayoral Minute adopted at Council at its meeting on 30 May 2017, endorsed a review of the Residential Land Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING

Notices of Motion

ORDINARY MEETING
Questions for Next Meeting

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillor Questions from Previous Meetings and Responses - (79351)

REPORT:

Questions - 29 August 2017

#	Councillor	Question	Response
1	Richards	Requested details of Council's representation to the ALGA 2017 National General Assembly, specifically: a) Who was Council's delegate at this Conference? b) Did the delegate participate in the vote on the motion to lobby the Federal Government to change the date of recognition of Australia Day? c) How did the delegate vote in relation to this motion?	The General Manager advised that over 550 local government representatives attended the ALGA 2017 National General Assembly. The Mayor and Councillor Wheeler represented Council at the ALGA 2017 National General Assembly. The Hawkesbury Council voting delegate did not participate in the vote on the motion in relation to Australia Day.
2	Tree	Requested information relating to the number of conferences attended by Councillors and the cost of attendance for the 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 Council terms.	The General Manager advised that the material in relation to conferences attended by Councillors in the 2012-2016 and 2016-2020 Council terms is still being collected. It will be circulated when it is finalised.
3	Wheeler	Requested an investigation into rubbish management of Colbee Park, McGraths Hill.	The Director Infrastructure Services advised that the matter will be investigated and advice provided to all Councillors when completed.
4	Reynolds	Requested an update on progress of the development application associated with the World Polo Championship.	The Acting Director City Planning advised that DA0439/17 was lodged on 26 July 2017 for Recreation Facilities (Major) - World Polo Championship 2017 - Including associated car parking facilities, horse training, stabling, exhibition, hospitality and events promotion areas and contingency parking at Hawkesbury Racecourse. An initial review letter was sent to the applicant on 27 July 2017, identifying a number of issues that required attention. Referrals to the following external Authorities were sent on 31 July 2017:

ORDINARY MEETING
Questions for Next Meeting

#	Councillor	Question	Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence Force – Richmond RAAF • Ambulance Service of NSW; Hawkesbury Local Area Command • Sydney Trains • NSW Roads and Maritime Services • NSW State Emergency Service. <p>Public exhibition has been undertaken as required by the EP&A Act between 10 August 2017 to 24 August 2017.</p> <p>A further request for information was issued to the applicant on 28 August 2017.</p> <p>Responses have been received from the following Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney Trains who have requested further information regarding the operation of a shuttle bus service • NSW Police Force indicating they neither support or oppose the granting of consent subject to conditions • RMS has requested additional information prior to providing their formal response. <p>A total of seven submissions were received during the public exhibition of the Development Application, and as required by the EP&A Act these have been provided to the applicant to respond.</p>

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Item: 163 **CP - Community Representation on the Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter Working Group - (95498, 39906) CONFIDENTIAL**

Previous Item: NM7, Ordinary (9 May 2017)

Reason for Confidentiality

*This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the matters dealt with in this report are to be considered while the meeting is closed to the press and the public.*

Specifically, the matter is to be dealt with pursuant to Section 10A(2)(a) of the Act as it relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) & (3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the reports, correspondence and other relevant documentation relating to this matter are to be withheld from the press and public.

ORDINARY MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Item: 164 **IS - Drainage Update - Price Lane, Agnes Banks - (95495) CONFIDENTIAL**

Previous Item: Ordinary (09 May 2017)
 Ordinary (28 June 2011)
 Ordinary (30 November 2010)
 Ordinary (09 November 2010)

Reason for Confidentiality

*This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the matters dealt with in this report are to be considered while the meeting is closed to the press and the public.*

Specifically, the matter is to be dealt with pursuant to Section 10A(2)(c) of the Act as it relates to information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposed to conduct) business and, therefore, if considered in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) & (3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the reports, correspondence and other relevant documentation relating to this matter are to be withheld from the press and public.

ORDINARY MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Item: 165 **SS - Property Matter - Lease to Blefari Holdings Pty Ltd - Shop 6, Glossodia Shopping Village - (95496, 96333, 112106, 126147) CONFIDENTIAL**

Reason for Confidentiality

*This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the matters dealt with in this report are to be considered while the meeting is closed to the press and the public.*

Specifically, the matter is to be dealt with pursuant to Section 10A(2)(c) of the Act as it relates to details concerning the leasing of a Council property and it is considered that the release of the information would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person or organisation with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and, therefore, if considered in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) & (3) of the Local Government Act 1993, the reports, correspondence and other relevant documentation relating to this matter are to be withheld from the press and public.



ordinary
meeting

end of
business
paper

This business paper has
been produced
electronically to reduce
costs, improve efficiency
and reduce the use of
paper. Internal control
systems ensure it is an
accurate reproduction of
Council's official copy of
the business paper.