



Hawkesbury City Council

innovation
and
partnerships
committee
business
paper

date of meeting: 3 August 2021

location: by audio-visual link

time: 4:00 p.m.

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3 August 2021

AGENDA

- **WELCOME**
- **APOLOGIES**
- **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- **SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes**
- **SECTION 2 - Reports for Determination**

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3 August 2021

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE
SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes		7
	ROC - Innovation and Partnerships Committee Minutes - 9 February 2021 - (79351, 151939)	7
SECTION 2 - Reports for Determination		11
Item: 1	IPC - Telecommunications - Meeting at Bilpin - (79351, 151939)	13

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3 August 2021

Innovation and
partnerships
committee

section **1**

confirmation of
minutes

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

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INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3 August 2021

SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes

ROC - Innovation and Partnerships Committee Minutes - 9 February 2021 - (79351, 151939)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Innovations and Partnerships Committee held by Audio-Visual link, on 9 February 2021, commencing at 4:00pm.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Councillor Patrick Conolly, Hawkesbury City Council
Councillor Amanda Kotlash, Hawkesbury City Council
Councillor Sarah Richards, Hawkesbury City Council
Councillor Nathan Zamprogno, Hawkesbury City Council

Apologies: Nil.

In Attendance: Mr Laurie Mifsud, Hawkesbury City Council
Staff and Agency Ms Emma Galea, Hawkesbury City Council
Representatives Ms Linda Perrine, Hawkesbury City Council
Ms Suzanne Stuart, Hawkesbury City Council
Ms Charles McElroy, Hawkesbury City Council
Ms Tracey Easterbrook - Minute Secretary, Hawkesbury City Council

Member	9/02/2021
Councillor Patrick Conolly (Mayor)	✓
Councillor Amanda Kotlash	✓
Councillor Sarah Richards (Chairperson)	✓
Councillor Nathan Zamprogno	✓

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interests made.

SECTION 1 - Reports for Determination

Item: 1 **IPC - Election of Chairperson - (79351)**

Division: General Manager

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That a Chairperson of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee for the period from February 2021 to September 2021, be determined.

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3 August 2021

- Be limited in numbers to meet the requirements of any orders then in force under the Public Health Act 2010, including but not limited to the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) 2020 as amended or replaced
 - Require members of the public to register to attend the meeting
 - Not be required to be webcast (livestreamed)
 - Be recorded
3. The local community will be notified of the meeting, and arrangements made for inviting relevant representatives from Telstra and the Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman MP.
4. The Chair of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee be given the authority to arrange for a suitable date and time for the meeting to enable the attendance of relevant representatives from Telstra.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Kotlash, Richards and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

Close the meeting at 4:15pm.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3 August 2021

Innovation and
partnerships
committee

section **2**

reports
for determination

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3 August 2021

Item: 1 **IPC - Telecommunications - Meeting at Bilpin - (79351, 151939)**

Previous Item: 2, Innovation and Partnerships (9 February 2021)

Directorate: General Manager

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Innovation and Partnership Committee on the request for Telstra to attend a public meeting in Bilpin to discuss telecommunications.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council at its meeting on 25 February 2021 resolved that the Innovation and Partnerships Committee be advised not to hold a meeting at Bilpin regarding telecommunications until Telstra's attendance can be arranged. Telstra has not indicated when it will attend a meeting at Bilpin.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information in the report regarding Telstra attending a public meeting in Bilpin to discuss telecommunications be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

At the Council Meeting on 23 February 2021, Council considered the Minutes of the Innovation and Partnership Committee held on the 9 February 2021 and resolved in part, as follows:

- “3. *Arrangements for meetings concerning Telecommunications Matter, as Telstra have indicated they are not available to attend the Innovation and Partnerships Committee Meeting at Bilpin on any of the dates proposed to them, the Committee be advised not to hold a meeting at Bilpin until such time as Telstra's attendance be arranged.*

4. *A letter of support be forwarded to Telstra, the Communications Minister, the Federal Member for Macquarie, and include information submitted to the Bushfire Royal Commissions.”*

In regard to Part 3 of the above resolution, Telstra were invited to attend a public meeting at Bilpin Hall to discuss telecommunications. Telstra advised Council on 18 February 2021 that they were unavailable to attend a public meeting at Bilpin.

Telstra were again invited to attend a public meeting in Bilpin. On 10 March, 2021 Telstra declined to attend a public meeting and they have indicated that attendance of these types of events has been restricted by their organisation and they do not have anyone available to attend in person.

In regard to Part 4 of the above resolution, a letter dated 16 March 2021 from the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly was forwarded to Telstra's Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Penn to arrange relevant Telstra staff to meet with Council and the community to discuss telecommunication issues at Bilpin. A copy of Council's submission to the Mobile Black Spot Program in relation to Council's submission for the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements was also attached. A copy of the letter dated 16 March 2021 is attached as Attachment 1 to the report.

A letter dated 26 March 2021 was received from Telstra's Chief Executive Officer in response to the Mayor's letter. A copy of the letter dated 26 March 2021 is attached as Attachment 2 to the report.

INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 3 August 2021

Letters of support have also been sent to the Communications Minister and the Federal Member for Macquarie, and included information submitted to the Bushfire Royal Commission.

DISCUSSION

Due to the ongoing telecommunication issues at Bilpin and in other areas within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, the Committee could give consideration to how to deal with telecommunication issues throughout the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** Copy of letter dated 16 March 2021 from the Mayor of Hawkesbury to Telstra CEO Andrew Penn
- (*Distributed under separate cover*).
- AT - 2** Copy of letter dated 26 March 2021 from Telstra CEO Andrew Penn to Mayor of Hawkesbury.

AT - 2 Copy of letter dated 26 March 2021 from Telstra CEO Andrew Penn to Mayor of Hawkesbury

Andrew Penn
Chief Executive Officer



26 March 2021

Councillor Patrick Conolly
Mayor
City of Hawkesbury
By email: Patrick.conolly@hawkesburycouncillor.com.au

Dear Mayor

Thank you for reaching out and bringing this to my attention. My thoughts are with you and everyone impacted by the NSW floods.

As a national telecommunications company, we are responsible for the management and operation of over 10,700 mobile base stations across Australia. We have Australia's largest mobile network, supplying communications to thousands of communities and helping us provide connectivity to 99.5% of the population.

Our aim is to provide an uninterrupted telecommunication service to our customers. While we have a reliable network, it is also susceptible to power outages, broader network issues, cut transmission cables, vandalism and weather events, plus requires upgrades and maintenance on a regular basis, all of which can be factors in the loss of connectivity to the community.

In relation to Bilpin, as you know, following the bushfire, Telstra upgraded both the exchange and mobile base station that services the Bilpin community to approximately 14 hours in the event of a major power outage. However, I note that your specific request relates to the deployment of a permanent generator to be situated at the site to provide extended connectivity should there be a mains power failure and the battery reserves are subsequently depleted.

The deployment of a permanent generator unfortunately will not guarantee increased connectivity for several reasons - as set out below:

- Given the infrastructure at Bilpin, a technician will still be required to start the generator as the site is not electrically augmented to ensure an auto-start operation.
- We require a technician to reset telecommunications infrastructure after it has been connected to a generator.
- The security of the generator and fuel reserves is also an issue. Most mobile housings are small huts located on small plots of land therefore any installation would have to be external to the housing. Significant numbers of external generators and fuel reserves are stolen nationally each year.

Given the reserve time of the batteries at this site is approximately 14 hours, it is our view this is enough time for a temporary generator, supported by technicians with the right expertise, to be deployed in the majority of cases. I do acknowledge your concerns in relation to the terrain which means there is an increased likelihood of access to the area being cut off. However, in events such as natural disasters, we will always work closely with local emergency services to ensure best efforts are made to access our infrastructure when deemed safe to do so.

Thank you again for bringing this to my attention.

Yours sincerely



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oooO END OF REPORT Oooo



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end of
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