



Ordinary Meeting

Date of meeting: 22 February 2022
Location: By audio-visual link
Time: 6:30 p.m.

BUSINESS PAPER

ORDINARY MEETING
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ORDINARY MEETING
Procedural Matters
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Welcome

The Mayor, Councillor Patrick Conolly will acknowledge the Indigenous Heritage.

The General Manager will address the Council meeting, mentioning:

- Emergency Procedures
- Recording of the Council Meeting
- Statement regarding people addressing the Meeting
- Mobile phones

Attendance

Attending Councillors and Council staff members will be noted for the purposes of the Minutes.

Apologies and Leave of Absence

The Mayor will ask for any Apologies or Leave of Absence Requests to be noted.

Declaration of Interest

The Mayor will ask for any Declaration of Interests from the attending Councillors. These will then be addressed at the relevant item.

Acknowledgement of Official Visitors to the Council

The Mayor will acknowledge and welcome official visitors to the Council and make any relevant presentations as required.

ORDINARY MEETING

Procedural Matters

Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Ordinary

Section **1**

Confirmation of minutes

ORDINARY MEETING

SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes

Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes



Ordinary Meeting

Date of meeting: 08 February 2022
Location: By audio-visual link
Time: 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

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ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 08 February 2022

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held by Audio-Visual Link, on 8 February 2022, commencing at 6:31pm.

Welcome

The Mayor, Councillor Patrick Conolly acknowledged the Indigenous Heritage.

The General Manager addressed the Council meeting, mentioning:

- Recording of the Council Meeting
- Statement regarding people addressing the Meeting

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Councillor Patrick Conolly, Mayor, Councillor Barry Calvert, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Shane Djuric, Eddie Dogramaci, Amanda Kotlash, Mary Lyons-Buckett, Jill Reardon, Sarah Richards, Les Sheather, Paul Veigel, Danielle Wheeler and Nathan Zamprognio.

ALSO PRESENT: General Manager - Elizabeth Richardson, Director City Planning - Linda Perrine, Director Infrastructure Services - Will Barton, Director Support Services - Laurie Mifsud, Manager Corporate Communications, Events and Services - Suzanne Stuart, Manager Strategic Planning - Andrew Kearns, Manager City Design and Economic Development - Amanda Kearney, Manager Parks and Recreation - Sean Perry, Manager Corporate Services and Governance - Charles McElroy and Administrative Support Coordinator - Tracey Easterbrook.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies or requests for leave of absence received from Councillors.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Richards declared a possible interest on Item 029, subject to the result of the rescission motion.

Acknowledgement of Official Visitors to the Council

There were no official visitors to the Council.

SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes

30 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Reardon and seconded by Councillor Lyons-Buckett that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 25 January 2022, be confirmed.

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SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination

GENERAL MANAGER

Item: 026 **GM - Request for Leave of Absence - Councillor Paul Veigel - (79351, 155349)**

Directorate: General Manager

MOTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Reardon.

Refer to RESOLUTION

31 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Reardon.

That Council approve the application from Councillor Paul Veigel for leave of absence from the Ordinary meeting of Council on 22 February 2022.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Calvert, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Richards, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

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Minutes: 08 February 2022

CITY PLANNING

Item: 027 **CP - Draft Wayfinding and Signage Strategy - (95498, 124414, 147666)**

Previous Item: 179, Ordinary (28 September 2021)

Directorate: City Planning

MOTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Lyons-Buckett.

Refer to RESOLUTION

32 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Lyons-Buckett.

That:

1. Council adopt the Wayfinding and Signage Strategy attached as Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Council note that place based engagement will be undertaken during the detail design phase.
3. During the detailed design phase of the Wayfinding and Signage Strategy, explicit consideration will be given to recognition of the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery as a desirable local destination.
4. The detailed design phase consults closely with a working group of the local Heritage Committee the work of creating signage content that relates to historical interpretation.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Calvert, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Richards, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

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INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Item: 028 **IS - Draft Woodbury Reserve Masterplan and Plan of Management - (95495, 79354)**

Previous Item: 104, Ordinary (8 June 2021)

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

MOTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Sheather, seconded by Councillor Zamprogno.

Refer to RESOLUTION

33 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Sheather, seconded by Councillor Zamprogno.

That Council:

1. Adopt the Woodbury Reserve Plan of Management, including Masterplan attached at Attachment 3 and 4, respectively, to the report.
2. Categorises the land within Woodbury Reserve as detailed in Figure 3 of this report.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Calvert, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Richards, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

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SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion

Item: 029 **RM - Rural Boundary Clearing Code - (95498, 125612, 138882, 138884)**

Ms Vickii Lett addressed Council, speaking for the recommendation in the business paper.

Mr Brian Williams, Mr Martin Tebbutt and Mr Lionel Buckett addressed Council, speaking against the recommendation in the business paper.

A MOTION was moved by Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

That resolution 22 from the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 25 January 2022, being the substantive motion from Item 017, Rural Boundary Clearing Code, be rescinded.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Veigel, seconded by Councillor Dogramaci.

That Council calls for a report on the methodology and funding available to map our koala populations, as well as how this information could be used to protect them.

A POINT OF ORDER was raised by Councillor Lyons-Buckett and Councillor Zamprogno that the Amendment was out of order.

The Mayor, Councillor Conolly overruled the Point of Order.

A MOTION OF DISSENT was moved by Councillor Wheeler.

That a Motion of Dissent be moved regarding the ruling of the Chairperson, Councillor Conolly on the Point of Order that the Amendment was out of order.

For the Motion: Councillors Calvert, Djuric, Kotlash, Lyons-Buckett, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Dogramaci, Reardon, Richards, Sheather and Veigel.

Absent: Nil.

The Motion of Dissent was lost on the casting vote of the Mayor, Councillor Conolly.

The AMENDMENT moved by Councillor Veigel, seconded by Councillor Dogramaci.

That Council calls for a report on the methodology and funding available to map our koala populations, as well as how this information could be used to protect them.

For the Amendment: Councillors Conolly, Dogramaci, Reardon, Richards, Sheather and Veigel.

Against the Amendment: Councillors Calvert, Djuric, Kotlash, Lyons-Buckett, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Absent: Nil.

The Amendment was carried on the casting vote of the Mayor, Councillor Conolly.

ORDINARY MEETING

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MOTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

Refer to RESOLUTION

34 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

That Council calls for a report on the methodology and funding available to map our koala populations, as well as how this information could be used to protect them.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Dogramaci, Reardon, Richards, Sheather and Veigel.

Against the Motion: Councillors Calvert, Djuric, Kotlash, Lyons-Buckett, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Absent: Nil.

The Motion was carried on the casting vote of the Mayor, Councillor Conolly.

ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 08 February 2022

Item: 030

NM1 - Reporting on Councillor Attendance and Engagement - (138884, 79351)

MOTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Djuric.

Refer to RESOLUTION

35 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno, seconded by Councillor Djuric.

That:

1. During each term of Council, that Council collects data on:
 - a) The number of formal Council meetings each Councillor has attended.
 - b) The number of briefings, workshops, and community engagement sessions each Councillor has attended.
 - c) The number of committees each Councillor is a member of.
 - d) The number of committee meetings each Councillor has attended (including, where possible, external bodies such as HRCC and WSROC).
 - e) The number and cost of conferences, professional development sessions and events Councillors have attended, where such attendance incurs a cost to Council.
 - f) The cost of Information Technology expenses.
2. Council tabulates that data on a per-Councillor basis and report it in the Annual Report and prior to the Local Government general election.
3. Reports of Councillor's attendance at conferences be published.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Djuric, Dogramaci, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Richards, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Councillors Calvert, Kotlash and Sheather.

Absent: Nil.

ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 08 February 2022

Item: 031 **NM2 - Mulgrave Railway Station Car Park - (155349, 79351)**

MOTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Veigel, seconded by Councillor Kotlash.

Refer to RESOLUTION

36 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Veigel, seconded by Councillor Kotlash.

That Council:

1. Write to the Minister for Transport Hon. David Elliott MP and the Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP to advise them that the commuter carpark at Mulgrave Station is unsafe in areas and is inadequate for the number of people who now park and ride at this railway station.
2. Request that the NSW Government install floodlighting for the three overflow (unsealed) car park areas and seal the carpark areas.
3. Request that Transport for NSW regularly inspect the railway station's surrounds for rubbish that has been dumped illegally and remove if needed.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Calvert, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Richards, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 08 February 2022

Item: 032 **NM3 - Request Costings for Local Contractors to Undertake Road Works in Emergency Situations - (125612, 79351)**

MOTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Lyons-Buckett, seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

Refer to RESOLUTION

37 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Lyons-Buckett, seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

That:

1. Council request costings on the design and implementation of a system to authorise local contractors to undertake road works in emergency situations, and
2. Such costing be reported back to Council in sufficient time to consider inclusion in the 2022/2023 budget.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Calvert, Djuric, Dogramaci, Kotlash, Lyons-Buckett, Reardon, Richards, Sheather, Veigel, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

The meeting terminated at 9:17pm.

Submitted to and confirmed at the Ordinary meeting held on 22 February 2022.

.....
Mayor

Ordinary

Section **2**

Mayoral minutes

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 2 - Mayoral Minute
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

SECTION 2 - Mayoral Minutes

There was no Mayoral Minute at the time of preparing this Business Paper.

Notwithstanding the above, pursuant to Clauses 9.6-9.9 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, the Mayor may submit a Mayoral Minute to the meeting without notice in relation to any matter or topic that:

- Is within the jurisdiction of the Council
- Council has official knowledge of.

However, a Mayoral Minute must not be put without notice if it relates to a routine or non-urgent matter.

A matter is considered to be urgent when it requires a decision by the Council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Council.

Ordinary

Section 3

Reports
for determination

ORDINARY MEETING

SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination

Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination

PLANNING DECISIONS

Item: 034 **CP - Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements for 79 Bells Lane, 95 Bells Lane and 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond - (95498, 124414)**

Previous Item: 203, Ordinary (26 October 2021)

Directorate: City Planning

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise Council of the outcome of public exhibition of the Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements for 79 Bells Lane, 95 Bells Lane and 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond.
- Recommend that Council endorse the Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements attached to this report, and provide delegation to the Mayor and General Manager to execute the Voluntary Planning Agreements under the Seal of Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 26 October 2021 considered the outcome of community and relevant government agency consultation associated with the planning proposal and supporting documentation to amend the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 in order to permit the subdivision of the subject sites consisting of 79 and 95 Bells Lane and 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond into a total of nine lots (six additional lots) with minimum lot sizes of not less than 4,000m², 9,100m² and 1 hectare. Council resolved to proceed with the making of the plan and publicly exhibit the Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements for a minimum of 28 days.

In accordance with the Council's resolution and the relevant statutory provisions, the three Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements, respective Explanatory Notes and other supporting documentation were placed on public exhibition for the period Monday 6 December 2021 to Monday 17 January 2022. Council received no submissions from the community.

The execution of the Voluntary Planning Agreements as recommended in this report will enable Council to require a monetary contribution of \$30,000 per additional lot towards the provision of local and district infrastructure from the future subdivision of the subject sites.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Note the outcome of public exhibition of the Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements for Lot 38 DP 7565, 79 Bells Lane; Lot 12 DP 711049, 95 Bells Lane and Lot 31 DP 7565, 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond.
2. Endorse the Voluntary Planning Agreements associated with Lot 38 DP 7565, 79 Bells Lane; Lot 12 DP 711049, 95 Bells Lane and Lot 31 DP 7565, 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond attached as Attachments 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

3. Provide delegation to the Mayor and General Manager to execute the Voluntary Planning Agreements included as Attachments 1, 2 and 3 under the Seal of Council.

BACKGROUND

Council at its Meeting on 26 October 2021 considered a report on the outcome of consultation for a planning proposal and supporting documentation to amend the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 in order to permit the subdivision of the subject site consisting of the following three lots shown in Figure 1 below into a total of nine lots (six additional lots) with minimum lot sizes of not less than 4,000m², 9,100m² and 1 hectare. The subject sites include:

- Lot 31 DP 7565, 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond
- Lot 38 DP 7565, 79 Bells Lane, Kurmond
- Lot 12 DP 711049, 95 Bells Lane, Kurmond

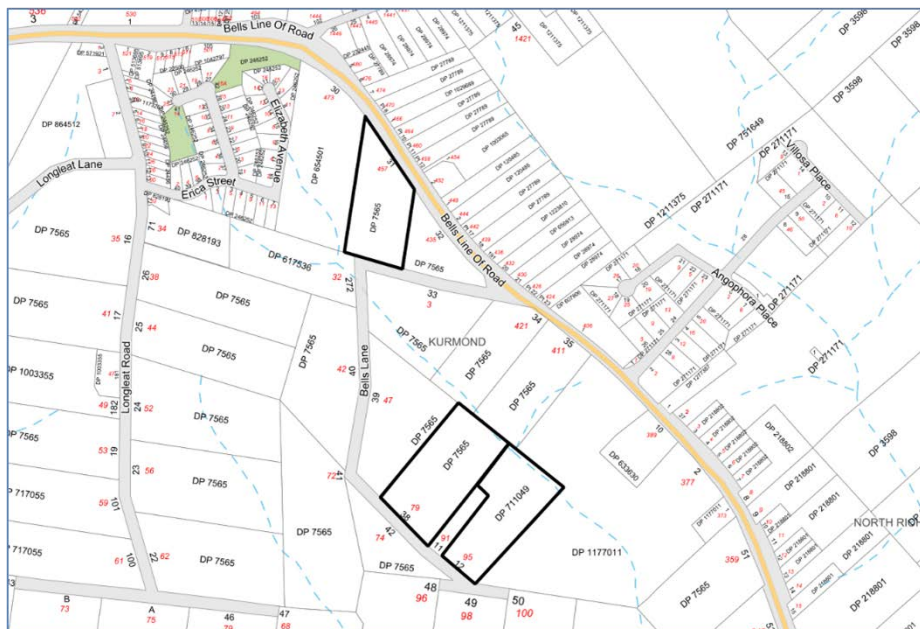


Figure 1: Subject Site

Given that the above three lots are owned by three different sets of owners, the report included three separate Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements for those lots in support of the planning proposal.

Council resolved to proceed with the making of the plan and publicly exhibit the Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements for a minimum of 28 days and report the outcome of the community consultation on the draft Voluntary Planning Agreements to Council following public exhibition.

On 26 November 2021, the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (Map Amendment No. 2) was notified on the NSW Legislation to give effect to the planning proposal enabling a maximum of nine lots with minimum lot size of not less than 4,000m², 9,100m² and 1 hectare on the subject sites. The concept subdivision plans showing how these three lots forming the subject site would be subdivided into a total of nine lots are shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4 below.

Also, Table 1 below shows how these three lots would yield a maximum nine lots on the subject site as per the three subdivision concept plans referred to above.

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SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination

Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Table 1: Potential Subdivision of the Subject Sites

Legal Description of the Lot	Street Address	Area (Ha)	Proposed Min Lot Size	Potential Lot Yield	Additional Lots
Lot 31 DP 7565	457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond	2.378	4,000m ²	4	3
Lot 38 DP 7565	79 Bells Lane, Kurmond	2.757	9,100m ²	3	2
Lot 12 DP 711049	95 Bells Lane, Kurmond	2.448	1.0ha	2	1
Total Lots				9	6

It is worthy of note that the concept subdivision plans are only for illustrative purposes and were the result of ongoing discussions between the Applicant, Council and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to determine a suitable potential lot yield and minimum lot sizes, and did not form part of the Planning Proposal.



Figure 2: 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond - Concept Subdivision Plan Showing Four Lots

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SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022



Figure 3: 79 Bells Lane, Kurmond - Concept Subdivision Plan Showing Three Lots

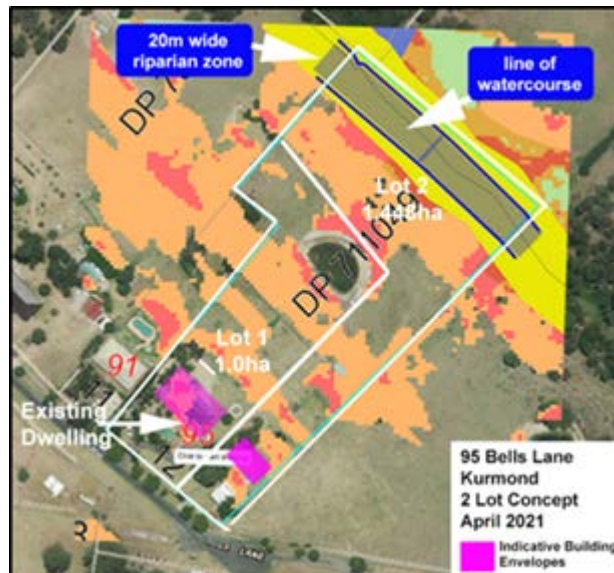


Figure 4: 95 Bells Lane, Kurmond - Concept Subdivision Plan Showing Two Lots

As shown in Table 1 and Figures 2, 3 and 4 above, the future subdivision of the subject sites would likely yield six additional lots, and therefore there will be increased demand for local and district infrastructure and facilities in the area. Hence, a developer contribution levy towards the provision of local and district infrastructure to meet the increased demand due to the future subdivision of the subject site is considered warranted.

However, there is no current Development Contribution Plan applying to the subject site. There is also no alternative mechanism currently available for Council to require a development contribution or recover costs associated with the provision of infrastructure in the area from the future subdivision of the subject site other than via Voluntary Planning Agreements.

The current Hawkesbury Section 7.11 (formerly Section 94) Contributions Plan 2015 which came into effect on 4 June 2015 does not apply to the subject sites. Therefore, the owners of each of the above three lots have offered to enter into Voluntary Planning Agreements with Council that would result in the respective developers paying a cash contribution to Council to the value of \$30,000 per additional lot. These monetary contributions would enable Council to meet the increased demand for public infrastructure facilities and services.

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SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Daft Voluntary Planning Agreements

The three Voluntary Planning Agreements that were exhibited in support of the Planning Proposal are discussed below.

Voluntary Planning Agreement for Lot 38 DP 7565, 79 Bells Lane, Kurmond

The parties to this Voluntary Planning Agreement are Hawkesbury City Council and Ian Ross Hopkins and Janice Anne Hopkins known as "the Developer." The objective, nature and effect of the Voluntary Planning Agreement is for the Developer to provide Council with a monetary contribution of \$30,000 for each of the additional lots created as a consequence of the future subdivision of Lot 38 DP 7565, 79 Bells Lane, Kurmond into a maximum of three lots with a minimum lot size of 9,100m².

Voluntary Planning Agreement for Lot 12 DP 711049, 95 Bells Lane, Kurmond

The parties to this Voluntary Planning Agreement are Hawkesbury City Council and John Michael Cini and Sarah Carmen Cini known as "the Developer." The objective, nature and effect of the Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement is for the Developer to provide Council with a monetary contribution of \$30,000 for each of the additional lots created as a consequence of the future subdivision of Lot 12 DP 711049, 95 Bells Lane, Kurmond into a maximum of two lots with a minimum lot size of 1ha.

Voluntary Planning Agreement for Lot 31 DP 7565, 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond

The parties to this Voluntary Planning Agreement are Hawkesbury City Council and Lyndal Mary Attard, Marilyn Anne Attard, Robert Michael Attard, Brenton Mark Dawson and Jennifer Ruth Ross as "the Developer." The objective, nature and effect of the Voluntary Planning Agreement is for the Developer to provide Council with a monetary contribution of \$30,000 for each of the additional lots created as a consequence of the future subdivision of Lot 31 DP 7565, 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond into a maximum of four lots with a minimum lot size of 4,000m².

The above exhibited draft Voluntary Planning Agreements have been finalised with some minor administrative amendments, including correct suburb details, and inclusion of a Restricted Lot Yield definition for the 457 Bells Line of Road Agreement. All three Voluntary Planning Agreements are attached to this report as Attachments 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Operation of the Voluntary Planning Agreements

The above Voluntary Planning Agreements will only operate if and, when Council grants development approval(s) to the proposed subdivision of the lots referred to above.

Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 1993

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft Voluntary Planning Agreements and Explanatory Notes and other supporting documentation were placed on public exhibition on "YourHawkesbury-YourSay" online community engagement site for the period Monday, 6 December 2021 to Monday, 17 January 2022. Council received no submissions from the community.

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination
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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 Future

5.3 Shaping our Growth

5.3.2 The diverse housing needs our community will be met through research, active partnerships and planned development.

5.8.2 Plan for a balance of agriculture, natural environment and housing that delivers viable rural production and maintains rural character.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The execution of the Voluntary Planning Agreements attached to this report makes provision for the Developers of each site to provide a monetary contribution for the provision or improvement of local and district infrastructure and facilities. The funds will be restricted for future infrastructure works, and the total amount of the contribution for each Voluntary Planning Agreement is:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • Lot 31 DP 7565, 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond | \$90,000 |
| • Lot 38 DP 7565, 79 Bells Lane, Kurmond | \$60,000 |
| • Lot 12 DP 711049, 95 Bells Lane, Kurmond | \$30,000 |

As per each Voluntary Planning Agreement, those contributions are linked to the Consumer Price Index, and payable at the rate applicable when payment is scheduled to be paid as detailed within each Agreement.

PLANNING DECISION

As this matter is covered by the definition of a "planning decision" under Section 375A of the Local Government Act 1993, details of those Councillors supporting or opposing a decision on the matter must be recorded in a register. For this purpose a division must be called when a motion in relation to the matter is put to the meeting. 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** Voluntary Planning Agreement for 79 Bells Lane, Kurmond - *(Distributed under separate cover)*.
- AT - 2** Voluntary Planning Agreement for 95 Bells Lane, Kurmond - *(Distributed under separate cover)*.
- AT - 3** Voluntary Planning Agreement for 457 Bells Line of Road, Kurmond - *(Distributed under separate cover)*.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

GENERAL MANAGER

Item: 035 **GM - 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government - (79351, 80426)**

Directorate: General Manager

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to consider the submission of motions and nomination and attendance of Councillors at the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in Canberra from Sunday, 19 June 2022 to Wednesday, 22 June 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Conference Name:	2022 National General Assembly of Local Government
Type:	In person or by audio-visual link
Date:	19 June 2022 to 22 June 2022
Location:	National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra
Participants:	Mayor and Councillors (not restricted)
Approximate Cost:	Per Delegate Personal Attendance: \$989, plus travel and accommodation expenses Virtual Attendance: \$689 Regional Forum: \$425.

Due to the National General Assembly topics and its relevance to Council's business, Council may wish to consider representation at the National General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Councillors forward any proposed motions for the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government to the General Manager by Monday, 28 February 2022 to be included for consideration by Council at the Ordinary meeting on 8 March 2022.
 2. Consideration be given to the participation of nominated Councillors, and staff as considered appropriate by the General Manager, at the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government from 19 to 22 June 2022.
 3. After participating in the 2022 National General Assembly, delegates provide a written report to the General Manager detailing the proceedings and findings, as well as any other aspects of the Assembly relevant to Council business and/or the local community.
-

BACKGROUND

Consideration is required regarding attendance at the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government which will be held in Canberra from 19 to 22 June 2022.

Convened annually by the Australian Local Government Association, the National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government is the peak annual event for Local Government.

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This event provides a unique opportunity for Local Government to engage directly with the Federal Government, to develop national policy and to influence the future direction of our councils and our communities.

Motions

The Australian Local Government Association has called for motions to be considered at the National General Assembly and have asked councils to submit any motions by Friday, 25 March 2022.

Motions are to have a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion as well as the endorsement of Council. Attached as Attachment 1 to this report is the Australian Local Government Association's Call for Motions Discussion paper for the Assembly. This document is also available by accessing the following link <https://alga.com.au/app/uploads/Discussion-Paper-2022.pdf>

The theme of the Conference is "*Partners in Progress*". The Discussion Paper contains information about the process for submission and consideration of proposed Conference motions, and the criteria for motions.

The Discussion Paper refers to the Conference theme and the aim of the Conference to "*focus on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and Local Governments, can tackle immediate challenges facing communities as well as confidently facing the future.*"

The Discussion Paper encourages councils, when submitting motions, to focus on how partnership can address national issues at the local level and new ways the Australian Government could partner to strengthen the local government sector. It also contains a series of questions under the following key focus areas:

- The Immediate Recovery Challenges (relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic)
- Jobs
- Building Back Better Businesses
- Opening Australia's Borders
- Workforce Shortages and Re-engineering Work
- Climate Change
- Natural Disasters
- Environment
- The Circular Economy
- Affordable Housing

To be eligible for inclusion in the National General Assembly Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the Assembly, motions must meet the following criteria set out in the Discussion Paper:

1. *Be relevant to the work of Local Government Nationally*
2. *Not be focussed on a specific location or region – unless the project has national implications. You will be asked to justify why your motion has strategic importance and should be discussed at a national conference*
3. *Be consistent with the themes of the National General Assembly*
4. *Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association*
5. *Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association*
6. *Propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to do something*
7. *Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.*

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To enable motions to be considered by Council and submitted to the Australian Local Government Association by the required date, it is requested that any motions for consideration of Council be submitted to the General Manager by Monday, 28 February 2022, to enable consideration at the Council Meeting on 8 March 2022.

Attendance

There are two options for attendance at the National General Assembly, with approximate costings per delegate:

- Personal attendance at a cost of \$989 plus travel and accommodation expenses
- Virtual attendance at a cost of \$689.

There is also the option to participate in a specialised forum on regional issues at a cost of \$425 per delegate.

DISCUSSION

Consideration should be given to the relevance of the National General Assembly to Council's business and available budget to cover costs of attendance.

Where relevant, after participating in the National General Assembly, delegates are requested to provide a written report to the General Manager detailing the proceedings and findings, as well as any other aspects of the National General Assembly relevant to Council business and/or the local community.

Any proposed Conference Motions would need to be provided to the General Manager by Monday 28 February 2022.

As set out in Attachment 1 to this report, proposed motions, when submitted to the National General Assembly, are required to contain sufficient background information to enable delegates, including those with no knowledge of the issue, to consider the issue.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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 Leadership

- 1.1 Local Leadership and effective governance - Provide representative, responsive and accountable governance.

1.1.1 Council's elected leaders will actively connect and collaborate with the community.

- 1.4 Reinforcing and establishing effective strategic partnerships - Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities.

1.4.1 Foster positive relationships with all tiers of government and peak bodies to ensure a thorough understanding of the challenges and local requirements of the Hawkesbury.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT

The matters raised in this report have direct financial implications. The expenditure applicable is provided for in the adopted 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

Cost of participation in the National General Assembly will be approximately per delegate, \$989 for personal attendance plus accommodation and expenses and \$689 for virtual attendance.

Budget for Delegate Expenses - Payments made:

Total Budget for Financial Year 2020/2021	\$30,000
Expenditure to date	\$9,613
Outstanding Commitments	Nil
Budget balance as at 15 February 2022	\$20,387

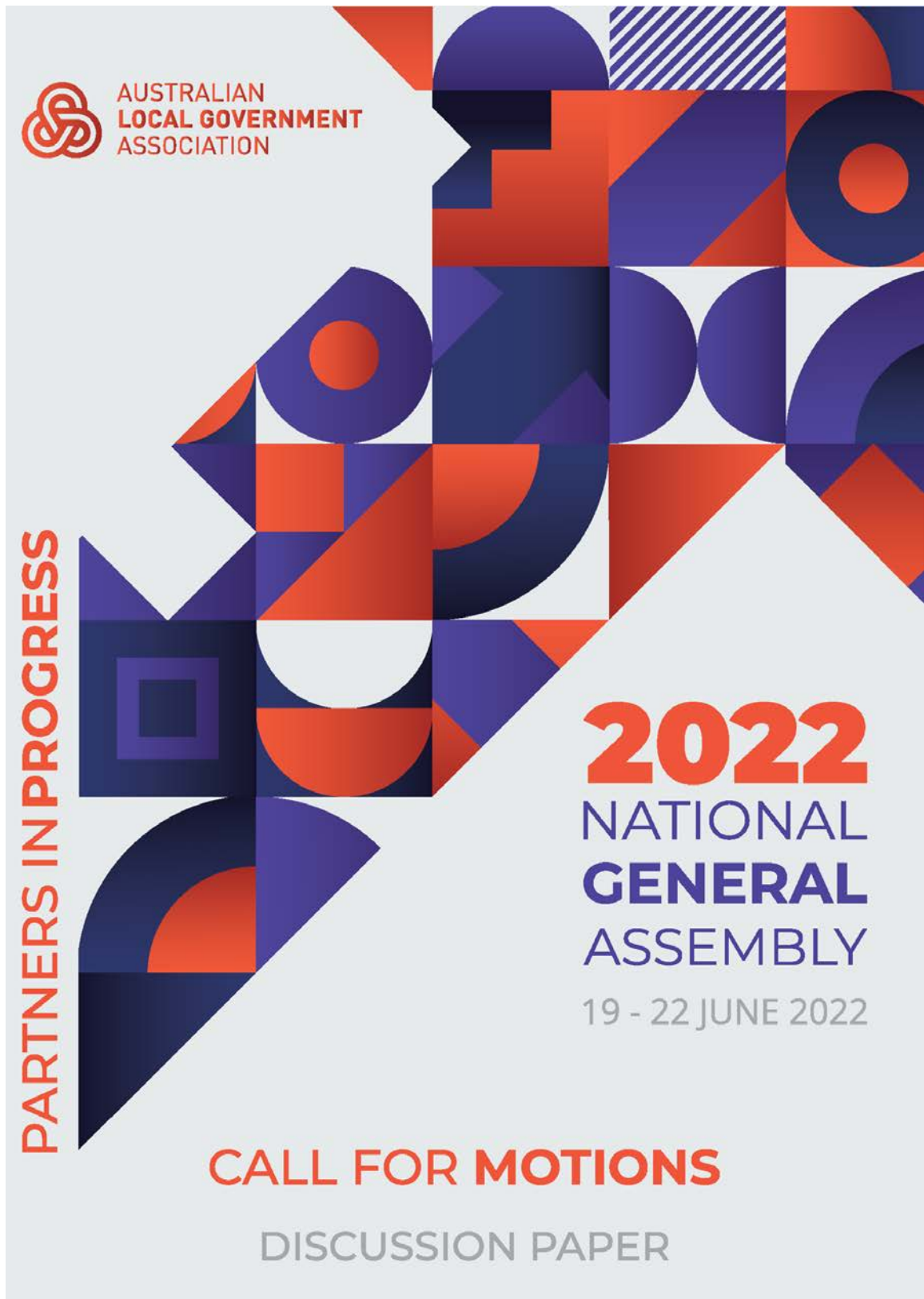
Expenses for attendance at conferences, and related travel expenses are provided for in Council's Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

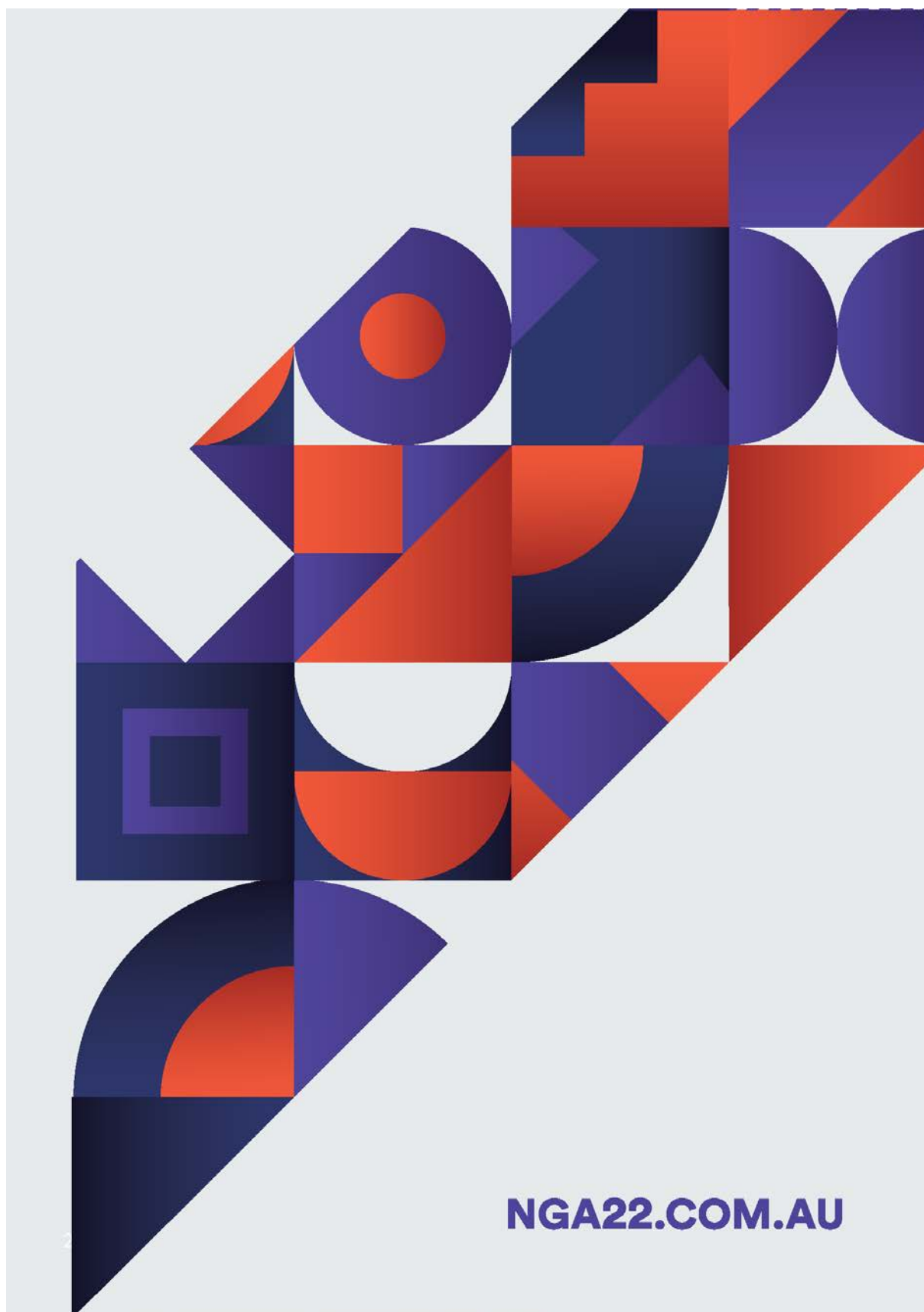
AT - 1 Australian Local Government Association - Call for Motions Discussion Paper.

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AT - 1 Australian Local Government Association - Call for Motions Discussion Paper



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SUBMITTING MOTIONS

This discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2022 National General Assembly (NGA) to be held in Canberra 19 – 22 June 2022.

It has been prepared to assist you and your council in developing your motions. You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Your council's motion/s can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.asn.au and received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 25 March 2022.

The theme of the 2022 NGA is – Partners in Progress.

The NGA aims to focus on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and Local Governments, can tackle immediate challenges facing communities as well as confidently facing the future.

In submitting your council's motion/s you are encouraged to focus on how partnership can address national issues at the local level, and new ways the Australia Government could partner to strengthen the local government sector to advance community well-being, local economic development, create jobs, address environmental challenges, climate change and complex social issues such as housing affordability.

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is an important opportunity for you and your council to influence the national policy agenda and promote new ways of strengthening the local government sector and our communities.

Note: If your council does submit a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2022 NGA.



To submit your motion go to:
alga.asn.au/



KEY DATES

CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. be relevant to the work of local government nationally
2. not be focussed on a specific location or region – unless the project has national implications. You will be asked to justify why your motion has strategic importance and should be discussed at a national conference
3. be consistent with the themes of the NGA
4. complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association
5. be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association
6. propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to do something; and
7. not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

Motions should generally be in a form that seeks the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the Federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs.

Motions should commence as follows - *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to*

Example

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore Local Government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Please note that it is important to complete the background section on the form. Submitters of motions should not assume that NGA delegates will have background knowledge of the issue. The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion. Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

Try to keep motions practical, focussed and relatively simple. Complex motions with multiple dot point can be difficult to implement and to advance.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-Committee, in consultation with state and territory local government associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Sub-Committee considers the criteria, clarity of the motion and the importance and relevance of the issue to local government. If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. With the agreement of the submitting council, these motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

To ensure an efficient and effective debate where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the ALGA Board NGA Subcommittee will group the motions together under an overarching strategic motion. The strategic motions have either been drafted by ALGA or are based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter. Debate will focus on the strategic motions. Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only or in accordance with the debating rules.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.asn.au. All motions require, among other things, a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council. Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 25 March 2022.



Introduction

As Australia emerges from the crisis management phase of the COVID-19 global pandemic, attention now turns to rebuilding and to the future.

By the time of the NGA in June 2022, the next federal government and 47th Parliament of Australia, will almost certainly have been elected.

Prior to the election the major political parties will have campaigned on priorities and made numerous policy and programs commitments that will help shape our nation's future.

Invariably, in government, these policies and programs will need to be refined, developed and implemented. Almost certainly they will need to be adapted to meet changing circumstances, emerging issues and local and regional needs.

We know from previous elections that governments will not be able to achieve their policy agenda alone. They need reliable partners committed to playing their part in taking the nation forward, working together on mutual goals and advancing national prosperity for all.

During the election campaign, ALGA will be working extensively with state and territory local government association members, and many of you, to advance the national priorities highlighted in the Federal Election manifesto 'Don't' Leave Local Communities Behind'.

These priorities were significantly influenced by many of the resolutions of past NGAs.

Whether the Coalition Government is returned or a new Government formed, the 2022 NGA provides the first major opportunity to engage with relevant portfolio Ministers and key members of the new Government.

Most importantly, it provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to reaffirm our national priorities and to place new ideas on the national policy agenda.

The Immediate Recovery Challenges

Government at all levels have collaborated to avert the worst possible health and economic outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic across Australia.

By November 2021 most states had reached or made significant progress in reaching the 80% or more vaccination threshold.

Every community was affected, some more than others, and local government has been at the forefront of developing local solutions to local challenges.

Given the economic and social impacts of the COVID pandemic on communities over the past 2 years, are there issues that need to be addressed by a new partnership between the Commonwealth Government and local governments?

Given the impacts of the COVID pandemic on your council and other councils around the country, are there issues that a partnership between the Commonwealth Government and local government should address?

Jobs

In September 2021 the national, seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, was 5.2% (ABS). The underemployment rate was 9.5% with monthly hours worked decreasing by 1 million hours. Roy Morgan's survey work suggests Australian unemployment (unadjusted) was 9.2% in October with underemployment at 8.6%.

National statistics however mask variations at the state, regional and local level. State and Territory unemployment ranged from 3.9% in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, 5.1% in Queensland and Tasmania, 5.3% in South Australia, NSW 5.4%, Victoria 5.6% and the Australian Capital Territory 6.6%. Similarly, regional and local community unemployment vary from the national average reflecting local circumstances and the different impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and their flow-on effects have on the local economy. Youth unemployment and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unemployment is also consistently higher.

As an employer of staff and of contractors, as well as a facilitator of local economic development, local government can play a key role in addressing unemployment and underemployment.

In keeping with the ALGA Federal election manifesto, 'Don't Leave Local Communities Behind' local solutions are required for local circumstances.

What new partnership program could the Australian Government develop to take advantage of local government's knowledge of the local economy, geographic spread across the country and its ability to create jobs?

As an employer, what are the pre-requisites for councils to create more good quality, secure local jobs that build community capacity and address local workforce skills shortages?



Building Back Better Businesses

The economic shock of the past 2 years has caused unprecedented disruption to local businesses and communities. While many businesses have adapted to difficult circumstances, some have not survived. The current vacant shop fronts and offices of the streetscapes in our cities and towns is evidence of the challenges that our local businesses, local industry and communities have faced.

The capacity of the private sector, and small business in particular, to bounce back is untested.

What new partnership programs could the Australian Government introduce to take advantage of local government's role in economic development, including to support local businesses?

Opening Australia's Borders

As previously mentioned, by November 2021 most states had reached or made significant progress in reaching the 80% or more vaccination threshold. At this point, under the National Plan to Transition Australian National COVID-19 Response, governments were committed to introducing new measures such as opening international borders, minimising cases in the community without ongoing restrictions or lockdowns, Covid vaccination boosters encouraged and provided as necessary, and allowing uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine.

As Australia opens-up its international borders economic recovery is expected to accelerate. The return of expats, international students, overseas migration and international tourism will increase population, supply of labour and demand for goods and services including for accommodation.

In the first instance, economic activity can be expected to return to pre-Covid levels. Over time, with appropriate support, it will grow.

The closure of borders and particularly international borders affected many parts of the tourism industry and the economies of many local communities. While domestic visitors helped fill a gap, recovery of many parts of the industry and the economy of communities that depend heavily on tourism will depend on the return of international travel.

To do this Australia must position itself to compete in international markets. This comes through offering high quality destinations, services and experiences that highlight the quality and value available in Australia. In addition to delivering a better visitor experience, this should also increase productivity, efficiency and innovation.

In the short term, what new partnership programs could the Australian Government introduce to assist local government meet the return of international students and stronger migration now and into the future?

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to facilitate tourism and the traveller economy?



Workforce Shortages and Re-engineering Work

In November 2021 business representatives report significant labour shortages particularly in the agriculture and hospitality sectors. The lack of backpackers, overseas students and migrant workers, combined with people not wanting to return to the workforce, are just some of the reasons attributed to these shortages.

While opening borders may increase the supply of labour, some argue that there is a more fundamental change in Australia's workforce and workplaces.

Although not reported in Australia yet, in the United States the post Covid workforce has been associated with what some have called the 'Great Resignation' as employees have adjusted their expectations, work life balance and priorities and simply not returned to their old jobs.

Many workers have been required to work from home for extended periods during the pandemic, including working remotely and now look for greater flexibility in their work. Technology and automation are transforming work and the workplace.

Many are prepared to change jobs to maximise this flexibility and the benefits derived from it. Traditionally this has led to wage pressure but coupled with demand for greater workplace flexibility employers need to be innovative to attract and retain employees. As an employer, councils are not immune and will also need to develop these strategies.

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help support an influx of skilled migrants?

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help councils attract and retain appropriately trained workers and employees?



Climate change

The United Nations Conference (COP) of Parties 26 held in Glasgow 2021 focused global attention on climate change and global and national efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

For decades local governments have played an important leadership role in addressing climate change. Councils have supported the adoption of a wide range of community-based programs and initiatives to lower the carbon footprint of local communities. As a sector, local government has led the debate for lowering carbon emissions, sourcing renewable energy, responded creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, facilitated the construction of green buildings and water sensitive design of cities and towns.

Pragmatically, local government has been at the forefront to address the impacts of climate change and adaptation to climate change. These impacts include an increased number of days with high temperatures, less rainfall and more droughts in southern Australia, less snow, more intense rainfall and fire weather, stronger cyclones, and sea level rise. These changes will increase stress on Australia's infrastructure and physical assets and natural ecosystems that are already threatened, and significantly affect agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, health, tourism, finance and disaster risk management.

*How do we work together to ensure that there is local adaptation to climate change and climate extremes?
What partnerships are available to achieve climate neutrality?*

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Natural Disasters

With the high-risk weather season commencing, many councils will be engaging with their communities about disaster preparedness, resilience and recovery. Not only have we experienced one of Australia's worst bushfire seasons in 2019-20, but some councils also had to deal with multiple disaster events within a 12 month period. Some councils have had to deal with bushfires, followed by storms, flooding, hailstorms, more flooding and COVID-19. These multiple disasters have had a devastating effect on many councils' financial sustainability and their ability to fund mitigation measures for the upcoming high risk weather season. Smaller rural and regional councils are further financially challenged and require help with preparedness and mitigation, as they currently have zero capacity to fund major mitigation projects.

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements recognised that councils need help. It concluded that without assistance many local governments cannot undertake the roles and responsibilities allocated to them by their State/ Territory Governments.

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help to address natural disasters to assist in recovery and build resilience?



Environment

Local government plays a critical role in environmental management including environment protection.

"Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019 – 2030" recognises that we all have a role in securing nature as the foundation of our existence. It is an overarching framework for all national, state and territory and local strategies, legislation, policies and actions that target nature. It has 3 goals:

1. Connecting all Australians with nature:
2. Care for nature in all its diversity, and
3. Share and Build knowledge.

To achieve these goals there are a variety of options for joint action to reduce threats and their impacts include ensuring the design and management of the protected area network considers and accommodates future threat scenarios and establishes robust mechanisms to respond effectively to new and emerging threats. The strategy suggests there are opportunities to '... improve planning, regulation, environmental impact assessment and approvals processes. In addition, threat abatement activities could include targeted pest management, ecosystem restoration (integrated fire management, revegetation), pollution control, greenhouse gas emissions management and climate change adaptation'.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to help support the implementation of the Australian Strategy for Nature 2019 – 2030 and take advantage of local knowledge?

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help to reduce threats and risks to nature and build resilience?



The Circular Economy

The 2019 National Waste Policy Action Plan applies principles of a circular economy to waste management to support better and repeated use of our resources. The circular economy principles for waste are:

1. Avoid waste
2. Improve resource recovery
3. Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products
4. Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
5. Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

Councils play a major role in the management of household and domestic waste. Therefore, local government has a critical role to play in further developing the circular economy.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to advance the circular economy?

What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government to progress these objectives?

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CITY PLANNING

Item: 036 **CP - Draft Hawkesbury City Council Submission - Infrastructure Contributions Reform - (124414, 95498)**

Directorate: City Planning

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to consider a draft Hawkesbury City Council submission to the reforms to the infrastructure contributions system announced by the NSW Government.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The impacts of these reforms have been worked through, and whilst councils across metropolitan Sydney in particular have shared concerns with respect to the reforms, for the Hawkesbury, in terms of the reforms to the infrastructure contributions system these may not be as significant an impact as other metropolitan councils, and in fact could provide an opportunity. There are still a number of matters that are considered appropriate to raise with respect to the reforms, and a draft submission is attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the draft submission included at Attachment 1 to the report, to the NSW Governments reforms to the infrastructure contributions system.

BACKGROUND

In May 2021, the NSW Government announced reforms to the rating and infrastructure contribution systems that they estimated would result in NSW councils receiving a net gain of \$400 million over the first five years of the reforms commencing.

The announcement by the NSW Government followed the NSW Productivity Commission's review of the local contribution system in NSW and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's earlier review of the rating system. It should be noted that Council considered a submission to IPART's review of the rating system at its Ordinary Meeting on 27 April 2021.

The NSW Government conducted a review of infrastructure funding in NSW in order to determine whether it meets the objectives of certainty and efficiency while delivering public infrastructure to support development.

The Final report of the NSW Productivity Commissioner on the Review forms the foundation of reform to create certainty about the funding and delivery of infrastructure to support new and existing communities.

In March 2021, the NSW Government confirmed it had accepted all 29 recommendations in the NSW Productivity Commissioner's Final Report, to:

- Move towards a principles-based infrastructure contributions system based on certainty, efficiency, simplicity, transparency and consistency
- Enhance the capacity of councils to support growth

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- Strike a balance between efficiency, simplicity and certainty for local infrastructure contributions
- Develop a stronger funding base for State and regional infrastructure
- Make the system more consistent, transparent and easy to navigate
- Better align infrastructure contributions and strategic planning and delivery.

Legislation has been introduced to the NSW Parliament as part of the infrastructure contributions reforms with the intent of boosting productivity, providing certainty for industry and support housing supply and affordability. This legislation has been introduced as the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021.

The enabling legislation is intended to provide the foundations for a stronger infrastructure contributions system by matching infrastructure funding with infrastructure outcomes for new and growing communities.

The reforms include:

- A regional infrastructure contributions system to collect levies on development in Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Hunter and the Illawarra Shoalhaven while preserving existing special infrastructure contribution arrangements
- Requiring owners who benefit from their land being rezoned for development to contribute towards the provision of land for local infrastructure when their land is either sold or developed
- Greater transparency and accessibility for Planning Agreements
- Incentives for councils to fund infrastructure upfront, allowing councils to borrow and pool their funds.

Once the legislation is passed, the new system is expected to be implemented and in place by 1 July 2022, with various subsequent dates for relevant changes to be made by councils to comply with legislative changes.

However, councils across metropolitan Sydney in particular have a number of issues with the reforms, and have been working through the available detail in order to fully understand the implications. The City of Sydney have coordinated a number of meetings/forums to discuss the reforms.

Council has engaged GLN Planning, noted specialists in the field of infrastructure contributions in order to obtain a greater understanding of the potential impacts. Analysis undertaken by GLN Planning highlights that in terms of Section 7.11 contributions the impacts of the reforms are cost neutral to Council, whilst Section 7.12 contributions collected by Council could have a modest increase under the reforms.

Changes to the infrastructure contributions system impact the whole of the Hawkesbury local government area.

Relevant Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure Contributions) Bill 2021.

DISCUSSION

Based on assessment undertaken by metropolitan councils, the potential reform impacts/key considerations include:

- The premise of the Government's contributions reform package that the population growth adjustments to the rate peg will provide councils with sufficient revenue to meet the needs of growing communities
- The Section 7.11 recommendations alone which focus on restrictions to 'development-contingent' or 'essential works' only for contributions plans could easily reduce contribution revenues

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- The Productivity Commissioner's intent of the Section 7.12 reforms to introduce a simpler, but still reasonable option for councils to levy demand-based development does not appear to be met for infill council areas in particular
- The Section 7.12 demand-based levies present a more complex approach with the combined percentage and threshold rates. The proposed maximum rates fall well short of the maximum percentages proposed as a share of development cost and if adopted by infill councils (instead of Section 7.11), would potentially restrict revenue to a point that most councils would not be able to deliver infrastructure needs nor recover financially over 20 years, even with the population growth factor also increasing their rates income
- The contribution reforms as proposed will force councils to either use rates from existing residents to provide capital for infrastructure to meet increasing demand, or delay or remove projects from their infrastructure contributions plans, or both.
- The proposed changes to Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 contributions should be reviewed and adjusted by the NSW Government so that significant cost-shifting to ratepayers for growth infrastructure and infrastructure delays are avoided, and that all councils are no worse off.
- Rather than being 'category-based', the essential works in an infill area context should be public amenities and services needed to support the quality of life enjoyed by the residents and workers in an area, and which increases the carrying capacity of existing infrastructure networks.
- Assumptions used in the Government's modelling of linking the rate peg to population growth are overly optimistic, and unrealistically distort the impacts. In particular, the Government's assumption that councils would continue obtaining approval for special variations to income at levels seen in the past is unrealistic.
- The NSW Government should adequately resource councils to meet the increased administrative and compliance burden in the short to medium term.

However, as highlighted above, based on the assessment undertaken by GLN Planning for Hawkesbury City Council, these same impacts are not the same or are less of an issue due to our circumstances.

Council acknowledges that a significant amount of work has been undertaken to progress the reforms to this stage and is broadly supportive of the Government's aims to review the infrastructure contributions system.

There are still a number of recommendations that are considered appropriate to raise as part of a submission to the NSW Government on the reforms. The draft submission included as Attachment 1 is structured to address the key aspects of the reforms which impact on Hawkesbury City Council which are:

- Regional Infrastructure Contribution (RIC)
- Changes to s7.12 contributions plan rates
- Land Value Contribution (LVC) and land costs generally
- Alignment of planning proposals and contributions plans
- Other components of the reforms including the Infrastructure Contributions Practice Note Review.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This matter is a proposed amendment to the infrastructure contributions system by the NSW Government, and as such Council is being consulted on this matter.

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CONFORMANCE TO THE HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2036

The proposal is consistent with the following Focus Areas, Directions 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.

Our Assets

- 4.2 Utilities - Facilitate the delivery of infrastructure through relevant agencies and Council's own works
 - 4.2.1 Our community's current and future utility infrastructure needs (water, sewer, waste, stormwater, gas, electricity and telecommunications) are identified and delivered.
 - 4.2.2 New development and infrastructure provision is aligned and meets community needs.

Our Future

- 5.1 Strategic Planning Governance - Encourage informed planning, balanced growth and community engagement
 - 5.1.1 Council's planning is integrated and long term.
 - 5.1.2 Council's decision making on all matters is transparent, accessible and accountable.
 - 5.1.3 Council will continually review its service provision to ensure best possible outcomes for the community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Based on assessment of the impacts of the proposed reforms, indications are that for Section 7.11 contributions it is a cost neutral position for Council, whereas for Section 7.12 contributions, based on the Hawkesbury's circumstances there is a modest increase in contributions that are able to be collected.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** Draft Submission to NSW Government's proposed reforms to infrastructure contributions system
- *(Distributed under separate cover).*

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Item: 037 **IS - Road Naming Proposal - Vineyard Precinct Stage 1 - (95495, 79346)**

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of a road naming proposal for new public roads associated with the Vineyard Precinct Stage 1, in the suburbs of Vineyard and Oakville.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The future subdivision within the suburbs of Vineyard and Oakville, known as Vineyard Precinct Stage 1, bounded by Windsor, Boundary, Menin and Chapman Roads, will result in the creation of approximately 75 to 80 new public roads.

Due to the size of this development and the multiple applicants/developers for this site, there will be different stages of the road naming process. This report will be the first to commence the road naming process. It is proposed to take on a collaborative approach with the developers, in encouraging road name proposals from developers and incorporating them with Council's list of names. The names and layout of the proposed new roads are attached as Attachments 1 and 2 to this report.

This report recommends that Council support public advertising for the naming associated with the Vineyard Precinct Stage 1 for a period of 28 days to seek comments on the proposal.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. In accordance with the requirements of the NSW Roads Act 1993, the road names listed in Attachment 2 to the report related to the Vineyard Precinct Stage 1 in Vineyard and Oakville, be publically advertised for a period of 28 days, seeking comment on the proposed names.
 2. At the expiration of the public notification period outlined in Part 1 above, the following action be taken:
 - a) Should any submissions be received regarding the proposed Road Naming Proposal Vineyard Precinct Stage 1, a further report be submitted to Council, or
 - b) Should no submissions be received, Council adopt the Road Naming Proposal as shown in Attachment 2 to this report.
-

BACKGROUND

The future subdivision shared between the suburbs of Vineyard and Oakville, known as Vineyard Precinct Stage 1, bounded by Windsor, Boundary, Menin and Chapman Roads, will result in the creation of approximately 75 to 80 new public roads requiring naming.

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Due to the size of this development and the multiple applicants/developers for this site, there will be different stages and, therefore, this will be an ongoing road naming process until the development is completed. This report will be the first to commence the road naming process. It is proposed to take on a collaborative approach with the developers, in encouraging road name proposals from developers and incorporating them with Council's list of names. There are several themes relating to local flora and fauna, locally grown produce and names connected to the history of the area. Some of these names were sourced by local historians. The names and layout of the proposed new roads are attached as Attachments 1 and 2 to this report.

Relevant Legislation

Roads Act 1993

DISCUSSION

The NSW Address Policy and User Manual (October 2019) applies to all roads in NSW regardless of custodianship and maintenance agreements. Under this Policy and User Manual, all roads shall be authoritatively named in accordance with the principles of road naming. Road naming is legislated under the New South Wales Roads Act 1993.

The purpose of developing the list of names is to have an approved register of road names available for use which will assist in making the road naming process more efficient. It is envisaged that as a road is created, the developer will be able to select a name contained within the approved list or, alternatively, nominate road names for consideration by Council.

Pre-approval for the use of the 49 names has been sought and provided by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales (GNB), which takes into account evaluating the surrounding Local Government Areas as well as the Hawkesbury Local Government Area for any duplication on similarity with existing road names.

The full list of names are attached as Attachment 2 to this report which conform to the guidelines and principles of the New South Wales Road Naming Policy and it is recommended that public comment be sought under the requirements of the Roads Act 1993. The proposed name "Longneck" is currently used for Longneck Creek and Longneck Lagoon in the suburbs of Scheyville, Pitt Town and Maraylya.

Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is currently being developed jointly by a working group comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and Council staff. The Plan is currently in draft form. The draft Plan includes an action to "*Review existing signage (e.g. Local Government Area entry, sites of cultural significance) and identify opportunities for new signage throughout the region*". Once the Plan is finalised and adopted, Council will work with the working group to develop a framework by which signage is reviewed and names of cultural significance, which will include road naming that can be recommended.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The issues raised in this report concern matters which constitute a trigger for Community Engagement under Council's Community Engagement Policy.

It is proposed that Council undertake the following community engagement process in compliance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, the New South Wales Roads Act 1993, the New South Wales Roads Regulation 2018 and the NSW Address Policy and User Manual. The consultation required is for a period of 28 days and involves the following:

- Advertisement on Council's web page and social media site
- Notice created on the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales road naming portal.

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CONFORMANCE TO THE HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2036

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

Our Assets

4.2 Utilities - Facilitate the delivery of infrastructure through relevant agencies and Council's own works

4.2.2 New development and infrastructure provision is aligned and meets community needs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications applicable to this report.

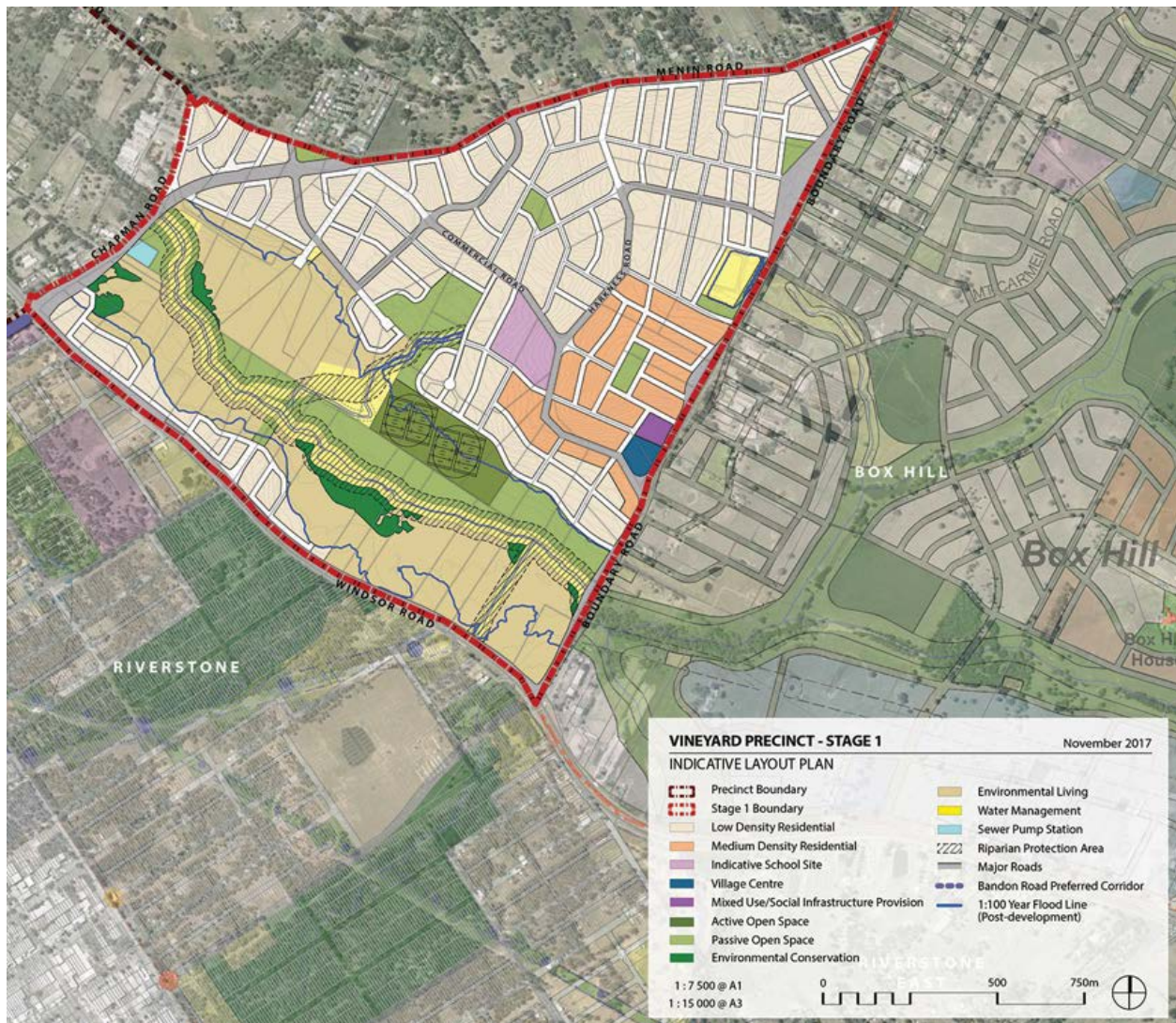
ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Locality Plan.

AT - 2 List of Proposed Names.

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AT - 1 Locality Plan



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AT - 2 List of Proposed Names

#	Road Name	Theme
1	Agaricus	Botanical name for button mushroom
2	Alma	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
3	Alvine	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
4	Bottcher	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
5	Brunoniella	Common name for "Brunoniella australis"
6	Bushpea	Common name for "Pultenaea pedunculata"
7	Cecil	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
8	Dianella	Common name for "Dianella longifolia"
9	Enoki	Mushroom variety grown in the area
10	Firetail	Local fauna - Common name for "Stagonopleura guttata"
11	Flammulina	Botanical name for enoki mushroom
12	Flying Fox	Local fauna - Common name for "Pteropus poliocephalus"
13	Friedrich	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
14	Geebung	Common name for "Persoonia nutans"
15	Gorse	Common name for "Daviesia ulicifolia"
16	Grey Box	Common name for Bursaria spinosa
17	Gustave	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
18	Hackberry	Mushroom variety grown in the area
19	Hilda	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
20	Hubert	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
21	Ida	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
22	Juniper	Common name for Grevillea juniperina subsp. Juniperina
23	Kenny	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
24	Knobby	Common name of Groundcover species "Ficinia nodosa" which is called "Knobby Club Rush"
25	Laurina	Common name for Evergreen tree "Tristanopsis laurina" which is called "Water Gum"
26	Lentinula	Botanical name for shiitake mushroom
27	Longneck*	Local creek name
28	Magic	Name for Hedge species "Acmena smithii Allyn's Magic "
29	Matrush	Common name for "Lomandra filiformis subsp. Filiformis"
30	Matthew	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
31	Mushroom	Grown in the area
32	Origma	Scientific name of "Rockwarbler" bird
33	Oroya	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
34	Otto	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
35	Oyster	Mushroom variety grown in the area

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#	Road Name	Theme
36	Portobello	Mushroom variety grown in the area
37	Riceflower	Common name for "Pimelea spicata"
38	Sarsaparilla	Common name for "Hardenbergia violacea"
39	Sheoak	Trees in the area
40	Shimeji	Mushroom variety grown in the area
41	Southcott	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
42	Stancombe	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
43	Strachan	Name in stories connected to the history of the area
44	Stringybark	Common name for "E. eugenioides"
45	Swiss	Mushroom variety grown in the area
46	Tanika	Name of the Mass Planting species "Lomandra longifolia Tanika "
47	Treedale	Local creek name
48	Trident	Common name for Deciduous Tree "Acer buergeranum" which is called "Trident Maple"
49	Velutipe	Botanical name for enoki mushroom

* The proposed name Longneck is currently being used for Longneck Creek and Longneck Lagoon in the suburbs of Scheyville, Pitt Town and Maraylya.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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Item: 038 **IS - Flood Damage Report - Update on Major Road Projects - (95495)**

Previous Item: 181, Ordinary (28 September 2021)
 231, Ordinary (23 November 2021)

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on road assets that were damaged as a result of the March 2021 Flood.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The March 2021 Flood resulted in damage to various roads assets and the damage sustained, and consequently the repair work required, varies in extent. Significant repair work to the road network was undertaken as the flood unfolded and in the immediate days as flood waters receded. Other major and more complex works have either been in progress or will be commenced in the coming weeks as funding availability and scope continues to be finalised with the various funding bodies.

Extensive discussions have been ongoing between staff and funding bodies, including onsite visits. Until the claiming process is complete and funding approval finalised, the net financial impact of the March 2021 natural disaster event will not be known. It is not anticipated that any remaining unfunded costs will have an impact on Council's financial sustainability. A number of claims have been submitted to various State Government Agencies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Note the Flood Damage Report – Update on Major Road Projects.
 2. Endorse the community consultation process outlined in the report.
 3. Write to the various funding bodies, to seek an update on the timing of approval and payments of claims lodged by Council in regard to the March 2021 Flood.
-

BACKGROUND

The March 2021 Flood resulted in damage to various roads assets. The damage sustained, and consequently the repair work required, varies in extent. Significant repair work to the road network was undertaken as the flood unfolded and in the immediate days as flood waters receded. Other major and more complex works have either been in progress or will be commenced in the next few months as funding availability and scope continues to be finalised with the various funding bodies.

All costs associated with the repair or re-establishment of roads assets have been captured through specifically created account numbers. In light of the significant impact of the March 2021 Flood, Council engaged an external consultant to assist in putting together the necessary claims for the various funding bodies. Extensive discussions have also been ongoing between staff and funding bodies, including onsite visits.

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Until the claiming process is complete and funding approval finalised, the net financial impact of the March 2021 natural disaster event will not be known. However, in light of the processes in place to capture costs, and the rigorous process and resourcing being applied towards maximising Council's success in securing funding to cover these costs, it is not anticipated that any remaining unfunded costs will have an impact on Council's financial sustainability. A number of claims have been submitted to various State Government Agencies.

DISCUSSION

The Claims for funds fall into various categories as defined under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, such as Emergency and Immediate works as well as Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works.

Emergency and Immediate works were completed just after the flood event and a claim has been submitted to TfNSW as listed below:

- The Claim amount for Emergency Works is \$1,236,146.56
- The Claim amount for Immediate Works is \$ 769,747.72

The Emergency Works are urgent activities necessary to temporarily restore an essential public asset to enable it to operate at an acceptable level of efficiency to support the immediate recovery of a community. The Immediate Reconstruction Works are immediate reconstruction activities following an eligible disaster carried out to fully reconstruct a damaged essential public asset, and these works must be completed within three months from the date that the damaged essential public asset becomes accessible to the Council.

Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works are reconstruction works on an essential public asset damaged as the direct result of an eligible disaster for which an estimated reconstruction cost has been developed:

Currently Council is waiting for the approval for the Essential Public Asset Restoration Work (EPA-RW) projects. The total estimate for the EPA-RW category projects at this stage is \$35,787,415.00 and will be subject to change based on tender submissions for the various projects.

Once funding has been approved for Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works, the works themselves must be completed within two years after the end of the financial year in which the disaster occurred, which will require Council to have all works completed by 30 June 2023.

Whilst Council has undertaken repair works to ensure community safety and to limit major disruptions to the community, some major works are yet to be undertaken. Many of the major work sites resulted in the community being cut off such as across the Colo River at Colo Heights Road and along roads such as Greens Road and Cornwallis Road.

An overview of some of the major projects within the Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works is listed below:

Road Localities:

The roads include Bensons Lane, Colo Heights Road and Bridge, Cornwallis Road and Flood Structure, Cornwells Lane, Cupitts Lane, Greens Road, Grono Farm Road, Grose Vale Road, Mountain Lagoon Road, Percival Street, Pitt Town Bottoms Road, Sackville Road, Tizzana Road, Webbs Creek Road, West Portland Road and Wollombi Road.

Three of the major sites are the Upper Colo Bridge along Colo Heights Road, Greens Road and Cornwallis Road Flood Structure. Additional details on these three sites are provided below:

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Upper Colo Bridge Replacement:

The replacement of the Bridge across the Colo River, Upper Colo was an involved process with the community. The community requested that the existing 60metre timber bridge be either repaired or replaced with a timber bridge. A detailed investigation was undertaken into the replacement bridge options which included online community meetings with the findings of the options report prepared by a consultant presented to the community.

There final option for the replacement bridge is in keeping with ensuring a high level of aesthetic quality which includes the use of timber elements such as timber kerbs and the minimisation of the depth of superstructure elements. In keeping with the proposed replacement bridge option, Council at its meeting on 28 September 2021 resolved to replace the existing flood damaged timber bridge across the Colo River with a reinforced concrete bridge.

Council will continue to liaise with the community regarding interpretive signage and the salvage of the timbers for future use in recognition of the historic nature of the site. This will include the timber from the original bridge and how it can be utilised in the immediate setting. Upon completion of the Interpretive Action Plan (IAP), community engagement will be undertaken during March 2022 prior to finalising the actions from the IAP.

Public Works Advisory (PWA) has been engaged to undertake the procurement and project management activities in regard to this project. The engagement of Public Works Advisory has been undertaken to supplement Council staffing resources to deliver this project and also to reduce the overall project completion timeframe. The Tender period for the works is between 18 January and 15 February 2022, with construction anticipated to commence during March/April 2022 and an anticipated construction period of approximately 32 weeks.

Greens Road:

Two Sections (Sites) of Greens Road, Lower Portland were damaged extensively resulting in limited access for residents in this area. Site 1 is located adjacent to No. 125 Greens and extends for approximately 360metres. Site 2 is located adjacent to No. 389 Greens Road and extends for approximately 355metres. The map below identifies the two sites.

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Location of Affected Areas - Greens Road, Lower Portland

Since the March 2021 Flood, Site 1 has operated with a 5T Load Limit. The 5T Load Limit was based on assessments of the road and the nature of the failures at this location, with limitations to the weight of vehicles passing this point to ensure that further damage was not sustained to the road.

Site 2 was initially closed to all traffic due to the severity of the damage compared to that at Site 1. Temporary remediation works were undertaken with this section of road opened to traffic on 19 October 2021 with a 3T Load limit & operating during day light hours. Based on satisfactory performance of the road since its re-opening, the Load limit was increased to a 5T limit on 18 November 2021. The hours of operation were extended to a 24 hour operation on 1 December 2021 with the provision of supporting lighting and additional monitoring. Site 2 is subject to temporary closures based on wet weather. The current trigger point is 20mm of rain over a 24 hour period (increased from 10mm on 7 December 2021).

During the initial closure of Site 2, an alternate route (bypass) was provided along the Wheelbarrow Ridge fire trail which required negotiations with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as this was within the National Park and the track under the ownership and control of NPWS. The Wheelbarrow Ridge fire trail extends to the north of Site 2 connecting Greens Road to Wheelbarrow Ridge Road. The bypass will remain in operation until both Sites 1 and 2 are completed and is currently required for use due to the wet weather trigger at Site 2. Any ongoing monitoring & work to maintain the function of this track is undertaken in consultation with the NPWS.

PWA has been engaged to undertake the procurement and project management activities in regard to this project. The engagement of Public Works Advisory has been undertaken to supplement Council staffing resources to deliver this project and also to reduce the overall project completion timeframe.

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The Tender period for the works was between 16 December 2021 and 25 January 2022, with the Tender Review process anticipated to be completed by the middle of February and construction anticipated to commence during late February/early March 2022. The anticipated construction period is approximately 16 weeks at each site, undertaken consecutively.

Tenderers have been invited to provide an alternate tender to undertake the works in the shortest possible time which would likely require extended working hours and additional working days to the current allowable times/days set by the EPA. This may include working longer days and potentially on weekends. These extended operating times will be assessed in accordance with the review of the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to ensure compliance.

Sequencing of the works for Site 1 and Site 2 has been formulated within the tender documentation and is also based on feedback received from the community. The following sequence of works is the likely scenario:

- Site 2 – Permanent Works First
 - Site 2 will be closed
 - Site 1 will be open to traffic during the works at Site 2
 - Wheelbarrow Ridge fire trail will be utilised as the detour road.
 - Commencement of permanent works during February/March 2022 – estimated completion June/July 2022 – subject to tender submissions, weather conditions and COVID.
- Site 1 – Permanent Works commence after the completion of works at Site 2
 - Site 1 will be closed
 - Site 2 will be open to traffic
 - Wheelbarrow Ridge fire trail will be provided as the detour road.
 - Commencement of permanent works during June/July 2022 - estimated completion November 2022 – subject to tender submissions, weather conditions and COVID.

Council has been providing the community with regular weekly updates on the progress of this project. This weekly update commenced with the purpose of informing the community on the progress of the remediation works and the details of the proposed permanent works. This included a number of online community sessions. Due to the wet weather trigger point at Site 2 and the need to inform the community without delay, both email and SMS alerts have been provided to the residents.

As the project is nearing commencement with the permanent works for Site 2, it is proposed to scale back the weekly updates for Greens Road and provide the progress to the Community on construction milestones or where issues of concern or interest arise. This will also include terminating the SMS alerts as the wet weather trigger will no longer be an issue as Site 2 will be closed during the permanent works. Once the permanent works at Site 2 is completed and the permanent works at Site 1 commence, access through Site 2 will not be subject to wet weather triggers.

Cornwallis Road:

The flood had a significant impact along Cornwallis Road and in particular to the twin 2700mm diameter pipes in the vicinity of No. 442 Cornwallis Road, Cornwallis. The pipeline, which is approximately 142 metres in length, drains a low area in Bakers Lagoon, extends under Cornwallis Road, through No 442 and to the Hawkesbury River, was damaged, making it redundant as well as impacting the flood levy it was draining through. The damage to the pipeline and the deep opening it created both in the road and the properties on both side of the road resulted in the road closure of Cornwallis Road.

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The restoration work is taking place in two stages:

- Stage 1 - Making the site safe by removing of 25,000m³ of disturbed soil and stockpiling it to use during the construction stage. These works were completed at the end of 2021, which also included the provision of a temporary flood barrier to provide a small margin of additional flood protection.
- Stage 2 - Laying of 2700mm diameter twin concrete pipes from the River to Cornwallis Road and the restoration of Cornwallis Road. The tender evaluation is currently in progress with awarding of the contracts by the end of February 2022. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2022.

This project has been complicated by many ongoing challenges such as the severity of the damage exceeding what was initially anticipated during preliminary investigations, the discovery of Per and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and potential Acid Sulphate in Soil contamination, which needed to be remediated as part of the process - these contaminants have now been remediated and do not pose any risk to the community or the environment - and the significant subsidence of the existing pipeline.

Community updates to the wider, impacted community - noting the levy bank provides protection to a large part of the Cornwallis Lowlands area - commenced in December, with a second update in early February and will continue on the same basis as Greens Road until the finalisation of the works.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. This has included staff attending Community meetings which have included online Community meetings due to COVID.

In addition to this, weekly updates have been provided to the respective communities affected by the Greens Road, Upper Colo Bridge and Cornwallis Road sites. With all three projects soon to enter construction stages, it is intended to scale back the weekly updates for these sites and provide progress updates to the Community on construction milestones or where issues of concern or interest arise.

CONFORMANCE TO THE HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2036

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

Our Assets

- 4.1 Transport infrastructure and connections - Creating an integrated and well maintained transport system is an important local priority
 - 4.1.1 Our roads and other transport infrastructure will be planned and provided to ensure connected, efficient and safe movement for all modes of transport.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The matters raised in this report have direct financial implications. The expenditure applicable is not provided for in the current Operational Plan. An application has been made by Council under the Natural Disaster Funding arrangements to fully fund these projects. It is anticipated that the capital costs will be approved, however there has been an impact on existing staff resources to manage the projects and these costs are not claimable.

It is to be noted that the delay in the approval and payment of claims made is starting to have an impact on Council's financial position. Outstanding claims include expenditure incurred by Council to undertake emergency works immediately after the flood.

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In this regard it is recommended that Council writes to the various funding bodies, to seek an update on the timing of approval and payments of claims lodged by Council in regard to the March 2021 Flood.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Road Location Damage Information.

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AT - 1 Road Location Damage Information

Location	Description	Estimated Reconstruction Cost
Colo Heights Bridge	Colo Heights Road near Upper Colo Road, Upper Colo	\$3,419,537
Cornwallis Road Flood Mitigation Structure	Damaged flood mitigation pipe Near No. 442 Cornwallis Road, Cornwallis	\$10,058,052
Cornwallis Road Section 1	Failed road section Near No. 380 Cornwallis Road, Cornwallis	\$270,000
Cornwallis Road Section 2	Failed road section Near No. 582 Cornwallis Road, Cornwallis	\$247,500
Cornwallis Road Section 3	Failed road section Near No. 166 Cornwallis Road, Cornwallis	\$64,800
Bensons Lane	Full length damage from Francis Street to Cornwells Lane	\$990,000
Greens Road	Site 1 adjacent to No. 125 Greens Road and Site 2 adjacent to No. 389 Greens Road	\$16,501,701
Cupitts Lane	Full length damage from Dight Street to Cornwallis Road	\$1,485,000
Pitt Town Bottoms Road	Multiple failed sections starting at 3.8 km from Bathurst Street	\$720,000
Grose Vale Road	Landslip located 700 m from Bowen Mountain Road towards Westbury Road	\$220,000
Percival Street	Failed embankment near Hawkesbury Valley Way	\$65,000
Mount Lagoon Road	Gravel washout located 500 m from Sams Way towards Comleroy Road	\$60,000
Colo Heights Road	Landslip located 3.1 km from Putty Road	\$24,000
Tizzana Road	landslip near No. 685 Tizzana Road	\$400,200
West Potland Road	Multiple failed sections starting at 2.2 km from Sackville Road	\$455,000
Grono Farm Road	Mutiple failed section-near No. 241 Grono Farm Road, Wilberforce	\$203,125
Wollombi Road	Landslip failure located 21 km towards north from Epsie Street, St Albans	\$168,000
Sackville Road	Multiple failed sections near West Portland Road	\$254,000
Webbs Creek Road	Gravel washout starting at Doyles Creek Road up to a 6.6 km section	\$49,500
Cornwells Lane	350 m of failed section near Bensons Lane	\$132,000
Total		\$35,787,415

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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Item: 039 **IS - Draft McQuade Park Plan of Management and Masterplan - (95495, 79354)**

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft McQuade Park Plan of Management with the view to obtaining consent to refer it to the Minister responsible for Crown Lands for review and then public exhibition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The McQuade Park Plan of Management has been developed in response to the Crown Land Management Act 2016 which requires all Council Crown Land Managers to develop plans of management for all Crown reserves under their management. A site-specific Plan of Management had been developed for McQuade Park as it is of State Heritage significance.

The Windsor and District RSL have been working on a proposal to formalise a memorial space on the western side of the ornamental pond. The Plan of Management addresses the proposal and provides requirements to be considered to ensure that the development would not detrimentally impact on other uses and values of that space.

The McQuade Park Plan of Management includes a park landscape masterplan which was developed as part of Council's Vibrant Towns and Villages project. Key recommendations from that project have been included in the Plan of Management and relevant works authorised.

In addition to the works identified to revitalise the Windsor township, the Plan of Management identifies projects that will protect and enhance the cultural heritage significance of the park whilst maintaining the recreational values of the reserve.

Development of the Plan of Management does not represent a formal commitment to funding. Works identified will be considered for inclusion in Council's future Operational Plans in accordance with the Plan's priorities, the financial allocations identified in the Long-Term Financial Plan and external funding opportunities as they arise from time to time.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council refer the Draft McQuade Park Plan of Management to the Minister responsible for Crown Land for review.
 2. Upon receipt of approval from the Minister responsible for Crown Land, the Draft McQuade Park Plan of Management be placed on public exhibition.
 3. The matter be reported back to Council following the public exhibition period.
-

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BACKGROUND

McQuade Park is prominently located at 361 George Street, Windsor. The Park is bounded by George Street, Hawkesbury Valley Way, Moses Street and Tebbutt Street and comprised of 8.125 hectares (Ha), catering to a diverse range of uses including sport, passive recreation, and commemoration. McQuade Park is of State heritage significance and was planned by Governor Macquarie as “a central square, parade ground or park for the use of the Town” - The Great Square for the new town of Windsor (State Heritage Register, p.5., 2011).

McQuade Park is a Crown reserve owned by the State and managed by Hawkesbury City Council. The reserve purpose is ‘Public Recreation’. All activities on the reserve must be consistent with the reserve purpose.

Following changes to Crown land legislation in 2016, all Council Crown Land Managers are required to develop plans of management for all Crown reserves under their management. This site-specific Plan of Management is an updated version of the plan of management adopted by Council in 2013 and has been developed in response to these new legislative requirements. It will be necessary to refer the plan of management and gain approval from the Minister for Crown Lands prior to the plan of management being placed on public exhibition.

Council’s Vibrant Towns and Villages project 2020, identified the importance of McQuade Park in the revitalisation of the town centre of Windsor. The landscape masterplan which was developed as part of that project is incorporated into the Plan of Management.

Location Plan

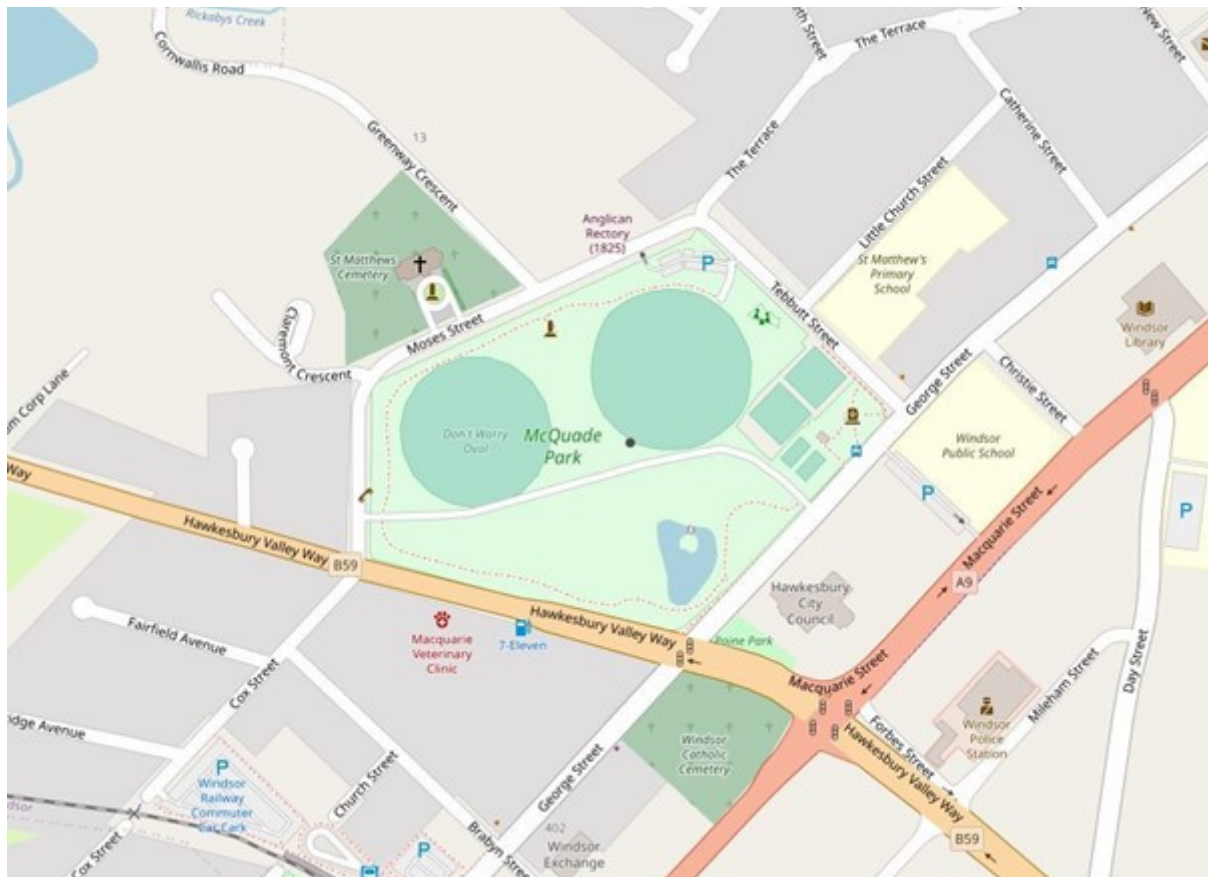


Figure 1: McQuade Park and surrounds

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Relevant Legislation

Crown Land Management Act 2016
Local Government Act 1993

DISCUSSION

The McQuade Park Plan of Management is the key strategic planning and governance tool that Council has in place for the management and use of this park. The Plan of Management establishes a vision and relevance for the next 5-10 years and provides certainty to Council and the community about how the reserve will be used. This document provides a rationale for decision making and consistency with the principles of Crown land management and reserve purpose. This document sets out objectives and performance targets for managing this Crown reserve and authorises use of the land, including tenures and development on the land. Proposed development and tenures must consider Aboriginal rights and interests in Crown land under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 (NT Act).

The action plan within the plan of management identifies key actions related to the following desired outcomes:

- To establish an appropriate management framework and guidelines for assessing development, land uses, activities, leases, licences, and other estate.
- To conserve the park's cultural heritage significance and maintain mix of community, sporting, and passive recreational opportunities.
- To maintain and upgrade existing recreational facilities and provide an improved level of visitor access, public safety, and connectivity within the park.
- To protect, manage and enhance the park's cultural setting and environmental sustainability.

Community Engagement – Stage 1

In early 2020, Council hosted stakeholder workshops and community pop-up sessions for the “revitalizing Windsor Town Centre Masterplan”. These initiatives included McQuade Park as an integral component of the project (Windsor Town Centre component). Importantly, they focused public attention on the possibilities for reactivating this space as a gateway to the commercial precinct.

The broader community was encouraged to participate in an online questionnaire in March 2020 to gather further information and opinions. Key issues raised in this questionnaire related to how the park could be re-activated and better integrated with the Windsor Town Centre proposals. Notably, the proposed Anzac memorial by the pond, put forward by Windsor and District RSL Sub-Branch, was also an important issue for discussion. In addition, key stakeholders such as Hawkesbury Sports Council, Windsor and District RSL and Windsor Bowling Club were engaged in small focus groups.

Feedback via the community engagement questionnaire

The 2020 Community Engagement Questionnaire was distributed at the pop-up sessions and launched on Council's Your Hawkesbury Your Say website for McQuade Park Plan of Management. The questionnaire was promoted via notices placed in local papers, letters sent to residents within 400m of the park and social media platforms (including Facebook) to reach out to the community for further comments.

A total of twenty-seven (27) emailed responses to the Questionnaire were received and a further six (6) written submissions were made to Council, providing important community feedback on how the park is being used, issues affecting these activities, the quality of open spaces, sporting, and recreational facilities and how the park is valued by the community. The Questionnaire requested feedback on key community values and issues including the following:

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Table 1: Community Online Survey Results

Question topic	Response
Importance of McQuade Park to Revitalising Windsor Town Centre Masterplan (ranking 1-10):	78% of respondents believed McQuade Park was very important or extremely important to this process.
Frequency of use	>60% of respondents visited the Park most days or 1-3 days per week; 19% of respondents visited the Park occasionally or rarely (less than once a year).
Events (e.g. Anzac Day, or sporting fixtures, etc.) attended	Almost 90% of respondents attended the Anzac Service each year. Events (incl. rugby union, cricket, and children's sports) were also popular.
Most valued quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Picnics at sports events, 2. Picnic shelters/ BBQ, 3. Walking, exercising, 4. Walking the dog, 5. Bike-riding, 6. Open space, 7. Oval, 8. Historic/ scenic vistas, 9. Playground, 10. Lake precinct, 11. Mature trees/ green space, 12. War Memorial gardens, 13. Tennis courts, 14. Cricket nets.
Recreational spaces or facilities used the most	Ranked No.1 - lake precinct and surrounds (40%); Ranked No.2 - open grassed area (26%); Ranked No.3 – children's playground (19%).
Issues which should be addressed/ suggestions for improvements (ranked in order of importance by respondents):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address use of the grandstand by homeless people 2. Improve Park security/ camera surveillance 3. Better management of trees/ replacement planting 4. Improve quality of grass cover and weed maintenance 5. Improve lighting on pathways/ footpath maintenance 6. Proposed memorial space by the lake 7. Better and more shelters over picnic tables 8. Circuit exercise equipment along pathway 9. New shelter/ BBQ by the lake 10. Community garden 11. Poor quality of bicentennial plaques 12. Improve sporting amenities 13. Need for accessible toilet facilities 14. Improve playground facilities 15. Better traffic control (restrict vehicles on grassed areas) 16. More interpretive signage.

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Question topic	Response
A proposal by Windsor District RSL Sub-Branch would create a permanent memorial, on western side of the lake. This memorial would be similar in size/scale to temporary structures set up each year for Anzac Day Dawn Service. Would you support this proposal?	<p>(YES = 19; Not sure = 6; NO = 2).</p> <p>a) The proposal received conditional support by 70% of respondents</p> <p>b) 22% of respondents were unsure and raised concerns over the size, scale, aesthetics, potential impact on the lakeside setting, and potential for vandalism;</p> <p>c) 8% of respondents were opposed.</p> <p>One respondent, in a submission, wanted greater recognition of First Nation Peoples' resistance during the Frontier Wars. The Windsor Bowling and Sports Club wrote a letter in support of the proposal.</p>

Windsor and District RSL Sub-Branch Proposal

The Windsor and District RSL Sub-Branch coordinates commemoration services within McQuade Park. Historically, these have been conducted at the war memorials and gardens at the corner of Tebbutt Street and George Street. The large numbers of visitors attending commemorative services on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day (pre-COVID-19) is considered too large to be safely hosted in this area and requires temporary road closures. In recent years these services have been moved to the western side of the ornamental pond where crowds can be more easily managed. Temporary memorial structures are erected and dismantled each time creating significant ongoing costs and logistical issues for organisers.

Windsor and District RSL Sub-Branch have been working on a proposal to formalise a memorial space in this location on the western side of the pond. The Plan of Management includes details of the proposal and notes community concerns relating to the size, scale, aesthetics and potential impact on the lakeside setting.

The Plan of Management acknowledges Council's commitment to working with the Windsor RSL to ensure that large memorial services can continue within McQuade Park in a manner that is consistent with the objectives for the Park. Council's Parks Department is willing to take on the role of storing and installing portable, temporary structures that are used for services and participate in the design of any new, permanent elements.

Guidelines are provided for the design of any future proposal for a memorial at this location. In addition, the plan requires that any new memorial space should be used only for large events such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, retaining the validity/significance of the existing Boer Memorial and World War 1 Memorial Gates.

The design of any future proposal for a memorial at this location should:

- Protect local heritage values and vistas
- Protect the open visual quality and low-key character of the lake-side landscape setting
- Be compatible with other passive recreation uses
- Provide a safe, easily accessible space for large gatherings
- Provide opportunities for multi-functional event space
- Continue to include removable elements
- Be contemporary in nature
- Address all viewing directions
- Consider including gardens/vegetation to soften any harsh edges
- Consider incorporating removable elements to retain the open, uncluttered passive recreation character of this location

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- Exclude specific names of veterans
- Honour veterans from all conflicts, including indigenous
- Be designed by a heritage architect with experience in design of memorials
- Be designed in consultation with Council staff and endorsed prior to formal Development Application stage
- Be publicly exhibited extensively, giving the broader public the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The exhibited plans should be notified to all residents within 400m of the Park, a notice in the local paper and a notice on the land advising of the proposal and exhibition period. The plans should be exhibited, and comments allowed to be received for a minimum 42 days to be consistent with the requirements for Plans of Management in the Local Governmental Act.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The issues raised in this report concern matters which constitute a trigger for Community Engagement under Council's Community Engagement Policy. It is proposed that Council undertake the following community engagement process in compliance with Council's policy:

Public exhibition of the draft plan of management for a period of at least 28 days (four weeks), with a further two weeks provided for completion of written submissions, in accordance with the Local Government Act.

The public exhibition of the document is conditional upon approval from the Minister responsible for Crown Lands. Any minor changes required as a condition from Crown Lands may be inserted into the exhibited document without requiring further adoption by Council.

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 Assets

4.3 Places and Spaces - Provide the right places and spaces to serve our community

- 4.3.1 Provide a variety of quality passive recreation spaces including river foreshores, parks, bushland reserves and civic spaces to enhance our community's health and lifestyle.
- 4.3.2 Provide a variety of quality active recreation spaces including playgrounds, sporting fields, pool, stadium and multipurpose centres to enhance our community's health and lifestyle.
- 4.3.3 Provide a variety of quality shared spaces including meeting spaces accommodating public art, cultural and environmental amenity to enhance our community's health and lifestyle.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Long-Term Financial Plan will not be able to fund all works identified in the Plan of Management. This will be clearly communicated to stakeholders and other members of the community during the public exhibition of the plans, and that these plans:

- Are long term plans to clearly outline community aspirations and ensure that all works are consistent with those long-term community objectives
- Will be used to prioritise works against allocations in the Long-Term Financial Plan via the annual Operational Plan
- Will be used as the basis for determining how any relevant developer contribution funds should be allocated
- Will be used to support applications for grants and other external funding opportunities to compliment the funds allocated in the Annual Operational Plans.

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ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Draft McQuade Park Plan of Management - (*Distributed under separate cover*).

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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SUPPORT SERVICES

Item: 040 **SS - Investment Report - January 2022**

Previous Item: 097, Ordinary (25 May 2021)

Directorate: Support Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with a written report setting out details of all money that the Council has invested under Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report indicates that Council held \$72.41 million in investments at 31 January 2022 and outlines that all investments were made in accordance with the Act, the Regulation and Council's Investment Policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Monthly Investment Report for January 2022 be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

Council held \$72.41 million in investments as at 31 January 2022. Details on the composition of the Investment Portfolio, and its compliance with Council's Investment Policy are provided below. Details include the financial institutions with which the investments were made, the maturity date (where applicable), the rate of return achieved, the credit rating of the institutions both in the short term and the long term, the percentage of the total portfolio, exposure to credit ratings bands and the spread of maturities.

1. Composition of Investment portfolio

Tables 1 to 3 below provide details regarding the \$72.41 million in investments held as at 31 January 2022.

Table 1 – Summary of Council's Investment Portfolio as at 31 January 2022

Product Type	Face Value	% of Total
At Call Deposits	\$5,801,417	8.0%
Term Deposits - Fixed Rate	\$64,500,000	89.1%
Tcorp Cash Fund	\$1,133,224	1.6%
NSWTCorp Long Term Growth Fund	\$977,065	1.3%
Grand Total	\$72,411,706	100.0%

Table 2 – Total Investments by Issuer's Long – Term Credit Rating

Long Term Credit Rating	Face Value	% of Total
AA-	\$65,301,417	90.2%
BBB+	\$5,000,000	6.9%
NSW Tcorp Cash Fund	\$2,110,289	2.9%
Grand Total	\$72,411,706	100.0%

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Table 3 – Fixed Term Deposits

Institution	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Maturity	Rate	Face Value
Bank of Queensland	BBB+	A-2	17-Mar-22	0.30%	\$2,500,000
ME Bank (part of BOQ)	BBB+	A-2	03-Jun-22	0.50%	\$1,500,000
			09-Dec-22	0.70%	\$1,000,000
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	A-1+	10-Feb-22	0.41%	\$1,500,000*
			23-Feb-22	0.43%	\$2,000,000
			17-Mar-22	0.40%	\$1,000,000
			29-Mar-22	0.30%	\$4,000,000
			07-Apr-22	0.40%	\$2,000,000
			21-Apr-22	0.42%	\$500,000
			27-Jun-22	0.34%	\$1,000,000
			21-Jul-22	0.41%	\$2,000,000*
			28-Nov-22	0.46%	\$2,000,000
			08-Dec-22	0.46%	\$1,000,000
			22-Feb-23	0.50%	\$2,000,000
			20-Nov-23	0.65%	\$1,000,000
National Australia Bank	AA-	A-1+	17-Mar-22	0.29%	\$1,000,000
			11-May-22	0.45%	\$2,000,000
			27-Jun-22	0.32%	\$2,000,000
			07-Jul-22	0.35%	\$1,000,000
			22-Sep-22	0.35%	\$2,000,000
			29-Dec-22	0.45%	\$3,000,000
			08-Mar-23	0.50%	\$1,000,000
			08-Sep-23	0.60%	\$1,000,000
			19-Aug-24	0.75%	\$3,000,000
			10-Sep-24	0.80%	\$1,000,000
			19-Nov-24	0.75%	\$1,000,000
			15-Jan-25	0.80%	\$500,000
			05-Mar-25	1.05%	\$1,500,000
			03-Nov-25	0.95%	\$500,000
			19-Nov-25	0.90%	\$500,000
			13-Jan-26	1.00%	\$500,000
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	04-Mar-26	1.30%	\$1,500,000
			10-Feb-22	0.21%	\$1,000,000
			28-Apr-22	0.36%	\$1,000,000*
			28-Apr-22	0.32%	\$2,000,000
			05-May-22	0.35%	\$1,000,000*
			05-May-22	0.33%	\$1,000,000
			22-Jun-22	0.35%	\$3,500,000
			07-Jul-22	0.35%	\$2,000,000
			30-Sep-22	0.34%	\$3,000,000
			07-Jun-23	0.90%	\$1,000,000*
			10-Nov-23	1.11%	\$1,000,000*
Grand Total					\$64,500,000

*Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investments as per Council's Investment Policy.

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2. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investments

Tables 4 and 5 below provide the details on Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) investments and the proportion compared to the total Investment Portfolio.

Table 4 – ESG Investments

Institution	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Maturity	Rate	Face Value
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	AA-	A-1+	10-Feb-22	0.41%	\$1,500,000
			21-Jul-22	0.41%	\$2,000,000
Westpac	AA-	A-1+	28-Apr-22	0.36%	\$1,000,000
			05-May-22	0.35%	\$1,000,000
			07-Jun-23	0.90%	\$1,000,000
			10-Nov-23	1.11%	\$1,000,000
Grand Total					\$7,500,000

Table 5 – Summary of Council's Investment Portfolio in Terms of ESG

Product Type	Face Value	% of Total
Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)	\$7,500,000	11.6%
Other	\$57,000,000	88.4%
Grand Total	\$64,500,000	100.0%

3. Compliance to Investment Policy

Tables 6 to 7 below summarise Council's exposure limits to the credit ratings bands, term to maturity parameters and compliance with Council's Investment Policy.

Table 6 – Exposure Limits to credit ratings bands

Long-Term Credit Rating	Exposure of Entire Portfolio		
	Actual	Maximum	Compliant
AAA to AA- or Major Bank and below	97.09%	100%	Yes
A+ to A- and below	6.90%	50%	Yes
BBB+ to BBB and below	6.90%	40%	Yes
BBB- and below	0%	10%	Yes
TCorp Cash Fund	2.91%	20%	Yes

Table 7 – Term to Maturity

Long-Term Credit Rating	Term to Maturity	
	Maximum	Compliant
AA+, AA, AA- (and Major Banks)	5 years	Yes
A+, A, A-	3 years	Yes
BBB+, BBB, BBB-	3 years	Yes
Non-rated ADIs	1 year	Yes

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4. Portfolio Return

Council's investment portfolio (excluding At Call Deposits and TCorp Cash Fund) provided a weighted average return (running yield) as shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8 – Portfolio Return

31 January 2022	Weighted Average Monthly Return
Hawkesbury City Council – Investment Portfolio	0.041%
Benchmark – Bloomberg Ausbond Bank Bill Index	0.005%
Performance Relative to Benchmark	0.036%

Based on Council's Investment Advisor advice, the running yield is the most appropriate for Council's portfolio. The rationale for this conclusion is that if all investments are purchased at par and mature at par, then the return over the holding period of that investment is simply the running yield.

Relevant Legislation

According to Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the Responsible Accounting Officer must provide the Council with a written report setting out details of all money that the Council has invested under Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993. The report must include a certificate as to whether investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulation, and the Council's Investment Policy.

Investment Certification

I, Emma Galea (Responsible Accounting Officer), hereby certify that the investments listed in this report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.

DISCUSSION

Council's investments and returns achieved are driven and impacted by economic and market conditions. Council's Investment Advisor has reviewed Council's investments as at 31 January 2022 and has advised as follows:

- *Council's investment portfolio annual return is around 55bps above the Bank Bill index. This return excludes at Call Accounts and NSW TCorp Managed Funds.*
- *Overall, exposures to individual entities and to credit limits have been well managed such that there is additional capacity to add exposures to any of the existing entities if an opportunity arises, or to absorb any downgrades. Amicus generally recommends its clients operate with "buffers" between policy limit maximums and minimums to provide flexibility and avoid breaches, which is the strategy adopted by Hawkesbury City Council. Council is operating well within these buffers and has capacity within its existing investment policy to expand its range of investments.*
- *In the current investment environment, Amicus suggests Council pursues the following investment strategies with regards to any excess liquidity:*
 - *Invest in the best Term Deposit rates available within the capacity of Policy limits. The most compelling Term Deposit offerings include:*
 - *AMP Term Deposits up to one year where the yields are in excess of 1.00% (once the rebated agency fee of 20bps from Amicus is factored in).*

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- *Westpac Green Term Deposits - Westpac is offering attractive rates and is temporarily offering "Green TD's" (i.e. ones where the proceeds are allocated only to environmentally positive projects) at the same rates as standard (non-Green) TDs. There is likely to be greater demand for ESG investments going forward so this is an opportunity to make your investment portfolio more ESG compliant/friendly while rates are still comparable. Amicus notes the recent uptake in percentage of ESG investments replacing those that matured recently.*
- *Consider investing in longer dated fixed rate investments in the current yield curve environment that is relatively steep. While interest rates may rise, taking a limited exposure to longer dated fixed rate investments to enhance current portfolio is prudent so long as these investments are with high quality institutions (major banks and other ADI's rated "A" or above).*
- *Take limited exposures (no more \$4 million of the total portfolio per entity, obviously within policy limits of 10% with a buffer) to issuers outside the Major Banks in short-dated Term Deposits if rates are attractive. This is a very low risk strategy given the steps taken by the Reserve Bank of Australia to ensure no Authorised Deposit Taking Institutions will fail due to liquidity reasons in the short-term. In making these investments, Council should consider the likely lowest overall total size of the investment portfolio over the year to ensure that total exposures to an issuer outside the Major Banks does not exceed the 10% limit because the overall portfolio size has decreased since the initial investment was made.*
- *Consider investing in Bonds and Floating Rate Notes where the yields and risks are attractive relative to Term Deposits. As per prior reports, the relative value of these two instruments varies with market conditions and there are commonly periods where one is more attractive than the other and vice versa.*
- *Following the initial \$1 million investment in the NSW TCorp Long Term Growth Fund in December 2021, Council can consider later adding \$1 million investments each month or every two months depending on Council's comfort levels with the investment through time as Council sees early performance and prevailing market conditions (Amicus may recommend additional investments are suspended if markets become volatile). Amicus recommends up to a total value of \$5 million or \$6 million (around 10% of the portfolio).*
- *With current Term Deposit rates well below the average of Council's average annual yield investment returns will fall in the coming months and so Amicus recommends Council actively pursue the strategies outlined above to mitigate the coming impact on absolute returns.*

Restriction of Funds

Council's total investment portfolio as at 31 January 2022 included funds that are restricted as to what they can be expended on.

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Table 9 – Restriction of Funds

Restriction Type	Amount	%
External Restrictions - S7.11 and S7.12 Developer Contributions	\$12,253,327	16.92%
External Restrictions - Western Parkland City Liveability Program	\$2,876,251	3.97%
External Restrictions - Bushfire and Flood Grants	\$3,340,911	4.61%
External Restrictions - Other (e.g. domestic waste, sewerage)	\$2,677,536	3.70%
Internal Restrictions (e.g. election, workers compensation, Employee Leave Entitlements)	\$21,353,924	29.49%
Unrestricted	\$29,909,757	41.31%
Total	\$72,411,706	100.00%

Unrestricted funds, whilst not subject to a restriction for a specific purpose, are fully committed to fund operational and capital expenditure in line with Council's adopted Operational Plan. As there are timing differences between the accounting for income and expenditure in line with the Plan, and the corresponding impact on Council's cash funds, a sufficient level of funds is required to be kept at all times to ensure Council's commitments are met in a timely manner. Council's cash management processes are based on maintaining enough cash levels to enable commitments to be met when due, while at the same time ensuring investment returns are maximised through term investments where possible.

In addition to funds being fully allocated to fund the Operational Plan activities, funds relating to closed self-funded programs and that are subject to legislative restrictions cannot be utilised for any purpose other than that specified. Externally restricted funds include funds relating to Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 Contributions, Domestic Waste Management, Sewerage Management, Stormwater Management and Grants.

Funds subject to an internal restriction refer to funds kept aside for specific purposes, or to meet future known expenses. This allows for significant expenditures to be met in the applicable year without having a significant impact on that year. Internally restricted funds include funds relating to Tip Remediation, Workers Compensation, and Elections.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT

The matters raised in this report have direct financial implications. The income applicable is provided for in the 2021/2022 Adopted Operational Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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Item: 041 **SS - December 2021 Quarterly Budget Review Statement - (95496, 96332)**

Previous Item: 118, Ordinary (29 June 2021)

Directorate: Support

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of its financial position as at 31 December 2021 and to seek adoption of proposed changes required to the Budget within the 2021/2022 Adopted Operational Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council is required to review its progress in achieving the financial objectives set out in its Operational Plan, within two months of the end of each quarter. The Responsible Accounting Officer must submit to Council a budget review statement that shows the revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year, referencing the estimate of income and expenditure included in the Adopted Operational plan.

The Responsible Accounting Officer has revised Council's income and expenditure for the 2021/2022 financial year and recommends revising estimates in line with Council's financial performance as at the end of December 2021, and as projected for the remainder of the financial year. This report and the relevant attachment provide information on Council's financial performance and financial position for:

- The second quarter of the 2021/2021 financial year; and
- The resulting financial position including the Budget variations proposed.

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement - December 2021 (the Statement) recommends budget adjustments that result in an overall balanced adjustment for the quarter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Receive the information contained in this report and that the Budget adjustments, as summarised in the report and detailed in Attachment 1 to the report, be adopted.
 2. Write to the various funding bodies, to seek an update on the timing of approval and payments of claims lodged by Council in regard to the March 2021 Flood.
-

BACKGROUND

Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 stipulates that the Responsible Accounting Officer of a council must prepare and submit to the Council a Budget Review Statement within two months after the end of each quarter (except the June quarter).

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework outlines that Councils are required to present a summary of the Council's financial position at the end of each quarter. It is the mechanism whereby councillors and the community are informed of the Council's progress against the Original Budget and the last revised budget along with recommended changes and reasons for major variances.

The Quarterly Budget Review Statement is the mechanism stipulated by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 for councils to revise the adopted Operational Plan for the year to reflect the actual

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financial performance as at the end of each Quarter and projected to the end of the financial year. This review ensures Council's Budget remains current and relevant throughout the financial year and provides early indication of progress in achieving financial targets.

In revising estimates, a conservative approach has been taken. Unfavourable trends relating to income outside Council's control are proposed to be adjusted to reflect the anticipated performance up to the 30 June 2022. Unfavourable trends relating to expenditure outside Council's control are also proposed to be adjusted for the same period.

While some adjustments have been made in relation to the impacts of the March 2021 Flood event, this situation is on-going in nature. Adjustments will continue to be included in future Quarterly Budget Review Statements as required.

The Statement recommends budget adjustments that result in an overall balanced adjustment for the Quarter.

Variations proposed are necessary to ensure appropriate budget allocations are available to deliver Council's Adopted Operational Plan. Refer to Attachment 1 to this report for details.

Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 1993
Local Government (General) Regulation, 2021

DISCUSSION

Financial Position

The Statement recommends budget adjustments that result in an overall balanced result.

In the opinion of the Responsible Accounting Officer, Council is in a satisfactory short term financial position taking into consideration the projected income and expenditure.

Attachment 1 to this report (distributed under separate cover) includes an executive summary of Council's financial performance as at the end of the second quarter of 2021/2022 and provides further details within financial reports provided.

The Attachment also details all the major budget variations proposed. Adjustments include variations that are minor or not operationally significant in nature and adjustments to the phasing of budgets. These latter adjustments have no impact on Council's overall Budget position or Operating Performance Ratio.

The more significant items of the December 2021 Quarterly Budget Review Statement include:

1. Favourable Adjustments:

- *Deferral of Infrastructure Loan Borrowings (\$390K)* – The 2021/2022 adopted Operational Plan includes provision for the repayment of borrowing costs and capital based on a \$10M external loan. Council will draw down this loan before the end of the financial year to take advantage of the current low loan rates. The Original Budget assumed the loan being drawn down early in the financial year, with the need for two repayments; with the deferral only one repayment will need to be covered. Accordingly, the December Quarterly Budget Review Statement includes the associated savings of \$390K.
- *Lower Portland Ferry Overhaul (\$358K)* – Under previous licensing requirements for the operation of the Lower Portland Ferry, an overhaul was required every three years. This requirement was recently reviewed and an overhaul is now required only every five years. Accordingly the overhaul is being deferred from this financial year until 2024/2025. Included in this Quarterly Budget Review is a net saving of \$358K arising from this deferral.

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- *Reimbursement of Flood Recovery Centres (\$101K)* – Council has received \$101K from Resilience NSW for the reimbursement of the costs associated with running the Hawkesbury Recovery Centres after the March 2021 Flood.
- *Deferral of Street Sweeper Replacement (\$94K)* – The Original Budget included the replacement of a street sweeper for a net cost of \$188K, with 50% funded from the Domestic Waste Reserve. A condition assessment was undertaken of the sweeper prior to replacement, and it was determined that replacement was not required until 2022/2023. This deferral results in a net \$94K savings in General Funds.
- *Section 603 Certificate Income (\$35K)* – Section 603 Certificates are obtained prior to the purchase of properties and are therefore tied to the general trend within the local property market. Council earned \$68K as at the end of December, indicating a projected \$136K end of year result, against the current budget of \$101K. Accordingly, an increase of \$35K has been included in this Quarterly Budget Review Statement.
- *Hawkesbury Eisteddfod Donation (\$22K)* – Council donates the cost of the hire of the Windsor Function Centre to assist in staging the Hawkesbury Eisteddfod. Due to health restrictions associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Hawkesbury Eisteddfod was cancelled and the donation is not required in this financial year.

2. Unfavourable Adjustments:

- *Replacement of Grader (\$539K)* – A grader used for roads construction was destroyed as a result of a fire during 2020/2021. To maintain operations a replacement grader has been hired until the purchase can be finalised, which is projected to cost a total of \$147K. An amount of \$173K was received in insurance during 2020/2021, but as it was recognised in last financial year, is unable to be used to fund the replacement in this financial year. Based on quotes, the replacement grader will cost \$392K. It is important to expedite the replacement to avoid further hire costs.
- *General Rates Income (\$183K)* – When developing the Original Budget for 2021/2022, a conservative level of growth arising from subdivisions was assumed, based on historical trends. As at the end of December 2021, the growth has been less than anticipated. Based on the income to date, a reduction in income of \$183K has been included in this Quarterly Budget Review Statement.
- *Septic Tank Inspection Income (\$99K)* – As at the end of December 2021 income from septic tank inspections was less than anticipated due to less inspections being undertaken. It has been determined that the reduced number of inspections able to be completed within the financial year, will result in a further \$99K reduction of income above the \$40K reduction made as part of the September 2021 Quarterly Budget Review.
- *Building Control Income (\$94K)* – The number of inspections conducted for Construction Certificates, Complying Development Certificates and Occupation Certificates is less than anticipated, resulting in achieving \$94K less than projected as at the end of December.
- *Scheduled Plant Replacement (\$86K)* – The amount budgeted for plant to be replaced during 2021/2022 was based on market prices at the time of development of the Budget. Since this time, plant prices have escalated substantially, mostly due to difficulties in sourcing plant from overseas. To purchase the plant due for replacement, current quotes have shown that an additional \$86K is required.
- *Asset Revaluations (\$40K)* – In order to improve the quality of asset information and meet the requirements of the NSW Audit Office, an additional \$40K is required to undertake the full revaluations for the Parks and Investment Properties categories for the financial year ending June 2022.

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3. Adjustments with Nil Impact on Council's Overall Budget position

- *Vacant Premises Campaign* – In order to maximise the potential of the remaining \$56K contribution from Windsor RSL for the Vacant Premises Campaign, it is recommended to defer this program and align it to the Windsor Revitalisation works to be undertaken as part of the Liveability project due to be undertaken during 2022/2023.
- *Windsor Mall Upgrade and Renewal* – The Windsor Revitalisation works within the Liveability Project are due to be undertaken during 2022/2023. Therefore, it is recommended that the \$368K for the Windsor Mall Upgrade and Renewal works are deferred until the next financial year.
- *Windsor Engraved Paver Project* – A total of \$26K has been collected from the sales of engraved projects to be installed, which will be used to fund the installation of these pavers.
- *Drainage Works corner of Carters Road and Bowen Mountain Road, Grose Vale* – Subsequent to a court order drainage works are required to be undertaken. The scope of the works required to be undertaken result in an additional \$570K being required in addition to the amount already included in the Budget. To fund this additional cost, \$326K for the rehabilitation of East Kurrajong Road and \$42K for drainage works in Bowen Mountain have been deferred to another financial year. Additionally, \$202K has been reduced from the reactive capital roadworks program.
- *Drainage Works Bunya Road, Bowen Mountain* – Subsequent to a court order, \$90K is required to construct drainage. It is proposed to fund these works from reducing the reactive capital roadworks program.
- *Legal Costs related to Drainage in Agnes Banks* – Council is involved in an on-going legal matter regarding drainage at Agnes Banks. Costs to date have exceeded the full year budget of \$44K, reaching \$115K as at the end of December 2021. It is proposed to fund the additional \$72K from reducing the reactive capital roadworks program.
- *Suspended Slab works for relocation of Wilberforce Rural Fire Brigade* – Council has received confirmation of funding to be allocated for the relocation of both the Hawkesbury District Fire Control Centre and Wilberforce Rural Fire Brigade. To support this relocation, Council is redirecting projects totalling \$466K related to the refurbishment of the current buildings towards the construction of a suspended concrete slab, which will be used as the basis for the construction of the new Wilberforce Rural Fire Brigade station.

4. Grants – Additional Works and Programs - \$3.0M

Several adjustments relating to grant funding successfully secured by Council, are included in this Statement. These adjustments have a nil effect on the Budget position, as amounts included for income have a corresponding amount for expenditure. The securing of grant funding assists Council to undertake works otherwise not funded through Council's available funds.

There are several major adjustments relating to grant funding, as outlined below:

- *Arts Funding Program - Museum (\$50K)* – Council has been awarded a grant of \$50K from Create NSW to contribute towards programs to be held at the Hawkesbury Regional Museum.
- *RFS Buildings (\$94K)* – As part of the Rural Fire Fighting Fund allocations, an additional \$94K has been provided from NSW RFS towards the relocation of Wilberforce Rural Fire Brigade (\$29K) and preliminaries for the New Fire Control Centre (\$65K), which is on top of the \$200K allocated as advised in the September 2021 Quarterly Budget Review.
- *COVID Response (\$45K)* – Council has received funding as part of our membership in Civic Risk Mutual to support additional cleaning requirements to reduce the risk of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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- *Bushfire Generated Green Waste Clean-up (\$1.5M)* – Funding has been received under the Environmental Protection Authority's Stream B Bushfire Generated Green Waste Clean-up and Processing Program to remove and process fire damaged vegetation from private and public properties.
- *Hawkesbury Business Support and Resilience Program (\$201K)* – Council has been provided funding under Stage 2 of the NSW Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to implement the Hawkesbury Business Support and Resilience Program. This program aims to support businesses building local tourism business' capacity and resilience with education which is industry specific as a support resource.
- *Hawkesbury Community Hubs (\$498K)* – Council has been awarded funding under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to create weekly Community Advice and Support Service hubs in five locations to aid in supporting recovery and building resilience.
- *Bilpin Cycleway and Footpath (\$456K)* – Council has been successful in its application for funding under the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to construct a reinforced concrete footpath and cycleway between the town centre, school and community hall.
- *River-flat Refuges at Bellbird Hill Reserve (\$20K)* – Bushfire Recovery funding has been received from Local Land Services – Greater Sydney for the rehabilitation of river-flat refuge areas for fauna and flora which may have been displaced by the bushfires.
- *Community Development Worker (\$170K)* – Wentworth Healthcare have provided Council with funding to recruit a temporary Community Development Officer. The funds will assist in building more resilient communities across disaster impacted areas to ensure communities are prepared for future disasters and better equipped for the recovery process.

5. Reserve Funded Adjustments

The following major adjustments are within internally or externally restricted funds, and consequently have nil impact on Council's overall position:

- *Voluntary Planning Agreements Reserve* – An amount of \$787K has been received for a Voluntary Planning Agreement in Kurmond.
- *Section 7.11 Carparking Reserve* – Council has received \$158K of Section 7.11 Developer Contributions to be used for carparking relating to an application in North Richmond.
- *Active Transport – Pitt Town* – As part of an agreement with a development consent in Pitt Town, an amount of \$214K towards active transport has been received.
- *Information Technology Reserve* – When Council replaced its communication system in 2019/2020, based on the total costs, it was determined the optimal solution was to purchase the system, as opposed to lease. As the Long-Term Financial Plan was based on a lease, the Information Technology Reserve was used to purchase outright and \$39K per year over five years is required to be repaid to the Reserve.
- *Domestic Waste Reserve* – A net increase of \$50K to this Reserve is required, with the main adjustments including:
 - Development of Waste Services and Options Assessment of \$75K;
 - Increase in income in line with amounts received of \$40K; and
 - Deferral of the replacement of the Street Sweeper, net of \$96K.

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- *Sewer Reserve* – A net reduction of \$112K to this Reserve is required, with the main adjustments including:
 - Increase cost of Pasture Improvement Program of \$24K;
 - Increased cost of plant replacement of \$69K;
 - Reactive capital repairs of \$71K; and
 - Extension of the Recycled Water Network to the Waste Management Facility of \$416K.

Impact of March 2021 Flood

As resolved at the Ordinary Meeting 27 April 2021, Council noted the ongoing work being undertaken to restore public assets and infrastructure; and to receive updates regarding the financial impact outside the adopted Budget as part of Quarterly Budget Review Statements. During the first half of the financial year, Council has incurred a total of \$3.7M of expenditure associated with flood recovery activities, of which \$0.4M has been covered by part of the \$1.0M in insurance received during 2020/2021 and \$0.4M has been funded by the Sewer Reserve, while awaiting confirmation from Council's insurers. Claims to recover costs incurred since the flood have been lodged with a range of State Agencies and most of the claims are yet to be approved.

Capital Works Delivery

There is currently a review underway regarding the progress of capital works delivery against the planned program.

7. Staff Establishment

As reported to Council at its Ordinary Meeting 23 November 2021, Council's staffing numbers in terms of Full Time Equivalents (FTE) as at the 30 September 2021 was 332.44. There has been an increase of 3.0 to 335.44 as at the 31 December 2021.

The following positions have been added:

- 1.0 FTE Liveability Construction Project Manager – grant funded, temporary
- 1.0 FTE Resilience and Emergency Management Coordinator
- 1.0 FTE Wastewater Operator

It is to be noted that throughout the year, reviews are undertaken to ensure the optimal resource mix between staff and contractors and that sufficient resourcing is available to delivery Council's services and works programs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT

The matters raised in this report have direct financial implications. If adopted, the budget proposed will be added to the current 2021/2022 Budget.

Performance against Financial Sustainability Benchmarks

Table 1 provides an update of Council's performance against the Financial Sustainability Benchmarks.

Table 1

Financial Sustainability Ratio	Benchmark	Original Budget 2021/2022	Amended Budget 2021/2022 After Sep QBRs	Amended Budget 2021/2022 After Dec QBRs
Operating Performance	>= 0	-0.06	-0.00	0.012
Own Source Revenue	> 60%	80.0%	70.8%	68.1%
Asset Renewal	> 100%	84.1%	188.3%	181.2%
Infrastructure Backlog	< 2%	1.7%	0.5%	0.6%
Asset Maintenance	> 100%	108.5%	89.1%	95.9%
Debt Service	0%-20%	4.1%	3.34%	2.79%

As shown above, there has been an improvement in the Operating Performance Ratio, which now meets the benchmark and a deterioration of the Asset Maintenance Ratio, the reasons for this are outlined below:

- a) The Operation Performance Ratio was projected to be -0.06 when developing the Original Budget. The ratio has improved because of new grants and the continuation of grants approved during 2020/2021. It is to be noted that the level of grant income recognised at the end of the financial year is dependent upon the level of expenditure relevant to the grant spent.
- b) As part of the development of the annual Financial Statements, the required level of asset maintenance is reviewed and updated accordingly. As part of the latest review, a substantial increase in required maintenance occurred because of delays in the renewal of assets during 2020/2021, arising from both COVID-19 and the March 2021 flood. As these renewals are delivered, future required maintenance levels will reduce.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 The Quarterly Budget Review Statement - December 2021 - *(Distributed under separate cover)*.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

Ordinary

Section **4**

Reports
of committees

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SECTION 4 - Reports of Committees

No Reports of Committees.

Ordinary

Section 5

Notices of motion

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Item: 042 **NM1 - Tree Canopy - (138882, 79351)**

Submitted by: Councillor Wheeler

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That Council refers to Resolution 404 from the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 12 December 2017, Increased Tree Canopy to the Environment Committee to be actioned.

BACKGROUND

On 12 December 2021 Council resolved:

"That Council receive a report on policy and methods of increasing the tree canopy in residential areas including but not limited to:

1. *Review of Blacktown's "Cool Streets" program and its relevance to the Hawkesbury LGA, and the work done by Penrith City Council in conjunction with The University of Technology Sydney.*
2. *Development of a recommended species list in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Environment Network.*
3. *Specific actions to increase tree canopy on Council controlled land, especially footpaths and car parks.*
4. *Actions to maintain and improve existing and mature canopy.*
5. *Clarification of the Greater Sydney Commission's canopy cover calculations."*

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications applicable to this report.

NOTE BY MANAGEMENT

A report titled- Increased Tree Canopy (attached) was discussed at the Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting on 10 December 2018. Subsequently the matter was resolved at Council's Ordinary Meeting on the 12 December 2018.

Since Council Ordinary Meeting on 12 December 2018 a number of actions are being undertaken to address increasing tree canopy within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area:

Net Zero Emissions and Water Efficiency Strategy

Council adopted the Net Zero Emissions and Water Efficiency Strategy in March 2021. This Strategy includes tree canopy targets in line with the NSW Government Architects Draft Greener Places Design Guide:

- 15% CBD
- 25% medium to high density areas
- 40% in low density areas

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The sections of the Strategy addressing Greener suburbs, better design and Drought resilient, green centres, highlight the importance of increasing tree canopy and provide examples in which tree canopy can be increased. Staff are working through these actions, as resourcing and opportunity arise.

Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement

Council received advice from the Greater Sydney Commission on 8 February 2021 that the Commission supports Hawkesbury City Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement as being consistent with the Greater Sydney Region Plan and Western City District Plan under Section 3.9(3A) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Council then adopted the Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement at its Ordinary Meeting on 23 February 2021.

Planning Priority 10 of the adopted Local Strategic Planning Statement is:

An aware and resilient city that can adapt to natural hazards of flood, bushfire and climate change.

A key action in terms of delivering on that priority is Action 10.7:

Prepare and implement an Urban Tree Strategy including connections to the green grid.

Council staff are currently preparing applications for funding under the Greener Neighbourhoods Grant to undertake this Urban Tree Strategy, as detailed below.

Greening Our City Grants

Recently, Council has successfully obtained grant funding to plant trees to increase canopy cover within the LGA and mitigate the impacts of urban heat. This funding is provided by the NSW Government to address the Premier Priority of Greening our City. This priority acknowledges the impacts of urban heat within the Sydney Metropolitan Area and identifies that increasing tree canopy is a step towards mitigating the impacts of urban heat within our communities.

The adoption of the Net Zero Emissions and Water Efficiency Strategy along with the Town Centre Masterplan, both highlighting the impacts of urban heat on our community, contributed to Council successfully obtaining these funds. These Strategic documents show Council's commitment to addressing the issue and alignment to our Integrated Planning and Reporting Frameworks, and the Greater Sydney Region Plan and Western City District Plan.

In the past, these grants have required matched funding by Council, however this was not required in the last grant round. It is important to note that tree planting has been possible within the LGA in recent years due to grant funding, either through the Greening Our City and 5 Million Trees Grant Programs or the Liveability Project funds.

Mapping Data

Urban Heat and Urban Canopy mapping has been provided to Council by the Department of Planning and Environment. The data is provided for each Sydney Metropolitan Council for the years 2016 and 2019. The Department of Planning and Environment has committed to updating this data set every two years. When applying for the previous round of Greening our City Grants, this data assisted Council staff in determining the suburbs most affected by heat, and in turn in most need of tree canopy.

Tree Management Procedure

Through Council's membership of the Department of Planning and Environment's, Sustainability Advantage Program, a consultant has been working with staff on the development of a Tree Management Procedure. The purpose of this procedure is to provide clear and transparent direction regarding the management of all trees that are the responsibility of Hawkesbury City Council.

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Tree Inventory

The Parks and Recreation Team have an existing budget allocation to undertake a tree inventory, targeting the trees located in main town centres. The inventory will provide staff with information such as location, number of trees per street/ suburb, species, age and health etc. In order for Council to adequately manage its existing tree canopy, the first step is knowing, and understanding our existing canopy.

Greener Neighbourhoods Grant

Council staff are currently applying for funds under the Greener Neighbourhoods grant program. If successful, the funds will be used to engage a suitably qualified consultant to develop an Urban Forest Strategy for the Hawkesbury LGA. The Development of an Urban Forest Strategy is an action contained within Council's adopted Local Strategic Planning Statement. The Strategy will provide strategic alignment to both internal and State Government policies. It will also assist to coordinate Council's current cross-organisational projects that contribute to increasing canopy cover.

WSROC Urban Heat Planning Toolkit

Council staff were involved in the development of the WSROC's Urban Heat Planning Toolkit. The Toolkit was finalised last year and focuses on strategies, within the context of local planning provisions, that can be implemented in new development and redevelopment in order to reduce urban heat. Landscaping provisions impact on the ability of these types of developments to provide green space and canopy.

The recommendations within the Toolkit are being considered as part of Council's review and update of the LEP and DCP.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Report responding to the Notice of Motion of the 12 December 2017 Council Meeting.

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AT - 1 Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Report responding to the Notice of Motion of the 12 December 2017 Council Meeting

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 10 December 2018

Item: 5 **ESAC - Increased Tree Canopy - (124414, 126363)**

Division: City Planning

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on actions being undertaken in response to a Notice of Motion raised at Council's Ordinary meeting on 12 December 2017 regarding the creation of a policy and methods of increasing the tree canopy in residential areas.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY:

That the information is received, and the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee provides advice to Council on the matter prior to a report being prepared for consideration by Council.

REPORT:

Context and Background

A Notice of Motion from Councillor Wheeler in terms of increasing tree canopy for the Hawkesbury Local Government Area was raised at Council's Ordinary Meeting on 12 December 2017. Following consideration of the Notice of Motion, Council resolved the following:

1. *Review of Blacktown Council's "Cool Streets" program and its relevance to the Hawkesbury LGA, and the work done by Penrith City Council in conjunction with the University of Technology Sydney.*
2. *Development of a recommended species list in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Environment Network.*
3. *Specific actions to increase tree canopy on Council controlled land, especially footpaths and car parks.*
4. *Actions to maintain and improve existing and mature canopy.*
5. *Clarification of the Greater Sydney Commission's canopy cover calculation.*

Since the adoption of the resolution, research and discussion has been undertaken, with the following comments made in respect of each item:

Resolution # 1

Review of Blacktown's "Cool Streets" program and its relevance to the Hawkesbury LGA, and the work done by Penrith City Council in conjunction with the University of Technology Sydney.

Relevant officers from Council's Parks and Recreation and Strategic Planning Sections have attended a number of meetings to discuss ways of responding to the requirements of the above resolutions of Council.

From these meetings, input has been received from all relevant staff, and a summary of these comments is as follows:

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Relevance of the Cool Streets Program to the Hawkesbury

Blacktown City Council's Cool Streets project aims to tackle the Urban Heat Island Effect with street trees.

As with much of Western Sydney, Blacktown already experiences high temperatures during summer. Large-scale developments that are changing farmland into medium density suburbs in the North West of the LGA are expected to have a significant impact on heat in the region.

Street trees are a simple and effective way to mitigate urban heat, as well as providing shade to residents and increasing street appeal. Research also shows that well-selected, well-placed street trees can reduce household energy bills.

Blacktown faced two challenges. Needing to ensure any plan addressed the occasionally conflicting requirements of authorities, service providers and residents and the common community perception that all trees are messy, dangerous, difficult to maintain and ruin kerbs and guttering.

The latter was a legacy of poor tree species selection in former decades.

The Cool Streets program sought to tackle these issues through intelligent streetscape design, good species selection and greater community participation in street tree design and planting.

Blacktown engaged consultants and landscape architects to develop street tree designs that reduce both average ambient temperature and residential energy consumption.

They included passive climate control through the strategic placement of tree species including taller trees in the West to cut hot afternoon sun, smaller trees in the east to let in morning light, and deciduous trees in areas that required more warmth in winter.

Once these designs had been developed, Blacktown City Council began the second part of the program; community engagement and implementation.

The program started with a series of community consultations in two treeless Blacktown streets.

The consultation began by holding a weekend barbecue in each of the selected streets to start the conversation about street trees with local residents.

An initial survey confirmed Council's anecdotal knowledge:

- some residents have concerns about safety and leaf litter;
- new street trees were often damaged or removed by residents;
- formal applications to remove trees were often prompted by unfounded concerns that branches may fall; and
- residents were typically informed about plantings in their street but not consulted.

Council officers also took the event as an opportunity to explain the benefits of street trees and why they wanted to increase tree cover in the area. Residents were shown images of a number of planting scenarios (including small trees, medium trees and large trees) and asked for feedback.

The consultation showed that after the benefits of well-selected street trees were explained, residents were keen to have trees planted in their street – with some commenting it was unfair other streets would have trees while theirs didn't.

By combining feedback from the consultation and the research, Blacktown City Council brought a final street scape design back to the residents to explain why it was chosen.

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Once the design was approved, the residents got involved in a planting event with the Mayor of Blacktown City, Councillor Stephen Bali.

Council found that not only were residents more positive about street trees following the program, but there was less vandalism of the newly planted trees.

Residents reported a greater sense of ownership for their street trees, and some actively engaged in taking care of them through watering.

Pros:

The approach that Blacktown Council used in engaging with the community to participate in the design of their streetscape as well as the actual planting of the street trees is commendable. This is a great way of empowering the community, not only giving the community a sense of ownership of the project but it also helped them to better understand and value the role that street trees can play. The program provided an added benefit of improving social interactions between neighbours and developing a sense of community.

If this program was adopted in the Hawkesbury, it is proposed that this approach be taken on each street that is part of the program, rather than just the streets used in the pilot program. (It seemed that once Blacktown developed a series of streetscapes then these were used in other areas, but it wasn't clear whether the community participation and decision making continued).

The engagement of consultants and landscape architects to develop the street tree plan ensured that the design could maximise the environmental outcomes. The Cool Streets Model can test a variety of layouts and rank the options based on their effectiveness in reducing Co2 emissions and maximising shade.

Cons:

The Cool Streets Model seems to only focus on shade and Co2 emissions. It is important to also consider biodiversity values, stormwater treatment, heritage and aesthetic values when designing a streetscape. These may be included elsewhere in the design process but don't seem to be included in the ranking process.

Street tree planting designs also need to consider the amount of natural light that is needed to make dwellings inviting/comfortable and also allow for solar access for warmth and/or energy production if solar panels are installed. There is not enough information about the program/model that indicates any of these issues have been considered.

The Cool Streets Model claims that changes to layout and species used could provide 7 times the environmental benefits of a standard design, however there is no data to back this claim or explain what a standard design is.

Consideration:

The Cool Streets Model is very simplified, however it could be adapted to be more holistic and consider broader factors such as biodiversity, heritage, street character. Incorporation of other vegetation layers should also be considered, not just trees. It is suggested that a more strategic plan is developed in the first instance that identifies the role/function of certain streets, and then the Cool Streets model could be applied to streets that have a general access role. Streets that have a higher biodiversity role or transport role may require a different model.

This model is one tool that can be used to mitigate the effects of Urban Heat, however it needs to be used in conjunction with other strategies.

Relevance of the work done by Penrith City Council in conjunction with The University of Technology Sydney:

Penrith City Council has a Cooling the City Strategy that considers multiple strategies for mitigating the effects of urban heat. The specific project that Hawkesbury Councillors were interested in was aimed at

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re-designing bus shelters to maximise thermal performance (be cooler). It was a grant funded project run in conjunction with the University of Technology Sydney and involved a design competition. A prototype was produced and installed next to an existing bus shelter to allow direct comparison (November 2017). Key features of the design include a distinctive roof that provides greater overhang to provide more shade and include cross flow ventilation to remove heat that accumulates under the roof which is also insulated to minimise heat gain. It was found that the shelter demonstrated it was possible to influence radiation, temperature and user thermal comfort within the shelters. The shelter was 4°C cooler than the older style bus shelter. The results provide Council's with solid evidence to consider in the design of future bus shelters to maximise protection from heat. There is no information to indicate that further designs will be undertaken by anyone.

Installation of specially designed bus stops could have a significant effect on the comfort and health of users and reduce the effect of heat stress on vulnerable members of the community, particularly the elderly, the mobility, vision and hearing impaired, as well as the very young and economically disadvantaged.

Some of the other strategies mentioned with the Cooling the City Strategy include very general programs for increasing tree canopy cover that would not necessarily be recommended as the results would be very random and may not yield desired long term results e.g. general plant giveaways, One Tree per Child program, etc.

Some strategies that would be worth considering are the inclusion of Water Sensitive Urban Design, increased shade and use of Cool materials in the design of community spaces e.g. parks, civic places, car parks etc. Also, training of staff on water sensitive urban design and green engineering to build skills and capacity within Council is another idea that is considered to be worth exploring.

Another factor raised is that Penrith have a street tree inventory. This is something that Hawkesbury currently does not have. If Council is serious about street trees and their necessary ongoing maintenance and management, it is really important that street trees are included in our Assets Register. Street Trees cannot be properly valued nor have appropriate budgets assigned to their management if they are not on the asset register.

Another important fact that was raised in the strategy is that low income households are regularly concentrated in the parts of Australia's cities with the highest land surface temperatures which means that people most vulnerable to heat related health impact are often living in areas with the highest heat exposure and the lowest levels of vegetation.

WSROC – Turn Down the Heat Program

It should also be noted that officers are attending the WSROC Turn Down the Heat Strategy and Action Plan session at The Ponds on 5 December. Outcomes from that session will be highlighted at the Committee Meeting in order to assist further discussion by the Committee.

Resolution # 2

Development of a recommended species list in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Environment network (HEN)

Council has already developed a tree species list of suitable trees for the Hawkesbury Local Government Area which is being reviewed and updated where required.

Also, the "Which Plant Where" program is currently being developed by Macquarie University which will generate an interactive online data base to identify the plants best suited to cope with the environment changes forecast for the next 50 years offering more reliable ways of greening our cities. (see Attachment 1 - <https://www.whichplantwhere.com.au/>)

Under the 5 Million Trees for Greater Sydney Program there is currently an interactive web based tool that is available which gives a species list by entering a postcode which then produces a suitable list of species

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for that area based on other criteria such as, frost tolerance, sun positioning, native or exotic etc. (see Attachment 2 - <https://5milliontrees.nsw.gov.au/search>)

It is proposed that an updated species list that is specific to the Hawkesbury Local Government Area be developed using a combination of the above three resources. Once developed, the species list can be referred to the Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) and to the wider community for comment.

Resolution # 3

Specific actions to increase tree canopy on Council controlled land, especially footpaths and car parks.

And

Resolution # 4

Actions to maintain and improve existing and mature canopy.

One of the key issues surrounding any street tree management plan across the board is that these trees in the urban environment have a finite lifespan and as such should be treated like any other asset. They have a life expectancy and will need replacement, some in 20yrs, others 30yrs depending on the location and species. This needs to be factored in and over time and costed into any future program.

In addition, if such a program is commenced and 5,000 trees are planted each year over the next ten years, Council would then have 50,000 additional trees that require ongoing maintenance and the cost implications will require careful consideration.

Council has a number of streets with heritage listed trees, which will need to be addressed in the project as well. Again, Council has some large trees that are coming to the end of their life in the urban environment, which will need to be replaced. Given the significance of some of the streets, Council needs to start planning now for a program of renewal and replacement of these trees to maintain the streetscape that has been generated. Community consultation on this matter could be particularly difficult. An expert arborist will need to be engaged to undertake the assessment and develop the project. In these situations Council may need to look at the entire streetscape including the pavement and create supersized planter boxes underground and use structural soils to allow for the development of the tree. Again experts will be needed to address these issues.

What is clear is that in the absence of an overall Urban Forest Strategy that provides a clear direction and processes to follow in this respect, Council will only be dealing with such matters on an individual piecemeal basis. It is considered that the development of an Urban Forest Strategy should be considered in the 2019/2020 budget process.

Resolution # 5

Clarification of the Greater Sydney Commission's canopy cover calculations.

The following is an extract from the Greater Sydney Commission's web site:

Urban Tree Canopy Cover Is Increased

Objective 30

The urban tree canopy is a form of green infrastructure providing shade, which reduces ambient temperatures and mitigates the heat island effect. The urban heat island effect is where large amounts of hard and dark-coloured surfaces like roads and roofs cause localised warming.

Every 10 per cent increase in tree canopy cover can reduce land surface temperatures by 1.13 degrees Celsius.

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The urban tree canopy also has environmental benefits. It provides habitat, helps protect the health of waterways and removes fine particles from the air to improve air quality. Recent research shows that urban tree canopy is greatly valued by communities. A 10 per cent increase in street tree canopy can increase the value of properties by an average of \$50,000.

Urban tree canopy along streets and in the public domain contributes to the Greater Sydney Green Grid and makes walking and cycling more appealing. Greater Sydney's urban tree canopy is made up of trees along streets, in parks and other public spaces, and on privately owned land including front and backyards. It includes native vegetation and exotic and deciduous trees.

As Greater Sydney grows and urban areas become denser, extending urban tree canopy is one of the most effective ways to improve amenity. A target has been set to increase tree canopy cover to 40 per cent, up from the current 23 per cent. Urban tree canopy can be complemented by green ground cover, rain gardens, green roofs and green walls.

Challenges to extending urban tree canopy include the lack of sufficient space within existing street corridors, and the competition for space with other forms of infrastructure both above and below the ground. Opportunities to relocate powerlines underground or bundle them may be explored at a local or precinct scale, particularly in areas experiencing urban renewal, to provide space for the urban tree canopy and enhance the public domain. Extending urban tree canopy should be balanced with the need to allow sunlight into homes and onto roofs for solar power.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has prepared the draft Greenfield Housing Code, which will help to provide more space for trees in both front and backyards in new residential areas. To complement this, up to 5,000 trees a year will be provided over the next three years, under the Free Tree Initiative, to owners of new homes approved under the complying development code in Greater Sydney's greenfield areas.

Urban Green Cover in NSW Technical Guidelines provides practical information for planning and expanding urban tree canopy and green ground cover. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is preparing an urban tree canopy manual, as part of a green infrastructure policy framework, to support the expansion of urban tree canopy.

Planning and designing new neighbourhoods, including urban renewal, should prioritise expanding urban tree canopy in the public realm. Setting neighbourhood benchmarks for tree canopy cover is a useful approach. Planning controls need to protect urban tree canopy on privately owned land and provide incentives for residents to develop green roofs and green walls.

Councils can play a major role in recognising and reporting on urban tree canopy alongside other local infrastructure assets.

Several councils have developed innovative strategies, such as Sutherland Council's Greenweb program, to enhance and extend the urban tree canopy.

Proposed Future Actions

Based on the information gathered and the comments from relevant officers who have an active role to play in the rolling out of any future policy/strategy or methodology that may be developed in relation to Urban Heat Islands and increasing tree canopies in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, it is suggested that a strategy be developed using the existing research that has been undertaken by Penrith and Blacktown Council's as these areas are very similar to the Hawkesbury area in relation to temperatures experienced during our summer periods.

Such a strategy could then feed into Council's DCP review process for new urban developments, as well as addressing increases in tree canopies in established parts of our city as part of the revitalisation of public places currently being undertaken by Council.

The following is a list of possible recommendations that the Committee may wish to consider as part of advice to Council:

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Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 10 December 2018

Proposed Recommendations:

- Council develop a strategy for dealing with Climate Change which includes multiple strategies to reduce the impact of Urban Heat which can include increasing urban tree cover to 40% as well as bus stop design, use of reflective surfaces e.g. roofing and roads, permeable paving etc.
- Council develop a Streetscape Design Guideline that is holistic and that consider regional objectives as well as local objectives e.g. green corridors that link towns, public transport and residential areas. Guidelines should also balance extending the urban tree canopy with the need to allow sunlight into homes and onto roofs for solar power.
- Develop a plan for the progressive improvement of urban canopy on streets, car parks, parks and other public spaces to focus effort and achieve the greatest impact.
- Apply for grant funding to develop the above strategies as well as for on-ground works to increase shade cover particularly in areas where the most vulnerable members of the community reside or work – senior living areas, schools, less economically advantaged areas, car parks, commercial and industrial areas. (The Five Million Trees initiative provides funding and is being considered by the Committee separately).
- Use the Cool Streets Model when developing and implementing the streetscape plan to bring the community on board as well as to ensure maximum environmental benefits from the plan.
- The recommended species list needs to be developed in conjunction with specialists as well as all members of the community, not just special interest groups. Species lists may be needed on a suburb by suburb or street basis and be orientation specific (e.g. east-west or north-south) as well as include shrub and ground layer plants.
- Ensure that all relevant planning documents consider appropriate strategies for reducing the impact of the urban heat island effect and that green infrastructure is integrated into design e.g. LEP, DCPs.
- Consider a tree replacement policy where any approvals granted for the removal of a mature tree on private property requires a replacement tree to be planted.
- Council include street trees in Council's Asset register. It is important to consider that Green Infrastructures is just as crucial as transport, cultural and communications infrastructure.

Prior to reporting the findings of this research and proposed future actions to Council, this report is presented to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee for discussion and comment and formulation of advice to Council.

Consultation

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

Conformance to the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036

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

Our Environment

3.1 The natural environment is protected and enhanced

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: 10 December 2018

- 3.1.1 Encourage effective management and protection of our rivers, waterways, riparian land, surface and ground waters, and natural eco-systems through local action and regional partnerships
- 3.1.2 Act to protect and improve the natural environment, including working with key agency partners.
- 3.1.3 Minimise our community's impacts on habitat and biodiversity, and protect areas of conservation value

Financial Implications

Should the Committee resolve to provide advice to Council based on the proposed recommendations there will be financial implications to Council that will need to be considered in further detail.

Fit For The Future Strategy Considerations

Does not align with a Fit for The Future Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information is received, and the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee provide advice to Council on the matter prior to a report being prepared for consideration by Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** "Which Plant Where" program currently being developed by Macquarie University information (distributed under separate cover)
- AT - 2** Five Million Trees for Greater Sydney interactive web based tool information (distributed under separate cover)

oooO END OF REPORT Ooo

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Item: 043 **NM2 - Loss of Key Courses at Richmond College of TAFE - (138882, 79351)**

Submitted by: Councillor Wheeler

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That Council:

1. Contact the Member for Hawkesbury, Ms Robyn Preston, and the Member for Macquarie, Ms Susan Templeman, as well as the Minister for Skills and Training, Mr Alister Henskens, the Shadow Minister for Skills and TAFE, Mr Tim Crakanthorp, Greens Education and TAFE Spokesperson Mr Mr David Shoebridge, and Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Leader Mr Robert Borsak, outlining Council's concerns with the loss of key courses from Richmond TAFE, including Equine Studies, and Cert III Conservation and Land Management, and requests that they each pursue a reversal of these cuts and any further cuts to Richmond TAFE funding and service provision.
2. Include in the above correspondence, the following:
 - a) The potential impacts of the loss of the above courses on the equine industry locally, a key economic driver in the Hawkesbury, worth nearly \$160 million annually and employing approximately 700 people*.
 - b) The loss of the Cert III Conservation and Land Management prevents local weed control authority Hawkesbury River County Council, hiring trainees in 2022, reducing an already limited workforce and removing high quality training opportunities for local young people. The only comparable course is run at Tocal a 3 hours drive from Windsor.
 - c) Richmond TAFE is an important component of Hawkesbury and Western Sydney's education mix, improving the lives and employment opportunities of people who live, work and study here.
 - d) The move to a Connected Learning Centre at Richmond does not provide the hands-on learning required by practical industries like equine and horticulture, and will devalue Richmond as a learning centre.
3. Contact WSROC to tell them of the concerns expressed in Part 2 and requests their help in lobbying for the retention of funding and courses at Richmond TAFE.

* Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement, 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications applicable to this report.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Item: 044 **NM3 - Council Consider Using Modular Infrastructure Biological Services Systems - (138881, 79351)**

Submitted by: Councillor Kotlash

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That:

1. Council notes Section 3.3.1 in our Community Strategic Plan that says:

"Develop and maintain active partnerships that will result in the innovative management of our community's waste, with an emphasis on resource recovery and waste minimization."
2. Council notes that work is underway to develop a Waste Strategy and asks that this Strategy considers the feasibility of using Modular Infrastructure Biological Services (MIBS) systems, (e.g. black fly maggots) to reduce the amount of food waste going to our landfill, reduce carbon emissions and to produce sustainable by-products.
3. Council notes that it will be in a better position to seek grant funding for projects such the use of MIBS systems when contained within a broader endorsed strategy.
4. Council requests that the Environment Committee provide advice to Council on the feasibility of the use of such systems and this advice be provided in consultation with waste experts from other government agencies and industry, the hospitality and grocery industries and the like and the broader community.
5. In parallel to relying on grant funding, consideration be given for the funding of implementation of these types of biological systems (possibly in pilot form) in the 2022/2023 Operational Plan, as well as in the long-term planning to address landfill life extension and location shortages.

BACKGROUND

Albury City Council started using its first biological food waste system in January 2022. The system uses black soldier fly larvae to consume food waste, dramatically reducing the amount that would otherwise go to landfill, processing up to five tonnes of food waste per day, and reducing greenhouse gas emission by 97%. Waste can be processed from all industries including restaurants, supermarkets, manufacturing and other retail and hospitality as well as from the community.

Another huge benefit is that these types of systems are truly sustainable, producing protein for animal feed and high-quality soil conditioner.

Moving in this direction is in line with the NSW Government's - NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 Stage 1: 2021-2027.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Item: 045 **NM4 - Review of Parking Controls in Town Centres - (125612, 79351)**

Submitted by: Councillor Lyons-Buckett

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That Council carry out a review of issues associated with parking controls and availability in our Town Centres (retail precincts) including, but not limited to:

1. Suitability of areas designated for various types of parking (general, loading zones, disabled parking spots).
2. Timed parking zones and adequacy of the time limits imposed.
3. Possibility of the introduction of a permit system for business operators, or provision of additional all day parking.

BACKGROUND

We know that over the past couple of years during the Pandemic the patterns of local retail areas has changed, with fluctuations in customer patronage.

We wish to support our local businesses undergoing the recovery phase from the pandemic, including ensuring there is adequate and appropriately timed parking available in our Town Centres (our major retail areas, and other retail areas which have timed parking spaces allocated).

An advantage of having people working from home has been the increase in utilisation of local retailers, and naturally it would be ideal to see this level of support continue.

There are some proposed changes around parking involved in the Liveability Project for Richmond, Windsor and South Windsor. Due to this work being undertaken and the potential changes around COVID related shopping habits, it would be timely to review the amounts and types of parking available.

We also know that some business owner/operators are faced with challenges around finding all day parking. It is not an ideal situation for a shop owner to have to be regularly closing up shop and going to move their car. At times this presents them with the choice of losing a customer or receiving a parking fine.

NOTE BY MANAGEMENT

Council investigates parking matters at varying degrees of scope. At the lowest level, Council will consider individual streets or segments of streets for the suitability, normally in response to requests from the community or business owners. The next level up from this would be on a precinct or town centre basis. Such an investigation is complex and must consider the inter-dependencies and relationship across on-street and off-street parking and the business mix. A study of this nature would be outsourced to ensure the appropriate expertise is involved. It is estimated that a study of, for example, the Windsor Town Centre, would cost in the order of \$15,000 to \$25,000 depending on the exact scope and degree of survey and investigation required. Lastly is the strategic overlay which would examine matters of the opportunity, demand and acceptance of metered parking, various parking schemes and other related matters, across the LGA, or at the least those parts that either currently experience parking demand or are likely to in the five to ten year horizon. It is more difficult to estimate the costs of such a strategic body of work, however it would be anticipated that it would be between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

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Please be advised that Council is required to prepare a new Delivery Program which will involve engagement with Councillors.

At this stage information is being gathered regarding services, programs, strategies and activities that Council is already committed to which will enable Councillors to consider other suggested work/projects and the cost, timing and potentially what work may not be undertaken or may need to be reprioritised. The proposed motion could be considered for potential inclusion in the development of the new Delivery Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Item: 046 **NM5 - Wastage on Projects and Grants - (155346, 79351)**

Submitted by: Councillor Dogramaci

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That Council:

1. Be provided:
 - a) The full expenditure, cost of the transfer of the sewage from the failed pump behind Windsor Toyota to the treatment plant. Including the full payment to the Council contracted companies.
 - b) Full details and the individual companies' details, names, number of trips from the pump station to the treatment plant, full details of the person/s in charge of checking the number of the trips-not limited but; how many trips, how many days and each trip cost to council.
 - c) The investigation - if carried out on the reason/s of this pump's (failure-out of 20 plus perhaps 30) regular maintenance if carried out and Council's actions regarding the preventative maintenance details.
2. Investigate the long term delivery options of wastewater services.
3. Be provided the reasons for donating \$3,000 to Cobargo Wellness Group.

BACKGROUND

I am asking the support of the fellow Councillors whom I believe in their diligent work and passion to save every cent, if they do so that this Council might be wasting on projects/grants and other works which I have personally investigated. Staples and Cleanaway, and others, I personally drove to the pump station, took photos, followed both contractors' tankers twice, while picking-up the raw sewage and dumping it to the treatment plant.

I am also seeking information on a grant to the Cobargo Wellness Group. While we scream that Hawkesbury Council does not have enough funds for urgent works, Council cries that no funds available for example "Women's Cottage", "Victims of domestic violence" and others, who initiated this donation, and others I am investigating who authorised it, which Councillors has any involvement and do we have other donations to other councils, similar to this one?

NOTE BY MANAGEMENT

It has been approximately four weeks since the detection of the fault on rising main C. The failure occurred not with any pumping infrastructure, but with the pipeline itself; initial investigations point to either a rupture or separation of the pipeline as being the origin of the spill, with the root cause yet to be determined.

Council has concluded the initial response phase which involved determining the extent of the spill, containment of the spill to ensure no further impact on public health or the environment, initial actions to protect public health and statutory reporting obligations. While response activities, such as the transfer of sewage to Council's Wastewater Treatment Facilities and water quality monitoring are continuing, Council is now predominantly in the recovery phase, with our focus being on the permanent restoration of rising main C.

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While this work is being undertaken, Council continues to review its interim operations with a view to achieving the greatest value for the community, including the investigation of a temporary fix to remove the requirement for transporting sewage by road.

As we remain in the recovery phase, any review of costs and the arrangements which are currently in place would be premature, inaccurate and out of date given the ongoing operations.

Matters raised in point 1(b) are considered to be operational in nature. It should be noted that any approach by Councillors to Council's contractors is prevented by Clause 7.2 of Council's Code of Conduct.

Cobargo Wellness Group sought funding under Council's 2020/2021 Community Sponsorship Program to deliver a wellbeing-community arts project to fire affected Hawkesbury communities. The program involved creative arts workshops for children, trauma recovery workshops, a theatre show, a wellbeing forum and follow up digital resource kit.

Council at its meeting on 25 January 2021 resolved to approve the payment of \$3,000 to Cobargo Wellness Group under Council's Community Sponsorship Program in Round 1 of the 2020/2021 Program.

The application for financial assistance from Cobargo Wellness Group was scored in accordance with the assessment matrix in the Community Sponsorship Strategy and was deemed eligible for funding.

Cobargo Wellness Group has worked in partnership with Hawkesbury Communities Outreach Services and Peppercorn's Recovery Support Service to deliver this project. The activities within the proposal that require face to face engagement are planned for October 2022.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 - Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Item: 047 **NM6 - Pathway Construction - Pitt Town Road - (155346, 79351)**

Submitted by: Councillor Dogramaci

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That in relation to the construction of the footpath on Pitt Town Road, Council be provided:

1. Full details of the contractor;
2. Was the contractor paid for this project from Windsor Road to Ivy Avenue, or from Charles Street to Ivy Avenue.

BACKGROUND

I seek the support of the fellow Councillors in investigating and reason/s of not following up the pathway construction's details cost on Pitt Town Road whom I personally watched the excavation, placing the mesh and pouring concrete. I drive that road no less than 3-4 times a day.

Having received the preliminary advice of staff I am concerned. Staff have confirmed that the footpath planned by the Council staff was from Ivy Avenue, McGraths Hill to Windsor Road. This distance must apparently be planned and charged, constructed by the contractor. The constructed footpath however, started at Charles Street, McGraths Hill and ended at Ivy Avenue. There is a discrepancy of payment to be questioned/over payment or for work not done but charged for about 150 metres of work.

The work started and completed from Windsor Road to Ivy Avenue, my physical evidence shows it is NOT so. The design/planned pathway itself is an ugly and questioning one. It starts alongside Pitt Town Road for about 200 metres from Windsor Road, for 80 metres it is straight, then bends right at 20 degrees right, then goes left around the power poll, for 50 metres then drops about 300mm, where there is a sign "Old Hawkesbury Road" then for 50 metres is straight, suddenly bends to left then right near the main road and at some areas are below the natural contour of the adjoining land. Right in the middle of the pathway, there is a ditch that intended use of the pathway to assist school children to walk, may easily fall in.

On Monday, 7 February 2022, while driving home, I noticed a small dump truck with two workers shovelling "road base" on either side of the footpath. I stopped and asked them about the work and to my amazement, they were filling-up the collapsed dirt/soil from the side of the pathway where there is about a 100mm ditch right next to it. A child could easily fall, and interestingly, either side of the pathway has already been covered with dense bush/weed that will need to be regularly cut-here is yet another mismanagement in design, planning and authorisation of typical failure of bureaucracy and wasting ratepayers money. (\$175.000).

We need the full report and explanation asap.

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NOTE BY MANAGEMENT

This project was funded from Phase 2 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, a federally funded program. The initial scope of the project was to construct a footpath from Ivy Avenue to Windsor Road along the northern side of Pitt Town Road.

Construction of the path concluded at approximately 19 Pitt Town Road owing to the presence of drainage issues (ponding water) and the constraint on width between the travel lane and property boundaries. Addressing the cause of the drainage issue is the responsibility of Transport for NSW to resolve and staff are presently attempting to discuss this with TfNSW, as well as how to overcome the constraint on width.

The cost of the project reflects the actual length of path constructed, not the initial scope.

Whilst staff are able to provide the name of the contractor engaged to undertake the work, the purpose for seeking the detail is unclear. The awarding of contracts and procurement processes are subject to the strict provisions of the Local Government Act and Council's own procurement policies to ensure probity and value for money. All contracts entered into over \$150,000 in value are reported publicly through Council's Annual Report.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF NOTICE OF MOTION Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
Questions for Next Meeting
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

Item: 048 **Response to Councillor Question Taken on Notice at the Council Meeting 8 February 2022 - (79351)**

The following question was raised from a Councillor regarding matter on the Council Meeting Business Paper of 8 February 2022. This question was taken on notice and the response is provided below.

#	Councillor	Question	Response
1	Kotlash	The area where people are parking at Mulgrave Railway Station is that on RTA Transport for NSW, Infrastructure NSW land or is some of it Council's property.	The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that that there is parking on both sides of the railway line at Mulgrave Railway Station. The majority of the land is owned by Transport Asset Holding Entity of NSW (basically the NSW Government with Transport for NSW). This area is highlighted in red in the diagram below. The remainder of the land which is commonly used for commuter parking is either road reserve (in grey) or privately held freehold land.



oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
Confidential Reports
Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Item: 049 **SS - Property Matter - Lease to Urban City Consulting Pty Ltd - Johnson Wing, 4 Christie Street, Windsor - (112106, 95496, 85782)**

Directorate: Support Services

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

Confidential Reports

Meeting Date: 22 February 2022

Item: 050 SS - Proposed Road Closure Adjoining 24 Toll House Way, Windsor - (95496, 112106)

Previous Item: 157, Ordinary (10 August 2021)

Directorate: Support Services

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) and (g) of the Act as it relates to details concerning the sale of property by the Council 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.