



Hawkesbury City Council

ordinary
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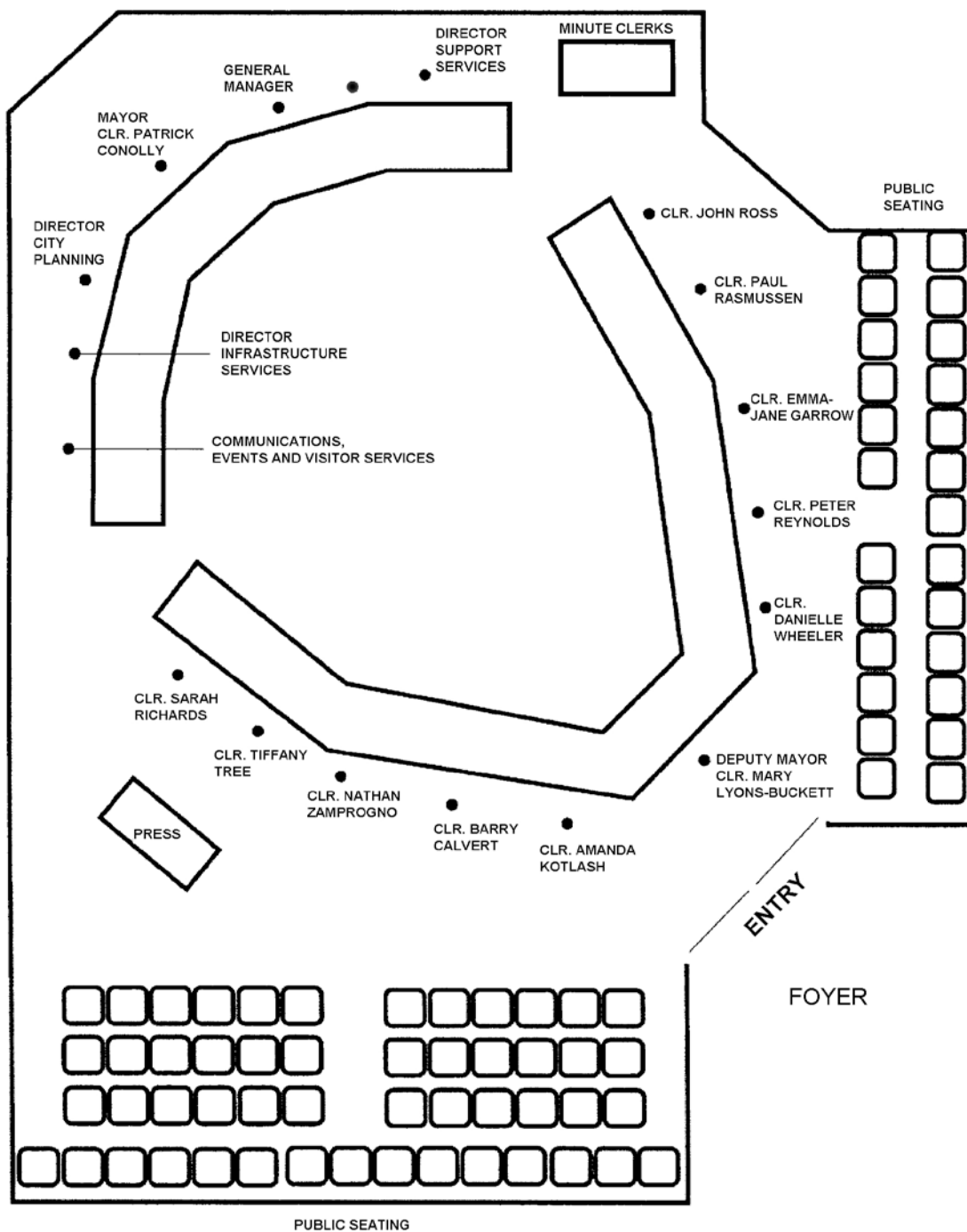
date of meeting: 14 September 2021
location: by audio-visual link
time: 6:30 p.m.



mission statement

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

Hawkesbury City Council



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ORDINARY MEETING
Procedural Matters
Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

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: 14 September 2021

ordinary

section 1

confirmation of minutes

ORDINARY MEETING

SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes

Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes



Hawkesbury City Council

ordinary meeting minutes

date of meeting: 31 August 2021

location: by audio-visual link

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ORDINARY MEETING

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ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 31 August 2021

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held by Audio-Visual Link, on 31 August 2021, commencing at 6:30pm.

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 Mary Lyons-Buckett, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Barry Calvert, Emma-Jane Garrow, Amanda Kotlash, Paul Rasmussen, Peter Reynolds, Sarah Richards, John Ross, Tiffany Tree, Danielle Wheeler and Nathan Zamprogno.

ALSO PRESENT: General Manager - Elizabeth Richardson, Director City Planning - Linda Perrine, Director Infrastructure Services - Jeff Organ, Director Support Services - Laurie Mifsud, Manager Corporate Communication - Suzanne Stuart, Chief Financial Officer - Emma Galea, Design and Mapping Service Manager - Christopher Amit, Manager Corporate Services and Governance - Charles McElroy, Administrative Support Coordinator - Tracey Easterbrook and Council Committee Officer - Amy Birks.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

No apologies of absence were received from Councillors.

Councillor Ross arrived at the meeting at 6:36pm.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Conolly declared an interest on Item 168.

Acknowledgement of Official Visitors to the Council

There were no official visitors to Council.

SECTION 1 - Confirmation of Minutes

220 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Zamprogno and seconded by Councillor Rasmussen that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 10 August 2021, be confirmed.

221 RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Rasmussen and seconded by Councillor Lyons-Buckett that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 24 August 2021, be confirmed.

ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 31 August 2021

SECTION 3 – Reports for Determination

GENERAL MANAGER

Item: 164 **GM - Appointment of Committees, Delegates and Representatives - (79351, 95496)**

Directorate: General Manager

MOTION:

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

Refer to RESOLUTION

222 RESOLUTION:

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

That:

1. The current Councillor representation on Committees as outlined in the report continue for the period from September 2021 to December 2021 or for the remainder of the term of this Council.
2. The current community representation on the Audit Committee and Heritage Committee continue for the period from September 2021 to December 2021 or for the remainder of the term of this Council.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Lyons-Buckett, Calvert, Garrow, Kotlash, Rasmussen, Reynolds, Richards, Tree, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Councillor Ross.

ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 31 August 2021

SUPPORT SERVICES

Item: 165 **SS - Investment Report - July 2021 - (95496, 96332)**

Previous Item: 097, Ordinary (25 May 2021)

Directorate: Support Services

MOTION:

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

Refer to RESOLUTION

223 RESOLUTION:

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

That the Monthly Investment Report for July 2021 be received and noted.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Lyons-Buckett, Calvert, Garrow, Kotlash, Rasmussen, Reynolds, Richards, Ross, Tree, Wheeler and Zamprogn.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 31 August 2021

Item: 166 **SS - Administration of the December 2021 Hawkesbury City Council Local Government Elections - (95496)**

Previous Item: 106, Ordinary (8 June 2021)

Directorate: Support Services

MOTION:

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

Refer to RESOLUTION

224 RESOLUTION:

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

That:

1. Council receive and note the report concerning changes to the timing of 2021 local government elections and changes to the schedule of Council meetings in September 2021.
2. The schedule of Ordinary Meetings of Council for 2021, adopted by Council at its meeting on 24 November 2020, be amended to move the meeting scheduled for 21 September 2021 to 14 September 2021, and to remove the meeting scheduled for 14 December 2021.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Lyons-Buckett, Calvert, Garrow, Kotlash, Rasmussen, Reynolds, Richards, Tree, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Councillor Ross.

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Minutes: 31 August 2021

SECTION 4 – Reports of Committees

Item: 167 **ROC - Innovation and Partnerships Committee - 3 August 2021 - (79351, 95496)**

Directorate: General Manager

MOTION:

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

Refer to RESOLUTION

225 RESOLUTION:

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

That in relation to the Minutes of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee Meeting held on the 3 August 2021:

1. Council endorse the Committee recommendation in respect to Item, namely:

"That the Innovation and Partnerships Committee:

1. *Call for submissions from the community to assist in identifying the extent of telecommunications problems in the Hawkesbury.*
2. *Meet again in August to consider the submissions and a way forward.*
3. *Invite the Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman MP to the next Committee Meeting."*

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Lyons-Buckett, Calvert, Garrow, Kotlash, Rasmussen, Reynolds, Richards, Ross, Tree, Wheeler and Zamprogo.

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 31 August 2021

Item: 168 **ROC - Local Traffic Committee - 9 August 2021 - (80245, 95495)**

Directorate: Infrastructure Services

Councillor Conolly declared a less than significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in this matter as the Local Traffic Committee recommended a traffic solution for the intersection of Porpoise Crescent and Rifle Range Road, Bligh Park, and Councillor Conolly resides on Porpoise Crescent. The proposed works are several hundred metres from Councillor Conolly's residence, would have no impact on the amenity or value of the property and no further action is required.

MOTION:

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

Refer to RESOLUTION

226 RESOLUTION:

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

That Council receive and note the Minutes of the Local Traffic Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2021.

For the Motion: Councillors Conolly, Lyons-Buckett, Calvert, Garrow, Kotlash, Rasmussen, Reynolds, Richards, Tree, Wheeler and Zamprogno.

Against the Motion: Councillor Ross.

Absent: Nil.

ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes: 31 August 2021

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

Item: 169 **Responses to Councillor Questions Taken On Notice at the Council Meeting -
10 August 2021 - (79351)**

The comments to Questions Taken On Notice at the Council Meeting 10 August 2021 were noted.

The meeting terminated at 7:13pm.

Submitted to and confirmed at the Ordinary meeting held on 14 September 2021.

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Mayor

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mayoral minutes

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minute
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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.

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ORDINARY MEETING

SECTION 3 – Reports for Determination

Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

ORDINARY MEETING
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SECTION 3 – Reports for Determination

PLANNING DECISIONS

Item: 170 **CP - Finalisation of Planning Proposal LEP001/19 - 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard and 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town - (95498, 124414)**

Previous Item: 221, Ordinary (11 September 2018)
 251, Ordinary (30 October 2018)
 027, Ordinary, (25 February 2020)
 038, Ordinary (10 March 2020)

Directorate: City Planning

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to present the outcomes of assessment and consultation (public agency and community) associated with Planning Proposal LEP001/19, and to recommend that Council proceed with the making of an amendment to the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 that gives effect to the Planning Proposal.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This Planning Proposal has been assessed against relevant requirements, including feedback from relevant state agencies, and the community. The background section of this report details the various key steps associated with the Planning Proposal.

This report recommends that Council proceed with the proposed amendment to the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 as outlined in Planning Proposal LEP001/19 on 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard, and 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to:

- i. Reclassify Lot 9 DP 1149340, 9 Industry Road, and Lot 13 DP 815849 and Lot 6 DP 777933, 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard to 'Operational' land
- ii. Reclassify part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to 'Operational' land
- iii. Rezone part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to RE1 Public Recreation
- iv. Amend the minimum lot size for subdivision of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to part 4,000m² and part no minimum lot size
- v. Amend the maximum height of buildings on part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town so that there is no restriction on the height of buildings.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Receive and note the outcome of consultation on Planning Proposal LEP001/19 and supporting documentation for 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard, and 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town.
2. Support the making of the plan to amend the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 to:
 - i. Reclassify Lot 9 DP 1149340, 9 Industry Road, and Lot 13 DP 815849 and Lot 6 DP 777933, 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard to 'Operational' land;
 - ii. Reclassify part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to 'Operational' land
 - iii. Rezone part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to RE1 Public Recreation
 - iv. Amend the minimum lot size for subdivision of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to part 4,000m² and part no minimum lot size
 - v. Amend the maximum height of buildings on part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town so that there is no restriction on the height of buildings.
3. Submit the Planning Proposal and supporting documentation to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for the making of a plan to give effect to the Planning Proposal.

BACKGROUND

Subject Sites

The Planning Proposal includes two separate locations at Vineyard and Pitt Town as detailed below:

9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard

The subject sites at 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard are comprised of three parcels of land, including:

- 9 Industry Road, Vineyard (Lot 9 in Deposited Plan 1149340)
- 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard (Lot 13 in Deposited Plan 815849)
- 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard (Lot 6 in Deposited Plan 777933)

Figures 1 and 2 show the subject sites form a strip of land that separate Windsor Road and Industry Road.

The subject sites are owned by Council and are zoned B5 Business Development under Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012, classified as 'Community' land and nominated as public reserve.

The subject sites include a footpath that forms part of a pedestrian network, generally connecting Vineyard and McGraths Hill, in addition to drainage and sewerage infrastructure, stands of trees, flag/banner advertising structures and an existing approved billboard/advertising sign.

Figure 2 shows the subject sites are located adjacent to the Mulgrave Industrial and Business Precinct and are surrounded by a mix of land uses including industrial, business, open space and rural agricultural uses. The location of the subject sites provides potential for it to be used for advertising purposes, including the promotion of businesses within the adjoining Mulgrave Industrial and Business Precinct.

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Figure 1: Subject Sites - 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard



Figure 2: Aerial View of 9 Industry Road & 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard and Surrounding Properties

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7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town

This subject site is located approximately 400m from the Pitt Town commercial centre. The subject site is 9.9549 ha in size, and is comprised of two portions of land divided by Fernadell Drive as shown in Figure 3.

To the south-west of Fernadell Drive, the smaller section of the subject site has an area of 4,299m². This portion of the subject site had previously been identified as the site for a proposed community centre and is referred to as the 'Pitt Town Community Centre Site' in this report.

To the north-east of Fernadell Drive, the larger section of the subject site has an area of 9.525 ha. This portion is the proposed location of a larger community, recreation and sporting site, and is referred to as the 'Pitt Town Community Precinct Site' in this report.

The subject site is owned by Council, is classified as 'Community' land and nominated as public reserve.

The subject site is currently zoned RU2 Rural Landscape, has a minimum lot size requirement for subdivision of 10 ha under the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012, and is subject of a maximum height of buildings provision of 10m.

The subject site is surrounded by a mix of residential and rural residential land uses as shown in Figure 4 below. The subject site is cleared and contains a large detention basin located in the south-eastern corner. No buildings currently exist on the subject site.



Figure 3: Subject Site – 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town

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The general locality that surrounds the subject site is new, low density urban development to the west, rural land to the north and east, and older, low density urban development to the south as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Aerial View of 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town and Surrounding Properties

Previous Council Consideration

At its Ordinary Meeting on 11 September 2018, Council considered a report seeking support for the preparation of a Planning Proposal to reclassify three parcels of land at 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard from 'Community' land to 'Operational' land. The proposed reclassification of the land is to allow Council to lease the existing advertising structures on the subject sites.

Similarly, at its Ordinary Meeting on 30 October 2018, Council considered a report seeking support for the lodgement of a Planning Proposal to reclassify and rezone 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to facilitate the provision of community and recreational facilities on the land. The resolution also included an amendment to the minimum lot size for subdivision of the site.

On 29 April 2019, a single Planning Proposal was lodged covering both locations.

In accordance with the Ministerial Direction under Section 9.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the Planning Proposal was referred to the Hawkesbury Local Planning Panel for advice. On 21 November 2019, the Panel provided advice recommending that the Planning Proposal proceed for a Gateway Determination.

On 10 March 2020, Council considered a report on this matter, including the advice of the Hawkesbury Local Planning Panel, and resolved to forward the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for a Gateway Determination as follows:

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"That:

1. *Council support the recommendation of the Hawkesbury Local Planning Panel dated 21 November 2019.*
2. *Council support the preparation of a Planning Proposal to:*
 - (a) *With respect to 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard*
 - (i) *Reclassify Lot 9 DP 1149340, 9 Industry Road, and Lot 13 DP 815849 and Lot 6 DP 777933, 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard to 'Operational' land;*
 - (ii) *Include Council's intention to protect the vegetation on the site.*
 - (b) *With respect to 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town (Fernadell Park)*
 - (i) *Reclassify part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to 'Operational' land;*
 - (ii) *Rezone part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to RE1 Public Recreation;*
 - (iii) *Amend the minimum lot size for subdivision of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to part 4,000m2 and part no minimum lot size.*
 - (iv) *Amend the maximum height of buildings on part of Lot 6028 DP 1169449, 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town so that there is no restriction on the height of buildings.*

and that the Planning Proposal be forwarded to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for a 'Gateway' determination.

- 3. *The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment be advised that Council wishes to request a Written Authorisation to Exercise Delegation to make the Plan."*

The Planning Proposal was submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on 18 March 2020.

On 5 August 2020, Council received a Gateway Determination from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment advising to proceed with the Planning Proposal, subject to various requirements including public agency and community consultation which was to include a Public Hearing.

Relevant Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

DISCUSSION

Planning Proposal

The Gateway Determination received from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment advised to proceed with the Planning Proposal subject to certain conditions, including the following:

- "1. *Prior to public exhibition, Council is to amend the planning proposal as follows:*
 - (a) *Under Part 2 – Explanation of Provisions; update to reflect the correct amendments to the lot size map, height of buildings map, Schedule 4 classification and reclassification of public land and supporting reclassification map.*

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- (b) *Under Part 3 – Justification, amend the following:*
- a. *Remove the reference to the previous region plan '6.2.1.A Plan for Growing Sydney';*
 - b. *Include commentary on the proposal's consistency with Planning Priority 17 Better Managing Rural Areas of the Western City District Plan;*
- (c) *include assessment under the Hawkesbury Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement;*
- (d) *undertake a preliminary site investigation in accordance with the contaminated land planning guidelines for 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town; and*
- (e) *Consult the NSW Rural Fire Services prior to public exhibition in accordance with Section 9.1 Direction 4.4 Planning for Bushfire Protection and address any comments from this agency.*
2. *Public exhibition is required under section 3.34(2)(c) and schedule 1 clause 4 of the Act as follows:*
- (a) *the planning proposal must be made publicly available for a minimum of 28 days; and*
 - (b) *the planning proposal authority must comply with the notice requirements for public exhibition of planning proposals and the specifications for material that must be made publicly available along with planning proposals as identified in section 6.5.2 of A guide to preparing local environmental plans' (Department of Planning and Environment, 2018)."*

Conditions 1 (a) to (d) of the Gateway Determination had to be satisfied prior to undertaking public authority and community consultation.

In accordance with the Gateway Determination requirements:

- The relevant public agencies were consulted under section 3.34(2)(d) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 on 27 April 2021
- The community was consulted under sections 3.34(2)(c) and Schedule 1 clause 4 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 from 27 May 2021 to 25 June 2021.

The outcomes of this consultation are discussed further in this report.

Policy Consideration

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's 'A guide to preparing planning proposals' August 2016 (the Guidelines) requires the applicant to demonstrate that a Planning Proposal is consistent with applicable local strategies/strategic plans, State Environmental Planning Policies and Section 9.1 Directions (formerly Section 117 Directions).

The previous report to Council for this matter on 10 March 2021 included an assessment of the Planning Proposal, and concluded that:

"the Planning Proposal is considered to be consistent with relevant legislation and considerations including, the Local Government Act 1993, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Practice Note PN16-001 - Classification and reclassification of public land through a local environmental plan in relation to the reclassification of the subject sites.

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In addition, the Planning Proposal is consistent with the aims, objectives and requirements of the relevant State, Regional and Local strategies/strategic plans, State Environmental Planning Policies and Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions.

In particular, the Planning Proposal has strategic merit, and is consistent with the objectives of the Sydney Region Plan and the Western City District Plan as:

- The Pitt Town Community Precinct is being provided in response to the expansion of the residential precinct of Pitt Town to cater for the existing and future community and recreational needs of residents. The design of the Pitt Town Community Precinct will include landscaping that will contribute to the expansion of the urban tree canopy in the public realm. The Planning Proposal will facilitate the timely and efficient delivery of these facilities to support an active, resilient and socially connected community, while maximising the use of the subject site by combining community and recreational uses;*
- The reclassification of 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard to 'Operational' land will enable Council to lease this site for advertising purposes to promote existing and future commercial and industrial activities within the Mulgrave Industrial and Business Precinct.*

The Planning Proposal is justified as it would:

- enable Hawkesbury City Council to develop and/or manage the sites in line with existing uses (advertising) or intended uses (recreational and community facilities);*
- increase the amenity of Pitt Town by facilitating the orderly development of the community and recreational facilities of Fernadell Park;*
- increase the productivity of Mulgrave Industrial and Business Precinct by facilitating the ongoing use of 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard for advertising purposes; and*
- have no adverse impact on the environmental attributes of the subject sites."*

The Gateway Determination issued by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment advised that inconsistencies with Section 9.1 Ministerial Direction 4.1 *Acid Sulfate Soils* are justified in accordance with the terms of the Direction, and that no further approval was required in relation to that Direction.

Minister is the Plan Making Authority

Given that Council owns the subject sites for which reclassification is sought through the Planning Proposal, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is the plan making authority for this Planning Proposal.

As a result, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will have the final determination in making the Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Gateway Determination and relevant statutory requirements, consultation on the Planning Proposal was undertaken with relevant government agencies and the community as outlined below.

Government Agency Consultation

In accordance with Section 3.34(2)(d) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the Gateway Determination, consultation was undertaken with the following public agencies:

- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science Group
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- Transport for NSW

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Council received responses from NSW Rural Fire Service and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science Group as outlined below:

NSW Rural Fire Services

NSW Rural Fire Services responded on 21 June 2021 and advised that they had no objections to the Planning Proposal.

However, they did highlight that Fernadell Park needs to be managed by Council in perpetuity, “so *that it does not create a bush fire hazard and provide connectivity to the bushfire prone vegetation on the adjoining eastern lots.*” This is a matter for consideration with the approval of the park facilities and and/or inclusion in the Plan of Management for Fernadell Park which is currently being undertaken by Council.

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science Group

The Environment, Energy and Science Group responded on 27 May 2021 and provided comments in relation to biodiversity and floodplain risk management.

The Environment, Energy and Science Group noted that part of the subject sites at 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard are mapped as having biodiversity value on the Biodiversity Values Map, and therefore recommend that future development be designed to avoid impacts on biodiversity values.

The biodiversity values identified by the mapping correspond to 'Significant Vegetation' as identified on the Terrestrial Biodiversity Map of the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 as shown in Figure 5.

Council's vegetation mapping identifies this 'Significant Vegetation' as Shale Plains Woodlands and Shale Gravel Transition Forest, which are a Critically Endangered Ecological Community and an Endangered Ecological Community respectively under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. These communities are located on Lots 9 and 13, and generally correspond to the location of existing vegetation on these lots.



Figure 5: Significant Vegetation - 9 Industry Road and 312 Windsor Road, Vineyard

Future development on the subject sites for the purposes of advertising can be carried out within existing cleared areas, thereby protecting the existing 'Significant Vegetation' on the land. In accordance with

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Council's Resolution of 10 March 2020, Council's intention to protect vegetation on the subject sites was included in the Planning Proposal document.

In addition to this commitment, native vegetation on public land is afforded protection through the following:

- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017
- State Environmental Planning Policy - Bushland in Urban Areas.

In terms of floodplain risk management, no objections were raised by the Environment, Energy and Science Group.

Community Consultation

The Planning Proposal and other supporting documentation was publicly exhibited for the period 27 May 2021 to 25 June 2021.

Throughout the exhibition period, the Planning Proposal and other supporting documentation was made available to view on Council's online community engagement site www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au, and between 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday at Council's Administration Office, 366 George Street, Windsor. Public notices were placed in the 'Hawkesbury Courier' local newspaper and letters were sent to the adjoining and surrounding property owners (83 in total) advising of the public exhibition of the Planning Proposal.

Council received six submissions from five individual respondents; four submissions from residents in relation to the Pitt Town site, and one submission from Jemena Gas in relation to both the Pitt Town and Vineyard sites. Copies of the submissions are included as Attachment 1.

Jemena Gas raised no objections to the Planning Proposal, however highlighted that in relation to the Vineyard sites, Jemena has a high pressure gas pipeline and a secondary gas main that traverse the subject sites. The Planning Proposal has no effect on Jemena's rights to own, operate and maintain the gas infrastructure on the land.

Two of the community submissions received are in opposition to increased high density housing on the subject site at 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town. However, it should be noted that the purpose of the Planning Proposal is to facilitate the development of the 9.5 hectare portion of 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town for community, recreation and sporting purposes, and to provide potential for the 4,299m² portion of the subject site to be excised and sold in the future to assist in funding the development of Fernadell Park.

The reclassification of the 4,299m² portion of 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town to 'Operational' land provides Council the option of selling and developing the land in the future. The current RU2 Rural Landscape zone and associated permitted uses are not proposed to be changed through this Planning Proposal and reclassification. In terms of residential accommodation, only dwelling houses and attached dual occupancies are permitted with consent within the RU2 Rural Landscape zone under Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012.

The remaining three submissions (from two respondents) object to the use of 7 Fernadell Drive, Pitt Town for playing fields and community facilities for the following reasons:

- An expectation that the subject site was never to be built on
- A loss of existing unhindered views
- Increased traffic, road safety and insufficient parking
- Increased noise
- The use of the subject site for playing fields would reduce the sites current and future use for passive recreation
- Potential contamination of the site
- Potential Aboriginal artefacts on the site

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- A rural, landscaped area for personal outdoor fitness, playground, picnic area, fenced off leashed dog park and general landscaped park with a bike and/or waling path would complement the rural setting that residents in Pitt Town would appreciate
- Adequate funding available for the ongoing security, maintenance and upkeep of the development
- The need for buildings on the subject site to be higher than 10 metres
- Facilities are already provided for in Pitt Town by the Pitt Town Sports Club

The Major Projects Approval for the subdivision of Pitt Town and Council's Section 7.11 Contributions Plan had always provided for the use of the subject site for recreational purposes, including sporting fields.

It is noted that the Fernadell Park Plan of Management was open to recent public consultation, and subject of a separate Public Hearing. The specific particulars relating to the facilities and amenities provided on the subject site will be determined with the finalisation of that Plan of Management.

One of the purposes of this Planning Proposal is to facilitate the development of the subject site for recreational purposes. The subject site is currently zoned RU2 Rural Landscape under the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012. Given that 'community facilities' and 'recreation facilities' are not included as permitted land uses with development consent under the RU2 zone in the Land Use Table of the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012, the Planning Proposal seeks to rezone part of the subject site (the Pitt Town Community Precinct Site) to RE1 Public Recreation.

The 4,299m² Pitt Town Community Centre Site will remain within the current RU2 Rural Landscape zone.

The subject site has a minimum lot size requirement of 10 ha under the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012.

It is the intention that the 4,299m² Pitt Town Community Centre Site will be excised from the rest of the Fernadell Park site in the future. To enable this, the land needs to be reclassified from 'Community' land to 'Operational' land.

The subject site has a total area of 9.9549 ha and therefore cannot be subdivided. In order to facilitate subdivision of the subject site as outlined above, the minimum lot size provisions for the land need to be amended. It is proposed to change the minimum lot size for the 4,299m² Pitt Town Community Centre Site to 4,000m².

Within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area no minimum lot size provisions apply to land within the RE1 Public Recreation zone. It is therefore also proposed to remove the current 10ha minimum lot size provision for the remaining Pitt Town Community Precinct Site in order to be consistent with RE1 Public Recreation provisions of the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012, and to facilitate the excising of the Pitt Town Community Centre Site in the future.

The current Height of Building provision for the subject site is 10m. Within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area no maximum height of buildings provisions apply to land within the RE1 Public Recreation zone, and it is intended to amend the Height of Buildings Map to remove the 10m maximum height of buildings provision currently applying to the subject site in order to be consistent with the RE1 Public Recreation provisions of the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012.

The matters relating to traffic, noise, contamination and aboriginal heritage resulting from the future development of the subject site will be appropriately considered with any Development Application, once the design of the Park has been finalised in conjunction with the community consultation through the development of the Fernadell Park Plan of Management.

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Public Hearing

Under Section 29 of the Local Government Act 1993 a Public Hearing must be held in respect to any Planning Proposal that proposes to reclassify 'Community' land to 'Operational' land.

The Public Hearing was held on Thursday 5 August 2021, and whilst 4 people registered to attend the Public Hearing, it was attended by a single member of the community.

The community were notified of the Public Hearing in the following manner:

- Notice of the Public Hearing was placed in the Courier on Thursday 8 July 2021 and 22 July 2021
- Notice and supporting information was provided on Council's Community Engagement site 'Your Hawkesbury Your Say' commencing 8 July 2021
- Notice was given on Council's facebook page commencing 8 July 2021
- 83 Letters were sent to the owners/occupiers of adjoining properties and to those that provided a submission to the exhibition of the Planning Proposal.

In addition, the following measures were also undertaken to encourage participation at the Public Hearing:

- Emails sent to registered attendees of the Public Hearing reminding them of the Hearing and providing the agenda
- Email sent to registered attendees advising that written submissions would be accepted up to Monday 9 August 2021 and providing postal and email addresses for that.

The Public Hearing was chaired by an independent chairperson who has prepared a report titled 'Proposed Reclassification of Community Land at Vineyard and Pitt Town Public Hearing Report' which considers the outcome of the Public Hearing.

The 'Proposed Reclassification of Community Land at Vineyard and Pitt Town Public Hearing Report' is included as Attachment 2 and concludes that the reclassification of the subject sites from 'community' land to 'operational' land should proceed.

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.

Our Community

- 2.2 Participation in recreational and lifestyle activities is increased – Encourage and enable our community to participate in a healthy lifestyle.
- 2.4 Community wellbeing and local services – Build on a sense of community and wellbeing.

Our Assets

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

Our Future

- 5.1 Strategic Planning Governance – Encourage informed planning, balanced growth and community engagement
- 5.7 Tourism and Economic Development – Promote our community as the place to visit, work and invest.

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FIT FOR THE FUTURE STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposal is aligned with Council's long term plan to improve and maintain organisational sustainability and achieve Fit for the Future financial benchmarks. The proposal will enable Council to sustainably manage community assets in accordance with the scheduled program of works in the Long-Term Financial Plan.

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** Submissions to Planning Proposal LEP001/19 - (*Distributed under separate cover*).
- AT - 2** Proposed Reclassification of Community Land at Vineyard and Pitt Town Public Hearing Report' - (*Distributed under separate cover*).

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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GENERAL MANAGER

Item: 171 **GM - 2021 Local Government NSW Special Conference and Annual Conference - (79351, 79633)**

Directorate: General Manager

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Consider the nomination of voting delegates to attend the 2021 Local Government NSW Annual Conference (Annual Conference) to be held on Monday, 29 November 2021.
- Consider the nomination of voting delegates for Local Government NSW Board Elections to be held by postal ballot on opening on 27 October 2021 and closing on 24 November 2021.
- Consider the nomination of voting delegates for the Local Government NSW Special Conference (Special Conference) to be held from 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022.
- Consider a process for the proposing of motions to be submitted by Council for the Special Conference.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Ordinarily, Local Government NSW holds an Annual Conference, and conducts Board Elections bi-annually. The postponement of local government elections in NSW due to the COVID-19 Pandemic has caused Local Government NSW to split the Annual Conference and hold two events - an Annual Conference on 29 November 2021 and a Special Conference to consider motions from 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022.

Local Government NSW Board Elections will take place by postal ballot which opens on 27 October 2021 and closes on 24 November 2021.

Council is entitled to have:

- Five Councillor voting Delegates for the Annual Conference;
- Five Councillor voting delegates for Board Elections
- Five Councillor voting delegates for the Special Conference

Separate to registration for the Annual Conference, Council is required to advise Local Government NSW of the names of nominated voting delegates for both and/or the Annual Conference and the Board Elections by 5pm on Tuesday, 5 October 2021.

Due to the relevance of the conferences to Council's business, Council may wish to consider representation at the conferences. In addition Council may wish to submit motions for consideration at the Special Conference.

To avoid any confusion in respect to voting responsibilities, it is recommended that the same five voting delegates be appointed for the conferences and the Board Elections. There is provision in the Local Government NSW Rules for substitution of delegates for the Special Conference if a nominated delegate is no longer a Councillor.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Consideration be given to the attendance of nominated Councillors and/or staff as considered appropriate by the General Manager, at the 2021 Local Government NSW Annual Conference.
2. The nomination of five Councillor voting delegates, for voting at the 2021 Local Government NSW Annual Conference be considered.
3. The nomination of five Councillor delegates for voting in the 2021 Local Government NSW Board Elections be considered.
4. The nomination of five Councillor voting delegates, for voting at the 2022 Local Government NSW Special Conference be considered.
5. Council consider whether to submit any motions to the Local Government NSW Special Conference.
6. Any proposed motions to the 2022 Local Government NSW Special Conference be submitted to the General Manager by 28 September 2021 and be reported to Council.
7. After participating in the Special Conference, delegates provide a written report to the General Manager detailing the proceedings and findings, as well as any other aspects of the Special Conference relevant to Council business and/or the local community.

BACKGROUND

The LGNSW Annual Conference is the annual policy-making event for NSW councils and an opportunity for councillors to come together to share ideas and debate issues that shape the way councils govern.

Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Annual Conference was held in person over up to three days, and Council would give consideration to the nomination of Councillor delegates to attend the Annual Conference.

In accordance with the Local Government NSW Rules, Council, as a member of Local Government NSW is allocated voting entitlements for the purpose of voting on motions at the Annual Conference, and voting in bi-annual Local Government NSW Board Elections.

Council is entitled to have five voting delegates at the Annual Conference, the Special Conference and for the purpose of voting in the Local Government NSW Board Elections.

This year the timing of the local government elections on 4 December 2021 has resulted in Local Government NSW making the following arrangements for the Annual Conference:

- A one-hour Annual Conference to present the LGNSW's annual report and financial reports, which will be conducted online from 9:30am on Monday, 29 November 2021.
- A Special Conference - including the debate and resolution of motions setting the advocacy agenda for 2022 - to be held in-person at the Hyatt Regency Sydney from Monday, 28 February 2022 to Wednesday, 2 March 2022.

Registration for the online Conference is free, with attendees asked to register for the event online.

Costs for the Special Conference are not yet available.

In addition, the Local Government NSW Board Elections will take place by postal ballot.

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DISCUSSION

Annual Conference - Voting Delegates

The one-hour Annual Conference will be held online to present the Local Government NSW annual report and financial reports, as it is a legal requirement that the Annual Conference be held this calendar year.

Council may nominate up to five Councillor voting delegates, as well as appropriate staff as determined by the General Manager, to attend. There is no cost to Council for attendance at the Annual Conference.

Local Government NSW Board Elections

Local Government NSW Board Elections will take place by postal ballot which opens on 27 October 2021 and closes at 10am on 24 November 2021. Nominations opened on 7 September 2021 and close on 5 October 2021.

The timetable for the Board Elections is:

Date	Occurrence
31 August 2021	Close of Roll
1 September 2021	List of eligible members delivered to Returning Officer
7 September 2021	Returning Officer publishes Election Notice and Nomination Form via AEC website
7 September 2021	Organisation publishes Election Notice and Nomination Form via Organisation journal
7 September 2021	Nominations Open
5 October 2021	Nominations Close at 12:00pm (AEDT)
12 October 2021	Nomination withdrawal period closes at 12:00pm (AEDT)
12 October 2021	Organisation to provide details of the nominated voting delegates by 12:00pm (AEDT)
12 October 2021	Member to submit the absentee voting form by 12:00pm (AEDT) to the Returning Officer
27 October 2021	Postal Ballot Opens
24 November 2021	Postal Ballot Closes at 10:00am (AEDT)

Council may nominate up to five Councillor voting delegates, for voting in the Local Government NSW Board Elections.

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Special Conference

The Special Conference from 28 February 2022 to 2 March 2022 will include the debate and resolution of motions setting the advocacy agenda for Local Government NSW for 2022.

Local Government NSW has called for motions to be considered at the Special Conference. The cut-off date for the submission of motions to the Special Conference is 12 midnight (AEDT) on Sunday 30 January 2022, however Local Government NSW has requested that they be submitted as early as practicable.

Local Government Elections will take place on 4 December 2021. The Office of Local Government has advised councils that election declarations are anticipated to be made between 21 and 23 December 2021. Council must elect a Mayor within three weeks of the declaration of the election for Council and it is therefore expected that the first meeting of the newly elected Council will occur in the week commencing 10 January 2022.

Local Government NSW has requested that proposed motions for the Special Conference relate to strategic local government issues which affect members state-wide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions. They are debated and resolved by Special Conference delegates, with successful resolutions guiding Local Government NSW's advocacy priorities for the year ahead.

The Local Government NSW Board has resolved that motions will be included in the Business Paper for the Special Conference only where they:

1. Are consistent with the objects of Local Government NSW
2. Relate to local government in NSW and/or across Australia
3. Concern or are likely to concern local government as a sector
4. Seek to advance the local government policy agenda of Local Government NSW and/or improve its governance
5. Have lawful purpose (a motion does not have a lawful purpose if its implementation would require or encourage non-compliance with prevailing laws)
6. Are clearly worded and unambiguous in nature
7. Do not express preference for one or several members over one or several other members.

In the past Council has submitted motions dealing with the following matters:

2020

- Sex work - that NSW Health provide educational briefings to Councillors as referred to in the 2015 NSW Select Committee report on the Regulation of Brothels
- The criminalisation of coercive control
- Banning of puppy farms
- Including climate change considerations in the terms of reference for reviews and investigations by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

2019

- The timing of announcements of Grant Funding by NSW Local Government and the Grants Commission
- Opposition to the proposed increase in Local Government Election charges as recommended by IPART
- The need for improved communication and teamwork between Local Government and the State Government and its agencies

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- The need for the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to have consistent and transparent sources of data in their assessment of various Developer Contribution Plans
- The development of a long term Waste Strategy for Metropolitan Sydney
- Recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

2018

- The need for improved Community Engagement by the NSW State Government in relation to Infrastructure Projects
- The future of the IPART Report on 'Review of Local Government Rating System'.

It is proposed that Councillors have until Tuesday, 28 September 2021 to provide proposed motions to the General Manager so they can be reported to the Council Meeting of 12 October 2021.

Attached as Attachment 1 to this report is as the Local Government NSW Special Conference Motions Submission Guide.

The Council is entitled to have five voting delegates at the Special Conference.

Commonality of voting delegates and substitution

To avoid any confusion in respect to voting responsibilities, it is recommended that the same five voting Delegates be appointed for the Special Conference, voting in the Local Government NSW Board Elections and the Special Conference. It is open to Council to resolve to nominate difference voting delegates for these purposes

Should the necessity arise, the Rules of Local Government NSW enable the nominated voting delegates to be substituted both before and during Conferences, subject to written notification by the Mayor or General Manager. Councillors will be provided with further information concerning the cut off times for substitution of delegates.

Policy Consideration

The Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy is applicable to attendance at the Annual Conference and Special Conference. A Draft Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy is currently on exhibition and will be the subject of a further report to Council. The Draft Policy makes provision for the payment of costs associated with Councillors attending conferences including the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.

Where relevant, after returning from the Conferences, 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 Conferences relevant to Council business and/or the local community.

Council may wish to consider representation at the Conferences. In addition, Council may wish to submit motions for consideration at the Special Conference.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

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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 Leadership

- 1.1 Local Leadership and effective governance - Provide representative, responsive and accountable governance.
- 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.
 - 1.3.3 Decisions relating to determining priorities will be made in the long-term interests of 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.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The matters raised in this report have direct financial implications. Although the cost of the Special Conference is not yet known, the expenditure applicable to the attendance of delegates at the usual in person Local Government NSW Annual Conference is provided for in the 2021/2022 adopted Operational Plan.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposal is aligned with Council's long term plan to improve and maintain organisational sustainability and achieve Fit for the Future financial benchmarks.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** Local Government NSW Special Conference Motions Submission Guide - (*Distributed under separate cover*).

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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CITY PLANNING

Item: 172 **CP - Council Submission - Richmond Bridge Duplication Project Preferred Corridor - (124414, 95498)**

Previous Item: NM2, Ordinary (26 February 2019)
 124, Ordinary (29 June 2021)
 155, Ordinary (10 August 2021)

Directorate: City Planning

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to consider the Transport for NSW Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements Preferred Options Report and Council's amended submission following Council's previous consideration at its Ordinary Meeting on 10 August 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Transport for NSW have released the Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements Preferred Option Report (June 2021) which is attached as Attachment 1 to this report, and consideration is required by Council of a draft submission.

An amended draft submission has been prepared for Council's formal consideration, which includes information raised by community representatives, and additional points stemming from Council's previous consideration. The amended draft submission is included as Attachment 2.

It should also be noted that since the Ordinary Meeting on 10 August 2021, Transport for NSW has advised that the consultation period had been extended to 17 September 2021.

This report recommends that Council provide a submission to the Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements Project Preferred Option Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the draft submission to Transport for NSW's Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements Preferred Option Report attached as Attachment 2 to the report.

BACKGROUND

Council considered a draft submission to the Preferred Option Report at its Ordinary Meeting on 10 August 2021. Following consideration of the draft submission, and representations from community representatives, Council resolved:

"That:

- 1. This matter be deferred to enable Council's submission to be amended to include information from community representation.*
- 2. Council alert Transport for NSW to the urgent need for further community consultation especially in North Richmond and Southee Road.*

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3. *Council write to Transport for NSW seeking an extension to the submission date."*

A number of community representatives addressed Council's Ordinary Meeting on 10 August 2021, and raised a number of points for consideration, including:

Strategic - Remove suggested improvements for the preferred route, as this is tacit endorsement of Transport for NSW's decision. Consider a return to the scope of the project and seek to eliminate the negative social and economic impacts associated with the stated Preferred Option, all of which were minimised by the hybrid or yellow routes.

What other major pieces of infrastructure are being modelled/proposed post 2046, and has the preferred route been selected based upon future developments that aren't yet public knowledge.

Provide a detailed drawing of the yellow route which has the same quality and detail of the preferred route.

Increase in the budget (doubled), allows opportunity for further consultation and analysis between the green and yellow routes.

Socio-Economic Impacts - Assessment needs to be provided, including need for further data to show the effects on businesses as a result of bypassing. The economic impact from the loss of polo fields and the impacts to the equine industry need to be considered and avoided.

Visual Amenity and Noise - Impacts to 80 plus residential properties on Southee Road and Inalls Lane, and 50 plus residential properties in the Lowlands, Norfolk Place, Terrace Road and Bells Line of Road. Using the full Driftway corridor to Castlereagh Road, and a route alongside the current bridge completely eliminates this impact. Loss of visual amenity to the Lowlands in particular.

Flood Resilience - Transport for NSW note that to achieve a 1 in 100 flood resilience would require a 2.5km bridge. It is worth noting the Jim Anderson bridge cost \$135M. The project now has a \$500M budget and opportunity to provide a significant increase in flood resilience for the Hawkesbury. Moving from a 1 in 2 to a 1 in 5 flood resilience for a \$500M investment is a poor investment of taxpayer dollars. Additionally, has climate change been considered as part of assessment of options, and the level of flood resilience to be provided?

Aboriginal Heritage - A key constraint was the impact on Aboriginal Heritage sites on the purple route. Transport for NSW's recent map of the Green preferred Route shows for the first time that it also crosses 5 identified areas of Aboriginal Heritage Significance. Duplication in the existing bridge/road corridor reduces any Aboriginal Heritage Significance site impacts.

Sporting Field - Property and Land Use - The preferred route significantly impacts on Soccer, and Polo fields. The Options Report indicates that the yellow route has the lower impact on all of these. There has also been no accounting for the compulsory acquisition of Western Sydney University land and economic impacts on relocating important climate research.

Traffic Modelling and Road Safety - A stated objective was to reduce right hand through traffic to reduce traffic accidents, however the Green Route creates a number of additional right turn traffic intersections, and other intersection problems which are not present in the yellow route. Concern with the proposed route parallel to Southee Road which will be blocked off at both ends, and the only way without backtracking through the suburban streets of Hobartville is via the new road, with the entrance concentrating traffic onto Valder Avenue.

Environmental Impact - On the Western Sydney University and the Hawkesbury - loss of the 100 year Pecan Trees, and the Eucalypt Plantation which is not only part of the Climate Change Research but feed many of the animals in our Sydney Zoos. The natural spring opposite houses at 49 - 63 Southee Road will now have a road on top of it.

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Engagement - Due to the ongoing COVID situation, Transport for NSW should keep open the public consultation period until it is possible to conduct full community consultation meetings. Seek transparency from Transport for NSW, and seek public access to the full traffic modelling, Socio Economic Analysis and full Benefit Cost Ratio reports. Need for greater engagement with the community, and shouldn't proceed to next step until further direct consultation has occurred. Need to re-engage with the community working group and businesses in North Richmond and Richmond who could miss out on business because of the green route.

Location Plan

As detailed in Attachment 1.

Relevant Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

DISCUSSION

Since Council's Ordinary Meeting on 10 August 2021, Transport for NSW has advised that the consultation period had been extended to 17 September 2021.

In addition to the inclusion of information provided by community representatives at Council's Ordinary Meeting on 10 August 2021 within the amended draft submission, a series of further reports have also been included.

The Preferred Option Report should consider whether projects such as the Grose River Bridge not proceeding represents a critical risk to the project, and whether or not such a scenario would affect the assessment of preferred corridors. Essentially, should the Grose River Bridge not proceed, would Transport for NSW guarantee that the Richmond Bridge Duplication project would still provide the anticipated benefits or consider being a guarantor for the Grose River Bridge to ensure the timely delivery of that project.

The capacity of Grose Vale Road to cater for any of the options should be assessed and outlined in the Preferred Option Report, including traffic loading on the road, and the intersection with Terrace Road.

With respect to Socio Economic Impacts, noting that the Preferred Option Report does not include a full assessment of the social and economic impacts of the project (particularly with respect to North Richmond, Southee Road residents and Lowlands land uses), combined with an increase to the budget of the project from the original funding of \$250M to now \$500M, consideration should be had as to the scope of the project, including alternative options not included within the Preferred Option Report. This consideration of scope should include assessment of options including duplication of the existing bridge, and whether any of the proposed options would allow for a higher flood immunity of the new bridge and approaches given the higher budget of the project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Transport for NSW is currently undertaking community engagement as part of this project. Council is considering a draft submission to that consultation.

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CONFORMANCE TO THE HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2036

The report is consistent with a wide range of Focus Areas, Directions and Strategies within the Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036, including:

Our Leadership - 1.4 and 1.5.

Our Assets - 4.2 and 4.3.

Our Future - 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This project is jointly funded by the NSW and Federal Governments.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS

This project is a NSW and Federal Government project.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements – Preferred Option Report June 2021 - *(Distributed under separate cover).*
- AT - 2** Amended Draft Submission to Transport for NSW's Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements Preferred Option Report.

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AT - 2 Amended Draft Submission to Transport for NSW's Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements Preferred Option Report

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Your Ref: Richmond Bridge Duplication Preferred Option Report (June 2021)
Our Ref:

14 September 2021

Transport for NSW

Dear Sir/Madam

Hawkesbury City Council Submission - Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements – Preferred Option Report (June 2021)

I refer to the abovementioned Richmond Bridge Duplication and Traffic Improvements – Preferred Option Report (June 2021). Council has formally considered the Preferred Options Report at its Ordinary Meeting on 10 August 2021 and 14 September 2021, and resolved to provide the following comments for your consideration.

Relevant to this matter, Council has previously resolved at its Ordinary Meeting on 29 June 2021:

- That Council supports in principle the upgrade of The Driftway.
- That Council require a solution that offers the best possible flood immunity and traffic flow.

Further, at Council's Ordinary Meeting on 26 February 2019, the essence of Council's resolution was to:

- Support a bypass as the duplication of the Richmond Bridge in its current location.
- Express our wish that the bypass investigations be based on:
 - Hawkesbury City Council traffic data studies
 - A detailed strategic transport plan of the Hawkesbury basin
 - Flood evacuation capacity and interaction with existing flood evacuation routes
 - Consideration of heritage value.

It is considered that these points remain applicable, and should be considered.

Additionally, the following key points are outlined below:

Strategic Context

Council encourages the provision of infrastructure that is future proofed both in terms of design and capacity, and fits within an agreed and understood bigger picture. To this end, Council encourages consideration of a corridor/route that aligns with the bigger picture. As such, greater clarity is sought in terms of how the proposal aligns in a strategic sense with the following State, Regional and Local transport plans:



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- Future Transport 2056
- 1951 Castlereagh corridor which ends at Springwood Road and how this project will connect
- Proposed Grose River Bridge
- Resilient Valley Resilient Communities – Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Such an approach will ensure that funding for the project is spent in a manner focussed on long term solutions as opposed to shorter term issues. Additionally, the Preferred Option Report should consider whether projects such as the Grose River Bridge not proceeding represents a critical risk to the project, and whether or not such a scenario would affect the assessment of preferred corridors. Essentially, should the Grose River Bridge not proceed, would Transport for NSW guarantee that the Richmond Bridge Duplication project would still provide the anticipated benefits or consider being a guarantor for the Grose River Bridge to ensure the timely delivery of that project.

The capacity of Grose Vale Road to cater for any of the options should be assessed and outlined in the Preferred Option Report, including traffic loading on the road, and the intersection with Terrace Road.

Socio Economic Impacts

Noting that the Preferred Option Report does not include a full assessment of the social and economic impacts of the project (particularly with respect to North Richmond, Southee Road residents and Lowlands land uses), combined with an increase to the budget of the project from the original funding of \$250M to now \$500M, consideration should be had as to the scope of the project, including alternative options not included within the Preferred Option Report. This consideration of scope should include assessment of options including duplication of the existing bridge, and whether any of the proposed options would allow for a higher flood immunity of the new bridge and approaches given the higher budget of the project.

Need to Improve Flood Resilience

The need to improve flood resilience within the road network in the Hawkesbury local government areas cannot be expressed highly enough.

The recent February 2020 and March 2021 flood events in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley only served to highlight this even more acutely. As outlined in the Resilient Valley Resilient Communities – Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy, the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley has the highest flood risk in NSW if not Australia. The March 2021 flood event in particular, whilst considered the first major flood within the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley since 1992 still only represented a 1:15 year flood event. The impacts of the March 2021 flood event were significant for individual property owners, but also the community. This is particularly the case for the community on the west side of the Hawkesbury River who were isolated from early in the flood event for a number of days. This isolation was further compounded by failures of the state road network to the west (Bells Line of Road in particular).

As such, Council strongly encourages a corridor option and design solution that improves the flood resilience significantly above what is currently proposed (approximately 1:20 bridge height and 1:5 approaches). This includes potential flooding impacts on signal box for any traffic signals proposed along the corridor.

Heritage Considerations

Whilst Council supports the removal of a previous corridor option through Richmond, there are a number of heritage impacts that require detailed consideration on the preferred corridor in particular.

Of significant concern to Council is the state heritage listed item known by various names, including Mountain View on Inalls Lane. As highlighted by Council's Heritage Committee, the item being constructed in the early 1800's is of paramount importance on a state level.

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Whilst it is noted that no acquisition is proposed of this site, that being in original condition, and the construction techniques, the item is considered to be potentially susceptible to significant impacts associated with both construction (noise and vibration) of the preferred corridor, and traffic movements following completion of the project. It is understood that no condition assessments have been undertaken on this item to help inform the preferred corridor option.

Council would encourage further detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the preferred corridor option on this state heritage listed item, and if unable to be appropriately mitigated, selection of a corridor that avoids impacts to the item.

Funding

Clarification is required with respect to the funding associated with the project ie. what did the additional funding announcement made of 7 June 2021 allow given the Richmond Bridge Duplication and traffic improvements Preferred Option Report refers to a total project budget of \$250 million.

Additionally, in terms of the matters raised above, and in particular flood resilience, given the need for improved flood resilience is considered to be crucial, the costs of providing a much improved solution that increases the bridge and approaches heights to a 1:20, 1:50 and 1:100 year flood immunity.

As outlined above in the Socio-Economic Impacts section of this submission, given the additional funding, there should be a comparison of alternative options in addition to those considered in the Preferred Option Report.

Opportunities for Town Centre Revitalisation and Active Transport Links

Council welcomes the opportunity that a bypass of both Richmond and North Richmond presents in assisting Council's efforts to revitalise these town centres. Council has undertaken a Masterplan for the Richmond town centre, in addition to Windsor and South Windsor as part of the Western Sydney City Deal Liveability Program. Council's vision for the North Richmond town centre is still being developed, and involves a number of individual property owners.

Council also welcomes the opportunity that this project offers for active transport, both within the centres of Richmond and North Richmond, but importantly between these centres. Council undertook a Community Insights Report (Placescore) for Hawkesbury Town Centres in February 2018 which highlighted the significance the Hawkesbury community and visitors placed on active transport within and between our town centres. In support of other points raised above the report also highlights the importance the community and visitors place on heritage, being the top place attribute. A copy of that Community Insights Report is included for your reference.

Acquisition and Engagement with Affected Property Owners

Previous corridor planning undertaken by Transport for NSW (in particular the 2018 Bells Line of Road and Outer Sydney Orbital corridors proposal) has proved to be highly problematic and stressful for the affected community.

Council encourages a process when dealing with affected property owners, particularly where acquisition is proposed that is equitable, fair, transparent, and maintains high levels of meaningful communication with those affected property owners.

With respect to the proposed noise mitigation of the corridor along Southee Road, Council recommends that the corridor option be designed to avoid the need to mitigate the proposed corridor.

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Suggested Improvements/Clarification of Timing and Process

The following points are also provided as suggested improvements to the project:

- Should the preferred corridor option proceed, consideration of a flyover at Kurrajong Road in order to avoid an at grade intersection of the new road corridor with Kurrajong Road, and the potential for delays at a signalised intersection
- Consideration of afternoon traffic, particularly in terms of the intersection of the new road corridor onto Bells Line of Road which is considered to be a concern
- Consideration of a corridor route in more detail to ensure that the impacts are minimised and more appropriately balanced against traffic efficiency, including provision of a corridor that minimises the number of 90 degree bends, and provides for less interruption of traffic flow

Additionally, it is recommended that the following points be considered as the project continues in order to ensure that the community is fully informed:

- Provision of details in terms of timing and milestones/prerequisite steps
- Announcements versus reality of timing expecting stage 1 build stage 2 shovel ready
- Clarity in terms of the type of approvals required – Environmental Impact Statement or Review of Environmental Factors, and expected timing of either.

Additionally, please note that Council received a number of community representations with respect to the Preferred Option Report at Council's Ordinary Meeting on 10 August 2021. Community representatives raised a number of points which Council has resolved to include the information from these community representatives for Transport for NSW's consideration. These representations include:

Strategic - Remove suggested improvements for the preferred route, as this is tacit endorsement of Transport for NSW's decision. Consider a return to the scope of the project, and seek to eliminate the negative social and economic impacts associated with the stated Preferred Option, all of which were minimised by the hybrid or yellow routes.

What other major pieces of infrastructure are being modelled/proposed post 2046, and has the preferred route been selected based upon future developments that aren't yet public knowledge.

Provide a detailed drawing of the yellow route which has the same quality and detail of the preferred route.

Increase in the budget (doubled), allows opportunity for further consultation and analysis between the green and yellow routes.

Socio-Economic Impacts – assessment needs to be provided, including need for further data to show the effects on businesses as a result of bypassing. The economic impact from the loss of polo fields and the impacts to the equine industry need to be considered and avoided.

Visual Amenity and Noise – impacts to 80 plus residential properties on Southee Road and Inalls Lane, and 50 plus residential properties in the Lowlands, Norfolk Place, Terrace Road and Bells Line of Road. Using the full Driftway corridor to Castlereagh Road, and a route alongside the current bridge completely eliminates this impact. Loss of visual amenity to the Lowlands in particular.

Flood Resilience - Transport for NSW note that to achieve a 1 in 100 flood resilience would require a 2.5km bridge. It is worth noting the Jim Anderson bridge cost \$135M. The project now has a \$500M budget and opportunity to provide a significant increase in flood resilience for the Hawkesbury. Moving from a 1 in 2 to a 1 in 5 flood resilience for a \$500M investment is a poor investment of taxpayer dollars. Additionally, has climate change been considered as part of assessment of options, and the level of flood resilience to be provided?

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Aboriginal Heritage - A key constraint was the impact on Aboriginal Heritage sites on the purple route. Transport for NSW's recent map of the Green preferred Route shows for the first time that it also crosses 5 identified areas of Aboriginal Heritage Significance. Duplication in the existing bridge/road corridor reduces any Aboriginal Heritage Significance site impacts.

Sporting Field – Property and Land Use - The preferred route significantly impacts on Soccer, and Polo fields. The Options Report indicates that the yellow route has the lower impact on all of these. There has also been no accounting for the compulsory acquisition of Western Sydney University land and economic impacts on relocating important climate research.

Traffic modelling and road safety - a stated objective was to reduce right hand through traffic to reduce traffic accidents, however the Green Route creates a number of additional right turn traffic intersections, and other intersection problems which are not present in the yellow route. Concern with the proposed route parallel to Southee Road which will be blocked off at both ends, and the only way without backtracking through the suburban streets of Hobartville is via the new road, with the entrance concentrating traffic onto Valder Avenue.

Environmental Impact - on the Western Sydney University and the Hawkesbury – loss of the 100 year Pecan Trees, and the Eucalypt Plantation which is not only part of the Climate Change Research but feed many of the animals in our Sydney Zoos. The natural spring opposite houses at 49 – 63 Southee Road will now have a road on top of it.

Engagement - due to the ongoing COVID situation, Transport for NSW should keep open the public consultation period until it is possible to conduct full community consultation meetings. Seek transparency from Transport for NSW, and seek public access to the full traffic modelling, Socio Economic Analysis and full Benefit Cost Ratio reports. Need for greater engagement with the community, and shouldn't proceed to next step until further direct consultation has occurred. Need to re-engage with the community working group and businesses in North Richmond and Richmond who could miss out on business because of the green route.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission. Council would welcome ongoing communication and discussion with Transport for NSW in this respect.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to this matter please contact me on (02) 4560 4604.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Kearns | Manager Strategic Planning | Hawkesbury City Council
☎ (02) 4560 4604 | 📠 (02) 4587 7740 | 🌐 www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

ORDINARY MEETING
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Item: 173 **CP - Draft Development Assessment Policy - (95498)**

Directorate: City Planning

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to place the draft Development Assessment Policy on public exhibition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of the Development Assessment Policy is to deliver an improved Development Assessment process for Council's customers. This Policy will do this by:

- Providing customer-focused services and communicating about the development assessment process to potential applicants
- Providing greater transparency about the process of lodging and assessing DAs and Pre-DA advice applications
- Supporting continuous improvement and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the development assessment process, and
- Establishing clear directions and timeframes for additional information requests.

Following the public exhibition, a further report will be prepared for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the public exhibition of the Draft Development Assessment Policy attached as attachment 1 to the report.

BACKGROUND

A Development Application (DA) is a formal application for development that requires assessment under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ("the Act").

Applications to modify a development consent and applications to review the determination of a development application are subject to the same requirements as DAs as described in this Policy.

Prior to lodging a DA, Council encourages applicants to seek formal Pre-DA advice for some types of development. The aim of the Pre-DA is to discuss development concepts with Council's assessment planners to obtain guidance on the key considerations related to the development prior to lodging a DA.

The principal purpose of this Policy is to identify Council's expectations and provide transparency in the development assessment process.

Location Plan

The Draft Development Assessment Policy will apply to the whole of the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

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Relevant Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
Local Government Act 1993

DISCUSSION

The development assessment process is one of many services delivered by Council and it is critical that the process is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Development Assessment Policy is aimed at delivering an improved Development Assessment process for Council's customers. This Policy will do this by:

- Providing customer-focused services and communicating about the development assessment process to potential applicants
- Providing greater transparency about the process of lodging and assessing DAs and Pre-DA advice applications
- Supporting continuous improvement and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the development assessment process, and
- Establishing clear directions and timeframes for additional information requests.

This Policy will apply to all stages of the development application process including:

- Pre-lodgement
- Lodgement
- Application assessment
- Post determination options

A key aspect of this Policy is setting clear timeframes. If an application does not have sufficient information, the Planning Officer will request the information and allow 21 days for the information to be submitted. Applicants will be advised that if the information cannot be provided in complete form within 21 days, the application should be withdrawn, upon which Council will provide a partial refund of fees. If the information is not provided within 21 days, the application will be determined based on the original information. Extensions will typically only be provided exceptional circumstances.

This practice is new and as such there will be a communication and engagement plan to inform our regular applicants.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It is proposed that the Draft Policy be placed on exhibition in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan.

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CONFORMANCE TO THE HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2036

The proposal is consistent with the following Focus Areas, Directions, Strategies within the Community Strategic Plan.

Our Leadership

- 1.2 Communication and engagement - Encourage an informed community and enable meaningful engagement.
 - 1.2.1 Provide open and clear lines of communication with the community that use the most current forms of digital technology.
 - 1.2.2 Council's communication will be enhanced to ensure community awareness and understanding of the role Council plays in everyday life in the Hawkesbury.

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.
 - 5.1.4 Encourage increased community participation in planning and Policy development.
 - 5.1.5 The needs of our community will be reflected in Local, State and Regional Plans.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications of this proposed draft Development Assessment Policy.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS

The proposal is aligned with Council's long term plan to improve and maintain organisational sustainability and achieve Fit for the Future benchmarks.

ATTACHMENTS:

- AT - 1** Draft Development Assessment Policy - *(Distributed under separate cover).*

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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ORDINARY MEETING

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SECTION 4 – Reports of Committees

Item: 174 **ROC - Audit Committee - 11 August 2021 - (91369, 95496, 79351)**

Directorate: Support Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to present the Minutes of the Audit Committee, held on 11 August 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Audit Committee considered nine items and General Business at its meeting on 11 August 2021.

All items and General Business have no policy or financial implications for Council and therefore, they are presented for information only.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and note the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on the 11 August 2021.

DISCUSSION

The Audit Committee met on 11 August 2021 and discussed the following items:

- Item 1 2020/2021 Internal Audit Program Update
- Item 2 Status of Internal Audit Management Actions
- Item 3 TfNSW DRIVES Compliance Internal Audit Report
- Item 4 Proposed Three Year Internal Audit Program from 2021/2022 to 2023/2024
- Item 5 Finance Report
- Item 6 Audit - NSW Audit Office Interim Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2021
- Item 7 Updates to Council's Enterprise Risk Register and Environmental Risks
- Item 8 Proposed Special Audit Committee Meeting - 22 September 2021
- Item 9 Property Matter Investigation Outcome
- General Business - Audit Committee Business Papers, Attendance and Minutes

The Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 11 August 2021 are attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

The above items and General Business do not have any policy or financial implications for Council, and therefore they are presented for information only.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 11 August 2021.

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AT - 1 Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 11 August 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held in by Audio-Visual Link, on 11 August 2021, commencing at 4:04pm.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Councillor Paul Rasmussen, Hawkesbury City Council
 Councillor John Ross, Hawkesbury City Council
 Mr Craig Bennett, Community Representative
 Ms Ellen Hegarty, Community Representative
 Ms Nisha Maheshwari, Community Representative (Chairperson)

Apologies: Mr Kenneth Leung, NSW Audit Office

In Attendance: Ms Penelope Corkill, Centium
 Mr James Winter, Grant Thornton
 Ms Lesley Yang, Grant Thornton
 Ms Elizabeth Richardson, Hawkesbury City Council
 Mr Laurie Mifsud, Hawkesbury City Council
 Ms Emma Galea, Hawkesbury City Council
 Mr Jeff Organ, Hawkesbury City Council
 Ms Linda Perrine, Hawkesbury City Council
 Mr Conrad Webb, Hawkesbury City Council
 Ms Rachel Ridges, Hawkesbury City Council
 Ms Tracey Easterbrook, Hawkesbury City Council
 Ms Melissa Simpson, Hawkesbury City Council

Member	16/9/2020	2/12/2020	24/2/2021	26/05/2021	11/08/2021
Councillor Paul Rasmussen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Councillor John Ross	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Councillor Patrick Conolly (Alternate)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mr Craig Bennett	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Ellen Hegarty	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms Nisha Maheshwari (Chairperson)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Paul Rasmussen and seconded by Councillor John Ross that the apology be accepted.

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no Declaration of Interests Made.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Paul Rasmussen and seconded by Mr Craig Bennett that the Minutes of the Audit Committee held on the 26 May 2021, be confirmed.

SECTION 2 - Reports for Determination

Item: 1 **AC - 2020/2021 Internal Audit Program Update - (91369, 121470, 95496, 79351)**

Directorate: Support Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the progress on the 2020/2021 Internal Audit Program be received and noted.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Craig Bennett, seconded by Councillor Paul Rasmussen.

That the progress on the 2020/2021 Internal Audit Program be received and noted.

Item: 2 **AC - Status of Internal Audit Management Actions - (91369, 121470, 95496, 79351)**

Directorate: Support Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee receive and note the following reports:

1. Internal Audit Management Actions Summary Report as at 5 July 2021 as outlined in Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Incomplete Internal Audit Management Actions Report as at 5 July 2021 as outlined in Attachment 2 to this report.
3. Recently Completed Internal Audit Management Actions Report as outlined in Attachment 3 to this report.
4. Overdue Extreme Risk / High Risk Internal Audit Management Actions Report as outlined in Attachment 4 to this report.
5. Approved requests for Due Date Extension for Internal Audit Management Actions as outlined in Attachment 5 to this report.

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DISCUSSION

- The Director Support Services outlined that there are 63 Management Actions still in progress and to be completed. There have been nine Management Actions completed since the last reporting period on 26 May 2021.
- Ellen Hegarty raised concerns of the large number of high and significant risk incomplete Management Actions. Of the 63 incomplete Management Actions, 52 or 83% of the incomplete Management Actions are of high or significant risk and questioned how to check if progress has been made on these high and significant risk Management Actions between Audit Committee meetings. A number of these incomplete Management Actions date back to Internal Audits carried out in 2017/2018. The Director Support Services advised that the tables in the report outline details of the incomplete Management Actions. Table 2 in the report indicates that there are 63 incomplete Management Actions of which 20 Management Actions are overdue. Table 3 in the report indicates that of the 63 incomplete Management Actions, 13 are of high risk and 39 are of significant risk. Of the 13 incomplete Management Actions of high risk, three are overdue and progress comments and mitigation strategies for these three high risk overdue Management Actions are provided in Table 4 and Attachment 4 of the report. Of the 39 incomplete Management Actions of significant risk, 13 are overdue. Updated comments are provided in the report to each Audit Committee.
- Craig Bennett enquired as to how Council are progressing with the high risk outstanding Management Actions associated with the Commercial Leases and Property Management Internal Audit. The Director Support Services advised that the development of a new Property Development Strategy is on hold pending the appointment of a Manager Property Management and Strategy. This has delayed the finalisation of some of these Management Actions. Council is in the process of recruiting a Manager Property Management and Strategy.
- The General Manager re-iterated that the development of a Property Development Strategy will be actioned by the Management Action due dates.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Craig Bennett, seconded by Councillor Paul Rasmussen.

That the Audit Committee receive and note the following reports:

1. Internal Audit Management Actions Summary Report as at 5 July 2021 as outlined in Attachment 1 to this report.
2. Incomplete Internal Audit Management Actions Report as at 5 July 2021 as outlined in Attachment 2 to this report.
3. Recently Completed Internal Audit Management Actions Report as outlined in Attachment 3 to this report.
4. Overdue Extreme Risk / High Risk Internal Audit Management Actions Report as outlined in Attachment 4 to this report.
5. Approved requests for Due Date Extension for Internal Audit Management Actions as outlined in Attachment 5 to this report.

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Item: 3 **AC - TfNSW DRIVES Compliance Internal Audit Report - (91369, 121470, 95496, 95498, 79351)**

Directorate: Support Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee receive and note the TfNSW DRIVES Compliance Internal Audit Report attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

DISCUSSION:

- Penelope Corkill from Centium provided an overview outlining that the Audit had positive outcomes. Council performed 428 checks over a 12 month period. Council has great matching through controls which are in place.
- Councillor John Ross commended management and staff on this report.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Craig Bennett, seconded by Councillor Paul Rasmussen.

That the Audit Committee receive and note the TfNSW DRIVES Compliance Internal Audit Report attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

Item: 4 **AC - Proposed Three Year Internal Audit Program from 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 (91369, 121470, 95496, 79351)**

Directorate: Support Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee approve the following three year Internal Audit Program from 2021/2022 to 2023/2024:

- **2021/2022**
 1. Asset Planning and Management
 2. Asbestos Management
 3. Child Protection Compliance
 4. Transport for NSW DRIVES Compliance
- **2022/2023**
 1. Records Management
 2. Fire Safety, Sewer and Swimming Pool Inspections
 3. Emergency Management including the Business Continuity Plan
 4. Work Health and Safety including Workers Compensation
 5. Transport for NSW DRIVES Compliance

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- **2023/2024**
 1. Fraud and Corruption
 2. Waste Management Facility Operations
 3. Cyber Security
 4. Recruitment and Selection of Staff
 5. Transport for NSW DRIVES Compliance

DISCUSSION

- The Director Support Services indicated that the proposed Internal Audit Program for the next three years, as outlined in the report was developed based on:
 - Audit Committee Member comments
 - Compliance requirements
 - Council staff workload and the delivery of Management Actions
 - Size of the Council
 - Council's Risk Register
 - Current industry risk and emerging risks.
- Penelope Corkill from Centium advised the selected audits were considered priority audits.
- James Winter, from Grant Thornton advised that the Cyber Security Audit is consistent across Councils.
- Nisha Maheshwari commented that excluding the Drives Compliance Audits, the proposed audits are quite extensive.
- The Director Support Services advised that a Council the size of Hawkesbury should have three to five Internal Audits each year. Council took this into account and have four audits proposed for the first year in 2021/2022, and then increased to five audits in each of the remaining two years. Council has made sure that audits are distributed across the various areas of Council for the three years to ensure they are manageable for staff.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Paul Rasmussen, seconded by Mr Craig Bennett.

That the Audit Committee approve the following three year Internal Audit Program from 2021/2022 to 2023/2024:

- **2021/2022**
 1. Asset Planning and Management
 2. Asbestos Management
 3. Child Protection Compliance
 4. Transport for NSW DRIVES Compliance
- **2022/2023**
 1. Records Management
 2. Fire Safety, Sewer and Swimming Pool Inspections
 3. Emergency Management including the Business Continuity Plan
 4. Work Health and Safety including Workers Compensation
 5. Transport for NSW DRIVES Compliance

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- **2023/2024**

1. Fraud and Corruption
2. Waste Management Facility Operations
3. Cyber Security
4. Recruitment and Selection of Staff
5. Transport for NSW DRIVES Compliance

Item: 5 **AC - Finance Report - (91369, 121470, 95496, 79351)**

Directorate: Support Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee receive and note the report on the June 2021 Investment Report.

DISCUSSION

- The Chief Financial Officer confirmed Council are refining the Investment Policy to maximise returns and will be taking action to take advantage of the Policy.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Mr Craig Bennett, seconded by Councillor Paul Rasmussen.

That the Audit Committee receive and note the report on the June 2021 Investment Report.

Item: 6 **AC - Audit - NSW Audit Office Interim Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2021**

Directorate: Support Services

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the information contained with the Interim Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2021 attached in attachment 1 to the report, be received and noted.

DISCUSSION

- James Winter, from Grant Thornton advised Council will commence the audit process on the 6 September 2021 and provided an overview of the key issues to be reviewed.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Ms Ellen Hegarty, seconded by Mr Craig Bennett.

That the information contained with the Interim Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2021 attached in attachment 1 to the report, be received and noted.

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Item: 7 **AC - Updates to Council's Enterprise Risk Register and Environmental Risks - (91369, 95496, 121470)**

Directorate: General Manager

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the updates to the Council's Enterprise Risk Register and the Environmental Risks as outlined in this report be received and noted.

DISCUSSION

- The Manager Enterprise Risk Systems advised that three items have been added to Council's Risk Register regarding Child Protection and Safety.
- The General Manager advised that child care centres, libraries, parks and fitness centres undertake programs that could involve children. The Manager Enterprise Risk Systems also advised our Events staff have a lot of interaction with children.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Ms Ellen Hegarty, seconded by Councillor Paul Rasmussen.

That the information contained with the Interim Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2021 attached in attachment 1 to the report, be received and noted.

Item: 8 **AC - Proposed Special Audit Committee Meeting - 22 September 2021 - (91369, 121470, 95496, 79351)**

Directorate: Support Services

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That a Special Meeting of the Audit Committee be held at 4.00pm on Wednesday, 22 September 2021.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Paul Rasmussen, seconded by Councillor John Ross.

That a Special Meeting of the Audit Committee be held at 4.00pm on Wednesday, 22 September 2021.

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Confidential Reports

Item: 9 **AC - Property Matter Investigation Outcome - (91369, 79351)**

Previous Item: 150, Ordinary (27 July 2021)

Directorate: General Manager

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

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

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

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

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee receive and note the report on the outcome of an investigation into events associated with the upgrade of Memorial Park, Kurrajong.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Paul Rasmussen, seconded by Mr Craig Bennett.

That the Audit Committee receive and note the report on the outcome of an investigation into events associated with the upgrade of Memorial Park, Kurrajong.

SECTION 3 - General Business

A. Audit Committee Business Papers, Attendance and Minutes

The General Manager advised that she had received an email from Councillor John Ross regarding the Audit Committee business papers, attendance and minutes. The General Manager provided the following comments regarding the matters raised by Councillor Ross:

1. Business Papers Distribution

The Audit Committee business paper is currently circulated to Committee members, a number of Council staff, and a number of External and Internal Audit representatives. For future meetings, the business papers will be circulated to the following, resulting in a reduction of five people who are currently receiving the business papers:

- Five Committee members and the alternate
- A representative of the NSW Audit Office
- Two representatives of Grant Thornton – External Audit contractor
- A representative of The Centium Group – Internal Audit contractor
- Council staff:

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- General Manager
- Director Support Services
- Chief Financial Officer
- Internal Audit Coordinator
- Committee Secretaries/Minute Clerks.

2. Meeting Attendees

The people outlined in 1 above would attend and participate in Audit Committee meetings. In addition, various Council Directors and Managers will need to attend Audit Committee meetings from time to time in regard to items that relate to their areas of responsibility or they have prepared a report to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee Charter has been adopted by the Audit Committee and Council a number of times since 30 June 2009, with the Charter being recently adopted by Council on 26 May 2021. The current adopted Charter states at Clause 5 (b):

“....., three staff members comprising the General Manager (or representative), the Director Support Services and the Chief Financial Officer will also attend meetings of the Audit Committee.”

3. Business Papers

The Audit Committee Charter adopted by Council on 26 May 2021 states at Clause 9.3 (b):

“(b) The Secretariat will ensure the agenda for each meeting and supporting papers are circulated, at least one week before the meeting.”

It is intended that the Committee Secretaries will continue to circulate the Audit Committee business paper and supporting papers.

4. Distribution of Minutes

It is our intention when possible to circulate the draft minutes of the Audit Committee to Committee members within seven working days of the meeting.

5. Sign Off of Minutes

The existing practice of the Chairperson of the Audit Committee having the final sign off of the draft minutes whether they are subject to a voting member query or not, will continue.

The Audit Committee agreed with the practices outlined by the General Manager regarding the Audit Committee business papers, attendance and minutes.

The meeting terminated at 5:54pm.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 4 – Reports of Committees
Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

Item: 175 **ROC - Innovation and Partnerships Committee - 24 August 2021 - (151939, 79351)**

Directorate: General Manager

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to present the Minutes of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee, held on 24 August 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Item 1 contained within the minutes of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee has policy or financial implications to Council. It therefore requires specific consideration by Council, the details of which are discussed in the report below.

RECOMMENDATION:

That in relation to the Minutes of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee Meeting held on the 24 August 2021:

1. Council endorse the Committee recommendation in respect to Item 1, namely:

"The Committee recommends to Council that:

Council write to the Minister for Communications, detailing the extensive challenges that our community has in regards to telecommunications, requesting a meeting to discuss the issues and how we might work together to plan for them to be addressed."

DISCUSSION

The Innovation and Partnerships Committee met on 24 August 2021. The agenda is available [here](#) and attachments to items in the agenda are available [here](#).

The Committee considered tabled submissions in respect of community member submissions received from Council through YourHawkesbury-YourSay and from the Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman MP. This item requires specific consideration by Council.

In relation to Item 1, it is recommended that Council endorse the Committee Recommendation in the Minutes attached as Attachment 1.

"The Committee recommends to Council that:

Council write to the Minister for Communications, detailing the extensive challenges that our community has in regards to telecommunications, requesting a meeting to discuss the issues and how we might work together to plan for them to be addressed."

ATTACHMENTS:

AT - 1 Minutes of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee held on 24 August 2021.

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AT - 1 Minutes of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee held on 24 August 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee held by Audio-Visual link, on 24 August 2021, commencing at 4:02pm.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Councillor Sarah Richards, Hawkesbury City Council (Chairperson)
Councillor Patrick Conolly, Hawkesbury City Council
Councillor Amanda Kotlash, Hawkesbury City Council
Councillor Nathan Zamprogno, Hawkesbury City Council.

Apologies: Nil.

In Attendance: Ms Elizabeth Richardson, Hawkesbury City Council
Mr Jeff Organ, Hawkesbury City Council
Ms Suzanne Stuart, Hawkesbury City Council
Ms Tracey Easterbrook, Hawkesbury City Council
Ms Amy Birks - Minute Secretary, Hawkesbury City Council.

Member	9/02/2021	3/08/2021	24/08/2021
Councillor Patrick Conolly (Mayor)	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Amanda Kotlash	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Sarah Richards (Chairperson)	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Nathan Zamprogno	✓	✓	✓

Councillor Zamprogno entered the meeting at 4:03pm.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interests made.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Councillor Conolly seconded by Councillor Zamprogno that the Minutes of the Innovation and Partnerships Committee held on the 3 August 2021, be confirmed.

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

Previous Item: 2, Innovation and Partnerships (9 February 2021)
1, Innovation and Partnerships (3 August 2021)

Directorate: General Manager

The Chairperson, Councillor Sarah Richards tabled community member submissions received from Council through YourHawkesbury-YourSay, these are attached as Attachment 1 to Item 1

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The Mayor, Councillor Patrick Conolly tabled a submission from the Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman MP, it is attached as Attachment 2 to Item 1.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the information in this report regarding submissions received be received and noted.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED on the motion of Mayor, Councillor Conolly, seconded by Councillor Kotlash.

The Committee recommends to Council that:

Council write to the Minister for Communications, detailing the extensive challenges that our community has in regards to telecommunications, requesting a meeting to discuss the issues and how we might work together to plan for them to be addressed.

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

Against the Motion: Nil.

Absent: Nil.

ORDINARY MEETING
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AT - 1 Tabled submissions received from Council through YourHawkesbury-YourSay

	Your feedback
70	<p>Mobile phone blackspot areas need to be fixed. We have zero reception in our house and little to no reception outside. I've recently had a baby and this has made this experience isolating. As well as this, we are trying to run a business from home as well as work from home. But the communication services in our community make these tasks practically impossible</p>
71	<p>I have live in Neptune Crescent Bligh Park for 3 years now and the phone connection and internet connection is shocking. 90% of phone calls I get drop out numerous times and I or the person calling need to call back. My Telco which is Telstra has been unable to improve my issues. I would appreciate any help that council can offer.</p>

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	Your feedback
72	<p>Phoned Council to advise that they have no internet access to complete submission.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lives in Kurrajong Heights 2. No internet service available & very limited mobile service (sometimes 1 bar) 3. During the recent bushfire they had to rely on 2 way radio to keep in touch with her husband who was helping fight the fires. 4. Advised that when tradesmen pull out their effpos machines for payment, they have to have cash or cheque available for payment. 5. Her husband has a mobile with the QR code access when shopping or medical visit, but if they were contaminated they would not receive any message once they returned home. 6. Family can only contact on the home phone but unable to hear when they are in the paddock. 7. Also advised that truckies lose reception on their phones for a short while when they are near Cut Rock. 8. Home phone is XXX.
73	<p>Mobile Black Spots in areas of Wilberforce. Providers tell us its the tree canopies that interfere with the signals from the towers. We need sufficient towers to cope with all types of terrain. We've lived in the Wilberforce area over 15 years the mobile coverage has not significantly improved in coverage or capacity in that time, for example no matter which mobile phone company you use there are black spots on bells line of road or the putty rd within 5 minutes of Wilberforce. Even before Covid the mobile service became so slow or even died during peak times as more people use the network for data.</p> <p>We have been advised that the only way to get coverage at our property is to install a private booster which we cannot do as these are illegal!</p> <p>Happy to discuss with you further.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>June Notley.</p>
74	<p>I live on Laws Farm Road. I pay for fixed wireless NBN from Telstra but experience continual and significant service issues that have been unremediated for months.</p>

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 4 – Reports of Committees
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AT - 2 Tabled submission from the Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman MP



SUSAN TEMPLEMAN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE

Clr Patrick Conolly
Mayor
Hawkesbury City Council
Mayor@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor Conolly

Thank you for the invitation to address the Innovations and Partnerships Committee on 24 August 2021. Unfortunately, as the meeting coincides with a sitting of Federal Parliament, I am unable to attend in person and I trust this letter will be of assistance.

I welcome Council's interest in improving telecommunication services across the Hawkesbury. I look forward to your suggestions and to you joining with me in continued advocacy for more fibre, better mobile coverage and stronger network infrastructure that can withstand the challenges of a changing climate, with increased natural disasters.

Overview

Since first being elected in 2016 as the Member for Macquarie, the need for improved telecommunications has featured as a constant issue in the electorate. I've spoken with your predecessors – Mayor Ford, Mayor Lyons-Buckett and Mayor Calvert – about these matters, in Parliament, and in the media many, many times about the appalling mobile reception in our communities and how dangerous this is for us given how prone to flood and fire we are.

This document will address three issues: mobile coverage, NBN rollout, legacy network and disaster resilience.

1. Mobile coverage

While the Federal Government provides a regulatory framework, the provision of mobile networks is a commercial matter for the private mobile network providers.

The Federal Government introduced the Mobile Blackspots Program (MBSP) following the 2013 election. This program has seen a number of mobile base stations constructed to improve coverage in the Hawkesbury local government area.

At various times in the intervening 8 years, the Federal Government has invited stakeholders, including Council, and the wider public to suggest mobile blackspot locations. As Federal Member I've publicised these opportunities, urged Council to provide your input, identified locations for new towers and reminded the Minister about past commitments made and delays endured.

MBSP Round 1 saw sites at Colo Heights, Kurrajong and Webbs Creek announced and constructed. It also announced Mount Tomah (BMCC area) which would have improved Bells

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ORDINARY MEETING
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Line of Road connectivity but was not proceeded with and funding was transferred some years later to the Central West.

Round 2 was announced in early 2016. St Albans was promised but is still not constructed.

Round 3 is known as the Priority Round and the only tower committed to and built in the Hawkesbury was at Grose Vale.

As part of Round 4, in September 2018, the Federal Government opened the National Mobile Blackspot Database for nominations. This round was to target Public Interest Premises including economic centres, emergency service facilities, health facilities, educational facilities, Indigenous community organisations, local government facilities, and not-for-profit organisations.

I publicised this round, spoke in Parliament, invited feedback from residents and nominated a spreadsheet of sites across the electorate which was submitted to the then Department of Communication and the Arts. Only two sites were subsequently awarded in the Hawkesbury - Macdonald Valley Public School and Upper Colo.

Under Round 5, the Federal Government awarded sites at Central Colo, Colo and Putty.

Council was invited to nominate sites for Round 5A. I also wrote to you on 18 December 2020 enclosing the Minister's letter and inviting Council's response. I publicised Round 5A inviting residents to nominate sites. The information I received was collated into a map and provided to the Minister and the mobile network providers on 11 February 2021. The only Hawkesbury blackspot site to subsequently receive funding in Round 5A was at Lower Macdonald.

No details are available yet for the \$80 million Round 6.

The Mobile Blackspot program has excluded parts of the Hawkesbury such as Oakville and Maraylya. I have advocated strongly for peri-urban parts of my electorate to be included in programs to improve coverage. The Federal Government recently announced the Peri-Urban Mobile Program <https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/mobile-services-and-coverage/peri-urban-mobile-program> and consultation on draft guidelines close this week.

2. NBN rollout

Richmond and Windsor were fortunate to access Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) under the initial NBN rollout in August 2013.

The change of government in September 2013 led to other areas of the Hawkesbury designated as Fibre to the Node (FTTN), Fixed Wireless and satellite. As the flaws of FTTN became evident, another technology - Fibre to the Curb (FTTC) - was deployed to FTTN areas not yet built and extended into some Fixed Wireless designated areas.

Luckily for some residents NBNC was unable to secure sites for many Fixed Wireless towers and, consequently, it extended the fixed line footprint. I've spoken many times in Parliament and in the media about the NBN rollout in the Hawkesbury where, standing on one street corner in some areas you could have 3 or 4 NBN technologies connecting neighbouring houses.

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Last year, when thunderstorm season began, my office was inundated with complaints about FTTC boxes failing. This was particularly acute in Bowen Mountain. Many people lost NBN services when lightning caused surges and damaged the NBN boxes. There was a reluctance by NBNCo to acknowledge the extent of the problem, but investigations were undertaken. With 10,000 boxes taken out during the summer of storms across my electorate, NBNCo responded to the public exposure of the flawed boxes, conceding there was a problem and posted this consumer advice on its website <https://www.nbnco.com.au/utility/lightning-strikes-and-damage-to-nbn-equipment>

The remaining issues with NBN connectivity are in the Fixed Wireless areas where signal strength is poor and in fixed line areas where the fixed line stops before the end of a road relegating those residents to the satellite. Rural areas remain dependent on NBN satellite as service providers withdraw ADSL broadband from the old copper network.

It is important to recognise that satellite and Fixed Wireless do not, and cannot, provide the fast speeds and capacity that many households need to support working from home, schooling from home and streaming services. These people are left paying for an inferior service compared to a fixed line service. They deserve better.

I also wrote to you in December 2020 enclosing a letter from the Minister inviting local councils to leverage co-investment for higher-speed NBN services. I'm interested in Hawkesbury City Council's response to the Government's initiative and what improvements to NBN services Council would like to see across its area.

Councillors can view the NBN rollout map at <https://www.nbnco.com.au/learn/rollout-map> to check the status of the network for any address.

3. Legacy network and disaster resilience

The Hawkesbury is well known for being disaster-prone, whether bushfires, storms or floods. Historically its electricity network and copper telephone network are frail. The rural areas of the Hawkesbury still have a legacy copper network that many people are reluctant to give up for NBN satellite services. These areas also have poorer mobile reception. Some communities like Bilpin and St Albans have been wanting better and more resilient services for many years.

In relation to St Albans, I continue to advocate that Telstra repair and maintain its copper network and that Optus deliver the blackspot project it was awarded five years ago.

In relation to Bilpin, reliable power supply for the Bilpin exchange and mobile tower is vital. This has been an issue the community engaged in with me well before the 2019 bushfires and since. Telstra has taken steps to upgrade the reliability of the batteries but to date has not agreed to install a generator.

There were many issues with the Telstra copper network from storms and bushfires in 2019 and 2020 and the floods of 2021. My staff and I were in constant contact with Telstra to repair and restore the network. It is fair to say that the 2019-20 bushfires were a wake-up call to telecommunication network providers to lift the resilience of their networks and harden their infrastructure.

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I was pleased that, at my request, Telstra staff visited the Hawkesbury after the bushfires in March 2020 just prior to the first Covid lockdown and spent a day each at Bilpin, Colo and St Albans where they took resident complaints and gained a better understanding of the telecommunication issues facing rural and isolated communities. That on-the-ground experience for Telstra staff contributed to the nomination and awarding of Round 5 blackspot spots to Telstra at Central Colo and Colo. Optus was successful in gaining the site at Putty.

In response to the bushfires and the Royal Commission the Federal Government introduced the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) <https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/communications-emergencies/what-government-doing-strengthen-telecommunications-resilience> with applications for Round 2 closing on Thursday.

Conclusion

There are multiple issues to be resolved before the Hawkesbury has adequately robust and reliable telecommunications.

There have been promises made over the last 8 years by numerous Liberal Governments that have not been delivered.

The need is urgent, and it is not too dramatic to say that lives depend on it.

The years of neglect cannot be turned around overnight.

There are multiple issues to be resolved before the Hawkesbury has adequately robust and reliable telecommunications. There have been promises made over the last 8 years by numerous Liberal Governments that have not been delivered.

The need is urgent, and it is not too dramatic to say that lives depend on it.

The years of neglect can not be turned around overnight.

I would welcome a long-term commitment from Council to join with me in advocating for genuine solutions to these matters with the telecommunications companies and at a Federal and State Government level.

Yours sincerely,


Susan Templeman MP
Member for Macquarie
24 August 2020

The meeting terminated at 4:18pm.

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ORDINARY MEETING

SECTION 4 – Reports of Committees

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ordinary

section 5

notices of motion

ORDINARY MEETING
SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion
Meeting Date: 14 September 2021

SECTION 5 – Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion.

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Questions for Next Meeting
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QUESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

Item: 176 **Responses to Councillor Questions Taken On Notice at the Council Meeting - 31 August 2021 - (79351)**

REPORT:

The following questions were received from Councillors regarding matters on the Council Meeting Business Paper of 31 August 2021. These questions were taken on notice and the responses are provided below.

#	Councillor	Question	Response
1	Zamprogno	Requested clarification in regards to the basis of the calculation of the weighted average return percentage shown in Table 8 of the Investment Report.	The Chief Financial Officer advised the weighted average return of 0.045% as shown in Table 8 reflects the running yield, or interest earned, on Council's investment portfolio over the last month. The same calculation based on the interest earned over the last 12 months would result in a running yield of 0.835%. The interest rates shown in Table 3 reflect the annual interest applicable to each respective term deposit. For clarity, additional words will be added to the heading in Table 8 in future reports.
2	Zamprogno	Enquired as to whether Council made a submission for the Peri Urban Mobile Program.	The Director of Infrastructure Services advised the Commonwealth program is proposed to provide funding to improve mobile phone connectivity for bushfire prone urban fringes of capital cities across Australia. Funding of \$16.4m was announced and the program guidelines were released for public consultation. That consultation period closed on 27 August 2021. No Council submission was made in relation to the funding guidelines, noting that the grants will be available only to telecommunications network and infrastructure providers. Council will monitor for advertising of the actual opening of the program for project applications and seek advice from the telco providers

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			<p>on potential works as well as assisting in providing evidence of community support for proposals. We are currently discussing similar grant funding opportunities with Telstra to improve coverage and will seek their technical advice on any suitable eligible works that might be considered prior to applications opening. In addition Council staff will be participating in the review /consultations on telecommunications in peri-urban areas being undertaken by the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee, scheduled for the 14 and 17 September 2021.</p>
3	Ross	Enquired as to the split up of the cost of the traffic island in Porpoise Crescent and separately the proposed fencing to be erected in Rifle Range Road.	The Director of Infrastructure Services advised the cost of the civil works associated with the traffic island is approximately \$82,000 whilst the fencing is estimated at \$16,000. Other project costs in the overall estimate of \$125,000 include project design, management and approvals.

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ordinary
meeting

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