



TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **Meeting of Tamworth Regional Council** will be held in the **Council Chambers, Lands Building, Nemingha Room, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth**, commencing at **6:30pm**.

ORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA

28 MAY 2024

**PAUL BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER**

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Council

Meeting Date: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month commencing at 6:30pm.

Matters determined by Ordinary meetings will include all those non-delegable functions identified in Section 377 of the Local Government Act as follows:

- *“the appointment of a general manager*
- *the making of a rate*
- *a determination under section 549 as to the levying of a rate*
- *the making of a charge*
- *the fixing of a fee*
- *the borrowing of money*
- *the voting of money for expenditure on its works, services or operations*
- *the compulsory acquisition, purchase, sale, exchange or surrender of any land or other property (but not including the sale of items of plant or equipment)*
- *the acceptance of tenders which are required under this Act to be invited by the council*
- *the adoption of an operational plan under section 405*
- *the adoption of a financial statement included in an annual financial report*
- *a decision to classify or reclassify public land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6*
- *the fixing of an amount or rate for the carrying out by the council of work on private land*
- *the decision to carry out work on private land for an amount that is less than the amount or rate fixed by the council for the carrying out of any such work*
- *the review of a determination made by the council, and not by a delegate of the council, of an application for approval or an application that may be reviewed under section 82A of the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#)*
- *the power of the council to authorise the use of reasonable force for the purpose of gaining entry to premises under section 194*
- *a decision under section 356 to contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons*
- *the making of an application, or the giving of a notice, to the Governor or Minister*
- *this power of delegation*
- *any function under this or any other Act that is expressly required to be exercised by resolution of the council.”*

Other matters and functions determined by Ordinary Council Meetings will include:

- *Notices of Motion*
- *Notices of Motion of Rescission*
- *Council Elections, Polls, Constitutional Referendums and Public Hearings/Inquiries*
- *Ministerial Committees and Inquiries*
- *Mayor and Councillors Annual Fees*
- *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayor and Councillors*
- *Local Government Remuneration Tribunal*
- *Local Government Boundaries*
- *NSW Ombudsman*
- *Administrative Decisions Tribunal*
- *Delegation of Functions by the Minister*
- *Delegation of Functions to General Manager and Principal Committees*
- *Organisation Structure*
- *Code of Conduct*
- *Code of Meeting Practice*
- *Honesty and Disclosure of Interests*
- *Access to Information*
- *Protection of Privacy*
- *Enforcement Functions (statutory breaches/prosecutions/recovery of rates)*
- *Dispute Resolution*
- *Council Land and Property Development*
- *Annual Financial Reports, Auditors Reports, Annual Reports and Statement of the Environment Reports*
- *Performance of the General Manager*
- *Equal Employment Opportunity*
- *Powers of Entry*
- *Liability and Insurance*
- *Membership of Organisations*

Membership: All Councillors
Quorum: Five members
Chairperson: The Mayor
Deputy Chairperson: The Deputy Mayor

Community Consultation Policy

The first 30 minutes of Open Council Meetings is available for members of the Public to address the Council Meeting or submit questions either verbally or in writing, on matters INCLUDED in the Business Paper for the Meeting.

Members of the public will be permitted a maximum of three minutes to address the Council Meeting. An extension of time may be granted if deemed necessary.

Members of the public seeking to represent or speak on behalf of a third party must satisfy the Council or Committee Meeting that he or she has the authority to represent or speak on behalf of the third party.

Members of the public wishing to address Council Meetings are requested to contact Council either by telephone, in person or online prior to 4:30pm the day prior to the Meeting to address the Council Meeting. Persons not registered to speak will not be able to address Council at the Meeting.

Council will only permit three speakers in support and three speakers in opposition to a recommendation contained in the Business Paper. If there are more than three speakers, Council's Governance division will contact all registered speakers to determine who will address Council. In relation to a Development Application, the applicant will be reserved a position to speak.

Members of the public will not be permitted to raise matters or provide information which involves:

- personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors);
- personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- information that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
- Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
 - confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council; or
 - reveal a trade secret;
- information that would, if disclosed prejudice the maintenance of law;
- matters affecting the security of the Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;
- advice concerning litigation or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;
- information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land;
- alleged contraventions of any Code of Conduct requirements applicable under Section 440; or
- on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Members of the public will not be permitted to use Community Consultation to abuse, vilify, insult, threaten, intimidate or harass Councillors, Council staff or other members of the public. Conduct of this nature will be deemed to be an act of disorder and the person engaging in such behaviour will be ruled out of the order and may be expelled.

Disclosure of Political Donations or Gifts

If you have made a relevant planning application to Council which is listed for determination on the Council Business Paper you must disclose any political donation or gift made to any councillor or employee of the Council within the period commencing two years before the application is made and ending when the application is determined (Section 147(4) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979).

If you have made a relevant public submission to Council in relation to a relevant planning application which is listed for determination on the Council Business Paper you must disclose any political donation or gifts made to any councillor or employee of the Council by you as the person making the submission or any associate within the period commencing two years before the submission is made and ending when the application is determined (Section 147(5) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979).

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**
- 3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 14 May 2024, copies of which were circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interest

Non Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

Political Donations

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

Nil

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

- 6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR STEPHEN MEARS - CLARIFICATION AND CONFIRMATION OF TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICES - KEEPING ORDER AT MEETINGS**

MOTION

That clarification and confirmation be given of whom may (or may not) call a point of order at a council meeting.

Notice is given that I intend to move the above Motion at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 28 May 2024.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

15.1. A councillor may draw the attention of the Chairperson to an alleged breach of this Code by raising a point of order. A point of order does not require a seconded.

I wish to have this motion addressed in open council to clarify the Code of Meeting Practices as I have been asked, in writing, and via several phone calls as to why a non-Councillor interjected with a Point of Order in the Council meeting of 14 May.

As a number of residents have raised this issue, some that were in attendance at the Council

meeting of the 14th May 2024, it would be beneficial for residents and council staff to have clarification and confirmation of this process addressed in a public forum to provide transparent information to residents and give residents the opportunity to view the decision.

Clarification should also see less need for councillors to call a motion of dissent that, unfortunately result in council clearing the public gallery. Clearing the gallery is something that I do not see as beneficial to the residents in attendance of viewing on line and would ultimately see council in a lesser light.

Cr Stephen Mears

21 May 2024

Staff Comments

Should Council support the Notice of Motion a report will be prepared by the Executive Manager, Strategy and Performance for consideration by Council at the next Ordinary Meeting.

Section 15.1 of the Code of Meeting Practice has been correctly quoted and only a Councillor (or the Mayor) can formally raise a Point of Order. However, section 15.4 also states that "The chairperson, without the intervention of any other councillor, may call any councillor to order whenever, in the opinion of the chairperson, it is necessary to do so."

The General Manager has a key role to advise the Mayor on the conduct of the Council Meeting and to ensure it is conducted within the rules of procedure and debate. This advice extends to the procedures around motions, amendments, foreshadowed motions and recission motions as well as the legality of any motion being put and the general conduct of the meeting. The General Manager is even called on by the Mayor to assist Council in its deliberations by assisting with the wording of motions to ensure the intent of Council is adequately expressed following debate.

The General Manager can advise the Mayor (or Chair) that the conduct of a Councillor could or should be considered a Point of Order, however it is then up to the Mayor as to whether they take that advice and raise the Point of Order or ignore the advice and allow the debate to proceed. This differs from the practice where a Councillor formally raises a Point of Order, the Mayor suspends the progress of the meeting to hear the reasons for the objection, and then immediately rules to uphold or overrule the objection.

In the instance referred to in the Notice of Motion the General Manager indicated to the Mayor that a Point of Order should be called from the Chair as the Councillor was introducing matters into the debate that were irrelevant to the item of business being discussed, were erroneous in their content, and could be considered to be a breach of section 15.11(d) of the Code of Meeting Practice in that it *"insults, makes unfavourable personal remarks about, or imputes improper motives to any other council official, or alleges a breach of the council's code of conduct"*. The Councillor chose to conclude their remarks, take their seat, and not wait for the Mayor to consider whether he would raise a Point of Order. Councillors with knowledge of the Code of Meeting Practice would know that a Motion of Dissent could be called to defend their comments if they felt that the Point of Order (if raised by the Mayor) was not valid.

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 REVIEW OF THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2010 (DRAFT AMENDMENT NO. 17)

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES
AUTHOR: Sam Lobsey, Manager - Development

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Review of the Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010 (Draft Amendment No. 17)”, Council:

- (i) approve the public exhibition of Draft Amendment No. 17 to the Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010 for a period of 28 days; and*
- (ii) receive a subsequent report at a future meeting of Council to detail the outcomes of the public exhibition process and recommend final adoption of the Plan.*

SUMMARY

The *Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010* was adopted by Council on 12 October 2010, and became effective from the gazettal of the *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010 (LEP)* on 21 January 2011.

The Plan is reviewed regularly and on an as-needs basis, to ensure that the content remains consistent with the objectives adopted by Council in response to consultation with the community and development industry.

The Draft Amendment No. 17 is proposed as a consequence of the 2024 annual review involving a number of recommended changes. The proposed changes relate to:

- general housekeeping and formatting;
- parking provisions;
- general building controls;
- biodiversity and environmental protection;
- the Urban heat island effect;
- resource and waste management plan requirements;
- water reticulation requirements for Daruka and Tintinhull;
- flooding controls; and
- small-scale renewables.

COMMENTARY

The principal purpose of a Development Control Plan (DCP) is to provide “how to” guidance for anyone proposing to undertake development in the Tamworth Region. This current review of the DCP is a general housekeeping and formatting exercise, in addition to

proposing new development controls and amending others in response to emerging and changing trends in the development industry.

A copy of the DCP (Draft Amendment No. 17) with the proposed changes marked in red is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. A tracked changes version is also **ATTACHED**, refer to **ANNEXURE 2**, this version shows all of the changes proposed including the deleted items. A summary, of all of the draft changes is provided below:

Housekeeping and Formatting

1. inclusion of an additional Aim of the Plan which is to *'encourage applications to protect and mitigate impacts on environmental values of land, air, water, noise, scenic visual amenity, flora and fauna (ecological and biodiversity).'*
2. relocate Environmental Controls from *Step 3: General Development Specifications* to relevant sections in *Step 2: Type of Development*.
3. updates throughout the DCP to reflect current naming of specific legislation.
4. include a new street name in Tamworth Global Gateway Controls Chapter (e.g. Ring Road is now known as (Bandaar Drive).
5. removal of reference to a repealed Council Policy – *"Approvals issued pursuant to Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 for bathrooms in sheds or outbuildings"*.
6. new controls requiring consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and consultation with the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council for new subdivisions.
7. new residential controls requesting that designs maximise solar access, solar use and energy efficiency for future building users.
8. general formatting and DCP design changes such as removal of columns and creating a consistent page layout.

Parking

9. review of the parking controls contained throughout DCP and creation of a new *Parking, Traffic and Access Chapter* and Parking Requirements Schedule with more land uses listed. Also, the removal of *Appendix A: Parking Schedule*.
10. introduction of new parking controls for land specifically in *"Mapped Areas"* (Tamworth CBD, Bridge Street and North Tamworth) seeking to promote housing density close to CBD amenities, commercial investment and increase opportunities to provide and promote different modes of transport.
11. amendment of the minimum road pavement width for any commercial development in a residential zone to 11 metres.
12. introduction of bicycle and end of trip facilities controls for residential, commercial and industrial development.
13. removal of the requirement to provide double enclosed garage spaces for dual occupancy and multi-unit developments and replace with covered space requirements.
14. new controls for vehicle queue lengths related to take away and drive through food outlets.
15. refined controls for industrial uses – floor space/warehousing/unit complexes/ancillary office and retail space.

General Building Controls

16. new setback and building height controls for certain rural and residential zones that are not currently identified in the DCP.
17. ridgeline controls enhanced by requiring any development on a ridgeline to be accompanied by a visual impact assessment, with particular attention to visibility from a public road or place.
18. increase in the cumulative site coverage (including hardstand) for General Residential (R1) land to 75%.
19. increase in outbuilding building size (and cumulative site) controls on General Residential (R1) land in response to the market and closely aligning with NSW Government complying development controls.
20. reduction in the length of time allowed for shipping containers for storage in Residential R1, R2, R5 or RU5 Zones from 6 months to 3 months where there is more than one container proposed, it is not located behind the existing dwelling or not screened from street.
21. new controls requiring Australian Height Datum (AHD) levels to be provided on all site, elevation and retaining wall plans.
22. increase in timeframe permissible for exhibition homes from 12 months to 18 months.
23. introduce new controls requiring plans for residential development on Bushfire Prone Land to illustrate the required Asset Protection Zones.
24. new fire safety controls for any change of use where no building works are proposed. Consideration must be given to whether the fire protection and structural capacity of the building will be appropriate to the new use.
25. removal of the requirement for a battle axe subdivision in the General residential zone (R1) to share a common boundary with a public reserve.
26. introduce new shadow diagram requirements for single dwellings ≥ 2 storey + and new solar access/use and subdivision design controls.

Biodiversity and Vegetation

27. new requirements to submit a Landscape Plan for most development types.
28. introducing new controls relating to the preservation of existing trees/vegetation and replacement of vegetation removal.
29. replacement landscaping to incorporate local indigenous species from ‘Australian Plants Suitable for Tamworth Regional Council Areas’ list
30. environmental Values Maps - Where the subject land is greater than two (2) hectares, a new requirement for subdivisions and small-scale renewable projects to map the existing environmental values of the site (e.g. vegetation, fauna, water) and then outline how the development addresses the hierarchy of environmental impact mitigation, being:
 - a. avoidance;
 - b. minimisation/mitigation;
 - c. restore; then
 - d. Offset.

31. new biodiversity protection controls aligning with state and federal legislation, requiring developments to demonstrate avoiding either direct or indirect impacts on threatened species, populations and threatened ecological communities. With consideration given to:
 - a. retaining native vegetation and threatened species habitats;
 - b. maintenance of local habitats and connectivity;
 - c. bushfire asset protection zones must not be in an identified area of key habitat and corridors;
 - d. off-site impacts are minimised, such as weed invasion, increased runoff and stormwater; and
 - e. continuous canopy and understorey planting.

Urban Heat Island

32. introduction of new urban heat cooling mechanisms for CBD and Bridge Street Precincts, in accordance with Council's adopted Tamworth Urban Heat Island Report.

Resource and Waste Management Plan

33. introduction of new Resource and Waste Management Plan requirements for both construction and ongoing use of a development.
34. introducing new controls relating to kerbside collection and private waste contractor arrangements.

Water Reticulation Requirements for Daruka and Tintinhull

35. currently, reticulated water (public utility supply) is to be supplied to subdivisions where the Lot Size Map specifies a minimum lot size of up to and including 2ha unless the Table in the DCP provides exclusion to this requirement. It is proposed to amend the table to allow land within the Tintinhull and Daruka locality to not require reticulated water if a proposed subdivision includes lots that are equal to or greater than 5ha in size.

Flooding

36. relocate Flooding Controls from *Step 4: Site Specific Controls* to *Step 3: General Development Specifications*.
37. full review and relocation within the DCP of existing Flooding Controls:
 - a. update wording
 - b. removal of Appendix B – Flood Proofing Guidelines and replace with references to Australian Building Codes Board Standard – Construction of Buildings in Flood Hazards.
 - c. removal of Appendix C - Flood Affected Maps to be replaced by reference to Council endorsed Plans on Council's website.

Small Scale Renewables

38. an Environmental Values Locality Map must be prepared - Refer also to *Step 2: Type of Development - Subdivision Controls*.
 39. biodiversity Protection controls contained in *Step 2: Type of Development - Subdivision Controls* must be addressed.
-

40. all development applications for construction of a small-scale renewable development must be accompanied by a Resource and Waste Management Plan (RWMP), which must consider:
- a. reuse or disposal of existing site waste materials (including demolition materials, earthworks);
 - b. construction waste materials;
 - c. operational waste management with consideration of the ongoing waste storage controls; and
 - d. a decommissioning plan for managing waste materials at the end of the project life.

(a) Policy Implications

The proposed amendment to the *TRDCP 2010* will alter the planning guidelines applicable to development in the Tamworth Region Local Government Area.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Community consultation will occur through public exhibition of Draft Amendment No. 17 to the *TRDCP 2010* for a period of 28 days. In addition to the advertisements on the Tamworth Regional Council social media pages, local consultants, developers and specifically affected landowners will be notified in writing. An online public webinar is also scheduled and will be advertised.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – A Liveable Built Environment.

7.2 DRAFT TAMWORTH REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY - PROPOSED EXHIBITION

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Andrew Spicer, Manager - Future Communities

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Draft Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy - Proposed Exhibition”, Council:

- (i) approve the public exhibition of the Draft Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy for a period of 28 days; and*
- (ii) receive a subsequent report to a future meeting of Council to detail the outcomes of the public exhibition process with a recommendation as to the potential adoption of the strategy.*

SUMMARY

A draft Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy has been developed to outline Council’s vision for future housing development in the Tamworth Region. The strategy sets a framework for housing to be delivered to meet the needs of the community now and in the future. The strategy is not just focused on increasing housing supply but also promoting diverse and creative housing solutions.

The purpose of this report is to obtain a resolution of Council to proceed to public exhibition of the draft Strategy.

COMMENTARY

The draft Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy (TRHS) has its basis in Council’s *Blueprint 100* documents including Council’s *Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020* (LSPS 2020) where housing was highlighted as a key issue in the progression of the Tamworth Region toward a population of 80,000 and ultimately 100,000 people. Initially adopted in 2020, *Blueprint 100 – Part 1 and Part 2, (LSPS 2020)*, framed the means by which the community could grow and enjoy a high-quality lifestyle in the period to 2041.

The draft Strategy sits within the NSW State planning framework. At the highest level sits *Housing 2041*, the NSW Housing Strategy. Supporting this at the regional level the *New England North West Regional Plan 2041* (Regional Plan) provides the strategic plan for the region. It is a 20-year land use plan which is updated every five (5) years. The Regional Plan provides projections for population growth as does Council’s LSPS which the TRHS aims to deliver and accommodate. The LSPS and TRHS are the local strategies by which on the ground housing actions are implemented. The draft TRHS is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The NSW Government has expressed support for the formulation of the draft Strategy and has fully funded the project via the Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund.

The draft housing strategy makes a number of recommendations from which actions are developed and proposed. The difficulties faced by many people regarding housing and accommodation cannot be fixed simply, and the strategy in itself will not resolve the issues in short term. However, the actions in the TRHS, when acted on in concert with other levels of government and stakeholders, may well trigger positive change to address the housing needs of those under housing stress both now and in the future in the Tamworth Region.

The strategy provides a basis for a discussion on housing in terms of exploring the context of current issues and demographic analysis. The draft strategy analyses key current issues relating to housing, including needs, supply, affordability and diversity. It also assesses topical issues such as temporary workers accommodation for renewable energy, major construction and agricultural projects.

The thrust of the strategy is the identification of five key priorities. Each of these are addressed in the draft strategy and 29 actions are proposed in total. These actions are listed in full and comprise the final section of the draft strategy. A summary of the identified priorities and emphases are as follows.

Priority 1: Provide for sustainable growth that is supported by infrastructure

- Focus on collaboration with government agencies at all levels on water security, investigate solutions to limitations on sewer servicing and identify surplus public land for potential housing.
- Identify grant opportunities, undertake structure planning and potential rezoning to facilitate housing and investigate amendments to development controls to enhance rural-residential lifestyle opportunities.

Priority 2: Increasing diversity and choice in housing

- Consider changes to planning provisions including lot size, permissible uses, floor space ratio and parking requirements to facilitate increased density in key areas.
- Advocate to government on reforms to diverse housing choices and collaborate with agencies and other stakeholders to promote temporary worker accommodation.

Priority 3: Improve housing affordability and reduce housing costs

- Engage with agencies and stakeholders to promote affordable housing and advocate for reforms to the NSW Planning Portal.
- Complete a Council review of contributions plans, Development Control Plan (DCP) standards and investigate opportunities to incentivise housing development and consider broadening housing development that can be fast-tracked under the DCP.

Priority 4: Facilitate liveable communities

- Investigate provisions to contribute to public realm including cooling of streets, public art and place making incorporating active transport.
- Promote water sustainability with planning controls and work with industry to trial and showcase sustainable home design responses.

Priority 5: Promote rural communities

- Review the RU5 - Village zone to potentially permit more forms of residential development and promote lifestyle living opportunities near rural centres.
- Identify rural land that is well located for potential residential use and review and implement precinct plans for: Barraba, Kootingal, Manilla, Nemingha and Nundle.

Consultation

The draft Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy has been the subject of wide-ranging consultation Council documents while still in draft form. Consultation to date includes:

- workshops with Council staff and Councillors;
- presentations to the Tamworth Economic Forum Breakfast and Developers Forum;
- briefing to the Tamworth City Centre Working Group; and
- direct consultation with real estate agents.

In addition, TV, radio, online and print media were used to provide information and stimulate the involvement of the community.

Finally, an online community survey was undertaken under the heading 'Have Your Say on the future housing needs in the region'. This community survey yielded 351 contributions. The Community Survey Statistics and Analysis is included as Appendix 1 to the draft strategy as **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. The survey posed 12 specific questions as well as a range of questions regarding the background of respondents to provide context in relation to the responses.

When viewed in this context, the proposed public exhibition is a process of informing the community of the outcome of the development of the strategy. Of course, the purpose is also to provide a final opportunity for interested parties to provide comment on the draft strategy.

The draft TRHS is a key document in its own right. However, it is also an important strategy to inform the current review of the *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010*. It also includes a number of sections and proposed actions that inform the current review of the *Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010* and it is intended that the draft housing strategy be publicly exhibited concurrently with Draft Amendment 17 to the *TRDCP 2010*.

(a) Policy Implications

The draft Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy, if adopted by Council, would become a Council strategy.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil. The formulation of the draft Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy was fully funded under the NSW State Government Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund. Any future expenditure in the housing domain by Council would be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Extensive community and stakeholder consultation has occurred in the formulation of the draft Strategy as outlined in this report. Public exhibition will provide another opportunity for input into the draft strategy from interested parties.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2: A Liveable Built Environment

Focus Area 4: Resilient and Diverse Communities

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 COUNTRY VS THE REST OF THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL BOXING FIGHT NIGHT

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Samuel Eriksson, Sports and Recreation Strategy Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Country vs the Rest of the World International Boxing Fight Night”, Council approve a subsidy for this event in line with Council’s Sport Event Subsidisation Policy.

SUMMARY

One2Boxing Westside Boxing Club Inc (One2Boxing) are hosting a “Clash of the Titans – Country vs the Rest of the World International Fight Night”. Twenty bouts are scheduled for the night with local fighters competing against internationals for the New England, NSW and Australian title belts on offer. A Tamworth local headlines the event in a World Boxing Federation Australasian title bout. The entire evening will be broadcast as a pay-per-view event televised to audiences around the world.

Due to the size and significance of this event, One2Boxing will require the use of the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC). Given the substantial economic benefit to the community and the opportunity to showcase the TRECC, and Tamworth’s ability to host a diverse range of large sporting events, Tamworth Regional Council (Council) is asked to consider financially supporting the event.

COMMENTARY

One2Boxing are hosting their second annual fight night in Tamworth, with the 2024 event titled Clash of the Titans – Country vs the Rest of the World International Fight Night. The night will be held at the TRECC on 6 July 2024. This event will showcase twenty bouts consisting of both amateur and professional fights. Local fighters will compete against internationals with New England, NSW and Australian title belts on the line. A Tamworth local will headline the evening in a World Boxing Federation Australasian title bout. The entire evening will be broadcast as a pay-per-view event televised to audiences around the world.

Due to the significance of this event, One2Boxing has requested Council support the event by financially contributing toward the hire fees of holding the event at the TRECC.

The estimated fees for the use of the TRECC are outlined in Table 1 below.

Description	Estimated fee (GST inc.)
Venue hire	\$3,740.00
Cleaning	\$767.00

Furniture	\$2,250.00
Other charges	\$1,100.00
Production A/V supplied	\$4,484.50
Staging and equipment	\$110.00
Tableware and linen	\$247.50
Operations staffing	\$7,540.00
Technical staffing	\$1,736.00
TOTAL (inc. GST)	\$21,975.00*

Table 1: Clash of the Titans – Country vs the Rest of the World International Fight Night estimate of TRECC hire fees

*The above estimated fee of \$21,975.00 is the total cost to hire the TRECC after community service obligation and packaging discounts have been applied.

To calculate the economic value of such events, Council uses ID.Profile’s Event Impact Calculator and a value of \$225 as the current average daily spend for a sports tourist. The tool calculates that the Clash of the Titans – Country vs the Rest of the World International Fight Night will inject \$619,958 into the local economy. Due to the nature of the event, being predominately for spectators, this economic injection is a combination of both the spend by the participants (\$150,293) and the spectators (\$469,665).

Given the substantial economic benefit to the community, the opportunity to showcase the TRECC and Tamworth’s ability to host large scale sporting events to a wide-ranging audience, it is recommended that Council support the event with a fee subsidy.

The Sports and Recreation division has an annual budget allocation for events subsidies under Council’s Sport Event Subsidisation Policy (SESP).

The SESP allows Council to apply a consistent and transparent approach to the subsidisation of sporting events conducted on Council managed facilities. Assessed under this policy, the Clash of the Titans – Country vs the Rest of the World Fight Night qualifies for a subsidisation of 30% (capped at \$2,000) plus an additional 40% (\$7,990) subsidisation because of the recurring nature of the event.

It is therefore recommended that Council support this event with a fee subsidy of \$9,990. Table 2 below details the fee breakdown. This subsidy would be in alignment with other events of a similar scale and enables Council to support other events over the financial year with the remaining funds in this annual allocation.

Description	Subsidy (inc. GST)
TRECC hire fees	\$21,975
Event subsidisation	\$2,000
SUB TOTAL	\$19,975
Recurring event subsidisation (40% of subtotal)	\$7,990

TOTAL SUBSIDISATION	\$9,990
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Table 2: Sport Event Subsidisation Calculations

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The Sports and Recreation division has an annual budget allocation for events subsidised under the SESP. If Council supports this fee subsidy, \$9,990 will be deducted from this budget allocation for this event.

Any additional subsidy not in line with the SESP will be subsidised from the General Fund.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – A liveable built environment

8.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 1 MAY 2024

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Steven Marshall, Strategy, Assets and Design Engineer
5 ANNEXURES ATTACHED
1 ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee Meeting - 1 May 2024”, Council:

- (i) approve the Winter Road Racing Program and the subsequent traffic guidance schemes for Saturday afternoons (1.00pm to 4.30pm) from 13 April 2024 to 27 October 2024;*
- (ii) approve the slight relocation of the disabled parking bays, the removal of one car parking space and the installation of some new motorcycle parking bays on Peel Street, Tamworth;*
- (iii) approve the parking spaces on Brisbane Street to remain 60 degrees ‘rear to kerb’ and the zoned No Stopping area to be changed to an all-day No Stopping area;*
- (iv) approve the road closures of Carter Street, Solander Drive, Locks Lane, Gipps Street and the No. 1 Oval Access Road in Tamworth, on Sunday 4 August 2024, for the running of the Tamworth Running Festival; and*
- (v) approve the proposed NSW Junior State Road Cycling Championships and the associated road closures in Loomberah on Saturday 31 August 2024*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the five recommendations made by the Tamworth Local Traffic Committee (the Committee) at the meeting held 1 May 2024.

COMMENTARY

The minutes from the Committee meeting held on 1 May 2024, are **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**.

It is recognised that item 48/2024 within this report is being considered by Council after the event has commenced. Prior to the commencement of this event, the potential traffic impacts were reviewed in detail by Tamworth Regional Council (Council) staff and referred to the Committee for consideration. Despite the delay, this event is now presented in this report in order to formalise Council’s endorsement of the traffic impact.

48/2024 - Tamworth Cycle Club – Winter Road Racing Program 2024

The Tamworth Cycle Club have approached Council regarding the 2024 Winter Road Racing Program.

The event details, which are similar to previously held events, include:

- **Event Location:** Loomberah, NSW and Attunga, NSW.
- **Dates:** Saturday afternoons from 13 April 2024 to 27 October 2024.
- **Event Times:** 1.00pm to 4.30pm (inclusive of set up and pack down periods)
- **Roads Affected:**

- Course One: Loomberah Club Race Circuit – Duri-Dungowan Road and Loomberah Road.
 - Course Two: Loomberah Alternative Long Circuit – Duri-Dungowan Road, Nundle Road, O’Briens Lane and Loomberah Road.
 - Course Three: Loomberah Gravel Circuit – Duri-Dungowan Road, Tongues Lane, Loomberah Road, Cameron’s Road and Marsden Park Road.
 - Course Four: Attunga (Normal Circuit) – Attunga Street and Lower Somerton Road (Turn around at intersection with Claremont Park Lane).
 - Course Five: Attunga (Alternate Circuit) – Attunga Street and Lower Somerton Road (Turn around at intersection with Somerton Road).
- **Number of Participants:** 50 riders

The proposed routes for the Winter Road Racing program can be found **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) requested additional signage be installed on the New England Highway to warn motorists of a cycling event on the side road (Duri-Dungowan Road) when Course Two is used.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: pending the request for additional warning signage on the New England Highway for Course Two, the Committee members unanimously support the Winter Road Racing Program and the subsequent traffic guidance schemes for Saturday afternoons (1.00pm to 4.30pm) from 13 April 2024 to 27 October 2024.

61/2024 - Disabled Parking Bay Modification on Peel Street, Tamworth

Council has been approached regarding accessibility issues associated with disabled car parks in front of the Chemist Warehouse on Peel Street, Tamworth. Figure 1 below shows the location.

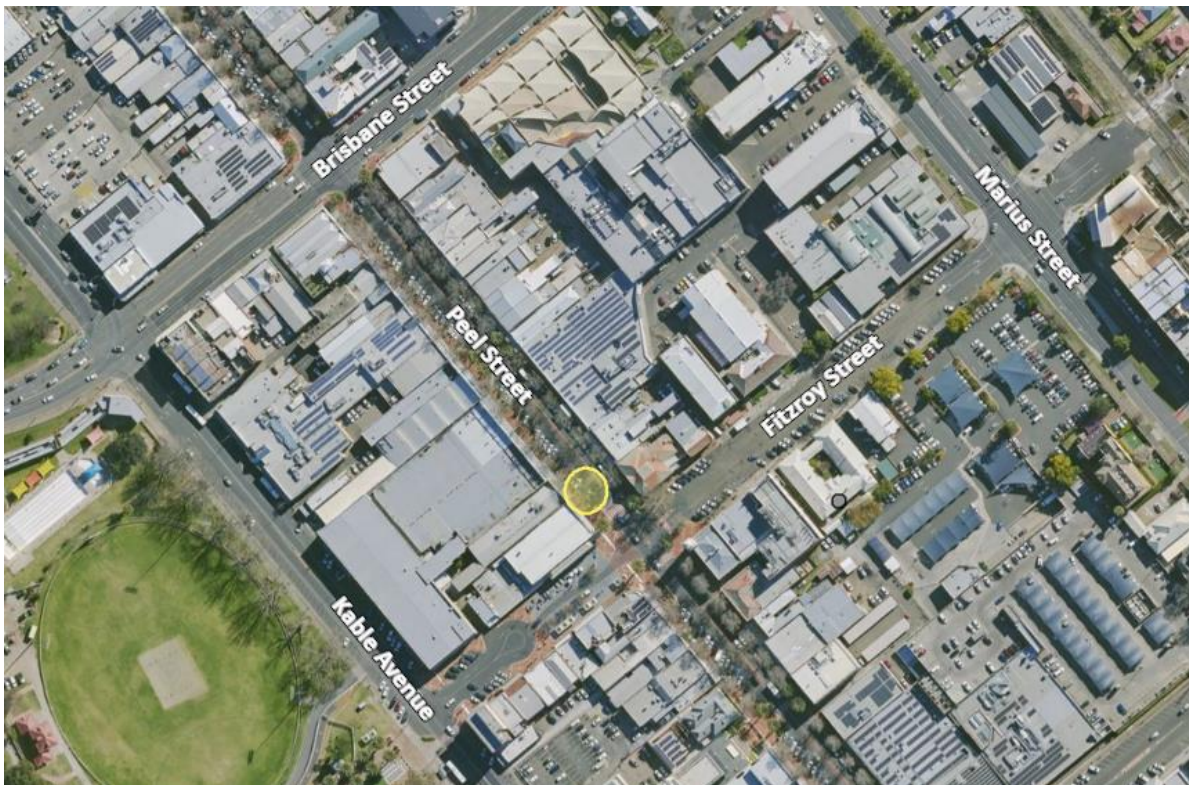


Figure 1: Location of identified disabled parking bays on Peel Street, Tamworth

As shown below in Figure 2, there are no kerb ramps available to enable safe access to the foot path. In accordance with AS2890.5, a new kerb ramp and associated shared zone should be installed between the two bays. However, with the position of the tree, a kerb ramp is not possible without shifting the parking bays slightly west (towards the right in Figure 2).



Figure 2: No kerb ramp associated with the two disability parking bays on Peel Street, Tamworth.

With the slight relocation, one on street car parking space on Peel Street will be removed.

As there will be additional space created on the eastern side of the disabled parking bays, Council is proposing to install some new motorcycle parking bays.

This proposal can be seen in the **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the slight relocation of the disabled parking bays, the removal of one car parking space and the installation of some new motorcycle parking bays on Peel Street, Tamworth.

33/2022 – Tamworth Public School, East Tamworth – Request for line marking

In July 2022, the Committee endorsed a proposal to install line marking along Upper Street and Brisbane Street in East Tamworth. As shown below in Figure 3, the proposal included;

- line marking 60 degrees 'rear to kerb' parking on the southern side of Upper Street;
- replacing the existing 60 degrees 'rear to kerb' parks on Brisbane Street (near intersection with Upper Street) with parallel parking bays; and
- line marking parallel parking bays on Brisbane Street between Upper Street and Napier Street.

5.3 33/2022 – Tamworth Public School East Tamworth – request for line marking

There have been some requests from the public/parents, for line marking to be done along Upper Street and Brisbane Street, East Tamworth, around Tamworth Public School.

The current signed parking area along the south side of Upper Street is 60-degree rear parking, and would be marked as per the signage. Parking is currently displayed as 60-degree rear parking on Brisbane Street at the corner of Upper and Brisbane Streets. This is not within Standards and is unsafe, so will need to be changed to Parallel parking. The remainder of parking along Brisbane Street, between Upper Street and Napier Street, will be done as Parallel parking and signage amended.

The benefits of line marking of parking spaces is the improvement in pedestrian safety, and to maximise parking efficiency around Tamworth Public School.

The below image (**Figure 5**) shows the parking spaces that will be line marked on Upper Street and Brisbane Street.



Figure 5: Street Parking to be line marked around Tamworth Public School

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: that the Committee support the change of 60-degree parking to parallel parking on Brisbane Street between Upper Street and Napier Street, and the installation of parking space line marking along Upper Street between Brisbane Street and Bourke Street, and Brisbane Street, between Upper Street and Napier Street, East Tamworth.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee support the change of 60-degree parking to parallel parking on Brisbane Street between Upper Street and Napier Street, and the installation of parking space line marking along Upper Street between Brisbane Street and Bourke Street, and Brisbane Street, between Upper Street and Napier Street, East Tamworth.

Figure 3: Item 33/2022 from the July 2022 Committee minutes

In 2023, a new Wombat Crossing was constructed on Brisbane Street at the intersection of Upper Street. This crossing helps reinforce the 40km per hour speed limit during school hours, hence reducing the risk to motorists when parking in the 60 degrees ‘rear to kerb’ parking bays. With the reduced speed, there is an increased reaction time available for motorists to see a vehicle reversing into the parking bays.

As a result, Council would like to seek endorsement from the Committee to leave the 60 degrees 'rear to kerb' parking bays on Brisbane Street.

Furthermore, Council would like to modify signage around the existing school crossing on Brisbane Street. Currently, one side of Brisbane Street (the western side) has an all-day No Stopping area installed, whilst the eastern side has a zoned No Stopping area. Council would like to change the zoned No Stopping area to an all-day No Stopping area.

Details of all the proposed changes are shown in the **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 3**.

The Committee members agreed the recently constructed Wombat Crossing on Brisbane Street (at the intersection of Upper Street), would reduce the speed of vehicles. With a reduced speed limit, the Committee agreed the collision risk to motorists when parking in the 60 degrees 'rear to kerb' parking bays would be reduced.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the parking spaces on Brisbane Street to remain 60 degrees 'rear to kerb' and the zoned No Stopping area to be changed to an all-day No Stopping area.

62/2024 – Tamworth Running Festival 2024

Council has been notified that the 2024 Tamworth Running Festival is scheduled for Sunday 4 August 2024.

The event consists of the following details:

- **Event Location:** Tamworth, NSW.
- **Dates:** Sunday 4 August 2024.
- **Event Times:** 5.00am to 3.00pm (inclusive of set up and pack down periods)
- **Roads Affected:**
 - Carter Street from Barnes Gully to Solander Drive;
 - Solander Drive from Carter Street Carpark to Gipps Street Carpark;
 - Locks Lane from Goonoo Goonoo Road to Scott Lane;
 - Gipps Street from Goonoo Goonoo Road to Solander Drive; and
 - No. 1 Oval Access Road (including access to the Changing Places Facility and Accessible Transport Hub) from Kable Avenue.
- **Number of Participants:** 500 Participants

Traffic marshals are to be provided by the organiser as detailed in the **ATTACHED** Traffic Guidance Scheme, refer **ANNEXURE 4**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the road closures of Carter Street, Solander Drive, Locks Lane, Gipps Street and the No. 1 Oval Access Road in Tamworth, on Sunday 4 August 2024, for the running of the Tamworth Running Festival.

63/2024 – NSW Junior State Road Cycling Championships 2024

Council has been approached by the Tamworth Cycle Club (TCC) regarding a proposal to host the NSW Junior State Road Cycling Championships in August 2024.

The proposed event details include;

- **Event Location:** Loomberah, NSW.
- **Dates:** Saturday 31 August 2024.
- **Event Times:** 7.30am to 5.00pm (inclusive of set up and pack down periods)
- **Roads Affected:**
 - Loomberah Road between Tongues Lane and Duri Dungowan Road; and
 - Duri Dungowan Road between Ascot-Calala Road and Pendene Road.

The proposed TGS can be found **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 5**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the proposed NSW Junior State Road Cycling Championships and the associated road closures in Loomberah on Saturday 31 August 2024.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

48/2024, 62/2024 and 63/2024 – Shall be funded by the event organisers.

61/2024 and 33/2022 – Shall be funded by the Road Infrastructure Maintenance budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

61/2024 and 33/2022 – Any businesses or residents directly affected by the maintenance works will be communicated with before commencement.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 5 – Connect our region and citizens

8.3 DRAFT ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY AND CHARGING ON PUBLIC LAND POLICY

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Daniel Lawrence, Sustainability Officer - Energy
Ashleigh Smith, Sustainability Coordinator

Reference: Item 8.4 to Ordinary Council 26 March 2024 – Minute No 52/24

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

4 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Draft Electric Vehicle Strategy and Charging on Public Land Policy”, Council:

- (i) adopt the Draft Electric Vehicle Strategy 2024 - 2027; and*
- (ii) adopt the Draft Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy with the following changes:*
 - a. the upfront fee is reduced from 50% to 5% of the rate detailed in Council Fees and Charges – Tamworth Regional Council | Planning, Building and Development | Development Contributions | Tamworth Regional Section 94 (Direct) Contributions Plans 2013 | CBD Car Parking as amended from time to time;*
 - b. the upfront fee only applies for the installation at a new location, additional parking bays or at the commencement of this policy; and*
 - c. the lease period is amended from five years to a five-year lease agreement with a five-year option at Councils discretion, with an option to agree to the extension at the beginning of the contract where there is a large upfront cost to the provider for the upgrade of a transformer, substation or similar.*

SUMMARY

Council at its meeting of 26 March 2024, considered a report in relation to the Draft Electric Vehicle Strategy 2024 – 2027 and Draft Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy. This report provides Council a summary of public feedback received from the public exhibition period for display of the Draft documents. The report seeks approval from Council to adopt both the Draft Electric Vehicle strategy 2024 - 2027 and Draft Electric Vehicle charging on Public Land Policy with the recommended changes as detailed in the body of the report.

COMMENTARY

Council at its meeting of 26 March 2024, considered a report in relation to the Draft Electric Vehicle Strategy 2024 – 2027 and Draft Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy. Council subsequently resolved the following in relation to the report.

That in relation to the report “Electric Vehicle Strategy and Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy”, Council:

- (i) endorse the Electric Vehicle Strategy;*
- (ii) endorse the Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy including the following key elements;*

- a. allow EV charging stations to be installed in Tamworth’s public Central Business District (CBD) carparks;
 - b. set a cap of 12 EV charge points in public carparks in Tamworth’s CBD;
 - c. an upfront charge of 50% of the relevant charge – see Council Fees and Charges - Planning, Building, Development| Development Contributions, Tamworth Urban Section 94 (Direct) Contributions Plan 2013 | CBD Carparking as updated from time to time (in 2023/2024 this charge is \$20,133.00) will be charged for each public carpark removed from service and located in the Tamworth CBD;
 - d. an annual charge of \$2,000.00 will be charged for each public carpark removed from service and located in the Tamworth CBD;
 - e. an annual charge of \$500.00 will be charged for each public carpark removed from service and located outside the Tamworth CBD;
 - f. lease period is 5 years;
 - g. electrical connections and electrical upgrades needed to install EV chargers are at the cost and responsibility of the providers;
 - h. providers are to pay for all Energy use that EV chargers consume;
 - i. installation, maintenance and removal associated with the operation of any given EV charging station is the responsibility and cost of the provider;
 - j. the minimum size charger that can be installed on public land is 50KW; and
 - k. any EV chargers installed on public land must be able to charge all new models of EVs in Australia.
- (iii) agree to place the Electric Vehicle Strategy and the Electric Vehicle Public Charging on Public Land policy on public display for a period of not less than 28 days;
 - (iv) request the Director of Water and Waste provide a further report to Council following the public submission period; and
 - (v) advise EVIE and the NRMA that should they wish to provide EV chargers on public land in the short term, they must agree to the terms of the Electric Vehicle Public Charging on Public Land Policy as placed on public display.

The Draft Electric Vehicle Strategy 2024 - 2027 and Draft Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy were placed on public display for a period of 28 days between 28 March 2024 until 25 April 2024. An extensive community engagement campaign was undertaken regarding the proposed Policy and Strategy which included; newspaper, radio, TV, social media, social engagement at a business chamber board meeting and a pop-up stall at the Renewable Manilla Festival. Further details of community engagement are provided in Table 1 below with the Marketing and Communication Report from the public exhibition period **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**.

Table 1. Community Engagement Methods

Type of engagement	Details of those contacted or engaged	Date/time
Newspaper	Northern Daily Leader – Quarter page and digital	Wednesday 27 March and Saturday, 6 April

	MREC	2024
Radio	Staff live interview on 92.9 and 2TM	Wednesday 10 April 2024
	Recorded staff interview with ABC	Wednesday 27 March 2024
TV	Prime and NBN	Wednesday 27 March 2024
Social Media	Facebook, Instagram, E-news – Refer to Figure 1 to see further details regarding this.	Thursday 28 March, Wednesday 10 April and Tuesday 23 April 2024
My TRC Online Community webpage	Online engagement The Have Your Say page will house information, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils draft EV strategy; • Councils Draft EV charging on public land policy; • Online feedback form. 	Thursday, 28 March 2024 to Thursday, 25 April 2024
Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) sent to Community groups	Tamworth Business Chamber Newsletter	Sunday, 7 April 2024
	Barraba Community News	Wednesday, 10 April 2024
In person engagement	Guest Speaker at Tamworth Business Chamber Board Meeting	Thursday, 18 April 2024
	Face to face engagement at the Renewable Manilla event	Friday, 19 April 2024
Internal Communications		
	Advertisement in E-news	Thursday, 11 April 2024
Posters	Located at Council Offices and Libraries	Thursday, 28 March 2024 and Thursday, 25 April 2024

The social media views received through the 'have your say' portal which form an important part of the community engagement processes are summarised in Figure 1 below.

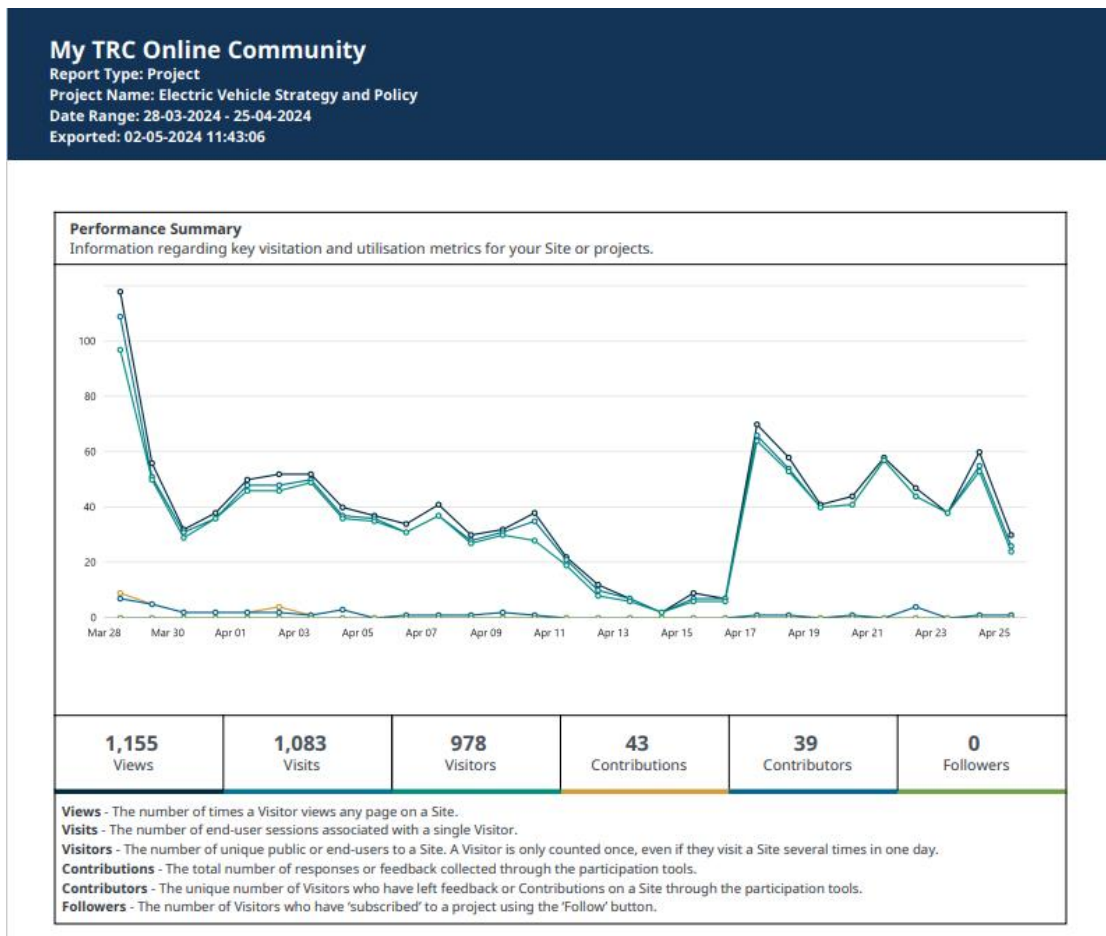


Figure 1. Social Media Views through the Have Your Say portal.

During the public consultation period, Council received 38 submissions from the community as well as responses from the two proponents, NRMA and Evie. Over 76% of the responses were supportive of the Draft Strategy and Policy.

In terms of support or opposition of the Draft Strategy and Policy the following summary is provided;

- 17 of the 38 submissions supported the proposed EV Strategy and Policy;
- 12 of the 38 submissions supported the proposed EV Strategy and recommended changes to the Policy; and
- nine of the 38 submissions were opposed to the proposed EV Strategy and Policy.

Tables 2, 3 and 4 provide further details in relation to community submissions received. These are separated in to common themes identified from responses received from the public exhibition period.

Fee Structure

Three of the 38 submissions received requested amendment to the proposed fee structure with two of these submissions proposing to remove the upfront fee and the other proposing to reduce the upfront fee.

Another issue raised, related to the fee that would be charged to include accessible transfer zones at the EV charging bays, this concern was also raised in the Council meeting on the 26 March 2024. Accessible parking was flagged for improvement in Council’s Disability Inclusion Action Plan and charging to have these accessible transfer zones included in the proposed EV charging stations, may not align with Council’s overall objective of creating a more accessible region.

Submissions not supportive of the proposed Strategy and Policy viewed it as a ‘waste of money’.

Table 2. Summary of Public Feedback Regarding Fee Structure

Submission Theme	Summarised Submission Comments	Council Staff Response
Fee Structure	The draft EV policy is a major contradiction to the proposed EV strategy with the inclusion of the suggested upfront fee	Both charging companies with or considering the install of EV charging stations i.e., NRMA and Evie provided submissions indicated that they would not move forward with their proposals due to the proposed upfront fee. There are limited number of charging companies to work with, as such Council staff have provided options for Council’s consideration later in this this report.
	Fee for carparking spaces used for disability access should not be charged as this is a community benefit	This issue was also identified and discussed during the 26 March 2024 Council meeting. It is recommended to give preference to companies who provide disability access to align with Council’s Disability Inclusion Action Plan.
	Charging should be free	Charging Fees will be set by the providers installing the charging infrastructure.
Lease period	Lease period of five years is cost prohibitive where there is a major electricity related upgrade required at the cost of the provider	One of the Charging companies advised that the proposed five-year lease agreement period would prevent them from installing where there is an

		upgrade required to a transformer, substation or similar. This issue is discussed in detail later in this report.
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Parking Configuration

As shown in Table 3, a number of submissions were made around the parking configuration of the EV chargers. Three of the 38 submissions mentioned not allowing EV charging stations in the CBD due to current parking concerns and one submission did not agree with EV stations being located within Peel Street. Three submissions raised concerns around ensuring shade structures were installed at charging stations were also raised. Five submissions raised concerns around ensuring regional towns and villages were included in the Strategy and Policy.

Table 3: Summary of Public Feedback Regarding Parking

Submission Theme	Summarised Submission Comments	Council Staff Response
Parking Configuration	EV chargers should not be allowed in Peel Street	<p>The sites recommended to EV charging station providers were carparks in the CBD that were currently underutilised or rarely reached 100% capacity through the work week, thus making them ideal for EV charging stations as they would utilise space that was unused. In terms of the concern raised around EV charging in Peel Street, Council does not intend to allow installing EV charges in Peel Street.</p> <p>EV charging points on public land will only be in public carparks with detailed designs submitted to Council for approval. Selection of carparks allocated for EV charging stations will require approval from the asset owner to ensure alignment with Parking Strategy or associated asset operation.</p>
	EV Chargers should not be in the CBD	Council is aware of the CBD parking issues; and the Strategy and Policy proposes to cap the number of EV charging points in the CBD to 12.

	EV charging companies should be encouraged to install in surrounding areas	The Strategy encourages EV providers to investigate towns, villages and tourist locations across the Tamworth Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA) suitable for charging infrastructure. As detailed in the Draft Policy annual fees for carparks outside of the Tamworth CBD are cheaper and there is no upfront fee, thus enticing providers to provide EV charging stations in regional areas.
	Shade structures should be installed at charging stations	Any shade structure for these charging stations will be the responsibility of the proprietors, but they will need to be approved by the facility manager of the site.

Table 4 includes feedback where residents raised concerns around security of the charging stations, fines for drivers occupying charging bays when they are not charging and the technology utilised at the charging station.

Three of the submissions raised concerns around the possibility of the charging infrastructure being vandalised, the recommendations from the community members providing this feedback were installing a surveillance system to deter this behaviour.

Internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles or non-charging EV vehicles parking in EV charging bays was raised as an item of concern in two of the submissions received.

Four submissions encouraged the use of renewable energy at charging stations, as this will be the providers infrastructure, they are free to use any source of electricity, but those committing to using renewable sources of energy will be preferred by Council.

Table 4: Summary of Public Feedback Regarding Security, Enforcement and Technology

Submission Theme	Summarised Submission Comments	Council Staff Response
Security, Enforcement and Technology.	Inclusion of security systems to prevent vandalism of the EV chargers	As this charging infrastructure will be the responsibility of the providers, if there was to be security installed at these stations it would be the responsibility and cost of the providers. If there is any damage to the charging infrastructure, Council will in its best efforts notify the providers as soon as possible

		and the providers will need to have the issue attended to as soon as they can. Security systems preventing damage to EV charging equipment will be the responsibility of the EV charging providers
	Fines for parking any vehicle not charging in a charging bay	ICE vehicles or EVs that are not charging and are parked in charging bays are committing an offence and could be fined up to \$2,200.
	Renewable energy should assist powering the charging station	It is preferred that renewable energy assists in powering the charging stations, this can be done through but not limited to; solar, batteries and a Greenpower purchase agreement.

Proponent Responses Received

In addition to the community feedback received, the current proponents NRMA and Evie provided responses to the proposed Policy conditions. These submissions are summarised below with full submissions **ENCLOSED** refer, **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 2 and 3**.

NRMA

NRMA provided advice that they are willing to continue with their single EV charger at hands of fame carpark, and will comply with the proposed upfront fee and annual fee to keep the existing charging point at the Hands of Fame carpark. However, the company indicated given the proposed upfront and ongoing fees and charges in the draft EV Charging on Public Land Policy, they would likely not progress with their proposed upgrade of the site.

Evie

Evie networks wished to pass on their congratulations to Council in developing the draft EV strategy and draft EV Charging on Public Land Policy, but provided advice that the company were unable to continue their proposed charging installation due to the following:

- the upfront fee for the use of CBD parking spaces; and
- the limit of a five-year lease.

Evie expressed their concerns that the proposed Policy settings could potentially render the use of Council car parking spaces uneconomic compared to arrangements in neighbouring local governments areas and such discrepancies may hinder the development of charging infrastructure in the Tamworth area.

Proposed Amendments to the Draft Policy

After consideration of the public feedback received, Council staff have considered areas of Policy adjustment that Council may wish to consider. These considerations are provided below:

Proposed Fee Adjustment

During the public exhibition phase, existing and potential EV charging station providers have indicated they are unable to move forward with their proposals mainly in part due to the proposed upfront fee.

Although Council received only two responses from proposed EV charging station providers, it should be noted that there are only eight companies with funding from the NSW State or Federal Government at this time to install EV fast chargers, and only NRMA and Evie have approved funding to install these chargers in the Tamworth region. It is unclear if there will be future funding for fast EV chargers and if there is, it is not guaranteed that a provider will apply for funding to install in the Tamworth region.

Given the limited number of potential providers, this will impact the installation of EV chargers not just on public land but in the Tamworth region as a whole. During the exhibition phase of the Draft EV Strategy and Draft EV Charging on Public Land Policy, Council staff further investigated upfront fees in other Council areas. It was identified that the majority of regional Councils have in place a peppercorn lease fee of \$1 per year similar to the existing arrangements Council has in place with NRMA for the hands of fame carpark EV charging station. During our investigation, no councils were found to have an upfront fee in NSW, however Eurobodolla and Shoalhaven Council's have created their own lease agreements which include an annual fee of \$1200 per carpark.

Due to Councils early adoption of EV charging with the installation of the charger at the hands of fame carpark, Council was also paying a peppercorn fee but due to NRMA not requesting a five-year extension within their allotted time period, Council was able to free itself from having to pay this peppercorn fee of \$1 a year, thus putting Council in a position to lead the way in how these fees and charges are established for other regional NSW Councils to follow.

Given the responses received regarding the proposed upfront fee from potential public installation companies during the public exhibition period, staff recommend Council consider a reduction of the upfront fee. Table 5 below provides potential charging options for Council and expected income to be received for each public carpark removed from within the Tamworth CBD for a five-year lease term

Table 5 income of Charging stations based on 23-24 pricing of *Tamworth Regional Council | Planning, Building, and development | Development Contributions | Tamworth Regional Section 94 (Direct) Contribution Plans 2013 | CBD Parking (\$20,133 per carpark)*

Percentage	Upfront Fee	Annual Fee	Total income over 5 years (not indexed for annual fee increases)
50% (current policy)	\$10,067	\$2,000	\$20,067
25%	\$5,033	\$2,000	\$15,033

10%	\$2,013	\$2,000	\$12,013
5%	\$1,007	\$2,000	\$11,007
0%	\$0	\$2,000	\$10,000

Council Staff are recommending that the upfront fee be reduced to 5% of the mentioned development fee, it is believed this will align Council with other Council's currently charging an upfront fee and also provide Council the greatest opportunity to have the proposals from NRMA and Evie potentially progressed.

Proposed Lease Period Adjustment

Both potential EV charging station installation companies identified issues with Council's proposed lease term i.e. five years. The concerns related to the costs of infrastructure installation for what is considered by the companies a short lease period.

In respect to the lease term, it is considered Council has the following options;

1. five-year lease agreement – current Policy and Strategy term;
2. five-year lease agreement with a five-year option to extend at Councils discretion;
3. five-year lease agreement with a five-year option to extend at Councils discretion, with an option to agree to the extension at the beginning of the contract where there is a large upfront cost to the provider for the upgrade of a transformer, substation or similar; and
4. 10-year lease agreement – requested by potential EV installation companies.

Based on the feedback provided by companies during the public exhibition phase, to achieve Council's original goal of a five-year lease and to satisfy EV installer concerns regarding the relatively short period of the lease when substantial infrastructure investment is required, it is recommended Council proceed with option 3 above. Under this arrangement Council could apply a five-year lease term or could offer a longer term up to 10 years should the installation company require substantial upfront infrastructure investment.

A copy of the revised Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy including the above staff recommendations is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

(a) Policy Implications

Should Council agree with staff recommendations, the Draft Electric Vehicle Strategy 2024 – 2027 and Draft Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy would be adopted.

(b) Financial Implications

Fees paid by providers of EV charging will be placed in the carparking reserve to help fund ongoing and future carparking

(c) Legal Implications

A lease agreement would be required to be executed between proponents and Council for the use of public land as EV charging stations in accordance with the adopted Strategy and Policy

(d) Community Consultation

The EV Charging on Public Land Policy and EV Strategy were placed on public exhibition between the 28 March 2024 to 25 April 2024. All public submissions received through the public consultation process are provided in the document **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 4**.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 5 – Connect our region and its citizens

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS APRIL 2024

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services
Robyn Barnes, Accountant

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Council Investments April 2024”, Council receive and note the report.

SUMMARY

In accordance with *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Clause 212, the purpose of this report is to provide Council with a register of investments held as at 30 April 2024, and provide Responsible Accounting Officer certification that investments comply with the *Local Government Act 1993*, *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and Council’s Investment Policy. The register and accompanying certification can be found **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

COMMENTARY

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) met on 7 May 2024 and decided to leave interest rates on hold. Whilst committed to seeing inflation drop, they have a high level of uncertainty that their decisions to date will see this happen any time soon. The RBA will continue to monitor global and domestic trends and once again isn’t ruling anything out. With all of this uncertainty it is unlikely that interest rates will come down anytime soon and it is probable that they will increase before inflation is where the RBA would like it to be.

The register **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1** shows Council’s cash and investment holdings as at 30 April 2024.

During the month, Council’s portfolio performed above the industry average, returning 5.13% against the three-month Bank Bill Swap rate (3mBBSW) of 4.41%.

(a) Policy Implications

All of Council’s investments are held in accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Investment Policy.

(b) Financial Implications

Interest rate increases are having a positive impact on Council's return on investments.

(c) Legal Implications

All of Council's investments are held in accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Investment Policy, which accords with the requirements of:

- *Local Government Act 1993* – Section 625;
- *Local Government Act 1993* – Order (of Minister) dated 16 November 2000; The Trustee Amendment (Discretionary Investments) Act 1997 – Sections 14A (2), 14C (1) and 2;
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* – Clauses 212; and
- *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice & Financial Reporting* – Update No 15 dated June 2007.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

9.2 PLACE MANAGEMENT UPDATE - SECTION 355 COMMITTEE MINUTES

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES
AUTHOR: Jodie Archer, Place Manager

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Place Management Update - Section 355 Committee Minutes”, Council:

(i) *receive and note the Minutes of the following Committees*

<i>Attunga Public Hall and Youth Hall Committee</i>	<i>13 February 2024</i>
<i>Barraba Sportsground Committee (AGM)</i>	<i>14 November 2023</i>
<i>Barraba Sportsground Committee</i>	<i>14 November 2023</i>
<i>Dungowan Recreation Ground Committee</i>	<i>17 April 2024</i>
<i>Duri Progress Association</i>	<i>19 March 2024</i>
<i>Duri Progress Association</i>	<i>16 April 2024</i>
<i>Grey Fergie Tractor Muster Committee</i>	<i>6 April 2024</i>
<i>Loomberah Hall Committee</i>	<i>27 February 2024</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee</i>	<i>14 March 2024</i>
<i>Manilla Matter Committee</i>	<i>11 April 2024</i>
<i>Piallamore Recreation Reserve Committee</i>	<i>28 February 2024</i>
<i>Somerton War Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Committee</i>	<i>27 June 2024</i>
<i>Tamworth Regional Film and Sound Archive Committee</i>	<i>19 March 2024</i>
<i>Weabonga Hall and Recreation Reserve Local Committee</i>	<i>3 March 2024; and</i>

(ii) *appoint the following executive members and members to the Barraba Sportsground Committee as an outcome of the Committee’s Annual General Meeting held on 14 November 2023:*

<i>Chairperson</i>	<i>Sinclair Hughson</i>
<i>Deputy Chairperson</i>	<i>Ben Crowley</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Jenny Middlemiss</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Alison Gadd</i>
<i>Booking Officer</i>	<i>Sinclair Hughson</i>

Members: Dave Smith (Groundsman), Adam Cabot (Junior Rugby Representative), Simon Koopman (Senior Rugby Representative), Ben Freeman (Touch Footy Representative), Shane Maloney (Central School Representative), Bindy Abel (St Joseph School Representative), Glen Melville, Shayne Middlemiss and Amie Middlemiss.

SUMMARY

Tamworth Regional Council’s Section 355 Committees each have delegated functions which may include the management of a facility, the coordination of an event or an advisory function to submit recommendations and advice to Council in regard to a specific community facility.

The purpose of this report is to:

- present the Minutes of a number of Section 355 Committee meetings and consider the items for adoption, as recommended by the Committees;
- note the key outcomes, achievements and requests from the Minutes received; and
- inform Council of the notable outcomes of Place Management activities in the community.

COMMENTARY

Council has received 14 sets of Minutes requiring items for adoption, from Section 355 Committees. The Meeting Minutes are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, for Council's information.

Council will note that there is a wide range in both the dates and numbers of meetings held by individual committees. In this respect it was considered appropriate to await receipt of a reasonable number of meeting minutes prior to collating these to justify presentation of this report.

Notable outcomes, achievements and items included in the minutes are:

- A number of committees have been reminded to report items outside of their delegated function directly to Council officers. In addition to this they were also advised fees and charges may not be set on case-by-case scenarios.
- **Attunga Public Hall and Youth Hall Committee** - The Committee has been updated on the ceiling fan project. To align with Council's procurement policy limit, additional quotations for works were sought. Further discussion with the Committee highlighted a need for a suitable fan, given the pitch of the building roof. Quotations submitted are being reviewed with works estimated to be completed by the end of May 2024.

Council's Building Services staff have been advised of the Committee's preference to connect the hall to tank water. Action is currently with Council's Building Services Team.

The blown bulb was fixed on 24 April 2024 and the committee advised of this.

The Attunga Tennis Courts item is outside of the Committee's delegated function, however it is noted that the request to close the gap at the bottom of the perimeter fencing with netting is now completed.

- **Barraba Sportsground Committee** - Council officers have advised the Barraba Sportsground S355 Committee on the process to request their annual Council donations and the procedures and protocols relating to the installation of security cameras at public venues. Council has completed the aerating of the sports field.
- **Dungowan Recreation Reserve Committee** - Plumbing items have been reported within Council.
- **Grey Fergie Tractor Muster Committee** – Council staff are liaising with the Committee in regard to upcoming event parking and permissible activities.
- **Manilla Matters Committee** - It is noted that the Manilla Matters S355 Committee did not proceed with the program to secure a fridge. The Committee has and is supportive of a number of successful youth activities for the Manilla and broader community.
- **Piallamore Recreation Reserve Committee** - Council has met with the committee on site and discussed the amenities' location and suitable drainage design. Works tenders

have been called and are currently being reviewed. Future projects have been noted by Council and will be incorporated into the Committee's Strategic Plan. Discussions will continue with the Committee around its Visitor Information Board project.

- **Somerton War Memorial Hall and Recreation Grounds Committee** - Council officers have addressed items raised by the committee including the installation of the fire extinguisher and Evacuation Plan, highway signage installation, investigation of possible change of electricity supplier resulting in no change, resurfacing of the tennis court and planting of the Chinese Elm trees at the hall. The additional tree planting program did not proceed.
- **Tamworth Regional Film and Sound Archive Committee** – Council officers have explained petty cash procedures as outlined in the Section 355 Committee Operational Manual.
- **Weabonga Hall and Recreation Reserve Local Committee** - Council is awaiting advice from the Committee that it has completed the fencing project. Council officers have advised the Committee on licencing requirements for movie nights.

Anzac Day

Council's Place Management Team assisted the various ANZAC Day event coordinators in the regional towns and villages with road closure applications and venue and event requirements.

Community Volunteer Program

As part of the ongoing commitment to improving volunteering opportunities across the region, Council's Volunteer Services Officer has been working on developing the Strategic Project Framework to support the development of a Volunteering Strategy due for completion later this year. The Strategy has been designed to closely align with the NSW Centre of Volunteering – Community Charter.

Council's Volunteer Services Officer recently attended four workshops with the NSW Centre of Volunteering to help support volunteering in the region. The workshops focused on the key areas of women, youth, seniors and volunteering in sport. The regional workshops, and the findings will help support four individual research papers, to be delivered at the Centre of Volunteering State Conference on 6 June 2024.

Support for the 2024 MyTRC Volunteer Connect Expo continues to grow, with new registrations and community groups encouraged to showcase their volunteering opportunities. The event will be held on Sunday, 14 July 2024 (8am to 11am) at the Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall.

(a) Policy Implications

It is a policy decision of Council to maintain Section 355 Committees and practices having regard to Council's community governance structure and Section 355 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

(b) Financial Implications

Section 355 Committee and Place Management activities and budgets are maintained under the Liveable Communities Directorate budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Section 355 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, enables the Council to appoint a Committee, to exercise a function on its behalf by way of a Committee of Council. This

is used in conjunction with Section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, to formally delegate a function to the appointed Committee.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.3 WRITING OFF OF POSTPONED RATES, CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS AND CHARGES FOR 2023/2024 – FILE NO

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Seon Millstead, Revenue Accountant

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Writing Off of Postponed Rates, Conservation Agreements and Charges for 2023/2024”, Council approves the writing off of Rates and Charges totalling \$118,955.66 in accordance with Section 131 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of Rates and Charges to be written off during the 2023/2024 financial year with regards to Postponed Rates and Conservation Agreements. In accordance with Section 131 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* Council approval is required for the writing off of rates and charges.

COMMENTARY

In accordance with Section 131 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, the writing off of Rates and Charges during 2023/2024 totalling \$118,955.66 is submitted for approval.

The amounts written off are summarised as follows:

2019/2020 Postponed Rates/Interest	\$ 108,824.46
2023/2024 Conservation Agreements	<u>\$ 10,131.20</u>
	<u>\$ 118,955.66</u>

Postponed Rates are covered under Section 585-598 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and relate to land that is zoned to permit commercial, multi-residential or subdivision development, but is currently used for a single dwelling-house or rural land. A factor of the rates is postponed each year and written off after five years if the use has not changed.

Conservation Agreements are covered under Section 555 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, and relate to land that has some part included in a Conservation Agreement within the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Rates are reduced each year based on the portion of the land area under the agreement.

The Rates and Charges Abandonment Register, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**, provides full details of each individual rate and/or charge written off during the 2023/2024 financial year.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Abandonments for Postponed Rates and Conservation Agreements are allowed for in annual budgets.

(c) Legal Implications

Conservation Agreement

In accordance with Section 555(1)(b1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, land that is the subject of a conservation agreement is exempt from all rates. Section 555(3) provides for rates being made and levied proportionately on the part of a parcel not subject to the Conservation Agreement.

Postponed Rates and Charges

In accordance with Section 595 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, if five years have elapsed since the commencement of a rating year for which part of the rates levied on land have been postponed under this Division, the part postponed and any interest accrued on that part **must** be written off by Council.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

9.4 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND RISK APPETITE STATEMENTS

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Megan Patterson, Manager - Risk and Safety
Reference: Item 9.3 to Ordinary Council 9 April 2024 - Minute No. 64/24
2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statements”, Council:

- (i) Adopt the Risk Management Policy attached to this report; and*
- (ii) endorse the Risk Appetite Statements.*

SUMMARY

At Council’s Ordinary meeting of Tuesday 9 April 2024 Council considered the ‘Risk Management Policy’ and resolved to publicly exhibit the Policy for period of 28 days. The draft Policy was placed on formal public exhibition from 12 April 2024 to 10 May 2024. The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of the policy and endorse the Risk Appetite Statements which were submitted to Council for noting on 9 April 2024.

COMMENTARY

At the meeting held on 9 April 2024, Council resolved as follows:

That in relation to the report “Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statements Review”, Council:

- (i) adopt the proposed changes to its “Risk Management Policy”;*
- (ii) approve the revised “Risk Management Policy” for public exhibition for a period of 28 days;*
- (iii) request a subsequent report to a future Ordinary meeting of Council on the outcomes of the public exhibition and present the final “Risk Management Policy” for formal adoption; and*
- (iii) receive and note the revised Risk Appetite Statements.*

In accordance with Council’s resolution the draft Policy was placed on public exhibition from Friday 12 April 2024 until Friday 10 May 2024. During the public exhibition period, no submissions in relation to the Policy were received. The draft Policy, as presented to Council on 9 April 2024 is therefore recommended to Council for adoption as **ATTACHED**, refer to **ANNEXURE 1**.

Additionally, Council is asked to endorse the Risk Appetite Statements that were submitted for noting at the meeting held on 9 April 2024, **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**. This annexure outlines the ten risk categories and provides the definition of the category along with the primary and secondary risk appetite set by Councillors at a workshop conducted in June 2023.

As previously reported, Risk appetite is an articulation of an organisation’s willingness to take, retain or accept risk and, because it operates at strategic and operational levels, it is an integral part of any risk management/decision making processes. Risk appetites are a key influence, along with the cost/benefit analysis of risk mitigation considerations, when determining whether additional measures/controls should be implemented to manage risk.

Council's risk appetite was broken into four levels, with each level increasing willingness to take, retain or accept risk. Avoid and Cautious are considered more conservative risk appetites. The levels are defined as:

- avoid – Council has little to no appetite for adverse risk exposures;
- cautious – small appetite for adverse risk exposures;
- accept – medium appetite or reasonable degree of protection; and
- receptive – large appetite, where risk exposure is outweighed by the benefits.

The results of the June 2023 workshop, indicate Council has a more conservative risk appetite.

(a) Policy Implications

Should Council adopt the Policy, it will be added to the General Policy Register which is publicly available on Council's website.

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

The relevant legislation in this regard is the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, as well as Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Policy and Risk Appetite Statements will assist with Council's obligation in relation to the relevant legislation.

(d) Community Consultation

The Risk Management Policy was placed on public exhibition for 28 days. The public exhibition period was open from 12 April 2024 to 10 May 2024. No submissions were received as at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 - Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.5 2023/2024 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENTS TO 31 MARCH 2024.

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services
 Michael Gould, Management Accountant

Reference: Item 9.5 to Ordinary Council 29 June 2023 - Minute No 146/23
 Item 9.1 to Ordinary Council 24 October 2023 - Minute No 273/23

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “2023/2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statements to 31 March 2024.” Council receive and note the report and related statements.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Quarterly Budget Review Statements for Tamworth Regional Council for the period ended 31 March 2024, in accordance with Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

COMMENTARY

The Quarterly Budget Review Statements **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, provide a summary of budget movements since the adopted original budget, along with revised budget forecasts for the 2023/2024 financial year, and comparisons to actual transactions year to date. Each statement includes a review of the main budget variances for the quarter.

Budget variances that require Council approval have been submitted to Council either by a specific Council report or through the monthly Budget Variance report.

The following tables provide a summary and commentary of the budget variations for the quarter and the projected year end results for the General, Water and Sewer funds.

Details of operating expenses and income are shown in the attached statements.

Capital Income includes grants and contributions received specifically for new capital works *and are excluded* from the operating results provided in the following tables.

Cash Adjustments include the reversal of non-cash accruals contained in operating expenses such as depreciation and leave entitlements and the addition of non-operating cash receipts and payments such as those associated with loans, deferred debtors and property sales.

Capital Expenses include the acquisition, upgrade or renewal of assets.

Note information between tables and annexures may differ due to elimination of internal transactions.

General Fund

- summary of budget variations year to date:

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Adjustments	Projected Result
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Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Adjustments	Projected Result
Operating Income	(114,330,891)	(4,461,108)	(11,234,420)	(130,026,419)
Operating Expenses	117,803,217	8,639,276	14,237,716	140,680,209
Operating Result before Capital: (Surplus)/Deficit	3,472,326	4,178,168	3,003,296	10,653,790
Capital Income	(19,631,507)	(848,324)	2,292,958	(18,186,873)
Operating Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	(16,159,181)	3,329,844	5,296,254	(7,533,083)
Non Cash Adjustments: Depreciation/Leave Accruals	(30,784,546)	(3,820)	(3,118,785)	(33,907,151)
<i>Non-Operating Cash Adj.</i>				
Loans raised to fund Capital Expenditure	(21,295,000)	15,729,724	2,042,451	(3,522,825)
Proposed Land Sales	(5,028,218)	1,147	(507,066)	(5,534,137)
Leave Paid on Termination	578,000	2,779	0	580,779
Loan Principal Repayments	7,691,402	0	0	7,691,402
Capital Expenses	73,249,314	2,816,151	(5,573,064)	70,492,401
Net Cash Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	8,251,771	21,875,825	(1,860,210)	28,267,386
Breakup of Cash Result				
Current Cash: (Surplus)/Deficit:	(429,325)	7,644,653	(553,149)	6,662,179
Unexpended Grants: (Surplus)/Deficit	2,518,878	7,319,033	(830,194)	9,007,717

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Adjustments	Projected Result
Reserves: (Surplus)/Deficit	8,349,182	6,244,979	(147,642)	14,446,519
Developer Contributions: (Surplus)/Deficit	(2,185,188)	264,876	(329,501)	(2,249,813)
Unexpended Loans: (Surplus)/Deficit	(1,776)	402,284	276	400,784
Net Cash Result	8,251,771	21,875,825	(1,860,210)	28,267,386

- Key Financial Results

Unrestricted cash is a measure of Council's solvency showing the level of funds available to meet any contingency. The optimum balance is based on estimated cash flow requirements for operating and capital works. The projected balance of 30/6/2024 at the end of the third quarter exceeds the minimum balance.

	Opening Balance 1/7/23	Less Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/24	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	14,432,278	6,662,179	7,770,099	6,000,000

- Recurrent Results

	Operating Cash Result (surplus)/deficit	Depreciation and Leave Accruals	Net Recurrent Result (surplus)/deficit	Loan principal repayments
General Activities	(19,067,956)	25,563,877	6,495,921	4,394,121
Fleet Operations	(4,276,279)	3,448,419	(827,860)	0
Airport Operations	(1,333,857)	3,087,807	1,753,950	190,035
Waste Services	(4,675,744)	1,805,924	(2,869,820)	0
Pilot Training Facility	1,019,787	1,124	1,020,911	399,568

The Recurrent Result is a measure of Council’s financial sustainability. It shows the capacity of recurrent operating revenues to meet commitments for recurrent operations, loan repayments and existing asset renewals (as measured by annual depreciation).

The table breaks the General Fund down into the main activities that are expected to be self-funding, providing a clear picture of the general activities that must be funded by general purpose revenues.

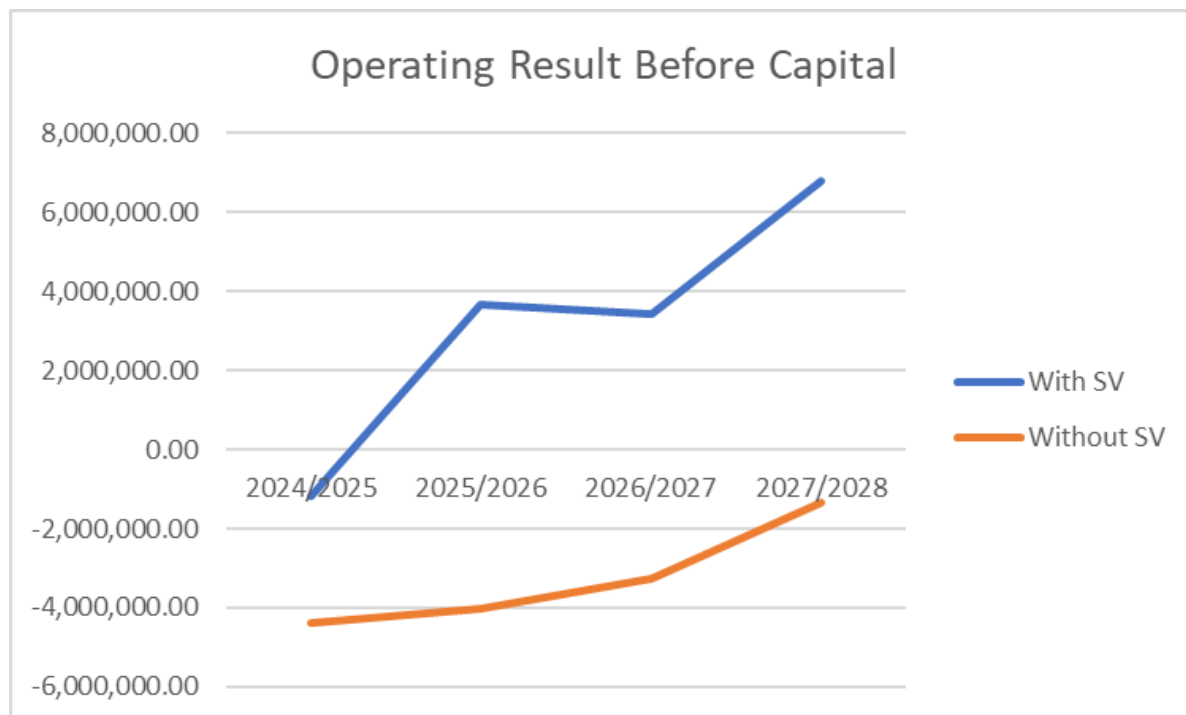
There is no depreciation or leave accruals for the Pilot Training Facility as the facility for now does not have any full-time employees assigned to it, whilst depreciation is zero as the facility is classified as an investment property. Instead of being depreciated, investment properties are valued each financial year and the value adjusted accordingly to meet accounting standard requirements.

Financial Services Manager’s comment in relation to the financial position of the Council’s General Fund

General Fund continues to struggle financially. Whilst the disclosed “cash” result in the Recurrent Results Table shows adequate funds to cover loan repayments, general fund is not generating cash surpluses at the level required to ensure reserves are available to renew its extensive asset base as and when required. This is important as insufficient reserves means Council has to find alternative funding sources such as loans or increasing rates, fees and charges to ensure the provision of safe and functional infrastructure.

The March review is forecasting a \$7.2M decline of the operating result before capital. The deterioration of financial performance is confirmed by the Operating Result Ratio which despite a 1% improvement in the second quarter has now declined to -8.19%.

The forecast budget for the 2024/25 financial year shows a deficit operating result before capital in both the Base Case Budget and the Special Variation (SV) Budget. Based on current forecast, this will be the sixth consecutive year that the General Fund has failed to make a surplus before Capital Income.



Reference is being made to past performance and the SV in the March quarterly budget review to emphasise the need for immediate intervention with regards to the financial future of General Fund. Doing nothing is not an option. Even if the SV is fully adopted by Council, asset maintenance and renewal costs continue to grow each year. Evidence to support this is demonstrated in this quarterly review with an increase in the forecast depreciation expense for the current financial year increasing by \$3.1M to \$32.9M for the year. Depreciation is not an exact science but it is certainly the best indicator we have to estimate what needs to be set aside for future asset replacement.

Water Fund

- Summary of budget variations year to date:

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Adjustments	Projected Result
Operating Income	(24,023,725)	(168,370)	(2,599,146)	(26,791,241)
Operating Expenses	24,851,259	761,921	1,204,862	26,818,042
Operating Result before Capital: (Surplus)/Deficit	827,534	593,551	(1,394,284)	26,801
Capital Income	(2,202,500)	0	(562,270)	(2,764,770)
Operating Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	(1,374,966)	593,551	(1,956,554)	(2,737,969)
Non Cash Adjustments: Depreciation/Leave Accruals	(6,406,355)	0	(1,279,203)	(7,685,558)
<i>Non-Operating Cash Adj.</i>				
Loans raised to fund Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Proposed Land Sales	0	(3,260,916)	5,516	(3,255,400)
Leave Paid on Termination	0	0	0	0
Loan Principal Repayments	1,697,973	0	0	1,697,973
Capital Expenses	8,212,477	9,776,959	(44,722)	17,944,714
Net Cash Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	2,129,129	7,109,594	(3,274,963)	5,963,760
Breakup of Cash Result				

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Adjustments	Projected Result
Current Cash: (Surplus)/Deficit:	(196,495)	(54,940)	(2,552,724)	(2,804,159)
Unexpended Grants: (Surplus)/Deficit	0	144,997	0	144,997
Reserves: (Surplus)/Deficit	918,807	1,479,250	(23,605)	2,374,452
Developer Contributions: (Surplus)/Deficit	(676,691)	5,654,234	(698,634)	4,278,909
Unexpended Loans: (Surplus)/Deficit	2,083,508	(113,947)	0	1,969,561
Net Cash Result	2,129,129	7,109,594	(3,274,963)	5,963,760

- Key Financial Results

	Opening Balance 1/7/23	Plus Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/24	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	2,018,350	2,804,159	4,822,509	2,000,000

Unrestricted cash is a measure of Council's solvency showing the level of funds available to meet any contingency. The optimum balance is based on estimated cash flow requirements for operating and capital works. The projected balance for 30/6/2024 at the end of the third quarter exceeds the optimum minimum balance and indicates a transfer to internal reserves at year end will be viable.

- Recurrent Results

	Operating cash result (surplus)/deficit	Depreciation and Leave Accruals	Net Recurrent Result (surplus)/deficit	Loan principal repayments
Recurrent Result	(9,558,703)	7,685,558	(1,873,145)	1,697,973

The Recurrent Result is a measure of Council's financial sustainability. It shows the capacity of recurrent operating revenues to meet commitments for recurrent operations, loan repayments and existing asset renewals. It relies on depreciation being a reasonable measure of asset renewal requirements. A deficit represents the amount of essential asset renewal work that cannot be funded as a result of operating commitments exceeding revenue capacity.

Financial Services Manager’s comment in relation to the financial position of the Council’s Water Fund

As predicted in the December quarterly budget review, there has been a significant increase in the water usage income forecast this quarter of \$2,060k; as a result there will be an increase in unrestricted cash at year-end of \$2M which will allow for a transfer to water fund internal reserves (with Council approval). This increase might seem like a lot but between June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2023 water reserves decreased by \$11M. Water reserves need to be restored to ensure infrastructure and water quality meet regulatory standards even during extended periods of drought.

Going forward it may be necessary to increase water usage and/or access charges to ensure the restoration of water reserves to pre drought levels. To offset any increases, it is anticipated that there would be a commensurate decrease in sewer charges so that the impact to the majority of ratepayers is nil. Financial modelling will be undertaken in 2024/25 to ensure stability within the water fund.

Sewer Fund

- Summary of budget variations year to date:

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Adjustment	Projected Result
Operating Income	(28,401,258)	(126,862)	(656,973)	(29,185,093)
Operating Expenses	19,281,568	283,670	214,919	19,780,157
Operating Result before Capital: (Surplus)/Deficit	(9,119,690)	156,808	(442,054)	(9,404,936)
Capital Income	(1,013,000)	(209,389)	(69,256)	(1,291,645)
Operating Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	(10,132,690)	(52,581)	(511,310)	(10,696,581)
Non Cash Adjustments: Depreciation/Leave Accruals	(6,006,518)	0	(397,637)	(6,404,155)
<i>Non-Operating Cash Adj.</i>				
Loans raised to fund Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Proposed Land Sales	0	2,729	0	2,729
Leave Paid on Termination	0	0	0	0
Loan Principal Repayments	(26,456)	0	0	(26,456)

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Adjustment	Projected Result
Capital Expenses	6,310,169	8,429,202	1,689,910	16,429,281
Net Cash Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	(9,855,495)	8,379,350	780,963	(695,182)
Breakup of Cash Result				
Current Cash: (Surplus)/Deficit	(349,646)	(69,190)	(514,970)	(933,806)
Unexpended Grants: (Surplus)/Deficit	0	0	0	0
Reserves: (Surplus)/Deficit	(9,438,996)	6,589,211	1,455,568	(1,394,217)
Developer Contributions: (Surplus)/Deficit	(888,018)	1,921,276	(159,635)	873,623
Unexpended Loans: (Surplus)/Deficit	821,165	(61,947)	0	759,218
Net Cash Result	(9,855,495)	8,379,350	780,963	(695,182)

- Key Financial Results

	Opening Balance 1/7/23	Plus Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/23	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	2,045,647	933,806	2,979,453	2,000,000

Unrestricted cash is a measure of Council's solvency showing the level of funds available to meet any contingency. The optimum balance is based on estimated cash flow requirements for operating and capital works. The projected balance at 30/6/2024 at the end of the third quarter exceeds the minimum balance.

- Recurrent Results

	Operating Cash Result (Surplus)/Deficit	Depreciation and Leave Accruals	Net Recurrent Result (surplus)/deficit	Loan principal repayments
Recurrent Result	(16,925,566)	6,404,155	(10,521,411)	3,173,544

The Recurrent Result is a measure of Council's financial sustainability. It shows the capacity

of recurrent operating revenues to meet commitments for recurrent operations, loan repayments and existing asset renewals. It relies on depreciation being a reasonable measure of asset renewal requirements.

Financial Services Manager’s comment in relation to the financial position of the Council’s Sewer Fund

Council’s Sewer Fund continues to be well placed to meet its asset renewal requirements. Along with the water fund a review of the sewer financial modelling will be undertaken in 2024/2025 with a view to investigating opportunities for a decrease in sewer access and usage charges.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The body and **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, of this report provide details of the projected financial results for the 2023/2024 Budget. The variances recorded for the different funds will have implications for the Long-Term Financial Plan and the 2024/2025 budget. Further review of the variances at a consolidated level will be presented in Councils financial reports for the period ending 30 June 2024.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.6 COUNCILLOR ANNUAL FEES FOR THE 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Councillor Annual Fees for the 2024/2025 Financial Year”, Council fix and determine the annual fee payable to Councillors and Mayor of Tamworth Regional Council for the 2024/2025 financial year effective from 1 July 2024, at the maximum allowable amount for a Regional Centre Council.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal’s decision on the range of fees payable to Councillors and Mayors for 2024/2025.

COMMENTARY

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal handed down its 2023 report on 29 April 2024, and determined that there be a 3.75% increase in the fees payable to Councillors and Mayors in the next financial year given the current economic and social circumstances. The full 2024 Annual Review is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The Tribunal must determine the categories of Councils and Mayoral offices at least once every three years under section 239 of the Local Government Act, a review of the categories was undertaken last year and Tamworth Regional Council remains in the Regional Centre category.

Pursuant to s.241 of the Local Government Act 1993, the annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2024, are determined as follows:

Category		Councillor/Member Annual Fee		Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee*	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
General Purpose Councils Metropolitan	Principal CBD	30,720	45,070	188,010	247,390
	Major CBD	20,500	37,960	43,530	122,640
	Metropolitan Major	20,500	35,890	43,530	110,970
	Metropolitan Large	20,500	33,810	43,530	98,510
	Metropolitan Medium	15,370	28,690	32,650	76,190
	Metropolitan Small	10,220	28,690	21,770	49,170
General Purpose Councils Non-metropolitan	Major Regional City	20,500	35,620	43,530	110,970
	Major Strategic Area	20,500	35,620	43,530	110,970
	Regional Strategic Area	20,500	33,810	43,530	98,510
	Regional Centre	15,370	27,050	31,980	66,800
	Regional Rural	10,220	22,540	21,770	49,200
	Rural Large	10,220	18,340	16,330	39,350
	Rural	10,220	13,520	10,800	29,500
County	Water	2,030	11,280	4,360	18,520

Councils	Other	2,030	6,730	4,360	12,300
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*This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member (s.249(2)).

(a) Policy Implications

It is a policy decision of the Council to fix and determine the annual fee payable to a Councillor and the Mayor with the restriction that the respective fees must not exceed the maximum amount as determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

(b) Financial Implications

The 2024/2025 Mayoral/Councillor Annual Fees budget will be increased by \$3,390, funded by Unrestricted Cash.

(c) Legal Implications

Section 248 of the Local Government Act 1993, provides that a Council must pay each Councillor an annual fee in accordance with appropriate determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

9.7 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023/2024 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - APRIL 2024

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services

Reference: Item 9.5 to Ordinary Council 29 June 2023 - Minute No 146/23
1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Annual Operational Plan 2023/2024 Budget Variation Report - April 2024”, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget as listed in ATTACHED refer ANNEXURE 1 to the report.

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval for budget variations identified during April 2024, for which there has been no previous specific report or approval.

COMMENTARY

Council adopted the original budget included in the Annual Operational Plan for 2023/2024 at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 29 June 2023. Any changes to the budget must be approved by Council at a later ordinary meeting. The budget forms the basis for future forecasts and the legal authority for staff to commit expenditures. Constant monitoring and updating of the budget is important for sound financial management.

Readers of this report are reminded that its contents should not be viewed in isolation. The March 2024 Quarterly Budget Review Statements are being tabled in tonight's meeting and provide additional revised information for budget forecasts and actual year-to-date results.

There were quite a few budget adjustments put through in the month of April, with the financial year drawing to a close managers undertook reviews of operational and capital budgets. Of particular note are an increase in Developer Contribution Income of \$806k and a \$2M increase in water usage income for the year and increase road maintenance works for the state government to the value of \$1M. Additional detail on the budget forecast and anticipated year end results can be found in the quarterly budget review report.

March 2024 Budget Variations

Description	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
Economic & Destination Development	(80,045)	0	(80,045)	0	0
Communication	(21,151)	0	(21,151)	0	0
Creative Community	(66,834)	(4,542)	2,514	125,050	(189,856)
Financial Svces	15,044	0	15,044	0	0
People & Culture	(11,385)	(1,750)	(9,635)	0	0
Risk & Safety	(138,930)	0	(138,930)	0	0
Business Systems	(605,721)	0	(605,721)	0	0
Strategy & Performance	(32,515)	0	(32,515)	0	0
General Purpose	(117,182)	(117,182)	0	0	0
Community Safety	(51,991)	8,380	(60,371)	0	0
Liveable Communities	(4,723)	0	(4,723)	0	0
Future	(997,574)	0	(191,554)	(806,020)	0

Communities					
Airport	(656,046)	41,918	22,036	0	(720,000)
Plant, Buildings	Fleet, 88,671	0	43,940	0	44,731
Sport & Rec	(2,937)	0	(1,262)	0	(1,675)
Projects & Operations	(1,685,489)	519,677	(106,604)	617,001	(2,715,563)
Civil Construction	34,798	0	34,798	0	0
Water & WasteWater	(2,256,402)	(2,202,549)	1,839	(46,256)	(9,436)
Sustainability	10,000	0	10,000	0	0
TOTAL	(6,580,412)	(1,756,048)	(1,122,340)	(110,225)	(3,591,799)

Black budget variation will *reduce* Council's forecast operating result and/or bank account

Green budget variation will **increase** Councils forecast operating result and/or bank account

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The variations included in the report have the following impact on forecast results for 2023/2024 by fund of:

Fund	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
General	446,501	(1,124,179)	(63,969)	(3,582,363)
Water	(2,187,350)	0	0	(5,846)
Sewer	(15,199)	1,839	(46,256)	(3,590)
Total	(1,756,048)	(1,122,340)	(110,225)	(3,591,799)

(c) Legal Implications

This report is in compliance with the following sections of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*:

- 211 authorisation of expenditure; and
- 202 Responsible Accounting Officer to maintain system for budgetary control.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

9.8 RAY WALSH HOUSE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Paul Bennett, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Ray Walsh House”, Council:

- (i) resolve to not remediate Ray Walsh House for the purpose of reoccupation by Council staff and Council operations;*
- (ii) investigate options to improve accommodation for staff over the medium term of up to ten years; and*
- (iii) request that the General Manager develop an options paper for the future disposal of Ray Walsh House for further consideration by Council.*

SUMMARY

Council’s administrative headquarters, Ray Walsh House, was vacated in 2022 due to the failure of the air conditioning system servicing three of the five floors of the building. The air conditioning system was unable to be repaired or serviced due to the presence of friable asbestos in the form of sprayed Vermiculite fire protection to structural steel floor members. Since that time, staff have been working closely with NSW Public Works to investigate and develop options for the potential remediation and redevelopment of the building.

COMMENTARY

The project to remove asbestos containing material (ACM) and then fully refurbish Ray Walsh House is a significant undertaking requiring high levels of expertise and experience. For that reason, Council previously resolved to engage the considerable expertise and resources of NSW Public Works (as part of the Department of Regional NSW) to manage the work involved in the asbestos removal and the potential refurbishment and reoccupation of the building.

The asbestos present in the vermiculite is Chrysotile (white) and as per the Safe Work guidelines if left undisturbed it is not considered dangerous. However, in order to repair the mechanical systems in the building the vermiculite would be exposed and disturbed causing an unacceptable risk. The only option available to council to fulfill its duty of care to the staff was to vacate the building and seek to have the asbestos removed.



Images: Vermiculite in ceiling

Following the engagement of Public Works, the first stage of internal demolition of Ray Walsh House was undertaken to remove all contents and Class B asbestos below the ceiling. This work was completed on time and under budget over a period of 12 weeks. At a Councillor briefing held on 2 November, 2023 Councillors were given an opportunity to firstly inspect the building and then provided with a detailed update on the five options being considered with regard to the future of Ray Walsh House.



Images: Post Stage 1 Demolition

These options, including estimated costs as provided by Public Works are summarised in the following table;

Cost Plan Summary

Cost Plan options are summarised below.

	Demolition	Construction	Fees	Contingency	Total (excluding GST)
Option 1 – Enabling Works	\$7,670,000	\$2,210,000	\$1,230,000	\$1,980,000	\$13,240,000
Option 2 – Base Refurbishment	\$7,670,000	\$32,980,000	\$4,670,000	\$6,930,000	\$52,250,000
Option 3 – Full Refurbishment	\$7,670,000	\$42,720,000	\$5,800,000	\$8,390,000	\$64,580,000
Option 4 – New Build Existing Site	\$7,670,000	\$66,420,000	\$8,520,000	\$11,940,000	\$94,550,000
Option 5 – New Build New Site	\$7,670,000	\$74,080,000	\$9,410,000	\$13,090,000	\$104,250,000

Following the briefing, the majority of Councillors agreed that further investigation should be undertaken with regard to Option 3 and Option 5. The results of those investigations were presented to Councillors at a further briefing held on 18 April 2024, along with a comparison of the options as prepared by Public Works as follows;

Option 3 - Ray Walsh House Refurbishment

- Condition and remaining risks within the facility following a major refurbishment (approximate cost of \$65m)
- High depreciation rate (based on a max of 20 years additional life following refurbishment)
- Risk of earlier end of life than 20 year period.
- 50 year design life for the building has expired.
- Unable to define what the extended life period could be following refurbishment.
- Seismic restraint improved from ground floor up, however the foundation is unable to be modified to achieve compliance with Australian standards.
- Existing cracking to concrete beams is likely to increase over time. This would require future significant works if/when cracking increases to level that causes issues around structural integrity and fire protection.
- Limited options to upgrade disability access. There are also a number of ongoing non-compliances that will remain such as:
 - Door clearances for fire stairs and existing amenities
 - Access to external decks (due to concrete hobs)
 - Accessible amenities not sufficient or compliant
- Functional space efficiency limited to existing building structure.
- Carpark ceiling heights less than standard.
- Future rate payer risk for maintaining the building given the above deficiencies.

In considering Option 5 an opportunity was explored to potentially combine the construction of new offices with the proposed Performing Arts Centre (PAC) and new CBD multi-storey car park in order to minimise both capital and future operating costs as well as maximising utilisation of existing land holdings in the CBD. Both the PAC and multi-storey car park are identified as strategically important projects within Blueprint 100. The summary of Option 5 is as follows;

Option 5 – New Build, New Site - Incorporate into Performing Arts Centre

- New 50 Year design life for new building (including compliance across current building regulations and standards).
- Low depreciation rate over new build life span.
- Significant opportunity for improved sustainable outcomes.
- Option to reduce parking requirement for shared parking with performing arts patrons.
- Opportunity to share the following functions between administration and performing arts:
 - Larger meeting/training rooms and council chamber meeting spaces
 - Opportunity to share amenities for staff (toilets, end of trip etc.)
 - Centralised reception space.
- Improved space requirements for Council functions
- Improved car parking facilities and revenue
- Economic benefits to local community
- Lower operating costs and higher value of community assets
- Additional multi-use function spaces for the community

(Note: Costs are based on a predictive cost per sqm. for Class 5 commercial buildings.)

Council engaged Williams Ross Architects to build on the extensive work that they had already undertaken for the design of the PAC by incorporating the information supplied by NSW Public Works and Council in relation to the requirements for Council Offices. A detailed cost plan was then prepared by a quantity surveyor to estimate what the incremental cost of including new council offices within the footprint of the PAC would be. The estimate by the quantity surveyor amounted to \$31,090,800 which is significantly less than the estimated cost to refurbish Ray Walsh House of \$64,580,000 – a potential saving of \$33,489,200.

Council is now at a point where a decision needs to be made as to whether Ray Walsh House is a financially viable proposition to refurbish for Council's future operations and occupation by council staff. Council does not currently have any funding available for the refurbishment of the building and at an estimated cost of \$64,580,000 will struggle to fund this at any time in the foreseeable future. The alternative to include new offices in a future PAC located on council land in the CBD, subject to assistance from other tiers of government and a detailed financial plan, appears to be the most cost effective and achievable option.

In the interim, Council should consider options to dispose of, or repurpose, Ray Walsh House and explore accommodation options to reconsolidate staff into a larger office space to overcome the current disjointed and inefficient spread of staff across six different locations. This approach forms the basis for the recommendations contained within this report.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. Should Council resolve to not refurbish Ray Walsh House there are no funding implications. Initial investigations into alternative accommodation arrangements can progress within current resources and will be subject to obtaining quotes for any planning or design work that needs to be undertaken. Financial considerations relating to the potential sale of Ray Walsh House will be considered when a future report is presented to Council.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open collaborative leadership

9.9 THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM - 9 AUGUST 2024

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “The Australian Women's Leadership Symposium - 9 August 2024”, Council approves Councillor Brooke Southwell to attend.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council that the Australian Women's Leadership Symposium will be held at Grand Hyatt Melbourne on Friday 9 August 2024.

COMMENTARY

Originally founded in 2004, Women & Leadership Australia are experts in leadership development and professional growth. Supporting more than 60,000 leaders through targeted programs and events, Women & Leadership Australia understand best practice leadership, impactful learning and the power of embracing equity and inclusion.

The Australian Women's Leadership Symposium is an event for leaders dedicated to driving equality and inclusion in workplaces and within the community. Participants redefine what leadership means to them and explore new possibilities for personal and professional growth.

The program includes the following speakers:-

- Megan Ibrahim – General Manager, Women & Leadership Australia
 - Akii Ngo – Disability, Inclusion and Gender Equality Activist
 - Dr Charles Lo – MBA Course Leader, ACAP
 - Stacey Ong – Executive Director, Melbourne City Mission
 - Cameron Cahil, Director, Gov Insights
-

- Dr Bree Gorman – Diversity and Inclusion Coach
- Professor Louise Purton, University of Melbourne
- Professor Dr Marcia Langton AO, University of Melbourne

(a) Policy Implications

Councillor(s) authorised to attend The Australian Women's Leadership Symposium, will be in accordance with Council's policy relating to the *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors*.

Approval arrangements for Councillor discretionary trips, attendance of Councillors at conferences, seminars, forums, workshops, professional development programs and/or other significant expenses and facilities under this policy and for insurance purposes must be authorised by way of a formal resolution of an Ordinary Meeting of Council.

(b) Financial Implications

Councillors have been allocated funds to specifically provide for attendance at Local Government Sector Conferences, workshop, industry working parties and community non-Council functions and events.

Authorisation of the attendance of Councillors is by way of resolution of Council. Authorisation and the payment of the expenses involved will only be provided by Council where the conference, workshop or industry working party is directly related to the Councillor's Civic Functions and responsibilities and/or the Local Government Sector.

On the approval by the Mayor Russell Webb a ticket was purchased on 15 January 2024 for \$764.50.

(c) Legal Implications

Council's formal resolution for attendance of any delegate is required for insurance purposes whilst the representatives are performing bona fide Council duties.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 DRAFT TAMWORTH REGION CREATIVE COMMUNITIES PLAN 2024-2029

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Kay Delahunt, Manager - Learning Communities

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Draft Tamworth Region Creative Communities Plan 2024-2029”, Council:

- (i) approve the public exhibition of the Draft Tamworth Region Creative Communities Plan 2024-2029 for a period of 28 days; and*
- (ii) receive a subsequent report to a future meeting of Council detailing the outcomes of the public exhibition process and including a recommendation as to the potential adoption of the Tamworth Region Creative Communities Plan 2024-2029.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the “Draft Tamworth Region Creative Communities Plan 2024-2029” to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

COMMENTARY

The Draft Tamworth Region Creative Communities Plan 2024-2029 (the Plan) **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1** outlines the Tamworth region’s arts and culture priorities for the next five years. The document follows six weeks of intensive community consultation and reflects the community’s arts and culture aspirations.

The plan responds to the:

- National Cultural Policy – *Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place*;
- NSW Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy – *Creative Communities*; and
- Tamworth Regional Council – Blueprint 100.

The plan also takes into account changing demographics, the economic climate and emerging technological opportunities.

The Plan identifies six overarching goals, with those being:

1. increased appreciation of First Nations cultures;
2. enabling a “creative communities” ecosystem;
3. sharing our stories;
4. evolving events and programming;
5. inclusion and participation; and
6. places and spaces.

A further 62 actions sit below these goals providing a clear framework for strengthening the region as “a thriving creative ecosystem”.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil for 2023-24. Provision will need to be made in future budgets for the implementation of the Tamworth Region Creative Communities Plan.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

A community survey was conducted from 12 February to 15 March 2024 on the Tamworth Regional Council “Have your Say” webpage.

A total of 180 people completed the survey with representation from all age groups.

Arts North West conducted 13 face-to-face workshops in the region to identify community needs and aspirations. The sessions also identified barriers to achieving these aspirations and work-shopped solutions. Community workshops were held in Manilla, Barraba, Nundle, Kootingal and Tamworth. Workshops were also held for youth and for the Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee (TRAAC) and the Tamworth Region Inclusive Culture Advisory Committee (TRICAC).

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and Diverse Communities

Focus Area 7 - Celebrate our Cultures and Heritage

Focus Area 8 - A Strong and Vibrant Identity

10.2 2024 TAMWORTH NAIDOC COMMITTEE FEE WAIVER REQUEST

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Haley Fenn, Team Leader, Inclusive Community

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “2024 Tamworth NAIDOC Committee Fee Waiver Request”, Council subsidise the fees associated with the hire of Tamworth Regional Council facilities and services by the amount disclosed in this report.

SUMMARY

The Tamworth NAIDOC Committee is again organising events for 2024 NAIDOC week celebrations from Sunday, 7 July 2024 to Sunday, 14 July 2024.

Building on the success of 2023 events, the Tamworth NAIDOC Committee requires the use of multiple Tamworth Regional Council operated facilities to meet the community needs of these events. Given the importance of NAIDOC week for the local Aboriginal community, and the social benefits associated with these events, it is recommended that Council provide some level of financial support as has occurred previously.

COMMENTARY

The Tamworth NAIDOC Committee (the committee) will again host the following NAIDOC events:

- Opening Ceremony on Sunday, 7 July 2024 at Oxley Lookout;
- NAIDOC March on Friday, 12 July along Peel Street;
- Family Fun Day at Bicentennial Park Friday, 12 July; and
- Debutante Ball Saturday, 13 July at Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC).

The Committee is comprised of local organisations including eight Aboriginal organisations and representatives from a range of local NGOs, community members and Council.

This year's celebrations will align with the National NAIDOC theme "*Keep the fire burning, Blak, Loud and Proud*". The Committee considers that a strong partnership with Council supporting event logistics and promotion could broaden the appeal, awareness and participation of the broader community across these NAIDOC Week events.

In 2024, The Committee has set a joint vision to raise the visibility of NAIDOC Week for the Tamworth community through the design and erection of a new set of light post flags. The NAIDOC Committee has requested that Council sponsor the design, printing and erection of these flags along Peel Street on an annual basis. The Committee has selected Kayleb Waters to be invited to prepare the artwork for these flags. The artwork will not be specific to any NAIDOC year or theme, but will be designed so that the flags can be used in future years during NAIDOC week.

The Committee has identified Oxley Lookout, Bicentennial Park, Tamworth Regional Youth Centre and the TRECC as the most suitable venues, and is seeking a fee waiver for hire fees, amenities, cleaning and waste removal and audio-visual production fees.

A letter of request from the Committee is **ATTACHED** refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The estimated fees for the use of Council facilities and venues as well as fee for service are outlined in Table 1 and Table 2:

Description	Estimated fee (GST inc.)
Hire of Oxley Lookout on 7 July 2024 - Opening Ceremony	\$64.00
Hire of Bicentennial Park on 12 July 2024 - NAIDOC Family Fun Day	\$471.00
Additional bin and amenities cleaning services Bicentennial Park - Family Fun Day	\$600.00
Hire of Tamworth Regional Youth Centre Auditorium for Debutante rehearsals x 12 sessions	\$360.00
Traffic management and rolling road closures for the NAIDOC March on 12 July 2024	\$5,500.00
Design and purchase of light post flags and banner	\$5,000.00

TOTAL	\$11,995.00
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Table 1. 2024 NAIDOC events estimate fees

Venue hire	\$4,708.20
Cleaning	\$1,130.00
Staging and equipment	\$3,200.00
Tableware and linen	\$1,350.00
Furniture	\$2,280.00
Technical staffing	\$1,196.00
Production package	\$2,275.00
TRECC Other charges	\$1,100.00
SUB TOTAL TRECC	\$17,239.20*

Table 2. 2024 NAIDOC Debutante Ball event estimated hire fees - TRECC

*It should be noted that the above estimated fee of \$17,239.20 is the total cost to hire the TRECC after community service obligations and packaging discounts to the value of \$6,314.80 have been applied.

These events will create no direct economic impact for the region due to the community-based nature of the events. However, it is anticipated there will be a significant social return on investment.

These events are fun, family-friendly celebrations of Aboriginal culture, and align with Council's Blueprint 100 Our Delivery Plan 2023/2025 - Focus Area 7, by supporting local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the preservation and celebration of their cultures.

Given the social value and benefit of these events to the local Aboriginal community it is recommended that Council support the events with a 50% fee subsidisation for hire of the TRECC and fee waiver for hire and service fees. It is therefore recommended that Council support these events with a fee subsidy of \$20,614.60, refer to Table 2. for fee breakdown.

Description	Subsidy (GST inc.)
TRECC hire fee	\$23,554.00
Community service obligations and packaging discounts applied	-\$6,314.80
SUB TOTAL	\$17,239.20

Hire and service fees (Table1)	\$11,995.00
NAIDOC Debutante Ball TRECC Event subsidisation (50% of subtotal)	\$8,619.60
TOTAL SUBSIDISATION	\$20,614.60

Table 3. NAIDOC Event Subsidisation Calculations

While NAIDOC week each year celebrates and acknowledges our past and our present, it also looks with hope towards the future. The sheer numbers of events and activities the Tamworth NAIDOC Committee continues to deliver each year emphasises the growing success and importance of NAIDOC Week for our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

(a) Policy Implications

Council's support for the recommended subsidy aligns with Blueprint 100 Focus Area 7, by supporting local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the preservation and celebration of their cultures.

It also aligns with Council's adoption of Closing the Gap and is part of Council's commitment to advancing Closing the Gap goals within the Tamworth Region.

(b) Financial Implications

Should Council support this fee waiver proposal, \$20,614.60 will be deducted from the general fund.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and diverse communities.

Focus Area 7 – Celebrate our cultures and heritage.

11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

That the confidential reports as listed be considered in a Meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

TENDER T009/2024 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF BARRABA RUGBY CLUBHOUSE EXTENSION

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Claire Turnor, Projects Engineer

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c),(d)i&(d)ii of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a recommendation to Council regarding T009/2024 for design and construction of the Barraba Rugby Clubhouse Extension (the Project).

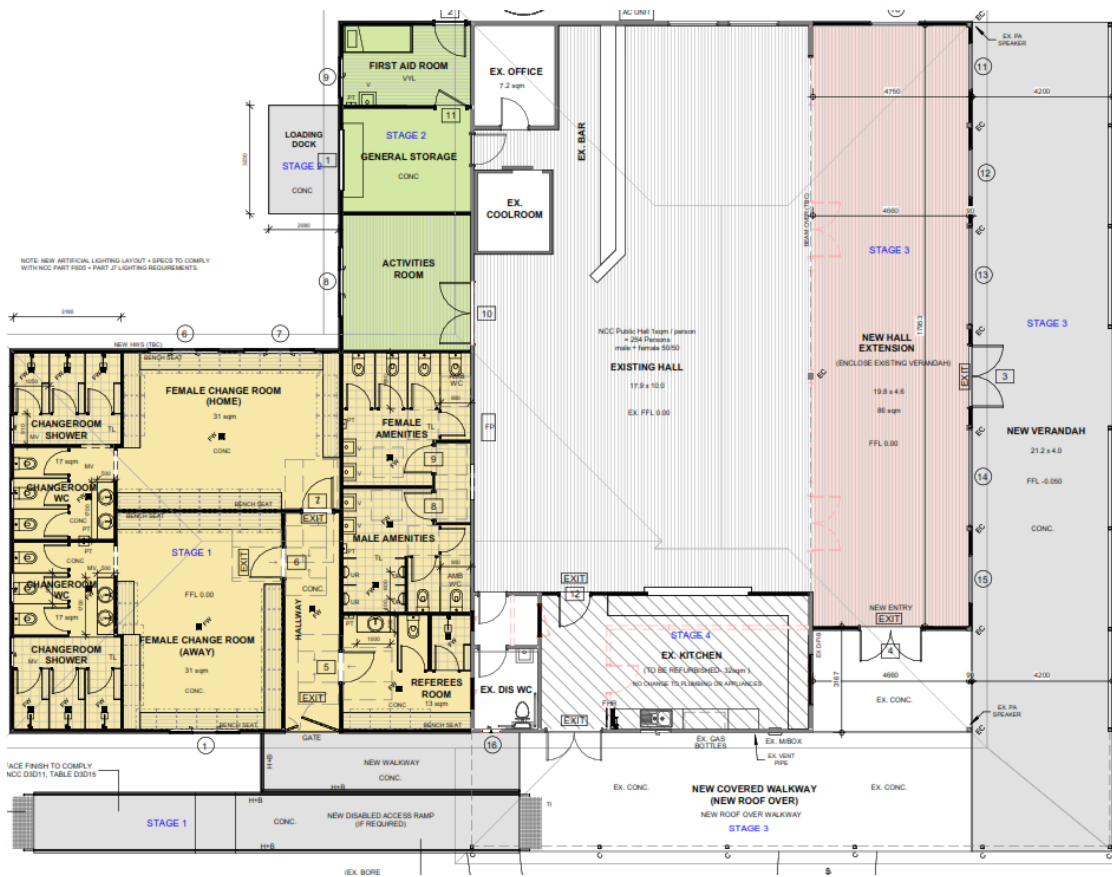
The Barraba Rugby Clubhouse is located at the Barraba Sports Ground on Trevallyn Road, Barraba.

In 2022, the Barraba Rugby Union Club (the Club) secured \$687,073 funding from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) to undertake an extension to the existing clubhouse to provide new female changerooms, umpires facilities, male and female amenities within the clubhouse, a number of ancillary rooms, closing-in of the existing clubhouse verandah, construction of a new verandah and upgrade of the existing kitchen.

The Club engaged a local consultant to prepare a preliminary design and a local building contractor to prepare a construction estimate. This original estimate informed the funding application.

Following confirmation of funding, Tamworth Regional Council (Council) reviewed the design in consultation with the Club to ensure it contained all features the Club desired as well as complied with current standards and guidelines. An estimate of the final preliminary design was then prepared by a Quantity Surveyor (QS). This estimate indicated the whole scope was unlikely to be afforded, and so the upgrades were split into four distinct stages so that a reduced scope could be prioritised and delivered for the available funding.

All stages were tendered with a mandatory scope designated as Stage 1, and Stages 2-4 included as optional items for pricing by tenderers. The final preliminary design and staging is shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure

1: Barraba Rugby Clubhouse Extension preliminary design

TENDER T082/2024 PROVISION OF BANKING SERVICES

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Stuart Brandon, Statutory Accountant

2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c) of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

SUMMARY

Councils existing contract for the provision of banking services expired in April 2024. Banking services are currently operating under an extension to the current contract whilst the tender process is being conducted and finalised. The tender is for a five-year contract with an option for three one-year extensions. If awarded the new contract with National Australia Bank will commence 1 July 2024.

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE VALVE MAINTENANCE TRAILER - T151-2023

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR: Kellie Martin, Procurement and Asset Supervisor

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)i of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

SUMMARY

This tender is for the acquisition of one valve maintenance trailer. This unit will primarily be utilised for maintaining Tamworth Regional Council's (Council) extensive water distribution network of stop valves, mains and hydrants. Council has in excess of 12,000 stop valves and hydrants to maintain. This device will be incorporated into the preventative maintenance program to ensure every valve and hydrant in the network is cleaned out and exercised to maintain working condition.

TENDER T098-2024 RURAL WASTE TRANSFER STATION STANDALONE SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Benjamin Sharpham, Water Engineer - Roatation

Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c) of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

SUMMARY

Council operates 10 rural waste management facilities in addition to the Forest Road Waste Management Facility located in Tamworth. As part of ongoing improvements to the rural waste management facilities, Council has planned for the supply of electricity to these sites to improve customer service by providing better provision of EFTPOS and receipting, to deliver improvements in security including CCTV camera installation and improve operating and safety standards for Council staff by allowing better provision for amenities, air-conditioning and computer terminal access.

A review of electricity supply options for the 10 rural waste management facilities identified that it is not economically viable to connect eight sites to the electricity network due to distance for construction of new overhead power lines or the requirement to gain an electricity easement for Essential Energy. An option for a standalone solar electricity system was investigated as an alternative to connecting the rural waste management facilities to the electricity network. The option was based on the requirements of the site operating for a minimum five hours, three times a week. The solar electricity system option was deemed to be most cost-effective option for these sites. As such, a tender was prepared and released to market for the provision of solar installations at rural waste management facilities.

The purpose of this report is to present to Council tenders received for the Rural Waste Transfer Station Standalone Solar Installations Project. and provide Council a recommendation in relation to tenders received.

**SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF READY MIXED CONCRETE TO TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2029 INCLUSIVE - T086-2024**

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Darin Beard, Warehouse Supervisor

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)ii of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council.

SUMMARY

Tamworth Regional Council (Council) invited panel tenders for the supply and delivery of ready mixed concrete, for works within the Local Government area which will be carried out by Council's operational staff. The tendering period is for five years commencing 1 July 2024, with the option for an onboarding process every 12 months