



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

26 MARCH 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, 12 March 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 JUDY COATES - ACCOMODATION AND HOUSING SHORTAGE – FILE NO

MOTION

That Council;

- (i) identify what the potential accommodation needs (and therefore gaps) will be for the next 6-18 months by using our calendar of future booked events, and comparing with historical data around past sporting, entertainment and conference events as well as our tourism industry;*
- (ii) hold a workshop as a matter of urgency to discuss what current accommodation options exist and possible future options there may be such as home hosting, caravan hire and similar; and*
- (iii) identify what Council needs to do to facilitate, support and achieve that objective, while still maintaining amenity in the environment.*

Notice is given that I intend to move the above Motion at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 26 March 2024.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Tamworth and the surrounding regions have the same issues as most of NSW - a housing shortage. We also have a worker shortage across the board. In addition, we have large numbers of FIFO/DIDO workers in many sectors, including health, construction and process workers.

I have recently become aware of a large number of hotel/ motel rooms permanently booked for the next 12-18 months to accommodate the construction industry. This then raises the question around current and future permanent bookings for accommodation for other industries. We have to then add to that the accommodation that is going to be required for the renewable energy projects that will come over the next 1-5 years.

I fully understand that we have to plan for this accommodation need, so that any (temporary) worker accommodation and temporary accommodation will leave a legacy of on-going accommodation options for our community into the future; in the form of housing itself or the infrastructure for housing in the case of temporary accommodation. However, on top of all that demand, it is imperative that we also consider our events, entertainment, sporting and conference demands as well as the general tourism industry. For example, just last week I became aware of a large national sporting event that could potentially bring over 1400 participants to our region along with the support people, resulting in a projected number of visitors of over 3,000. And this is only one event. On that same weekend there will another 1,000 visitors associated with another sporting event. We have many like these throughout the year. In November, Tamworth is host to the NSW Local Government conference, and speaking with someone just the other day who was seeking accommodation for the conference - he advised that there were less than 5 rooms available even now - 8 months out.

100% occupancy is absolutely fantastic for the accommodation sector, as well as the economic flow on to hospitality and the general community, however we need to start considering other options that can be activated in the short-term, so we don't lose our big successful events, our regional, state and national sporting competitions, our essential workers, the casual tourists and so on. We don't want to be building a reputation as a city and region that can offer no accommodation.

Taking that a step further, the pressure will then push down onto those people in our community, who struggle to gain any type of accommodation, who may be sleeping rough, homeless, or couch surfing and are assisted each and every night with temporary accommodation in motels, through organisations such as Homes North, who can be placing as many as 120 people into motel rooms in our area on any given night.

Tamworth is currently recognised as a great place to live, work and play, but I also believe we now need to be recognised for thinking outside the box, to identify alternatives for this impending accommodation shortage.

We need:

1. more housing in general for people and families wanting to have a tree change to Tamworth. This is underway with proposed subdivisions and ongoing housing construction;
2. more social and affordable housing;

3. temporary worker accommodation for example for construction and renewable energy projects. Something that will leave a permanent positive legacy for the region, once these projects are complete;
4. options for temporary accommodation so that the event and tourism accommodation options remain available;
5. more accommodation for FIFO/DIDO essential workers; and
6. we need to ensure we retain an appropriate level of visitor accommodation options.

As I see it we need at least 2 solutions - one that looks at providing increased medium to long-term accommodation options, and another that takes into consideration what we are going to need in the next 6+ months; to demonstrate that we are truly a “welcoming” city with initiative, addressing barriers with innovative solutions.

Cr Judy Coates

19 March 2024

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 PROPOSED ROAD NAME FOR APPROVED STAGED DEVELOPMENT DA0618/2004 LOT 33 DP 1116271, CALALA RN2024-0069

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Christine Smith, Development Support Officer

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Proposed Road Name for Approved Staged Development DA0618/2004 Lot 33 DP 1116271, Calala RN2024-0069”, Council:

- (i) approve in principle the road name ‘Evergreen’ Way;*
- (ii) advertise the proposed road name as required by the Roads Act 1993 Section 162, Roads Regulation 2018 Part 2 Division 1 Section 7 to enable interested parties the opportunity to make comment; and*
- (iii) provided no submissions are made which object to the proposed road name, proceed to publish the adopted name in the Government Gazette.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend a road name for the approved Community Title Subdivision, identified as Lot 33 in Deposited Plan 1116271 Gungurru Close. Council has pre-approval from the Geographical Names Board to name the existing road ‘Evergreen Way’ which is consistent with Council’s road name theme ‘Birds and Native Flora’.

COMMENTARY

Proposed Road Name:	‘Evergreen Way’
Development Consent:	DA0618/2004 granted 11 January 2005
Theme or origin of proposed names:	‘Birds and Native Flora’
Geographical Names Board	
Pre-Approval Date:	8 March 2024

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

The proposed road name will be exhibited for public comment in accordance with the *Roads Act 1993* Section 162, *Roads Regulation 2018* Part 2 Division 1 Section 7.

Should no submissions be lodged in objection to the proposed road name, Council will proceed to publish the adopted name in the Government Gazette.

In the instance that one or more valid objections are received in respect of the proposed road name, the matter will be reported to a subsequent Council meeting for Council's further consideration.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and Diverse Communities

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 2024 MURRAY DARLING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN TAMWORTH

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

Reference: Item 8.1 Ordinary Council Meeting 12 September 2023 Minute No 223/23

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “2024 Murray Darling Association Conference and Annual General Meeting to be held in Tamworth”, Council;

- (i) pay the venue fees totalling \$11,739 (excl GST) associated with hosting the event at the Tamworth Town Hall in addition to the \$10,000 in kind and direct financial support to host the 2024 Murray Darling Association Conference and Annual General Meeting in Tamworth, previously agreed;*
- (ii) fund the venue fees equally from the water and wastewater reserves; and*
- (iii) authorise the Mayor of Tamworth Regional Council to attend the 2024 Murray Darling Association Conference and Annual General Meeting.*

SUMMARY

Council's application to host the 2024 Murray Darling Association conference and Annual General Meeting has been successful.

COMMENTARY

At its meeting on 11 October 2022, Council agreed to join the Murray Darling Association. The Murray Darling Association (MDA) was formed in 1944 as the Murray Valley Development League. It is an association of 70 Local Government areas along with community groups, businesses and individuals with an interest in ensuring that the Murray-Darling Basin continues as a viable and valuable asset for all.

The Association's headquarters are in Echuca, Victoria and is a non-government organisation across state boundaries which strives to represents the views, aspirations and concerns of the large number of people living in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Council is part of Region 11 of the MDA. The table below shows the member councils of region 11.

Region 11: 15 Councils – 11 Members			
Gunnedah Shire Council	Brewarrina Shire Council	Gwydir Shire Council	Coonamble Shire Council
Walgett Shire Council		Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Tenterfield Shire Council
Tamworth Regional Council	Armidale Regional Council	Inverell Shire Council	Moree Plains Shire Council

The Chair of Region 11 is Councillor Jamie Chaffey, Mayor of Gunnedah Shire Council. Councillor Chaffey has been actively promoting the MDA amongst other councils in Region 11 and generally in the Northern part of the basin.

As reported to Council at its meeting of 12 September 2023, following discussion with the Mayor, Councillor Webb and Councillor Chaffey, an application was submitted to the MDA for Tamworth to host the 2024 Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM). Council has been advised that its application has been accepted and work continues on details associated with the event including;

- the conference and AGM will be held in Tamworth on the 8,9,10 and 11 July 2024;
- the schedule at this time is;
 - Monday afternoon welcome reception – drinks and canapes
 - Tuesday – Study tour
 - Wednesday – 9AM start of conference until 1PM for lunch
 - Wednesday 2PM – 4PM Annual General Meeting
 - Wednesday evening – conference dinner
 - Thursday conference – until afternoon tea – then conference close
- venue will be the Tamworth Town Hall;
- theme of the conference is “Water Security”;
- the site tour will include visits to Gunnedah Shire and Liverpool Plains Shire;
- invitations for speakers have been sent out;
- tickets are now available on line (there is generally no change in ticket prices from 2023);
- sponsorship packages are available and various businesses, government agencies etc are being approached with regard to sponsorship; and

- further details can be found at the Murray Darling Association website - [80th National Conference — Murray Darling Association \(mda.asn.au\)](https://mda.asn.au)

The conference is expected to attract 150 delegates including, partners and 10 exhibitors

It is proposed the Mayor, Councillor Russell Webb and the Director Water and Waste will attend the conference and AGM. The Mayor will also welcome delegates at the welcome reception and speak at the start of the conference.

As part of the application, Council was required to nominate whether Council would be prepared to provide funding and/or in-kind support to offset the costs of running the conference. Council's application included that Council would contribute up to \$10,000 from in-kind and direct financial contribution towards the event if Council's application was successful.

The Association has now written to Council requesting additional financial assistance if possible. If Council was prepared to provide additional assistance one way would be for Council to pay the venue costs associated with hiring the Tamworth Town Hall for the conference and Annual General Meeting. These costs have been estimated at \$11,739.00 (excl GST).

(a) Policy Implications

Councillor(s) authorised to attend the 2023 Local Government Water Management Conference, 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

Up to \$10,000 in funding, either in kind or directly, has already been made available to the Association for the 2024 conference. This amount will be funded equally from Water and Wastewater reserves. Should Council agree to provide further financial assistance by paying the venue costs then an additional \$11,739 (excl GST) will be required, funded equally from the Water and Wastewater reserve.

Ticket prices for the 2024 Conference and AGM are \$790 per delegate for member Councils.

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.

(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 1 – Our water security

8.2 NSW PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION - ALTERNATIVE FUNDING MODELS FOR LOCAL WATER UTILITIES

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “NSW Productivity Commission - Alternative Funding Models for Local Water Utilities”, Council agrees to provide a submission to the NSW Productivity Commission as per the submission attached to this report.

SUMMARY

The NSW Government has asked the NSW Productivity Commission to investigate Alternative Funding Models for Local Water Utilities.

This is considered a very important issue for Council and Local Government in NSW generally. As a result, a submission has been prepared and it is recommended Council formally agree to submit same.

COMMENTARY

The NSW Minister for Water has asked the NSW Productivity Commission to investigate alternative funding options to reduce risks for Local Water Utilities (LWU)'s taking into account;

- current funding arrangements;
- minimum service levels;
- incentives for performance;
- transition path to alternative funding models leveraging capabilities of State-Owned Corporations; and
- pensioner rebates.

The NSW Productivity Commission has released an Issues Paper which is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. The Issues Paper details a critical assumption of this review is the NSW Government's policy of no forced amalgamations of Local Councils and that ownership of LWUs remain with Local Councils.

The Issues Paper seeks answers/comments/views on the series of questions broken into areas as shown below.

Challenges from current funding models

1. what are the key factors that affect local water utilities' ability to recover costs through user charges;
2. what might be reasons for some local water utilities with similar size and remoteness to perform differently in terms of level of cost recovery; and
3. what are key challenges with obtaining funding for water and sewerage infrastructure upgrades and investment?

Funding model principles

4. what factors should be taken into account in calculating government subsidies for local water utilities;
5. what might be the typical costs for delivering water and sewerage services for a well-run local water utility; and
6. what indicators could be linked to funding to drive ongoing performance improvements and deliver value for money for customers?

Minimum service levels

7. should the minimum service levels be applied universally to all towns within the area serviced by a local water utility, irrespective of size, remoteness or cost;
8. what metrics should be considered in minimum service levels; and
9. what is the existing evidence on current basic service levels, customers' needs for minimum service levels and willingness to pay in regional and remote communities;
10. what are the barriers to setting measurable service levels; and
11. what are challenges with monitoring and reporting against minimum service levels?

Alternative funding options

12. what are the desired outcomes for addressing the challenges currently faced by local water utilities;
13. what are obstacles to greater use of loans from financial institutions to fund infrastructure investments in water and sewerage services;
14. what measures would drive investment planning that takes account of climate change risks and ongoing costs of infrastructure maintenance;
15. who are most at risk from high water bills in regional, remote and metropolitan New South Wales;
16. what are examples of projects or operations associated with a funding model based on regional collaboration for local water utilities? What were the challenges;
17. what has worked well and what have been challenges for local water utilities in leveraging the scale and expertise of State-Owned Corporations; and
18. how could government and local water utilities better partner with aboriginal communities to improve their water and sewerage services?

Council staff have prepared a submission which provides comments in relation to the questions posed where the question is considered relevant to Council as a Local Water Utility user. The submission document is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

The NSW Productivity Commission has indicated following the release of the Issues Paper consultation will be held with councils and local water utilities including a planned visit to Tamworth.

Submissions close on the 28 March 2024.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 1 – Our Water Security

8.3 TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 6 MARCH 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 - 6 March 2024”, Council:

- (i) approve the road closures on 25 April 2024 for the purposes of holding the Tamworth ANZAC Day march;*
- (ii) approve the closure of Brisbane Street, East Tamworth, from Napier Street to Upper Street, from 4.30am to 6.00am on 25 April 2024, for the purpose of holding the Tamworth ANZAC Day dawn service;*
- (iii) approve the proposed traffic impacts and road closures as a result of the ANZAC Day events in Barraba, Manilla, Attunga, Somerton, Kootingal, Bendemeer and Nundle;*
- (iv) approve the relocation of the existing Bus Stop (Stop #234038) on Dean Street, East Tamworth including the associated J-Pole, hardstand and signage; and*
- (v) approve the installation of a new right-hand turn lane on the eastern approach to the Calala Lane and Campbell Road roundabout, modifying the central median and installation of the associated signs and line marking.*

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 6 March 2024.

COMMENTARY

The minutes from the Committee meeting held on 6 March 2023, are **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**.

28/2024 – ANZAC Day March – Tamworth

The Tamworth RSL will be holding ANZAC Day marches in the Tamworth central business district (CBD) on 25 April 2024. As shown in the **ATTACHED** Traffic Guidance Scheme, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, the march will travel along the same route as last year.

The march is summarised as follows:

- Participants will be required to form up on Marius Street (between Brisbane Street and Bourke Street) at 9.30am, except school children, who will be required to form up on Bourke Street.
- At 10am, the participants will step off and turn left onto Bourke Street before going left on to Peel Street. The march will then proceed along Peel Street towards Fitzroy Street.

- At Fitzroy Street, the school children will turn right and head towards the No. 1 Oval to disperse, and the main march will turn left towards the Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall;
- The march will be completed by 11am.

The following road closures will be required in Tamworth for the purposes of holding the March:

- Marius Street from Bourke Street (including intersection) to Brisbane Street;
- Bourke Street from Marius Street to Peel Street;
- Peel Street from Bourke Street (including intersection) to Fitzroy Street (including intersection);
- Fitzroy Street from the Town Hall to Kable Avenue;
- Kable Avenue intersection with Fitzroy Street;
- Brisbane Street from Marius Street to Kable Avenue; and
- Smith Place and the Town Hall carpark.

NOTE: Transport for NSW (TfNSW) requested a Road Occupancy License (ROL) be completed and submitted for the closure of Marius Street and Brisbane Street.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: pending the submission of an ROL, the Committee unanimously supports the road closures on 25 April 2024 for the purposes of holding the Tamworth ANZAC Day March.

29/2024 – ANZAC Day Dawn Service – Tamworth

The Tamworth RSL will be holding an ANZAC day dawn service on Brisbane Street, East Tamworth with a planned road closure between Upper and Napier Streets. The street will need to be closed from 4.00am to 6.30am.

As shown in the **ATTACHED** Traffic Guidance Scheme, refer **ANNEXURE 2**, vehicle mitigation devices will be installed at each end of the planned road closure and a temporary carpark installed within the Tamworth Public School grounds for the aged / infirmed people.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee unanimously supports the closure of Brisbane Street, East Tamworth, from Napier Street to Upper Street, from 4.30am to 6.00am on 25 April 2024, for the purpose of holding the Tamworth ANZAC Day dawn service.

30/2024 – ANZAC Day Marches – Manilla, Somerton, Attunga, Barraba, Kootingal, Bendemeer and Nundle

Tamworth Regional Council (Council) has received event notifications from the various groups that are responsible for organising ANZAC Day services and marches around the Tamworth Local Government area (LGA).

The Traffic Guidance Schemes for these events are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 3**.

The following is a summary of the locations and expected traffic impacts as a result of these events:

- Barraba:
 - Date and times: 25 April 2024 – 5.30am to 12.00pm.

- March route: on Queen Street from Alice Street to the Memorial Clock at the intersection between Queen Street and Maude Street.
- Road closure summary:
 - Queen Street from Savoy Street to Alice Street; and
 - Maude Street from Fitzroy Street to Cherry Lane.
- Road closure times: 5.30am to 12.30pm.
- Detour details: To be installed on Henry Street and Fitzroy Street.
- Manilla:
 - Date and times: 5.00am to 12.00pm.
 - March route: from Court Street to the Town Hall on Manilla Street.
 - Road closure summary:
 - Court Street from Rowan Street to (and including) Manilla Street intersection; and
 - Manilla Street from Court Street to Market Street.
 - Road closure times: 5.00am to 12.00pm.
- Attunga:
 - Date and times: 25 April 2024 – 3.00pm to 5.00pm.
 - March route: from Attunga Public School, Attunga Street to the Memorial Hall, Cross Street.
 - Road closure summary:
 - Attunga Street from Manilla Road to Cross Street; and
 - Cross Street from Attunga Street to 50m South.
 - Road closure times: 2.30pm to 5.00pm.
- Somerton:
 - Date and times: 25 April 2024 – 7.00am to 9.00am.
 - March route: from Somerton Public School, Milkmaid Street to the Memorial Hall, Scotland Street.
 - Road closure summary:
 - Milkmaid Street adjacent Somerton School frontage; and
 - Scotland Street from (and including) the Milkmaid Street intersection to Joshua Street.
 - Road closure times: 6.00am to 10.00am.
- Kootingal:
 - Date and times: 25 April 2024 – 6.00am to 9.00am.

- March route: from Kootingal Public School, Denman Avenue to Memory Park at intersection of Denman Avenue and Gate Street.
- Road closure summary:
 - Denman Avenue from Kootingal Public School to (and including) the Gate Street intersection.
- Road closure times: 6.00am to 9.00am.
- Bendemeer:
 - Date and times: 25 April 2024 – 5.30am to 12.30pm.
 - March route: on Memorial Drive from Havannah Street to Memorial Park.
 - Road closure summary:
 - Memorial Drive from Havannah Street to Memorial Park.
 - Road closure times: 10.15am to 12.30pm.
 - Road closures will not be in place for the 5.30am Dawn Service.
- Nundle:
 - Date and times: 25 April 2024 – 10.30am to 12.30pm.
 - March Route: from Nundle Town Hall, Jenkins Street to the Council office, Innes Street.
 - Road closure summary:
 - Jenkins Street from Nundle Town Hall to Innes Street;
 - Innes Street from Gill Street to (and including) the Jenkins Street intersection; and
 - Oakenville Street at Jenkins Street intersection (from 11am until marchers have moved on).
 - Road closure times: 10.30am to 12.30pm.

NOTE: TfNSW has requested an ROL be completed for events that affect the state road network.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: pending the submission of the applicable ROL's, the Committee unanimously supports the proposed traffic impacts and road closures as a result of the ANZAC Day events in Barraba, Manilla, Attunga, Somerton, Kootingal, Bendemeer and Nundle.

31/2024 – Bus Stop Relocation at 23 – 25 Dean Street, North Tamworth (Council)

Council has approved a multi-storey development at 23-25 Dean Street, North Tamworth (DA2023-0155). As a part of the development, an existing Bus Zone (Stop ID# 234038) will need to be relocated approximately 15m south. Figure 1 below shows the existing bus stop location.



Figure 1: Location of Existing Bus Stop (Stop# 234038) on Dean Street, North Tamworth.

The existing concrete slab, J-Pole and associated signage will need to be relocated in accordance with the **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 4**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee unanimously supports the relocation of the existing Bus Stop (Stop #234038) on Dean Street, East Tamworth including the associated J-Pole, hardstand and signage.

33/2024 – Proposed Childcare Centre on Calala Lane, Calala

Council has received a request for a new childcare centre at 72-74 Calala Lane, Calala. As part of the request, the developer is proposing to install a right-hand turn lane for east bound traffic as shown in the **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 5**.

The existing median would need to be modified and new signage and line marking installed.

Figure 2 below shows the proposed location of the right-hand turn.



Figure 2: Location of proposed right-hand turn lane on Calala Lane, Calala

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee unanimously supports the installation of a new right-hand turn lane, modifying the central median and installation of the associated signs and line marking.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

28/2024, 29/2024 and 30/2024 – Shall be funded by the existing special event traffic management budget.

31/2024 and 33/2024 – Shall be funded by the Developer

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 5 – Connect our region and its citizens

8.4 ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING ON PUBLIC LAND POLICY

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Daniel Lawrence, Sustainability Officer - Energy

5 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

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 Contributions Plan 2006-2011 (f) CBD Carparking as updated from time to time (in 2023/2024 this charge is \$20,636.50) 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 10 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.

SUMMARY

In recent years an increase in Electric Vehicle (EV) sales in Australia has been evident. This trend is predicted to continue from a variety of factors including, as a result of new legislation. This may lead to a need for increased public EV charging infrastructure throughout Australia. This possible increase in public EV charging is supported when in light of recent approaches to Council by two proponents interested in accessing existing Council owned public carparking spaces and converting them to EV charging stations.

As a result, an Electric Vehicle Strategy and Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy has been prepared. Council's direction is required as to whether Councillors believe Council has a role in providing EV charging on public land and if so, adopting a strategy and a policy to guide the provision of those chargers.

COMMENTARY

The July 2023 State of Electric Vehicles report detailed, EVs made up 8.4% of all new vehicles sold in Australia, in the report completed July 2022, that percentage was 3.8%, reflecting a 121% increase in the space of a year. This trend is set to continue with the announcement of a proposed New Vehicle Efficiency Standard (NVES) set to be introduced on the 1 January 2025, which is predicted to have EVs at price parity compared to their Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) counterparts in the next 2-5 years. With this increase expected, the Federal and NSW Government have both released EV strategies. The NSW government has also released an EV Charging Master Plan, which predicts by 2031 the Tamworth LGA will need 20 public EV charge points to handle the increase in EVs on our roads. Currently the Tamworth LGA has six public EV charging points:

- four are located at Wests;
- one at Fossickers Tourist Park Nundle; and
- one is located at Hands of Fame carpark, Kable Avenue Tamworth – (this site is on public land with the current lease agreement set to end with NRMA 31 March 2024).

In addition to this, there are five points at local hotels which are only accessible to those staying at the hotel.

It is predicted that an increase of EVs on our roads will in the future see private companies providing EV charging stations. However, in the short term, there may be a role for council to play in making available existing public carparking spaces to private companies to repurpose as EV charging stations. To reinforce this point recently Council has been approached by two companies seeking to provide EV charging on existing public carparking spaces.

If Council does not believe it has a role in making available existing public carparking spaces for conversion to EV charging stations then consideration of this issue can end. If, however, Council does believe it has a role, then it is considered Council should adopt an EV Strategy and an EV Charging on Public Land Policy to guide how these charging facilities are provided.

The purpose of the EV Strategy, see draft **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, is to;

- ensure the Tamworth LGA has the EV charging infrastructure in place for the predicted increase of EVs on our roads;

- help connect our region to the wider EV network; and
- help Council take advantage of a unique tourism opportunity for visitors to visit our local restaurants, explore our local shops or visit tourist attractions while recharging their vehicles, providing an economic benefit to the area.

To fulfill the above purpose, five objectives are proposed in the strategy, along with steps and an action plan to achieve these objectives. The proposed objectives are;

- **Community / Customer Orientation**

We will strive to support increased education around EVs, support and guide local business in their EV journey.

- **Equitable Access**

Have equal opportunity for access to public EV charging around the region and are equally spread to alleviate range anxiety, ensuring that any charging station installed on public land can charge all types of EVs.

- **Economic Opportunities**

By supporting the increase in fast EV public chargers, we are striving to increase the number of EV drivers to the region. By supporting charging locations in strategic locations i.e., town centres and tourist hotspots, we hope to encourage drivers to visit local shops, restaurants and tourist attractions while their vehicles are charging.

- **Collaboration**

Working with Essential energy to identify public land that meets the load demand of EV charging, will enable Council staff to create a list of appropriate sites around the region. This allows a streamlined process and greater consistency on where public EV chargers on public land are located in the future.

- **Sustainability**

Encouraging the use of renewable energy at charging stations, through the use of solar, battery backup, green power or a renewable power purchase agreement and supporting the increase of EV owners in the community to help us achieve our goal of reducing our vehicle emissions.

The purpose of having an EV Charging on Public Land Policy, see draft **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**, includes:

- providing charging companies clear guidance of Councils expectations; and
- providing Council staff, a consistent and efficient approach to how and where these public EV chargers are installed on public land.

Assuming Council has no objection to the adoption of the EV Strategy then, in relation to the EV Charging on Public Land Policy, the following issues have been considered

1. **CBD Car Parking Issues**

CBD parking is already a concern for Council and the community. Any carparking spaces set aside for EV, effectively reduce the number of carparking spaces available for ICE vehicles.

It is important to recognise that only Battery EV vehicles or Plug in Hybrid EV's are legally able to use carparking spaces marked for EV's and then, only whilst charging.

However, installing EV chargers encourages EV drivers to explore local shops, eat at local restaurants and visit tourist attractions while their vehicles are recharging, this provides the opportunity for an economic boost to our local businesses. If the chargers are located in areas which are not attractive to EV drivers there is a possibility they will not stop.

2. A cap on the number of EV charging points utilising existing carparking spaces in the Tamworth CBD

To partly address concerns about the number of existing CBD carparking spaces that could be lost to allow EV charging, a cap is proposed on the number of EV chargers in the Tamworth CBD. The draft policy includes a cap of 12.

3. Charging for Use of Public Carparking Spaces

Council already has fees and charges that apply to development that cannot satisfy the onsite carparking requirements. In these cases, the developer pays the appropriate fee, multiplied by the number of carparks they are short, and the money goes into the carparking reserve to help fund more carparking spaces. In the 23-24 financial year this fee is \$20,636.50 per carparking space.

It is proposed the policy will include payment of an upfront fee for any carpark located in the Tamworth CBD converted to EV charging. However, Council should be aware proponents may not be prepared to pay such a large upfront fee, or even 50% of the annual fee paid by developers.

Options available include:

- Option 1 – charge the same fee as that levied on developers for carparking shortfalls (\$20,636.50 per carpark in 23-24) for each existing public carpark in the Tamworth CBD removed from service as a general carpark;
- Option 2 – charge some percentage of the fee levied on developers per carpark. To assist, based on the 23-24 fee;
50% = \$10,318.25 per carpark;
25% = \$5,159.12 per carpark;
5% = \$1,031.83 per carpark; and
- Option 3 - No upfront fee;

In addition, it is proposed to levy an annual fee as listed in the Tamworth Regional Council fees and charges document per carpark converted to EV charging. In 24-25 it is proposed this charge will be:

- \$2,000 per carpark removed from service in the Tamworth CBD
- \$500 per carpark removed from service outside of the Tamworth CBD

This annual fee will offset the loss of revenue for the carparking space as well as contribute to the cost of maintenance of the site.

All fees will be paid into the carparking reserve.

4. Length of Lease Period

The draft policy includes a term of lease. The present draft includes a term of 10 years, however, a shorter lease would allow Council the opportunity to reconsider the need for using public carparks for EV charging more frequently.

5. Electrical Issues

The installation of the EV chargers must not exceed the electricity supply infrastructure capacity, if this occurs the EV companies must upgrade the infrastructure at no cost to Council.

6. Energy costs

EV charger providers must cover the cost of energy use that the chargers consume; an electrical meter will be installed by the providers to track this usage.

7. Installation, Maintenance and Removal

The installation, maintenance and removal associated with the operation of any given EV charging station is the responsibility and cost of the provider, this includes signage, line marking, pavement marking, and the like, and the future reinstatement of the site if required/proposed. This includes removal of EV charging infrastructure and associated signs and ancillary infrastructure

8. Minimum Charger Size.

The draft policy states that the minimum size charger that can be installed on public land is 50kW, this allows a greater EV turnover. Chargers below 50kW will not be considered on public land in the CBD as these can take 3 - 8+ hours to fully charge an EV.

9. EV usage Cost

EV charging stations are not free, each provider charges different c/kWh fees to users. These can range from 50c/kWh – 80c/kWh.

10. EV Charging Station Technology

Each EV charging provider that installs on public land in the Tamworth LGA must be able to charge all models of EVs, this is achieved by using the standard plugs used in Australia, as well as having the technology to charge PHEVs at the lower kW rate they require

In relation to charging, staff have contacted other NSW Councils to see how they are handling this issue. Details are shown below;

- Hornsby Shire Council has EV charging car spaces in place. In 23-24 financial year these charges are \$1,925.00 per bay;
- Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick Council charge an annual fee of \$2,500 per carparking space for DC chargers;
- Bathurst Regional Council initially adopted a peppercorn fee of \$1.00 annually per carparking space, this was in order to support the early stages of EV charging installation in their area. Now that there are three EV charging providers set up in Bathurst on public land, Bathurst Regional council has decided to include much higher annual fees in the new lease agreements with these EV providers were unwilling to reveal the amount of the new annual fees; and
- Northern Beaches Council charge an application fee of \$597.00 and an annual fee of \$1,835.00 per carparking space.

Council has been approached by two proponents seeking access to existing public carparking spaces for conversion to EV charging spaces. Details of each proposal are shown below.

NRMA

NRMA's proposal includes a deed of variation to the existing lease agreement for the Hands of Fame carpark as well a proposed upgrade of their current infrastructure to allow for concurrent charging and increasing the current charging capacity from one to four charging spaces. The upgraded EV chargers are 2x150kW, this will accommodate up to four EVs charging concurrently at a minimum of 75kW. An updated design proposal is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 3 & 4** for the Hands of Fame carpark. The upgrade is likely to take nine months for implementation, increasing the number of carparks used from two to either five or six depending on the design. The two designs are differentiated by the number of carparks that will have disability access. The five-carpark option will have disability access for two of the EV chargers, the six-carpark option will have disability access for four of the EV chargers.

Staff sought advice from the NRMA in relation to charging upfront and/or annual charges for carparking spaces and other components of the proposed draft policy. The NRMA's comments are **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**.

EVIE

EVIE have installed over 200 EV public chargers around Australia and currently have State Government funding to install public chargers in Tamworth. In order to enact the funding EVIE must ensure the public chargers are partly operational by September 2024. Following a number of meetings with EVIE and Council staff, the White Street Carpark has been identified as the preferred location. EVIE proposes to install 2 x 150kW public chargers, taking up four carparking spaces and allowing for four EVs to charge concurrently, EVIE's design for the White Street carpark is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 5**; It is noted that this design imbeds the chargers into the garden bed and doesn't allow for disability access, therefore reducing the number of carparks utilised

Like the NRMA staff sought advice from EVIE in relation to charging upfront and/or annual charges for carparking spaces and other components of the proposed draft policy. EVIE's comments are **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 2**.

As shown by the responses from EVIE and NRMA the proposed upfront fees may not be acceptable to providers. This may lead to no EV chargers on public land in the Tamworth CBD or anywhere.

Time is an issue for both EVIE and the NRMA. To address this, and assuming Council is willing to place both the EV Strategy and associated Policy on public display, it is proposed to advise EVIE and the NRMA of what is in the draft policy, once approved by Council for public display, and, unless they are willing to wait to see the results of the public exhibition and the final version of the policy adopted by Council, they will have to comply with the conditions in the draft policy on public display.

(a) Policy Implications

Proposed introduction of Electric Vehicle Charging on Public Land Policy

(b) Financial Implications

Any 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 will be signed between proponents and Council for the use of public land as EV charging stations

(d) Community Consultation

The EV Charging on Public Land Policy and EV Strategy are proposed to be placed on public exhibition between April and May 2024

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 5 – Connect our region and its citizens

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS FEBRUARY 2024

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services
Lauren McPherson, Senior Accountant

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Council Investments February 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 29 February 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

Nothing to report this month with regards to interest rate changes. This is due to the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) cutting back on the number of meetings it will hold each year. Instead of 11 meetings a year the RBA will hold eight meetings over two days with a mandatory media release on the second day. This change is to implement a series of recommendations to improve the RBA's communication and allow additional time to monitor and collect information regarding the impact of previous rate movements. The next announcement regarding the cash rate is not until March 19th.

The register **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1** shows Council's cash and investment holdings as at 29 February 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 4.34%.

(a) Policy Implications

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

(b) Financial Implications

Increases in interest rates will have a positive impact on the return on Council investments, however these are negated by persistent inflationary pressures.

(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: Kay Burnes, Team Leader - Place Management

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>Barraba Showground Committee</i>	<i>2 November 2023</i>
<i>Barraba Showground Committee</i>	<i>6 December 2023</i>
<i>Grey Fergie Tractor Muster Committee</i>	<i>3 February 2024</i>
<i>Limbri Public Hall and Recreation Reserve Local Committee</i>	<i>30 October 2023</i>
<i>Limbri Public Hall and Recreation Reserve Local Committee AGM</i>	<i>4 December 2023</i>
<i>Loomberah Hall Committee</i>	<i>18 October 2023</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee</i>	<i>17 August 2023</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee</i>	<i>14 September 2023</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee AGM</i>	<i>12 October 2023</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee</i>	<i>12 October 2023</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee</i>	<i>9 November 2023</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee</i>	<i>14 December 2023</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee</i>	<i>20 January 2024</i>
<i>Manilla Matters Committee</i>	<i>8 February 2024</i>
<i>Moore Creek Hall and Reserve Committee AGM</i>	<i>12 October 2023</i>
<i>Moore Creek Hall and Reserve Committee</i>	<i>16 November 2023</i>
<i>Nemingha Hall and Reserve Committee</i>	<i>4 October 2023</i>
<i>Nemingha Hall and Reserve Committee</i>	<i>1 November 2023</i>
<i>Nundle Common Trust</i>	<i>4 December 2023</i>
<i>Nundle Common Trust</i>	<i>4 March 2024</i>
<i>Piallamore Recreation Reserve Committee AGM</i>	<i>31 August 2023</i>
<i>Piallamore Recreation Reserve Committee</i>	<i>31 August 2023</i>
<i>Piallamore Recreation Reserve Committee</i>	<i>1 November 2023</i>
<i>Tamworth Regional Film and Sound Archive</i>	<i>7 November 2023</i>
<i>Weabonga Hall and Recreation Reserve Local Committee</i>	<i>5 November 2023</i>
<i>Woolbrook Hall and Park Committee AGM</i>	<i>25 September 2023</i>
<i>Woolbrook Hall and Park Committee</i>	<i>25 September 2023;</i>

(ii) accept the nomination of Cody Taylor as a member of the Grey Fergie Tractor Muster Committee as an outcome of the Committee’s Ordinary Meeting held 3 February 2024;

(iii) appoint the following executive members and members to the Limbri Public Hall and Recreation Reserve Local Committee as an outcome of the Committee’s Annual General Meeting held on 4 December 2023:

Chairperson

Jane Daly

Secretary

Julia James

Treasurer

Terri Moore

Assistant Treasurer

Sarah Bradfield

Members: Phil Gaynor, Kathy Gaynor, Raymond Coleman, Sharon Roughley, Ross Doak, Beryl Doak, Peter Barsoum, Ella Barsoum, Sarah Bradfield, Chris Blackmore, Brett Nies, Lisa Nies, Neville Case and Jennifer Case;

- (iv) accept the resignation of Derani Barwick as a member of the Loomberah Hall Committee as an outcome of the Committee's Ordinary Meeting held 18 October 2023;*
- (v) appoint the following executive member and members to the Manilla Matters Committee as an outcome of the Committee's Annual General Meeting held on 12 October 2023:*

Treasurer

David Ridgewell

Members: Gwen Taylor, Richard Bell, Emily McDonald, Kathleen Phelps, Breanna Robertson, Jim Maxwell, Frank McNamara, Isis Ashton;

- (vi) appoint the following executive member and members to the Manilla Matters Committee as an outcome of the Committee's General Meeting held on 18 January 2024:*

Chairperson

Kate Phelps

Members: Greg Phelps, Tamara Phelps and Kris Herle;

- (vii) appoint the following executive member to the Manilla Matters Committee as an outcome of the Committee's General Meeting held on 8 February 2024:*

Secretary

Greg Phelps;

- (viii) appoint the following executive members and members to the Moore Creek Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee as an outcome of the Committee's Annual General Meeting held on 12 October 2023:*

Chairperson

Emma Rust

Deputy Chairperson

Megan Jameson

Secretary

Megan Jameson

Treasurer

Tom Fulwood

Booking Officer

Tom Fulwood

Members: Libby Campbell, Andree Fulwood, Linda Whitworth, Carrie Galliano, Doug Barry, Sonia Bennik and Judy Shorten;

- (ix) accept the resignation of Marie Hawkins as Treasurer of the Nemingha Hall and Reserve Committee as an outcome of the Committee's Ordinary Meeting held 1 November 2023;*
- (x) appoint Angus Newcombe as Treasurer of the Nemingha Hall and Reserve Committee as an outcome of the Committee's Ordinary Meeting held 1 November 2023;*
- (xi) appoint the following executive members and members to the Piallamore Recreation Reserve Committee as an outcome of the Committee's Annual General Meeting held on 31 August 2023:*

Chairperson	Mark Stass
Deputy Chairperson	Robert Hutt
Secretary	Jo-Anna Heenan
Treasurer	Jo-Anna Heenan
Booking Officer	Mark Stass; and

(xii) appoint the following executive members and members to the Woolbrook Hall and Park Committee as an outcome of the Committee's Annual General Meeting held on 25 September 2023:

Chairperson	Anthony Hailing
Deputy Chairperson	Timothy Laurie
Secretary	Belinda Laurie
Treasurer	Natalie Clifford
Booking Officer	Belinda Laurie

Members: Michael Pullen, Gary Olrich, Rhonda Olrich, David Allerton, Shienna Allerton, Richard Prior, Jocelyn Denny, Ruby Denny, Chelsea Denny, Kylie Matthews, Janelle Smith, Alison Greenhalgh, Jessica Goodwin, Janine Wright and Mark Riordan.

SUMMARY

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

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.

Council has received 27 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. In addition to this they were also advised fees and charges may not be set on case-by-case scenarios;
- **Grey Fergie Tractor Muster Committee** – Council staff are following up the item in regard to sponsorship.
- **Moore Creek Hall and Reserve Committee** has been reminded that it is not permitted to hire out chairs and tables for external use due to work, health and safety concerns.

Council staff are working with the committee in regards to heating.

The flagpole will be reinstated.

- **Nemingha Hall and Reserve Committee** - Council is assisting the committee with identifying areas of increased electricity usage. In regard to hall improvements the internal stage has been removed and flooring will be laid shortly and air conditioning requirements are being obtained.
- **Piallamore Recreation Reserve Committee** - Council is seeking clarification in reference to sponsorship.

The light tower has now been installed.

- **Tamworth Regional Film and Sound Archive Committee** – the committee has been advised on the media interview process inclusive of Council's Media Policy.

The committee has been advised of the legalities in regard to the 'Go Fund Me' request.

Australia Day

Council's Place Management Team has recently assisted Barraba, Manilla, Bendemeer, Kootingal, Woolomin and Nundle with very successful Australia Day awards and/or events.

Community Volunteer Program

The 2024 Tamworth Country Music Festival Community Volunteer Program was a great success. A total of 50 volunteers (inclusive of the Adina Community Services crew) supported the program for over 305.5 hours throughout the festival across five different sites. The new Fringe activity site, catering for a younger audience was a great hit with many travelling families looking for free entertainment throughout the 10 days. This site was heavily supported by Council's 2024 Youth Council and a local Scripture Group. This year's volunteers came from Tamworth, Mornington in Victoria and Narrabeen in Sydney. All enjoyed the experience and the festival and stated they would like to help out again in 2025. The local volunteers included two volunteers from local job agencies. Enquiries have already been received from visitors, both local and interstate about volunteering for the 2025 festival.

(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 2024 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - MOTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Lisa May, Office of the General Manager Administrator
Reference: Item 9.1 to Ordinary Council 13 February 2024 - Minute No 7/24

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “2024 National General Assembly of Local Government - Motions for Submission”, Council:

- (i) authorise the motion; that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide more direction, leadership and funding for increasing the level of recycling being undertaken in Australia;*
- (ii) authorise the motion; that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commence an education campaign to educate the people of Australia about water recycling, including direct potable reuse of water, and provide a national framework for the approval of water recycling projects;*
- (iii) authorise the motion; that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently address the critical shortfall in Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government, with a particular focus on a significant increase in road funding following the accelerated deterioration of the national road network due to ongoing intense climatic and weather events over a sustained period;*
- (iv) authorise the motion; that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide more funding for the delivery of essential infrastructure in rural and regional areas required for new housing, including in-fill housing development;*
- (v) authorise the motion; that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider that proceeds from the sale of a family home when downsizing (into a smaller property) be exempt from inclusion in the pension asset test for the remainder of the life of the individual or couple;*
- (vi) authorise the motion; that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise through the Medicare Rebate system well skilled and credentialed Mental Health Nurses and other associated and registered Mental Health practitioners, following triage and referral to an appropriate level of intervention by the GP;*
- (vii) authorise the motion; that the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide regionally significant large events and regional/rural tourist attracting facilities with insurance subsidies to facilitate the ongoing viability of the events and facilities*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the motions to be submitted on behalf of Tamworth Regional Council to the 2024 National General Assembly for Local Government.

COMMENTARY

Council, at its Ordinary Meeting held on 13 February 2024, authorised Mayor Russell Webb, Deputy Mayor Judy Coates, Councillor Phil Betts and Councillor Marc Sutherland to attend the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) to be held over 2-4 July 2024.

Following this Meeting, Motions were suggested as follows:

Motions submitted by Staff

- (i) That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide more direction, leadership and funding for increasing the level of recycling being undertaken in Australia.

National Objective

The Australian community recognises the need to reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfills and wants to recycle. However, changes over recent years has seen the cost of recycling increase significantly to the point it is not possible for Local Government to fund the capital cost and ongoing operating cost, of initiatives to increase recycling.

Whilst some grants are available at state and national level the amount offered is insufficient to make recycling projects affordable. The Australian Government needs to show leadership in promoting and providing financial support for on shore initiatives which will make higher levels of recycling affordable across Australia.

- (ii) That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commence an education campaign to educate the people of Australia about water recycling, including direct potable reuse of water, and provide a national framework for the approval of water recycling projects.

National Objective

Water Recycling has to be one of the suite of measures investigated to address reduced water security for communities in the future, particularly from the effects of climate change. Water Recycling, including direct potable reuse, is technically possible now and has been for years, but the community remains reluctant to embrace the technology. Rather than Local Government undertake community education on a council by council basis the problem requires a national focus which can only be provided by the Australian Government. Further, water recycling projects that are approved at present have to run the gauntlet of each states approval processes and requirements, some of which may vary widely, assuming they have a process in place at all. A more national approach to water recycling including approval processes is necessary.

- (iii) That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently address the critical shortfall in Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government, with a particular focus on a significant increase in road funding following the accelerated deterioration of the national road network due to ongoing intense climatic and weather events over a sustained period.

National Objective

Australia's road network has been in an accelerated decline for many years and has been devastated by the severe storm and flooding events over the last 3 years, which has come on the top of the ongoing impact of climate change over the last 10 years.

The amount of deterioration across the entire road network as well as the doubling, and in some cases tripling, of the ongoing costs to maintain and renew these critical community assets is well past the point of being sustainable. Diversion of funds from other vital community programs and continued reduction in service levels is no longer an option for many Councils. This situation has drastically increased the safety risk for the motoring public and has created ongoing delays and cost increases for national freight movement. Emergency grant funding from both the State and Federal governments has been welcome, but this addresses specific and short-term issues only and does not address the overall accelerated deterioration of the nation's road network. Local Government needs a permanent, reliable source of funding over many years to effectively address this national problem. ALGA's policy position to pursue Financial Assistance Grants at 1% of national tax revenues has never been more important given the current road crisis.

- (iv) That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide more funding for the delivery of essential infrastructure in rural and regional areas required for new housing, including in-fill housing development.

National Objective

In rural and regional areas, the costs associated with the provision of essential infrastructure is one of the biggest barriers to the delivery of housing. This includes both the extension of infrastructure to new areas and up-sizing the capacity of existing infrastructure to enable in-fill housing development.

While a number of housing grants and strategies are undertaken at both state and national level, these are typically directed at the actual construction or supply of housing. The associated cost of essential infrastructure is either borne by the developer rendering a project unfeasible or the cost of housing being unaffordable to many. It is problematic for councils to shoulder these costs as it results in funds being redirected from other essential services.

By increasing the funding of essential infrastructure in rural and regional areas, local government can strategically plan for the delivery of housing for the community at this time of an acknowledged housing crisis.

Motions Submitted by Councillor Judy Coates

- (v) That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider that proceeds from the sale of a family home when downsizing (into a smaller property) be exempt from inclusion in the pension asset test for the remainder of the life of the individual or couple.

National Objective

The aim behind this is to free up larger sized homes for families, making it another contributor to the housing shortage, without impacting on the pension status of the individual/couple. It also has the added advantage in that the elderly person/people will have less physical and financial demands on maintaining a larger property.

There will be no impact on the pension received by the an individual/couple if they purchase a smaller home and have funds left over. The balance of those funds may be invested, and any related income paid to the individual/couple is not part of an income asset test for their pension for the rest of their life/lives.

- (vi) That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise through the Medicare Rebate system well skilled and credentialed Mental Health

Nurses and other associated and registered Mental Health practitioners, following triage and referral to an appropriate level of intervention by the GP.

National Objective

In rural Australia access to psychologists and psychiatrists is limited and costly with the process for referral can be quite protracted, by which time the individual's condition may have further deteriorated. The availability of public health practitioners in rural and regional areas is very restricted, and due to the often lower socio-economic situations of people with mental health issues, they cannot afford to pay for assessments and treatments that leave them well out of pocket. That's if they can access the treatment in the first instance.

By having appropriate recognised option such as Mental Health nurses, counsellors etc, coming under a scaled Medicare Rebate scheme, we provide more equity and equality for service access for those living in rural and regional areas

- (vii) That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide regionally significant large events and regional/rural tourist attracting facilities with insurance subsidies to facilitate the ongoing viability of the events and facilities.

National Objective

It is important that as a region we retain these “social assets” to continue to attract tourists, contributing to the ongoing economies of rural and remote regions. The current regular and quite substantial increasing cost of insurances is putting them under doubt for the future.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership.

9.4 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023/2024 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 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 - February 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 November 2023, 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. Quarterly Budget Review Statements provide additional revised information for budget forecasts and actual year-to-date results.

Items of note with regards to the February budget adjustments include an increase to interest income for General Fund of \$325k and the recognition of \$9.3M of grant income to assist with the cost of repairs for the 2022 floods. Increased costs for General Fund were also recognised with Council's contribution to the Rural Fire Fighting Fund going up by \$84k and an increase in audit fees for the financial reports of \$22.5k. With the end of the financial year approaching, Waste Management have requested incomplete works adjustments to remove from the 2023/2024 budget projects that will not take place in the current financial year.

February 2023 Budget Variations

Description	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
Economic & Destination Dev	10,000	0	10,000	0	0
Financial Services	22,500	0	22,500	0	0
Business	147,578	0	147,578	0	0

Systems & Solutions					
Office of the GM	5,480	0	5,480	0	0
General Purpose Income	(325,832)	(325,832)	0	0	0
Central Northern Reg Libraries	(9,884)	(9,884)	0	0	0
Future Communities	26,452	26,452	0	0	0
Plant Fleet & Buildings	(6,221)	(6,221)	0	0	0
Operations	84,258	(6,452)	90,710	0	0
Civil Works	0	(9,273,469)	9,273,469	0	0
Waste Management	(15,985,000)	0	(135,000)	1,100,000	(16,950,000)
Water & Wastewater	157,257	279,523	(122,266)	0	0
Sustainability	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0
TOTAL	(15,913,412)	(9,315,883)	9,252,471	1,100,000	(16,950,000)

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	(9,595,406)	9,374,737	1,100,000	(16,950,000)
Water	66,361	(122,266)	0	0

Sewer	213,162	0	0	0
Total	(9,315,883)	9,252,471	1,100,000	(16,950,000)

(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

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Nil

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.

E053-2024 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - POSSIBLE LEASE OF LAND AT 8 RESERVOIR ROAD MANILLA

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations
Reference: Item 8.1 to Ordinary Council 22 August 2023 - Minute No 204/23

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

To allow for the construction of the new Manilla Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Council purchased approximately 34 hectares of land at 8 Reservoir Road Manilla. The new WTP site required approximately 3.4 hectares of land with the exterior of the facility security fenced to prevent site access. The residual land, exterior of the WTP, is former farmland and has the potential to be leased. Council conducted an Expression of Interest (EOI) in late 2023 in relation to the potential of leasing this land area. The purpose of this report is to provide Council the outcome of the completed EOI and provide recommendations on future land utilisation and management.