

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

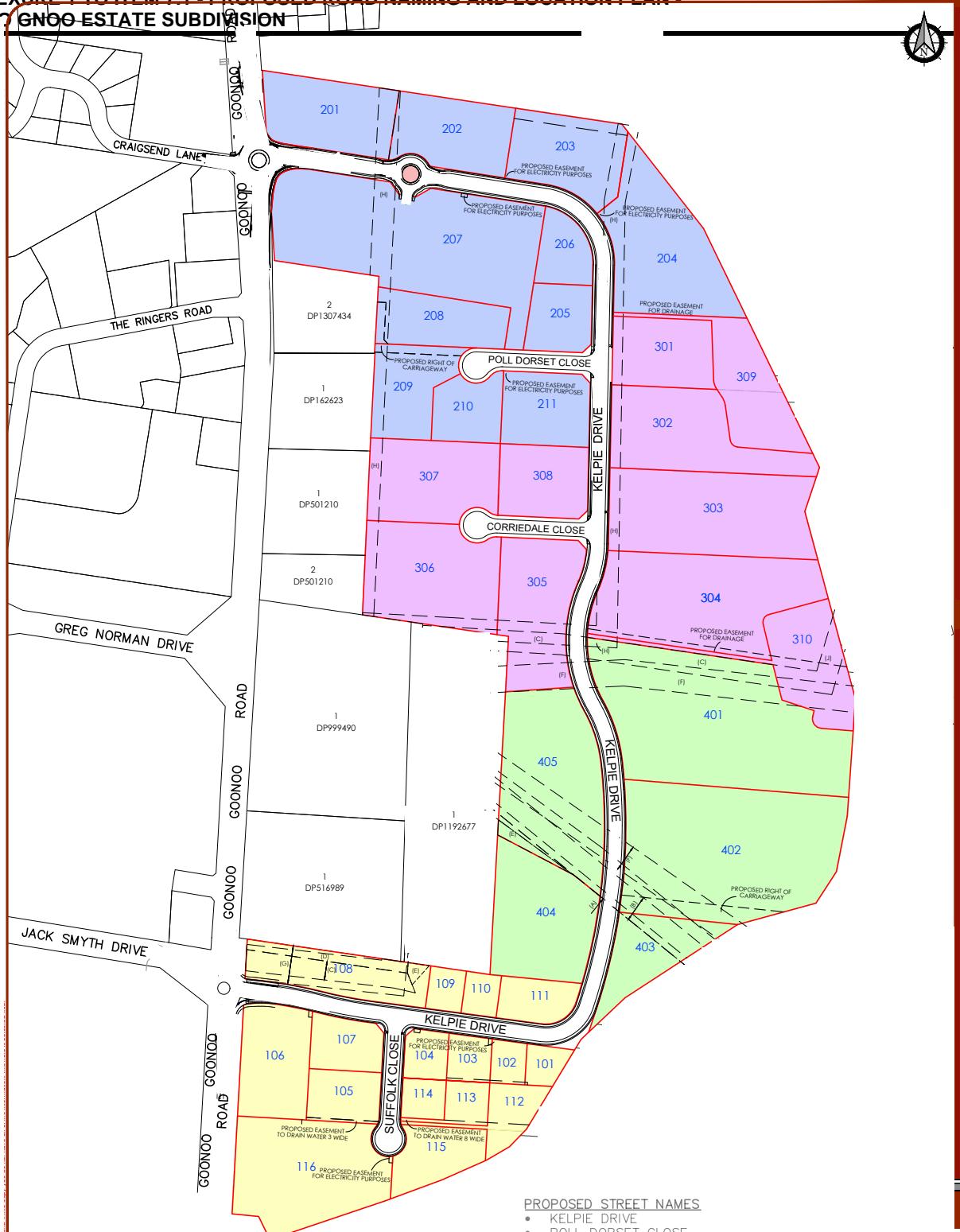
ANNEXURES for ORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA

11 MARCH 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

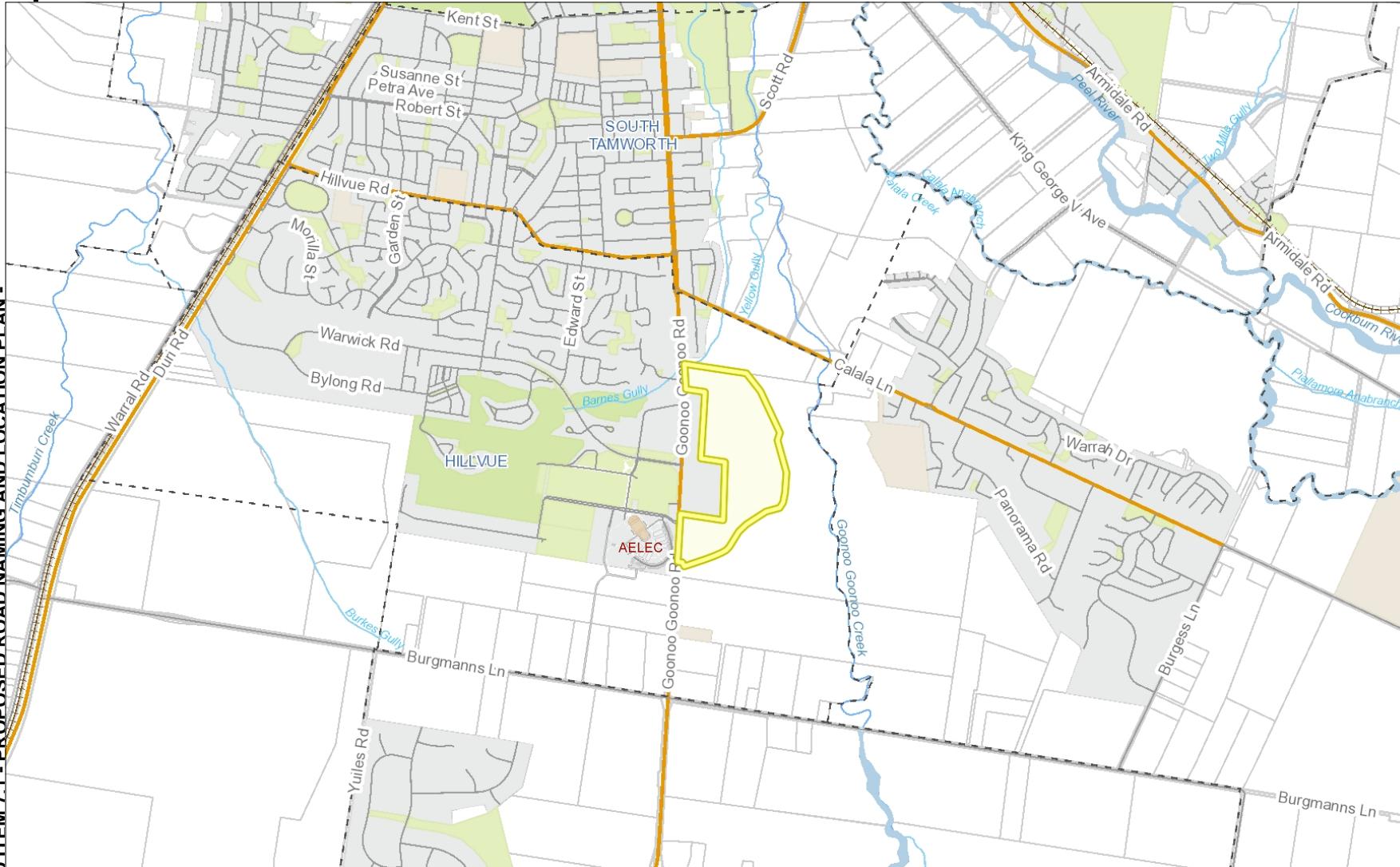
ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
7.1	Proposed Road Names for Approved Gnoo Gnoo Estate Subdivision (Lot 1 DP 1304039) Goonoo Goonoo Road, Hillvue - RN2025-0075 in Environment and Planning	
Annexure 1	Proposed Road Naming and Location Plan - Gnoo Gnoo Estate Subdivision	3
8.1	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee Meeting - 5 February 2025 in Infrastructure and Services	
Annexure 1	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 01-2025	5
Annexure 2	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 02-2025	6
Annexure 3	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 03-2025	7
Annexure 4	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 04-2025	17
Annexure 5	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 05-2025 and 06-2025	18
Annexure 6	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 17-2023	19
Annexure 7	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 88-2023	20
Annexure 8	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 08-2025	21
Annexure 9	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 09-2025	22
Annexure 10	Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee - 05-02-2025 - Item 11-2025	23
8.2	Trial of free pool entry days at Tamworth Regional Council aquatic facilities in Infrastructure and Services	
Annexure 1	Pool Free Entry Trial Data	28
9.1	Introduction of Policy - Bank Guarantees in Governance, Strategy and Finance	
Annexure 1	DRAFT - Bank Guarantee Policy	29
9.4	Closing The Gap - Partnership Working Group - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Led Review Assembly- 1-3 April 2025 in Governance, Strategy and Finance	
Annexure 1	Coalition of Peaks - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Led Review - Terms of Reference	31

9.5	Code of Meeting Practice in Governance, Strategy and Finance	
Annexure 1	Code of Meeting Practice	35
10.1	Formal Partnership Agreement between Tamworth Regional Council and the Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (TACCO) in Community Services	
Annexure 1	UPDATED. Mara Ngali. DRAFT. TRC and TACCO Partnership Agreement	65
Annexure 2	Recommended Partnership TACO.....	70
Annexure 3	Closing the Gap Strategy and Implementation Plan.....	72



PROPOSED ROAD NAMING PLAN

Subdivision of Lot 1 DP 1304039 - 408 Goonoo Goonoo Road HILLVUE



Tamworth Regional Council

Location Map

408 Goonoo Goonoo Road HILLVUE

Scale @ A4: 1:32,000

Printed: 21-Feb-2025

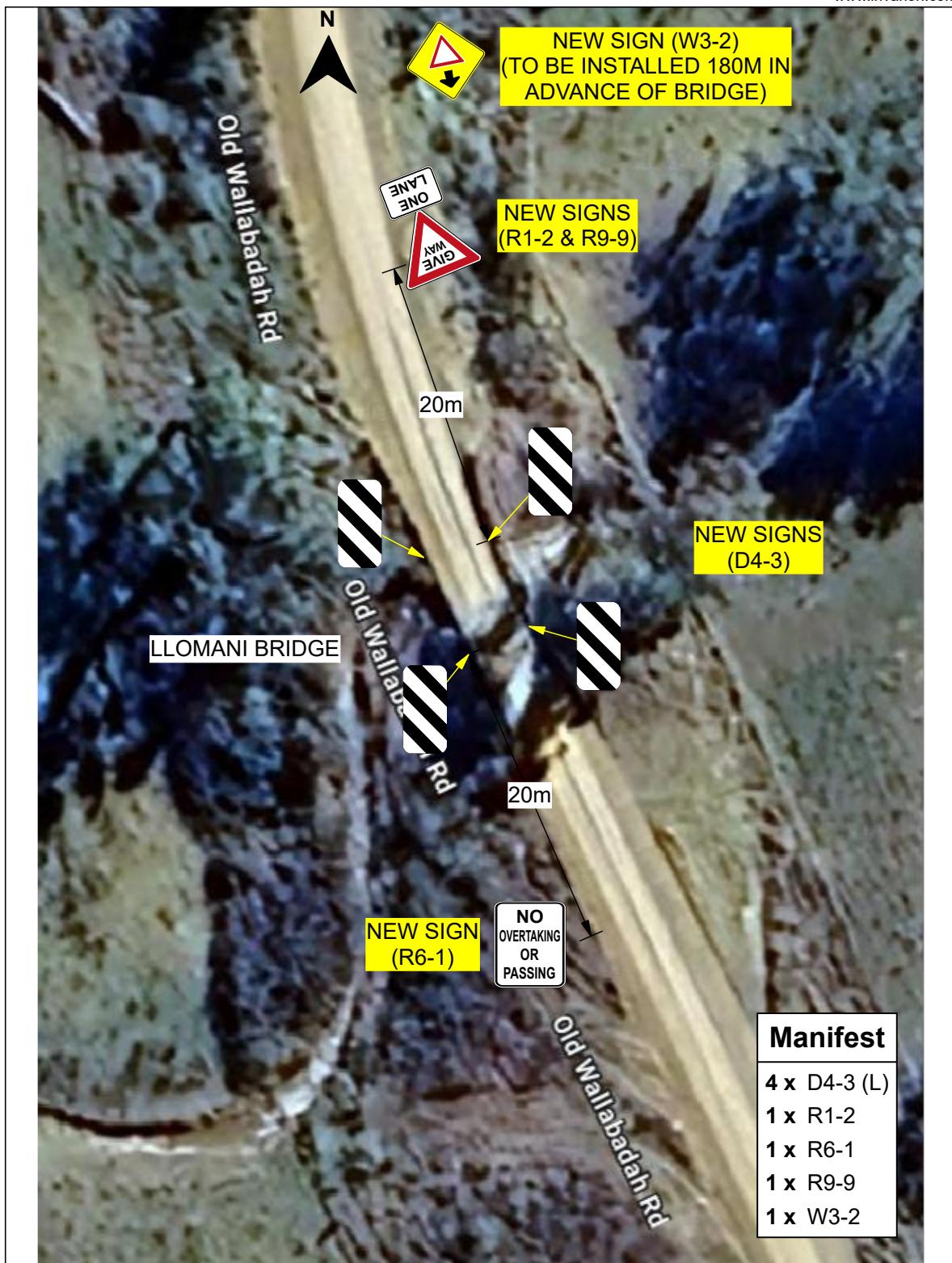
By: Development

© TRC GIS & Spatial Services

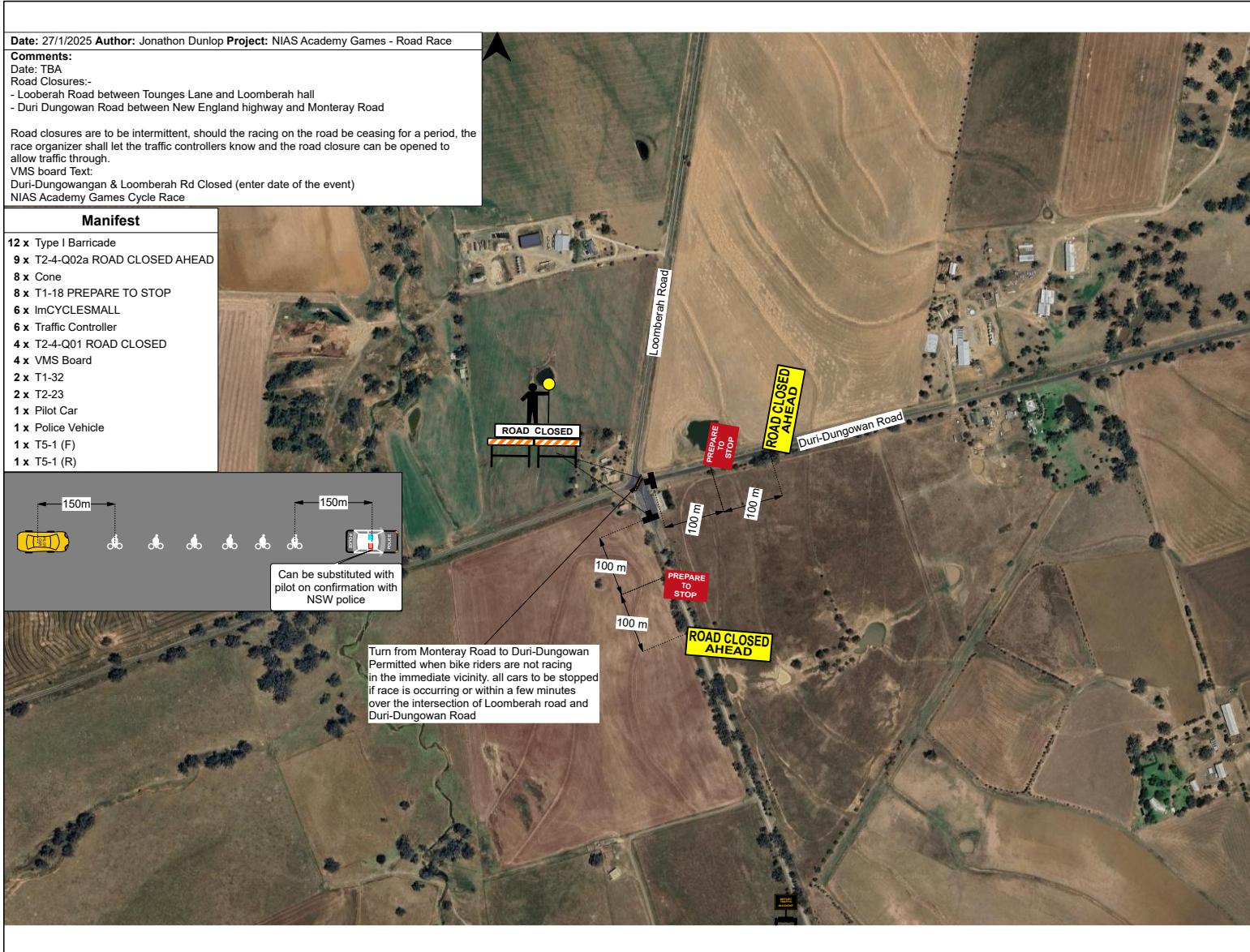


DISCLAIMER:

This map should be used as a guide only and should not be relied upon for any purposes. Information provided in this map should be verified if required before being relied upon. Any reliance on this map is done solely at the risk of the user, and the user fully indemnifies TRC in this regard from any loss and damage arising from such use.







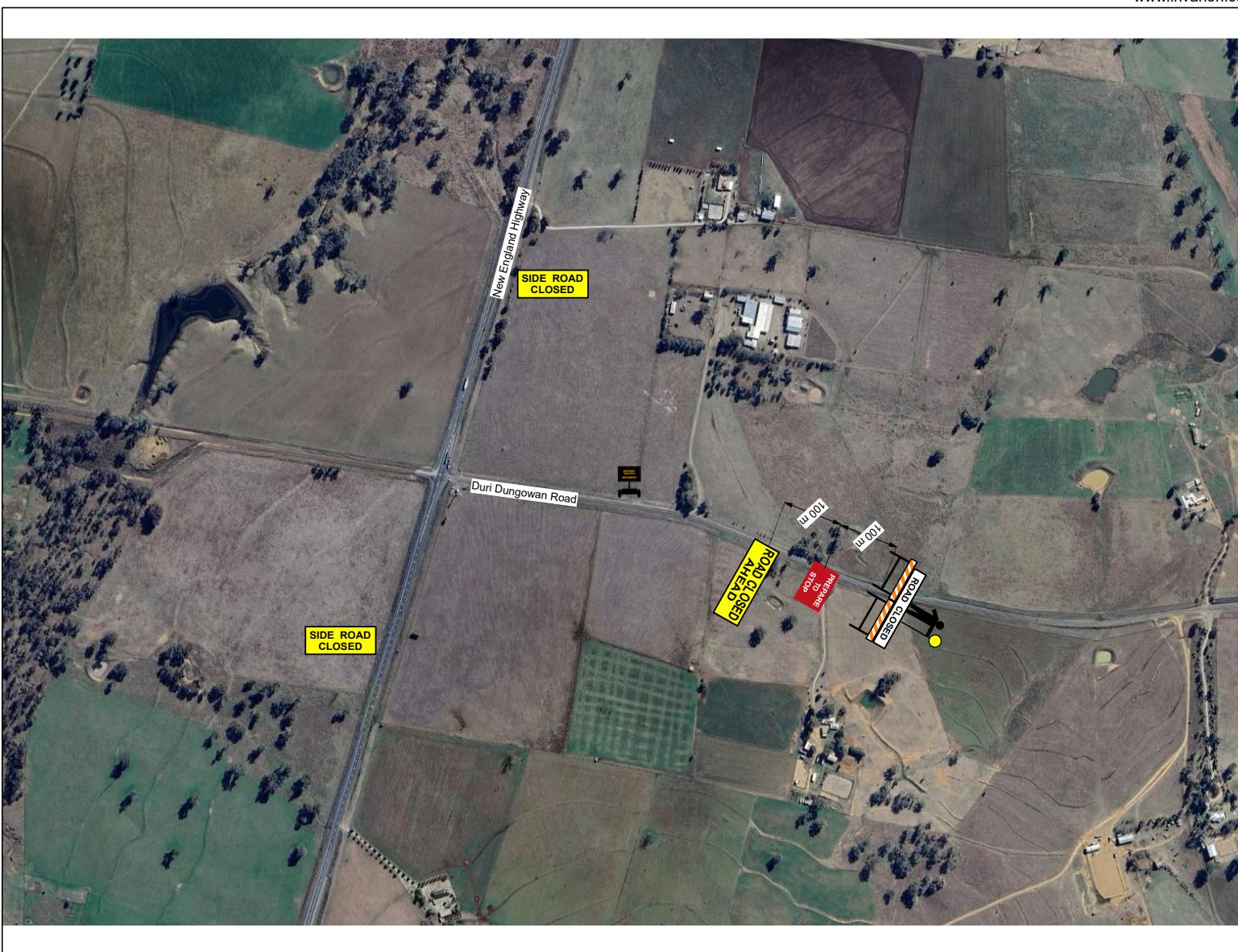






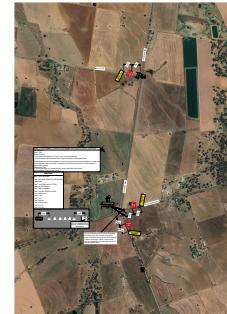








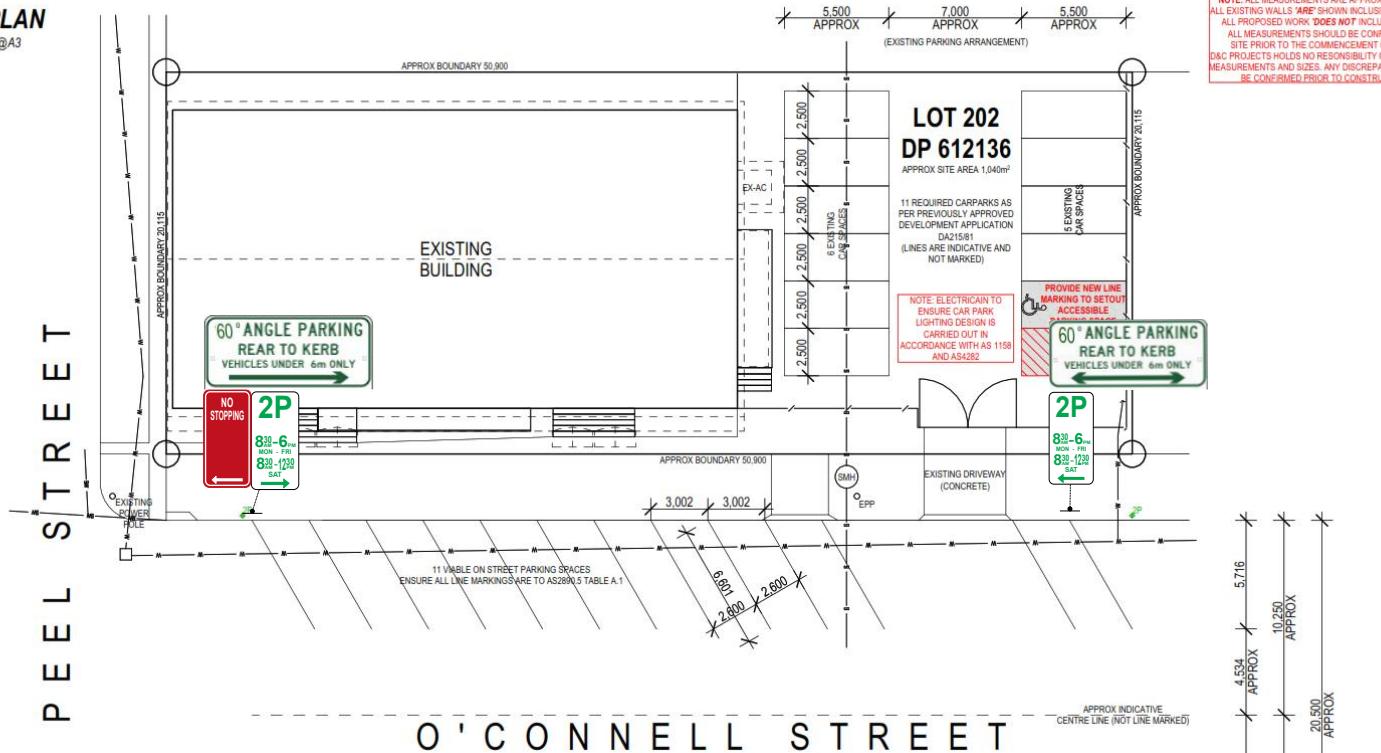


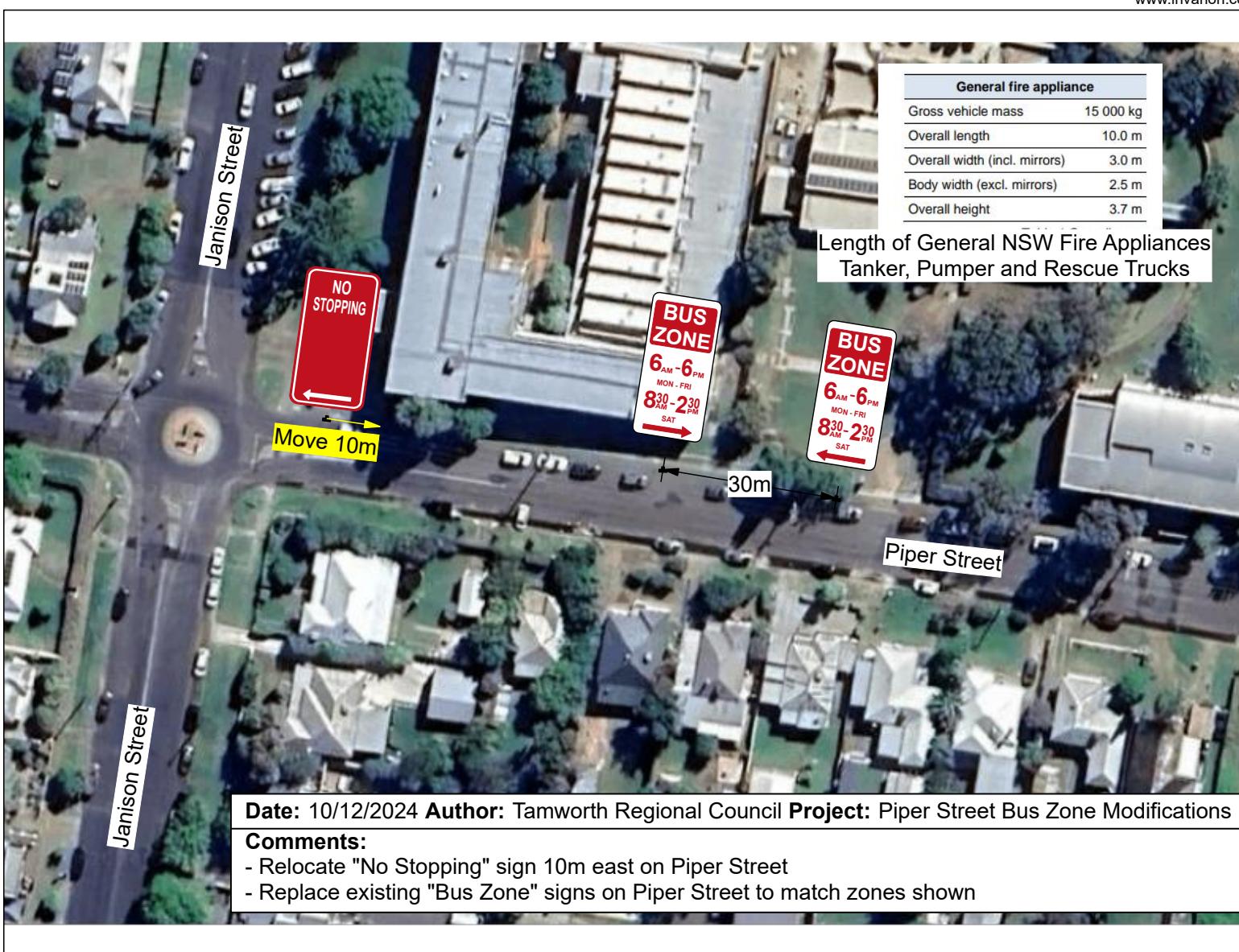


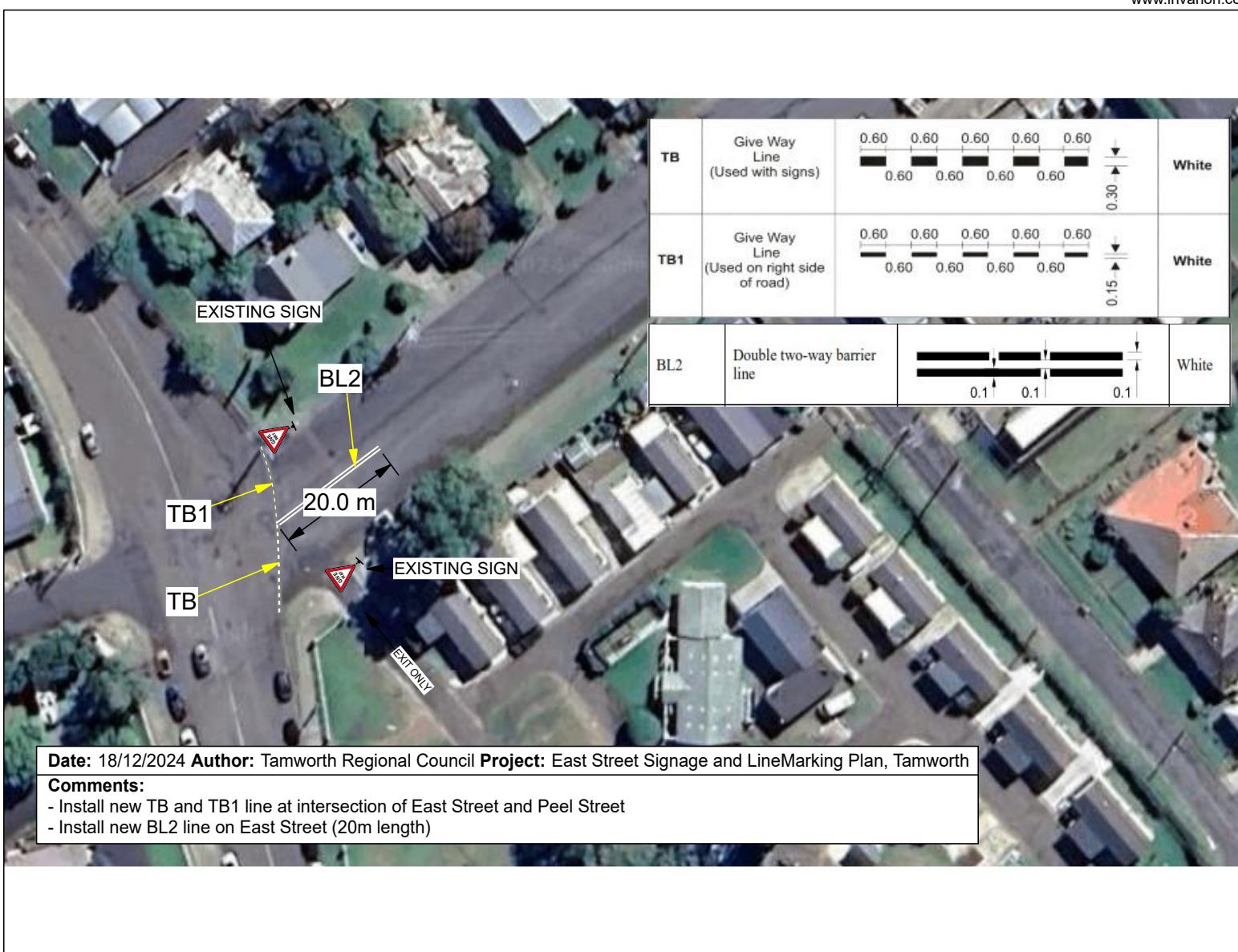
SITE PLAN

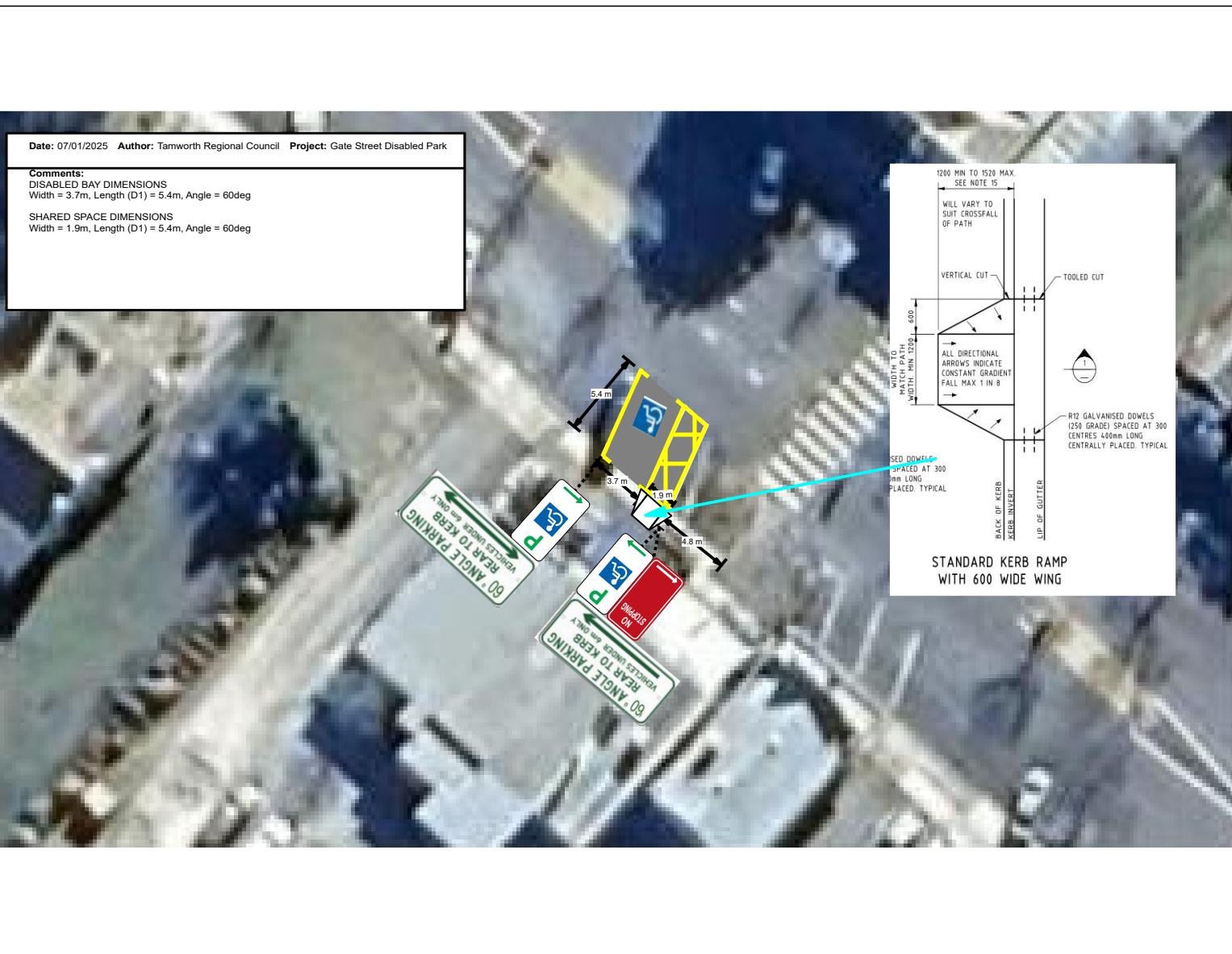
SCALE 1:200@A3

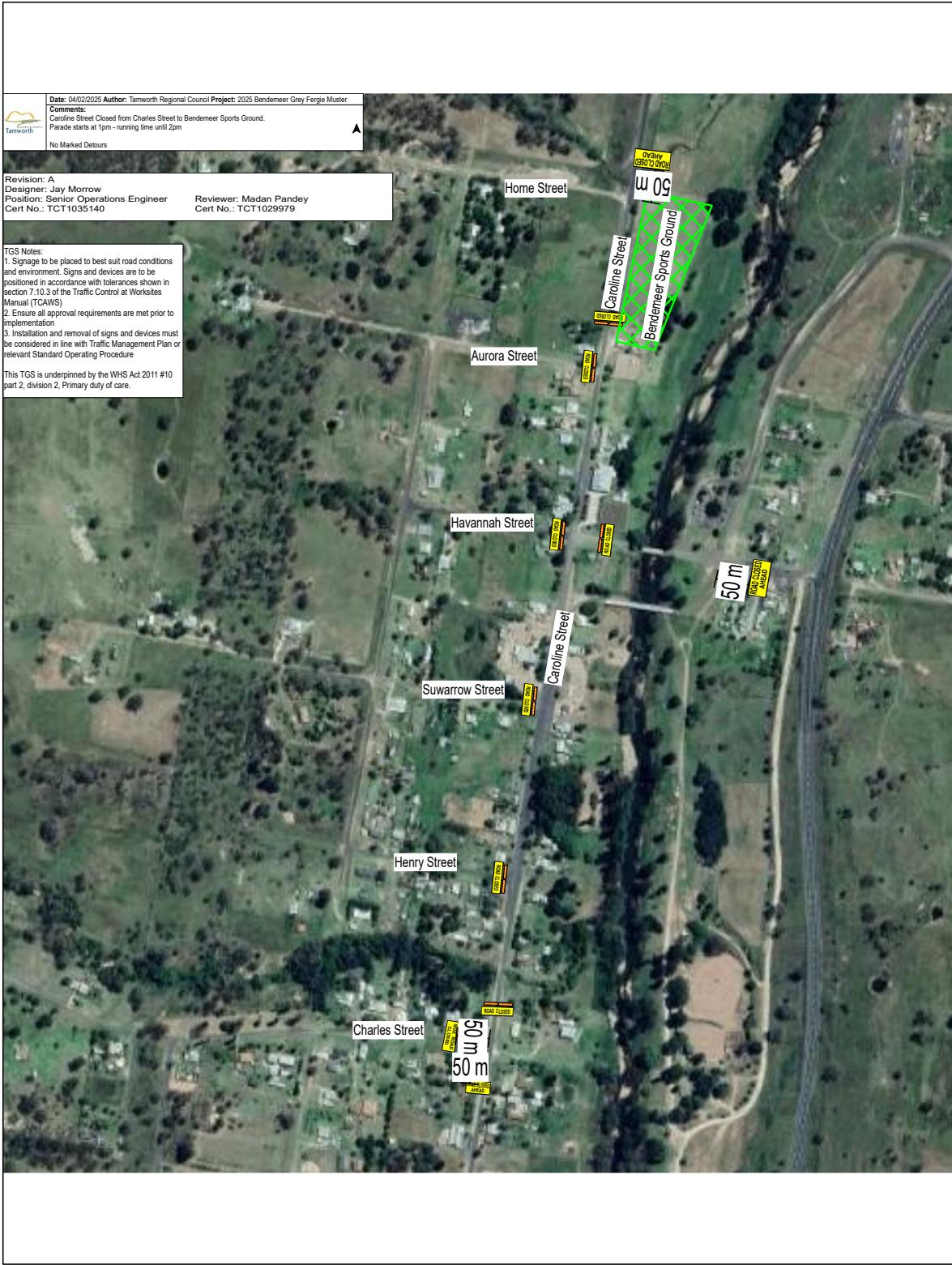
PEEL SISTER



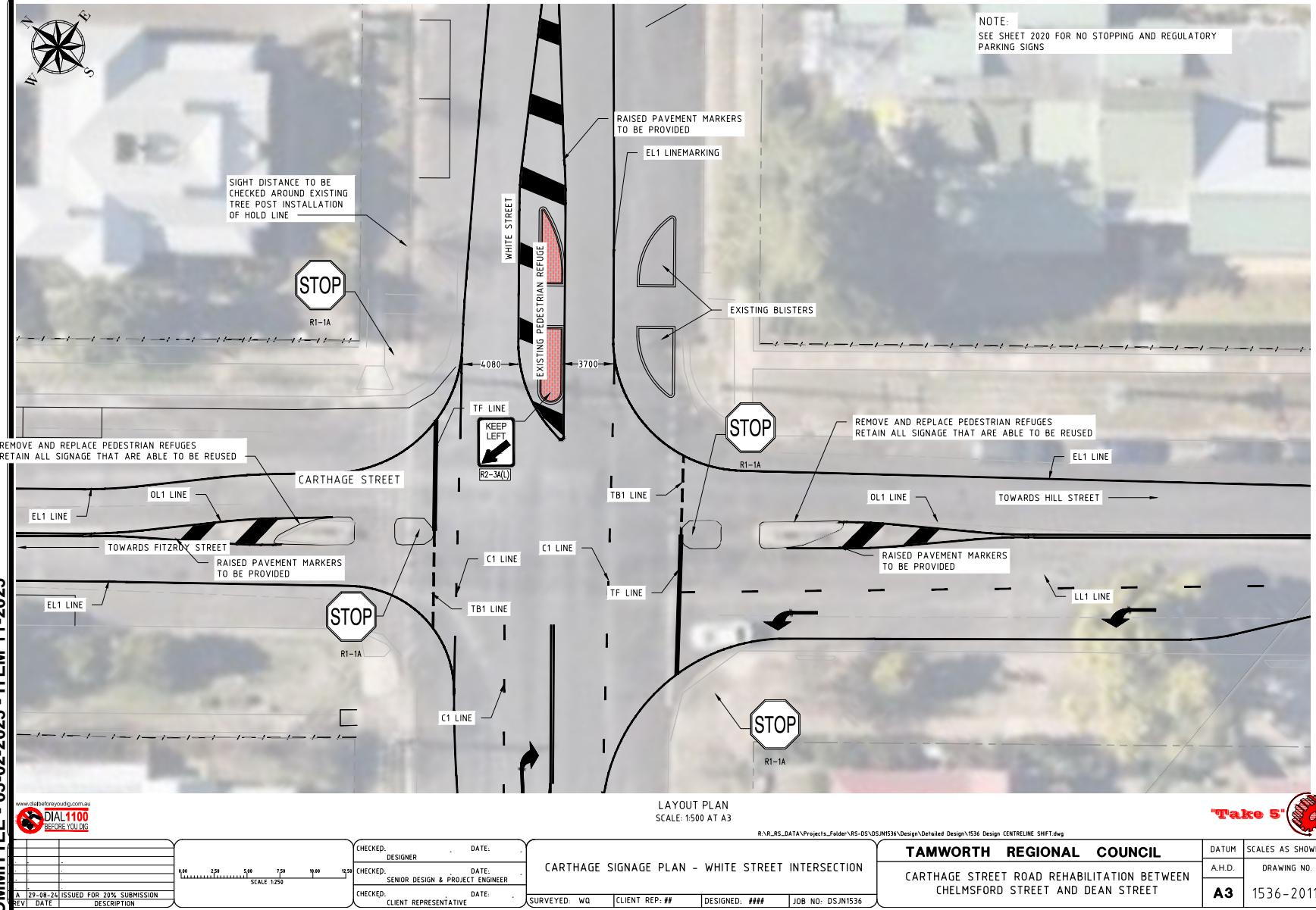


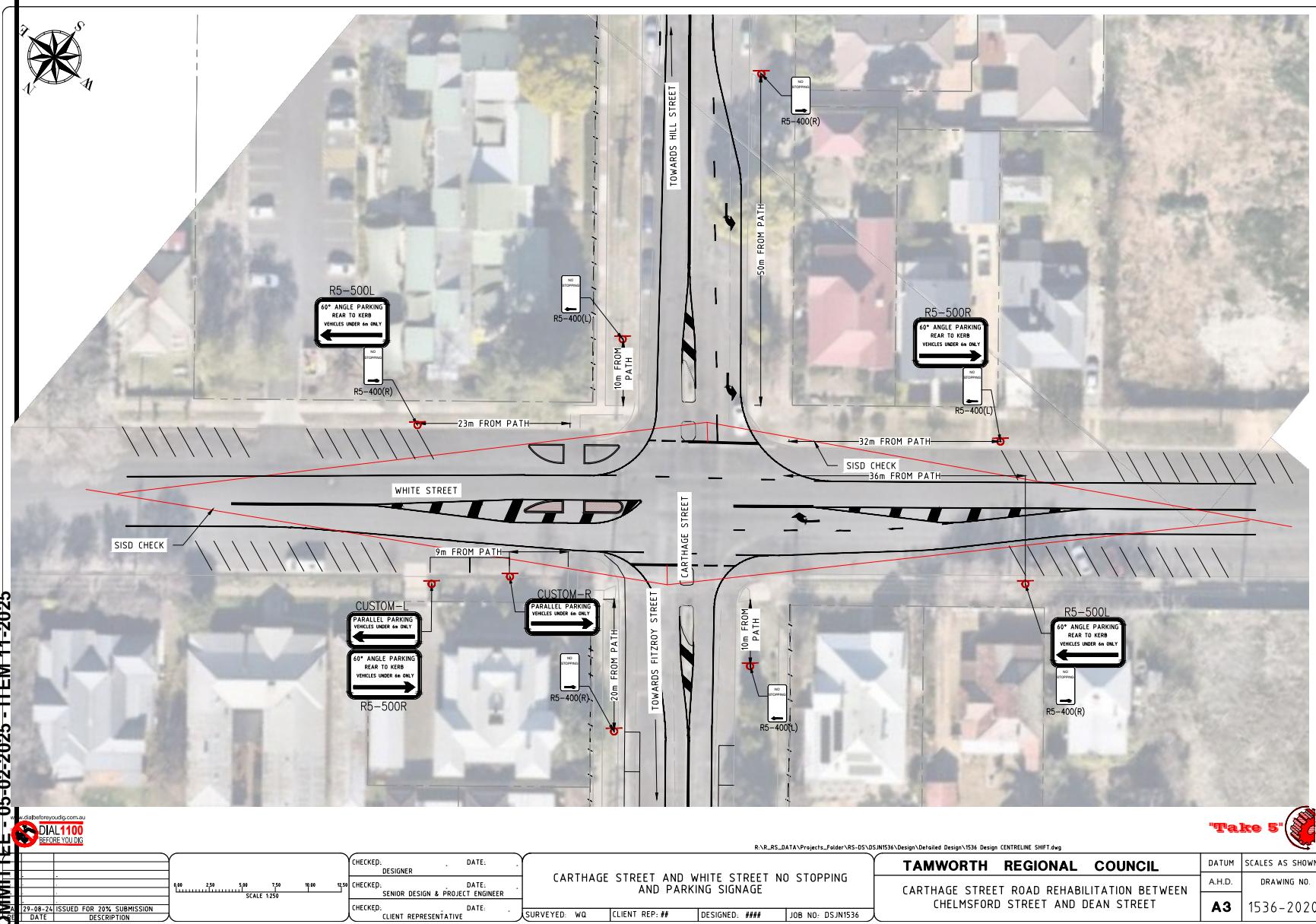


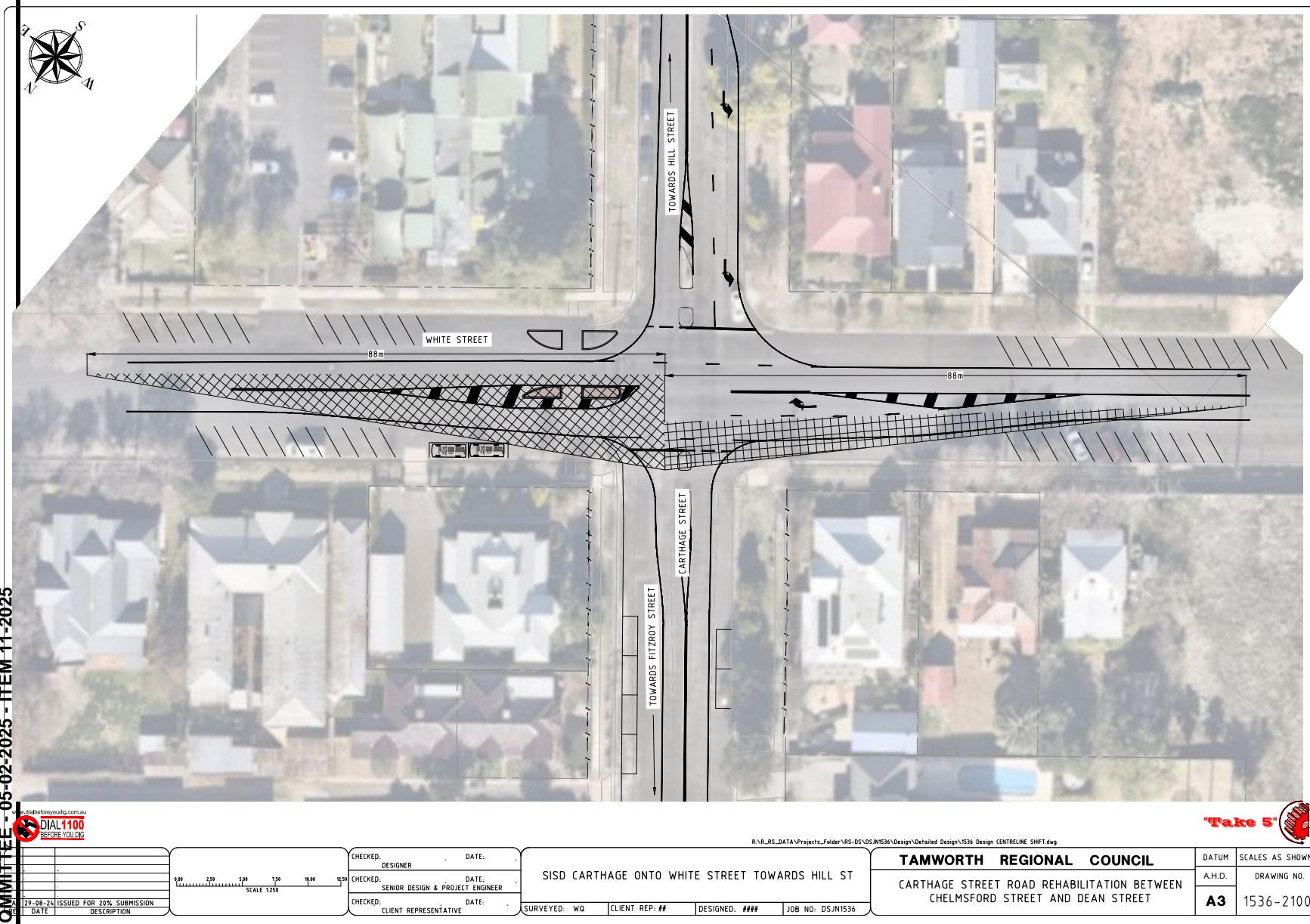


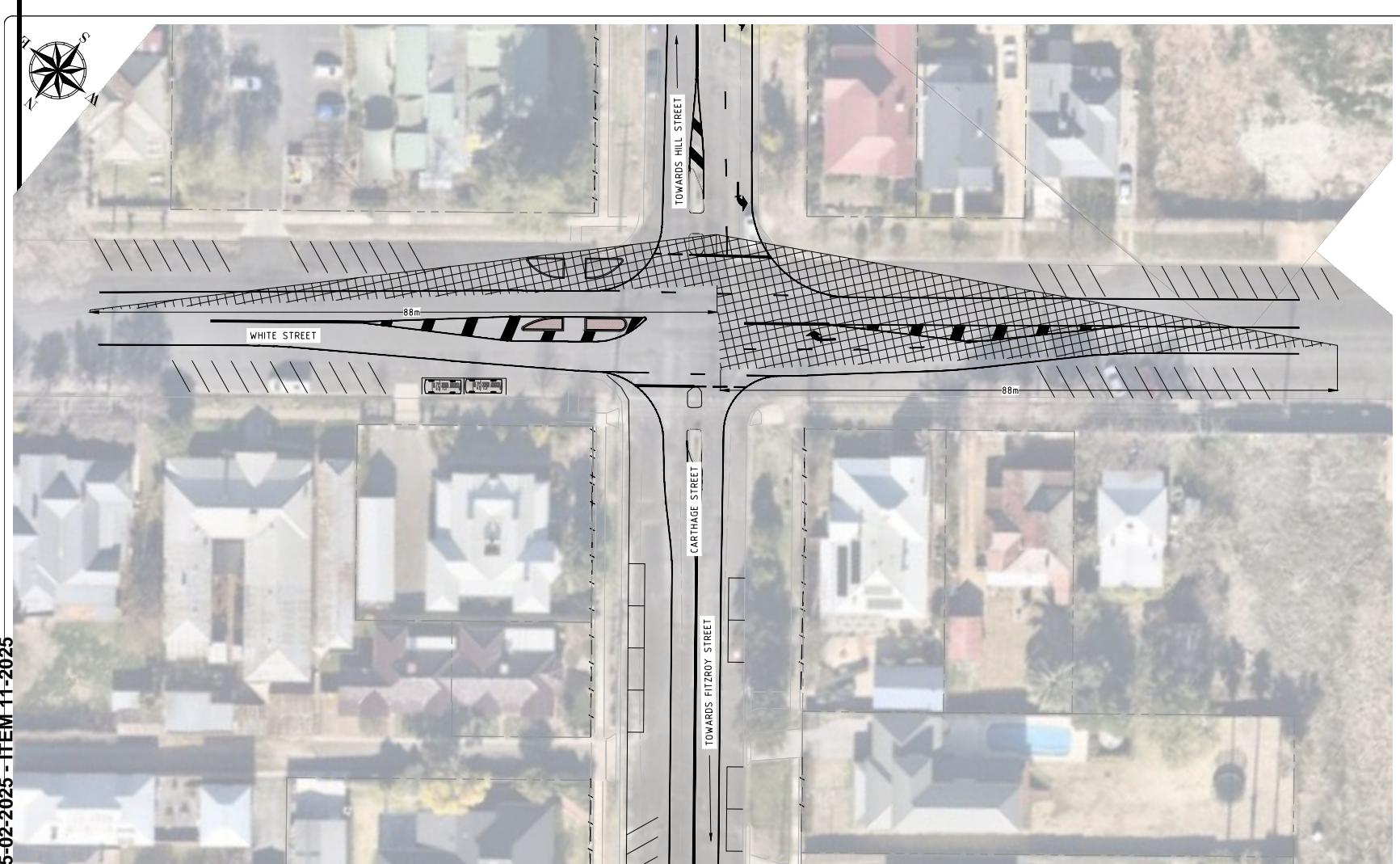






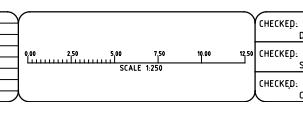






www.digbeforeyoudig.com.au
DIAL 1100
BEFORE YOU DIG

29-08-24	ISSUED FOR 20% SUBMISSION
DATE	DESCRIPTION



CHECKED: DESIGNER DATE:
CHECKED: SENIOR DESIGN & PROJECT ENGINEER DATE:
CHECKED: CLIENT REPRESENTATIVE DATE:

SISD CARTHAGE ONTO WHITE STREET TOWARDS FITZROY ST
SURVEYED: WQ CLIENT REP: ## DESIGNED: #### JOB NO: DSJN1536

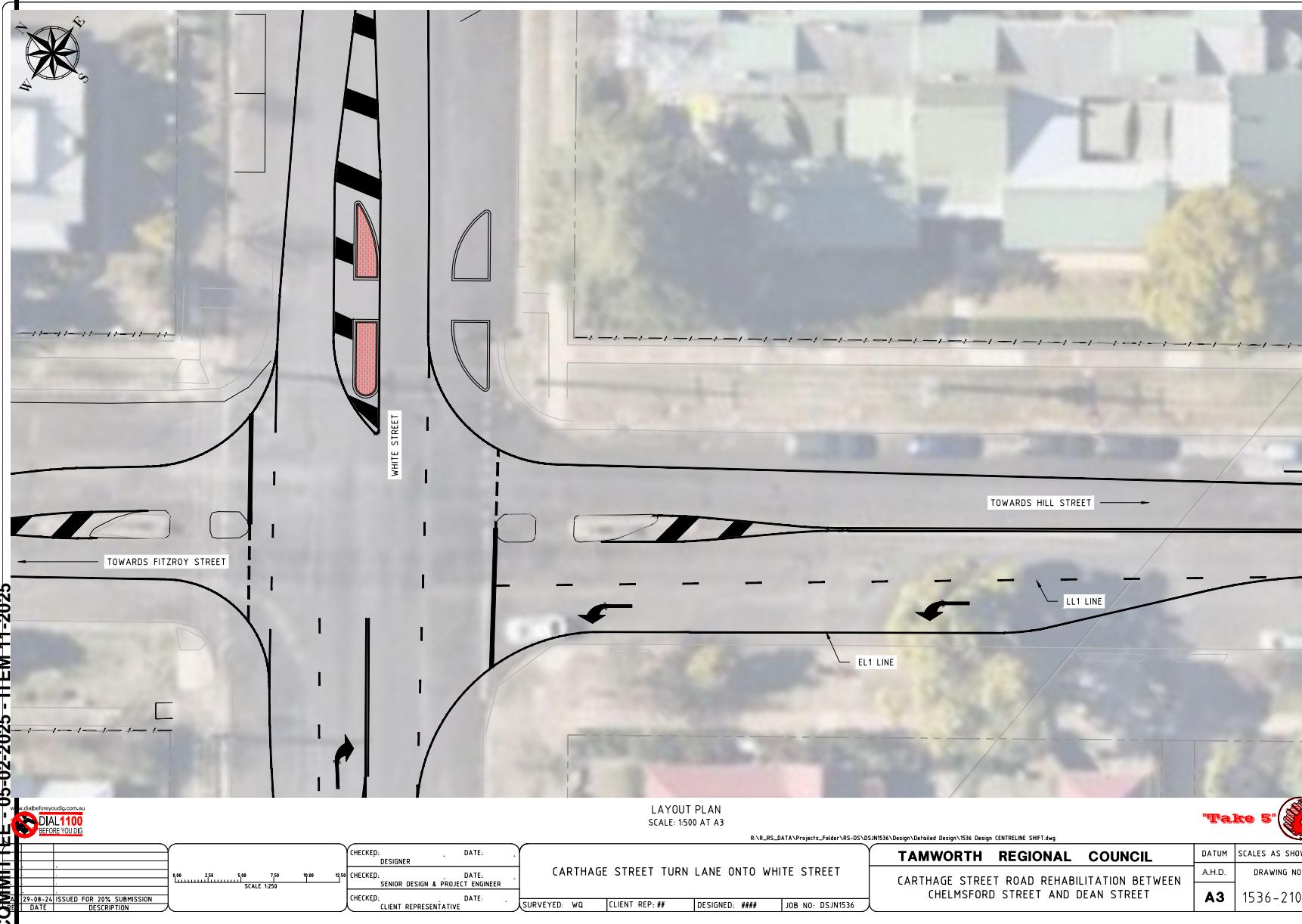
R:\R_RS\DATA\Projects\Folder\RS-DS\DS\N1536\Design\Detailed Design\1536_Design_CENTRELINESHFT.dwg

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

CARTHAGE STREET ROAD REHABILITATION BETWEEN
CHELMSFORD STREET AND DEAN STREET

DATUM SCALES AS SHOWN
A.H.D. DRAWING NO.
A3 1536-2101

"Take 5"



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
ANNEXURE 1 TO ITEM 8.2 - POOL FREE ENTRY TRIAL DATA

11 MARCH 2025

REVIEW OF TRIAL OF FREE ENTRY DAYS AT TRC AQUATIC FACILITIES

KEY	Attendance	Number of patrons who visited site on that day								
	Daily entry income	Income derived from pool entry fees								
	Daily kiosk income	Income received from kiosk sales								
	Est. loss of entry income	This is the estimated loss of income which is calculated by the number of attendees on a comparative weather day, multiplied by the average entry income per attendee for that pool.								
	Extra staff cost	Cost of additional staff engaged to cater for expected increase in attendance on free trial days compared to a normal day								
	Estimated total cost per day	This is a combined total of est. loss of income, extra staff costs, and daily kiosk income.								
	Average entry income per attendee	This calculates the average daily entry income received, divided by the number of attendees each day, specifically on user pay days at each pool.								

VILLAGE POOLS	Free Days					Comparative Days					
	Sat 11 Jan	Wed 15 Jan	Sun 19 Jan	Sun 26 Jan	Sun 2 Feb	Sat 4 Jan	Sun 5 Jan	Tue 14 Jan	Sat 18 Jan	Sat 25 Jan	Average entry income per attendee
Dates											
Weather Conditions	Cloudy Max 20° 20 km/h NE	Sunny Max 38° 18 km/h NW	Part Cloud Max 29° 30 km/h SE	Sunny Max 37° 9 km/h variable	Sunny Max 33° 22 km/h SE	Part Cloudy Max 35° 11 km/h S	Sunny Max 35° 9 km/h N	Sunny Max 37° 9 km/h Variable	Cloudy Max 29° 30 km/h S	Sunny Max 36° 11 km/h Variable	
Barraba Pool											
Attendance	58	89	58	187	129	71	78	64	14	66	
Daily entry income	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	\$233	\$249	\$155	\$43	\$218	\$3.05
Daily kiosk income	\$35	\$152	\$104	\$230	\$172	\$75	\$192	\$85	\$36	\$93	
Est. loss of entry income	-\$43	-\$195	-\$43	-\$202	-\$217	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Extra staff cost	-\$168	-\$144	-\$168	-\$168	-\$168	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Est. total cost per day	-\$175	-\$187	-\$107	-\$139	-\$213	\$308	\$441	\$240	\$79	\$311	
Kootingal Pool											
Attendance	122	114	49	168	113	140	151	28	1	51	
Daily entry income	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	\$183	\$680	\$116	\$5	\$249	\$3.97
Daily kiosk income	\$140	\$394	\$41	\$316	\$56	\$106	\$227	\$162	\$0	\$80	
Est. loss of entry income	-\$4	-\$111	-\$4	-\$202	-\$555	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Extra staff cost	-\$168	-\$144	-\$168	-\$168	-\$168	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Est. total cost per day	-\$32	\$139	-\$131	-\$54	-\$667	\$289	\$907	\$278	\$5	\$329	
Manilla Pool											
Attendance	104	128	37	106	205	36	79	56	18	75	
Daily entry income	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	\$128	\$319	\$180	\$48	\$286	\$3.46
Daily kiosk income	\$170	\$324	\$78	\$310	\$176	\$116	\$170	\$205	\$36	\$132	
Est. loss of entry income	-\$62	-\$194	-\$62	-\$259	-\$124	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Extra staff cost	-\$168	-\$144	-\$168	-\$168	-\$168	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Est. total cost per day	-\$60	-\$14	-\$152	-\$117	-\$116	\$244	\$489	\$385	\$84	\$418	
Nundle Pool											
Attendance	20	43	19	69	8	23	33	22	0	54	
Daily entry income	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	\$89	\$145	\$69	\$0	\$218	\$3.09
Daily kiosk income	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Est. loss of entry income	\$0	-\$68	\$0	-\$167	-\$71	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Extra staff cost	-\$168	-\$144	-\$168	-\$168	-\$168	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Est. total cost per day	-\$168	-\$212	-\$168	-\$335	-\$239	\$89	\$145	\$69	\$0	\$218	
Tamworth Pools											
Pool	Free Days					Comparative Days					Average entry income per attendee
	Tam. Olympic	Tam. Olympic	Tam. South	Tam. Olympic		Tam. Olympic	Tam. South	Tam. Olympic	Tam. South		
Dates	Fri 13th Dec	Sun 5th Jan	Tue 14th Jan	Sun 19th Jan		Sat 4th Jan	Sun 5th Jan	Tue 14th Jan	Sat 18th Jan		
Weather Conditions	Sunny Max 36° 20 km/h NW	Sunny Max 37° 9 km/h N	Sunny Max 37° 9 km/h Variable	Part Cloud Max 29° 30 km/h SE		Part Cloudy Max 35° 11 km/h S	Sunny Max 37° 9 km/h N	Sunny Max 37° 9 km/h Variable	Cloudy Max 29° 30 km/h S		
Attendance	500	250	363	219		107	264	220	278		
Daily entry income	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL		\$477	\$1,467	\$622	\$521		\$3.68
Daily kiosk income	\$128	\$1,074	\$1,114	\$188		\$260	\$513	\$220	\$139		
Est. loss of entry income	-\$809	-\$809	-\$971	-\$1,023		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Extra staff cost	-\$895	-\$671	-\$392	-\$671		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Est. total cost per day	-\$1,576	-\$406	-\$249	-\$1,506		\$260	\$1,980	\$220	\$660		

TOTAL ALL POOLS	Free Days	Comparative Days
Attendance	3158	1929
Daily kiosk income	\$5,202	\$2,847
Est. loss of entry income	-\$6,196	N/A
Extra staff cost	-\$5,889	N/A
Total cost	-\$6,883	N/A

DRAFT - BANK GUARANTEE POLICY

OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this policy is to outline risk management guidelines for the lodgement, retention and release or claiming of bank guarantees.

POLICY:

Introduction

Security in the form of a bank guarantee is sound business practice where Council needs to avoid or minimise financial loss due to the risk of another party failing to perform their legal obligations.

Council typically requires security for the preservation of Council infrastructure, maintenance and performance of works constructed on behalf of or vested with Council, and obligations under a lease or other legal agreement. The requirement for security shall be detailed in the related agreement, development consent or standard as administered by the relevant Division.

This policy applies to any party that provides security to Council in the form of a bank guarantee.

Acceptable Bank Guarantee

Council will only accept bank guarantees that comply with the following requirements:

- a) Guarantees shall be referenced as agreed with the relevant Council officer:
 - i. guarantees relating to developments require reference to the development application or subdivision works certificate number, lot and survey plan numbers and an explanation detailing the purpose of the guarantee.
 - ii. guarantees relating to property require reference to lot and survey plan numbers and an explanation detailing the purpose of the guarantee.
 - iii. guarantees relating to contracts require reference to the contract number and a brief description of the contract.
- b) Guarantees must have no expiry date.
- c) The bank guarantee shall be unconditional and irrevocable and shall enable the Council to have immediate access to the monies secured by the bank guarantee at any time where the Council is satisfied the owner is in breach of any requirements concerning the completion of obligations.
- d) Separate bank guarantees shall be provided for separate obligations.
- e) Guarantees will only be released at the discretion of Council once all required obligations under the guarantee are satisfied.
- f) Council will only accept bank guarantees from institutions that comply with the following requirements:
 - i. An authorised deposit-taking institution (ADI) licenced by the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) in accordance with the Banking Act 1959.
 - ii. Have a physical presence in the state of New South Wales and suitable access to funds during normal banking hours; and

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL POLICY REGISTER

iii. Have a minimum long term credit rating of BBB with Standard and Poor's, a minimum long term credit rating of Baa2 with Moody Investor Services or a minimum long term credit rating of BBB with Fitch Ratings.

Note: In the event of the credit rating of the bank being downgraded below the above requirement, the General Manager has discretion to either continue the surety or to ask that a new surety be provided with a higher rated financial institution.

Process Administration and Protocols

Council shall maintain a procedure for managing bank guarantees. The general protocol for lodgement, holding and release of Bank Guarantees is outlined below.

Lodgement of Bank Guarantees

Bank guarantees will only be accepted by appointment, following agreement regarding the bank guarantee value and obligations under the guarantee.

Bank guarantees shall be presented with a suitable cover letter detailing the relevant reference numbers and/or plans and the purpose of the guarantee. The cover letter shall be signed by the Council officer/s as evidence of the receipt of the original bank guarantee and a copy shall be retained by the counterparty.

Where the counterparty or their representative cannot attend in person, bank guarantees may be mailed via registered post.

Holding of Bank Guarantees

The original bank guarantee shall be held by the Council's Records Division for secure filing, and an electronic copy shall be made for record keeping.

A digital ledger shall be maintained for recording bank guarantees, their purpose and any relevant dates for the completion of obligations under the guarantee.

Release of Bank Guarantees

Bank guarantees will only be released by appointment, following the completion of all obligations under the bank guarantee to Council's satisfaction.

Council will issue a cover letter detailing the surrender/release of the bank guarantee. The cover letter shall be signed by the counterparty as evidence of the receipt of the original bank guarantee and retained by Council.

If a bank guarantee is being exchanged, the new bank guarantee must be receipted before the original will be released.

Where the counterparty or their representative cannot attend in person, bank guarantees may be mailed via registered post at the discretion of the relevant Director.

Claim on Bank Guarantees

A claim on a bank guarantee may only be made in accordance with the related agreement, development consent or standard, and with the approval of the relevant Director.



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LED REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

This document sets out the terms of reference for undertaking the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led review (the review) under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (Closing the Gap Agreement). The terms of reference are consistent with clauses 125 – 128.

BACKGROUND

The Closing the Gap Agreements commits Parties to independent oversight and accountability of progress through four key mechanisms:

1. A publicly accessible Closing the Gap Dashboard, developed and maintained by the Productivity Commission comprising data and associated supporting materials to inform the reporting on progress on Closing the Gap
2. Publication of implementation plans and annual reporting by all Parties on efforts to implement the Closing the Gap Agreement's Priority Reforms and outcomes
3. A comprehensive review of progress every three years, undertaken by the Productivity Commissioner, providing an analysis of progress against the Priority reforms, targets, indicators and trajectories, and examining the factors contributing to progress, including by drawing on evaluation and other evidence
4. An independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led review, carried out within twelve months of each review by the Productivity Commission, focussing on the lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities of the implementation of the Closing the Gap Agreement.

As per the Closing the Gap Agreement:

- on the advice of the Coalition of Peaks, the Joint Council will agree the scope and conduct of this review, including mechanisms to ensure its independence. The review's report will be provided to the Joint Council, be made public, and may include advice on potential changes to this Agreement
- the review will include a Coalition of Peaks' facilitated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly on Closing the Gap (the Assembly) to provide for a wider group of people and organisations to participate formally and encourage broader ownership of the Agreement.
- the review will highlight areas of achievement and improvement, as well as priority areas where greater collective effort of the Parties is required.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF REVIEW

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led

For the purposes of the review, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led means that the review:

- is focused only on the perspectives and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- is to be conducted by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation(s) or consultant(s); or where an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation is leading a partnership of organisations or consultants that may include non-Indigenous consultants.

Focus

The review will capture and report on the lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities that have been engaged in the implementation of the Closing the Gap Agreement by all governments, particularly its Priority Reforms including:

- assessing the extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities have shared in decision making on policies and programs that have a significant impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives on:
 - the extent to which they are aware of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and what it seeks to achieve
 - whether power is being shared between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, governance arrangements and communities as equal partners (and enablers and challenges to doing so)
 - how all Australian governments and community-controlled organisations, including peak bodies, have adapted to new ways of working together as required by the Agreement
 - the level of alignment between expectations and reality in regards to the new way of working
 - the impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities of these new ways of working.
- assessing changes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives from the original engagements that informed the Closing the Gap Agreement and the Priority Reforms
- highlighting the findings and recommendations of the Productivity Commission Review and how this relates to the lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- providing recommendations on additional actions which are necessary by Parties to accelerate progress on the Priority Reforms – these recommendations to inform consideration by parties to the Closing the Gap Agreement in 2025 of additional partnership actions required to deliver on the Priority Reforms (Clauses 41, 57, 68 & 77)

- providing any other recommendations for the Joint Council to support ongoing implementation of the Agreement
- testing preliminary findings and recommendations with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly on Closing the Gap (the Assembly).

Out of scope

The Coalition of Peaks, as a collective, and its relationship with governments as a party to the Closing the Gap Agreement is not part of this review. This is already captured in annual 'Partnership Health Checks' and other governance arrangements in the Closing the Gap Agreement. Instead, the intention of the review is to examine the new way of working by governments as it extends beyond the Coalition of Peaks. That said, individual members of the Coalition of Peaks and their memberships may be engaged in the review to understand their experiences of the implementation of the Priority Reforms.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE REVIEW

The reviewer will be engaged through a select tender process overseen by a Review and Assembly Steering Committee (Committee). The Joint Council Co-Chairs will agree the reviewer on the advice of the Committee.

The Committee is made up of representatives of parties to the Closing the Gap Agreement and additional community-controlled representatives and chaired by one community-controlled representative and the Commonwealth representative. The Committee will also oversee the convening of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly, ensuring that it is linked with the review in the way envisaged under the Closing the Gap Agreement.

Mechanisms to ensure independence

The review cannot be conducted by any Parties to the Closing the Gap Agreement.

Matters relating to the review and its deliverables will be considered jointly by the Parties to the Closing the Gap Agreement through the Committee.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAMES

Timing

The review will be commissioned by November 2024 and delivered by the end of May 2025, for consideration by Joint Council no later than July 2025. The review will be made public following Joint Council consideration.

The Assembly will be held in February 2025 to inform and contribute to the review.

Deliverables

Deliverable	Anticipated timing – to be confirmed in project plan
Engagement of reviewer	November 2024
Inception meeting between reviewer and Committee	November 2024
Provision of a detailed project plan to the Committee	December 2024
Development of engagement approach and associated materials to the Committee	December 2024
Presentation to the Assembly	February 2025
Finalisation of Draft report	May 2025

Final report	May 2025
Plain English version of final report	June 2025
Presentation to Joint Council	By July 2025

The reviewer will also provide monthly updates to the Committee.

RESOURCES AND FUNDING

All parties will contribute to the review:

- the Coalition of Peaks will participate in the Committee and the Lead Convenor will agree the reviewer in partnership with the Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Australians
- the Commonwealth government will fund the review and participate in the Committee and the Minister for Indigenous Australians will agree the reviewer in partnership with the Lead Convenor Coalition of Peaks
- state and territory governments will participate in the Committee.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

27 August 2024



1. Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
1. MEETING PRINCIPLES	3
2. BEFORE THE MEETING	3
TIMING OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS.....	3
EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS.....	3
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF COUNCIL MEETINGS	4
NOTICE TO COUNCILLORS OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS	4
NOTICE TO COUNCILLORS OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS	4
GIVING NOTICE OF BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT COUNCIL MEETINGS.....	4
QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE.....	4
AGENDAS AND BUSINESS PAPERS FOR ORDINARY MEETINGS.....	4
AVAILABILITY OF THE AGENDA AND BUSINESS PAPERS TO THE PUBLIC	4
AGENDA AND BUSINESS PAPER FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS.....	5
3. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION	5
4. COMING TOGETHER	7
ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS AT MEETINGS	7
THE QUORUM FOR A MEETING.....	7
ENTITLEMENT OF THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETINGS.....	8
WEBCASTING OF MEETINGS	8
ATTENDANCE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER AND OTHER STAFF AT MEETINGS	8
5. THE CHAIRPERSON	9
THE CHAIRPERSON AT MEETINGS	9
ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON IN THE ABSENCE OF THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR.....	9
CHAIRPERSON TO HAVE PRECEDENCE	9
6. MODES OF ADDRESS	10
7. ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS	10
8. CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS	10
BUSINESS THAT CAN BE DEALT WITH AT A COUNCIL MEETING.....	10
MAYORAL MINUTES	11
STAFF REPORTS	11
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL	11
QUESTIONS.....	12
9. RULES OF DEBATE	12
MOTIONS TO BE SECONDED.....	12

NOTICES OF MOTION	12
CHAIRPERSON'S DUTIES WITH RESPECT TO MOTIONS	12
MOTIONS REQUIRING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS	13
AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS	13
FORESHADOWED MOTIONS	13
LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER AND DURATION OF SPEECHES	13
10. VOTING	14
VOTING ENTITLEMENTS OF COUNCILLORS	14
VOTING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS	14
VOTING ON PLANNING DECISIONS	15
11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	15
12. DEALING WITH ITEMS BY EXCEPTION	15
13. CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC	16
GROUNDS ON WHICH MEETINGS CAN BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC	16
MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN CLOSING MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC	16
NOTICE OF LIKELIHOOD OF CLOSURE NOT REQUIRED IN URGENT CASES	17
REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	17
EXPULSION OF NON-COUNCILLORS FROM MEETINGS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC	18
INFORMATION TO BE DISCLOSED IN RESOLUTIONS CLOSING MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC	18
RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT CLOSED MEETINGS TO BE MADE PUBLIC	18
14. KEEPING ORDER AT MEETINGS	19
POINTS OF ORDER	19
QUESTIONS OF ORDER	19
MOTIONS OF DISSENT	19
ACTS OF DISORDER	19
HOW DISORDER AT A MEETING MAY BE DEALT WITH	20
EXPULSION FROM MEETINGS	20
USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND THE UNAUTHORISED RECORDING OF MEETINGS	20
15. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	21
16. DECISIONS OF COUNCIL	21
COUNCIL DECISIONS	21
RESCINDING OR ALTERING COUNCIL DECISIONS	21
RECOMMITTING RESOLUTIONS TO CORRECT AN ERROR	22
17. AFTER THE MEETING	22
MINUTES OF MEETINGS	22
ACCESS TO CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS LAID ON THE TABLE AT, OR SUBMITTED TO, A MEETING	23

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS OF COUNCIL	23
18. COUNCIL COMMITTEES	23
APPLICATION OF THIS PART	23
COUNCIL COMMITTEES WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ALL COUNCILLORS	23
FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES	23
NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS	23
ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS	24
NON-MEMBERS ENTITLED TO ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETINGS	24
CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES	24
PROCEDURE IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS	24
CLOSURE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC	25
DISORDER IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS	25
MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS	25
19. IRREGULARITIES	25
20. DEFINITIONS	26

1. INTRODUCTION

This Code of Meeting Practice for Tamworth Regional Council is made under section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation).

This Code applies to all Meetings of Council and Committees of Council of which all the members are Councillors (Committees of Council). Council Committees whose members include persons other than Councillors may adopt their own rules for meetings unless Council determines otherwise.

Council must adopt a Code of Meeting Practice that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code.

Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice incorporates some of the non-mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code and other supplementary provisions. However, this Code of Meeting Practice does not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code.

2. MEETING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Council and Committee Meetings should be:

- Transparent:* Decisions are made in a way that is open and accountable.
- Informed:* Decisions are made based on relevant, quality information.
- Inclusive:* Decisions respect the diverse needs and interests of the local community.
- Principled:* Decisions are informed by the principles prescribed under Chapter 3 of the Act.
- Trusted:* The community has confidence that Councillors and staff act ethically and make decisions in the interests of the whole community.
- Respectful:* Councillors, staff and Meeting attendees treat each other with respect.
- Effective:* Meetings are well organised, effectively run and skilfully chaired.
- Orderly:* Councillors, staff and Meeting attendees behave in a way that contributes to the orderly conduct of the Meeting.

3. BEFORE THE MEETING

Timing of Ordinary Council Meetings

3.1 Council shall, by resolution, set the frequency, time, date and place of its Ordinary Meetings. However, Ordinary Meetings of Council will generally be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each Month, commencing at 6.30pm at the Lands Building Nemingha Room, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth NSW 2340. There are no Meetings held in January and only one Meeting held in December.

Extraordinary Meetings

3.2 If the Mayor receives a request in writing, signed by at least two Councillors, the Mayor must call an Extraordinary Meeting of Council to be held as soon as practicable, but in any event, no more than 14 days after receipt of the request. The Mayor can be one of the two Councillors requesting the Meeting.

Notice to the Public of Council Meetings

- 3.3 Council must give notice to the public of the time, date and place of each of its Meetings, including Extraordinary Meetings and of each Meeting of Committees of Council.
- 3.4 For the purposes of clause 3.3, notice of a Meeting of Council and of a Committee of Council is to be published before the Meeting takes place. The notice must be published on Council's website, and in such other manner that Council is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the Meeting to the attention of as many people as possible.
- 3.5 For the purposes of clause 3.3, notice of more than one Meeting may be given in the same notice.

Notice to Councillors of Ordinary Council Meetings

- 3.6 The General Manager must send to each Councillor, at least three days before each Meeting of Council, a notice specifying the time, date and place at which the Meeting is to be held, and the business proposed to be considered at the Meeting.
- 3.7 The notice and the agenda for, and the business papers relating to, the Meeting may be given to Councillors in electronic form, but only if all Councillors have facilities to access the notice, agenda and business papers in that form.

Notice to Councillors of Extraordinary Meetings

- 3.8 Notice of less than three days may be given to Councillors of an Extraordinary Meeting of Council in cases of emergency.

Giving Notice of Business to be Considered at Council Meetings

- 3.9 A Councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by Council at its next Ordinary Meeting by way of a Notice of Motion. To be included on the agenda of the Meeting, the Notice of Motion must be in writing via the Councillor portal and must be submitted five business days before the Meeting is to be held.
- 3.10 A Councillor may, in writing to the General Manager, request the withdrawal of a Notice of Motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the Meeting at which it is to be considered.
- 3.11 If the General Manager considers that a Notice of Motion submitted by a Councillor for consideration at an Ordinary Meeting of Council has legal, strategic, financial or policy implications which should be taken into consideration by the Meeting, the General Manager may prepare a report in relation to the Notice of Motion for inclusion with the business papers for the Meeting at which the Notice of Motion is to be considered by Council.
- 3.12 A Notice of Motion for the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in Council's current adopted Operational Plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the Notice of Motion. If the Notice of Motion does not identify a funding source, the General Manager must either:
 - (a) prepare a report on the availability of funds for implementing the Motion if adopted for inclusion in the business papers for the Meeting at which the Notice of Motion is to be considered by Council; or
 - (b) by written notice sent to all Councillors with the business papers for the Meeting for which the Notice of Motion has been submitted, defer consideration of the matter by Council to such a date specified in the notice, pending the preparation of such a report.

Questions with Notice

- 3.13 A Councillor may, by way of a Notice submitted under clause 3.9, ask a question for response by the General Manager about the performance or operations of Council.
- 3.14 A Councillor is not permitted to ask a question with Notice under clause 3.13 that comprises a complaint against the General Manager or a member of staff of Council, or a question that implies wrongdoing by the General Manager or a member of staff of Council.
- 3.15 The General Manager or their nominee may respond to a question with Notice submitted under clause 3.13 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant Meeting of Council or orally at the Meeting.

Agendas and Business Papers for Ordinary Meetings

- 3.16 The General Manager must cause the agenda for a Meeting of Council or a Committee of Council to be prepared as soon as practicable before the Meeting.
- 3.17 The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an Ordinary Meeting of Council states:
 - (a) all matters to be dealt with arising out of the proceedings of previous Meetings of Council;
 - (b) if the Mayor is the Chairperson – any matter or topic that the Chairperson proposes, at the time when the agenda is prepared, to put to the Meeting;
 - (c) all matters, including matters that are the subject of staff reports and reports of Committees, to be considered at the Meeting; and
 - (d) any business of which due notice has been given under clause 3.9.
- 3.18 Nothing in clause 3.17 limits the powers of the Mayor to put a Mayoral Minute to a Meeting under clause 9.6.
- 3.19 The General Manager must not include in the agenda for a Meeting of Council any business of which due notice has been given if, in the opinion of the General Manager, the business is, or the implementation of the business would be, unlawful. The General Manager must report, without giving details of the item of business, any such exclusion to the next Meeting of Council.
- 3.20 Where the agenda includes the receipt of information or discussion of other matters that, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to take place when the Meeting is closed to the public, the General Manager must ensure that the agenda of the Meeting:
 - (a) identifies the relevant item of business and indicates that it is of such a nature (without disclosing details of the information to be considered when the Meeting is closed to the public); and
 - (b) states the grounds under section 10A(2) of the Act relevant to the item of business.
- 3.21 The General Manager must ensure that the details of any item of business which, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to be considered when the Meeting is closed to the public, are included in a business paper provided to Councillors for the Meeting concerned. Such details must not be included in the business papers made available to the public, and must not be disclosed by a Councillor or by any other person to another person who is not authorised to have that information.

Availability of the Agenda and Business Papers to the Public

- 3.22 Copies of the agenda and the associated business papers, such as correspondence and reports for Meetings of Council and Committees of Council, are to be published on Council's website, and must be made available to the public for inspection, or for taking away by any

person free of charge at the offices of Council, at the relevant Meeting and at such other venues determined by Council.

3.23 Clause 3.22 does not apply to the business papers for items of business that the General Manager has identified under clause 3.20 as being likely to be considered when the Meeting is Closed to the public.

3.24 For the purposes of clause 3.22, copies of agendas and business papers must be published on Council's website and made available to the public at a time that is as close as possible to the time they are available to Councillors.

3.25 A copy of an agenda, or of an associated business paper made available under clause 3.22, may in addition be given or made available in electronic form.

Agenda and Business Paper for Extraordinary Meetings

3.26 The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an Extraordinary Meeting of Council deals only with the matters stated in the notice of the Meeting.

3.27 Despite clause 3.26, business may be considered at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council, even though due notice of the business has not been given, if:

- a motion is passed to have the business considered at the Meeting; and
- the business to be considered is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by Council before the next scheduled Ordinary Meeting of Council.

3.28 A motion moved under clause 3.27(a) can be moved without notice but only after the business notified in the agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting has been dealt with.

3.29 Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion moved under clause 3.27(a) can speak to the motion before it is put.

3.30 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling of the Chairperson under clause 3.27(b) on whether a matter is of great urgency.

4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4.1 Council may hold community consultation prior to each Ordinary Meeting of Council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the Meeting. Community consultation may also be held prior to Extraordinary Council Meetings and Meetings of Committees of Council.

4.2 Community consultation is to be Chaired by the Mayor or their nominee.

4.3 To speak at community consultation, a person must first make an application to Council in the approved form. Applications to speak at community consultation must be received by 4.30pm the day before the date on which the community consultation is to be held, and must identify the item of business on the agenda of the Council Meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item.

4.4 A person may apply to speak on no more than two items of business on the agenda of the Council Meeting.

4.5 Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at community consultation unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at community consultation.

4.6 The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a community consultation. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

4.7 No more than three speakers are to be permitted to speak 'for' or 'against' each item of business on the agenda for the Council Meeting.

4.8 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to address Council on the item of business. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to address Council, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will address Council at community consultation.

4.9 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to speak 'for' or 'against' any item of business, the General Manager or their delegate may, in consultation with the Mayor or the Mayor's nominated Chairperson, increase the number of speakers permitted to speak on an item of business, where they are satisfied that it is necessary to do so to allow Council to hear a fuller range of views on the relevant item of business.

4.10 Approved speakers at community consultation are to register with Council any written, visual or audio material to be presented in support of their address to Council at community consultation, and to identify any equipment needs no more than one day before the community consultation. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such material to be presented.

4.11 The General Manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at community consultation.

4.12 Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to address Council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the Chairperson.

4.13 Speakers at community consultation must not digress from the item on the agenda of the Council Meeting they have applied to address Council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the Chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the Chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

4.14 A Councillor (including the Chairperson) may, through the Chairperson, ask questions of a speaker following their address at community consultation. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.

4.15 Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under clause 4.14. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to three minutes.

4.16 Speakers at community consultation cannot ask questions of Council, Councillors or Council staff.

4.17 The General Manager or their nominee may, with the concurrence of the Chairperson, address Council for up to three minutes in response to an address to Council at community consultation after the address and any subsequent questions and answers have been finalised.

4.18 Where an address made at community consultation raises matters that require further consideration by Council staff, the General Manager may recommend that Council defer consideration of the matter pending the preparation of a further report on the matters.

4.19 When addressing Council, speakers at community consultation must comply with this Code and all other relevant Council Codes, Policies and Procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the Council's Code of Conduct or making other potentially defamatory statements.

4.20 If the Chairperson considers that a speaker at community consultation has engaged in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.19, the Chairperson may request the person to refrain from the inappropriate behaviour and to withdraw and unreservedly apologise for any inappropriate comments. Where the speaker fails to comply with the Chairperson's request, the Chairperson may immediately require the person to stop speaking.

- 4.21 Clause 4.20 does not limit the ability of the Chairperson to deal with disorderly conduct by speakers at community consultation in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of this Code.
- 4.22 Where a speaker engages in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.19, the General Manager or their delegate may refuse further applications from that person to speak at community consultation for such a period as the General Manager or their delegate considers appropriate.
- 4.23 Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of an address at community consultation, in the same way that they are required to do so at a Council or Committee Meeting. Council is to maintain a written record of all conflict of interest declarations made at community consultation and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

5. Coming together

Attendance by Councillors at Meetings

- 5.1 All Councillors must make reasonable efforts to attend Meetings of Council and of Committees of Council of which they are members.
- 5.2 A Councillor may participate in a Meeting of Council or of a Committee of Council via audio visual links where the Regulation permits a Councillor to do so..
- 5.3 Where a Councillor is unable to attend one or more Ordinary Meetings of Council, the Councillor should request that Council grant them a leave of absence from those Meetings. This clause does not prevent a Councillor from making an apology if they are unable to attend a Meeting. However, the acceptance of such an apology does not constitute the granting of a leave of absence for the purposes of this Code and the Act.
- 5.4 A Councillor's request for leave of absence from Council Meetings should, if practicable, identify (by date) the Meetings from which the Councillor intends to be absent and the grounds upon which the leave of absence is being sought.
- 5.5 Council must act reasonably when considering whether to grant a Councillor's request for a leave of absence.
- 5.6 A Councillor's civic office will become vacant if the Councillor is absent from three consecutive Ordinary Meetings of Council without prior leave of Council, or leave granted by Council at any of the Meetings concerned, unless the holder is absent because they have been suspended from office under the Act, or because Council has been suspended under the Act, or as a consequence of a compliance order under section 438HA.
- 5.7 A Councillor who intends to attend a Meeting of Council despite having been granted a leave of absence should, if practicable, give the General Manager at least two days' notice of their intention to attend.

The Quorum for a Meeting

- 5.8 The quorum for a Meeting of Council is a majority of the Councillors of Council who hold office at that time and are not suspended from office.
- 5.9 Clause 5.8 does not apply if the quorum is required to be determined in accordance with directions of the Minister in a performance improvement order issued in respect of Council.
- 5.10 A Meeting of Council must be adjourned if a quorum is not present:
 - (a) at the commencement of the Meeting where the number of apologies received for the Meeting indicates that there will not be a quorum for the Meeting;
 - (b) within half an hour after the time designated for the holding of the Meeting; or

(c) at any time during the Meeting.

5.11 In either case, the Meeting must be adjourned to a time, date and place fixed:

- by the Chairperson; or
- in the Chairperson's absence, by the majority of the Councillors present; or
- failing that, by the General Manager.

5.12 The General Manager must record in the Council's Minutes the circumstances relating to the absence of a quorum (including the reasons for the absence of a quorum) at or arising during a Meeting of Council, together with the names of the Councillors present.

5.13 Where, prior to the commencement of a Meeting, it becomes apparent that a quorum may not be present at the Meeting, or that the safety and welfare of Councillors, Council staff and members of the public may be put at risk by attending the Meeting because of a natural disaster (such as, but not limited to flood or bushfire), the Mayor may, in consultation with the General Manager and, as far as is practicable, with each Councillor, cancel the Meeting. Where a Meeting is cancelled, notice of the cancellation must be published on Council's website and in such other manner that Council is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the cancellation to the attention of as many people as possible.

5.14 Where a Meeting is cancelled under clause 5.13, the business to be considered at the Meeting may instead be considered, where practicable, at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council or at an Extraordinary Meeting called under clause 3.2.

Entitlement of the Public to Attend Council Meetings

5.15 Everyone is entitled to attend a Meeting of Council and Committees of Council. Council must ensure that all Meetings of Council and Committees of Council are open to the public. Where Meetings cannot be open to the public, Council will livestream the Meeting via audio visual link.

5.16 Clause 5.16 does not apply to parts of Meetings that have been closed to the public under section 10A of the Act.

5.17 A person (whether a Councillor or another person) is not entitled to be present at a Meeting of Council or a Committee of Council if expelled from the Meeting:

- by a resolution of the Meeting; or
- by the person presiding at the Meeting if Council has, by resolution, authorised the person presiding to exercise the power of expulsion.

Webcasting of Meetings

5.18 All Meetings of Council and Committees of Council are to be webcast on the Council's website.

5.19 Clause 5.18 does not apply to parts of a Meeting that have been closed to the public under section 10A of the Act.

5.20 At the start of each Meeting the Chairperson is to make a statement informing those in attendance that the Meeting is being webcast and that those in attendance should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

5.21 A recording of each Meeting of Council and Committee of Council is to be retained on the Council's website for 12 months and then removed. Recordings of Meetings may be disposed of in accordance with the *State Records Act 1998*.

Attendance of the General Manager and Other Staff at Meetings

5.22 The General Manager is entitled to attend, but not to vote at, a Meeting of Council or a Meeting of a Committee of Council of which all of the members are Councillors.

- 5.23 The General Manager is entitled to attend a Meeting of any other Committee of Council and may, if a member of the Committee, exercise a vote.
- 5.24 The General Manager may be excluded from a Meeting of Council or a Committee while Council or Committee deals with a matter relating to the standard of performance of the General Manager or the terms of employment of the General Manager.
- 5.25 The attendance of other Council staff at a Meeting, (other than as members of the public) shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

6. The Chairperson

The Chairperson at Meetings

- 6.1 The Mayor, or at the request of or in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor presides at Meetings of Council.
- 6.2 If the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are absent, a Councillor elected to Chair the Meeting by the Councillors present presides at a Meeting of Council.

Election of the Chairperson in the Absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

- 6.3 If no Chairperson is present at a Meeting of Council at the time designated for the holding of the Meeting, the first business of the Meeting must be the election of a Chairperson to preside at the Meeting.
- 6.4 The election of a Chairperson must be conducted:
 - (a) by the General Manager or, in their absence, an employee of Council designated by the General Manager to conduct the election; or
 - (b) by the person who called the Meeting or a person acting on their behalf if neither the General Manager nor a designated employee is present at the Meeting, or if there is no General Manager or designated employee.
- 6.5 If, at an election of a Chairperson, two or more candidates receive the same number of votes and no other candidate receives a greater number of votes, the Chairperson is to be the candidate whose name is chosen by lot.
- 6.6 For the purposes of clause 6.5, the person conducting the election must:
 - (a) arrange for the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes to be written on similar slips, and
 - (b) then fold the slips so as to prevent the names from being seen, mix the slips and draw one of the slips at random.
- 6.7 The candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is the candidate who is to be the Chairperson.
- 6.8 Any election conducted under clause 6.3, and the outcome of the vote, are to be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting.

Chairperson to have Precedence

- 6.9 When the Chairperson rises or speaks during a Meeting of Council:
 - (a) any Councillor then speaking or seeking to speak must cease speaking and, if standing, immediately resume their seat; and
 - (b) every Councillor present must be silent to enable the Chairperson to be heard without interruption.

7. Modes of Address

- 7.1 If the Chairperson is the Mayor, they are to be addressed as 'Mr Mayor' or 'Madam Mayor'.
- 7.2 Where the Chairperson is not the Mayor, they are to be addressed as either 'Mr Chairperson' or 'Madam Chairperson'.
- 7.3 A Councillor is to be addressed as 'Councillor [surname]'.
- 7.4 A Council officer is to be addressed by their official designation or as Mr/Ms [surname].

8. Order of Business for Ordinary Council Meetings

- 8.1 The general order of business for an Ordinary Meeting of Council shall be:
 - Opening Meeting
 - Acknowledgement of Country
 - Prayer
 - Apologies and applications for a leave of absence by Councillors
 - Community Consultation
 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - Disclosure of Interests
 - Mayoral Minute
 - Notice of Motion
 - Notice of Motion of Rescission (if applicable)
 - Open Reports
 - Reports from Delegates
 - Questions with Notice
 - Closed Council
 - Conclusion of the Meeting
- 8.2 The order of business as fixed under clause 8.1 may be altered for a particular Meeting of Council if a Motion to that effect is passed at that Meeting. Such a Motion can be moved without notice.
- 8.3 Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a Motion referred to in clause 8.2 may speak to the Motion before it is put.

9. Consideration of Business at Council Meetings

Business That Can be Dealt With at a Council Meeting

- 9.1 Council must not consider business at a Meeting of Council:
 - (a) unless a Councillor has given notice of the business, as required by clause 3.9; and
 - (b) unless notice of the business has been sent to the Councillors in accordance with clause 3.6 in the case of an Ordinary Meeting or clause 3.8 in the case of an Extraordinary Meeting called in an emergency.
- 9.2 Clause 9.1 does not apply to the consideration of business at a Meeting, if the business:
 - (a) is already before, or directly relates to, a matter that is already before Council;
 - (b) is the election of a Chairperson to preside at the Meeting;

- (c) subject to clause 9.9, is a matter or topic put to the Meeting by way of a Mayoral Minute; or
- (d) is a Motion for the adoption of recommendations of a Committee, including, but not limited to, a Committee of Council.

9.3 Despite clause 9.1, business may be considered at a Meeting of Council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors if:

- (a) a motion is passed to have the business considered at the Meeting; and
- (b) the business to be considered is ruled by the Chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by Council before the next scheduled Ordinary Meeting of Council.

9.4 A motion moved under clause 9.3(a) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 9.3(a) can speak to the motion before it is put.

9.5 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the Chairperson under clause 9.3(b).

Mayoral Minutes

9.6 Subject to clause 9.9, if the Mayor is the Chairperson at a Meeting of Council, the Mayor may, by minute signed by the Mayor, put to the Meeting without notice any matter or topic that is within the jurisdiction of Council, or of which Council has official knowledge.

9.7 A Mayoral Minute, when put to a Meeting, takes precedence over all business on Council's agenda for the Meeting. The Chairperson (but only if the Chairperson is the Mayor) may move the adoption of a Mayoral Minute without the motion being seconded.

9.8 A recommendation made in a Mayoral Minute put by the Mayor is, so far as it is adopted by Council, a resolution of Council.

9.9 A Mayoral Minute must not be used to put without notice matters that are routine and not urgent, or matters for which proper notice should be given because of their complexity. For the purpose of this clause, a matter will be urgent where it requires a decision by Council before the next scheduled Ordinary Meeting of Council.

9.10 Where a Mayoral Minute makes a recommendation which, if adopted, would require the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in Council's current adopted Operational Plan, it must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the recommendation. If the Mayoral Minute does not identify a funding source, Council must defer consideration of the matter, pending a report from the General Manager on the availability of funds for implementing the recommendation if adopted.

Staff Reports

9.11 A recommendation made in a staff report is, so far as it is adopted by Council, a resolution of Council.

Reports of Committees of Council

9.12 The recommendations of a Committee of Council are, so far as they are adopted by the Council, resolutions of Council.

9.13 If in a report of a Committee of Council distinct recommendations are made, Council may make separate decisions on each recommendation.

Questions

- 9.14 A question must not be asked at a Meeting of Council unless it concerns a matter on the agenda of the Meeting or notice has been given of the question in accordance with clauses 3.9 and 3.13.
- 9.15 A Councillor may, through the Chairperson, put a question to another Councillor about a matter on the agenda.
- 9.16 A Councillor may, through the General Manager, put a question to a Council employee about a matter on the agenda. Council employees are only obliged to answer a question put to them through the General Manager at the direction of the General Manager.
- 9.17 A Councillor or Council employee to whom a question is put is entitled to be given reasonable notice of the question and, in particular, sufficient notice to enable reference to be made to other persons or to documents. Where a Councillor or Council employee to whom a question is put is unable to respond to the question at the Meeting at which it is put, they may take it on notice and report the response to the next meeting of Council.
- 9.18 Councillors must put questions directly, succinctly, respectfully and without argument.
- 9.19 The Chairperson must not permit discussion on any reply to, or refusal to reply to, a question put to a Councillor or Council employee.

10. RULES OF DEBATE

Motions to be Seconded

- 10.1 Unless otherwise specified in this Code, a motion or an amendment cannot be debated unless or until it has been seconded.

Notices of motion

- 10.2 A Councillor who has submitted a Notice of Motion under clause 3.9 is to move the motion the subject of the Notice of Motion at the Meeting at which it is to be considered.
- 10.3 If a Councillor who has submitted a Notice of Motion under clause 3.9 wishes to withdraw it after the agenda and business paper for the Meeting at which it is to be considered have been sent to Councillors, the Councillor may request the withdrawal of the motion when it is before Council.
- 10.4 In the absence of a Councillor who has placed a Notice of Motion on the agenda for a Meeting of Council:
 - (a) any other Councillor may, with the leave of the Chairperson, move the motion at the Meeting; or
 - (b) the Chairperson may defer consideration of the motion until the next Meeting of Council.

Chairperson's Duties with Respect to Motions

- 10.5 It is the duty of the Chairperson at a Meeting of Council to receive and put to the Meeting any lawful motion that is brought before the Meeting.
- 10.6 The Chairperson must rule out of order any motion or amendment to a motion that is unlawful or the implementation of which would be unlawful.
- 10.7 Before ruling out of order a motion or an amendment to a motion under clause 10.6, the Chairperson is to give the mover an opportunity to clarify or amend the motion or amendment.

10.8 Any motion, amendment or other matter that the Chairperson has ruled out of order is taken to have been lost.

Motions Requiring the Expenditure of Funds

10.9 A motion or an amendment to a motion which if passed would require the expenditure of funds on works and/or services other than those already provided for in Council's current adopted Operational Plan must identify the source of funding for the expenditure that is the subject of the motion. If the motion does not identify a funding source, Council must defer consideration of the matter, pending a report from the General Manager on the availability of funds for implementing the motion if adopted.

Amendments to Motions

10.10 An amendment to a motion must be moved and seconded before it can be debated.

10.11 An amendment to a motion must relate to the matter being dealt with in the original motion before Council and must not be a direct negative of the original motion. An amendment to a motion which does not relate to the matter being dealt with in the original motion, or which is a direct negative of the original motion, must be ruled out of order by the Chairperson.

10.12 The mover of an amendment is to be given the opportunity to explain any uncertainties in the proposed amendment before a seconder is called for.

10.13 If an amendment has been lost, a further amendment can be moved to the motion to which the lost amendment was moved, and so on, but no more than one motion and one proposed amendment can be before Council at any one time.

10.14 While an amendment is being considered, debate must only occur in relation to the amendment and not the original motion. Debate on the original motion is to be suspended while the amendment to the original motion is being debated.

10.15 If the amendment is carried, it becomes the motion and is to be debated. If the amendment is lost, debate is to resume on the original motion.

10.16 An amendment may become the motion without debate or a vote where it is accepted by the Councillor who moved the original motion.

Foreshadowed Motions

10.17 A Councillor may propose a foreshadowed motion in relation to the matter the subject of the original motion before Council, without a seconder during debate on the original motion. The foreshadowed motion is only to be considered if the original motion is lost or withdrawn and the foreshadowed motion is then moved and seconded. If the original motion is carried, the foreshadowed motion lapses.

10.18 Where an amendment has been moved and seconded, a Councillor may, without a seconder, foreshadow a further amendment that they propose to move after the first amendment has been dealt with. There is no limit to the number of foreshadowed amendments that may be put before Council at any time. However, no discussion can take place on foreshadowed amendments until the previous amendment has been dealt with and the foreshadowed amendment has been moved and seconded.

10.19 Foreshadowed motions and foreshadowed amendments are to be considered in the order in which they are proposed. However, foreshadowed motions cannot be considered until all foreshadowed amendments have been dealt with.

Limitations on the Number and Duration of Speeches

10.20 A Councillor who, during a debate at a Meeting of Council, moves an original motion, has the right to speak on each amendment to the motion and a right of general reply to all observations that are made during the debate in relation to the motion, and any amendment

to it at the conclusion of the debate before the motion (whether amended or not) is finally put.

10.21 A Councillor, other than the mover of an original motion, has the right to speak once on the motion and once on each amendment to it.

10.22 A Councillor must not, without the consent of Council, speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, or for longer than five minutes at any one time.

10.23 Despite clause 10.22, the Chairperson may permit a Councillor who claims to have been misrepresented or misunderstood to speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, and for longer than five minutes on that motion or amendment to enable the Councillor to make a statement limited to explaining the misrepresentation or misunderstanding.

10.24 Despite clause 10.22, Council may resolve to shorten the duration of speeches to expedite the consideration of business at a Meeting.

10.25 Despite clauses 10.20 and 10.21, a Councillor may move that a motion or an amendment be now put:

- (a) if the mover of the motion or amendment has spoken in favour of it and no Councillor expresses an intention to speak against it; or
- (b) if at least two Councillors have spoken in favour of the motion or amendment and at least two Councillors have spoken against it.

10.26 The Chairperson must immediately put to the vote, without debate, a motion moved under clause 10.25. A seconder is not required for such a motion.

10.27 If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is passed, the Chairperson must, without further debate, put the original motion or amendment to the vote immediately after the mover of the original motion has exercised their right of reply under clause 10.20.

10.28 If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is lost, the Chairperson must allow the debate on the original motion or the amendment to be resumed.

10.29 All Councillors must be heard without interruption and all other Councillors must, unless otherwise permitted under this Code, remain silent while another Councillor is speaking.

10.30 Once the debate on a matter has concluded and a matter has been dealt with, the Chairperson must not allow further debate on the matter.

11. VOTING

Voting Entitlements of Councillors

11.1 Each Councillor is entitled to one vote.

11.2 The person presiding at a Meeting of Council has, in the event of an equality of votes, a second or casting vote.

11.3 Where the Chairperson declines to exercise, or fails to exercise, their second or casting vote, in the event of an equality of votes, the motion being voted upon is lost.

Voting at Council Meetings

11.4 A Councillor who is present at a Meeting of the Council but who fails to vote on a motion put to the Meeting is taken to have voted against the motion.

11.5 If a Councillor who has voted against a motion put at a Council Meeting so requests, the General Manager must ensure that the Councillor's dissenting vote is recorded in the Council's Minutes.

11.6 The decision of the Chairperson as to the result of a vote is final, unless the decision is immediately challenged and not fewer than two Councillors rise and call for a division.

- 11.7 When a division on a motion is called, the Chairperson must ensure that the division takes place immediately. The General Manager must ensure that the names of those who vote for the motion and those who vote against it are recorded in the Council's Minutes for the Meeting.
- 11.8 When a division on a motion is called, any Councillor who fails to vote will be recorded as having voted against the motion in accordance with clause 11.5 of this Code.
- 11.9 Voting at a Meeting, including voting in an election at a Meeting, is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system). However, Council may resolve that the voting in any election by Councillors for Mayor or Deputy Mayor is to be by secret ballot.

Voting on Planning Decisions

- 11.10 The General Manager must keep a register containing, for each planning decision made at a Meeting of Council or a Council Committee (including, but not limited to a Committee of Council), the names of the Councillors who supported the decision and the names of any Councillors who opposed (or are taken to have opposed) the decision.
- 11.11 For the purpose of maintaining the register, a division is taken to have been called whenever a motion for a planning decision is put at a Meeting of Council or a Council Committee.
- 11.12 Each decision recorded in the register is to be described in the register or identified in a manner that enables the description to be obtained from another publicly available document.
- 11.13 Clauses 11.11–11.13 apply also to Meetings that are closed to the public.

12. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- 12.1 Council may resolve itself into a Committee to consider any matter before the Council.
- 12.2 All the provisions of this Code relating to Meetings of Council, so far as they are applicable, extend to and govern the proceedings of Council when in Committee of the whole, except the provisions limiting the number and duration of speeches.
- 12.3 The General Manager or, in the absence of the General Manager, an employee of Council designated by the General Manager, is responsible for reporting to Council the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole. It is not necessary to report the proceedings in full but any recommendations of the Committee must be reported.
- 12.4 Council must ensure that a report of the proceedings (including any recommendations of the Committee) is recorded in the Council's Minutes. However, Council is not taken to have adopted the report until a motion for adoption has been made and passed.

13. Dealing with items by exception

- 13.1 Council or a Committee of Council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda together by way of a single resolution.
- 13.2 Before the Council or Committee resolves to adopt multiple items of business on the agenda together under clause 13.1, the Chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the Chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the business paper or that they wish to speak on.
- 13.3 Council or Committee must not resolve to adopt any item of business under clause 13.1 that a Councillor has identified as being one they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the business paper or to speak on.
- 13.4 Where the consideration of multiple items of business together under clause 13.1 involves

a variation to the order of business for the Meeting, Council or Committee must resolve to alter the order of business in accordance with clause 8.2.

13.5 A motion to adopt multiple items of business together under clause 13.1 must identify each of the items of business to be adopted and state that they are to be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

13.6 Items of business adopted under clause 13.1 are to be taken to have been adopted unanimously.

13.7 Councillors must ensure that they declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to items of business considered together under clause 13.1 in accordance with the requirements of Council's Code of Conduct.

14. Closure of Council Meetings to the Public

Grounds on Which Meetings can be Closed to the Public

14.1 Council or a Committee of Council may close to the public so much of its Meeting as comprises the discussion or the receipt of any of the following types of matters:

- (a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors);
- (b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business;
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it;
 - (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council;
 - (iii) reveal a trade secret;
- (e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law;
- (f) matters affecting the security of Council, Councillors, Council staff or Council property;
- (g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege;
- (h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land; or
- (i) alleged contraventions of Council's Code of Conduct.

14.2 Council or a Committee of Council may also close to the public so much of its Meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the Meeting to the public.

Matters to be Considered When Closing Meetings to the Public

14.3 A Meeting is not to remain closed during the discussion of anything referred to in clause 14.1:

- (a) except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security; and
- (b) if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret – unless Council or Committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open Meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

14.4 A Meeting is not to be closed during the receipt and consideration of information or advice referred to in clause 14.1(g) unless the advice concerns legal matters that:

(a) are substantial issues relating to a matter in which Council or Committee is involved;

(b) are clearly identified in the advice; and

(c) are fully discussed in that advice.

14.5 If a Meeting is closed during the discussion of a motion to close another part of the Meeting to the public (as referred to in clause 14.2), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter or information to be discussed in that other part of the Meeting other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is a matter referred to in clause 14.1.

14.6 For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open Meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:

(a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion; or

(b) the discussion of the matter may:

(i) cause embarrassment to Council or Committee concerned, or to Councillors or to employees of Council; or

(ii) cause a loss of confidence in Council or Committee.

14.7 In deciding whether part of a Meeting is to be closed to the public, Council or Committee concerned must consider any relevant guidelines issued by the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government.

Notice of Likelihood of Closure Not Required in Urgent Cases

14.8 Part of a Meeting of Council, or of a Committee of Council, may be closed to the public while Council or Committee considers a matter that has not been identified in the agenda for the Meeting under clause 3.20 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the Meeting is closed, but only if:

(a) it becomes apparent during the discussion of a particular matter that the matter is a matter referred to in clause 14.1; and

(b) Council or Committee, after considering any representations made under clause 14.9, resolves that further discussion of the matter:

(i) should not be deferred (because of the urgency of the matter); and

(ii) should take place in a part of the Meeting that is closed to the public.

Representations by Members of the Public

14.9 Council, or a Committee of Council, may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a Meeting, before any part of the Meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the Meeting should be closed.

14.10 A representation under clause 14.9 is to be made after the motion to close the part of the Meeting is moved and seconded.

14.11 Where the matter has been identified in the agenda of the Meeting under clause 3.20 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the Meeting is closed to the public, in order to make representations under clause 14.9, members of the public must first make an application to Council in the approved form. Applications must be received by 4.00pm on the day before the Meeting at which the matter is to be considered.

14.12 The General Manager (or their delegate) may refuse an application made under clause 14.11. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

14.13 No more than three speakers are to be permitted to make representations under clause 14.9.

14.14 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to make representations under clause 14.9, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to make representations to Council. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to make representations under clause 14.9, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will make representations to Council.

14.15 The General Manager (or their delegate) is to determine the order of speakers.

14.16 Where Council or a Committee of Council proposes to close a Meeting or part of a Meeting to the public in circumstances where the matter has not been identified in the agenda for the Meeting under clause 3.20 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the Meeting is closed to the public, the Chairperson is to invite representations from the public under clause 14.9 after the motion to close the part of the Meeting is moved and seconded. The Chairperson is to permit no more than three speakers to make representations in such order as determined by the Chairperson.

14.17 Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to make representations, and this time limit is to be strictly enforced by the Chairperson. Speakers must confine their representations to whether the Meeting should be closed to the public. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the Chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the Chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

Expulsion of Non-Councillors from Meetings Closed to the Public

14.18 If a Meeting or part of a Meeting of Council or a Committee of Council is closed to the public in accordance with section 10A of the Act and this Code, any person who is not a Councillor and who fails to leave the Meeting when requested, may be expelled from the Meeting as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act.

14.19 If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling them from the Meeting, fails to leave the place where the Meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary restrain that person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the Meeting.

Information to be Disclosed in Resolutions Closing Meetings to the Public

14.20 The grounds on which part of a Meeting is closed must be stated in the decision to close that part of the Meeting and must be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting. The grounds must specify the following:

- the relevant provision of section 10A(2) of the Act;
- the matter that is to be discussed during the closed part of the Meeting; and
- the reasons why the part of the Meeting is being closed, including (if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret) an explanation of the way in which discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

Resolutions Passed at Closed Meetings to be Made Public

14.21 If Council passes a resolution during a Meeting, or a part of a Meeting, that is closed to the public, the Chairperson must make the resolution public as soon as practicable after the Meeting, or the relevant part of the Meeting, has ended, and the resolution must be recorded in the publicly available Minutes of the Meeting.

14.22 Resolutions passed during a Meeting, or a part of a Meeting, that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson under clause 14.21 during a part of the Meeting that is webcast.

15. keeping order at meetings

Points of Order

- 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 seconder.
- 15.2 A point of order cannot be made with respect to adherence to the principles contained in clause 2.1.
- 15.3 A point of order must be taken immediately it is raised. The Chairperson must suspend the business before the Meeting and permit the Councillor raising the point of order to state the provision of this Code they believe has been breached. The Chairperson must then rule on the point of order – either by upholding it or by overruling it.

Questions of Order

- 15.4 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.
- 15.5 A Councillor who claims that another Councillor has committed an act of disorder, or is out of order, may call the attention of the Chairperson to the matter.
- 15.6 The Chairperson must rule on a question of order immediately after it is raised but, before doing so, may invite the opinion of Council.
- 15.7 The Chairperson's ruling must be obeyed unless a motion dissenting from the ruling is passed.

Motions of Dissent

- 15.8 A Councillor can, without notice, move to dissent from a ruling of the Chairperson on a point of order or a question of order. If that happens, the Chairperson must suspend the business before the Meeting until a decision is made on the motion of dissent.
- 15.9 If a motion of dissent is passed, the Chairperson must proceed with the suspended business as though the ruling dissented from had not been given. If, as a result of the ruling, any motion or business has been rejected as out of order, the Chairperson must restore the motion or business to the agenda and proceed with it in due course.
- 15.10 Despite any other provision of this Code, only the mover of a motion of dissent and the Chairperson can speak to the motion before it is put. The mover of the motion does not have a right of general reply.

Acts of Disorder

- 15.11 A Councillor commits an act of disorder if the Councillor, at a Meeting of Council or a Committee of Council:
 - (a) contravenes the Act or any regulation in force under the Act or this Code;
 - (b) assaults or threatens to assault another Councillor or person present at the Meeting;
 - (c) moves or attempts to move a motion or an amendment that has an unlawful purpose or that deals with a matter that is outside the jurisdiction of the Council or Committee, or addresses or attempts to address Council or the Committee on such a motion, amendment or matter;
 - (d) insults or makes personal reflections on or imputes improper motives to any other Council official, or alleges a breach of Council's Code of Conduct; or
 - (e) says or does anything that is inconsistent with maintaining order at the Meeting or is likely to bring Council or the Committee into disrepute.

15.12 The Chairperson may require a Councillor:

- (a) to apologise without reservation for an act of disorder referred to in clauses 15.11(a) or (b);
- (b) to withdraw a motion or an amendment referred to in clause 15.11(c) and, where appropriate, to apologise without reservation; or
- (c) to retract and apologise without reservation for an act of disorder referred to in clauses 15.11(d) and (e).

How Disorder at a Meeting May be Dealt With

15.13 If disorder occurs at a Meeting of Council, the Chairperson may adjourn the Meeting for a period of not more than 15 minutes and leave the Chair. Council, on reassembling, must, on a question put from the Chairperson, decide without debate whether the business is to be proceeded with or not. This clause applies to disorder arising from the conduct of members of the public as well as disorder arising from the conduct of Councillors.

Expulsion from Meetings

15.14 All Chairpersons of Meetings of Council and Committees of Council are authorised under this Code to expel any person other than a Councillor, from a Council or Committee Meeting, for the purposes of section 10(2)(b) of the Act. Councillors may only be expelled by resolution of Council or the Committee of Council.

15.15 Clause 15.14, does not limit the ability of Council or a Committee of Council to resolve to expel a person, including a Councillor, from a Council or Committee Meeting, under section 10(2)(a) of the Act.

15.16 A Councillor may, as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act, be expelled from a Meeting of Council for having failed to comply with a requirement under clause 15.12. The expulsion of a Councillor from the Meeting for that reason does not prevent any other action from being taken against the Councillor for the act of disorder concerned.

15.17 A member of the public may, as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act, be expelled from a Meeting of Council for engaging in or having engaged in disorderly conduct at the Meeting.

15.18 Where a Councillor or a member of the public is expelled from a Meeting, the expulsion and the name of the person expelled, if known, are to be recorded in the minutes of the Meeting.

15.19 If a Councillor or a member of the public fails to leave the place where a Meeting of Council is being held immediately after they have been expelled, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the Councillor or member of the public from that place and, if necessary, restrain the Councillor or member of the public from re-entering that place for the remainder of the Meeting.

Use of Mobile Phones and the Unauthorised Recording of Meetings

15.20 Councillors, Council staff and members of the public must ensure that mobile phones are turned to silent during Meetings of Council and Committees of Council.

15.21 A person must not live stream or use an audio recorder, video camera, mobile phone or any other device to make a recording of the proceedings of a Meeting of Council or a Committee of Council without the prior authorisation of Council or the Committee.

15.22 Any person who contravenes or attempts to contravene clause 15.21, may be expelled from the Meeting as provided for under section 10(2) of the Act.

15.23 If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling them from the Meeting, fails to leave the place where the Meeting is being held, a police officer, or any

person authorised for the purpose by Council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary, restrain that person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the Meeting.

16. CONFLICTS of Interest

- 16.1 All Councillors and, where applicable, all other persons, must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Meetings of Council and Committees of Council in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed by the person who made the declaration must be recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting at which the declaration was made.

17. Decisions of Council

Council Decisions

- 17.1 A decision supported by a majority of the votes at a Meeting of Council at which a quorum is present is a decision of Council.
- 17.2 Decisions made by Council must be accurately recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting at which the decision is made.

Rescinding or Altering Council Decisions

- 17.3 A resolution passed by Council may not be altered or rescinded except by a motion to that effect of which notice has been given under clause 3.9.
- 17.4 If a Notice of Motion to rescind a resolution is given at the Meeting at which the resolution is carried, the resolution must not be carried into effect until the motion of rescission has been dealt with.
- 17.5 If a motion has been lost, a motion having the same effect must not be considered unless notice of it has been duly given in accordance with clause 3.9.
- 17.6 A Notice of Motion to alter or rescind a resolution, and a Notice of Motion which has the same effect as a motion which has been lost, must be signed by three Councillors if less than three months has elapsed since the resolution was passed, or the motion was lost.
- 17.7 If a motion to alter or rescind a resolution has been lost, or if a motion which has the same effect as a previously lost motion is lost, no similar motion may be brought forward within three months of the Meeting at which it was lost. This clause may not be evaded by substituting a motion differently worded, but in principle the same.
- 17.8 The provisions of clauses 17.5–17.7 concerning lost motions do not apply to motions of adjournment.
- 17.9 A Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with clause 17.6 may only be withdrawn under clause 3.10 with the consent of all signatories to the Notice of Motion.
- 17.10 A Notice of Motion to alter or rescind a resolution relating to a development application must be submitted to the General Manager no later than 30 minutes after the close of the Meeting at which the resolution was adopted.
- 17.11 A motion to alter or rescind a resolution of Council may be moved on the report of a Committee of Council and any such report must be recorded in the minutes of the Meeting of Council.
- 17.12 Subject to clause 17.7, in cases of urgency, a motion to alter or rescind a resolution of Council may be moved at the same Meeting at which the resolution was adopted, where:
 - (a) a Notice of Motion signed by three Councillors is submitted to the Chairperson;

- (b) a motion to have the motion considered at the Meeting is passed; and
- (c) the Chairperson rules the business that is the subject of the motion is of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by Council before the next scheduled Ordinary Meeting of Council.

17.13 A motion moved under clause 17.12(b) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.12(b) can speak to the motion before it is put.

17.14 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the Chairperson under clause 17.12(c).

Recommiring Resolutions to Correct an Error

17.15 Despite the provisions of this Part, a Councillor may, with the leave of the Chairperson, move to recommit a resolution adopted at the same Meeting:

- (a) to correct any error, ambiguity or imprecision in Council's resolution; or
- (b) to confirm the voting on the resolution.

17.16 In seeking the leave of the Chairperson to move to recommit a resolution for the purposes of clause 17.15(a), the Councillor is to propose alternative wording for the resolution.

17.17 The Chairperson must not grant leave to recommit a resolution for the purposes of clause 17.15(a), unless they are satisfied that the proposed alternative wording of the resolution would not alter the substance of the resolution previously adopted at the Meeting.

17.18 A motion moved under clause 17.15 can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.20–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.15 can speak to the motion before it is put.

17.19 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the Chairperson under clause 17.15.

17.20 A motion moved under clause 17.15 with the leave of the Chairperson cannot be voted on unless or until it has been seconded.

18. after the meeting

Minutes of Meetings

18.1 The Council is to keep full and accurate Minutes of the proceedings of Meetings of Council.

18.2 At a minimum, the General Manager must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the Council's Minutes:

- (a) details of each motion moved at a Council Meeting and of any amendments moved to it,
- (b) the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,
- (c) whether the motion or amendment was passed or lost, and
- (d) such other matters specifically required under this Code.

18.3 The Minutes of a Council Meeting must be confirmed at a subsequent Meeting of Council.

18.4 Any debate on the confirmation of the Minutes is to be confined to whether the Minutes are a full and accurate record of the Meeting they relate to.

18.5 When the Minutes have been confirmed, they are to be signed by the person presiding at the subsequent Meeting.

18.6 The confirmed Minutes of a Meeting may be amended to correct typographical or

administrative errors after they have been confirmed. Any amendment made under this clause must not alter the substance of any decision made at the Meeting.

18.7 The confirmed Minutes of a Council Meeting must be published on Council's website. This clause does not prevent Council from also publishing unconfirmed Minutes of its Meetings on its website prior to their confirmation.

Access to Correspondence and Reports Laid on the Table at, or Submitted to, a Meeting

18.8 Council and Committees of Council must, during or at the close of a Meeting, or during the business day following the Meeting, give reasonable access to any person to inspect correspondence and reports laid on the table at, or submitted to, the Meeting.

18.9 Clause 19.8 does not apply if the correspondence or reports relate to a matter that was received or discussed or laid on the table at, or submitted to, the Meeting when the Meeting was closed to the public.

18.10 Clause 19.8 does not apply if Council or Committee resolves at the Meeting, when open to the public, that the correspondence or reports are to be treated as confidential because they relate to a matter specified in section 10A(2) of the Act.

18.11 Correspondence or reports to which clauses 19.9 and 19.10 apply are to be marked with the relevant provision of section 10A(2) of the Act that applies to the correspondence or report.

Implementation of Decisions of Council

18.12 The General Manager is to implement, without undue delay, lawful decisions of Council.

19. Council Committees

Application of this Part

19.1 This Part only applies to Committees of Council whose members are all Councillors.

Council Committees Whose Members are all Councillors

19.2 The Council may, by resolution, establish such Committees as it considers necessary.

19.3 A Committee of Council is to consist of the Mayor and such other Councillors as are elected by the Councillors or appointed by Council.

19.4 The quorum for a Meeting of a Committee of Council is to be:

- such number of members as Council decides; or
- if Council has not decided a number – a majority of the members of the Committee.

Functions of Committees

19.5 Council must specify the functions of each of its Committees when the Committee is established, but may from time to time amend those functions.

Notice of Committee Meetings

19.6 The General Manager must send to each Councillor, regardless of whether they are a Committee member, at least three days before each Meeting of the Committee, a notice specifying:

- the time, date and place of the Meeting; and
- the business proposed to be considered at the Meeting.

19.7 Notice of less than three days may be given of a Committee Meeting called in an emergency.

Attendance at Committee Meetings

19.8 A Committee member (other than the Mayor) ceases to be a member of a Committee if the Committee member:

- (a) has been absent from three consecutive Meetings of the Committee without having given reasons acceptable to the Committee for the member's absences; or
- (b) has been absent from at least half of the Meetings of the Committee held during the immediately preceding year without having given to the Committee acceptable reasons for the member's absences.

19.9 Clause 20.8 does not apply if all of the members of Council are members of the Committee.

Non-Members Entitled to Attend Committee Meetings

19.10 A Councillor who is not a member of a Committee of Council is entitled to attend, and to speak at a Meeting of the Committee. However, the Councillor is not entitled:

- (a) to give notice of business for inclusion in the agenda for the Meeting;
- (b) to move or second a motion at the Meeting; or
- (c) to vote at the Meeting.

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Council Committees

19.11 The Chairperson of each Committee of Council must be:

- (a) the Mayor;
- (b) if the Mayor does not wish to be the Chairperson of a Committee, a member of the Committee elected by Council; or
- (c) if Council does not elect such a member, a member of Committee elected by the Committee.

19.12 Council may elect a member of a Committee of Council as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee. If Council does not elect a Deputy Chairperson of such a Committee, the Committee may elect a Deputy Chairperson.

19.13 If neither the Chairperson nor the Deputy Chairperson of a Committee of Council is able or willing to preside at a Meeting of the Committee, the Committee must elect a member of the Committee to be acting Chairperson of the Committee.

19.14 The Chairperson is to preside at a Meeting of a Committee of Council. If the Chairperson is unable or unwilling to preside, the Deputy Chairperson (if any) is to preside at the Meeting, but if neither the Chairperson nor the Deputy Chairperson is able or willing to preside, the acting Chairperson is to preside at the Meeting.

Procedure in Committee Meetings

19.15 Subject to any specific requirements of this Code, each Committee of Council may regulate its own procedure. The provisions of this Code are to be taken to apply to all Committees of Council unless Council or the Committee determines otherwise in accordance with this clause.

19.16 Whenever the voting on a motion put to a Meeting of the Committee is equal, the Chairperson of Committee is to have a casting vote as well as an original vote unless Council or the Committee determines otherwise in accordance with clause 19.15.

19.17 Voting at a Council Committee Meeting is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system).

Closure of Committee Meetings to the Public

- 19.18 The provisions of the Act and Part 14 of this Code apply to the closure of Meetings of Committees of Council to the public in the same way they apply to the closure of Meetings of Council to the public.
- 19.19 If a Committee of Council passes a resolution, or makes a recommendation, during a Meeting, or a part of a Meeting that is closed to the public, the Chairperson must make the resolution or recommendation public as soon as practicable after the Meeting or part of the Meeting has ended, and report the resolution or recommendation to the next Meeting of Council. The resolution or recommendation must also be recorded in the publicly available Minutes of the Meeting.
- 19.20 Resolutions passed during a Meeting, or a part of a Meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson under clause 20.20 during a part of the Meeting that is webcast.

Disorder in Committee Meetings

- 19.21 The provisions of the Act and this Code relating to the maintenance of order in Council Meetings apply to Meetings of Committees of Council in the same way as they apply to Meetings of Council.

Minutes of Council Committee Meetings

- 19.22 Each Committee of Council is to keep full and accurate Minutes of the proceedings of its Meetings. At a minimum, a Committee must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the Committee's Minutes:
 - (a) details of each motion moved at a Meeting and of any amendments moved to it;
 - (b) the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment;
 - (c) whether the motion or amendment was passed or lost; and
 - (d) such other matters specifically required under this Code.
- 19.23 The Minutes of Meetings of each Committee of Council must be confirmed at a subsequent Meeting of the Committee.
- 19.24 Any debate on the confirmation of the Minutes is to be confined to whether the Minutes are a full and accurate record of the Meeting they relate to.
- 19.25 When the Minutes have been confirmed, they are to be signed by the person presiding at that subsequent Meeting.
- 19.26 The confirmed Minutes of a Meeting may be amended to correct typographical or administrative errors after they have been confirmed. Any amendment made under this clause must not alter the substance of any decision made at the Meeting.
- 19.27 The confirmed Minutes of a Meeting of a Committee of Council must be published on the Council's website. This clause does not prevent Council from also publishing unconfirmed Minutes of Meetings of Committees of Council on its website prior to their confirmation.

20. irregularities

- 20.1 Proceedings at a Meeting of a Council or a Council Committee are not invalidated because of:
 - (a) a vacancy in a civic office;
 - (b) a failure to give notice of the meeting to any Councillor or Committee member;
 - (c) any defect in the election or appointment of a Councillor or Committee member;

- (d) a failure of a Councillor or a Committee member to declare a conflict of interest, or to refrain from the consideration or discussion of, or vote on, the relevant matter, at a Council or Committee Meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct; or
- (e) a failure to comply with this Code.

21. definitions

the Act	means the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
act of disorder	means an act of disorder as defined in clause 15.11 of this Code
amendment	in relation to an original motion, means a motion moving an amendment to that motion
audio recorder	any device capable of recording speech
business day	means any day except Saturday or Sunday or any other day the whole or part of which is observed as a public holiday throughout New South Wales
Chairperson	in relation to a Meeting of Council – means the person presiding at the Meeting as provided by section 369 of the Act and clauses 6.1 and 6.2 of this Code, and in relation to a Meeting of a Committee – means the person presiding at the Meeting as provided by clause 20.11 of this Code
this Code	means the Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice
Committee of Council	means a committee established by the Council in accordance with clause 20.2 of this Code (being a Committee consisting only of Councillors) or Council when it has resolved itself into Committee of the whole under clause 12.1
Council official	has the same meaning it has in the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW
day	means calendar day
division	means a request by two Councillors under clause 11.7 of this Code requiring the recording of the names of the Councillors who voted both for and against a motion
foreshadowed amendment	means a proposed amendment foreshadowed by a Councillor under clause 10.18 of this Code during debate on the first amendment
foreshadowed motion	means a motion foreshadowed by a Councillor under clause 10.17 of this code during debate on an original motion
open voting	means voting on the voices or by a show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system or similar means
planning decision	means a decision made in the exercise of a function of a Council under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> including any decision relating to a development application, an environmental planning instrument, a development control plan or a development contribution plan under that Act, but not including the making of an order under Division 9.3 of Part 9 of that Act

performance improvement order	means an order issued under section 438A of the Act
quorum	means the minimum number of Councillors or Committee members necessary to conduct a Meeting
the Regulation	means the <i>Local Government (General) Regulation 2021</i>
webcast	a video or audio broadcast of a Meeting transmitted across the internet either concurrently with the Meeting or at a later time
year	means the period beginning 1 July and ending the following 30 June

Mara Ngali

Tamworth Closing the Gap Partnership Agreement

Between Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) and
Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (TACCO)

Acknowledgment of Country

TRC and TACCO would like to pay respect to our Elders both past and present. We recognise, respect and honour all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living and working in the Tamworth Local Government Area. We acknowledge our diverse traditional ways of being, thinking and knowing, our living cultures and our innate connections as Aboriginal people with lands, waterways and skies.

The Mara Ngali Statement

Mara Ngali symbolises the two hands of the same body, representing unity, partnership, and shared purpose. Just as a person's hands work together, this partnership between the Aboriginal community and the Local Government Area (LGA) reflects a shared commitment to building a stronger, more equitable future for our region and delivering real outcomes.

Each hand brings its own unique strengths but is limited in what it can achieve alone. When both hands work together, they unlock greater potential. Mara Ngali teaches us that true success comes when both hands unite under a shared vision, supporting and empowering one another. By working in partnership, we can create better outcomes for the people of the Tamworth Region and build a thriving, united community that reflects the aspirations of all.

Formalising the Partnership

This Partnership Agreement establishes a structured partnership between Tamworth Regional Council and Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to develop, implement and monitor the Tamworth Closing the Gap Strategy.

This Partnership Agreement will prioritise place-based solutions that will address systemic inequalities and foster self-determination by using best endeavours to embed the priorities of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap into local initiatives.

Our Shared Vision

Our shared vision is to build a Tamworth region where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to lead, shape, and benefit from initiatives that reflect their aspirations, culture, and priorities.

Together, we aim to:

1. Develop, implement and monitor a Tamworth Closing the Gap Strategy and Implementation Plan that aligns with the National Agreement identified priority areas.
2. Support progress across all seventeen socio-economic targets, including health, education, employment, housing, and cultural preservation.
3. Strengthen and expand Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) as key partners in delivering culturally appropriate services.

Tamworth Closing the Gap Strategy

The partnership will prioritise the co-design, implementation, and monitoring of the Tamworth Closing the Gap Strategy, which will focus on the following five (5) Priority Reform Areas:

1. **Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision-Making**
 - Create governance structures to assist with the inclusion of Aboriginal voices in planning and decision-making processes.
 - Establish and maintain a Steering Committee with equal representation from TRC and TACCO to oversee the strategy.
2. **Building the Community-Controlled Sector**
 - Enhance the capacity of TACCO and other local ACCOs to deliver culturally safe and effective services.
 - Develop sustainable funding pathways to support ACCO operations.
3. **Transforming Government Organisations**
 - Embed cultural safety, responsiveness, and accountability within TRC operations and policies.
 - Provide cultural competency training for TRC staff and contractors.
4. **Shared Access to Data and Information**
 - Facilitate shared access to local data, enabling TACCO and TRC to monitor progress and set community-driven priorities.

- Develop community-led data governance frameworks.

5. Employment, Business Growth, and Economic Prosperity

- Promote pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in education, training, and employment.
- Support the growth of Aboriginal businesses through procurement and partnership opportunities.

Principles of the Partnership

The partnership is based on the following principles:

- Self-Determination: TACCO leads the identification of community priorities through place-based partnerships.
- Collaboration: TRC and TACCO will co-design and implement initiatives grounded in place-based solutions.
- Cultural Respect: The partnership integrates Aboriginal cultural values into all levels of planning and execution.
- Transparency and Accountability: Both parties will regularly review and report on progress towards shared objectives.

Responsibilities of the Parties

Tamworth Regional Council (TRC):

- Allocate funding, administrative support, and staff resources to ensure the effective design, implementation, and monitoring of the Tamworth Region Closing the Gap Strategy.
- Embed Closing the Gap objectives into strategic planning, policies, and service delivery to achieve measurable and sustainable outcomes.
- Provide annual reports on the progress of the Closing the Gap Strategy including challenges and achievements, ensuring accountability to the Aboriginal community and key stakeholders.

Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (TACCO):

- Lead community consultation and engagement with the Aboriginal community to ensure their voices shape the Tamworth Region Closing the Gap Strategy.
- Connect the Tamworth Region Closing the Gap Implementation Plan with the Community Development Plan to create pathways for securing funding, resources, and long-term investment in Aboriginal-led initiatives.
- Provide cultural knowledge and expertise to guide the development and implementation of the Tamworth Region Closing the Gap Strategy, ensuring it reflects Aboriginal values, aspirations, and priorities.

Implementation Framework

1. Co-Design

- TRC and TACCO will collaborate on drafting the Tamworth Region Closing the Gap Strategy, with input from community members and stakeholders.

2. Action Plans

- The Strategy will include specific, measurable actions for each of the five (5) priority areas.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

- A joint Steering Committee will develop performance indicators and oversee annual reviews of progress.

Monitoring Progress

- **Annual Reviews:** The Steering Committee will publish annual reports tracking progress against the Strategy's objectives.
- **Community Reporting:** Regular updates will be shared with the Aboriginal community.
- **Performance Metrics:** Each Priority Reform Area will have defined KPIs aligned with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Term and Renewal

This Closing the Gap Partnership Agreement is effective from **[date]** and will remain in place for **[date]**, with renewal subject to mutual agreement.

Signatures

Tamworth Regional Council

**Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled
Organisations**

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT

Tamworth Regional Council
Ordinary Meeting – 23 July 2024

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR MARC SUTHERLAND - RECOMMENDED PARTNERSHIP TACCO – FILE NO

MOTION

That Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) formally endorse the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (TACCO) to establish a strategic partnership aimed at supporting the development of a local Closing the Gap Strategy and enhancing service delivery across the Tamworth Region.

Notice is given that I intend to move the above Motion at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 23 July 2024.

BACKGROUND

At a council meeting on 26th July 2022, Councillors unanimously agreed to allocate the resources needed to create a local Closing the Gap strategy. Since then, TRC staff have worked closely with Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to understand how such a strategy can have maximum impact.

Last week, the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty visited Tamworth to sign a formal MOU with our local place-based Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (TACCO). This collective includes the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Committee (local), Birrelee Multifunctional Aboriginal Children Service, Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service, and Tamworth and Armidale Aboriginal Children's Service.

This formal partnership is the first of its kind in NSW and recognises the Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations' role as leaders in place-based solutions for service delivery. Tamworth was chosen for a Placed-Based Partnership due to its strong governance structure and the communities passion to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

The agreement between the NSW State government and TACCO provides a unique opportunity for a formal partnership with TRC. This partnership would align the efforts of local, state, and federal governments through a national strategy to support the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people across the Tamworth region.

I believe that this is the most appropriate step moving forward to create a meaningful local Closing the Gap Strategy.

Although the details of the MOU are yet to be explored conceptually this partnership would be mutually beneficial providing;

TRC with:

- The intelligence needed to develop our Closing the Gap Strategy effectively.
- An avenue to conduct effective community consultation with thousands of members.

TACCO with:

- The principal support of TRC in achieving their strategic goals.
- More competitive tender applications to attract a higher level of service delivery.

Tamworth Regional Council
Ordinary Meeting – 23 July 2024

STAFF COMMENT

The proposed MOU drafted below aligns with Our Community Strategic Plan (endorsed June 2022) via Focus Area 4 “Resilient and Diverse Communities”.

Under this focus area, Priority 3 aims to “Meet the 17 targets of the “Closing the Gap” national agreement for our community”.

The community strategic plan (CSP), a document we prepare on behalf of our community that describes their 10 year vision for all aspects of life here, informs the 3 Year Delivery Plan prepared by Council. In the Delivery Plan are the activities and actions Council is able to undertake that impact the aspirations of the community described in the CSP. The current Delivery Plan, first adopted in June 2022 and reviewed every year with updated actions, contains the following commitments:

CSP Priority		Delivery Plan activity		Annual Operational Plan actions*		Responsibility
R.0 3	Meet the 17 targets of the “Closing the Gap” national agreement for our community	R.030 1	Align our services and programs to align with “Closing the Gap” targets	R.0301.0 1	Partner with local Coalition of Aboriginal peak Organisations to deliver agreed outcomes for “Closing the Gap” agreement	Office of the General Manager (Strategy & Performance)
				R.0301.0 2	Improve the level of information on social issues and services by completing community service mapping and gap analysis for the Tamworth region.	Liveable Communities (Future Communities)

These actions are developed by managers and their directors, and reviewed each year for the AOP

Cr Marc Sutherland

17 July 2024

Tamworth Regional Council
Ordinary Meeting – 26 July 2022

**6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR MARC SUTHERLAND - CLOSING THE GAP STRATEGY
AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – FILE NO**

MOTION

That Tamworth Regional Council commit the necessary resources to develop a comprehensive Closing the Gap Strategy and Implementation Plan that aligns with the National Strategy to overcome inequality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Notice is given that I intend to move the above Motion at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 26 July 2022.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Commentary from Cr Marc Sutherland

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap recognises the critical importance of every level of government working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal people and sharing decision making to close the gap. Another feature of the strategy would be to 'work with state and federal governments in working towards closing the gap.'

Councils are an essential partner in ensuring Closing the Gap initiatives are locally tailored and relevant for each community. Councils already play a vital role in supporting and helping to steer the development of policies and programs in partnership with Aboriginal communities at the local and regional level.

One of the challenges that local government face is that unlike others our state and federal governments, the Australian Local Government Association does not have a Coalition of Peak Organisation (CAPO) to partner with to develop and implement this Plan. Although the National Coalition of Peaks is developing its own standalone Implementation Plan, we are also in a unique position. Given LGA NSW, Premier and CAPO are the signature and have responsibility of developing an NSW Jurisdictional plan and its delivery through effective and inclusive consultation of first Nations people in NSW.

The Hon Ben Franklin has noted that Tamworth is only one of two towns that have activated Place Based arrangements involving and being co-ordinated by a Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations. I believe that this provides us with a great opportunity to build genuine partnerships with our Aboriginal community to assist in the development of the strategy.

Regarding the outcomes of the strategy my preference would have it all replicate the outcomes on the 5 Priority Reforms. It is important to acknowledge that these priorities have been advocated for, and created by, our Aboriginal community for many years and are now formally endorsed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Those areas and outcomes are;

1) Formal partnerships and shared decisions making

Outcome: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to share decision-making authority with Tamworth Regional Council to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.

Target: There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Tamworth Regional

**Tamworth Regional Council
Ordinary Meeting – 26 July 2022**

Council enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have chosen their own representatives.

Note: All councils are required to engage their communities in the development of their long-term Community Strategic Plans, to identify local priorities and aspirations. Councils should ensure they consult with local Aboriginal communities as part of ensuring the aspirations of all parts of their community are represented in their plans.

2) Building the community-controlled sector

Outcome: There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community - controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the LGA.

Target: Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.

Note: Tamworth is only one of two places with based Coalition of Peak Aboriginal Organisations (CAPO) in NSW working together collectively. Our local CAPO is chaired by the Co-Chair of the NSW Government working group. Membership of our local CAPO is made up of all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector across our LGA.

3) Transforming government organisations

Outcome: Tamworth Regional Council are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through services they fund.

Targets:

- decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism; and
- increase in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander to feel culturally safe in dealing with government mainstream institutions and agencies.

Note: This is where our Reconciliation Action Plan would sit. Potentially along with an Aboriginal Workforce, Employment and Retention Strategy, a Cultural Awareness Strategy and an Aboriginal Protocol document, Aboriginal Employment Strategy, procurement policy to name a few.

4) Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Outcome: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.

Target: Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

Note: This is an opportunity to expand the data sharing across our Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. Potentially provide joint training including with private sector and various levels of government on using and interpreting data and expand recruitment of targeted positions in councils from land management and heritage areas to also include data.

5) Employment, business growth and economic development

**Tamworth Regional Council
Ordinary Meeting – 26 July 2022**

Outcome: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across our LGA are empowered to access pathways through education, training and employment that align with their aspirations, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses grow and flourish.

Target: An increase in jobs and pathways to employment, and an integrated approach to procurement across Tamworth Regional Council.

Note: Increase demand for goods and services provided by Aboriginal businesses and employees especially through a procurement policy/strategy, support Aboriginal businesses to grow and support employment and training pathways.

In line with the 5 Priority reform areas, I ask for formal commitment of Tamworth Region Council to actively work with our local CAPO and the NSW Government to progress a new Place-based Partnership Trial which has been afforded to Tamworth once consultation with the community has been finalised and an Initiative identified.

Cr Marc Sutherland

20 July 2022

Commentary from the General Manager

In 2020, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) became a co-signatory to a landmark agreement that marks a new chapter in the national effort to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

At the heart of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, there are four agreed priority reform targets and 16 socio-economic targets in areas including education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

As the level of government closest to the people, local government plays an essential role in supporting and helping to steer the development of policies and programs in partnership with local Indigenous peoples that address these priorities at the local and regional level.

Any work undertaken by Council in relation to this motion will draw heavily on the work already undertaken by ALGA in developing their own Implementation Plan as one of the Parties to the Agreement, along with information and guidance notes provided by the Office of Local Government in NSW. This initiative is about developing a strategy and action plan specifically designed to focus on our own aspirations as a community in Closing the Gap.

The National Agreement is centred on four priority reforms to shift the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. NSW has developed a fifth priority reform on employment, business growth and economic prosperity.

The National Agreement for Closing the Gap contains 17 socio-economic targets across education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, languages and digital inclusion.

The Five Priority Reforms (including the NSW-specific reform)

Priority Reform One: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making

This priority reform is about genuine partnership between governments and Aboriginal people, to share decision making on policies and programs impacting their lives.

Priority Reform Two: Building the Community Controlled Sector

**Tamworth Regional Council
Ordinary Meeting – 26 July 2022**

This priority reform is about increasing services delivered through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector, recognising these organisations usually achieve better results, employ more Aboriginal people and are often preferred over mainstream services.

Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations

This priority reform is about changing the way government works to eliminate racism, embed cultural safety, deliver services in partnership, increase transparency and accountability of funding, and support Aboriginal engagement and culture.

Priority Reform Four: Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level

This priority reform is about sharing local data and information with Aboriginal communities and organisations. It enables decision making to drive community-led priorities.

NSW-specific Priority Reform Five: Employment, Business Growth and Economic Prosperity

This priority reform is focused on growing partnership with the Aboriginal business sector by expanding opportunities for businesses to deliver government contracts. It recognises Aboriginal businesses are vehicles of self-determination, driving positive employment, training and broader social outcomes.

The work already undertaken at the National and State Government level, along with the commitment by ALGA, provides a tremendous platform for Tamworth Regional Council to develop and adopt a specifically tailored Closing the Gap Strategy and Implementation Plan for our region. This initiative strongly reflects Council's community Vision Statement and our commitment under Blueprint 100 to "Celebrate our Cultures and Heritage". A Closing the Gap Strategy will also extend and complement our Reconciliation Action Plan and provide a strong basis for broader community engagement to address each of the five priority reforms.

I believe that if this Notice of Motion is successful it will demonstrate a commitment on behalf of the Tamworth Regional community that decision-making at the local government level will fundamentally consider strategies and actions that improve the lives and prospects of First Nations people.

A further report to Council will be required to approve the required funding once the initial investigations and planning is completed.

General Manager, Paul Bennett

20 July 2022
