

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

ANNEXURES for ORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA

14 MARCH 2023

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DRAFT – 2023/2024 Youth Council Action Plan (YCAP)

COMMUNITY	CONNECTIVITY	WELLBEING	WORK READY / LIFE READY
OPTUS Movie Night	Establishment of the Regional Youth Pool Tournament	Beats for Wellbeing Workshops	How to be a social entrepreneur workshop
Youth Idol Talent Event	Regional Youth Radio Project - Workshop Series - Excursions - Youth Week Live Band Stage	Walkabout Barber Haircuts for Mental Health Event	Personal branding workshop
2023 Youth Week – Skatepark Colour Run Event	Cybersafe Information Night (Parent focused)	Strong Movement Fitness program series	Diversity and inclusion workshop
Youthie Autumn School Program	Inclusive Sports Day Event	Young Writers Workshop with Felicity Castagna	Emotional Intelligence & wellbeing workshop
Youthie Term 1 Afterschool Program	E-Scooter Advocacy	Songlines Skateboarding Workshops	Adaptive leadership workshop
		No Lights, No Lycra	Developing Our Communities Future Leaders Project – two day Youth Council retreat
		Sears Self-defence Series	Developing Our Communities Future Leaders Project – Youth Summit
		Find Your Voice Workshop with Gary Lonesborough	
		Anger Management and Mentoring Workshops (Youth and Parent targeted)	



TAMWORTH REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Name of Committee

Tamworth Regional Youth Council

2. Purpose


The purpose of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council is to enable youth leaders across the region to develop skills and knowledge to enable them to achieve their potential and desired future within the community.

The Youth Council will provide a platform for young people to gain traction with their ideas and aspirations and in doing so, provide its representatives with the skills and support to make a lasting positive change. To achieve this purpose, Council's vision for the Youth Council is that it assumes a significant leadership role in influencing Council policy and future direction. As such, the Youth Council will operate to provide a direct avenue for young people to engage with the elected Council and Council Executive and take part in decisions that impact their lives, both now and in the future.

3. Objectives of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council

Youth Council members will:

- (i) Act as an advisory committee and respond to inquiries from the Council regarding specific youth issues in the Tamworth region;
- (ii) provide advice to the Council on emerging issues of importance to or facing youth;
- (iii) identify key priorities for local youth and initiate projects to help address these issues;
- (iv) Liaise with youth and service agencies within the region to promote youth issues;
- (v) Participate in training and mentoring programs and activities to upskill Youth Council members;
- (vi) Participate in projects and initiatives in collaboration with Council's Executive and Senior managers;

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- (vii) recommend to Council the need to advocate to State and Federal government on behalf of youth in relation to issues that affect young people directly;
 - (viii) consult and include their own networks when providing advice and recommendations to Council; and
 - (ix) raise and promote events and opportunities for local young people.

4. Responsibilities and Expectations

Youth Council members will:

- (i) contribute the time needed to understand the Committee's business papers and to attend Youth Council meetings;
- (ii) read and understand the relevant legislative and regulatory requirements applicable to Council, including Council's Code of Conduct;
- (iii) in accordance with responsibilities, provide advice, feedback and recommendations to Council on matters brought before the Youth Council and.
- (iv) participate in a range of positive youth development activities including service learning (an educational approach that combines learning objectives with community service), youth policy development and leadership training.

5. Membership

The Youth Council Membership consists of: -

- A maximum of 25 young people between the ages of 15 and 18 years who reside within the Tamworth LGA.;
- One (1) Councillor;
- Director - Planning and Compliance;
- Executive Manager Strategy and Performance; and
- A maximum of two (2) representatives of Youth Services team.



5.1. Appointment;

Representation by members of youth within the Tamworth community is encouraged. Membership will be coordinated by calling for 'Expressions of Interest' at the expiration of two (2) years followed by an interview. Members are appointed by the elected Council following an assessment against selection criteria based on the member's contribution to achieving the Purpose and Expectations (see above) of the Youth Council.

5.2. Chairperson

The Tamworth Regional Youth Council will be chaired by the Youth Council Mayor to be determined at the first meeting. Nominations for the positions of Youth Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Secretary will be elected by the Youth Council members. The election process will be facilitated by Council staff.

5.3. Term of Office; will be a period of up to two (2) years. Youth Councillors reserve the right to reconsider their role on Youth Council every 12 months according to work, study and personal commitments.

5.4. Resignation of Members; An appointed Youth Council member may resign their membership of the Youth Council at any time by formally notifying the Team Leader, Inclusive Community in writing.

6. Induction

6.1. Within the first two weeks of their appointment, all Youth Council members must attend induction training including in relation to governance, conducted by Council officers.

7. Operations of the Committee

7.1. Quorum; A quorum shall be the Youth Council Mayor plus any eight (8) members. The quorum and staff representatives must be present for all votes taken by the Tamworth Regional Youth Council.

7.2. Frequency of Meetings; The Tamworth Regional Youth Council will meet on a monthly basis at a time convenient to members. If a meeting is cancelled due to lack of a quorum, the agenda items will be carried over to the next scheduled meeting.

7.3. Attendance at Meetings; Attendance at meetings is expected from all Youth Council Members. During a period of twelve months, an unexcused absence of more than three (3) occasions may be deemed a reason for dismissal unless reasonable explanation is provided. A member of the Executive will attend each Youth Council meeting on a rotational basis.

7.4. Notice of Meetings; The Secretary will notify the Youth Council of a meeting, no later than two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date. The notice can be provided by telephone, email, SMS or post.



7.5. Agenda Items; Agenda items for meetings are to be received within ten (10) days prior to the next scheduled meeting. Agenda items and attachments will be forwarded to members with the Notice of Meeting. Items outside of the Agenda may be raised during 'General Business'. All members are entitled to one vote against each recommendation put forward to the Youth Council. The Youth Mayor will if necessary, have the casting vote. Any decisions of the Youth Council that require the expenditure of Council funds and/or an action by the Council will require a resolution of the Council.

7.6. Business Support; Council shall provide administrative support to the Youth Council, and professional advice/input where required. Business Support will collate the minutes of each meeting and circulate within a timely manner. Minutes of the Meeting will incorporate an attendance register, noting any apologies or absences and an outcome of the recommendations put forward in the agenda. Minutes of the previous meeting must be confirmed at the next meeting of the Youth Council.

8. Duties of Governance Positions

Youth Mayor

With assistance from Council Officers the Youth Mayor will:

- Chair Youth Council meetings, including:
 - Keeping meetings on track;
 - Ensuring all agenda items have been addressed;
 - Ensuring that everyone's voice is heard;
 - Encouraging full participation from all members;
 - Seeking clarification of points that have been made;
- Ensure that all tasks are evenly distributed and actions are followed up;
- Support the Youth Council secretary in developing the agenda and Council's Business Support in ensuring the minutes are accurate;
- Represent the Youth Council at special community meetings/events; and
- Remain at all times impartial and unbiased when making decisions.

Youth Deputy Mayor

With assistance from Council Officers the Youth Deputy Mayor will:

- Support the Youth Mayor as required;
- Assume all Youth Mayor responsibilities in the absence of the Youth Mayor;
- Represent the Youth Council at special community meetings/events; and
- Chair meetings if the Youth Mayor is unable to attend.

Secretary duties

With assistance from Council Officers (including Business Support staff), the Secretary will:

- Coordinate scheduling of meetings;
- Prepare and distribute the agenda and other correspondence as necessary;
- Assist with the checking and distribution of meeting minutes;
- Keep an attendance register for all Youth Council meetings;
- Represent the Youth Council at special community meetings/events;
- Advise the Youth Council of any incoming correspondence and where required prepare a timely response; and
- Provide content for the Youth Council to be included on the Youthie social media page.

9. Portfolios

The Youth Council may determine (or Youth Councillors may nominate based on their area of interest) to allocate members specific portfolio responsibilities. The objectives of each portfolio are to be approved by the Youth Council and be consistent with Tamworth Regional Council's Blueprint 100, Youth Strategy and align with the Purpose and Objectives of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council (see above).


A representative(s) from the Youth Council may be invited to attend specific meetings and/or other Council committees and Working Groups to advise on youth issues in relation to specific Council projects and in alignment with their chosen portfolio.

10. Reporting Requirements / Council support

Tamworth Regional Youth Council will be supported by the Cultural and Community Services division of Tamworth Regional Council with the principal contact being the Team Leader, Inclusive Community.

Council officers will be responsible for:

- Convening Youth Council meetings, organising a meeting venue and providing refreshments;
- Attending meetings as required;
- Supporting the Youth Council to complete their set tasks
- Supporting the Youth Mayor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Secretary to meet the requirements of their positions



The Youth Council will have no delegated authority from Council to make decisions. Recommendations of the Youth Council will be reported to a subsequent Council meeting for determination under the Management Accountability of the Director of Planning and Compliance.

12 Confidentiality

Confidentiality is to be maintained by all members of the Youth Council. Discussions occurring within the Youth Council shall be treated as confidential until the minutes are reported to Council or as agreed for release to the media.

13 Media

The Director of Planning and Compliance and Team Leader Inclusive Communities are authorised to represent and speak on behalf of the Youth Council in any media.

2023 Tamworth Regional Youth Council Candidate Profiles



Candidates Name	Age	Why would you like to be a part of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council?	What life experiences have you had which would assist you in contributing to the work of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council?	What do you think are the important issues affecting young people in our local community?
Aimee Morris	17	To bring issues to light involving youth in the Tamworth region, as I am very passionate about creating positive change in my community and expressing important issues to the council such as mental health, lack of opportunities for regional children and the value of education in our region.	My prior leadership experience has helped me to gain a better understanding of my communities needs and it helped me to grow as a person. My past leadership experience includes a member of the Oxley High School SRC (2021), which allowed me to create a more inclusive and positive environment at my school. I also participated in	I think that mental health is a major issue affecting young people in Tamworth as the impact of COVID-19 created a more disconnected society which influenced shifts in behaviour. I believe that I could use my personal experience to create a positive change amongst the youth in Tamworth. I strongly believe that education should be the most valuable thing to young

			<p>the Restorative Peer Mentoring program, which allowed me to develop my communication and leadership skills to help new year sevens to settle into high school. I am currently an active member of the year 12 committee at my high school which allows me to fundraise for a local charity and be a positive role model for younger students.</p>	<p>people as it gives them the tools and resources that they need for adulthood. Being a high school student, I feel like the value of education has decreased in society which is leading to behavioural issues in school and the community. I believe that the youth council could improve the value of education and make a positive change in schools.</p>
Dominic Fawcett	16	<p>I am very interested in taking up a leadership position and discovering the positive impact i can have on the Tamworth community. I have a multitude of ideas for helping youth and will work to find more innovative solutions to the large scale problems that currently involve Tamworth Youth.</p>	<p>I have played and participated in a multitude of sporting activities like Tamworth basketball, Bouldering at Ten4 Bouldering and soccer. I volunteer frequently at the Oxley Dog Training Club as they need volunteers to continue to run events and various charity events at Calrossy Anglican School.</p>	<p>There are two key issues I feel have a large impact on young people. Firstly harmful aspects like access to drugs, crime, assault and alcohol for youth. Ways of doing this could be to open up more leisure activities for youth and therefor promoting better habits and usage of time like large-scale youth disco events or the implementation of leisure based buildings like a water park or ice skating rink. The current council has done this extremely well for sport activities and increasing sporting initiative.</p>

Jake Lynch	16	I've lived in Tamworth all my life, and I feel this would be a fantastic way for me to both give back to the community, and to grow as a person. I'm sure that being a part of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council would help me to nurture, and develop new skills, as well as be a part of a community, and team, of fellow like-minded youth that are also passionate, and care for the wellbeing, and improvement of the Tamworth Community. It would be my absolute honour to aid in the development of meaningful changes that'll affect, and improve the lives of youths in the community.	I live in a rural area, and am a part of the rural community; I understand, and can relate to the challenges and tribulations that people, especially youth, may experience in a rural setting. I am also able to relate to youths that may be going through hard times, especially family orientated problems, as several years ago, my parents also separated, and I know first-hand how hard it can be on a young person. Aside from my knowledge of potential issues that could be affecting youth in the community, I am also not unfamiliar with the art of debating, and public speaking. I'd also like to consider myself decently well-spoken, and I feel I could add a meaningful input in discussions.	Personally, I believe that in our current age, mental health is an undeniably hostile force that can have terrifying effects on the lives of young people. Especially, after such a terrible event such as COVID-19, where over 80% of young people have reported having worsened mood, wellbeing, and mental health in general. I believe that now is a crucial time to address that issue, and think of positive solutions to combat it. The physical development of youths is also important to me, and the question of How can we get more young people interested in sport?, is something that I also believe in.
Kaida McManus	15	I believe I can help become a positive influence in the Tamworth community with events and contributions to the team	I have been in student leadership groups before and have had opportunities to lead teams.	I believe for young people not being believed about mental health and issues surrounding mental health are impacting us the most

Lara Cowely	16	Being a part of the Tamworth Regional Youth Council provides an opportunity to represent not only myself, but my peers, friends and family. Having a voice for what action is taken in the community is integral, and by joining this Youth Council, it is possible.	Over the course of the past few years, things such as divorce and mental health have shaped my life experience. Recently, my parents divorced after being separated for several years, and this took a significant toll on me. It opened my eyes to a new, intense array of emotions and empathy that I had never experienced before. This led to my negative experiences with mental health. After I had moved out with my mum, I felt such severe guilt for leaving behind (not really, but that's how it felt at the time) my dad. Only about a month after feeling this way did I realise that my life around me was deteriorating. Having had this experience, I feel that I am able to confidently express and evaluate mental health services in the Tamworth Region, and how to adjust them for more opportunities for help.	Issues such as harassment based on sexual/gender orientation, obesity, and bullying and important matters affecting young people right now.
Luke Suter	15	I would like to participate in the Tamworth Regional Youth Council to	I have been in a variety of volunteering programs for many	From my personal and observed experiences, young people are facing

		<p>close the divide between young people and the community through making volunteer opportunities more widely available to young people. Currently volunteer opportunities feel elusive and unattainable, which is incredible unfortunate as volunteering is one of the best ways to give back to the community and has an amazing impact on the mental health of everyone involved.</p>	<p>years now, one of the most prominent this year being the after school homework assistance I provide on a Monday afternoon at Calrossy Primary School. Volunteering helps me understand the problems and challenges other people face, and how to work with people to overcome adversity. Volunteering has also given me a unique perspective on not only the lives of others, but my own life, and I would love to introduce this perspective to other young people in Tamworth. I have also received a scholarship for Speech and drama, an award that took 3 years of training and practice to achieve. My progress in speech and drama has also allowed me to express my ideas clearly and effectively, and work well in impromptu and team activities, as well as under high pressure situations. I believe these experiences would help me contribute positively to the Tamworth Regional Youth Council.</p>	<p>a serious disconnect from their community and peers. During the Covid-19 lockdowns young people were unable to immerse themselves in the community or make a positive impact. This divide is further promoted by a lack of volunteering opportunities readily available to youth in our community.</p>
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Megan Swain	16	<p>As being a resident of Tamworth for around six years now, my thoughts involving the commitment towards the town from young people (the youth) has fluctuated. Tamworth has so many opportunities to prosper and the youth of this town can take action into their own hands and allow this to happen. The youth can provide another perspective that the Tamworth regional council may not notice. By being younger they are more prone to accepting things that the older generations may not. I can provide a new perspective and be open to any opportunity that people bring forward to me.</p>	<p>Through the assistance of being a part of CAPA council (creative and performing arts council) at Oxley high school during 2021, I had the privilege of bringing forward issues from those who are scared to speak out. From being a representative, I was able to voice my own opinions and assist with activities around the school which has made me more resilient towards those who don't appreciate what we were bringing for the school. In every fundraiser, we attempted to include everyone and make everyone feel safe and welcome and that what I would hope to achieve being a part of the youth council, that everyone in Tamworth, especially the youth feel appreciated, heard and not judged whiner they're being themselves.</p>	<p>The influence of drugs and alcohol. Through the introduction of vapes, young children are becoming addicted to them and it is especially prevalent at schools. Oxley high school for example have had to install vape detectors in the bathroom to prevent people from gaping in there and locking them and people having to get a key so the school knows when someone vapes in there. The youth, even though they are mostly aware that vaping is worse than smoking, they still continue to take the risk, either for popularity reasons or other reasons. The youth aren't aware of what they are breathing in through the vapes may not be affecting them at this age, but may have lasting effects later in life. Also, those who vape are putting others in danger that have lung conditions and putting their lives at risk. Creating more notice around the effects of vapes may allow teens to rethink their actions and the consequences they may suffer because of it.</p>
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Sarah Frazer	16	I believe that having a passion for change is extremely important trait when being part of the youth council. With the passion of wanting change within the Tamworth and wider region, this is an element as to why I would love to be part of the Tamworth youth Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of the senior leadership team of Peel High School - Participating in the Enrichment task of DV at Peel High School - Helping within the school and wider community (events fundraisers) - An active member of the social/fundraising committee of peel high school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discrimination - Racism - Not having access to a proper education - Poverty - Street violence
Sophia Hanson	17	I'm interested in joining the youth council primarily so I can actively help contribute to creating positive change for the youth of our community. I also believe it would be a rewarding experience, for both expanding my own knowledge and outset by allowing me to hear the viewpoints of others in my community, and also as it would enable me to create connections with other likeminded youth who I may never previously have had the chance to interact with.	In year 9, I was selected to be a peer support leader to help co-lead a peer support group of about 10 year 7 students in order to make their transition into high school easier, which enabled me to provide guidance, advice and leadership towards younger students. I have also been actively involved in Calrossy's debating teams since year 4, helping our team to win at various inter-school competitions, over the course of which I have developed and refined my public speaking ability, confidence, and ability to construct logical arguments and speeches.	I believe that ignorance, as a result of misinformation, or lack of information at all, is one of the greatest issues negatively affecting young people today. I have witnessed first-hand how young people internalise or adopt sexist, racist, classist, xenophobic and/or ableist attitudes that only politically polarise and divide individuals, purely because they are misinformed, or not widely informed enough. Additionally, the partaking in risky/dangerous/illegal behaviours can also be traced to a degree of ignorance/a lack of knowledge about the true consequences of their actions. I also believe that mental

			This year, I have also been elected by students and teachers to be one of the two year twelve heads of the student representative council, which is a student lead group that I imagine is a microcosm of the Youth Council within Calrossy's own student community.	health is an extremely important issue affecting youth not only in our local community but on a global scale, and that more needs to be done to facilitate mental health information access, awareness, and, most importantly, empathy and consideration.
Yasutomo Akioka	16	I would like to be a part of the Youth Council for both the opportunities it brings in growing my understanding of the community, and building teamwork/ leadership skills, as well as to help the young people of our community, not only get through this phase of life but thrive in it.	I have always loved playing team sports (Basketball) and have even been lucky enough to play at a high level; a key part to any good team is their ability to communicate and work as a unit, I feel as though my experience in these areas will certainly help both the team and I get along.	I think some issues that are affecting young people in our community today are: 1. The growing number of people vaping. This bad habit is something that they will have to deal with eventually, either because of the shame it brings them, the health problems it brings, or the money that is spent on it instead of saving for a car or further education. And 2. The growing crime and bad behaviour. There has been an inexcusable increase in young crime over the past year and that needs to be addressed.
Yvonne Sutton	17	I would like to create change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander locals, promote change for Aboriginal children and adults in the justice system	I work in customer service at Coles in Tamworth; therefore I am great with new people and having a chat, I have had my own personal	There are many different issues in our community, that also depend on the suburb you're living in. I believe alcohol, vaping/smoking and drug use

		for crime, and be a “black face” amongst the community for my people and other nationalities.	experiences in life that have made me the strong person I am today meaning I can relate to other’s concerns, I organise assemblies for my school for NAIDOC Week so I am organised and have the ability to run events or assist in doing so.	are a big issue today, as well as, “sexting”, youth crime, and the pressure of school and your future.
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