



TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

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

ORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA

13 FEBRUARY 2024

PAUL BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER

Order of Business

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	5
2	COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.....	5
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL.....	5
4	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	5
5	MAYORAL MINUTE	5
5.1	BUSINESS NSW REGIONAL LEADERS PROGRAM	5
5.2	COST SHIFTING ONTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT	8
5.3	DISSOLUTION OF THE NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION	9
6	NOTICE OF MOTION	11
	OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS	12
7	ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING	12
8	INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	12
8.1	PROPOSED ATTENDANCE AT WATERUSE SYMPOSIUM IN DENVER USA	12
	1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
8.2	RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE FACILITIES - PROPOSED CHANGES TO GREEN WASTE FEES AT RURAL WASTE FACILITIES	15
	1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
	1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED	
9	GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE.....	17
9.1	2024 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT	17
	1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
9.2	BANK GUARANTEE FACILITY LIMIT INCREASE.....	19
9.3	SPONSORSHIP OF START-UP LANE SEGMENT AT AGSMART CONNECT 2024.....	20
9.4	REVISED INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING 2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT	22
	1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
9.5	ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED OUR RESOURCING PLAN INCLUDING THE 2023/2024 - 2033/2034 LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN, AS REVISED AND ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	24
	1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
10	COMMUNITY SERVICES.....	26
10.1	TAMWORTH CITY CENTRE WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES - 16 NOVEMBER 2023	26
	1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	
10.2	TAMWORTH REGIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2024-2028	27
	2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED	

11	REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL	29
	PROPOSED SUBLEASE AGREEMENT FOR COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY AT BRIDGE STREET, TAMWORTH	29
	TENDER T168/2023 - OUTCOME - DESIGN OF THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE AND NORTHERN INLAND CENTRE OF SPORT AND HEALTH	29
	GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - 2022/2023	31

Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Consultation Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure of Political Donations or Gifts

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

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

AGENDA

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 12 December 2023, copies of which were circulated be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interest

Non Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

Political Donations

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

5.1 BUSINESS NSW REGIONAL LEADERS PROGRAM

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Russell Webb, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Business NSW Regional Leaders Program”, Council participate in the program as a gold member.

SUMMARY

Tamworth Regional Council has been invited to become a member of the Regional Leaders Program which is an initiative of Business NSW that brings together a network of leaders in Regional NSW to strengthen the collective voice of business.

Those invited to participate are highly engaged individuals representing business and industry that drive the economic vision of Regional NSW and advocate on issues that impact economic growth and prosperity. The program delivers a crafted thought leadership event series, special events with senior Government and corporate leaders, and a platform to invest in the next generation of business talent in Regional NSW through a Future Leaders program.

COMMENTARY

The Regional Leaders Program is all about connecting decision makers who are passionate about driving outcomes and influencing change. This program has achieved demonstrable results in other areas for business enabling them to operate in activated and economically

sustainable modern cities including transport solutions, precincts and economic development.

Regional Leaders will be connected to a strong peer network, engaged through a curated thought leadership series and have active involvement in guiding regional priorities. This invitation only program is delivered across two key themes, *Stronger Business* and *Stronger Economy*.

The *Stronger Business* theme provides the following opportunities:

- **CEO Summit** - an opportunity to connect with leaders from across the State to solve the 'big problems';
- **Regional Futures Function** – bringing insights and scenarios for regional leaders to inform decision making;
- **Future Leaders Program** – an opportunity to involve our emerging leaders in the program; and
- **Global connections** - events and trade delegation opportunities to expand business markets.

The *Stronger Economy* theme includes:

- **State Government Events** – sitting down with Government Ministers and leaders to advance regional priorities;
- **Economic Events** – delivering a powerful analysis of domestic and global insights for business growth;
- **Regional Summit** – unpacking the short and long term challenges impacting regions based on thought leadership research; and
- **Policy and Advocacy Roundtables** – small group discussions on high priority issues.

Councillors and staff recently attended one of the economic events that provided insights from Business NSW's Chief Economist, Dr Sherman Chan, along with financial and business experts from across the New England North West (NENW) Region. The General Manager was also invited to participate in a small group discussion with Dr Chan to identify key priority areas for our region, trends across business and industry, and examples of how some of these challenges may be addressed drawing on national and international experiences. Subsequent to these events the General Manager also recently participated in a Think Tank around Temporary Worker Accommodation followed by a meeting with existing Regional Leaders members entitled Leading the Way.

Becoming a gold member of the program would provide Council with the following ongoing benefits:

- two tickets to all Regional Leader events (4 x Regional & 2 x Sydney) * with priority seating;
- invited to participate in the Thought Leadership NENW growth, capability and capacity build think tanks;
- priority invitation to join Roundtables and Special Interest Groups;
- an invitation for two employees to join the Future Leaders Program;
- premium access to Regional Thought Leadership and other exclusive events;

- New England North West events branding;
- two personalised meetings with Business NSW;
- 25% discount on additional tickets to all New England North West events;
- logo on Regional Leader webpage;
- unlimited calls to the Workplace Advice Line; and
- voting rights.

The cost of this membership package is \$10,000 per annum which represents excellent value considering the access to business and industry experts, leverage of the Business NSW relationship with the State Government to provide increased access to Ministers and senior bureaucrats, engagement opportunities with local and regional business leaders, leadership development opportunities, and unlimited access to expert workplace advice.

A number of our region's leading business owners have already taken up membership covering areas such as technology, telecommunication, engineering, manufacturing, housing, finance, social services, and hospitality. This program provides a unique platform and opportunity for Council to engage directly with business and industry in a collaborative environment where the focus is on developing joint solutions to some of our most challenging issues such as housing, temporary worker accommodation, renewable energy, and worker and skill shortages.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Council's membership would be paid from the General Fund as an additional budget allocation for external memberships.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 3 – Prosperity and Innovation

5.2 COST SHIFTING ONTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Russell Webb, Mayor

Recommendation

That in relation to the report “Cost Shifting onto Local Government”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the findings of the Local Government NSW Cost Shifting report for the 2021/2022 financial year;*
- (ii) a copy of the cost shifting report be placed on Council’s website so that our communities can access it; and*
- (iii) write to the Premier, the NSW Treasurer and the NSW Minister for Local Government seeking that they urgently seek to address these costs through a combination of regulatory reform, budgetary provision and appropriate funding.*

SUMMARY

The pressure on councils to continue to provide services of appropriate standard to our communities is now extraordinary.

COMMENTARY

The unrelenting growth of cost shifting to councils, coupled with rate pegging, is increasingly eroding any possibility of financially sustainable local government and risking the capacity of councils to deliver tailored, grassroots services to their communities and properly deliver and maintain vital local infrastructure.

Alarmingly, the latest research commissioned by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) shows that the increase in cost shifting has been accelerated by various NSW Government policies.

As shown in the latest cost shifting report produced by independent consultants Morrison Low on behalf of LGNSW for the 2021/2022 financial year (lgnsw.org.au/costshifting), an amount of \$1.36 billion of expense has been passed on to councils to fund. This is an increase of \$540 million since the last report from the 2017/2018 financial year and represents lost services, lost opportunity and lost amenity for all our residents and businesses.

On average, this represents an additional cost of \$460.67 for every ratepayer across the state.

With councils having to fund this ongoing subsidy for the State Government each and every year it means our communities get less or go without. They go without better roads, they go without better parks, they go without important community services that only councils provide, and they and their ratepayers are effectively paying hidden taxes to other levels of government.

Councillors, our communities deserve better and this must stop. Prior to the most recent state election the then Minns Opposition wrote to LGNSW acknowledging that cost shifting had undermined the financial sustainability of the local government sector.

Now in 2024, it is important to councils and communities that the NSW Government urgently seek to address cost shifting through a combination of regulatory reform, budgetary provision and appropriate funding.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

5.3 DISSOLUTION OF THE NAMOI JOINT ORGANISATION

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Russell Webb, Mayor

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Dissolution of the Namoi Joint Organisation”, Council support the Board in writing to the Minister for Local Government seeking to dissolve the Namoi Joint Organisation on 30 June 2024.

SUMMARY

At the meeting of Namoi Unlimited (Namoi Joint Organisation) held on 23 November 2023, the Board resolved to discontinue its activities as a Joint Organisation effective from 31 December 2023. This report outlines the background and process to put this resolution into effect.

COMMENTARY

At the meeting of Namoi Unlimited (Namoi Joint Organisation) held on 23 November 2023, the Board resolved as follows:

That in relation to the report “General Business - 23 November 2023”, the Board discussed and resolved that:

- (i) a letter be sent to the Minister for Local Government advising that the Namoi Joint Organisation (Namoi Unlimited) will discontinue its activities from 31 December 2023 due to the resignation of all members;*
 - (ii) the Executive Officer to prepare a standard letter and Mayoral Minute for each Council for them to resolve to resign from the Joint Organisation;*
 - (iii) Walcha, Liverpool Plains, Gunnedah and Tamworth Councils commit to continuing regional collaboration through the creation of a new Regional Alliance;*
 - (iv) members continue to cooperate with the implementation of previous project outcomes and develop prioritised action plans for same;*
-

- (v) *investigations be undertaken to ascertain the level of appropriate administration resourcing required for the new Alliance;*
- (vi) *all costs associated with the winding up of the Joint Organisation are to be funded from the surplus funds currently held; and*
- (vii) *the Namoi Unlimited name and branding be retained for use in association with the new Alliance.*

The Acting Executive Officer subsequently held conversations with representatives from the Office of Local Government and other Joint Organisations and advice has been received that the correct process is to write to the Minister requesting that he order the discontinuance of the Namoi Joint Organisation in time for the organisation to be wound up at 30 June 2024. While this will require an amendment to the above motion at the next ordinary Board meeting, the intent of the members to discontinue with the Joint Organisation structure is clear.

Joint Organisations (JO) were an initiative of the previous NSW Coalition Government and were created with a view to strengthen collaboration and engagement between State and local governments and improve infrastructure and service delivery to regional communities.

The Namoi JO originally had seven member councils when it was piloted, but was reduced to five members when the boundaries were finalised and gazetted by the Government. The current members Councils are Tamworth, Gunnedah, Walcha, Liverpool Plains, and Gwydir however, Gwydir has since joined the New England JO as an associate member and has not participated in Namoi JO activities for a number of years.

During the early years following the establishment of the JOs there was strong support and participation by many government departments in line with the original intent. Attendance and participation by senior government representatives has been in decline over several years to the point where it has now become almost non-existent. In addition, the governance framework required to be implemented and adhered to by a JO almost mirrors that of a Council, meaning that it has to employ an Executive Officer, prepare separate financial statements, subject financial reports to external audit, conduct internal audits, submit annual returns to the Office of Local Government (OLG), and maintain an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC). All of this comes at great expense to the member Councils for very little benefit that could be otherwise achieved through an informal commitment to collaborate between organisations.

In 2021, the OLG engaged a consultant to review the effectiveness of the JO framework. In summary, the review found that while the underpinning legislative, regulatory and strategic collaboration frameworks provide a robust foundation for JOs to deliver effective regional governance, the financial viability of individual JOs has the potential to threaten the JO model overall. In particular, the report identified that JOs with small member numbers such as the Namoi JO (four active members) demonstrate the unequal income-generating capacity of some JOs, and the available capacity-building funding does not recognise this variability. The governance costs then consume a large proportion of member contributions leaving minimal funds for project delivery. Despite the recommendations made by the report relating to capacity building, financial assistance, increased attention and participation by State agencies, and subsidising some governance costs such as audit fees, nothing has eventuated to date.

For the above reasons the Board of the Namoi JO believes that the best option for our region is for the respective Councils to commit to an informal alliance that will deliver all of the same

opportunities to collaborate and advocate on regional issues without the time consuming and costly governance requirements imposed by the JO framework.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

If the Joint Organisation is dissolved, Council's Annual Membership will decrease.

(c) Legal Implications

Any decision by the Minister will only take effect once gazetted.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

(T5) Build Strategic Partnerships

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

Nil

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Nil

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 PROPOSED ATTENDANCE AT WATERUSE SYMPOSIUM IN DENVER USA

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Proposed Attendance at WaterReuse Symposium in Denver USA”, Council

- (i) agree to the Manager, Projects, Strategy, and Infrastructure, Mrs Naomi Schipanski, attending, as part of the study delegation, to be led by the Water Services Association of Australia, the WaterReuse Symposium in Denver Colorado and secondary site visits, generally between 8 March 2024 and 25 March 2024; and*
- (ii) pay or reimburse costs associated with this trip in accordance with Council’s Staff Travel and Accommodation Policy.*

SUMMARY

The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) is leading an Australian/New Zealand study delegation to the USA in March 2024, to attend the WaterReuse Symposium in Denver Colorado, which is the pre-eminent conference globally on water recycling. WSAA’s proposal is to attend the Symposium and also arrange private site visits to places exploring or operating Purified Recycled Water facilities in America.

WSAA has issued an invitation for Council’s Manager, Strategy, Projects and Infrastructure to join the tour.

COMMENTARY

Councillors would be aware work continues on the proposed Water Purification Facility in Tamworth. The proposed plant will accept treated waste water from the new Baiada processing plant and the existing Baiada Rendering Plant, Teys Australia abattoir and the Thomas Foods International abattoir, purify that water and then return the purified water to those plants for use in processing. The proposed facility, should it proceed, will allow Baiada’s new processing plant to increase production by almost three times without placing any further demand on Tamworth’s reticulated water supply and, depending on how much the provision of purified water to Thomas Foods and Teys Australia processing plants reduces potable demand, will see a reduction in potable water use, improving water security for Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal.

Council’s Manager, Projects, Strategy and Infrastructure in the Water and Waste Directorate, Mrs Naomi Schipanski, has been managing this project. Sydney Water has recently opened a water purification facility in western Sydney and Mrs. Schipanski was invited to attend the

opening and tour the facility. Representatives from the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) also attended. Mrs. Schipanski took the opportunity to discuss Council's proposed facility with the WSAA representatives. and others attending.

WSAA has now approached Council advising it is leading an Australian/New Zealand study delegation to the United States of America (USA) in March 2024, to attend the WaterReuse Symposium in Denver Colorado, which is the pre-eminent conference globally on water recycling. As well as attending the Symposium, WSAA is also proposing to attend sites in Texas and at least five Californian sites with a mix of drinking & non-drinking, Indirect Potable Reuse/Direct Potable Reuse, existing vs pilot plants, Reverse Osmosis vs carbon train treatment processes, groundwater vs surface water and regional and urban facilities.

WSAA has extended an invitation for Mrs Schipanski to join the study tour.

The full schedule of the Symposium is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

WSAA advises that at present the following have agreed to take part.

- 1 WSAA representative – Danielle Francis – delegation leader. Danielle, is a recognised leader in the field of water recycling and was invited by the US Water Research Foundation to be on the Global Project Advisory Committee of its recent project on Best Practice Community Engagement for Purified Recycled Water;
- 1 representative from Sydney Water;
- 1 representative from Yarra Valley Water;
- 1 representative from Watercare (Auckland);
- 1 representative from South Australia Water;
- 1 representative from Beca Hunter H2O;
- 1 representative from Melbourne Water; and
- possibly 2 others

At this time, it is proposed delegates would leave Australia on 8 March 2024, arriving in Denver on 9 March 2024, and leave Los Angeles on 23 March 2024, arriving in Sydney on 25 March 2024.

Water recycling/purification is considered one of the key measures Councils, and government, will have to consider/implement in the future to address water security issues generally, including the effects of climate change, particularly for communities west of the Great Dividing Range. Through its invitation, WSAA has recognised the innovative approach Council has shown in identifying/considering the option of water purification and through the work already completed, the difficulties in getting such a proposal to construction and operation. Mrs Schipanski has been central to the Water Purification Project to date and it is considered, accepting the invitation for her to be part of the delegation, can only assist Council as it continues to seek support, from both State and Federal Governments and the wider community for this project, and similar projects, in the future.

(a) Policy Implications

Council has a policy titled – Staff Travel and Accommodation Policy. The policy details, amongst other things, the standard of seat allowable for air travel and accommodation. Estimates of the cost of attendance reflect this policy.

In addition, the Policy requires, as does the NSW Local Government Act, any international travel by Council employees to be approved by Council via a formal Council report.

Finally, the Policy requires employees attending an international conference, seminar or meeting to provide a report to Council within three months of attendance.

(b) Financial Implications

The estimated cost to Council, should Council agree with the recommendation and authorise Mrs Schipanski to attend as part of the delegation, is detailed below.

Item	Details	Est Cost
Flights	Including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • return flights Sydney to Tamworth; • return flights Sydney to USA; and • domestic flights within the USA – possibly Denver - Texas and Texas - California 	\$10,000
Accommodation	Based on 14 nights' accommodation	\$4,500
Symposium Registration		\$1,800
Other expenses	Meals etc	\$2,300
		\$17,600

Should Council agree with the recommendation, the costs associated with Mrs Schipanski attending the study delegation, costs will be funded from the existing budget allocated to the preconstruction activities associated with the proposed Water Purification Facility.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 1 – Our water security

8.2 RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE FACILITIES - PROPOSED CHANGES TO GREEN WASTE FEES AT RURAL WASTE FACILITIES

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE
AUTHOR: Tess Dawson, Manager, Waste and Resource Recovery
Reference: Item 8.6 to Ordinary Council 28 November 2023 - Minute No 296/23

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Resource Recovery and Waste Facilities - Proposed Changes to Green Waste Fees at Rural Waste Facilities”, Council:

- (i) agree to reduce 2023/2024 fees associated with green waste disposal at rural waste facilities as detailed in the report;*
- (ii) reduce the fee structure from six classifications for green waste to three classifications as detailed in the report; and*
- (iii) introduce a new minimum charge of \$5.00 for green waste only.*

SUMMARY

Two objections were received from the public during the 28-day public submission period in response to the “Resource Recovery and Waste Facilities – Proposed Changes to Green Waste Fees at Rural Waste Facilities” report presented to Council on the 28 November 2023. This report presents the results of the public exhibition and seeks Council’s direction on adopting the new charges and fee structure.

COMMENTARY

The report presented to Council on the 28 November 2023 recommended: -

- reducing 2023/2024 fees associated with green waste disposal, as per the table below;
- reducing the fee structure from six classifications for green waste to three classifications, as per the table below; and
- introducing a new minimum charge of \$5.00 for green waste only.

Clean green waste ute/car per visit	5	Commercial - clean green waste ute/car per visit	5
Clean green waste ute/car with single axle) per visit	10	Commercial - clean green waste ute/car with single axle per visit	10
Clean green waste ute/car with double axle per visit	15	Commercial - clean green waste ute/car with double axle per visit	15

During the 28-day public exhibition period (12 December 2023 to 10 January 2024) an email campaign was completed with a total of 598 emails sent to recipients, which resulted in a 9.53% click through rate. The project report summary is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

There were 141 visits to the online project page, resulting in nine contributions being made by way of the online form. Submissions were not received by another means.

Of the nine submissions received from the public, two object to any charges for green waste disposal. Four submissions support the recommendations and the remaining did not address the proposed changes.

The full details of the submissions received are **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**.

With consideration to the summary information presented above, the recommendation to Council is to adopt the new charges and fee structure for green waste fees at Rural Waste Facilities.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

An income loss of \$4,500 excluding GST per month is estimated, however presentation rates of green waste are anticipated to increase with reduced fees and charges.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Complete.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 6 – Working with and protecting our environment.

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 2024 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Lisa May, Office of the General Manager Administrator

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

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

- (i) nominate Councillor representatives to attend this conference as appropriate; and*
- (ii) determine whether any motions will be submitted for inclusion in the conference business paper.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government Conference to be held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra over 2- 4 July 2024.

COMMENTARY

Convened annually by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), the National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government is the peak annual event for Local Government, attracting in excess of 800 Mayors and Councillors each year. The Assembly provides a unique opportunity for Local Government to engage directly with Federal Government, to develop national policy and to influence the future direction of our councils and our communities.

The 2024 NGA will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra over 2-4 July 2024 with the theme being “Building Community Trust”. While the Assembly is not until July, accommodation is reserved with registration and can book out early, therefore to secure rooms close to the National Convention Centre it is recommended that Councillors nominate to attend as soon as possible.

To assist Council to identify motions that address the theme of the 2024 NGA, the ALGA Secretariat has prepared a short discussion paper, a copy of which is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

- 1) be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
- 2) not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications;
- 3) be consistent with the themes of the NGA;
- 4) complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association;
- 5) be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association;

- 6) propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to act on something;
- 7) not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government;
- 8) address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities;
- 9) not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another; and
- 10) be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motions are due by 11:59pm on Friday, 29 March 2024, electronically in the prescribed format.

(a) Policy Implications

In accordance with Council's Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors Policy, authorisation of attendance of Councillors to the NGA must be by way of a resolution of Council.

(b) Financial Implications

The estimated cost per delegate will be in the vicinity of \$3,300, which includes registration fees of \$1,200, accommodation at \$350-\$400 per night, and air travel at \$900. There is sufficient operational budget within the Councillor's conferences and seminars budget to fund Councillor attendance at the NGA.

(c) Legal Implications

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

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.2 BANK GUARANTEE FACILITY LIMIT INCREASE

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Leah Sing, Expenditure Accountant

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Bank Guarantee Facility Limit Increase”, Council:

- (i) authorises an increase in the bank guarantee limit from \$100,000 to \$300,000;*
- (ii) authorises the affixing of the Seal of the Council to all Documents relating to increasing the Bank Guarantee Facility to \$300,000.*

SUMMARY

Tamworth Regional Council (Council) currently has a Bank Guarantee Facility with National Australia Bank for \$100,000. It has become necessary for contractual reasons to increase this limit to \$300,000.

COMMENTARY

Council has had a bank guarantee facility with a maximum limit of \$100,000 for many years with the National Australia Bank. The guarantee has been infrequently used to satisfy contractual arrangements. Council at the date of this report has two bank guarantees on issue totalling \$20,000 with Essential Energy in regards to easements; these guarantees do not due expire until 2027. The request to increase the Bank Guarantee limit has been prompted by a requirement for a bank guarantee to the value of \$89,414.87 in connection to the lease of the Capitol Theatre. This lease condition is currently unable to be fulfilled as it would take the total of Council’s bank guarantees to \$109,414.87 which exceeds the current maximum limit of \$100,000. An increase to \$300,000 is requested to allow capacity for any future requests for a Bank Guarantee that Council may receive.

(a) Policy Implications

NIL

(b) Financial Implications

NIL - Bank Guarantees are generally secured by a term deposit of the same value however this is not required for Local Government organisations.

(c) Legal Implications

The Seal of Council may be affixed to the Bank Guarantee facility limit increase. The Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, section 400(4), requires that the seal of Council must not be affixed to a document unless the document relates to the business of the Council and the Council has resolved (by resolution specifically referring to the document) that the Seal be so affixed.

(d) Community Consultation

NIL

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus area 9 - Open and collaborative leadership

9.3 SPONSORSHIP OF START-UP LANE SEGMENT AT AGSMART CONNECT 2024

DIRECTORATE: GROWTH AND PROSPERITY
AUTHOR: Sam Uswatta, Business Analyst
Anna Newell, Team Leader Economic Development and Investment

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Sponsorship of Start-Up Lane Segment at AgSmart Connect 2024”, Council approves: sponsorship of \$10,000 for the ‘Start-Up Lane’ segment at AgSmart Connect 2024 funded from the Event Reserve

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Tamworth Regional Council (TRC) to financially support the ‘Start-Up Lane’ segment of AgSmart Connect 2024 via a sponsorship of \$10,000. AgSmart Connect, a regionally-significant agri-tech and agri-industry event, will be held at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC) on 6 and 7 March 2024.

The sponsorship of the above segment is beneficial to the TRC in several aspects. These include alignment with existing strategies, supporting greater technology awareness within Tamworth’s agriculture sector and helping Tamworth to be promoted both as an agriculture hub and an innovative destination among the agri-industry and investors.

COMMENTARY

AgSmart Connect, organised by ACM Rural Events (which also organises several other regional-scale agri-industry events), is considered one of Australia’s leading regional agri-tech events. The event will be held 6 and 7 March 2024, at the TRECC.

The organisers expect the event to attract over 5,000 attendees in-person and online this year over the two days, including farmers (primary audience), investors, agri-tech start-ups, exhibitors of agri equipment and agri entrepreneurs. The event’s primary purpose is education and it will include several seminars and panel discussions for this purpose. It will additionally provide opportunity for sales and networking by featuring product demonstrations etc.

This year, the event will focus strongly on technology and innovation in agriculture (agri-tech). In the last edition of the event held in Tamworth in 2022, a survey of participants revealed a high level of interest in technology-related topics like artificial intelligence (AI), farm technology, drones, biotech etc.

In response, for the first time in the event’s history, AgSmart Connect 2024 will include a segment called ‘Start-Up Lane’. Through this, 24 agri-tech start-ups will be given opportunity and space at AgSmart Connect to present their innovations to attendees (including potential investors) as well as obtain feedback from users (farmers) to further improve their products and ideas. As a result, the event will be beneficial to both farmers (who can improve awareness) and agri-tech start-ups (who will receive exposure, access to investors and opportunity to test their offerings) as well as the industry at large.

The ‘Start-Up Lane’ segment is relevant to the Tamworth region in several aspects.

Firstly, 'Start-Up Lane' closely aligns with the Blueprint 100 Our Community Plan 2023 to 2033 (especially under focus areas three and five). Accordingly, the activities/projects included in TRC's Annual Operating Plan (AOP) includes establishing a high technology agribusiness cluster and developing/hosting agri-tech events.

Secondly, research done during the 2022 edition of the event shows that 75% of the visitors to AgSmart Connect visited for the primary purpose of seeking information. Since agriculture and food processing accounted for more than 15% of Tamworth's economic value in 2022, supporting awareness and adoption of new technology by these industries is highly beneficial to the Tamworth region. 38% (or more than one third) of those who attended AgSmart Connect in 2022 were Tamworth residents, while more than half lived less than 100km from Tamworth.

In addition, the event offers significant opportunity for promoting Tamworth as an agriculture hub and an innovative/forward-looking region. It should be noted that the agri-tech focused investor group 'AgTech Angel Investor Network' is collaborating with ACM Rural Events on the 'Start-Up Lane' segment. As a result, the association with 'Start-Up Lane' provides an opportunity for Tamworth to be promoted among investors.

Additionally, publications and content of AgSmart Connect's organiser (ACM Rural Events – which promotes the event) reaches a large segment of the agriculture industry including a monthly audience of more than 400,000 via print and 170,000 via online media.

Supporting the event and encouraging the organisers to continue hosting it in Tamworth is also beneficial to the region. AgSmart Connect is a large-scale event (attended by thousands of people) which has a significant economic impact, as shown by the estimate below.

	Output (\$)	Value Added (\$)	Local Jobs (Annual Jobs)
Total impact of AgSmart Connect on Tamworth region's economy	1,106,516	526,155	9

Source: economy.id calculator using the following assumptions:

- event type: business;
- event range: regional;
- event duration: two days;
- average spend per day: \$148 (domestic daytrip average spend per visitor to NSW New England North West in December 2022); and
- attendance per day: 2,500.

Considering these wide-ranging benefits, sponsoring the 'Start-Up Lane' segment at AgSmart Connect 2024 at a cost of \$10,000, is considered a worthwhile investment.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

One-off sponsorship of \$10,000 for the 'Start-Up Lane' segment at AgSmart Connect 2024 to be funded from the Event Reserve

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 3: Prosperity and Innovation

Focus Area 8: A Strong and Vibrant Identity

9.4 REVISED INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING 2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Anna Russell, Manager - Strategy and Performance
Rami Abu-Shaqra, Chief Financial Officer

Reference: Item 9.11 Ordinary Council 12 December 2023 - Minute No 347
/ 23

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "Revised Integrated Planning & Reporting 2022/2023 Annual Report", Council endorses the 2022/2023 Annual Report, as revised.

SUMMARY

Council endorsed the Annual Report at its Ordinary meeting on 12 December 2023.

Section 2 of the Annual Report contains Statutory Information; which includes legislated requirements reporting under the NSW Local Government Act (1993). That section should have included reporting on current Special Rate Variations (SRV) including the Additional Special Variation (ASV) that was approved for Council in 2022/2023.

Despite being included in the draft version, an oversight led to the omission of that information from the final version that was tabled before and endorsed by Council on 12 December 2023. This information has now been included at page 23 of Section 2 of the 2022/2023 Annual Report which is now complete and **ATTACHED** refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

COMMENTARY

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Community consultation or public exhibition is not required for Annual Reporting.

An updated electronic copy of the reports will be placed on Council's website and an electronic URL link will be forwarded to the Office of Local Government

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.5 ADOPTION OF AN UPDATED OUR RESOURCING PLAN INCLUDING THE 2023/2024 - 2033/2034 LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN, AS REVISED AND ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR: Rami Abu-Shaqra, Chief Financial Officer

Reference: Item 9.8 to Ordinary Council 28 November 2023 - Minute No 305/23

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Adoption of An Updated Our Resourcing Plan Including The 2023/2024 - 2033/2034 Long Term Financial Plan, As Revised and Asset Management Strategy”, Council:

- (i) adopt the revised Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) for 2023/2024 to 2033/2034 and the Asset Management Plan (Strategy) as part of Council’s updated Our Resourcing Plan, ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 1; and*
- (ii) publish the updated Our Resourcing Plan on Council’s website.*

SUMMARY

On 12 September 2023, Council resolved to publicly exhibit the 2023/2024 to 2033/2034 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) as part of an updated Our Resourcing Plan for 28 days in preparation for a potential application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a permanent Special Variation (SV) of 18.5 per cent in 2024/2025 and 15.0 per cent in 2025/2026.

On 28 November 2023 and following the community consultation, Council resolved to adopt the revised LTFP for 2023/2024 to 2033/2034 and the Asset Management Plan (Strategy) as part of Council’s updated Our Resourcing Plan, and publish the updated Our Resourcing Plan on Council’s website.

Days before the Council meeting and after Updated Our Resourcing Plan being annexed in a Council report, IPART announced the 2024/2025 rate peg on 21 November 2023. The rate peg for Tamworth Regional Council (Council) (i.e. 4.9%) was different than the one assumed in the LTFP within the Updated Our Resourcing Plan (i.e. 3.5%). Upon contacting IPART, Council, and all councils across NSW who are planning to apply for an SV for 2024/2025 are required to reflect the announced rate peg in their models and plans before lodging their application. This is why a revised Our Resourcing Plan, which has a revised LTFP that reflects the new rate peg for 2024/2025, is now being presented for adoption by Council.

COMMENTARY

In addition to the amendments above, during the final reviews of the revised Our Resourcing Plan and LTFP, Council staff identified minor administrative errors that have now been rectified. The errors had no significant impact on the outcome of the Updated Our Resourcing Plan and incorporated LTFP. The major difference is due to changing the rate peg assumption as per IPART notification late November 2023.

No changes took place in parts two and three of the Updated Our Resourcing Plan; Workforce Plan and Assets Management Plan (Strategy)

The revised Updated Our Resourcing Plan is **ATTACHED** refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil; amending the models to reflect the IPART announced rate peg of 4.9% instead of the 3.5% assumed earlier will not change our financial modelling of the sustainability scenarios. The SV application will still be based on 36.3% cumulative rate increase over two years of 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 inclusive of rate peg, regardless of what that rate peg is. This change will only impact the base case, which is based on rate revenue increased by the rate peg.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

In accordance with Council's resolution on 12 September 2023, a comprehensive engagement and communications program was delivered to raise awareness of the need for an SV. As mentioned above, amending the LTFP to reflect the recently announced rate peg of 2024/2025 will not change the extra funds to be raised by the preferred SV option, being the Sustainability Scenario – Two-year SV.

Therefore, no further community consultation is required for the revised Updated Our Resourcing Plan including the revised LTFP

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 - Open and Collaborative Leadership

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 TAMWORTH CITY CENTRE WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES - 16 NOVEMBER 2023

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Gina Vereker, Director Liveable Communities

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Tamworth City Centre Working Group Meeting Minutes - 16 November 2023”, Council:

- (i) receive and note the minutes;*
- (ii) commence the process to formally rename Fitzroy Street between Peel Street and Kable Avenue “Fitzroy Place”.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Minutes of the Tamworth City Centre Working Group (the Group) meeting held on 16 November 2023 and to provide an overview of the meeting outcomes.

COMMENTARY

The Minutes of the Tamworth City Centre Working Group Meeting held 16 November 2023, are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**. The main items discussed at the meeting are detailed below:

- the Group agreed to recommend that Council commence the process to formally rename Fitzroy Street between Peel Street and Kable Avenue “Fitzroy Place”;
- Council’s Director Liveable Communities reported that no major Development Applications are currently being assessed for the CBD with the exception of the Marius Street development, however a number of significant proposals are in various stages of discussion with the intention of a Development Application to be lodged;
- the Group discussed CBD Living and potential housing developments, and the challenges developers face in this area in relation to necessary upgrades to fire safety and disabled access;
- the Group discussed the need for more commercial parking in the CBD, ideally a multi-storey carpark; and
- Council’s Director Liveable Communities presented an overview of the Tamworth Regional Housing Strategy, which is currently undergoing early consultation.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Nil

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

The Group includes twelve community and professional members who represent a broad range of businesses. The Group provides strategic advice to the Council in relation to matters pertaining to the Tamworth City Centre and makes recommendations regarding priority areas for development.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – A liveable built environment.

Focus Area 3 – Prosperity and innovation.

10.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2024-2028

DIRECTORATE: GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

AUTHOR: Hamish Slade, Economic Development Officer/Casual Events Officer

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2028”, Council:

- (i) formally adopts the Youth Strategy and Action Plan; and,*
- (ii) requests that a report is provided on the results of each Annual Youth Survey for the life of the strategy*

SUMMARY

Tamworth Regional Council (Council) has completed the development and delivery of its first ever Youth Strategy (Strategy) and Action Plan (**ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURES 1** and **2**) to service the region’s youth for the next four years. The Youth Strategy has been designed and delivered via extensive consultation with the Youth Council, regional youth, youth service providers and other key stakeholders to ensure the Strategy and associated actions reflect the current and changing needs of our region’s youth.

COMMENTARY

The Strategy and Action plan (2024-2028) presents five key focus areas; four of which have been adopted directly from the NSW Department of Youth’s – *Regional Youth Action Plan* and one action area being specifically developed by the Tamworth Regional Youth Council.

The focus areas in the Strategy and Action Plan are *Life Ready, Wellbeing, Access and Connectivity, Community, and Identity*. With over 500 individual responses to surveys and consultations, the Strategy has been designed specifically to address the needs of our region’s young people and to create a place and community that encourages young people to stay in the Tamworth Region. Key feedback and insight received included:

- Parks and spaces across the region where young people feel safe and can enjoy time with their friends.
-

- Better transport options from the surrounding towns and villages to Tamworth city during the holidays.
- More volunteering opportunities for young people under the age of 18.
- Career and Educational Expos held across the region more often to introduce youth to more opportunities than are locally available to them.

These insights together with our region's recognised strengths and supportive regional and state frameworks, objectives and key performance indicators will form an integral part of the implementation of the framework over the next four years.

Sustained and inclusive action will drive the progress of the Strategy and Action Plans and, as such, actions from the Tamworth Regional Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2028 will be annually reported over the noted period to remain relevant and embed a culture of inclusion and action.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

It is anticipated that a number of objectives and related actions will require funding allocation. An active approach will be taken to seek funding opportunities as they arise.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

The Tamworth Regional Youth Strategy and Action Plan has been created through extensive consultation with youth across the Region, key stakeholders as well as the wider community. Over 500 individual submissions were received during the engagement process and in response to surveys, including during the Stand Tall Event.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Blueprint 100 – Our Community Plan

Focus Area 4: Resilient and Diverse Communities.

Focus Area 5: Connect our Region and its Citizens

Focus Area 7: Celebrate our Cultures and Heritage

Focus Area 8: A Strong and Vibrant Identity

11 REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

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

PROPOSED SUBLEASE AGREEMENT FOR COUNCIL OWNED PROPERTY AT BRIDGE STREET, TAMWORTH

DIRECTORATE: GROWTH AND PROSPERITY
AUTHOR: Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer

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

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorisation to enter into a sublease agreement in relation to an existing lease over Council owned property as described in the body of this report.

TENDER T168/2023 - OUTCOME - DESIGN OF THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE AND NORTHERN INLAND CENTRE OF SPORT AND HEALTH

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Callum Fletcher, Senior Project Engineer
Reference: Item 8.1 to Ordinary Council 8 August 2023 – Minute No 188/23
Item 12.6 to Ordinary Council 12 December 2023 - Minute No 355/23

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

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

SUMMARY

This report provides details on the tender outcome relating to tender T168/2023 associated with the design of the proposed Tamworth Regional Aquatic Centre (TRAC) and Northern Inland Centre of Sport and Health (NICSH). The preferred tenderer was awarded the contract under the General Manager's delegation due to timeframe limitations associated with the project grant funding deadlines and the limited ordinary Council meetings during

December 2023 and January 2024.

Background

Tamworth Regional Council (Council) is proposing to develop a major aquatic and sports health centre, which will include the TRAC and the NISCH.

The two existing seasonal swimming facilities in Tamworth are very nearly at the end of their useable life. They are both over 50 years old and despite regular maintenance and costly upkeep, are financially unsustainable. The structural components of the pools have degraded due to the age of the pools and the aggressive/corrosive environment of the treated pool water. Both pools will require high levels of maintenance and renewal going forward and this maintenance and renewal will ultimately costs millions of dollars for each pool.

Following consultation with the community, Council is now proposing to replace these aging facilities with a new modern aquatic and sports health facility. Additional funding is being sought from the Australian and NSW Governments. The State Government has already confirmed funding of \$15 million from the State's Centre of Excellence Funding program.

The new aquatic and sports health centre is proposed to be located within the Tamworth Sport and Entertainment Precinct, immediately to the west of the existing Tamworth Regional Hockey Centre. The new facility will provide year-round use and extensive complementary and commercially-beneficial components, with a total project budget of \$45 million as resolved by Council, refer Item 8.1 to Ordinary Council 8 August 2023 – Minute No 188/23. The indicative concept layout is **ATTACHED**, refer to **ANNEXURE 1**.

Tender Scope

A tender for the design of the TRAC and NISCH was advertised with a closing date of 14 December 2023. Tenderers were required to provide a schedule of prices for the works based on four phases. The first phase was the mandatory scope for the initial contract to progress the design to a stage suitable to accompany a Development Application for the facility. Phases two to four were included in the tender as optional and involve the staged development of the design through to a 90% stage. The increase in scope to include phases two to four will be subject to Council obtaining full project funding.

During each phase the scope generally requires the tenderer to:

- perform the role of the lead designer and coordinate all design sub-consultants;
- engage all required sub-consultants;
- prepare design drawings;
- prepare high embellishment general arrangement plans and 3D renders;
- participate in design and project meetings;
- participate in nominated Councillor workshops;
- prepare accompanying planning documents (phase one only);
- prepare construction specifications (phase two to four only); and
- prepare design reports (phase two to four only).

Due to project timeline restrictions, Council approved the General Manager to award the tender under delegation, refer Item 12.6 to Ordinary Council 12 December 2023 – Minute No

355/23.

The outcome of the tender assessment resulted in CO.OP Studio Pty Ltd (CO.OP) being selected as the preferred tenderer, with the record of assessment provided in the body of this report. Based on this assessment, the General Manager approved the contract be awarded to CO.OP.

A future report will be presented to Council seeking endorsement of the development design that will be produced by CO.OP, as well as to seek approval to submit a Development Application for the facility. The proposed funding plan for the delivery of the facility will also be the subject of a future Council report. The engagement of CO.OP to deliver the optional phase two to full design scope will be subject to the acceptance of the recommendations in these future Council reports and the project being fully funded.

Pending full funding and all approvals obtained for the project, it is planned that a design finalisation and construction tender will be advertised in late 2024 with project completion scheduled for mid-2026.

GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - 2022/2023

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Russell Webb, Mayor

2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (a) of the local Government Act 1993 on the grounds that the matter and information is personnel matters concerning particular individuals other than Councillors..

SUMMARY

This Mayoral Minute provides additional commentary on the report prepared by the Performance Review Panel (PRP) as part of the annual assessment of the General Manager's performance. The PRP met with the General Manager and undertook this assessment on 9 November 2023.