



# 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, 25-27 Fitzroy Street, Tamworth**, commencing at **6.30pm**.

## ORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA

**22 JULY 2025**

**PAUL BENNETT**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

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## Council

Meeting Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 8 July 2025, copies of which were circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of the Meeting.*

- 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Pecuniary Interest

Non Pecuniary Conflict of Interest

Political Donations

- 5 MAYORAL MINUTE**

Nil

- 6 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

### **OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS**

- 7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**

Nil

- 8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

#### **8.1 PEEL RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE

**AUTHOR:** Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

**Reference:** Item 8.2 to Ordinary Council 11 April 2023 - Minute No 72/23

Item 6.1 to Ordinary Council 27 May 2025 - Minute No 113/25

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Peel River Environmental Improvements”, Council:*

- (i) receive and note the report;*
- (ii) allocate \$40,000 from the General Fund Reserve for the removal of the former*

### **Jewry Street Causeway, and**

**(iii) request the Director Water and Waste allocate staff resources to the project as detailed in the report and provide further updates to Council as appropriate.**

## **SUMMARY**

This report provides Council an update on Peel River Environmental Improvements project commenced in 2023. The report provides outcome details of recent grant funding applied for Peel River improvements under the Australian Government's Urban Rivers Grant Program. The report also outlines the opportunity to align this project with Council's recently adopted motion of supporting the Yarriin: Culture, Fish and Flows – Galala (Paradise Weir) Case Study Project.

## **COMMENTARY**

At its Meeting of 11 April 2023, Council considered a report that included details of a Preliminary Environmental Assessment undertaken of the Peel River between Paradise Bridge and Jewry Street. The report considered existing Council infrastructure, land use, strategies and proposed projects. In addition, the project considered community events, engagement with community, and privately owned assets located in close proximity to the river. The study area is shown below:



The study considered how the Peel River is currently included in or could further enhance the following Council plans and strategies:

- Blueprint Strategy;
- Community Strategic Plan;
- Local Environmental Plan;
- Existing Heritage Assets;
- Flood/Stormwater Strategy;
- Active Transport Strategy;
- Bicentennial Park Master Plan;

- Viaduct Park Master Plan;
- Open Space Management Guide;
- Public Art Engagement Strategy;
- Sustainably Strategy – (previous 2017-2021 strategy noting this has recently been reviewed);
- Tamworth Tomorrow Strategy;
- Crime Prevention Strategy; and
- Office of Sport Strategic Plan.

The report identified initiatives and opportunities to improve environmental, economic and social benefits considering the following:

- protect and enhance the natural qualities of the river and its ecology;
- be inclusive;
- provide for a wider range of activities and interests than currently available;
- enable greater outcomes from existing planned and proposed Council investments;
- provide opportunities for relaxation and interaction and activity;
- incorporate safety in design;
- support learning and education, both formal and informal;
- Support walking and cycling; and
- connect the central business district to the parklands and the river areas.

The final report identified a number of potential opportunities to undertake restoration works along the Peel River in Tamworth. These opportunities include waterway uses, garden and landscaping uses, shared path trails, festivals and events and passive recreation. Overall, the report concluded it is likely that the restoration of Peel River would have significant socio-economic benefits for the community.

The report recommended potential further studies which could be undertaken to enhance the river benefits to the community. These studies include:

- traffic and parking study or survey to determine the use of the local streets and roads on the western side of the river, the need for parking, and the reasons people use the area (outside of formal sports activities). This study/survey is proposed as a result of the lack of parking adjacent to the river and the informal (use formed) tracks;
- pedestrian and bicycle movement study including movement between the central business district and the river areas, including number and location of road crossing points, paths across parklands, traversing the levee, and destinations on the river side;
- preparation of a waterway rehabilitation assessment and management plan to inform and guide the restoration of the river, that will support its ecology in typical flow and low flow periods;
- a detailed strategic land zone assessment of the appropriateness, benefits and utilisation of the existing land use zones and permitted activities, and the potential merit of a Waterway zoning and any additional activities, that may be applied to the river;

- community survey on other festivals that the community would be interested in attending, or existing events or interests that could be scaled up to larger events;
- as a side activity to the weir investigation, consider opportunities to create a water-based garden with boardwalk;
- for any initiative considered, to assess the individual and cumulative benefit of an additional pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the river;
- protection and management of the Flying Fox camp will be an important issue. It is recommended that some flowering species, such as White Box, be planted amongst more rapid-growing roosting tree species as part of a longer-term strategy to encourage Flying Fox away from less preferable areas; and
- ground based survey is recommended to confirm the extent of native vegetation and areas of potential habitat for/presence of threatened species when producing detailed designs with potential impacts or for targeting areas for regeneration.

The full Peel River Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report prepared by SMEC is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

In relation to the report prepared by SMEC, Council has studies, strategies and plans that relate to the majority of the above such as traffic, community events, strategic/town planning and Flying Fox management. From the review of existing strategies and plans, it was identified that a lack of detail regarding ground-based surveys in relation to the river ecology in particular native vegetation and areas of potential habitat. In addition, there is a lack of planning to engage with the local community and improve recreation access and environmental improvements on the river such as removal of exotic plant species and erosion protection of the river bank.

The report identified and recommend a number of specific projects Council could undertake to improve river environmental health and aesthetic value. These projects with a recommended course of action and current status are summarised below:

#### Removal of redundant Sewer Pipeline

A disused sewer pipe that historically transferred sewage from West Tamworth to the former Swan Street Wastewater Plant was identified in the Peel River. The pipeline was located in the bed of the river which and was potentially obstructing fish passage and recreational access during low river flows. The location and extent of the pipeline is shown below:



Given the potential environmental impacts of the pipeline, it was recommended that Council remove the pipeline from the river. Council subsequently resolved to provide funding for the project from the sewer reserve and the pipeline was removed from the river during September 2023.



#### Revitalisation of Jewry Park

Council has previously resolved to remove an area of land from the current lease at 6-44 Britten Road. Historically, the property was used as an effluent disposal area as part of the former Swan Street Wastewater Treatment Plant. The excised portion of land is shown in the plan below adjacent to Jewry Street parkland:



The report completed by SMEC identified the opportunity for revitalising Jewry Park, including controlling vehicle access and providing formalised parking with visibility and access to the Peel River. It was recommended that Council engage a consultant to prepare design options for Council consideration in relation to extending and improving Jewry Street Park. This work will incorporate the previously leased sewer operational land and will also consider options for rehabilitating the existing causeway within the river. This project was estimated to cost \$100,000 and proposed to be funded by the Wastewater Reserve.

To date, approximately \$20,000 has been spent on the project and work undertaken included the engagement of a consultant to develop a masterplan and staged project approach for the revitalisation of Jewry Street Park. Some preliminary site works have already been undertaken, including vegetation slashing and the installation of concrete blocks to restrict unauthorised vehicle access at the western end of the site. To develop a conceptual masterplan for the site, Council staff engaged with local stakeholders/users of the area including Tamworth Regional Landcare Association, OzFish, local fishing clubs, the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council Rangers, and NSW Department of Primary Industries Fisheries to collaboratively identify priority areas for enhancement and inform the development of the conceptual Jewry Street Park masterplan.

The project was placed on hold while Council staff pursued funding through the Australian Government's Urban Rivers Grant Program. This Program aims to support river improvement initiatives such as ecological surveys, riparian restoration, and recreational infrastructure upgrades. The Program has two funding streams: one for small to medium-sized projects (Stream 1) with projects value between \$150,000 and \$2 million and another for larger-scale projects (Stream 2) for projects valued between \$2 million and \$10 million. A grant application was made in February 2024 for Stream 1 of the Program. Council's application proposed to carry out restoration works on the Peel River and Jewry Street Park area within Tamworth. Council was advised that it was unsuccessful in the grant application process in December 2024. The Urban Rivers Grant Program is expected to reopen in 2026.

#### Restoration or Removal of Jewry Street Causeway

The report recommended to undertake further investigation work i.e. scoping and costing in relation to converting the old causeway downstream of Jewry Street Bridge into a weir with pedestrian bridge designed to pond water but allow fish passage. If this is not done, the

causeway will need to be repaired or removed as it is failing and causing significant river bank erosion. The location and extent of damage to the former causeway is shown below:



Given the extent of current damage to the causeway and river bank erosion, it is recommended that Council proceed with removing the majority of the old causeway to prevent further erosion and reduce the public safety risk and risk of further asset damage i.e., damage to the park internal road/carpark. A cost estimate of \$40,000 has been prepared for this project. As the asset to be removed is former transport related infrastructure, it is proposed to fund the project works from the General Fund.

Further to the above, at its Meeting of 27 May 2025, Council resolved to support a Notice of Motion regarding the *Tamworth Cultural Watering Place Case Study*, developed in partnership with Kamilaroi community members and the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Council agreed to allocate staff resources to prepare a draft action plan for the implementation of the recommendations/actions provided in the study.

Since this resolution of Council, staff have met with NSW Department of Primary Industries staff to gain better understanding of the study and to identify how the environmental improvements currently being undertaken by Council can be aligned and integrated in to this project. From these meetings it is proposed that Council align its previous/current river environmental works with the *Tamworth Cultural Watering Place Case Study*. An example of how both project initiatives can be aligned is provided in the following table.

	<b>Peel River Environmental Improvements Recommendation</b>	<b>Corresponding Yarriin Waterways Case Study Objective(s)</b>
1	Traffic & parking study to determine informal use and needs on the western side of the river	Objective 1 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/ Gomeroi Gamilaraay people continue to care for Country, taking the lead on caring for country projects.
2	Pedestrian & bike movement study between CBD and river, including crossing points and levee access	Objective 1 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/ Gomeroi Gamilaraay people continue to care for Country, taking the lead on caring for country projects.

3	Waterway rehabilitation assessment and management plan to support ecology during typical and low flow	Objective 2 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay knowledge and science are integrated into native guya management decisions and practice.  Objective 3 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay people have a voice in decisions and are partners in guya management in the Peel valley.
4	Strategic land zone assessment of existing uses and potential waterway zoning	Objective 3 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay people have a voice in decisions and are partners in guya management in the Peel valley.
5	Community survey on interest in festivals/events or upscaling existing ones	Objective 1 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay people continue to care for Country, taking the lead on caring for country projects.
6	Water-based garden with boardwalk as a side project	Objective 4 - Knowledge is shared and Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay maintain cultural practice on Country (education, both ways, for all).
7	Flying Fox habitat management using targeted tree planting (e.g. White Box)	Objective 2 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay knowledge and science are integrated into native guya management decisions and practice.  Objective 3 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay people have a voice in decisions and are partners in guya management in the Peel valley.
8	Ground-based survey of native vegetation and potential threatened species habitat	Objective 2 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay knowledge and science are integrated into native guya management decisions and practice.  Objective 3 - Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi/Gomeroi/Gamilaraay people have a voice in decisions and are partners in guya management in the Peel valley.

By aligning the projects, it is considered there would be a greater opportunity for grant funding to be realised. In addition, the overall project will provide potential opportunity to work with universities in respect to ongoing environmental studies and management programs for the river.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Council has resolved to allocate staff to staff resources to prepare a draft action plan for the implementation of the *Yarriin: Culture, Fish and Flows – Galala (Paradise Weir) Case Study*. For the project to proceed, it is expected that grant funding from other levels of Government would be required. Further reports to Council will be provided as the project progresses.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Should Council agree with aligning the projects detailed in the report, the initial stage of the project continuation would be for Council staff to meet with NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development staff to develop a project delivery plan. This would include the development of a community engagement plan to facilitate the project delivery. It is considered this will be key to a successful project outcome and increasing the opportunity for grant funding to be provided for the project.

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Area 6 – Working With and Protecting Our Environment

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## **8.2 TAMWORTH WATER NETWORK LEAK DETECTION PROGRAM**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE

**AUTHOR:** Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Tamworth Water Network Leak Detection Program”, Council receive and note the report.*

### **SUMMARY**

This report provides Council a summary of recent water network leak detection undertaken throughout Tamworth, Kootingal and Moonbi as part of the NSW Governments Active Water Leak Detection Program.

### **COMMENTARY**

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has been implementing an Active Leak Detection Program within NSW since 2022. The program involves specialist water network leak detection contractors undertaking ground surveying to identify water leaks using acoustic technologies i.e., by using listening devices, water leaks can be identified and exact locations determined to allow repairs to be undertaken. The program has been implemented in over 60 Regional Council areas throughout NSW between 2022 and 2024, identifying up to 7,500 megalitres per year in water savings. Council has previously participated in the program undertaking water leak detection of all of its regional water networks in 2022.

As part of the current round of the program that commenced in January 2025, water leak detection was undertaken in Tamworth, Kootingal and Moonbi between 10 May and 19 June 2025. Leak detection was undertaken on approximately 623 kilometres of water mains by specialist contractor Aqua Analytics. The project was fully funded by the NSW State

Government with Council providing resources to assist in delivering the project. Any required leak repairs will be performed by Council operators at Council's cost.

A summary of the project outcomes are as follows:

- total leaks identified = 120 - total leak volume 485 litres per minute;
- network leaks (prior to water meter) = 99 with a total leak volume 464 litres per minute; and
- Customer side leaks (post water meter) = 21 with a total leak volume 21 litres per minute.

Identified network leaks have been allocated to operations staff for repairs. Customer side leaks have previously been identified through Council's automated water meter customer potential leak alert and notifications system i.e., these properties have already received advice that their property has a potential water leak to be investigated.

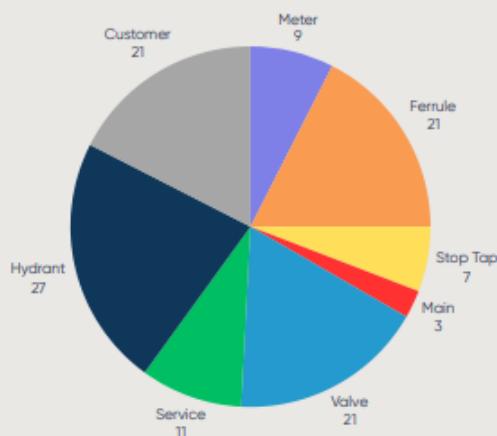
The following project report summary was provided by Aqua Analytics.



# INSIGHT REPORT

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Number of Leaks by Asset Type (120)



## LEAKAGE STATISTICS

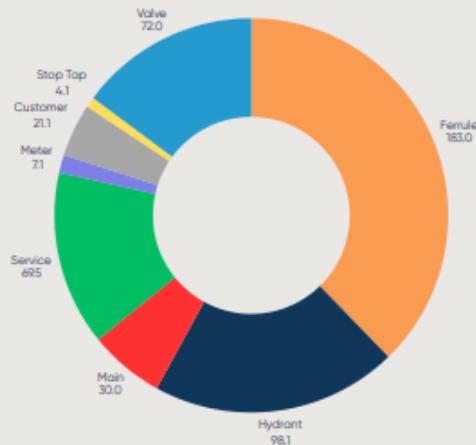
- We have located a total of 99 network-side leaks over the course of the survey. Tamworth has approx. 0.16 network leaks per kilometre, which is lower than the NSW regional median of 0.25. The network-side leaks have a total volume of 464 L/min (244 ML/year).
- The Council also has a network leakage rate of 1.07 kilolitres per kilometre of mains, which is lower than the NSW regional median of 2.15.
- Please see the succeeding pages for additional insights about the council's water network and the leakage overview map.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Aqua Analytics has completed the leak detection survey on Tamworth Regional Council's water network from 10 May to 19 June 2025. Approximately 623 km of water mains have been inspected for the project.

A total of 120 leaks have been found, with a combined volume of 485 litres per minute (255 ML/year)\*. Please see the breakdown of leak volume per asset class on the chart below.

## Leakage Volume per Asset Class (litres per minute)



**0.16**

Network Leaks  
Per Km

0.25  
Median NSW Regional

**0.03**

Customer Leaks  
Per Km

0.125  
Median NSW Regional

**1.07**

kL/km/day

2.15  
Median NSW Regional

As detailed in the report, the performance of Council's water network is significantly better i.e., lower water losses than that other NSW Regional Council areas. The report identified that network leaks in kilolitres per day was approximately 50% lower than the median water loss of other Regional Councils. In addition, the number of customer leaks identified per kilometre of water main was 24% of the median of other Regional Councils. This provides assurance that Council's recent implementation of automated water meters and associated

customer notification processes for advising of potential water leaks is achieving good results.

The total annual water losses of 255 megalitres per year represents approximately a 3% loss of all treated water produced in the past 12 months. Generally, industry best practice targets a network water loss or unaccounted water of less than 10%.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

The project was funded by the NSW State Government at no cost to Council. Any leak repairs will be funded by existing water operations budget.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Area 1 – Our Water Security

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**8.3 IPART's DETERMINATION OF WATER NSW'S AND THE WATER ADMINISTRATION MINISTERIAL CORPORATION'S BULK WATER CHARGES**

**DIRECTORATE:** WATER AND WASTE

**AUTHOR:** Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

**Reference:** Item 8.2 to Ordinary Council 26 November 2024 - Minute No 322/24

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “IPART’s Determination of Water NSW’s and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation’s Bulk Water Charges, Council receive and note the report.*

**SUMMARY**

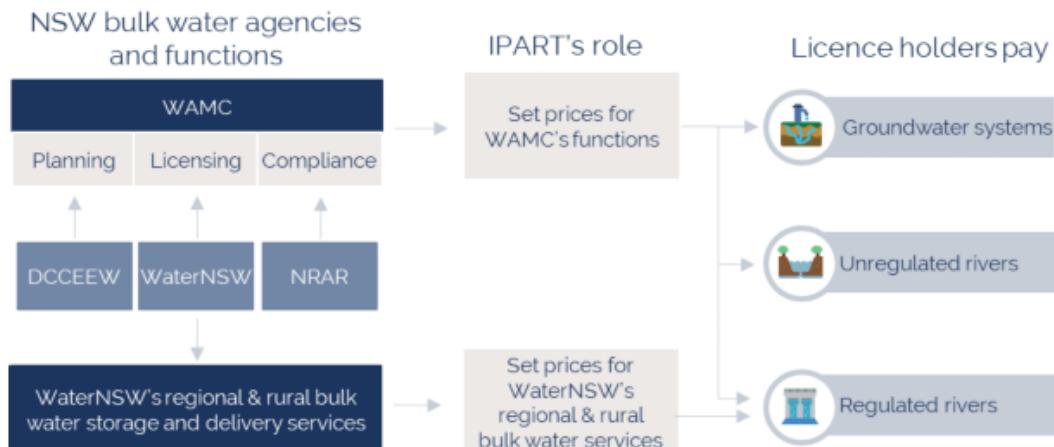
The NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) has made a final determination in relation to the maximum charges Water NSW can charge for bulk water access across NSW, commencing 1 July 2025, and is yet to hand down its final determination with respect to water charges payable to the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC) will levy for bulk water across NSW commencing 1 July 2025.

**COMMENTARY**

Council pays charges to two State Government entities for access to bulk water, both surface and groundwater – Water NSW and the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation

(WAMC). As both entities are monopoly providers, the charges levied are subject to review by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

The graphic below shows the relationship between WAMC and Water NSW and IPART's role.



a. DCCEEW is the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.  
b. NRAR is the NSW Natural Resources Access Regulator.

Water NSW supplies Council with bulk water from regulated rivers and streams, which, for Council, include the Namoi Valley (part Manilla and all Barraba supply) and the Peel Valley (Chaffey Dam supply for Tamworth).

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) and WaterNSW provide services on behalf of WAMC. DCCEEW retains responsibility for setting water management policies and undertaking water planning in NSW. WaterNSW is responsible for undertaking WAMC's licensing functions, providing metering services and account management services to water management customers in NSW. NRAR is the independent water regulator.

In November 2024, IPART released an Issues Paper associated with its review of rural bulk water prices levied by both WaterNSW and the WAMC for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030. Council considered a report on the issues paper at its Meeting of 26 November 2024.

Key points to note from the issues paper are detailed below.

#### Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (WAMC)

- the increase in charges payable by Council to the WAMC across all of supplies under the proposed charges detailed in the issues paper (based on average annual volumes of water accessed from WaterNSW Dams) would increase as follows:

2024-2025	\$129,317; and
2029-2030	\$258,310

This is an increase of 99.7% - not including inflation;

- the WAMC proposed the NSW Government pay a larger subsidy to avoid price shocks and the proposed prices included this increased subsidy; and

- the WAMC proposed changes to non-urban metering charges. All Council's licensed access points, in regulated, unregulated and groundwater water sources have been upgraded, at Council's cost to include meters which comply with NSW Government requirements. Despite Council paying for the installation and/or upgrade of the meters, Council would be charged an annual charge per license and/or meter for ongoing administration of the metering system. WAMC proposed increases in these annual charges range from 34.7% to 2.5%.

### Water NSW

- WaterNSW proposed that charges should rise such that the total cost payable by Council to WaterNSW across all of supplies would increase (based on average annual volumes of water accessed from WaterNSW Dams) as follows:

2024-2025	\$1,343,320; and
2029-2030	\$6,080,384

This is an increase of 353% - not including inflation.

- WaterNSW also proposed several other changes including:
  - a revenue cap;
  - side constraint mechanism; and
  - three alternative pricing proposals.

Having considered the report Council resolved to prepare a submission to IPART on the Issues Paper and the proposed increases, and the submission was lodged.

Rather than follow the previous process for determination of prices, which includes a draft determination and then final determination, IPART released an Information Paper titled - Prices for Water NSW Bulk Water Services. This Information Paper was released on 14 May 2025, and IPART requested feedback by 3 June 2025. The information paper considers the submissions IPART received (including Council's) from 2024 Issues Paper.

The IPART Information Paper proposed limits on price increases, for WaterNSW charges, over the next three years to June 2028. In summary, it proposed to set a three year draft determination for Rural Valleys based on WaterNSW current prices indexed for inflation plus some key safety expenditure priorities. For rural valley customers the proposed increases were as follows:

- 1.9% plus inflation from 1 July 2025, and then by inflation only on 1 July 2026 and 1 July 2027.

IPART intended these prices would be in place until June 2028, unless subsequent work by WaterNSW and IPART and discussion with Government, enables new price determinations earlier. It would also be open to WaterNSW to seek new price determinations at any time during the determination period.

Any new determinations would be made by the Tribunal only after IPART issues a draft report, seeks and considers submissions and holds a public hearing. IPART is able to commence this process at any time during the determination period. With a three year pricing determination the next WaterNSW operating licence review and pricing review would be scheduled to be conducted in 2027-2028. IPART will engage with WaterNSW and other

stakeholders to look at options so that there is sufficient time and resources for both reviews to be completed. In IPART's Information Paper, IPART proposed limiting price increases to CPI, plus specific increases for key safety upgrades including crane and electrical safety, the new Dams Safety Levy, and initial funding to progress safety works at Warragamba Dam (Sydney Catchment stakeholders only).

The timeframe provided by IPART for feedback did not allow sufficient time for the preparation of a Council report and seek direction from Council in relation to IPART's proposed charges prior to 3 June 2025.

Under the Information Paper proposal charges levied by WaterNSW (based on average annual volumes of water accessed from Water NSW Dams) and assuming an annual inflation figure of 3% will increase as follows:

2024-2025 (Current)	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
	Assume inflation is 3% plus 1.9%	Assume inflation is 3%	Assume inflation is 3%
\$1,343,320	\$1,409,143	\$1,451,417	\$1,494,959

Increase over three years is 11.3% including an assumed inflation figure of 3% per annum.

The new Water NSW charges would begin 1 July 2025.

However, on 26 June 2025 Council received advice that IPART had handed down its final determination in relation to WaterNSW charges and that this decision did not reflect the proposal contained in the Information Paper.

IPART has advised it received advice from WaterNSW, after the release of the Information Paper, the proposal contained in the Information Paper would lead to WaterNSW not receiving sufficient funding to continue to provide current services. This, and other submissions received, has led IPART to a final one year determination where WaterNSW charges will rise by 5.8% not including inflation in 25-26.

Under the final determination charges levied by WaterNSW (based on average annual volumes of water accessed from WaterNSW Dams) and assuming an annual inflation figure of 3% will increase as follows, effective 1 July 2025:

2024-2025 (Current)	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
	5.8% plus assume inflation is 3%	TBA	TBA
\$1,343,320	\$1,461,532	TBA	TBA

It is understood IPART will take the next 12 months to consult with Water NSW and stakeholders further, before announcing a determination for the 2026-2027 financial year and beyond.

In relation to the WAMC charges IPART has released a draft report – Review of Prices for the Water Administration Ministerial Corporation from 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2028.

In summary, IPART propose to:

- constrain the increase in WAMC's water management component charges to a maximum of 5% per year and a total of 15.8% from 2024–25 to 2027–28 (before inflation) to mitigate the extent of price increases for WAMC's customers;
- constrain the increase in WAMC's water management component charges for customers paying the Minimum Annual Charge (MAC) to a maximum of 2.5% per year and a total of 7.7% from 2024–25 to 2027–28 (before inflation);
- maintain Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and Border Rivers Commission (BRC) charges in line with inflation only from 2024-25 to 2027-28;
- continue to apply the water take charges (water management services, MDBA and BRC) to floodplain harvesting licences;
- introduce an additional water management charge for floodplain harvesting to help recover WaterNSW incremental floodplain harvesting costs;
- revise the structure of metering charges and update metering charges to reflect IPART's assessment of efficient costs;
- delay the introduction of new WAMC prices until 1 October 2025, which means existing 2024-25 prices will continue to apply over the three months from 1 July to 30 September 2025 and new WAMC prices would apply over the 9 months from 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026. IPART proposes to adjust WAMC prices to apply over the nine months from 1 October 2025 to 30 June 2026, to account for the difference in revenue WAMC would expect to recover as a result of the three month delay; and
- change some of the charging categories and some charges in relation to metering.

Charges levied by WAMC (based on average annual volumes of water accessed), and assuming an annual inflation figure of 3% will increase as follows under IPART's proposal:

2024-2025 (Current)	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
	Assume inflation is 3%	Assume inflation is 3%	Assume inflation is 3%
\$129,327	\$139,999	\$150,818	\$161,165

The increase over three years is 24.6%, including an assumed inflation figure of 3% per annum.

It is not known what impact IPART's decision to issue a final determination for WaterNSW charges for one year only, will have on the final determination IPART makes in relation to WAMC charges.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

Assuming IPART does not change its draft determination in relation to WAMC charges when its final determination is handed down then the nett effect for Council is as follows:

These figures are based on Council using the average volume of raw water per annum.

	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
		Assume inflation is 3%	Assume inflation is 3%	Assume inflation is 3%
Water NSW Charges	\$1,343,320	\$1,461,532	TBA	TBA
WAMC Charges	\$129,327	\$139,999	\$150,818	\$161,165
Total	<b>\$1,472,647</b>	<b>\$1,601,531</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>

Council will have to consider whether it can afford not to pass this increase onto consumers and the level of increase, if any, in water fees and charges in future years.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Area 1 – Our Water Security

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## **9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE**

### **9.1 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS JUNE 2025**

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER  
**AUTHOR:** Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services  
Hannah Allwood, Accountant

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Council Investments June 2025”, Council receive and note the report.*

#### **SUMMARY**

In accordance with *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, Clause 212, the purpose of this report is to:

- provide Council with a register of investments held as at 30 June 2025; and
- provide Responsible Accounting Officer certification that investments comply with: the *Local Government Act 1993*, *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* and

Council's Investment Policy.

The register and accompanying certification can be found **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

## **COMMENTARY**

The register **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1** shows Council's cash and investment holdings as at 30 June 2025.

To the surprise of many economists and bankers the Reserve Bank of Australia at its meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> left the cash rate target unchanged. The Reserve Bank media release indicated “..... that it could wait for a little more information to confirm that inflation remains on track to reach 2.5 per cent on a sustainable basis” before dropping rates.

This reflects positively for now with regards to rates available on Council's term deposits and Finance staff will be, where possible, seeking the best longer term rates available over a longer term to provide some small relief against what at this stage seems to be an inevitable rate cut.

During the month, Council's portfolio performed above the industry average, returning 4.74% against the three-month Bank Bill Swap rate (3mBBSW) of 3.60%.

### **(a) Policy Implications**

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

### **(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

### **(c) Legal Implications**

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

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

### **(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

### **(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

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## **9.2 AMENDMENT TO ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

**DIRECTORATE:**                   **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**  
**AUTHOR:**                        **Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services**

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**Reference:** **Item 9.1 to Ordinary Meeting of 10 December 2024 - Minute No 357/24**

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That in relation to the report “Amendment to Ordinary Council Meeting Schedule”, Council amend the Council Meeting schedule to move the Ordinary Meeting scheduled for 12 August 2025 to 5 August 2025.***

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to request Council that the Ordinary Meeting scheduled for the 12 August 2025, be moved to 5 August 2025 due to senior staff availability.

Council will amend the Ordinary Meeting Schedule to reflect to the change.

**COMMENTARY**

At it's Ordinary Meeting of 10 December 2024, Council resolved the 'schedule of Council Meetings for 2025', as below:

	Time	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025
Ordinary Council	6:30 pm	-	11 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
		-	25 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>		22 <sup>nd</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>		16 <sup>th</sup>

The Council Meeting scheduled for 12 August 2025, will conflict with the State Local Government Staff Conference. In order for senior staff to attend it is recommended that the Council Meeting for the 12 August 2025 be brought forward to the 5 August 2025.

**(a) Policy Implications**

Tamworth Regional Council's Code of Meeting Practice allows for changes to dates and times for Meetings by resolution.

Council has the discretion to change or cancel Ordinary Council Meetings provided adequate notice is given to Councillors and the public.

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

**(c) Legal Implications**

Section 365 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, requires Council to meet at least 10 times each year, each time in a different month.

Section 367 (1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, requires the General Manager to send to each councillor, at least three days before each Meeting of Council, a notice specifying the time and place at which and the date on which the Meeting is to be held and the business proposed to be transacted at the Meeting.

**(d) Community Consultation**

The change of the Meeting dates will be publicly advertised and changed on Council's Website via Public Notice.

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

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**9.3 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/2025 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - JUNE 2025**

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**AUTHOR:** Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services

**Reference:** Item 9.5 to Ordinary Council 25 June 2024 - Minute No 148/24

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Annual Operational Plan 2024/2025 Budget Variation Report - June 2025”, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget as listed in the ATTACHED, refer ANNEXURE 1, to the report.*

**SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council approval for budget variations identified during June 2025, for which there has been no previous specific report or approval.

**COMMENTARY**

Council adopted the original budget included in the Annual Operational Plan for 2024/2025 at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 25 June 2024. Any changes to the budget must be approved by Council at a later Ordinary Meeting. The budget forms the basis for future forecasts and the legal authority for staff to commit expenditures. Constant monitoring and updating of the budget is important for sound financial management.

Readers of this report are reminded that its contents should not be viewed in isolation. The Annual Financial Reports for the year ending 30 June 2025, will provide a full year summary of Council's actual performance, including specific notes providing commentary on material variations to the budget adopted in June 2024.

Overall, not a lot of budget adjustments have been processed since the last report to Council on June 30. Items of interest are increases in grant income for areas involving sustainability. Grant funds of \$81,694 being recognised for a Regional Drought Resilience Program, funds will be used to assist with implementation of agreed actions within the joint Federal and State funded Regional Drought Resilience Plan. Implementation of these actions contributes to improving water conservation outcomes, assisting to strengthen drought and climate resilience capacity of our local community.

Grant funding of \$397,888 was also recognised being the first stage of a grant agreement to initiate a facility for hard plastics recycling. Finally, with regards to grants Council was successful in a grant application to engage trainees for a two year traineeship, more adjustments will come through for this funding as the trainees commence employment with various divisions across Council.

**June 2025 Budget Variations**

Description	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
People & Culture	17,179	-6,594	23,773	0	0
Strategy & Performance	33,005	0	33,005	0	0
Future Communities	-10,806	11,110	-21,916	0	0
Airport & Aviation	-87,000	0	0	0	-87,000
Pilot Training Facility	-204,210	-507,788	303,578	0	0
Project Costing	-230,758	0	0	-87,500	-143,258
Waste Management	-397,888	0	0	-397,888	0
Water & Wastewater	-58,026	-81,694	23,668	0	0
FBT Increase	98,158	0	98,158	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-840,346</b>	<b>-584,966</b>	<b>460,266</b>	<b>-485,388</b>	<b>-230,258</b>

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

Green budget variation will *increase* Council's forecast operating result and/or bank account

**(a) Policy Implications**

Nil

**(b) Financial Implications**

The variations included in the report have the following impact on forecast results for 2024/2025 by fund of:

Fund	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
General	-503,272	436,598	-485,388	-230,258
Water	-81,694	23,668	0	0
Sewer	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-584,966</b>	<b>460,266</b>	<b>-485,388</b>	<b>-230,258</b>

**(c) Legal Implications**

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

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

**(d) Community Consultation**

Nil

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

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**9.4 MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION DRAFT POLICY**

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**AUTHOR:** Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services

**2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Modern Slavery Prevention Draft Policy”, Council:*

- (i) authorise the “Draft Modern Slavery Prevention Policy” ANNEXURE 1 to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days;*
- (ii) request a further report to Council to consider any feedback received throughout the public exhibition period and present for formal adoption of the final Modern Slavery Policy; and*
- (iii) authorise the adoption of the Draft Policy in the event that no submissions are received and no changes are made to the Draft Policy.*

**SUMMARY**

Over the last couple of years, Local Government requirements with regard to Modern Slavery compliance have increased and it is now necessary for Tamworth Regional Council to adopt a formal Modern Slavery Policy. To date, Modern Slavery has been referenced in Council's Procurement Policy and its Statement of Business Ethics, however, in order to ensure compliance, it requires its own stand-alone policy.

The Office of Anti-Slavery Commission has published Guidance on Reasonable Steps, and the draft policy has been developed in order to meet best practice standards of these steps.

In addition to the Policy, for Council to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth), it must implement appropriate steps to assess the risk of modern slavery within its supply-chain. Council's Annual report must also detail the steps taken to ensure goods and services procured within the reporting period were not a product of modern slavery.

**COMMENTARY**

Over the last couple of years Modern Slavery compliance requirements have increased and whilst Local Government might be a lower risk than say those involved in labour intensive manufacturing, reporting and policy requirements are continuing to evolve and increased action is required on the part of Tamworth Regional Council.

These Include:

- adoption of a specific Policy addressing modern slavery;
- engaging with external suppliers in relation to modern slavery;
- implementing a risk management plan specific to modern slavery;
- reporting annually on modern slavery in Council's annual report;
- reporting annually to the Office of Anti-Slavery Commissioner (OASC) via the online portal; and
- incorporating due diligence with regards to modern slavery in the procurement process.

The products and services that Council regularly procure that could be at high risk of Modern Slavery could Include, but are not limited to:

- (i) **End user computing and peripherals** including: computer accessories; Computer Displays; end user assets as a service; end user devices; presentation and multi-media; printers; and multi-functional Devices such as copiers & printers;
- (ii) **Agency specific expenses**, including: protective clothing; uniforms; and other Workwear;
- (iii) **Facilities and building management**, including: cleaning services; cleaning supplies; generators; security services; security equipment; and flooring and carpeting; and
- (iv) **Corporate Fleet Management**: general fleet vehicles; heavy vehicles and equipment; plant and equipment; specialised vehicles; and vehicle leasing.

Whilst it is anticipated that modern slavery is unlikely to be regularly identified in Tamworth Regional Council's supply-chain, it is noted that Council regularly sources thousands of products that could be at risk to modern slavery. What is necessary, is that Council conducts appropriate due diligence to determine the level of risk within its procurement framework.

To assist identifying risks and to combat modern slavery, the Office of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner (OASC) Guidance on Reasonable Steps (GRS) ANNEXURE 2, have established seven steps to help organisations achieve best practice. These are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**, but are summarised as follows:

1. **Commit**: Engage key stakeholders; Identify salient risks at organisation level; Adopt a Modern Slavery Policy; and Adopt a Modern Slavery Risk Management Plan;
2. **Plan**: Identify and map supply-chain risks for this procurement; Develop a risk-reducing sourcing strategy;
3. **Source**: Select appropriate suppliers; Adopt a shared responsibility approach in contracting;
4. **Manage**: Monitor and evaluate supplier performance; Develop supplier capabilities;
5. **Remedy**: Provide or enable access to effective grievance mechanisms; Take safe immediate steps to remedy harm; Use leverage to remediate deficient practices; Withdraw responsibly;
6. **Report**: Establish a victim-centred reporting protocol; Report on your modern slavery risk management efforts; and

7. **Improve:** Learn lessons from your performance and others'; Train your workforce; Cooperate with the Anti-slavery Commissioner.

The policy sets out the commitments to enable Tamworth Regional Council to meet the criteria set out above, as follows:

Policy	Action(s)
<p><b>Clause 2 (a):</b> Identifying and assessing where modern slavery risks form part of Tamworth Regional Councils supply chain with a concerted focus on heightened risks and large spend categories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Establish high-risk industries most likely to be associated with Council's supply-chain. These are electronics including ICT hardware, clothing, construction and cleaning services; and</li> <li>(ii) Implement a Pre-purchase Risk Checklist which can be utilised for both existing and new suppliers and will form part of the procurement framework.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Clause 2 (b):</b> Conducting an audit of Tamworth Regional Council suppliers identified as high-risk, including any who are not required to submit tenders to council, to identify whether the supplier base share the Tamworth Regional Council's values and commitment to minimising the risk of modern slavery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) As above; and</li> <li>(ii) An inherent risk rating will be identified and attributed to suppliers;</li> <li>(iii) A risk rating will form part of the procurement selection process for new suppliers; and</li> <li>(iv) A self-assessment questionnaire will be utilised for all existing and new suppliers. And will form part of the Risk Management Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Clause 2 (c):</b> Continuous collaboration with all Tamworth Regional Council suppliers to assess whether they have their own modern slavery risk management plans in place, that they are effective, and that their plans align with Tamworth Regional Council's values and goals. Tamworth Regional Council will use appropriate leverage to encourage all suppliers to maintain their commitment to eliminating modern slavery from their supply chains. As a part of this process, Tamworth Regional Council will distribute its Supplier Code of Conduct with reference to modern slavery, to all suppliers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) As above;</li> <li>(ii) A Supplier Code of Conduct, with reference to modern slavery, is to be provided to all existing and new suppliers;</li> <li>(iii) Engagement with new and existing supplier's is necessary will be detailed in the Risk Management Plan. It will include, but may not be limited to, the self-assessment questionnaire and engagement with suppliers as deemed appropriate in the procurement process.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Clause 2 (d):</b> Include modern slavery tender criteria in procurement documents.</p>	<p>(i) Monitor compliance of Suppliers with their obligations under the <i>Modern Slavery Act (2018)</i> (Cth) and <i>Modern Slavery Act (2018)</i> (NSW). This will form part of the Risk Management Plan.</p>
<p><b>Clause 2 (e):</b> Include a Modern Slavery Contract Clause in Supplier Contracts.</p>	<p>(i) Clauses pertaining to modern slavery implemented in all new contracts. This will form part of the Risk Management Plan.</p>
<p><b>Clause 2 (f):</b> Incorporating a Modern Slavery Pre-Purchase Risk Checklist, to ensure the goods and/or services procured, have not been produced or manufactured within a modern slavery environment.</p>	<p>(v) Implement a Pre-purchase Risk Checklist within the procurement framework. This will form part of the Risk Management Plan.</p>
<p><b>Clause 2 (g):</b> Providing adequate training to all Tamworth Regional Council's staff, Councillors and appointed consultants contracted in Tamworth Regional Council's goods and services procurement process, to ensure they are; aware of what modern slavery is, what Council's modern slavery risks are and how to raise any identified or potential concerns; and</p> <p>(1) Establishing a grievance mechanism enabling staff and others to raise concerns about modern slavery; and</p> <p>(2) Ensuring Tamworth Regional Council complies to all reporting obligations under the NSW Modern Slavery Amendment Act 2021 and the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner issued in <i>The Guidance on Reasonable Steps (GRS) to Manage Modern Slavery Risks in Operations and Supply-chains</i>. (v1.0, December 2023).</p>	<p>(i) Council will implement training to all existing staff to enable staff to identify modern slavery and modern slavery risks;</p> <p>(ii) Council will implement more intensive training for staff affected by changes within the procurement framework to assess risks of modern slavery, including the collection of information for reporting purposes;</p> <p>(iii) The Grievance Mechanism is that of Council's current complaints process. Training to managers and supervisors will be implemented accordingly;</p> <p>(iv) The Risk Management Plan will detail what actions are required to be taken if modern slavery is reported and, or identified in the operations or supply-chain of an existing Supplier or within the procurement framework.</p>

#### (a) Policy Implications

The adoption of the Modern Slavery Prevention Policy is necessary in order for Tamworth Regional Council to be compliant with its obligations pursuant to the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth), the *NSW Modern Slavery Amendment Act 2021* and the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

Whilst there are no current formal penalties for non-compliance, the government has the capacity to publish details of Local Government's non-compliance or contraventions on the Modern Slavery Register, which may result in negative publicity and damage to the reputation of Council.

**(b) Financial Implications**

Nil

**(c) Legal Implications**

The adoption of the Modern Slavery Prevention Policy is necessary in order for Tamworth Regional Council to be compliant with its obligations pursuant to the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth), the *NSW Modern Slavery Amendment Act 2021* but more specifically, the amendments to the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

The *NSW Modern Slavery Amendment Act 2021* introduced stricter measures commencing on 1 January 2022.

**(d) Community Consultation**

Exhibition of the Policy is recommended for a period of 28 days. If there are no changes to the policy or no submissions are received, it is recommended that the Policy be deemed adopted at the completion of the exhibition period. If a submission is received or the policy is proposed to be changed a further report will be prepared for Council's consideration.

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

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## **10 COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **10.1 TAMWORTH REGION ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 10 APRIL 2025**

**DIRECTORATE:** CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

**AUTHOR:** Bridget Guthrie, Director Art Gallery and Museums

**1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That in relation to the report “Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - 10 April 2025”, Council:*

- (i) receive and note the minutes;*
- (ii) approve the replacement of the Nivison mural as recommended by the TRAAC committee and in accordance with the Public Art Policy: and*
- (iii) support in-principle the SES mural project and assist to identify potential locations for this large scale mural.*

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the minutes of the Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee (TRAAC) meeting held 10 April 2025, and to provide Council with an overview of

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the meeting outcomes and the recommendations made by the TRAAC members.

## **COMMENTARY**

An meeting of the Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee (TRAAC) was held on Thursday, 10 April 2025. This was the first committee meeting held with the new committee members present and each new committee member provided an overview of their experience and advocacy in the arts and cultural sector. The minutes of the meeting are **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

At this meeting guest speaker Lucy White from Destination Country Outback presented to the committee and provided an overview on the importance of the visitor economy and the benefit to our region. She highlighted not only the economic benefits, but also the liveability benefits which in turn attracts new and sustains existing professionals and specialists to the region.

Guest Speaker Issac Whitten from Playstate spoke to the upcoming community consultation for the Manilla mural and provided examples of previous work/murals that Playstate has generated. The identified mural artist Jordon Lucky will mentor local artist/s as part of the implementation of the Manilla mural which will take place in mid-August 2025.

A general public art update was provided and included progress of the New England Sculpture Track (NEST) with new sculptures planned to be located along the Bendemeer riverside area later in the year or early 2026.

Information was also provided regarding the organisation's public art policy that now includes provisions for decommissioning artwork that has deteriorated beyond reasonable maintenance or poses safety risks. The mural by Angus Nivison on the wall opposite the Tamworth Town Hall has been identified to be replaced due to the significant paint loses and damage to the existing mural. This will involve the decommissioning of the original artwork by Angus Nivison and the replacement of a mural by his son Charlie Nivison.

Furthermore, Tamworth Regional Council has been approached by State Emergency Service (SES) with funding to support a large-scale mural in the LGA. This project has the potential to support a public art trail from Tamworth to Barraba. The Attunga water tower is being scouted as a potential location plus other locations are also being considered.

A description from the SES for the potential large-scale mural is below:

*“Tamworth, is a town rich in history and cultural significance and to mark the NSW State Emergency Service’s 70th anniversary milestone, we propose the creation of a captivating and meaningful artwork on one of Tamworth’s iconic silos or water towers, transforming it into a stunning visual symbol that represents the spirit, heritage, and vibrant community of the town and also of our rural and regional SES volunteers. The people behind the iconic orange overalls are what makes the NSW SES such a special emergency service to volunteer for. We would like this captured in the artwork. Including a scene depicting a flood or storm showcasing SES in a flood boat supporting local community members.”*

### **(a) Policy Implications**

The actions identified and recommended by the TRAAC committee are in accordance with the Tamworth Regional Council Public Art Policy. This is of particular importance when addressing deaccession of public artworks.

“Deaccessioning and/or decommissioning is the process of de-registering and removing a public artwork from the Collection for clearly stated reasons, it can mean

the disposing of the work or de-commissioning the work in accordance with approved policies.

Caution and transparency are essential in the deaccessioning process. Tamworth Regional Council will undertake deaccessioning/ decommissioning to ensure that only public artworks that are relevant, safe and maintained are in the collection.”

**(b) Financial Implications**

The TRAAC approved financial support for the identified public art projects from the allocated Public Art Fund.

**(c) Legal Implications**

Nil

**(d) Community Consultation**

The TRAAC includes ten community members who represent a broad range of art disciplines. The Committee provides strategic advice to the Council in relation to 'Arts' matters within the region and makes recommendations regarding priority areas for development.

**(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy**

Focus area 3 – Prosperity and Innovation

Focus area 7 – Celebrate Our Cultures and Heritage

Focus area 8 – A Strong and Vibrant Identity

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## **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.***

#### **11.1 PROPOSED LEASE ADJUSTMENT NORTH TAMWORTH RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB OF LOT 15 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 858511**

**DIRECTORATE:** OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER  
**AUTHOR:** Kirrilee Ringland, Manager - Property and Legal Services  
**Reference:** Item 12.4 to Ordinary Council 8 June 2021 - Minute No 170/21;  
Item 10.3 to Ordinary Council 13 August 2024 - Minute No 215/24.

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

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## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the matters relating to North Tamworth Rugby League Football Club and a proposed extension to the Lease agreement between the two Lease parties for a further 10 years.

### **11.2 PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR PUBLIC MUSEUMS**

**DIRECTORATE:** **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**  
**AUTHOR:** **Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer**  
**Bridget Guthrie, Director Art Gallery and Museums**

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 authorisation from Council to negotiate and enter into lease agreements with the public museums that occupy Council owned land and buildings.

### **11.3 TENDER T084-2025 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 1 X EXCAVATOR**

**DIRECTORATE:** **REGIONAL SERVICES**  
**AUTHOR:** **George Shearman, Manager - Plant Fleet and Building Services**  
**Sebastian Lees, Technical Officer - Plant and Supply**  
**1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

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

## **SUMMARY**

This tender is for the supply and delivery of one excavator for use in roads maintenance works by our northern region roads maintenance team. The excavator will be transported on a tag trailer between jobs which will impose weight and dimensional constraints on what will be acceptable, and this has been detailed in the advertised specification.

### **11.4 TENDER T092-2025 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 1 X EXCAVATOR**

**DIRECTORATE:** **REGIONAL SERVICES**  
**AUTHOR:** **George Shearman, Manager - Plant Fleet and Building Services**  
**Sebastian Lees, Technical Officer - Plant and Supply**  
**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

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information is commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

## **SUMMARY**

This tender is for the supply and delivery of 1 x excavator for use in Tamworth Regional Council's waste operations program. The primary functions of this unit will be to undertake general earthworks, operate within a resource recovery application, load products (mulch and aggregates), dig burial holes within compacted waste and sort waste utilising specialised attachments.

### **11.5 TENDER T085-2025 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 1 X WASTE HANDLING WHEEL LOADER**

**DIRECTORATE:** **REGIONAL SERVICES**  
**AUTHOR:** **George Shearman, Manager - Plant Fleet and Building Services**  
**Sebastian Lees, Technical Officer - Plant and Supply**

**1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

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

## **SUMMARY**

This tender is for the supply and delivery of 1 x Wheel Loader, complete with a waste handling arrangement. This unit will primarily be utilised at Tamworth Regional Council's Forest Road landfill site, however from time to time may also be utilised in Council's outlying waste facilities, including both transfer and recycling stations.

### **11.6 TENDER T109-2025 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 1 X WASTE HANDLING TRACK LOADER**

**DIRECTORATE:** **REGIONAL SERVICES**  
**AUTHOR:** **George Shearman, Manager - Plant Fleet and Building Services**  
**Sebastian Lees, Technical Officer - Plant and Supply**

**1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED**

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

## **SUMMARY**

This tender is for the supply and delivery of 1 x track loader complete with a waste handling arrangement. This unit will be utilised at Tamworth Regional Council's Forest Road landfill site. The main role of this unit is to manage waste material handling functions including moving, loading, sorting, and reducing waste material into smaller fragments. In addition, the unit may be used from time to time in a variety of earthmoving applications as required.