

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

25 FEBRUARY 2025

PAUL BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER

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Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

Community Consultation Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure of Political Donations or Gifts

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

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

AGENDA

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday, 11 February 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

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION – CR STEPHEN MEARS - PARKING SAFETY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL

MOTION

That Council:

- (i) provide 3 long term free parking spaces in the Tamworth Town Hall carpark in the vicinity of the Fitzroy Street Milk Bar;*
- (ii) once implemented, parking to be available to residents up and until 2 pm on week days; and*
- (iii) after 2pm the spaces be reserved for Tamworth Radio Operations Group staff until 7.30am each morning.*

Notice is given that I intend to move the above Motion at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 25 February 2025.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Over the last several months, perhaps longer, I have been approached by staff from the Tamworth Police Radio Operations Group, asking that consideration be given for Council to make available 2 or 3 parking spaces in the Tamworth Town Hall car park beside the Fitzroy Milk Bar.

Tamworth Radio Operations Group, VKG Tamworth is a part of the NSW Police Force, they are an integral part of the State Wide communications network providing services to patrolling police vehicles, ensuring the safety of car crews and respond to 000 phone calls from the general public.

The operation of the Centre is 24/7 365 or 366 days per year. The staff work staggered shifts and may be required to attend work in the mid afternoon and ceasing well after dark.

Unfortunately, NSW Police in Tamworth do not have specified off street parking for unsworn (civilian) operators and sworn officer of the Radio Operations Group. It is also not an enforceable provision in their conditions of employment.

There are often cases where staff, finishing after dark and into the early hours of the morning, finish their allocated shifts, leave work, and walk to their vehicles. Due to the hour this has the potential to put staff, especially females, at risk.

NSW Police at Tamworth and/or the Radio Operations Group do not have sufficient staff to allocated additional staff to 'escort' these staff to their vehicles.

Due to the unavailability of nearby long term parking, especially since Tamworth Square has placed boom gates on their carpark, staff have to park some distance from their place of work, leaving them in a perilous position when returning to their vehicles.

Despite this not being a matter specifically related to Tamworth Regional Council I am sure the concerns for ROG staff could be considered by council to provide safety for these residents.

This should have a relatively small impact on parking in the CBD and provide no real imposition on residents.

As Cr Shapham articulated during the Council Meeting on 11th February 2025, we will be providing businesses and their workers free parking every day of the week, why can we not do similar and provide free, reserved parking, close to work for staff who are required to staff work at unusual hours of the day to improve the safety of those staff.

I commend the motion to council in the hope that council support this motion and provided additional safety measures for emergency services staff.

Cr Stephen Mears

18 February 2025

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCTS (SEPs)

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

AUTHOR: Peter Ross, Executive Manager Creative Communities and Experiences

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Establishment of Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs)”, Council:

- (i) endorses the establishment of Special Entertainment Precincts in the following locations;*
 - a) Tamworth Central Business District, bounded by Darling Street, Marius Street, White Street, Kable Avenue and the Peel River; and*
 - b) Longyard and Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct, bounded by Goonoo Goonoo Road, The Ringers Road, Greg Norman Drive, Cartwheel Way, Longyard Drive, Stockmans Way and southern boundary of Lot 12 DP 240631.*
- (ii) commence early engagement with community and key stakeholders to establish Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs);*
- (iii) prepare a Night-Time Economy Strategy to support the establishment of the SEPs; and*
- (iv) to apply to the Special Entertainment Precinct Kickstart Grant Program to support the implementation and development of the SEPs.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the establishment of two Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs) within Tamworth. The identified precincts are:

- Tamworth Central Business District, bounded by Darling Street, Marius Street, White Street, Kable Avenue and the Peel River; and
- Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct, bounded by Goonoo Goonoo Road, The Ringers Road, Greg Norman Drive, Cartwheel Way, Longyard Drive, Stockmans Way and southern boundary of Lot 12 DP 240631.

SEPs are part of the NSW Government Vibrancy Reforms which have been established to boost night-time economy, live music and dining across the state.

COMMENTARY

A Special Entertainment Precinct (SEPs) is an area, street or single venue where sound conditions and trading hours are set by Council in a Precinct Management Plan (PMP). Councils can establish SEPs in their local area under the *Local Government Act 1993* to encourage more live music and support their night-time economies. SEPs aim to foster and

encourage both new and existing businesses to host live entertainment, support the arts and live music sector, and enhance the vibrancy of local centres and precincts. By doing so, SEPs effectively protect and assist existing venues, future-proof emerging precincts, and support major festivals and event programs. Their purpose is to balance entertainment sound compliance with the needs of businesses and residents.

An important part of the SEP is the implementation of a PMP. This will regulate entertainment activity within the SEP and will include a sound management framework, requirements for noise attenuation for different development types, trading hours for licensed and unlicensed premises, outline the process for managing complaints and notify residents or people moving into the area of the SEP on websites or planning certificates. The PMP will also will override development consent conditions relating to noise and trading hours for licensed and unlicensed premises.

An example of a benefit for live music venues located within a SEP is they receive an extra 2 hours of trading if 45 minutes of performance is hosted after 8PM and one hour on all other nights of the week. That is more than what venues that are located outside of SEPs will receive.

As part of the establishment of a SEP, a 12–18 month trial period is mandatory prior to making the SEP permanent. This is to evaluate the effectiveness and ensure the controls are fit for purpose.

Special Entertainment Precincts

Council intends to establish two SEPs in the following locations;

- **Tamworth Central Business District** – The Tamworth Central Business District (CBD) has long been a focal point for live entertainment, particularly during the Tamworth Country Music Festival. It is a key commercial and entertainment precinct that attracts a diverse range of visitors throughout the day and night. Council's Blueprint 100 also identifies the need to facilitate shop top housing in the Tamworth CBD with the SEP providing certainty for developers regarding noise considerations.
- **Longyard and Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct** - The Longyard and Tamworth Sports and Entertainment Precinct host significant events, including concerts, major equine and sporting events. This precinct is a significant economic driver for Tamworth and the SEP will ensure significant events remain a focal point for the precinct.

These two precincts align with the strategic vision of Tamworth as a leading entertainment, cultural and events hub, further reinforcing our reputation as the Country Music Capital of Australia.

The location and boundaries of the SEPs is **ATTACHED**, refer to **ANNEXURE 1**.

Council has had meetings with several businesses, who provide live music and contribute to the city's night-time economy, regarding the establishment of a SEP. As part of the establishment of the SEPs extensive engagement with the community and key stakeholders such as the NSW Police and Liquor and Gaming will be undertaken. As a result of consultation, the boundaries of the SEPs may be amended to reflect the views of the community and key stakeholders.

Strategic Alignment

The establishment of Special Entertainment Precincts aligns with several key Council strategies, including:

- **Blueprint 100 Our Community Plan (2023-2033)** – Enhancing innovation, identity, cultural vibrancy and supporting the local economy;
- **Tamworth Tomorrow (2022-2026) Economic Development and Investment Strategy** – a thriving regional hub, serving residents of the region. Boosting business opportunities within the hospitality and tourism sectors; and
- **Visitor Economy Plan (2022-2027)** – Increase yield and contribution to the region's economy, contribute to the liability and vibrancy of the region and encouraging the sustainability of live music, performance venues and the night-time economy.

To support the establishment of the SEPs a Night-Time Economy Strategy will be developed. The establishment of SEPs and development of a Night-Time Economy Strategy also aligns with the NSW State Governments live music reforms, NSW 24-hour Economy Strategy and Creative Communities: NSW Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy.

Conclusion

The introduction of SEPs is expected to encourage investment in entertainment venues, support local artists and performers, provide certainty for businesses, developers and residents regarding noise regulations and enhance Tamworth's appeal as a live music and entertainment destination.

(a) Policy Implications

The implementation of the SEPs will require an amendment to the Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan 2010. Council will also prepare a Night-Time Economy Strategy to support the establishment of the SEPs.

(b) Financial Implications

The establishment of the SEPs will require initial funding for regulatory amendments, community engagement, and infrastructure improvements. Council will apply for funding through the NSW Government Special Entertainment Precinct Kickstart Grant Program to support the implementation and development of the SEPs. Funding of up to \$200,000 is available and expressions of interest are due by 12 March, 2025. Additional Council resources may need to be assigned if the funding application is successful.

Alternatively, if the application for grant funding is unsuccessful then Council will be required to fully fund the implementation of the SEP. This would include engagement of an acoustic consultant to undertake noise monitoring for the SEP.

(c) Legal Implications

The establishment of the SEPs will result in an amendment to Council's statutory planning instrument, *Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010*.

(d) Community Consultation

Council was initially approached by, and has since had meetings with several businesses, who provide live music and contribute to the city's night-time economy, requesting Council establishes SEPs in line with the NSW Governments changes and establishment of SEPS.

Community consultation will be an integral part of the implementation process. Potential concerns regarding noise management and late-night trading will be addressed through mitigation strategies, including:

- clear guidelines on acceptable noise levels.
- collaboration with venue operators to implement sound control measures.
- community feedback mechanisms to ensure a balanced approach to entertainment and residential amenity.
- 12-18 month trial period prior to making the SEP permanent.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 3 – Prosperity and Innovation

Focus Area 7 – Celebrate of Cultures and Heritage

Focus Area 8 – A Strong and Vibrant Identity

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Annual Drinking Water Quality Report”, Council receive and note the report.

SUMMARY

The NSW Public Health Act outlines the requirements for a NSW drinking water supply authority to implement a Quality Assurance Program for a drinking water supply. In addition, Part 5 of the NSW Public Health Regulations specify that the Quality Assurance Program must be consistent with the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality as set out in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) published by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

An annual review of the Quality Assurance Program is required to be undertaken by the drinking water supply authority with the developed report to be provided to the relevant NSW Government Agency.

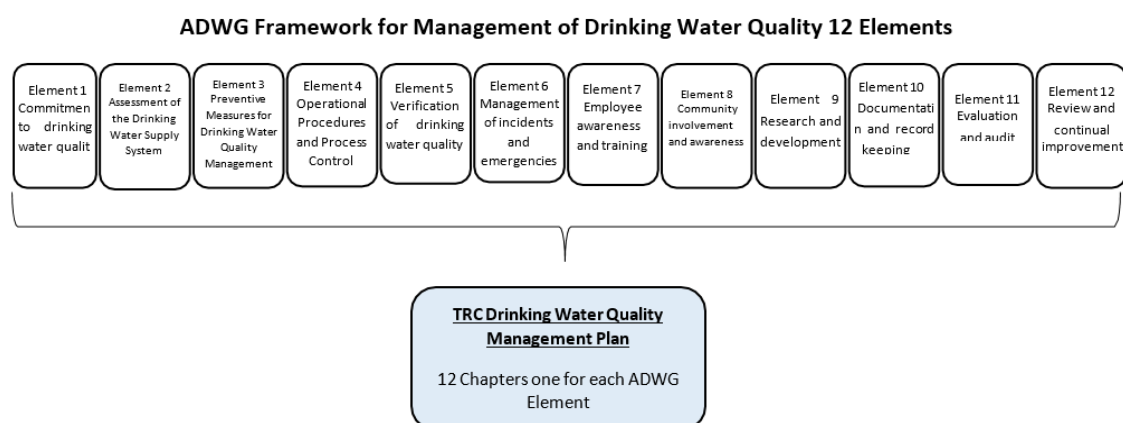
This report provides details of Council's 2023/2024 annual water quality performance review.

COMMENTARY

The NSW Public Health Act outlines the requirements for a NSW drinking water supply authority to implement a Quality Assurance Program for a drinking water supply. In addition, Part 5 of the NSW Public Health Regulations specify that the Quality Assurance Program must be consistent with the Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality as set out in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) published by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

To ensure Council meets the above requirements, Council has implemented a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP) which details the operation of Council's drinking water supply systems. The DWQMP is based on the Framework for Drinking Water Quality Management in the ADWG.

This DWQMP acts as a roadmap for all the activities that Council undertakes to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to its customers aligning with the 12 elements of the ADWG Framework. The 12 elements of the ADWG Framework are provided below for information.



To achieve alignment with the ADWG Framework, Council's DWQMP is supported by a range of operational procedures, registers and data management systems. The DWQMP, as outlined in the ADWG, is intended to be an active document and requires updating as systems, management structures, policies, guidelines and regulations change. The DWQMP is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency, and that all supporting information is correctly cross referenced and is current. The DWQMP was initially developed by Council in 2014, and has since been reviewed and updated to include a number of changes in Council's drinking water systems as a result of infrastructure upgrades, continuous procedure improvement and updated water system risk assessments.

Element 11 of the DWQMP requires an annual evaluation and verification of Council's water quality performance. The evaluation for 2023/2024 was recently undertaken with the assistance of external consultants. The evaluation assesses the following:

- performance of treated water critical control points;
- water quality review;
- levels of service (including consumer complaints);
- incidents and emergencies;
- drinking Water Management System implementation;
- continuous improvement plan implementation;
- reservoir inspections; and
- staff development and training.

A key aspect of the annual water system evaluation is review and verification of Council's drinking water quality performance. In addition to Council's water operator testing program and continuous water quality monitoring undertaken at all water treatment plants, Council has a Water Quality Monitoring Plan that is implemented in conjunction with Council's National Association of Testing Authority (NATA) accredited Laboratory. This monitoring

plan details the location of sample points, testing frequency and testing requirements to ensure alignment with the ADWG.

The Water Quality Monitoring Plan is used to provide assurance that the quality of drinking water supplied to customers is meeting ADWG standards. It provides an additional means of detecting any unrecognised problems that may be occurring within the water supply system and can trigger the necessary corrective actions.

The monitoring plan focuses on laboratory sampling and testing. However, water treatment plant operators also take routine water samples for testing and online instrumentation acts to constantly monitor and adjust operating controls to ensure water quality is maintained.

The annual water quality monitoring program is a significant water operational budget item with an annual budget of approximately \$1.25M. In total, approximately 2,500 NATA accredited water samples are collected from Council's raw and treated water supplies, with sampling and testing being undertaken as per requirements of the ADWG. The number of samples collected for each individual water supply system is calculated as per the requirements of ADWG and is based on the population served and the complexity of the water supply network. All laboratory data is stored in Council's Laboratory Information Management System and Council has established automated process for being alerted to any water quality issues i.e. ADWG exceedances.

The annual review examines all Council water treatment plant performance against established water treatment critical control points. Critical control points are operating limits that the water treatment plants must meet to ensure water treatment complies with ADWG and include online continuous measurement of turbidity, chlorine levels and fluoride levels. The annual review examines the performance of water systems against the established critical control points and in the event a control point was reached, how any issue was identified and managed. During 2023/2024, three critical control point were reached at Council's water treatment plants. operational monitoring identified these issues and water treatment controls or treatment changes were implemented to ensure that no out of specification water was supplied to the water network and customers.

Treated water storage reservoirs are a water contamination risk in any drinking water supply system. Treated water storage reservoirs have a risk of vermin access and unauthorised personnel access. Given the critical nature of these sites, treated water storage reservoir integrity is deemed a critical control point within the water supply system. To ensure reservoir integrity, routine inspections and water quality testing is undertaken at all 27 Council treated water storage reservoirs by water operational staff. During 2023/2024, in excess of 1,250 water reservoir inspections were performed by Council water operators in accordance with NSW Government Agency guidelines.

Council maintains a register of customer water quality complaints which includes details of any investigations and corrective actions undertaken by Council staff. During 2023/2024, Council received 38 customer water quality complaints. 18 customer complaints were from Manilla and are associated with the poor condition of ageing water mains in some areas of the Manilla water network. A program of work has been scheduled to replace these water mains, with work planned to commence in mid-2025. The majority of the remaining complaints were related to a blue green algae event experienced at the Calala Water Treatment Plant in January 2024 leading to taste and odour issues in the Tamworth, Kootingal and Moonbi water supply.

The developed Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**. A copy of this report will be provided to relevant NSW Government Agency as per the requirements of the NSW Public Health Regulation.

(a) Policy Implications

Council has a Drinking Water Quality Policy, the annual drinking water quality review and associated Annual Drinking Water Quality Report forms part of Council's commitment to supply drinking water that is safe and meets standards and regulations

(b) Financial Implications

The financial implications of Council's annual water quality sampling and testing program is detailed in the body of the report.

(c) Legal Implications

As detailed in the report, Council is required to meet NSW Public Health Act and Regulations in respect to the supply of drinking water quality. This report provides details of how Council achieves compliance requirements.

(d) Community Consultation

Council provides a number of drinking water quality fact sheets on its webpage. It is proposed to prepare a summary of information from the Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for public display.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 1 – Our Water Security

8.2 AUSTRALIAN EQUINE AND LIVESTOCK EVENTS CENTRE (AELEC) UPGRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS CASE

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

AUTHOR: Prue Simson, Manager - AELEC Precinct

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC) Upgrade and Development Business Case”, Council:

- (i) adopt the Business Case; and*
- (ii) endorse Option 3 within the Business Case as listed in the report.*

SUMMARY

The AELEC has a significant positive impact on economic activity and employment within NSW, currently contributing approximately \$43 million in benefits to the NSW economy (2022/2023) and is a landmark facility in a key regional centre. To maintain this considerable economic contribution to regional NSW and uphold AELEC's nation-leading status, investment in critical infrastructure is required to ensure the facility is fit-for-purpose.

The AELEC Strategic Master Plan 2022-2032 (the Master Plan) outlines AELEC's alignment with Tamworth Regional Council's Tamworth Region Blueprint 100 Strategy, and a range of national, state, regional and local strategies. The Master Plan articulates the vision for AELEC, “To remain the national leader in the equine industry by providing world-class facilities”.

This report relates to the current Business Case for the upgrades and developments to AELEC. The Business Case was 100% funded under Stream One: Regional Significance of the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund for \$170,000. The consultants engaged were The APP Group who specialise in project management across a range of sectors and are a leader in property and infrastructure. These developments include adding wings to the sides of the main arena, a stable block and supporting amenities.

COMMENTARY

This Business Case (BC) that has been developed, establishes the case for critical redevelopment of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC) located in Tamworth, NSW. The Business Case is **ENCLOSED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**. The Executive Summary commencing on page 7 provides Councillors with a detailed overview of the information for this report.

While the report provides a number of options for consideration in the redevelopment for AELEC, it is recommended that Option 3 be endorsed by Council as the preferred option for undertaking the full development with features the following:

(a) design and construction of a Western Wing as an extension to the existing AELEC building, featuring:

- multi-use function space with partitioning capacity (ability to isolate from main arena to be used separately if required);
- viewing deck with stair access to lower level;
- commercial kitchen;
- food service area;
- multiple entry points;
- bar (including keg room);
- lift access (southern end);
- full AV system;
- toilets inc. accessible toilets;
- staff locker rooms – inc. toilets and showers (Lower Level);
- showers and toilets (Lower Level);
- officials meeting rooms, Locker Room, and toilets (Lower Level);
- storage (Lower Level), including cold and dry food storage;
- delivery/unloading area;
- sun blocking window capabilities (Western Sun);
- heating and Cooling;
- maintain ventilation to the undercover yards;
- suitable power supply for build plus additional fit out or overlay per event.
- CCTV; and
- supporting roads, pathways and gardens.

(b) Design and construction of an Eastern Wing as an extension to the existing AELEC building, featuring:

- multi-use exhibit space with partitioning capacity;
- AELEC Staff Office Space and Meeting Spaces;
- storage space with partitioning and additional power points to service multiple exhibitors;
- heating and cooling;
- toilets and showers (Lower Level);
- forklift access;
- multiple entry points;
- roller door access;
- full AV system;
- lift access (southern end);
- sun blocking window capabilities (Eastern Sun); and
- supporting roads, pathways and gardens.

(c) Design and construction of new Stables, featuring:

- covered area with portable day Stabling Yards;
- amenities (Toilets, Showers, Laundry);
- lighting – internal and external;
- power (end of rows);
- water (end of rows);
- supporting roads and services;
- sound system;
- surface – hard seal
- surrounding pathways and gardens;
- event office;
- wash bays;
- judges office; and
- food and beverage area.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

Should the Business Case and Option 3 be endorsed the anticipated project budget, including contingency, will be approximately \$48.6 million, however, the endorsement of the Business Case and Option 3 does not commit Council to the project or any level

of financial commitment at this stage. It will allow Council to confidently pursue funding options. Funding through State and Federal Governments is still to be determined as well as what portion of the funding will be through Council contribution, with funds sourced from a loan or an alternate source. This will be detailed in a future Workshop and Report to Council.

(c) Legal Implications

Council will need to enter into agreements across multiple areas and businesses if the development is to go ahead.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 3 – Prosperity and Innovation

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 NASHVILLE SISTER CITY PROTOCOL VISIT

DIRECTORATE: CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

AUTHOR: Peter Ross, Executive Manager Creative Communities and Experiences

Reference: Item 9.3 to Ordinary Council 14 June 2022 - Minute No 169/22

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Nashville Sister City Protocol Visit”, Council authorise the Mayor and the Executive Manager, Creative Communities and Experiences to visit Nashville under the Tamworth-Nashville Protocol from 5 June to 8 June 2025.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to refresh Council of the Protocol arrangements between Tamworth and Nashville and authorise a visit of the Mayor and the Executive Manager of Creative Communities and Experiences from the 5 June to 8 June 2025.

COMMENTARY

Tamworth and Nashville share a common bond through country music. Nashville, the world’s most recognised Music City, and Tamworth, Australia’s largest Country Music Festival. Tamworth and Nashville formally recognised the threads that link them with the signing of a Sister Cities Protocol in Nashville in June 2013.

On 14 June 2022, Council resolved to renew the Sister City Protocol for a further eight years.

Under the Sister City Protocol July 2022/2029 between Tamworth and Nashville, the following protocol delegation visits were agreed to:

- in 2023, Tamworth to visit Nashville (June or any other month);
 - in 2025, Nashville to visit Tamworth (January or another month);
-

- in 2027, Tamworth to visit Nashville (June or any other month); and
- in 2029, Nashville to visit Tamworth (January or another month).

Tamworth was scheduled to make a Protocol visit to Nashville in 2023; however, it had been agreed to postpone and visit Nashville during their CMA Fest in June 2024. Due to conflicting schedules and other priorities, it was agreed to defer the visit once again until June 2025.

Under the Sister City Protocol Nashville, will host the Mayor and the Executive Manager of Creative Communities and Experiences for a maximum of three nights and four days.

A Nashville delegation visited us recently in January and Tamworth's reciprocal visit this June will allow us to build on the conversations and further cement the relationship.

Attending CMA Fest in Nashville in 2025 provides the Mayor and Executive Manager of Creative Communities and Experiences with an invaluable opportunity to strengthen the Sister City Agreement between Tamworth and Nashville. As two global hubs of country music, this collaboration fosters deeper cultural exchange and opens doors for artists, educators, and industry professionals in both cities. By participating in the event, the Tamworth delegation can showcase and champion our city's vibrant ten-day festival, explore education initiatives tied to creative industries, and build networks with Nashville's leaders in music, tourism, hospitality and community development. This visit enhances Tamworth's profile on the world stage, creating pathways for joint events, artist exchanges, student exchanges and economic opportunities in sectors like entertainment, tourism, and education—all while reinforcing shared values of creativity and innovation.

(a) Policy Implications

The attendance of the Mayor and the Executive Manager Creative Communities and Experiences is in accordance with Council's Policy as stated in the Tamworth and Nashville Sister City Protocol.

(b) Financial Implications

The cost of the visit will include airfares, some meals and transport.

Funding will be from existing Sister City Budget allocation within the 2024/2025 Budget. No additional funding is required.

(c) Legal Implications

The current directive from the Office of Local Government provides that any Council decision for delegates to undertake overseas travel must be determined at an Ordinary meeting of Council in Open Session. Details of overseas travel by official Council representatives is also to be recorded in Council's Annual Report for the respective financial year. The Independent Commission Against Corruption has issued guidance for Councillors on corruption risks associated with overseas travel. This guidance has been adopted as a guideline under section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993 and *has been considered as part of this report.*

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 8 – A Strong and Vibrant Identity

9.2 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/2025 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - DECEMBER 2024

DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

AUTHOR: Laura Mills, Corporate Accountant

Reference: Item 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 - December 2024”, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget as listed in ANNEXURE 1 to the report.

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval for budget variations identified during December 2024, 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. Quarterly Budget Review Statements provide additional revised information for budget forecasts and actual year-to-date results.

During the month of December, Council received a grant for \$84,246 towards the cost of work undertaken by the Finance Division to provide land classification information to the state government who are undertaking financial modelling with regards to Emergency Services Funding.

The income budget from S94A Developer Contributions was increased by \$3.1 million after payment was received for a significant industrial development.

Additional funds were allocated to the works at the Kootingal Multi-Purpose Hall, and \$255k was allocated to the resurfacing of the NICSE Outdoor Netball Courts. Reserves set aside from lease income for the NICSE funded \$185k of the resurfacing cost whilst the remainder came from the Sport and Recreation Reserve.

Also of interest is the upgrade being undertaken to the Skidata Parking Software at the Tamworth Regional Airport which it is estimated will cost \$31,896.00.

December 2024 Budget Variations

Description	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
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Entertainment Venues	6,000	0	0	0	6,000
Financial Services	-84,246	-84,246	0	0	0
Community Safety & Wellbeing	-7,139	0	-7,139	0	0
Future Communities	-3,120,000	0	0	-3,120,000	0
Airport & Aviation	31,896	0	0	0	31,896
Sports & Recreation Services	255,000	0	0	0	255,000
Project Costing	60,000	0	0	0	60,000
TOTAL	-2,858,489	-84,246	-7,139	-3,120,000	352,896

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

Green budget variation will *increase* Councils forecast operating result and/or bank account

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

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

Fund	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
General	-84,246	-7,139	-3,120,000	352,896
Water	0	0	0	0
Sewer	0	0	0	0
Total	-84,246	-7,139	-3,120,000	352,896

(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

9.3 2024/2025 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services

Michael Gould, Management Accountant

Reference: Item 9.4 to Ordinary Council 25 June 2024 - Minute No 148/24
Item 9.4 to Ordinary Council 22 October 2024 - Minute No 276/24

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “2024/2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statements to 31 December 2024”, Council receive and note the report and related ANNEXURES.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the Quarterly Budget Review Statements for Tamworth Regional Council for the period ended 31 December 2024, in accordance with Clause 203 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.

A financial summary has also been provided for the Tamworth Global Gateway Park **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2** as at 31 December 2024.

COMMENTARY

The Quarterly Budget Review Statements **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, provide a summary of budget movements since the adopted original budget, along with revised budget forecasts for the 2024/2025 financial year. **ANNEXURE 1** also provides actual year to date figures as at 31 December 2024 to allow comparison to the projected year end result.

Budget variances that require Council approval have been submitted to Council either by a specific Council report or through the monthly Budget Variance report.

The following tables provide a summary and commentary of the budget variations for the quarter and the projected year end results for the General, Water and Sewer funds. In reading those tables, please note the following:

- details of operating expenses and income are shown in the attached statements;
- capital income includes grants and contributions received specifically for new capital works *and are excluded* from the operating result before capital provided in the following tables;
- cash adjustments convert the Operating Results which are accrual based to cash results. The accrual based Operating Results can contain non-cash income and expenditure. They also exclude non-operating cash-based transactions like financing

and investment activities. The Cash Results will clarify the cash flow movements to and from their relevant funds. Cash Adjustments are arrived at by reversing non-cash accruals contained in operating expenses such as depreciation and leave entitlements and the addition of non-operating cash receipts and payments such as those associated with loans, deferred debtors and property sales; and

- capital expenses include the acquisition, upgrade or renewal of assets.

Note information between tables and annexures may differ due to elimination of internal transactions.

General Fund

• Summary of Budget Forecast and Cash Movements Table

The first section of the following table shows the forecasted Operating Result and the total Cash Result. The second part of the table shows how the total Cash Result is funded.

Description	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	December Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Operating Income	125,827,952	4,518,737	2,591,592	132,938,281
Less: Operating Expenses	127,024,309	13,352,745	2,369,234	142,746,288
Operating Result before Capital: Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,196,357)	(8,834,008)	222,358	(9,808,007)
Plus: Capital Income	38,192,849	(20,190,938)	3,043,043	21,044,954
Operating Result Surplus/(Deficit)	36,996,492	(29,024,946)	3,265,401	11,236,947
The adjustments below are required to determine the Total Cash Result				
Plus: Depreciation/Leave Accruals	32,904,554	0	0	32,904,554
Plus: Loans raised to fund Capital Expenditure	15,490,000	(2,333,333)	(2,994,760)	10,161,907
Plus: Proposed Land Sales Income/(Expenses)	4,919,177	(9,239)	0	4,909,938
Less: Leave Paid on Termination	800,000	0	0	800,000
Less: Loan Principal	7,499,238	0	0	7,499,238

Description	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	December Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Repayments				
Less: Capital Expenses	86,673,257	(484,782)	(5,954,962)	80,233,513
Total Cash Result: Increase/(Decrease)	(4,662,272)	(30,882,736)	6,225,603	(29,319,405)
The rows below show how the Total Cash Result is funded.				
Current Cash Increase/(Decrease)	291,764	(5,272,650)	304,089	(4,676,797)
Unexpended Grants Increase/(Decrease)	(1,997,543)	(13,603,566)	3,326,655	(12,274,454)
Reserves: Increase/(Decrease)	(4,933,956)	(10,387,528)	(523,141)	(15,844,625)
Developer Contributions: Increase/(Decrease)	1,974,415	172,417	3,118,000	5,264,832
Unexpended Loans: Increase/(Decrease)	3,048	(1,791,409)	0	(1,788,361)
Total Cash Result Funding: Increase/(Decrease)	(4,662,272)	(30,882,736)	6,225,603	(29,319,405)

- Key Financial Results

Unrestricted cash is a measure of Council's solvency showing the level of funds available to meet any contingency. The optimum balance is based on estimated cash flow requirements for operating and capital works. The projected current cash balance of \$8M as at 30 June 2025 exceeds the current cash minimum balance.

	Opening Balance 1/7/2024	Less: Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/2025	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	12,994,360	4,676,797	8,317,563	6,000,000

- Recurrent Results Table

	Operating Cash	Less: Dep'n	Net Recurrent	Loan
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	Result Surplus/(Deficit)	and Leave Accruals	Result Surplus/(Deficit)	Principal Repayments
General Activities	21,419,102	25,427,189	(4,008,087)	4,197,686
Fleet Operations	4,956,648	3,074,159	1,882,489	0
Airport Operations	1,643,551	2,235,683	(592,132)	198,789
Waste Services	4,646,220	2,165,438	2,480,782	0
International Flight Training Facility	(835,863)	2,085	(837,948)	410,789

The Recurrent Result is a measure of Council's financial sustainability. It shows the capacity of recurrent operating revenues to meet commitments for recurrent operations, loan repayments and existing asset renewals (as measured by annual depreciation).

The table breaks the General Fund down into the main activities that are expected to be self-funding, providing a clear picture of the general activities that must be funded by general purpose revenues.

There is no depreciation or leave accruals for the Pilot Training Facility as the facility for now does not have any full-time employees assigned to it, whilst depreciation is zero as the facility is classified as an investment property. Instead of being depreciated, investment properties are valued each financial year and the value adjusted accordingly to meet accounting standard requirements.

Financial Services Manager's comment in relation to the financial position of the Council's General Fund

The Operating Result projects from continuing operations and before capital income has improved in the second quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year. The main reason for the slight improvement in the Operating Result before capital is improvements in Council's returns on investments which unlike additional grant income and private works does not result in a corresponding increase in expenditure. Also worthy of note is the ongoing struggle to recruit staff as and when required. Whilst there were savings of over \$1 million in wages reported in the second quarter these savings were redirected to contractors having to be engaged to undertake scheduled works.

Rates and annual charges outstanding is tracking well with 53% of the total levy having been collected as at 31 December, 2024. This figure has improved slightly from 52% in December 2023. With the majority of rate payers choosing to pay by instalments, payments are on track with the second instalment for the year being due as at 30 November 2024.

The Operating Result Ratio forecast remains unchanged from the first quarter budget review and is steady at negative 8%, whilst it hasn't deteriorated this ratio should ideally be greater than zero. The current cash movement forecast for the year has improved during the second

quarter by \$237,266.

Special Variation Update for 2024/25 as at December Quarter

	Projected per SV Application *	2024/25 Budget
Additional Rates Income 2024/25	\$5,812,743	\$6,094,960
To be expended on:		
Voluntary Pensioner Rebate	\$222,000	\$225,850
Roads Maintenance	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Asset Funding Gap	\$1,590,743	\$1,869,110
Unallocated Funds	\$0	\$0

* Refer Table B2 IPART Tamworth Regional Council Special Variation Application 2024-25 Final Report May 2024

Water Fund

• **Summary of Budget Forecast and Cash Movements Table**

The first section of the following table shows the forecasted operating result and the total cash result. The second part of the table shows how the total cash result is funded.

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	December Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Operating Income	24,585,237	56,018	437,798	25,079,053
Less: Operating Expenses	27,315,666	1,700,531	128,645	29,144,842
Operating Result before Capital: Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,730,429)	(1,644,513)	309,153	(4,065,789)
Plus: Capital Income	2,202,500	200,000	0	2,402,500
Operating Result: Surplus/(Deficit)	(527,929)	(1,444,513)	309,153	(1,663,289)
The adjustments below are required to determine the Total Cash Result				
Plus: Depreciation/Leave Accruals	7,465,439	0	0	7,465,439
Plus: Loans raised to fund Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	December Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Plus: Proposed Land Sales Income/(Expenses)	0	0	0	0
Less: Leave Paid on Termination	0	0	0	0
Less: Loan Principal Repayments	1,802,805	0	0	1,802,805
Less: Capital Expenses	3,370,545	4,038,982	(161,943)	7,247,584
Total Cash Result: Increase/(Decrease)	1,764,160	(5,483,495)	471,096	(3,248,239)
The rows below show how the Total Cash Result is funded.				
Current Cash: Increase/(Decrease)	353,269	(186,309)	134,298	301,258
Unexpended Grants: Increase/(Decrease)	0	0	0	0
Reserves: Increase/(Decrease)	(1,278,545)	(5,070,072)	1,449,670	(4,898,947)
Developer Contributions: Increase/(Decrease)	2,689,436	(227,114)	(1,112,872)	1,349,450
Unexpended Loans: Increase/(Decrease)	0	0	0	0
Total Cash Result Funding: Increase/(Decrease)	1,764,160	(5,483,495)	471,096	(3,248,239)

- Key Financial Results

	Opening Balance 1/7/2024	Less: Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/2025	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	2,131,655	134,298	1,997,357	2,000,000

Unrestricted cash is a measure of Council's solvency showing the level of funds available to meet any contingency. The optimum balance is based on estimated cash flow requirements for operating and capital works. The projected balance for 30 June 2025, at the end of the second quarter is satisfactory when compared to the minimum balance.

- Recurrent Results Table

	Operating Result Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	Less Dep'n and Leave Accruals	Net Recurrent Result Surplus/(Deficit)	Loan principal repayments
Recurrent Result	5,747,793	7,465,439	(1,717,646)	1,802,805

The Recurrent Result is a measure of Council's financial sustainability. It shows the capacity of recurrent operating revenues to meet commitments for recurrent operations, loan repayments and existing asset renewals. It relies on depreciation being a reasonable measure of asset renewal requirements.

A deficit represents the amount of essential asset renewal work that cannot be funded as a result of operating commitments exceeding revenue capacity.

Financial Services Manager's comment in relation to the financial position of the Council's Water Fund

The projected results for Council's Water Fund did not change much in the second quarter. Overall there was an improvement to the Operating Result before and after capital income of \$309k which was predominantly due to increased water consumption and investment earnings in the form of bank interest. This improvement to the bottom line in addition to reduced capital expenditure for the year sees a \$471k improvement to the cash result when compared to the first quarter. The forecast current cash balance as at 30 June 2025, is satisfactory and the movement in the internal reserves remains steady when compared to the original budget.

Sewer Fund

- Summary of Budget Forecast and Cash Movements Table

The first section of the following table shows the forecasted operating result and the total cash result. The second part of the table shows how the total cash result is funded.

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	Dec Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Operating Income	29,009,516	201,998	227,005	29,438,519
Less: Operating Expenses	19,156,072	379,273	(93,057)	19,442,288
Operating Result before Capital: Surplus/(Deficit)	9,853,444	(177,275)	320,062	9,996,231
Plus: Capital Income	1,003,000	0	0	1,003,000

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	Dec Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Operating Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	10,856,444	(177,275)	320,062	10,999,231
The adjustments below are required to determine the Total Cash Result				
Plus: Depreciation/Leave Accruals	6,410,631	0	0	6,410,631
Plus: Loans raised to fund Capital Expenditure	(6,000,000)	0	1,800,000	(4,200,000)
Plus: Proposed Land Sales Income/(Expenses)	0	(10,000)	0	(10,000)
Less: Leave Paid on Termination	0	0	0	0
Less: Loan Principal Repayments	180,067	0	0	180,067
Less: Capital Expenses	8,403,530	6,727,776	(5,711,029)	9,420,277
Total Cash Result: Increase/(Decrease)	2,683,478	(6,915,051)	7,831,091	3,599,518
The rows below show how the Total Cash Result is funded.				
Current Cash: Increase/(Decrease)	307,711	77,118	211,505	596,334
Unexpended Grants: Increase/(Decrease)	0	(24,825)	0	(24,825)
Reserves: Increase/(Decrease)	3,671,370	(4,212,323)	4,296,114	3,755,161
Developer Contributions: Increase/(Decrease)	(1,220,603)	(2,119,721)	3,123,472	(216,852)
Unexpended Loans: Increase/(Decrease)	(75,000)	(635,300)	200,000	(510,300)
Total Cash Result Funding:	2,683,478	(6,915,051)	7,831,091	3,599,518

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	Dec Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Increase/(Decrease)				

- Key Financial Results

	Opening Balance 1/7/2024	Plus Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/2025	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	2,187,583	596,334	2,783,917	2,000,000

Unrestricted cash is a measure of Council's solvency showing the level of funds available to meet any contingency. The optimum balance is based on estimated cash flow requirements for operating and capital works. The projected balance at 30/6/2025 at the end of the second quarter exceeds the minimum balance.

- Recurrent Results

	Operating Cash Result Surplus/(Deficit)	Less Dep'n and Leave Accruals	Net Recurrent Result Surplus/(Deficit)	Loan principal repayments
Recurrent Result	16,824,472	6,410,631	10,413,841	3,380,067

The Recurrent Result is a measure of Council's financial sustainability. It shows the capacity of recurrent operating revenues to meet commitments for recurrent operations, loan repayments and existing asset renewals. It relies on depreciation being a reasonable measure of asset renewal requirements.

Financial Services Manager's comment in relation to the financial position of the Council's Sewer Fund

Council's Sewer Fund continues to be well placed to meet its asset renewal requirements.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The body and **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**, of this report provide details of the projected financial results for the 2024/2025 Budget. The variances recorded for the different funds will have implications for the Long-Term Financial Plan and the 2025/2026 budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.4 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/2025 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - JANUARY 2025

DIRECTORATE: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

AUTHOR: Laura Mills, Corporate Accountant

Reference: Item 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 - January 2025”, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget as listed in ANNEXURE 1 to the report.

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval for budget variations identified during January 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. Quarterly Budget Review Statements provide additional revised information for budget forecasts and actual year-to-date results.

During the month of January, Council received multiple new grants, including \$10,000 from the NSW Office for Veteran Affairs for the refurbishment of the Boer War Memorial, \$7,000 from the 2024-2025 Traffic Route Light Subsidy Scheme for street lighting, and \$138,332 from Transport NSW for NSW Flooding which is planned to be used to repair Woodsreef Road Barraba. Budgets for interest income on investments have been increased. A review of the supplementary rates also resulted in an increase to the income budget of \$173,967 for extra charges and net rate levies.

As part of the December 2024 Quarterly Budget Review, projects were identified amongst the divisions for incomplete works that will be transferred across to the 2025/2026 Financial Year Budget. This includes transferring \$4.6m to next financial year for the Skywalk. Now that Skywalk construction has commenced the budget has been adjusted to reflect the construction schedule. The International Flight Training Tamworth facility has had budget lines added to recognise increased catering as the Sydney Flight College expands its operations. Also worthy of note is a decrease in development income which is suggestive of a downturn in activity compared to the previous financial year.

January 2025 Budget Variations

Description	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
Directorate Mgmt - Creative Comm & Experience	0	-12,078	12,078	0	0
Financial Services	57,136	0	57,136	0	0
General Purpose Income	-523,967	-523,967	0	0	0
Central Northern Regional Library	-2,000	-2,000	0	0	0
Development Engineering	70,000	70,000	0	0	0
Development	351,528	351,528	0	0	0
Future Communities	-314,910	-255,716	-57,374	0	-1,820
Airport & Aviation	-51,022	0	0	0	-51,022
Pilot Training Facility	-33,051	-350,000	320,000	0	-3,051
Plant, Fleet & Buildings	-2,532,378	-2,000	0	0	-2,530,378
Sports & Recreation Services	1,100	0	1,100	-10,000	10,000
Operations	-5,119	-12,119	7,000	0	0
Project Costing	-4,803,770	-138,332	138,332	1,753,434	-6,557,204

Waste Management	-1,251,169	-93,049	20,000	0	-1,178,120
Water & Wastewater	-6,045,793	-439,803	-36,610	0	-5,569,380
Water & Wastewater – General Fund	-55,398	-88,100	33,532	0	-830
TOTAL	-15,138,813	-1,495,636	495,194	1,743,434	-15,881,805

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

Green budget variation will *increase* Councils forecast operating result and/or bank account

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

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

Fund	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
General	-1,055,833	531,804	1,743,434	-10,312,425
Water	-334,798	-113,155	0	-121,549
Sewer	-105,005	76,545	0	-5,447,831
Total	-1,495,636	495,194	1,743,434	-15,881,805

(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

9.5 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Sherrill Young, Manager - Financial Services
Robyn Barnes, Accountant

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Council Investments December 2024 and January 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 31 December 2024 and 31 January 2025. The report also provides 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**.

COMMENTARY

The Reserve Bank is scheduled to meet next on February 17th and 18th, 2025. Whilst many economists are predicting a rate cut the Reserve Bank indicated that it wants a sustainable decrease in inflation before it will cut rates which it couldn’t see happening until 2026. Council’s investments are performing well and budgeted income for interest on investments has been increased by \$768k for the current financial year. Council’s average return on investments was 5.11% for December and 5.09% for January.

Council’s portfolio performed above the industry average, returning 5.09% in January against the three-month Bank Bill Swap rate of 4.25%.

The register **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1** shows Council’s cash and investment holdings as at 31 December 2024.

The register **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**, shows Council’s cash and investment holdings as at 31 January 2025.

(a) Policy Implications

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

(b) Financial Implications

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

(c) Legal Implications

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

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

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and collaborative leadership

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

AUTHOR: Gina Vereker, Director Liveable Communities

2 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report "Appointment of Community Members to Council Community Committees and Working Groups", Council:

- appoint new members to Council Community Committees and Working Groups as outlined in the table within the body of this report;*
 - confirm that the appointment is for the term of the current Council;*
 - amend the Terms of Reference of the Urban Street Tree Advisory Group to increase the maximum number of community members from five to seven;*
 - amend the Terms of Reference of the Disability Access Working Group to increase the maximum number of community members from ten to eleven;*
 - amend the Terms of Reference of the Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee from eight (8) to ten;*
 - amend the Terms of Reference of the Tamworth City Centre Working Group to increase the maximum number of community members from three to four;*
 - congratulate the new appointees and thank them for volunteering their time to*
-

serve the Tamworth Region; and
(viii) thank those community members who submitted an EOI but were unsuccessful.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the outcome of the Expression of Interest (EOI) process that was undertaken inviting interested residents from across the Tamworth Region to submit an EOI to participate in a Community Committee or Working Group and to recommend the appointment of new members to each group.

COMMENTARY

At its meeting held on 26 November 2024, Council resolved to undertake a broad reaching Expression of Interest (EOI) process to refresh the community membership of Council's community committees and working groups. The 26 November 2024 report and resolution is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The table below lists each Council Community Committee and Working Group, the maximum number of community members in accordance with the respective Terms of Reference (ToR) and the names of each community member recommended for appointment:

Community Committee/Working Group	Number of Community Members in accordance with the ToR	Recommended Appointees
Disability Working Group (DAWG) Access Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10, with a recommendation to change to 11. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sue Baldock Rebecca Belfield Judy Coates Rebecca Cooke Melissa Dewson Yvette Humphrys Natalie Newton Penny Plowman Catherine Rae Madison Leigh Rawsthorne Rebecca Van Tilburg
Tamworth Regional Council Heritage Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three plus one member representing King George Ave <p><i>Note - the community member representing King George Ave was appointed within the</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Maxwell Juanita Wilson

	<i>last six months and therefore was not required to re-apply.</i>	
Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee (TRAAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight with a recommendation to change to 10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jen Avery • Shaza Leigh Butler • Miles Cantwell • Judy Coates • Jodie Crosby • Cherie Gaites • Daniel Gillette • Katherine Harvey • John Hyde • Andrew John Lindsay Wright
Tamworth Inclusive Advisory Committee (TRICAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy Coates • Danny Dalton • Brent Larkham • Jay Manivel • William Weller
Tamworth City Centre Working Group (TCCWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three, with a recommendation to change to four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malcolm Campbell • Jocelyn Cockbain • Thea Emery • Juanita Wilson
Tamworth Community Working Group (CSWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy Coates • Steven Coult • Malcolm Ian MacPherson • Heidi Williamson
Tamworth Regional Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 	<i>Note – Members of the 2025-2026 Youth Councillors were appointed by resolution of Council on 12 February 2025.</i>
Urban Street Tree Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five, with a recommendation to change to seven. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyn Allen • Stephen King • Jim Maxwell

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greig Meyer • Anne Michie • Kerry Lowe • Pauline Parker
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The Expressions of Interests received are **ATTACHED**, refer **CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURE 1**.

(a) Policy Implications

Where the number of recommended appointees varies from the maximum included in Council's adopted Terms of Reference, a recommendation is included proposing an amendment to include the additional number of appointees.

(b) Financial Implications

The cost of managing and supporting Council's community committees and working groups is covered within operational budgets.

(c) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

(d) Community Consultation

A significant level of community engagement was undertaken to publicise the invitation to all community members to submit an Expression of Interest with applications being received until Thursday, 30 January 2025. Council's Marketing and Communications Division has prepared a report outlining full details of the broad engagement undertaken. This report is **ATTACHED** see **ANNEXURE 2**.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 4 – Resilient and Diverse Communities

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 E037- 2025 - PROPOSED MOULDED PULP MANUFACTURING PLANT AT FOREST ROAD WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Bruce Logan, Director - Water and Waste

2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

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 direction from Council in relation to submissions received in response to E037-2025 Proposed Moulded Pulp Manufacturing Facility to be located at 123B Forest Road Tamworth – Council's Forest Road Waste Management Facility.

11.2 T008-2025 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF TIER 1 AND 2 ENTRANCE SIGNAGE

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES

**AUTHOR: Paul Kelly, Manager - Sports and Recreation
Zac Wheatley, Senior Project Officer**

Reference: Item 8.1 to Ordinary Council 11 July 2023 - Minute No 162/23

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (c),(d)i&(d)ii 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, commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it. and information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's acceptance of tender T008-2025 to award a lump sum contract for the Design and Construction of Tier 1 and 2 Entrance Signage as outlined in the Tamworth Regional Council Entrance Strategy.

The Tamworth Regional Council Entrance Strategy has been developed and endorsed by Council to guide embellishment of key vehicular entry points into Tamworth and surrounding towns and villages.

This project will see the delivery of Tier 1 and 2 signage identified in the Entrance Strategy at the following locations:

Tier 1 – Tamworth City Entrances:

- Oxley Highway/Gunnedah Road;
- New England Highway/Armidale Road;
- New England Highway/Goonoo Goonoo Road;
- Duri Road;
- Manilla Road; and
- New Winton Road.

Tier 2 Locations

- Barraba;
- Bendemeer;
- Kootingal;
- Manilla;
- Moonbi; and
- Nundle.

The intent of the works is to design, supply and install all signage components above the stone clad concrete wall including structural steel elements of Tier 1 and 2 entrance signage.

11.3 PROPOSED SALE OF COUNCIL OWNED LAND - PART LOT 73 DP 1107041 - FURTHER CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Nicholas Hawkins, Commercial Property Officer

Reference: Item 5.1 to Ordinary Council 12 June 2018 - Minute No 187/18
Item 5.1 to Ordinary Council 28 November 2023 - Minute No 285/23
Item 12.3 to Ordinary Council 13 August 2024 - Minute No 220/24

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.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorisation for the Mayor and General Manager to continue negotiations and enter into a Contract for the Sale of Land or similar Agreement with the party identified in the body of this report which includes the conditions recommended in this report.