



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

27 MAY 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, 13 May 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 MARC SUTHERLAND - ABORIGINAL CASE STUDY AT PARADISE WEIR**

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

MOTION

That Council;

- (i) allocate the required staff resources to develop a draft action plan for the implementation of the Yarriin Culture Fish and Flows Galala Case Study, with grant funding to be sought for the implementation of the action plan; and*
- (ii) seek opportunities to partner with tertiary institutions such as UNE, University of Newcastle and Charles Sturt University for the delivery of the identified outcomes.*

Notice is given that I intend to move the above Motion at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 27 May 2025.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In collaboration with local Kamilaroi/Gomeroi community members, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) have developed a Cultural Watering

Place Case Study for the Galala (Paradise Weir on the Peel River that is **ATTACHED** for Councillors information, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

In order for the Case Study to be implemented, Council will need to develop an action plan. The action plan will guide the activities for the implementation of the Case Study. There is currently no budget for the action plan or the implementation to be undertaken. Council will allocate staff time and resources to develop the action plan and once finalised will seek grant funding for the implementation which may be completed in partnership with local organisations.

Cr Marc Sutherland

22 May 2025

OPEN COUNCIL REPORTS

7 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

7.1 PROPOSED UPGRADE TO THE CURRENT CCTV SYSTEM

DIRECTORATE: LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES
AUTHOR: David Lightowler, Manager - Community Safety and Wellbeing

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Proposed upgrade to the current CCTV system”, Council:

- (i) Endorse the recommendations made by the Community Safety Working Group on 27 March 2025; and*
- (ii) Endorse the proposed upgrades to the CCTV network as per the consensus of the Councillor Workshop on 8 April 2025*

SUMMARY

Council’s CCTV network requires urgent upgrades to ensure it remains functional due to recent system failures. In response to this, the Community Safety CCTV team has conducted presentations to the Community Safety Working Group and also held a Councillor Workshop to identify long term solutions.

As a result of these presentations, the Community Safety Working Group and the Councillor Workshop were overwhelmingly in agreeance that the upgrades to the CCTV system were necessary to maintain and enhance this valuable Community Safety asset.

To ensure that Council’s CCTV system remains functional and able to meet the needs of the Community, it is also recommended that there be a recurrent budget established to support and to ensure that the CCTV system is upgraded and maintained in the long term.

COMMENTARY

Council’s CCTV network plays a significant role in fulfilling our commitment to community safety and is an important tool for police when investigating crime. It is also useful for compliance investigations, asset protection and as a deterrent to crime and graffiti.

To ensure we are in the best position to deliver a high-quality product, Council has invested in industry leading technology such as AXIS brand cameras and Milestone XProtect video management software. However, the cameras are currently used in a mostly reactive manner, with almost no camera analytics activated. Due to this, the network is not being utilised to its full potential.

Unfortunately, access to external funding which directly relates to the current operations of the CCTV network, is scarce. This has led to a number of critical issues with the infrastructure, such as server and link failures.

A network upgrade enabling analytics would open up greater possibilities for community safety across the region as well as benefiting the organisation's practices, making them more efficient and potentially more cost effective.

A design has been developed which would include a central recording server, as well as a failover server and four facility servers. This design allows the footage to store locally, and upload when links are under-capacity. Analytics would allow significant amounts of footage to be reviewed and isolate required targets, all within a fraction of the time it would take a human to do. The upgrades will not only be restricted to Community Safety but will be beneficial across all Directorates within Council.

(a) Policy Implications

The CCTV network forms a critical component of Tamworth Regional Council's 2023-2028 Community Safety and Crime Prevention Management Plan as well as the proposed Graffiti Management Plan

(b) Financial Implications

Maintaining and operating a sizeable CCTV network is expensive and funding opportunities are extremely competitive. The majority of the network has been funded from Federal and State Government grants. Similar funding opportunities have been limited. Therefore, Council may need to fund ongoing upgrades.

Previous proposals had been discussed involving replacement of the CCTV system which had been costed at between \$1-2 million. The proposed upgrade is significantly less and will increase the functionality of the current system and minimise the time taken to identify CCTV activity of interest.

It is estimated that the proposed network upgrade will cost approximately \$275,000. Currently it is estimated that there is in excess of \$200,000 within the IT budget (Tech Blueprint) for network and system upgrades.

A recurring budget for CCTV capital and maintenance works will also be necessary for future continuity. This will need to be agreed upon by Council.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil known at this time

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – A Liveable Built Environment

8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

8.1 FUTURE STARS PRO AM FIGHT NIGHT

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Paul Kelly, Manager - Sports and Recreation
Richard Willis, Sport and Recreation Development Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Future Stars Pro Am Fight Night”, Council approves a subsidy of \$9,040.00 for this event in line with Council’s Sport Event Subsidisation Policy.

SUMMARY

One2Boxing Westside Boxing Club Inc (One2Boxing) are hosting a “Future Stars Pro Am Fight Night”. There are 15 bouts are scheduled for the night, with two professional fights and 13 amateur fights, featuring local fighters taking on opponents from across Australia. The event will attract 1,350 spectators and the entire evening will be broadcast as a pay-per-view event televised to audiences around the country.

Due to the size and significance of this event, One2Boxing will require the use of the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC). Given the substantial economic benefit to the community and the opportunity to showcase the TRECC and Tamworth’s ability to host a diverse range of large sporting events, Tamworth Regional Council is asked to consider financially supporting the event.

COMMENTARY

One2Boxing are hosting their third annual fight night in Tamworth, with the 2025 event titled Future Stars Pro Am Fight Night. The night will be held at the TRECC on 5 July 2025. This event will showcase 15 bouts scheduled for the night, with two professional fights and 13 amateur fights, featuring local fighters taking on opponents from across Australia. The entire evening will be broadcast as a pay-per-view event televised to audiences around the country.

Due to the significance of this event, One2Boxing has requested Council support the event by financially contributing toward the hire fees of holding the event at the TRECC.

The estimated fees for the use of the TRECC are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Future Stars Pro Am Fight Night estimate of TRECC hire fees

Description	Estimated fee (GST inc.)
Venue hire	\$2,396.00
Cleaning	\$767.00
Furniture	\$3,300.00
Other charges	\$1,100.00
Production A/V supplied	\$10,602.00

Staging and equipment	\$110.00
Tableware and linen	\$247.00
Operations staffing	\$6,516.00
Technical staffing	\$1,848.00
TOTAL (inc. GST)	\$19,601.00*

*The above estimated fee of \$19,601.00 is the total cost to hire the TRECC after community service obligation and packaging discounts have been applied.

To calculate the economic value of such events, Council uses ID.Profile's Event Impact Calculator and a value of \$232 as the current average daily spend for a sports tourist. The tool calculates that the Future Stars Pro Am Fight Night will inject \$260,250 into the local economy. Due to the nature of the event, being predominately for spectators, this economic injection is a combination of both the spend by the participants and officials (\$34,800) and the spectators (\$225,450).

Given the economic benefit to the community and the opportunity to showcase the TRECC and Tamworth's ability to host large scale sporting events to a wide-ranging audience, it is recommended that Council support the event with a fee subsidy.

The Sports and Recreation division has an annual budget allocation for events subsidies under Council's Sport Event Subsidisation Policy (SESP).

The SESP allows Council to apply a consistent and transparent approach to the subsidisation of sporting events conducted on Council managed facilities. Assessed under this policy, the Future Stars Pro Am Fight Night qualifies for a subsidisation of 30% (capped at \$2,000) plus an additional 40% (\$7,040) subsidisation because of the recurring nature of the event.

It is therefore recommended that Council support this event with a fee subsidy of \$9,040. Table 2 below details the fee breakdown. This subsidy would be in alignment with other events of a similar scale and enables Council to support other events over the financial year with the remaining funds in this annual allocation.

Table 2: Sport event subsidisation calculations

Description	Subsidy (inc. GST)
Event subsidisation	-\$2,000
Recurring event subsidisation (40% of subtotal)	-\$7,040
TOTAL SUBSIDISATION	-\$9,040

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

The Sports and Recreation division has an annual budget allocation for events subsidised under the SESP. If Council supports this fee subsidy, \$9,040 will be deducted from this 2025/2026 budget allocation for this event.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 2 – A liveable built environment

8.2 TAMWORTH REGIONAL LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING - 7 MAY 2025

DIRECTORATE: REGIONAL SERVICES
AUTHOR: Graeme McKenzie, Manager - Strategy, Assets and Design
Steven Marshall, Strategy, Assets and Design Engineer

6 ANNEXURES ATTACHED
1 ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee Meeting - 7 May 2025”, Council:

- (i) approve the 2025 Young Drivers Expo and subsequent road closure of The Ringers Road between Longyard Drive and Jack Smyth Drive for the period of 1.00pm to 2:00pm daily from 26 - 29 August 2025;*
- (ii) approve the NAIDOC march along Peel Street and White Street in Tamworth and its associated traffic impacts along adjoining streets, from 9:30am to 10.30am on 11 July 2025.*
- (iii) approve the proposed ‘Level 3’ Combined Driving Event in Moonbi and associated traffic impacts, from 8.30am to 12.00pm on Sunday 8 June 2025;*
- (iv) approve the proposed community march against Domestic and Family Violence (Walk a Mile in HER Shoes) to be held in Fitzroy Street, Tamworth from 12.00pm to 3.30pm on 16 May 2025;*
- (v) approve the installation of formalised car parking bays, a bus zone, a loading zone, and all associated signage as shown within the Treloar Tennis Club signage and line marking plan; and*
- (vi) approve the installation of a new barrier line (BL2) on Browns Lane from the Manilla Road intersection to the existing BL2 barrier line at Jarman Road and the installation of new edge lines (EL1) within the resealed sections.*

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the six recommendations made by the Tamworth Regional Local Traffic Committee (the Committee) at the meeting held on 7 May 2025.

COMMENTARY

The minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 7 May 2025, are **ENCLOSED**, refer **ENCLOSURE 1**.

37/2025 - Young Drivers Expo 2025 - The Ringers Road and Longyard Drive, Hillvue

Tamworth Regional Council can advise that the annual Young Drivers Expo, which is held at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC), is scheduled for 26 to 29 August 2025.

NSW Police are requesting the closure of The Ringers Road in Hillvue for each day of the event to conduct a braking demonstration.

- Event location: Hillvue, NSW
- Dates: Tuesday 26 August – Friday 29 August 2025
- Road closure times: 1.00pm to 2.00pm
- Roads affected: The Ringers Road from Longyard Drive to Jack Smyth Drive.

The proposed Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS) can be found **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the event and subsequent road closure of The Ringers Road between Longyard Drive and Jack Smyth Drive for the period of 1.00pm to 2:00pm daily from 26 – 29 August 2025.

38/2025 - Tamworth NAIDOC March, July 2025

Council has been notified that the 2025 NAIDOC march is scheduled for Friday 11 July 2025. The event consists of the following details:

- Event location: Tamworth, NSW
- Date: 11 July 2025
- Event time: 9.30am to 10.30am (inclusive of set up and pack down periods)
- Roads affected:
 - Peel Street from the TAMS (1/180 Peel Street) to White Street; and
 - White Street from Peel Street to Kable Avenue (into Bicentennial Park).
- Estimated number of participants: 1,000

Registered vehicles to transport the Elders that are unable to walk the route shall be integrated into the march.

A Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) will be submitted for the Transport for NSW (TfNSW) impacted roads including;

- Peel Street between O'Connell Street and Darling Street; and
- Brisbane Street between Kable Avenue and Marius Street.

Council will be seeking Police assistance with the closure of Brisbane Street between Marius Street and Kable Avenue, and with piloting the march.

The proposed TGS can be found **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 2**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the NAIDOC march along Peel Street and White Street in Tamworth and its associated traffic impacts along adjoining streets, from 9:30am to 10.30am on 11 July 2025.

39/2025 - Tamworth Regional Horse Drawn Club Inc. – 2025 Level 3 Combined Driving Event, Gill Street, Moonbi

Council has been approached by the Tamworth Regional Horse Drawn Club Inc. regarding the 2025 'Level 3' Combined Driving Event at the Moonbi Recreation Reserve on Gill Street, Moonbi.

Details for the proposed event are shown below:

- Event location: Moonbi Recreation Reserve, Moonbi.
- Date: Sunday 8 June 2025.
- Event times: 8.30am to 12.00pm (inclusive of set up and pack down periods)
- Roads affected:
 - Gill Street from Moonbi Recreation Reserve to Gaol Creek Road; and
 - Gaol Creek Road from Gill Street to 217 Gaol Creek Road, Moonbi.

The proposed TGS can be found **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 3**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the proposed 'Level 3' Combined Driving Event in Moonbi and associated traffic impacts, from 8.30am to 12.00pm on Sunday 8 June 2025.

40/2025 - Walk a Mile in HER Shoes event (Tamworth Domestic and Family Violence), Tamworth

Council has been approached by the Tamworth Domestic and Family Violence Committee regarding a proposed community march against domestic and family violence (Walk a Mile in HER Shoes) to be held in Fitzroy Street, Tamworth on 16 May 2025.

Details for the proposed event are shown below:

- Event location: Tamworth, NSW
- Date: 16 May 2025
- Road closure times: 12.00pm to 3.30pm (inclusive of set up ad pack down periods)
- Roads affected:
 - Fitzroy Street, from Peel Street to Kable Avenue.
- Estimated number of participants: 50

The proposed TGS can be found **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 4**.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the proposed community march against domestic and family violence (Walk a Mile in HER Shoes) to be held in Fitzroy Street, Tamworth from 12.00pm to 3.30pm on 16 May 2025.

29/2025 - Treloar Tennis Club, East Tamworth - Line Marking and Signage Updates

Council has received a request for a new development at the Treloar Tennis Club, 110A Napier Street in East Tamworth, shown in Figure 1 below. As conditioned within the development application, the developer has been requested to seek endorsement from the local traffic committee regarding any proposed changes to signage and line marking on Napier and Roderick Streets.

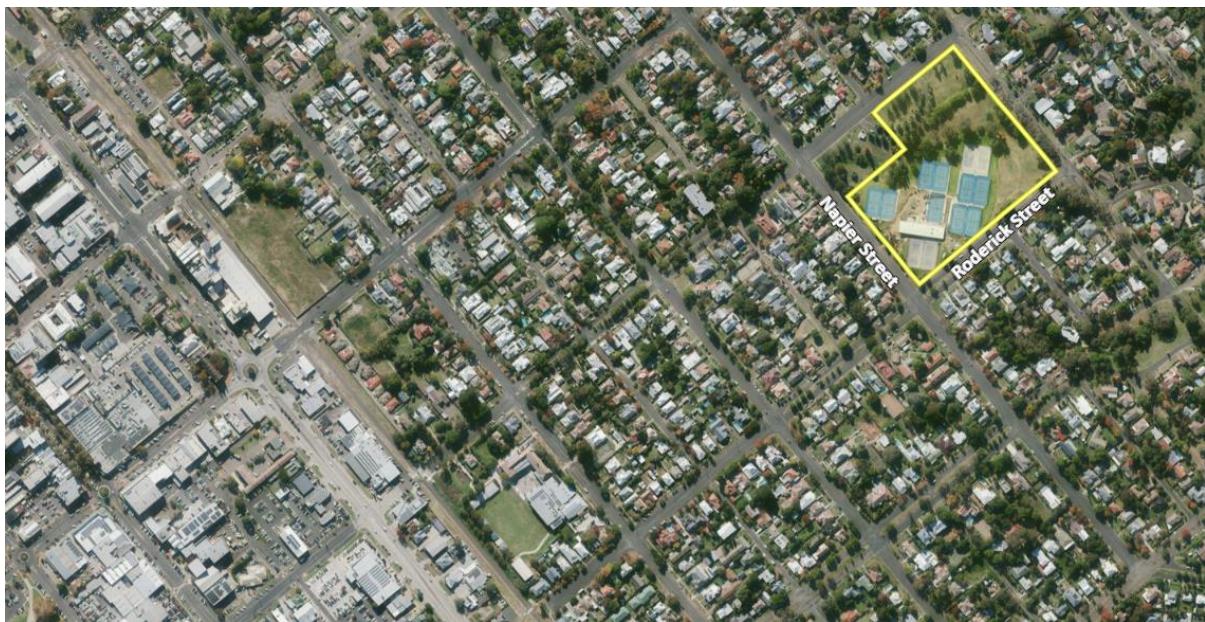


Figure 1: Proposed development site at 110A Napier Street, East Tamworth

A signage and line marking plan has been **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 5**.

Below is a list of changes that require Committee endorsement:

- new R5-400(R) No Stopping sign on Hill Street to reinforce No Stopping within 10m of the intersection;
- new line marking for 35 x 60 degree 'rear to kerb' parking bays on Napier Street including the associated R5-500n angle parking (Rear to Curb) (Vehicles Under 6m Only) signs;
- new R5-400 No Stopping signs on Napier Street to reinforce no stopping either side of the new off street car park entrance;
- new line marking for 5 x parallel parking bays on Napier Street;
- new R5-20 Bus Zone signs on Napier Street to formalise the bus zone around the existing bus shelter;
- new R5-400 No Stopping signs on corner of Napier Street and Roderick Street;
- new loading zone on Roderick Street from 8am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday including the associated R5-23 Loading Zone signs;
- new line marking for 39 x parallel parking bays on Roderick Street;
- new R5-400 No Stopping signs on corner of Roderick Street and Golf Street; and
- new R5-400 No Stopping signs on corner of Roderick Street and Raglan Street to reinforce no stopping within 10m of the intersection.

The Committee requested Council to update the plan to install a foot path connection from the existing footpath to the bus shelter on Napier Street.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: pending the requested alteration, the Committee members unanimously support the installation of formalised car parking bays, a bus zone, a

loading zone, and all associated signage as shown within the Treloar Tennis Club signage and line marking plan.

42/2025 - Browns Lane Line Marking, Manilla Road to Jarman Road, Oxley Vale

Council has recently completed various pavement resealing projects around the Tamworth Local Government area (LGA), including the two individual sites shown below in Figure 2 on Browns Lane in Oxley Vale.



Figure 2: Pavement reseal locations on Browns Lane, Oxley Vale

In accordance with the **ATTACHED** line marking plan, refer **ANNEXURE 6**, Council is proposing to install:

- A new barrier line (BL2) from the Manilla Road intersection to the existing BL2 barrier line at Jarman Road (inclusive of the existing pavement between the two recent reseals). A BL2 barrier line is required due to the inappropriate vertical sighting distance along this stretch of Browns Lane.
- New edge lines (EL1) within the resealed sections only. The pavement width is not appropriate for edge lines to be installed between the two resealed sections.

A give way hold line (TB) will be reinstated 3m away from the Manilla Road continuity line (CL1) in accordance with the previously endorsed line marking plan (Committee item: 58/2019 - Browns Lane Upgrade Linemarking).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: the Committee members unanimously support the installation of a new barrier line (BL2) on Browns Lane from the Manilla Road intersection to the existing BL2 barrier line at Jarman Road and the installation of new edge lines (EL1) within the resealed sections.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil

(b) Financial Implications

37/2025, 39/2025 and 40/2025 – Shall be funded by the event organisers.
38/2025 – Shall be funded by the existing special event traffic management budget.
29/2025 – Shall be funded by the developer.
42/2025 – Shall be funded by the road infrastructure maintenance budget.

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

29/2025 - Community notification with affected residents will be completed prior to implementing the change.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 5 – Connect our Region and its Citizens

9 GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE

9.1 COUNCILLOR ANNUAL FEES FOR THE 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR

DIRECTORATE: OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

AUTHOR: Lisa May, Coordinator Governance and Executive Services

1 ANNEXURES ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Councillor Annual Fees for the 2025/2026 Financial Year”, Council fix and determine the annual fee payable to Councillors and Mayor of Tamworth Regional Council for the 2025/2026 financial year effective from 1 July 2025, at the maximum allowable amount for a Regional Centre Council.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal's decision on the range of fees payable to Councillors and Mayors for 2025/2026.

COMMENTARY

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal handed down the 2025 report on 17 April 2025, and determined that there be a 3% increase in the fees payable to Councillors and Mayors in the next financial year given the current economic and social circumstances. The full 2025 Annual Review is **ATTACHED**, refer **ANNEXURE 1**.

The Tribunal must determine the categories of Councils and Mayoral offices at least once every three years under section 239 of the Local Government Act, a review of the categories was undertaken last year and Tamworth Regional Council remains in the Regional Centre category.

Pursuant to s.241 of the Local Government Act 1993, the annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2025, are determined as follows:

Category		Councillor/Member Annual Fee		Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee*	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
General Purpose Councils Metropolitan	Principal CBD	31,640	46,420	193,650	254,810
	Major CBD	21,120	39,100	44,840	126,320
	Metropolitan Major	21,120	36,970	44,840	114,300
	Metropolitan Large	21,120	34,820	44,840	101,470
	Metropolitan Medium	15,830	29,550	33,630	78,480
	Metropolitan Small	10,530	23,220	22,420	50,650
General Purpose Councils Non-metropolitan	Major Regional City	21,120	36,690	44,840	114,300
	Major Strategic Area	21,120	36,690	44,840	114,300
	Regional Strategic Area	21,120	36,690	44,840	114,300
	Regional Centre	15,830	27,860	32,940	68,800
	Regional Rural	10,530	23,220	22,420	50,680
	Rural Large	10,530	18,890	22,420	40,530
	Rural	10,530	13,930	11,210	30,390
County Councils	Water	2,090	11,620	4,490	19,080
	Other	2,090	6,930	4,490	12,670

*This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Mayor/Chairperson as a Councillor/Member (s.249(2)).

(a) Policy Implications

It is a policy decision of the Council to fix and determine the annual fee payable to a Councillor and the Mayor with the restriction that the respective fees must not exceed the maximum amount as determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

(b) Financial Implications

The 2025/2026 Mayoral/Councillor Annual Fees budget will be increased by \$2,910.00, funded by Unrestricted Cash.

(c) Legal Implications

Section 248 of the Local Government Act 1993, provides that a Council must pay each Councillor an annual fee in accordance with appropriate determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

(d) Community Consultation

Nil

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 9 – Open and Collaborative Leadership

9.2 2024/2025 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENTS TO 31 MARCH 2025

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 March 2025”, 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 March 2025, 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 March 2025.

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 March 2025, 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	March Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Operating Income	125,827,952	7,110,329	3,019,212	135,957,493
Less: Operating Expenses	127,024,309	15,721,979	1,510,372	144,256,660
Operating Result before Capital: Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,196,357)	(8,611,650)	1,508,840	(8,299,167)
Plus: Capital Income	38,192,849	(17,147,895)	(466,714)	20,578,240
Operating Result Surplus/(Deficit)	36,996,492	(25,759,545)	1,042,126	12,279,073
The adjustments below are required to determine the Total Cash Result				
Plus: Depreciation/Leave	32,904,554	0	(6,945)	32,897,609

Description	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Accruals				
Plus: Loans raised to fund Capital Expenditure	15,490,000	(5,328,093)	(4,086,646)	6,075,261
Plus: Proposed Land Sales Income/(Expenses)	4,919,177	(9,239)	407,526	5,317,464
Less: Leave Paid on Termination	800,000	0	0	800,000
Less: Loan Principal Repayments	7,499,238	0	407,526	7,906,764
Less: Capital Expenses	86,673,257	(6,439,744)	(6,315,351)	73,918,162
Total Cash Result: Increase/(Decrease)	(4,662,272)	(24,657,133)	3,263,886	(26,055,519)
The rows below show how the Total Cash Result is funded.				
Current Cash Increase/(Decrease)	291,764	(4,968,561)	(47,860)	(4,724,657)
Unexpended Grants Increase/(Decrease)	(1,997,543)	(10,276,911)	(381,065)	(12,655,519)
Reserves: Increase/(Decrease)	(4,933,956)	(10,910,669)	2,508,457	(13,336,168)
Developer Contributions: Increase/(Decrease)	1,974,415	3,290,417	992,500	6,257,332
Unexpended Loans: Increase/(Decrease)	3,048	(1,791,409)	191,854	(1,596,507)
Total Cash Result Funding: Increase/(Decrease)	(4,662,272)	(24,657,133)	3,263,886	(26,055,519)

- 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 \$8.2M as at 30 June 2025, exceeds the current cash minimum balance.

It is the intention to increase the minimum balance for unrestricted cash from 1 July 2025. With so many of Council's projects being grant funded it is necessary to ensure that there is a sufficient buffer to ensure cash from other Council funds (water and wastewater) isn't inadvertently being used for day-to-day operations whilst Council is waiting for grant funds for General Fund projects to be paid to Council. The capacity to increase this minimum balance will be reviewed as part of end of financial year processes.

	Opening Balance 1/7/2024	Less: Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/2025	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	12,994,360	4,724,657	8,269,703	6,000,000

- Recurrent Results Table

	Operating Cash Result Surplus/(Deficit)	Less: Dep'n and Leave Accruals	Net Recurrent Result Surplus/(Deficit)	Loan Principal Repayments
General Activities	22,713,823	25,420,244	(2,706,421)	4,197,686
Fleet Operations	4,969,198	3,074,159	1,895,039	0
Airport Operations	1,643,551	2,235,683	(592,132)	198,789
Waste Services	4,722,327	2,165,438	2,556,889	0
International Flight Training Facility	(835,863)	2,085	(837,498)	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 Ratio measures Council's ability to operate within its means and cover its expenses including depreciation, which isn't an exact science. The forecast for the Operating Ratio has improved this quarter, going from a year end forecast of negative 8% in the second quarter to negative 6% year end forecast. Whilst the ratio has improved it is still very much in the negative territory and should be greater than zero.

The Draft 2025/26 Operational Plan and Budget that is currently out on display is forecasting improvements in this ratio which is set to get back into positive territory with a forecast of 2.56% for the 2025/26 financial year.

The main reason for the improved ratio is due to the budget from 1 July 2025, incorporating in full the IPART approved Special Variation. If implemented by Council at its June meeting, the increase in rates income will improve this financial indicator moving it for the first time in many years into positive territory.

Council needs to be very mindful that the Special Variation is not a magic panacea that will ensure the financial stability of Council's General Fund for years to come. The Special Variation is predominantly being spent on asset maintenance and renewal. Attention needs to be now turned to sustained vigilance in controlling the operational budget as well as ensuring that any new additions to the budget have an appropriate, and where relevant, sustainable funding source.

Rates and annual charges outstanding is tracking well with 76% of the total levy having been collected as at 31 March 2025. With the majority of rate payers choosing to pay by instalments, payments are on track with the third instalment for the year being due as at 31 May 2025.

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	\$6,331,684
To be expended on:		
Voluntary Pensioner Rebate	\$222,000	\$226,450
Roads Maintenance	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Asset Funding Gap	\$1,590,743	\$2,105,234
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	March Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Operating Income	24,585,237	493,816	2,325,679	27,404,732
Less: Operating Expenses	26,952,666	2,192,176	35,740	29,180,582
Operating Result before Capital: Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,367,429)	(1,698,360)	2,289,939	(1,775,850)
Plus: Capital Income	2,202,500	200,000	1,100,000	3,502,500
Operating Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	(164,929)	(1,498,360)	3,389,939	1,726,650
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
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	3,733,545	3,514,039	(35,924)	7,211,660
Total Cash Result: Increase/(Decrease)	1,764,160	(5,012,399)	3,425,863	177,624
The rows below show how the Total Cash Result is funded.				
Current Cash: Increase/(Decrease)	353,269	(52,011)	2,256,679	2,557,937
Unexpended Grants: Increase/(Decrease)	0	0	0	0
Reserves:	(1,278,545)	(3,620,402)	184	(4,898,763)

Budget Results	Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Increase/(Decrease)				
Developer Contributions: Increase/(Decrease)	2,689,436	1,339,986	1,169,000	2,518,450
Unexpended Loans: Increase/(Decrease)	0	0	0	0
Total Cash Result Funding: Increase/(Decrease)	1,764,160	(5,012,399)	3,425,863	177,624

- Key Financial Results

	Opening Balance 1/7/2024	Plus: Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/2025	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	2,131,655	2,557,937	4,689,592	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 third quarter has improved due to increased water consumption.

- Recurrent Results Table

	Operating Cash Result Surplus(Deficit)	Less Dep'n and Leave Accruals	Net Recurrent Result Surplus/(Deficit)	Loan principal repayments
Recurrent Result	7,997,144	7,465,439	531,705	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. The above table shows that the water fund is generating sufficient cash income to cover non cash expenditure forecasts such as depreciation, but not sufficient to cover loan principal repayments for the current year.

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

The most significant change in the income statement for water fund is an improvement of \$2.1

million in water consumption charges. This injection of revenue is having a positive impact on the forecast result for the water fund. The projected current cash balance is well in excess of the minimum balance indicating that funds will be able to be transferred to water internal reserves.

Whilst the overall financial position of the water fund is not ideal it is improving and if the current capacity to supply water to meet consumer demand prevails this trend should continue.

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	March Qtr Adj	Projected Result
Operating Income	29,009,516	429,003	669,634	30,108,153
Less: Operating Expenses	19,156,072	286,216	0	19,442,288
Operating Result before Capital: Surplus/(Deficit)	9,853,444	142,787	669,634	10,665,865
Plus: Capital Income	1,003,000	0	400,000	1,403,000
Operating Result: (Surplus)/Deficit	10,856,444	142,787	1,069,634	12,068,865
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)	1,800,000	124,739	(4,075,261)
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	(407,526)	(227,459)
Less: Capital Expenses	8,403,530	1,016,747	0	9,420,277
Total Cash Result: Increase/(Decrease)	2,683,478	916,040	1,601,899	5,201,417

Budget Results		Original Budget	Prev Quarters	March Adj	Qtr	Projected Result
The rows below show how the Total Cash Result is funded.						
Current Increase/(Decrease)	Cash:	307,711	288,623	594,634		1,190,968
Unexpended Increase/(Decrease)	Grants:	0	(24,825)	0		(24,825)
Reserves: Increase/(Decrease)		3,671,370	83,791	532,265		4,287,426
Developer Contributions: Increase/(Decrease)		(1,220,603)	1,003,751	475,000		258,148
Unexpended Increase/(Decrease)	Loans:	(75,000)	(435,300)	0		(510,300)
Total Funding: Increase/(Decrease)	Cash Result	2,683,478	916,040	1,601,899		5,201,417

- Key Financial Results

	Opening Balance 1/7/2024	Plus Projected Result	Projected Balance 30/6/2025	Minimum Balance
Current Cash	2,187,583	1,190,968	3,378,551	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 and Dep'n Leave Accruals	Net Recurrent Result Surplus/(Deficit)	Loan principal repayments
Recurrent Result	17,488,499	6,410,631	11,077,818	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. Council's sewer fund currently has unknowns with regards to future asset renewal and upgrade works in relation to the best wastewater treatment augmentation option for Tamworth. Work is currently in progress scoping an industrial purified water facility and associated business case. The project is currently proceeding in partnership with the NSW Government and the outcome is expected to be known later in 2025.

In addition to Tamworth there are also potential changes to development zoning in Kootingal which will impact planned treatment upgrades for Kootingal. Council currently has capacity to treat all wastewater produced within zoned land, the rezoning, should it proceed, will lead to significant augmentation of treatment works or alternatively wastewater may be pumped back to Tamworth for treatment.

Work is currently underway scoping both of these projects which depending on the outcome may result in significant changes to Council's future Asset Management and Long Term Financial Plans. More information will be provided to Council as it comes to hand to assist with future scheduling of annual and user charges.

(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

9.3 COUNCIL INVESTMENTS APRIL 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 April 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 April 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 April 2025.

The double-edged sword of interest rates is starting to be felt with regards to lower returns on Council's investments. In January of this year, term deposits were able to be taken out with a return of just over 5%, but in April the rates Council is now able to achieve are closer to 4%. The next RBA Board meeting and Official Cash Rate announcement is scheduled for 20 May 2025, and general consensus is that cash rate will be reduced.

During the month, Council's portfolio performed above the industry average, returning 4.95% against the three-month Bank Bill Swap rate (3mBBSW) of 3.87%.

(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

9.4 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024/2025 BUDGET VARIATION REPORT - APRIL 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 - April 2025”, Council note and approve the variations to the existing budget as listed in ATTACHED refer ANNEXURE 1 to the report.

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval for budget variations identified during April 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 April, there was an increase to interest income totalling \$892,000 across General, Water and Sewer Fund due to higher interest rates and cash held.

The airport had an increase to their income budget for the amount of \$150,000 as a result of a current project being undertaken with Qantas in relation to additional parking requirements.

Incomplete works totalling \$4,061,431 were identified across the organisation, pending Council approval they will be removed from the budget for the 2024/2025 financial year. There will be a formal request to council in the new financial year to have them included in the 2025/26 financial year.

As we draw closer to the end of financial year, a number of projects in the Project Costing division have been completed, including various footpath projects, the sub floor replacement at the Tamworth Mechanics Institute building, stormwater upgrades as well as the completion of works at the Kiaora Bridge No. 1 in Bendemeer. Budget adjustments have been processed to reflect final costs.

Additional Funding of \$20,000 was required to continue to undertake works on the Tamworth Velodrome site remediation.

Legal expenses have increased across several divisions of Council. The main sources of increased expenditure have been the Community Safety and Wellbeing Division with increased legal costs of \$55,000 for a property matter. The Development division requires an additional \$288,000 for legal costs related to development and planning. Council's Legal Division also requires a budget increase of \$150,000 for increased property and general legal matters.

April 2025 Budget Variations

Description	Budget Variation	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Capital Income	Capital Expenses
Financial Services	-128,686	-363	-128,323	0	0
DigiTech	-2,965,339	0	0	0	-2,965,339
Legal	150,000	0	150,000	0	0
General Purpose Income	-375,585	-375,585	0	0	0
Central Northern Regional Library	-11,018	-11,018	0	0	0
Community Safety & Wellbeing	55,000	0	55,000	0	0
Development	288,000	0	288,000	0	0
Future Communities	-204,000	-204,000	0	0	0
Airport & Aviation	-150,000	-150,000	0	0	0
Plant Fleet & Buildings	16,000	-4,000	20,000	0	0
Project Costing	-1,220,213	750,000	-821,747	2,140,777	-3,289,243
Waste Management	-76,107	-76,107	0	0	0
Water & Wastewater	-2,851,313	-2,851,313	35,740	0	-35,740
TOTAL	-7,473,261	-2,922,386	-401,330	2,140,777	-6,290,322

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	3,927	-437,070	2,140,777	-6,254,582
Water	-2,256,679	35,740	0	-35,740
Sewer	-669,634	0	0	0
Total	-2,922,386	-401,330	2,140,777	-6,290,322

(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

10 COMMUNITY SERVICES

10.1 TRIAL OF BULK MULCH SALES AT SELECTED RURAL TRANSFER STATIONS

DIRECTORATE: WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR: Doug Hughes, Manager - Waste & Resource Recovery

RECOMMENDATION

That in relation to the report “Trial of Bulk Mulch Sales at Selected Rural Transfer Stations”, Council:

- (i) *approve the implementation of a trial of bulk mulch sales at Barraba, Manilla and Nundle rural waste sites for the 2025/2026 financial year;*
- (ii) *consider the adoption of the proposed new pricing methodology and associated charge for mulch sales, being cubic metre sales, as part of Council’s adoption of Annual Fees and Charges for the 2025/2026 financial year; and*
- (iii) *request the Director Water and Waste to develop a report on the outcomes of the trial following completion.*

SUMMARY

The Waste and Resource Recovery team propose to conduct a trial of mulch sales at three selected rural waste transfer stations in the 2025/2026 financial year. These trials will occur at Manilla, Barraba and Nundle facilities, with each facility hosting one sale event every quarter. A new sales price, allowing for cubic metre sales, will be required to facilitate the trial.

A further report detailing the outcomes of the trial, will be produced for Council to consider

any further recommendations on future sale events.

COMMENTARY

The Waste and Resource Recovery team currently collects and processes organic (green waste) material received from residents across the Local Government Area (LGA). The organic material is then processed at Tamworth Waste Management Facility (TWMF) where it is composted into a saleable mulch product. This service represents resource recovery that avoids landfill and achieves State and Federal circular economy objectives.

Three different mulch products are available for sale back to residents, but only from TWMF. Of the products, Composted Soil Conditioner is by far the most popular at 60% of all mulch sales. This product currently sells for \$80 per tonne.

Council has identified that access to the sale of composted mulch products can be difficult for residents who reside significant distances from the TWMF. Therefore, an initiative has been proposed to make this product available for regional customers.

Trial Concept

Waste and Resource Recovery staff are proposing to trial bulk mulch sales via a trailer load-out system. On each of the trial days, a waste team member will attend the relevant waste site with a 30 cubic metre bin of mulch and a skid steer front end loader. The team member will use this machine to load out compost on customer trailers/vehicles. As the rural sites do not have weighbridges and Council's current approved mulch pricing system is tonnage based, Council will need to approve a new cubic metre price for charging. The size of the machine's bucket (which is approximately one cubic metre) will provide equality of measurement.

To allow customer charging, it is recommended that Council approve a new charge of \$50 per cubic metre for mulch sales during the trial. This represents a conversion of the \$80 per tonne rate at a density of 0.625 tonnes per cubic metre. This proposed charge has been included in Council's Draft 2025/26 Fees and Charges that are currently on public display. Any public feedback regarding the proposed charge will be provided to Council as part of the 2025/26 Fees and Charges adoption process.

A number of other options were considered to provide mulch products to rural transfer stations. These options included the sale of mulch in bags, bulk delivery options and customer self-service stockpiles. All of these options had significant challenges, which included regulatory, environmental, contamination and safety concerns.

Trial Locations and Timing

In reviewing locations for the trial, staff have proposed sites based on a number of factors, including geographical location, patronage and accessibility.

The dates chosen for each site were determined based on operational availability (ability to staff the activity), patronage and seasonality. Weekends were prioritised for the trial and each trial date occurs on a Sunday.

The following transfer station sites and dates are proposed:

Location	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
Barraba	27 July 2025	26 October, 2025	25 January 2026	26 April 2026

Manilla	27 July 2025	26 October 2025	25 January 2026	26 April 2026
Nundle	31 August 2025	30 November 2025	22 February 2026	31 May 2026

Trial Promotion

Following approval for the trial, waste team will work with Council's Communications team to implement a range of promotional strategies that include:

- media releases to coincide with sale dates;
- social media posts across Council's network;
- notification/signage at each of the selected transfer stations;
- promotion by staff to customers at the selected transfer stations; and
- notification/signage at Customer Service Centres and local branches.

Trial Evaluation

It is proposed that the trial evaluation will encompass the following items:

- patronage, including quantity of sales;
- financial, including sales revenue and actual cost of trial;
- environmental, including weather impacts, seasonality and compliance; and
- social, amount of interest generated within the community.

Based on above, Council will be provided with waste and resource recovery recommendations on any future rural waste site mulch sales.

(a) Policy Implications

Nil.

(b) Financial Implications

It is expected that Council will incur additional costs in operating the trial, which will be offset by sale of mulch (value unknown). The costs are estimated below:

Cost Item	Detail	Estimated Value
Labour (including overtime)	8 days	\$10,000
Fuel (truck & equipment)	8 days	\$4,000

(c) Legal Implications

Nil

(d) Community Consultation

A community engagement program will be implemented to promote the trial as detailed in the body of the report.

(e) Delivery Program Objective/Strategy

Focus Area 6 – Working with and Protecting Our Environment

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.

12.1 AELEC - WORKSHOP AND EQUIPMENT SHEDS

DIRECTORATE: **CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES**

AUTHOR: **Luke Stevenson, Asset & Overlay Manager**

2 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

The Council will determine this matter in part of the Meeting closed to the public pursuant to Section 10A(2) (d)ii&(d)iii 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 competitor of Council and information that would, if disclosed, reveal a trade secret.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the ongoing operational challenges faced by Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC) staff in maintaining a world-class facility that now hosts events over 47 weeks each year while continuing to grow. The report also seeks Council's consideration and approval for funding and construction of essential support infrastructure, aimed at addressing these challenges and significantly enhancing staff working conditions, efficiency and safety.

12.2 T067-2025 - TRC ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT REGISTER 2025

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

All workplaces in NSW require an asbestos register which details building or plant materials that contain asbestos, their condition, and recommendations on how to manage the materials.

Contractors last completed asbestos register inspections and sampling in 2020. Registers must be updated every five years to meet legislative requirements and this tender is intended to award the works for the five year review due this year.

12.3 TENDER T057/2025 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NINE 6 X 4 WATER CART TRUCKS

DIRECTORATE:

REGIONAL SERVICES

AUTHOR:

George Shearman, Manager - Plant Fleet and Building Services

1 CONFIDENTIAL ENCLOSURES ENCLOSED

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

SUMMARY

This report considers the tender for replacement of nine of Tamworth Regional Council's 6x4 water cart trucks. These replacements are in accordance with Council's Plant and Fleet division's asset management plan. The nine new water cart trucks will be utilised for unsealed roads maintenance and civil construction works.

12.4 TENDER T094-2025 - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FOR TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL WATER AND WASTE FACILITIES

DIRECTORATE:

WATER AND WASTE

AUTHOR:

Daniel Coe, Manager - Water and Environmental Operations

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

Grounds maintenance undertaken by external contractor for all of Council's Water, Wastewater and Waste Operational sites has been occurring since 2016 (currently 92 sites). This contract was originally established with the aim of improving efficiencies and allowing Council's specialist operators to focus on their core role of providing water, wastewater and waste operation rather than grounds maintenance. The current contract has been in place for the past three years and will expire at the end of the current financial year i.e. 30 June 2025. The contract introduction has been considered successful in terms of both budgetary savings and facility presentation, as the contractor is required to complete maintenance on a scheduled frequency, rather than the as time permits basis that was occurring when operational staff were performing the work. To allow the continuation of services a tender was advertised to allow Council consideration prior to the end of the financial year.

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council the award of the contract to perform grounds maintenance at Council's Water, Wastewater and Waste Operational Facilities.